



# Florida

## Black Heritage Trail



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A FLORIDA HERITAGE PUBLICATION

# Background & Acknowledgements

In 1990, the Florida Legislature created the Study Commission on African American History in Florida to explore ways to increase public awareness of the contributions of African Americans to the state. The first edition of the Florida Black Heritage Trail, published in 1991, was a product of the Commission, the Florida Division of Historical Resources and the many citizens who assisted in developing the book. The second edition of the book was produced in 2002 by the John G. Riley Center/Museum for African-American History and Culture and was financed in part by a grant from the Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State.

This third edition of the *Florida Black Heritage Trail* was produced by VISIT FLORIDA® in partnership with the Florida Department of State.

It has developed with significant assistance from the Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network (FAAHPN). Organized in 2001 by the John Gilmore Riley Center Museum, the FAAHPN serves as an informational and technical assistance resource in response to a growing interest in preserving African American culture as well as related ethnically diverse historic properties in Florida.

The *Florida Black Heritage Trail* Guide is a microcosm of African American landmarks and legacies that exist in various locations throughout the state. Though much of Florida's African American history has been lost, this publication demonstrates a growing interest in documenting and preserving what remains.

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## Introduction

Florida's African Americans have made significant contributions to the development of the state and continue to play a key role in creating modern Florida. Early slaves escaped here and found freedom with the Spanish and the Seminoles. Fort Mose' in St. Augustine was the earliest settlement of free blacks in America. Black laborers and craftsmen built Florida cities.

The record of African American achievement is also written in architecture, paintings, music and literature. Poet James Weldon Johnson was principal of Old Stanton High School in Jacksonville where he composed *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*. From his childhood home in Greenville, Ray Charles moved to Jacksonville to start his career at area nightspots. Famed author Zora Neale Hurston described growing up black in Eatonville in her novels and stories. Educator Mary McLeod Bethune founded Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, and Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier at Dodgers spring training there. The Highwaymen painted the Florida landscape and sold their art from town to town in Florida.

Creativity continues to flourish. Gospel. Reggae. Jazz. Blues. Hip-hop and Rap. Paintings. Sculpture. Fiber art. Poetry. Storytelling. Discover the energy, depth and richness of the African American experience in museums, galleries, cultural centers, clubs, and churches throughout Florida. Feel the pulse of African American communities on college campuses and in traditional neighborhoods like Lincolnville in St. Augustine, La Villa in Jacksonville, Callahan in Orlando, Overtown in Miami. Come explore Florida's rich and diverse heritage.

### VISITOR COURTESY:

Please respect the sites identified in this guide as PRIVATE by not trespassing. These sites are not open to the public.



All entries designated with this logo are listed in the National Register (NR) of Historic Places, either individually or as a contributing structure in a historic district. The National Register is an official list of historically significant properties located throughout the country. The list is maintained by the National Park Service, and includes places that have been documented as significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture, at the local, state, or national level. For information on the National Register, visit the National Park Service's National Register website at [www.cr.nps.gov/nr](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr) or call the Florida Department of State, Bureau of Historic Preservation at (850) 245-6333 or (800) 847-7278 or visit [www.flheritage.com](http://www.flheritage.com).

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# Florida's Black Heritage

By L. Omar Rivers

When people think of the early African-American experience, a fact that comes to mind is how black Africans were kidnapped from their countries of origin to work as slaves in New World colonies. Indeed, millions of blacks were taken from their native lands and forced to labor as plantation and domestic workers in settlements such as Jamestown, Virginia and Charles Town, South Carolina. The roots of America's black heritage, however, reach much deeper than this particular chapter in colonial and U.S. history.

Long before bondsmen were brought to the colonies, African-born blacks, both free and slave, were integral in shaping the future Americas through their participation in Spanish explorations and colony building.

Examples are numerous. Free black African Juan Garrido, a veteran of the Spanish conquests of Hispaniola, Puerto Rico and Cuba, also was a member of the Spanish expedition led by Ponce de Leon that "discovered" Florida in 1513. Estevancio, the slave of a Spanish nobleman, arrived with Panfilo de Narvaez near present day St. Petersburg, Florida in 1528. Estevancio's journeys took him across Florida and on to Arizona and Mexico. Esteban, a black gun bearer, scout, slave, and soldier, similarly arrived with and assisted de Narvaez. Juan Valiente, a black slave who accompanied



Madison Post Office Mural

his master to the Americas, was a member of numerous expeditions and fought side-by-side with Spanish soldiers in Guatemala, Peru, and Chile. Likewise, blacks were members of the expeditions led by Lucas Vasquez de Allyon and Hernando de Soto.

Blacks also contributed to Pedro Menendez de Aviles' effort to build the fort of St. Augustine in 1565, the oldest continually inhabited European settlement in North America. Blacks used African skills and knowledge to provide a variety of important services to St. Augustine, such as blacksmithing, carpentry, cattle ranching, and military defense. As Spain continued its mission to establish a strong presence in the New World, African labor and support became even more important.

African-born blacks had numerous health advantages that were conducive to their survival. Before the explorations in the New World, European and African peoples had been in contact for centuries. As a result, Africans developed immunities to most of the common European ailments that proved deadly to Native Americans. Additionally, legend maintains that the sickle cell trait carried by some Africans protected blacks from malaria, a disease that was prevalent in the mosquito-infested American coastal lowlands. As the slave trade expanded, so did the efforts of black bondsmen to escape slavery. The first Underground Railroad in America did not lead from south to north, but north to south. As early as 1687, slaves fled bondage from English-controlled South Carolina to seek life as free men and women in Spanish Florida. Spaniards in St. Augustine

took advantage of this black opposition to English slavery and offered freedom to the slaves who reached the Spanish settlement. In order to accommodate the influx of black slaves fleeing from the English and arriving at their Florida settlement, the Spanish in 1738 established the fort and town of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mosé, the first free black community in North America. It became the home of more than 100 former black slaves and is located a short distance north of St. Augustine.

Throughout the following decade, the Spanish continued to strengthen Fort Mosé to provide an effective defense against English army advances. Nonetheless, England eventually prevailed in the battle over control of North Florida. In 1763, the French and Indian War in the Americas ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The treaty turned the Florida colony over to the English and returned Cuba to the

Spanish. The residents of Fort Mosé sailed to Cuba with the Spanish, along with a few hundred remaining Indians. But, following England's loss of its American colonies to the revolutionaries during the American Revolutionary War, Spain regained possession of Florida again in 1783. It had to relinquish La Florida to the newly created United States in 1821. Florida became a slave-holding state.

Even as an American slave territory, many blacks continued to find freedom in Florida. While Seminole Indians owned slaves, permitting them to live in separate villages in exchange for one-third of their crops, they also welcomed many escaped, black bondsmen as members of their nation. Some runaway slaves joined the Seminole tribe and made numerous contributions in the doomed effort against the U.S. military during the Second Seminole War (1835–1842). Men like Ben Bruno, Gopher John, and Abraham served as interpreters and war leaders for Seminole chiefs.

Following the United States victory, blacks continued to contribute to the Florida territory prior to statehood in 1845 working as guides and interpreters for the U.S. Army. By 1840 Florida's black population was 43 percent of all its residents, a factor that helped the territory become part of the United States when it applied for statehood in 1845. On January 10, 1861, Florida became the third southern state to secede from the Union and joined the Confederate



Ft. Myers, Centennial Park

States of America. During the ensuing Civil War, the number of churches founded by and for blacks increased, especially in the Middle Florida plantation belt of Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Gadsden and Leon counties.

An "invisible church" emerged in slave communities when bondsmen held secret religious meetings and rebelled against their masters' Biblical interpretations that enforced subservience. Such gatherings in the woods were often called "brush meetings," as they were held under brush arbors that offered seclusion away from white earshot. Traditional African beliefs, such as magic, conjure and witchcraft often were retained in the slaves' religious belief system. Historian Larry E. Rivers observed in *Slavery in Florida*, "The slaves' religion mixed Christianity and African tradition in a manner that helped many bond servants to cope with the realities of life and suffering. It also afforded them a type of freedom within the confines of slavery that the master could not always touch."

Similar to the Second Seminole War, during the Civil War (1861–1865) blacks fought on both sides of Florida's battlefields. Notably, on February 20, 1864, the Union Army, including three all-black infantry regiments, clashed with Confederate soldiers near Lake City in the Battle of Olustee, Florida's largest Civil War engagement. The battle is interpreted annually.

The Reconstruction era (1868–1876) opened many doors for black freedmen in Florida. Radical Republicans pushed the ratification of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments which abolished slavery and protected the rights of citizenship and suffrage. Under military supervision blacks finally voted in large numbers in Florida and elected blacks to political positions. Republican governors also appointed blacks to state offices, and, despite conservative Democrats resuming control over the state legislature after 1876, the Republican-controlled White House placed many blacks in federally appointed positions in Florida.

There are many examples. Jonathan C. Gibbs, appointed Secretary of State in 1868 and later Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1873, built more schools for freedmen and adopted a uniform curriculum and standard textbooks for black and white students. Additionally, Henry Harmon, a former Union soldier who settled in Gainesville, served as Alachua County voter registrar, city councilman, county clerk and auditor, State Representative, Clerk of the Florida



White Springs, Florida Folk Festival

Florida Dept. of State

House of Representatives, and Deputy Internal Revenue Collector. Moreover, Robert Meacham, an African Methodist Episcopal Church Bishop who lived in many Florida cities, served as a County Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Senator, County Court Clerk, and Postmaster.

The post-Reconstruction era also witnessed major strides for black Floridians in education. Four historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) emerged: Edward Waters College (1866), Florida Memorial College (1879/1892), Florida A&M University (1887) and Bethune-Cookman College (1904). Civil rights leader Asa Phillip Randolph, Olympic gold medalist Bob Hayes, and Congressional representatives Carrie Meek, Alcee Hastings and Corrine Brown all graduated from HBCUs in Florida.

As political and educational opportunities increased during and after Reconstruction, so did the number of black communities. Eatonville, founded in 1887, is Florida's first all-black incorporated city and a former home of famed author, anthropologist and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston. Coconut Grove, Lemon City, and other early Bahamian settlements in southeast Florida soon were subsumed into the fast-growing cities of Miami and Palm Beach.

Rosewood, a small black town in Levy County, was destroyed by vigilante mobs in 1923. In the early 1990s, the Florida Legislature agreed to compensate the massacre's descendants.

In many communities, a prominent black middle class emerged. Educator and business leader John Gilmore Riley, born in 1857, is a well-recorded example in Tallahassee. The house he built for his family in 1890 stands today as visible evidence of the middle-class black community that existed in the downtown Capital City from Reconstruction to the early 1950s, a period during which African Americans outnumbered whites for most of the time.

Racial segregation, however, did not disappear during these years. Instead, newly emerging communities throughout

Florida began separating sections of towns in the early 20th century, secure in the knowledge that separate areas for blacks and whites had been upheld with the U.S. Supreme Court's 1896 decision known as Plessy v. Ferguson. Such areas clearly enforced an image of second-class citizenship and it was known as the Jim Crow period. Segregation had replaced slavery.

Efforts to return civil rights that eroded during Jim Crow began as early as 1909 with the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). These rights would not be returned until 1954 with the Supreme Court Brown v. Topeka Board of Public Education decision that declared illegal all schools that were separate yet "unequal". The civil rights movement that ensued and led to desegregation had many Floridian heroes as well. Some of them, like Mary McLeod Bethune and A.

Philip Randolph began the struggle in the 1920s.

The NAACP was the civil rights organization of choice for many of these men and women. In Florida, leaders like Harry T. Moore and Robert Saunders used the court system and the ballot box to challenge unfair racial treatment. Students at Florida's black colleges helped lead direct action demonstrations to desegregate public facilities. FAMU students Patricia

and Priscilla Stephens, John Dorsey Due, Wilhemina Jakes, Carrie Patterson, and Broadus Hartley initiated protests that led to victories in their communities and across the state in the crusade for social justice.

Florida's black community has a rich history that is approaching its 500th anniversary during this century. Black people have contributed to Florida's social, economic, and political development and the Florida Black Heritage Trail celebrates their accomplishments and sacrifices. In this publication you will find the names and faces of black pioneers and black Floridians who dedicated their lives to uplifting all people in the Sunshine State.



Florida Dept. of State

Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune at National Council of Negro Women meeting, 1952

## NORTHWEST

### Bay County

Panama City Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau  
(800) PCBEACH, [www.thebeachloversbeach.com](http://www.thebeachloversbeach.com)

#### Panama City

##### Massalina Bayou

Off Business 98, Massalina Drive and Massalina Circle  
African American Spanish fisherman Josea Massalina was founder of Red Fish Point, a small community on what is now Tyndall Air Force Base. The community moved across the bay, settling along the Bayou now named for the Massalina family. Massalina's son, Hawk, was a prominent Panama City ship builder and fisherman. Many original homes remain in this once-African American neighborhood.

##### The Rosenwald School

624 Bay Street

Located in what was once the black business district of Panama City, the Rosenwald School served black students in Bay County during segregation. The original building remains on its original site. (850) 872-4580.

### Calhoun County

Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce  
(850) 674-4519, [www.calhounco.org](http://www.calhounco.org)

#### Blountstown

##### Mayhaw Community

River Street

Three tenant houses dating back to the 1930s are being restored here. Each February, Black Heritage events take place in the community park. (850) 674-8683.

### Escambia County

Pensacola Convention & Visitor Information Center  
(800) 874-1234, [www.visitpensacola.com](http://www.visitpensacola.com)

#### Pensacola

The African American Heritage Society 

200 Church Street

Built in 1895, the historic Kate Coulson house is now home

of the African American Heritage Society's resource center. (850) 469-1299, [www.africanamericanheritagesociety.org](http://www.africanamericanheritagesociety.org).

#### Daniel "Chappie" James Birthplace

1606 North Alcaniz Street (Private)

The birthplace of Chappie James, this home is also where his mother, Lillie A. James, ran a school for black children. On Martin Luther King Boulevard, the city's Memorial Garden includes a marker in Chappie James' honor.

#### John the Baptist Church

101 North 10th Avenue

Established in 1847 as the first black church in Pensacola, John the Baptist Church is the only surviving evidence of Hawk Shaw, an African American community. (850) 438-8223.

#### Julee Cottage Museum

210 E. Zaragoza Street, Seville Square Historic District

This simple, wood-frame building, built around 1804, is Pensacola's only surviving "to the sidewalk" construction. It belonged to Julee Patton, a free woman of color, who purchased the freedom of fellow enslaved blacks. The cottage's pegged framing and beaded ceilings were preserved during rehabilitation. It serves as a black history museum. (850) 595-5985.



Pensacola Convention & Visitor Information Center

Julee Cottage Museum



Florida Dept. of State

### Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. 1920-1978, Military Officer

A Pensacola native, "Chappie" James became the first black four-star general in American military history in 1976. His illustrious career included 101 combat missions as a fighter pilot in Korea and 78 more in Vietnam. He was decorated for valor and air tactics. As commanding officer of the U.S. Air Force base in Libya, and wearing a 45 automatic stuffed under his belt, he confronted the new dictator, Moammar Khadafy, at the front gate and forced his withdrawal. Khadafy had intended to seize the base with his half-tracks. In the late 1970s, the General was sought out as a potential candidate for lieutenant governor of Florida but died of a heart attack a few weeks after his retirement.

## Mount Zion Baptist Church

528 West Jackson Street

The second oldest African American Baptist church in Pensacola, the congregation was organized in August 1880 after a break with John the Baptist Church. The present Romanesque Revival style structure was erected in 1918, after the original building was destroyed by fire. It is home to one of the first pipe organs in Pensacola. (850) 432-4958.

## Perdido Key

Rosamond Johnson Monument

Gulf Islands National Seashore, Johnson Beach Road  
The Gulf Beach area was one of the few beaches that blacks were allowed to enjoy during segregation. Escambia County resident Rosamond Johnson joined the U.S. Army at 15, and died in the Korean War, a hero before his 18th birthday. The first resident from Escambia County to die in that conflict, Johnson died trying to cross the 38th parallel in efforts to rescue wounded soldiers. His bravery earned him a posthumous Purple Heart. Renamed Rosamond Johnson Beach by the county after the Korean Conflict ended, a formal monument was erected on the beach in his honor in 1996. Rosamond Johnson Beach is now part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. (850) 934-2600.

## Franklin County

Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce  
(850) 653-9419, [www.apalachicolabay.org](http://www.apalachicolabay.org)

## Apalachicola

St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church  
183 13th Street

On land purchased in 1866, a small wooden structure served as the St. Paul's AME Church for 74 years. The building of a second, larger wooden structure led to the church as it exists today. The current sanctuary was constructed between 1913 and 1921. (850) 653-9164.

## Sumatra

Fort Gadsden, Apalachicola National Forest   
Forest Road 129-B, West of State Highway 65



Fort Gadsden

In 1814 the fort, located 50 miles from the then-U.S. boundary, served as a base for the recruitment of Indians and blacks fleeing slavery in Georgia and the Carolinas. After the fort was abandoned by the English in 1815, Andrew Jackson constructed Fort Scott on the opposing side of the Apalachicola River. Once completed in 1816, Fort Scott's first order of business was to destroy the Negro Fort, as the English fort had come to be known. All but 30 of the 300 inhabitants died in the attack, and Fort Gadsden was constructed on its site. Fort Gadsden and the remains of the Negro Fort are found in the wilderness of the Apalachicola National Forest. Both are National Historic Landmarks, maintained by the U. S. Forest Service, with exhibits and artifact displays. (850) 670-8616.

## Gulf County

Gulf County Tourist Development Council  
(800) 482-GULF, [www.visitgulf.com](http://www.visitgulf.com)

## Port St. Joe

George Washington High School  
Kenny Street

George Washington High School began in a wooden building located near Main Street and Avenue G around 1940. Before the school was built, local black students received instruction in an old house and in a small wooden church in North Port. From 1940 to 1945, all eight grades were taught in the building. The school moved to a larger facility on Kenny Street and, in 1952, into a new building of concrete. The gym still stands and serves as a community cultural center. (850) 229-8515.

## Jackson County

Jackson County Tourist Development Council  
(850) 482-9663, [www.jctdc.org](http://www.jctdc.org)

## Greenwood

Renaissance Park  
5989 Hartsfield Road

About 8.5 miles northeast of downtown Marianna, this 40-acre wilderness park is filled with artifacts and objects reminiscent of early rural farm life. Each year in September and December, a community festival takes place as African American tradition bearers demonstrate folk life traditions of pig picking, hog dressing, sausage making and soap making. Sugar cane is ground on site and cooked down to syrup in an 80-gallon, cast-iron kettle. Throughout the year, the park is utilized for camping and educational retreats. (850) 482-7497.

## Marianna

The St. Luke Church   
4476 E. Jackson Street

In 1867 a small band of baptized believers founded what is today known as the St. Luke Baptist Church. A parcel of land was purchased and in 1890, a wooden church was



Renaissance Park Fall Harvest Festival

Florida Dept. of State

## Ft. Walton Beach

### Indian Mound Lodge #1205

118 Kiwi Place

The Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBPOEW) is the largest black fraternal organization in the world. This property is home of Indian Mound Lodge #1205 and Booker T. Washington Temple #963. The Lodge and Temple provide entertainment, historical programs and community service activities. (850) 244-1154.

## Santa Rosa County

### Santa Rosa County Tourist Development Council

(800) 480-7263, [www.beaches-rivers.com](http://www.beaches-rivers.com)

## Bagdad

### New Providence Missionary Baptist Church (Bagdad Museum Complex)

4512 Church Street

This church is among the oldest in Santa Rosa County. Carpenters who were sons of the pastor, the Rev. John Kelker, Sr., built the original church. The current wood frame vernacular structure was built in 1901. Moved to its present location in 1989, the building serves as a community center and museum devoted to the history of Bagdad, the churches and the black community. (850) 981-1313.

## Milton

### Mount Pilgrim African Baptist Church

410 Clara Street

The Mount Pilgrim African Baptist Church was organized in 1866 by blacks that left the First Baptist Church. This 1916 building is an excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture designed by Wallace A. Rayfield, a leading African American architect in the South during the early 20th century. Members of Mount Pilgrim helped establish four other African American congregations in the community. (850) 623-4412.

## Walton County

### Walton County Tourism Development Council

(850) 267-1216, [www.beachesofsouthwalton.com](http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com)

## Defuniak Springs

### Jordan Theater

Corner of Florence Street and Dorsey Avenue

In 1945, John Booker Jordan built the Jordan Theater as a motion picture theater. In the mid-1950s the theater was converted into a teen club, and is now a church. The block between the former Jordan Theater and the Tivoli School on Park Street was the business center for the black community in DeFuniak Springs. Building signs indicate the former business occupants.

built. A brick building was constructed in 1921 and today it is Marianna's oldest African American church building. (850) 526-4005.

## Sneads

### Little Zion School

Little Zion Road

Off the beaten path, on a winding country road in rural North Florida stands one of few historic schoolhouses that served blacks after slavery. On its original site, the Little Zion School is being restored by community families. The Little Zion Church and Cemetery are next to the school. (850) 557-0533.

## Okaloosa County

### Emerald Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

(800) 322-3319, [www.destin-fwb.com](http://www.destin-fwb.com)

## Crestview

### Carver-Hill Museum and Fairview Park Complex

895 McClelland Street

The Okaloosa Negro Civic Club established a neighborhood park in the early 1950s. When a new school was built in 1954, Carver-Hill, the old one-room frame lunchroom building was given to the Civic Club by the Okaloosa County School Board. Enlarged and renovated, it became the Carver-Hill Museum, operated by the Carver-Hill Memorial and Historical Society, Inc. (850) 682-4003 or (850) 682-3494.

### JRL Conyers Lodge #364

550 McDonald Street

The Masons and Eastern Stars are vital members of the African American community. This 1909 Lodge Hall was also used as an early school facility. (850) 689-6739.



## Tivoli School

145 Park Street

Tivoli School opened in 1912 to serve black students in elementary and junior high grades. By 1938 the school taught grades one through twelve until its closing in 1969 during desegregation. The Tivoli Complex is now home to the administrative offices of the Walton County School Board. (850) 892-1100.

## Paxton

### Gladys Milton Memorial Library

261 Flowersview Boulevard

Gladys Milton (1924-1999) was a local midwife who operated a birthing center in the Paxton community. Milton was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame in 1994, and in 2001 into Okaloosa County's Women's Hall of Fame. The library displays an exhibit honoring Ms. Milton's career from 1959 to 1999. (850) 834-5383.

## Washington County

Washington County Tourist Development Council  
(850) 638-6013, [www.thewtcdc.com](http://www.thewtcdc.com)

## Chipley

### Roulhac School

101 North Pecan Street

Washington County's distinguished black educator, T. J. Roulhac, became supervisor of Washington County black schools in 1913. This building was operated as a black high school from 1938 until 1968. Mr. Roulhac served as its first principal. It became a middle school for both black and white students in 1968 and is now a community program center. (850) 638-2115.

## Vernon

### Moss Hill United Methodist Church



Corner of Vernon and Greenhead Roads (Private)



Moss Hill United Methodist Church

Built in 1857 by church members and their slaves, this simple, weathered, wood-frame church is the oldest unaltered building in Washington County. Many of the planks still bear the hand prints and fingerprints of the workers,

and the barefoot imprints of children may be seen on ceiling planks. Three miles southeast of Vernon, this building is one of the nation's best examples of frontier church architecture.

## Sylvania African Methodist Episcopal Church

3079 Sylvania Road

In the mid 1800s African Americans worshiped with white parishioners at Moss Hill Church. Sylvania AME Church was established as the community's African American church a few miles from Moss Hill. Its deed was signed in county records in 1902. The church was a wood frame building identical to Moss Hill United Methodist Church. The current masonry church is the second structure and houses several pieces of original church furniture. (850) 535-2110.

## Vernon Elementary School

3665 Roche Avenue

During desegregation, Washington County's white students from Careyville and Wausau, and black students from Shady Grove were sent to the current Vernon Elementary School site. Lacking funds to build a new school, the county added on to an existing one. Parts of the three closed schools were moved and attached to Vernon Elementary. (850) 535-2486.

## NORTH CENTRAL

## Alachua County

Alachua County Visitor & Convention Bureau

(866) 778-5002, [www.visitgainesville.com](http://www.visitgainesville.com)

## Bland Community

### Damascus Cemetery

County Road 236, east of I-75 Exit 404

This cemetery is a landmark in the Bland Community. The old Damascus Church, built in 1900, stood several miles to the northeast on County Road 1491, on a site marked today by a commemorative sign. (352) 373-4062.

## Cross Creek

### Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park

18700 South County Road 325

Many African Americans in rural Florida lived in small tenant houses like the one standing in the orange grove at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. Rawlings, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Yearling*, came to Cross Creek in 1928 and wrote with wit and affection of those who helped tend her house, grove and garden while she worked. The park interprets her literary legacy and the lives of those who were part of her world in Cross Creek. The tenant house was moved to this site in 2000, replacing the original one which had been demolished. Letters between Rawlings and friend Zora Neale Hurston (who stayed as a guest at the Rawlings home) highlight the changing racial relationships in the rural south during Reconstruction, as well as the trail-blazing attitudes of the two women. The site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006. (352) 466-3672, [www.FloridaStateParks.org/marjoriekinnanrawlings/](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org/marjoriekinnanrawlings/).

## Gainesville

### A. Quinn Jones Center

1108 NW 7th Avenue

Constructed in 1923, and opened in 1925 as Lincoln High School and successor to the Union Academy, this two-story red brick school became one of the first accredited high schools in Florida for African American students. The historic school building was renovated in the 1990s. (352) 955-6840.

### Chestnut Funeral Home

18 NW 8th Avenue

Established in 1914 by Matthew E. Hughes and Charles Chestnut, Sr., this funeral home is one of Gainesville's oldest businesses. Chestnut's grandson and great-grandson continue to run the business today. (352) 372-2537.

### The Dunbar Hotel

732 NW 4th Street (Private)

This was the only African American hotel in Gainesville in the early 20th century. The Dunbar family welcomed touring musicians, educators, businessmen and their families. The building has been restored at its original site.

### First Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

115 NW 55th Street

Established in 1890, this church was part of a community founded during Reconstruction in Rutledge, an area given to disenfranchised slaves by the Freedman's Bureau. An exchange of deeds allowed the church to move to its current one-acre location where the present church was completed in 1955. (352) 372-1959.

### Friendship Baptist Church

426 NW 2nd Street

Organized in 1888, Friendship's first building was destroyed by fire, and the present Romanesque-Gothic Revival style church, known for its beautiful stained glass windows, was built of rusticated concrete block in 1911. (352) 376-4302.

### Greater Liberty Hill United Methodist Church

7600 NW 23rd Avenue

Historic Liberty Hill United Methodist Church has served as the religious home of many area families since the 1850s. It was the home of the Farmer's Aide Society, a group of pioneer African American farmers including Joe Duncan, Peter Jonas, the Rev. Chatman Haile and Johnny Roundtree. When families did not have money for health care and burials, this group pooled funds to establish an active association that today still provides scholarships and financial support during illness and loss of life. Mr. Duncan is buried in the Liberty Hill Cemetery. The present church was built in the 1950s. Liberty Hill School (NR), adjacent to the church and cemetery, is one of the oldest educational institutions for black students in the area, listed in Alachua County records as a school in 1869. The present one-room, wood-frame schoolhouse was built by the Alachua County Board of Public Instruction in 1892. (352) 375-5984.

### Haile House at Kanapaha Plantation

8500 SW Archer Road



Haile House

South Carolina's Thomas and Serena Haile moved to Florida in the 1850s. Members of the Haile-Chestnut clan purchased land in the Kanapaha area of Alachua County. The 1860 census indicates that Thomas Haile owned 66

## Josiah T. Walls 1842-1905, Politician

Born a slave in Winchester, Va., little is known of Josiah T. Walls' early life. Enlisted in the Third Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops in 1863, Walls was transferred in 1864 to Picolata. He married Helen Ferguson of Newnansville and in 1865 moved to Alachua County. After passage of the U.S. Military Reconstruction Act of 1867, Walls entered into Florida politics; as a delegate to the 1868 State constitutional convention, followed by election as a state representative and later senator from Alachua County. Walls became the state's first black congressman in 1870. Unseated by the House near the end of his term, Walls was re-elected in 1872. In 1874, Walls defeated J.J. Finley, a former Confederate General, but, in 1876, was again removed from office. Walls was elected to the Florida Senate that year. After 1879, Josiah Walls concentrated on farming. In 1873 he purchased a 1,175 acre plantation on Paynes Prairie, acquired the weekly newspaper, *THE NEW ERA*, and was admitted to the Florida Bar. Active in local politics, and a successful and prosperous farmer through the 1880's, he suffered financial ruin in the 1894-95 freeze. Walls moved to Tallahassee, becoming the farm director at the school that is now Florida A & M University. He died in Tallahassee in 1905.



City of Gainesville, Division of Cultural Affairs

slaves. The Haile house included six ground-floor rooms, with two larger ones upstairs. Poor crops forced Haile into bankruptcy in 1868 and most of his property was sold. The family continued to live at Kanapaha until around 1900. Completed in 1856, the house stands as a testament to the skill and expertise of the enslaved craftsmen who built it, though the 18 slave cabins have not survived. (352) 336-9096, [www.hailehomestead.org](http://www.hailehomestead.org).

**Institute of Black Culture**  
1510 West University Avenue

Created in 1971 at the University of Florida, the Institute is home to many historical artifacts and resources related to the African and African American students who have enrolled at the school. (352) 392-1261, [www.dso.uf.edu](http://www.dso.uf.edu).

**The Jesse Aaron House**  
1207 NW 7th Avenue (Private)



Jesse Aaron woodcarving

Jesse Aaron (1887-1979), was part Seminole and African American and began carving wood when he was in his eighties. He was a noted folk artist whose cypress and cedar carvings were widely sought by collectors and museums. Aaron carved on the front porch of the house he built in 1935 in Gainesville's Fifth Avenue neighborhood. His works are on display at the Institute of Black Culture at the University of Florida.

**Mount Pleasant African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
630 NW 2nd Street

Organized in 1867, the first church building was a wood-frame structure constructed on a site purchased from Charles Brush. That building was replaced by a brick structure in 1887 which was destroyed by fire in 1903. The present building, a Romanesque Revival-style structure, was completed in 1906. The Mount Pleasant Cemetery at 2837 NW 13th Street, was established by the church in the 1880s and is the final resting place of many pioneer African Americans and their descendents. (352) 372-4872.

**The Old Cotton Club**  
837 SE 7th Avenue

Located in Gainesville's Springhill neighborhood, the large wood-frame building was first constructed in 1940-41 as the Post Exchange at Camp Blanding in Starke, Florida. At the end of World War II, the Perryman family purchased the surplus building, moved it to Gainesville and converted it to a movie theater for African American patrons. It became The Cotton Club and was renamed "The Blue Note Club" in the 1950s. The building can be toured by appointment. (352) 335-6784.

**Pleasant Street Historic District**   
Bounded by Main Street, NW 8th Avenue, NW 2nd Avenue and NW 6th Street (Depot Avenue)

The oldest and largest continuously inhabited black residential area in Gainesville, this district is significant as the religious and social center for black entertainment, commerce and educational life in the city. Blacks built many of the 255 contributing historic buildings in this quadrant of original Gainesville in the post-Civil War era and the early 20th century. When emancipated blacks moved into Gainesville after the Civil War, many settled here, where they could buy land and establish churches, schools and clubs.

**Shady Grove Primitive Baptist Church**   
804 SW 5th Street

One of the oldest congregations in Gainesville, the Shady Grove Primitive Baptist church stands on land deeded to the elders of the church in 1900. The present coquina block church was built in the Porters neighborhood in the 1930s. "Porters Quarters" as it is still called, dates to the late 19th century when Canadian physician, Dr. Watson Porter, platted the addition and sold land exclusively to African American families, encouraging them to plant and cultivate gardens to become self sufficient. (352) 376-5929.

**Smathers Library**  
University of Florida, Northeast corner of the Plaza of the Americas

This Library has an extensive collection of documents, photographs and other material related to African American history and culture. (352) 392-9075.

**St. Augustine Day Care**  
405 NW 4th Avenue (Private)

Erected between 1875 and 1889 as an Episcopal mission church for the black community in Gainesville, this building served as a parochial school after moving to its present site in 1895. It became a day care center in 1957 and was integrated in 1964.

**Union Academy**  
524 NW 1st Street

In 1865 the Freedmen Bureau established the Union Academy to educate blacks. Supported by northern friends, the George Peabody Fund, and the Alachua County Board of Public Instruction, black carpenters built the frame

building, the second largest school constructed by the Freedmen Bureau in Florida. Originally a one story structure, a second floor was added in the 1890s. Union Academy was the intellectual heart of the African American community in Gainesville and Alachua County, serving elementary through high school grades for almost 60 years. (352) 334-2193.

### **Wabash Hall**

*918 NW 5th Avenue*

During the 1930s, 40s and early 1950s, Lincoln High School held proms and football victory dances on the second floor of Wabash Hall. On the ground floor, sisters Elzora Gill and Fannie Glover and their husbands operated the Glover and Gill Grocery. The 1932 sign can still be seen on the façade of the two-story brick building, a landmark in Gainesville's Fifth Avenue neighborhood. (352) 334-5064.

### **Hawthorne**

*Hawthorne Historical Museum and Cultural Center  
7225 SE 221st Street*

Established in 1907 as home to the New Hope Methodist Church, one of Hawthorne's oldest black congregations, the building was transplanted from its original location four blocks away. Restored in 1993, the museum displays the original pulpit, pastor's chair, several pews and other artifacts. (352) 481-4491.



Hawthorne Historical Museum and Cultural Center

### **Waldo**

*Waldo Cemetery*

U.S. Highway 301, a mile north of the center of town Pioneer African American families are buried in the town's black cemetery. Henry Hill, the first black fireman in the City of Waldo, was laid to rest here, as are veterans from the Civil War. (352) 334-5064.

## **Bradford County**

**North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce**  
(904) 964-5278, [www.northfloridachamber.com](http://www.northfloridachamber.com)

### **Starke**

*Robinson Jenkins Ellerson (R.J.E.) High School  
Corner of Florida and Pine Streets*

The earliest black school in Bradford County began in a one-room structure on State Road 100 near the Brymer Settlement. When that building burned, the Robinson

Jenkins Ellerson structure was built in 1913. Under the direction of three men: the Reverend James Robinson, Robert Ellerson, and Professor A. O. Jenkins, Sr., four lots and building materials were purchased so that a school could be constructed for black youth. Patrons constructed the two-story building, with two classrooms downstairs and an assembly-classroom combination upstairs. The last class graduated in 1969 when the school closed to adhere to the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision. The building now houses an alternative school. (904) 966-6760.

## **Columbia County**

**Columbia County Tourist Development Council**  
(877) 746-4778, [www.springs-r-us.org](http://www.springs-r-us.org)

### **Lake City**

*Niblack Elementary School*

*837 NE Broadway Avenue*

This school was built in 1954 in an effort to consolidate elementary schools serving African American students in Columbia County. Because of her efforts to build, consolidate, and improve schools in the area, the school was named for Minnie Jones Niblack, a teacher, principal and county supervisor. (386) 755-8200.

**Trinity United Methodist Church**

*310 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive*

Gothic architectural style and stained glass windows distinguish the Trinity United Methodist Church as a historic landmark in Lake City. The African American congregation was first organized in 1863 as the Gethsemane Methodist Episcopal Church. The church standing today was built in 1927. (386) 752-3701.

**Richardson High School**

*255 Coach Anders Way*

The high school was built in 1957 for the African American youth of Columbia County, and closed in the early 1970s. The gymnasium and basketball court still stand. The playing fields and gym are now part of the Richardson Community Center. (386) 758-5417.

## **Gadsden County**

**Gadsden County Tourist Development Council**  
(850) 627-0344, [www.visitgadsden.com](http://www.visitgadsden.com)

### **Midway**

*Eugene Lamb Jr. Recreation Center*

*420 Palmer Road*

The predominantly black town of Midway was incorporated in 1987. After the former school for blacks burned, a city hall building was constructed on this site. Named for Midway native, Mayor Eugene Lamb, Jr., former teacher and coach and visionary community leader, the site is now home to a community center, playground, basketball court and a walking trail. (850) 574-2355.

## Quincy

### **Arnett Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church** 209 South Duval Street

Organized in 1866, this congregation is among the oldest in Gadsden County. The Romanesque Revival style building was constructed in 1938-39 and named for the Rev. Benjamin W. Arnett, the presiding bishop in Florida from 1888-1892. (850) 875-1295.



Arnett Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

### **Good Shepherd Lodge**

1001 West 4th Street

Across the street from the Stevens School is a small white frame building with a blue Great Floridian 2000 plaque honoring Witt A. Campbell, who served as the financial officer for the Good Shepherd Lodge of the Order of Emancipated Americans until his death in 1996. Born in Quincy in 1910, Campbell served the Gadsden County school system for 44 years. During the 1960s civil rights movement, Campbell registered voters in Gadsden County. In 1983 he was elected to the Gadsden County School Board.

### **Hardon Building**

16 West Washington Street

One of Quincy's earliest ice and electric plants was owned by African American resident, William Hardon. Hardon's small generator was located in the rear of the building with the ice plant adjacent to it. The masonry vernacular building, constructed around the turn of the 19th century, now houses an office supply business.

### **Masonic Lodge**

122 South Duval Street

Since 1907 this building has been the Masonic Lodge Meeting Hall for black Masons. The two-story, frame vernacular building has an open hall on the first floor. It was moved from its original site in 1976 and remodeled.

### **William S. Stevens High School**

1004 West 4th Street

The Stevens School was built for all grades in the 1920s as the Dunbar School, with funding from the Rosenwald

Foundation. Dr. William Spencer Stevens for whom the school was named, graduated from Florida State Normal and Industrial College and in 1904 received a medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Stevens became the first African American to open a medical practice in Quincy. In 1906, he opened Stevens' Drug Store in downtown Quincy, and in the 1930s built a two-story building that served as a community hospital for the black community. In 1914, Stevens was named supervisor of the Quincy City Schools and in 1925 he began a four-year process to expand Dunbar School. The new school building was renamed in his honor, and Dr. Stevens continued to serve the city of Quincy as Supervisor of City Schools until his death in 1949.

## Hamilton County

Hamilton County Tourist Development Council  
(866) 341-2492, [www.hamiltoncountyflorida.com](http://www.hamiltoncountyflorida.com)

### White Springs

#### **Eastside Cemetery**

US 301, about a mile north of the center of town

This burial ground honors veterans, family patriarchs and matriarchs, and past generations of the White Springs African American community. (352) 334-5064.

### Jasper

#### **The Jasper Post Office**

105 SE Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

The Jasper Post Office was built with Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds in the 1930s. Pietro Lazzari's 1942 tempera murals depict workers managing cotton, tobacco and turpentine crops. (352) 334-5064.



Hamilton Co. Office of Tourism & Economic Development

Jasper Post Office Mural

#### **The Old Jail**

500 NE 1st Avenue

Now a museum, this 1893 red brick jail building contains the cells where black and white prisoners were once confined on the second floor. The central tower was used for hangings as late as 1916. Documents, photographs and memorabilia are displayed on the first floor. Also featured is the 1944 book, *Strange Fruit*, an exploration of race relations in the South written by Jasper native and author, Lillian Smith. (352) 334-5064.

## Jefferson County

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce  
(850) 997-5552, [www.monticellojeffersonfl.com](http://www.monticellojeffersonfl.com)

### Monticello

#### *Elizabeth School in the Dills Community*

Groover Road, across from Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church (Private)

Originally housed in the Elizabeth Church, Elizabeth School was established when Miles Groover and his wife, Daisy Black Groover donated two acres of land for the new site. The school building was completed as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. In 1938 students moved from the Masonic Hall to the new three-room school. The renovated building is now home to the Quins Club, an African American women's community service organization.

#### *Howard Academy High School*

666 East Chestnut Street

In 1936, African American students in grades one through twelve consolidated in this public school building from the Masonic Lodge, Bethel AME Church and Miss Lenora Mills' store. Constructed in 1940, the second building became the high school and the original became the elementary school. (850) 997-2043.

## Leon County

Tallahassee Area Convention & Visitors Bureau  
(800) 628-2866, [www.seetallahassee.com](http://www.seetallahassee.com)

### Tallahassee

#### *Bethel Missionary Baptist Church*

224 North Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

The Rev. C. K. Steele, pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, was one of Tallahassee's most notable civil rights activists. Many meetings associated with the Tallahassee bus boycott were held in this church, which made it a target of Ku Klux Klan activity. (850) 222-8440.

#### *Carnegie Library, The Carrie Meek/James Eaton Sr., Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center & Museum*

FAMU campus, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Gamble Street

The Carnegie Library was completed in 1907 and is the oldest standing building on the Florida A&M University campus. Its mission is to collect, preserve, display and disseminate information about African Americans and people of African descent worldwide, especially the history of their institutions and organizations. As a specialty museum and research center, the Archive houses historical papers and artifacts. (850) 599-3020, [www.famu.edu/acad/archives/](http://www.famu.edu/acad/archives/).

#### *Florida State Archives, Florida Department of State*

500 South Bronough Street  
In addition to on site research, the Florida State Archives offers web-based access to an extensive collection of original documents, photographs, and other materials for historical research on state history through the Florida Memory Project at [www.floridamemory.com](http://www.floridamemory.com). (850) 245-6700.

#### *First Presbyterian Church*

110 North Adams Street

Organized in 1832, congregation members completed this sanctuary in 1838. The only Tallahassee church still standing from territorial days, the Classic Revival style building with Gothic doors and windows is prominent in downtown. The north gallery was set aside for slaves who were allowed membership, but sat apart from their masters. (850) 222-4504, [www.oldfirstchurch.org](http://www.oldfirstchurch.org).

#### *Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU)*

Martin Luther King Boulevard

Established in 1887 as the Florida State Normal College for Colored Students, FAMU is the oldest historically black public university in Florida. The first president, Thomas DeSaille Tucker, and his assistant, Thomas Van Rennasaler, guided the school's beginning including its move from Copeland Street to its present location, as the Florida State Normal and Industrial College for Colored Students. Today this multiracial university is comprised of several schools and colleges. (850) 599-3000, [www.famu.edu](http://www.famu.edu)



Florida Dept. of State

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

#### *Fred Douglas Lee Statue*

Corner of Macomb and Georgia Streets

Fred Douglas Lee was the first black policeman in Tallahassee assigned to a regular beat. He was recruited by civil rights activist Rev. C. K. Steele, Sr., and others, to break the color barrier that existed in law enforcement prior to Lee's appointment in the late 1950s. This statue to his legacy was erected in 2004.

#### *Frenchtown Historic Community*

Tennessee Street to Brevard Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Copeland Street

In 1831, historic plantations, churches, homesteads, educational institutions, businesses and residences filled this area. The community has long been occupied by free

# RETRACE YOUR STEPS



CELEBRATE BLACK HERITAGE AMONG THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF TALLAHASSEE.



The Riley House. C.K. Steele Memorial. The Union Bank Building. These are only a few of the historic homes and civil rights monuments that enrich Tallahassee's Black Heritage. We invite you to come and join us in the capital city in celebration of Black History Month. The Alvin Ailey Dance Theater and the Black History Month festival are a couple highlights of our celebration. For more information about our Black Heritage events, call 1-866-628-2866 or visit [seetallahassee.com/bhm](http://seetallahassee.com/bhm).



Visit [www.seetallahassee.com/bhm](http://www.seetallahassee.com/bhm)

people of color and other persons of African descent. Following the Civil War many freed slaves migrated into the area. Frenchtown developed into a thriving middle-class African American community, with Macomb Street as the hub of activity. Frenchtown declined in the 1960s and only a few original structures remain, but the area is currently undergoing revitalization.

### **Gibbs Cottage**

*South Adams Street (Private)*

Gibbs Cottage, constructed in 1894 and moved here from its original site, was the home of Thomas Van Renssalaer Gibbs. Gibbs was a member of the Florida Legislature who in 1887 introduced legislation that resulted in the founding of the Florida State Normal College for Colored Students, now Florida A&M University.

### **Greenwood Cemetery**

*Old Bainbridge Road and Tharpe Street*

When a 1936 ordinance prevented the sale of burial plots to blacks in the Old City Cemetery, those already owning spaces were permitted to continue burials, although they were not encouraged. In protest, seven African Americans, led by J.R.D. Laster, Tallahassee's first black funeral director, purchased 16 acres on Old Bainbridge Road and established Greenwood in 1937. The City of Tallahassee assumed ownership and responsibility for perpetual care of the historic cemetery in 1987.

### **Integration Statue**

*At the dead end of Woodward Street, headed south*

This statue recognizes three of the first African American students to enroll and graduate from Florida State University in the 1960s. Represented are: Maxwell Courtney, the first to enroll and graduate; Doby Flowers, who enrolled, graduated, and was the first Black Miss Florida State University; and Fred Flowers, the first black to wear a varsity athletic uniform. (850) 644-2450.

### **Jakes-Patterson Monument**

*FAMU Campus, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard*

On May 26, 1956, Florida A&M University students Wilhelmina Jakes and Carrie Patterson were arrested in Tallahassee because they refused to give up their bus seats next to a white passenger. The students were harassed and a cross was burned in their front yard. This act of passive resistance rallied Tallahassee NAACP leaders Robert Saunders and the Reverend C.K. Steele, and FAMU students to initiate a boycott that ended segregation on the city buses.

### **John G. Riley House**

*419 East Jefferson Street*

The John G. Riley house represents the thriving black neighborhood that once existed in what is now the downtown area of Tallahassee. John Gilmore Riley was

a black educator and civic leader in Tallahassee in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was the principal of Lincoln Academy, the first black high school in Leon County. The frame vernacular house which Riley had built for his family in the 1890s was the family home until his death in 1954. Today, the home is restored and open to the public as a museum and research center dedicated to African American history and culture. (850) 681-7881, [www.rileymuseum.org](http://www.rileymuseum.org).



John G. Riley House

### **Knott House Museum**

*301 East Park Avenue*

The Knott House was first occupied in 1843 by Attorney Thomas Hagner and his wife Catherine Gamble. The house is thought to have been built by free black builder George Proctor. When Union General Edward M. McCook entered Tallahassee on May 10, 1865, with orders to accept the surrender of Florida's capital, he set up Union headquarters at the house. Ten days later, on the steps of the house, McCook issued President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. In 1928 the house was acquired by William and Luella Knott. The house museum is open to the public. (850) 922-2459, [www.flheritage.com/museum/sites/knotthouse](http://www.flheritage.com/museum/sites/knotthouse).

### **The McKinney House**

*438 West Georgia Street*

Built in 1945 by Nathaniel and Lucille McKinney, the present owner was the second female African American assistant principal of Leon County Schools. (850) 224-1775.

### **Museum of Florida History, Florida Department of State**

*500 South Bronough Street*

Permanent exhibits include information about Florida's African American history. "Florida in the Civil War" presents the story of African American troops who served in the Union Army and fought in the Battle of Olustee near Lake City in 1864, and at the Battle of Natural Bridge south of Tallahassee in 1865. "Florida Remembers World War II" recalls the more than 50,000 black Floridians who entered the military during World War II, and displays memorabilia of Lt. James Polkinghorne, a Tuskegee Airman from Pensacola

who lost his life in Italy serving as a fighter pilot. (850) 245-6400, [www.museumoffloridahistory.com](http://www.museumoffloridahistory.com).

### **Old City Cemetery**

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Park Avenue*

Tallahassee's first public cemetery served as the burial place for blacks and whites as early as 1829. Laws required that blacks be buried in the western half of the cemetery, so segregation continued after death. Prominent African Americans buried here include Thomas Van Renssalaer Gibbs, Reconstruction legislator and educator; William Gunn, one of the first black physicians in Florida; John G. Riley, noted educator; and James Page, founder of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. A 1936 city ordinance further prevented the sale of burial plots to blacks, and after 1937 most African Americans were buried in the Greenwood Cemetery and later at Southside Cemetery. (850) 545-5842.

### **Historic Capitol Museum and Florida Legislative Research Center**

*North Monroe Street at Apalachee Parkway*

Highlighting the history of Florida politics and encouraging citizen involvement in the political process, exhibits examine the struggle for civil rights in Florida with displays about Martin Luther King, Jr., the Tallahassee bus boycott and civil rights activist Harry T. Moore. Topics also include racial violence, slavery, reconstruction, integration and the Jim Crow period. (850) 487-1902.

### **Old Lincoln High School**

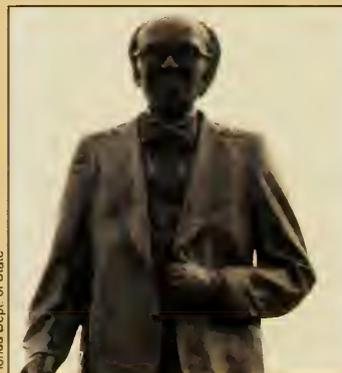
*438 West Brevard Street*

The academic body that became Lincoln Academy was first organized in 1869. When the first building at Lafayette and Copeland burned, a new structure was built at Copeland and Park Avenue. In 1906, Lincoln Academy moved into a frame building on Brevard Street in Frenchtown, and in 1926 the wooden structure was replaced by a brick building that also served as a gathering place. This Lincoln High school site was closed in 1967. The building now serves as a community center. (850) 891-4180.

### **Rosa Parks Marker and C.K. Steele Statue**

*111 West Tennessee Street (City Bus Plaza)*

On December 1, 2005, a marker commemorating Rosa



C.K. Steele Statue

Parks was placed at the bus plaza with a statue honoring longtime Tallahassee civic rights leader, Reverend C.K. Steele (1914-1980). The former pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Rev. Steele became the most recognizable figure in the Tallahassee civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. Steele marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., and was a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Steele often proclaimed, "I'd rather walk in dignity than ride in humiliation." The Tallahassee city bus terminal bears his name.

### **St. James CME Church**

*104 North Bronough Street (Private)*

This Gothic Revival structure was constructed in 1899 on land purchased by black members of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church who formed a separate organization known as the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. There were at least two earlier structures on the site and it is believed that one of these functioned as a hospital for wounded soldiers from the Civil War Battle of Olustee and as a black school during Reconstruction. The oldest known church building for blacks still standing in Tallahassee, it has been converted for office use.

### **Tallahassee Museum**

*3945 Museum Drive*

This museum features several structures of historical significance related to black heritage. Bellevue, an 1840s plantation house and reconstructed slave cabin, addresses a period in Florida history when cotton planters built fortunes through slave labor. The 1890s Concord Schoolhouse provided classrooms for the children of former slaves, and is a reminder of the struggles and strides made in black education. The B.O. Wood Turpentine Commissary, a "company store" of the early 1900s, sold provisions to black workers returning from long days in the pine forest. The Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, built in 1937 by a rural black congregation, traces its founding to slave preacher James Page, ordained in the 1850s. (850) 576-1636 or 575-8684, [www.tallahasseeuseum.org](http://www.tallahasseeuseum.org).



The Tallahassee Museum Commissary

### **The Tookes Hotel**

*412 Virginia Street (Private)*

Mrs. Dorothy Nash Tookes, a founder of the Bond Street School for African American children in the 1930s, modified her home to accommodate African American travelers who could not stay in white hotels during segregation.

### **Union Bank Building**

*219 Apalachee Parkway*

The Union Bank, chartered in 1833, was a planters' bank in the territorial period of Florida history. Constructed in 1841 and displaying elements of Federal and Greek Revival architecture, the building has housed a variety of business and cultural interests including the National Freedman's Bank for newly emancipated slaves during Reconstruction. The Union Bank now serves as an extension of the Southeastern Regional Black History Archives Research Center & Museum of Florida A&M University. Artifacts and documents reflecting black history and culture are on display. (850) 599-3020 or 561-2603, [www.flheritage.com/museum/site/unionbank/](http://www.flheritage.com/museum/site/unionbank/).

## **Madison County**

**Madison County Tourist Development Council**

**(850) 973-2788, [www.madisonfla.com](http://www.madisonfla.com)**

### **Greenville**

**Ray Charles Memorial at Haffye Hays Park**

*South side of U.S. Highway 90 in downtown Greenville*  
Greenville is the childhood home of Ray Charles (1930-2004). A full-sized statue commemorates the Greenville life of this world-famous singer, songwriter and composer who attended the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine.

### **Madison**

**Four Freedoms Park**

*U.S. Highway 90 and North Range Street*

In the heart of the Madison historic district is the Four Freedoms Park. The most recent memorial, dedicated on the anniversary of Florida's endorsement of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, carries the inscription, "This monument is dedicated to the former slaves of Madison County, their supporters and the unsung heroes who gave their prayers, blood, sweat and tears to help make our community what it is today." (850) 973-2788, [www.madisonfla.org](http://www.madisonfla.org).

**Madison Post Office**

*200 East Pinckney Street*

The George Snow Hill mural reflecting life in the north Florida cotton industry was created as part of President Roosevelt's WPA program. (850) 973-6241.

## Suwannee County

**Suwannee County Tourist Development Council**  
(386) 362-3071, [www.suwanneechamber.com](http://www.suwanneechamber.com)

### Live Oak

**African Missionary Baptist Church**  
509 Walker Avenue SW

The first church was built on the corner of Parshley and Houston Avenue. This Masonry Vernacular building was built in 1910.

## Taylor County

**Taylor County Tourist Development Council**  
(850) 584-5627, [www.steinhatcheetoperry.com](http://www.steinhatcheetoperry.com)

### Perry

**Jerkins High School**  
1412 Martin Luther King Avenue

County school board minutes from May 1887 show education for Taylor County blacks came from the roots of Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Henry R. Jerkins, Jr., principal in 1930, had the most memorable impact. Jerkins arrived not long after the 1923 burning of the school that followed the Rosewood massacre in January of that year. In 1931 ground was broken for the high school. During his seven-year tenure, Jerkins expanded educational offerings and marshaled the expansion of grades, allowing children to finish their education, a rarity in the South at that time. The community had called the school "Jerkins" for some years, but only in 1946 did the name appear in official county records. The present building was constructed in 1950. In March 1995, the Taylor County School Board donated the Jerkins property to the Taylor County Leadership Council. School board minutes dating back to the late 1880s are housed at the site. (850) 223-3441.

### New Brooklyn Missionary Baptist Church

Intersection of U.S. 19 and U.S. 27

The New Brooklyn Missionary Baptist congregation, one of Perry's most prominent black churches, formed in 1914. The church was remodeled in 1963 and again in 1989.

### Perry Post Office

1600 East Jefferson Street

Florida artist George Snow Hill painted the "Cypress Logging" mural on canvas in 1938 for the Perry Post Office, as part of the Public Works of Art (WOA) Project during the Great Depression. The panel honors the mostly African American laborers who contributed to the local lumber industry. In 1987 it was moved to its present location in the new post office.



City of Gainesville, Division of Cultural Affairs

"Cypress Logging" mural by George Snow Hill, Perry

### Springhill Baptist Church and Cemetery

Pinecrest Drive

The oldest church in Taylor County, Springhill Missionary Baptist Church was built in 1853 in the area then known as Rosehead. In 1923 the church was burned down by the Ku Klux Klan and many families fled the area in fear of losing



Florida Dept. of State

## Rosewood Florida Heritage Marker

**State Road 24, about nine miles east of Cedar Key**

*This town was the site of an African American massacre in 1923. Following a false accusation by a white woman, white men from the Cummer Lumber Company in Sumner were joined by other whites from as far away as Georgia in the search for the accused black man. During the week of terror and torture that followed, seven people were killed. The all-black town was destroyed and burned to the ground. Remaining residents hid in the surrounding woods. Some were able to escape by train to Gainesville, Archer and Bryceville through the assistance of the John Wright family. Rosewood teacher, Mahulda Gussie Brown Carrier is remembered for helping women and children escape the massacre by train. After the massacre, Carrier completed her college degree and became the first African-American female principal in Florida. An exhibit at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, documents the Rosewood tragedy.*

their lives and property. Rebuilt with the original church bell in 1925 at its current location, it remains a place of worship. The historic cemetery is located next to the site of the original Springhill Baptist Church at Springhill and Green Streets, about three miles from downtown.



Springhill Baptist Church Cemetery

City of Gainesville, Division of Cultural Affairs

## NORTHEAST

### Baker County

Baker County Chamber of Commerce  
(904) 259-6433, [www.bakerchamberfl.com](http://www.bakerchamberfl.com)

### Olustee

#### Olustee Battlefield State Park

Two miles east of Olustee on U.S. Highway 90

This site commemorates the February 20, 1864, Battle of Ocean Pond. A Union force of approximately 5,200 troops under the command of General Truman A. Seymour marched westward to meet a Confederate force led by General Alfred H. Colquitt. The battle lasted nearly five hours before Union forces retreated. Casualties amounted to an estimated 1,860 Union and 946 Confederate soldiers. (850) 758-0400, [www.FloridaStateParks.org/Olustee](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org/Olustee).

### Clay County

Clay County Tourism Division  
(904) 394-7401, [www.claytourism.com](http://www.claytourism.com)

### Orange Park

#### Joseph Green House

531 McIntosh Avenue (Private)

Mississippi native Joseph Green settled in Orange Park around 1886, acquiring property in the African American community along McIntosh Avenue. Green constructed the 1,250 square foot, two-story house as his residence around 1893. The house remained in the Green family until 1994.

#### Orange Park Negro Elementary School

440 McIntosh Avenue

Completed in 1938, Orange Park Negro Elementary School represents one of the few buildings constructed by the school board in the 1930s. Today it is the property of the city of Orange Park.

### Wakulla County

Wakulla County Tourist Development Council  
(850) 984-2966, [www.wakullacounty.com](http://www.wakullacounty.com)

### Crawfordville

#### Old Shadeville High School Marker

87 Andrew Hargrett, Sr. Road (off County Road 61 east of Crawfordville Highway)

In 1931, a black high school for Wakulla County was constructed as an addition to the Shadeville Elementary School. After providing education to black students for 36 years, Shadeville was closed due to school desegregation in 1967. A monument was placed at the site in 1992 by Shadeville High School Alumni.

### The Battle of Olustee

The Olustee Battle Festival and Re-enactment commemorates the largest Civil War battle fought in Florida, resulting in more than 2,800 casualties and a Confederate victory. Three African American regiments, the 8th and 35th United States Colored Troops and the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, fought as part of the Union Army. It is estimated that one-third of the total Union casualties for the battle were from the black regiments.

Each year hundreds of African American Civil War reenactors pay tribute to the black regiments by participating in the reenactment of the Battle of Olustee. Since 1975, reenactors gather at the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park, the actual site of the February 20, 1864, Civil War battle. The activities of both soldiers and civilians during the war are portrayed, including military camps and drills, medical demonstrations, and period music concerts.

Held during President's Day weekend just east of Lake City (located near the intersection of I-75 and I-10 in North Florida), the event features a Civil War skirmish on Saturday afternoon and the re-enactment of the Battle of Olustee on Sunday. For more information, visit the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park's web site at [www.FloridaStateParks.org/Olustee](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org/Olustee).



Columbia County Tourist Development Council

## Duval County

**Jacksonville & the Beaches Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 733-2668, [www.visitjacksonville.com](http://www.visitjacksonville.com)

### Jacksonville

#### 1960s Civil Rights Historic Site Marker

*Hemming Square, Downtown Jacksonville*

On Saturday, August 27, 1960, forty Youth Council demonstrators from the Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP staged a sit-in at the W.T. Grant Department Store, and at Woolworth's Five-and-Ten Cent Store across from Hemming Park. Seeking access to the whites-only lunch counters, the youths were met by 150 white males wielding axe handles and baseball bats. Many were injured while others sought safety at nearby Snyder Memorial Methodist Church. The event was a turning point in Jacksonville's civil rights movement. (904) 630-1904 (Joel McEachin).

#### Bethel Baptist Institutional Church

215 Bethel Baptist Street

This building has long served as the focal point of the religious and community life of Jacksonville's black citizens. The congregation was organized in July 1838 with six charter members, including two slaves belonging to Elias G. Jaudon. During the Civil War the church served as a hospital. In 1901, six individuals met in the church basement to form the Afro-American Life Insurance, the first black life insurance company chartered in Florida. Destroyed by the Great Jacksonville Fire of that year, the church was rebuilt in 1904. Its design incorporates both Romanesque Revival and Late Gothic Revival styles. (904) 354-1464.

#### B.F. Lee Theological Seminary Building at Edward Waters College

1658 Kings Road

This three-story building was built in 1925-1927 to house the

Theological Department of Edward Waters College (founded in 1905). In 1914, the first graduating class included Henry Y. Tookes, who later became a bishop in Florida.

#### Bishop Henry Y. Tookes House

1011 West 8th Street

Bishop Henry Y. Tookes, assigned to serve the Florida District of the AME Church, and his wife Maggie, built this brick, two-story neoclassical-style house in 1939. The house is one of the few remaining large residences in the old Sugar Hill Community, a neighborhood of Jacksonville's African American middle class during the first half of the 20th century. Under Bishop Tookes' administration, the college expanded with the acquisition of additional property, and the construction of the library, a women's dormitory and the J.M. Wise Stadium. The Gamma Rho Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, founded in 1908 at Howard University, in Washington, D.C., occupies this rehabilitated property and offers a tour of Jacksonville's African American sites. (904) 765-9788.

#### Catherine Street Fire Station #3

1410 Gator Bowl Drive

Built in 1902 to replace a fire station destroyed by the Great Jacksonville Fire of May 3, 1901, the station was manned by black firemen for several years. Originally located at 12 Catherine Street, the fire station was moved in 1990 to Metropolitan Park immediately east of downtown Jacksonville. The building was rehabilitated at its new waterfront location to serve as the city's fire museum. (904) 630-2458.

#### Centennial Hall at Edward Waters College

1750 Kings Road

Named to commemorate the centennial celebration of the AME Church, this three-story brick structure was built in 1916 by the Rev. Richard L. Brown, one of the few black

### James Weldon Johnson 1871 – 1938, Poet/Novelist/Activist

*James Weldon Johnson, a native of Jacksonville and founder of the Harlem Renaissance became one of the leading poets in the 1920's. He was the first black to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida. During President Woodrow Wilson's administration, he served as consul to Nicaragua and Venezuela. In 1916, he became the first executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Johnson is best remembered, however, for his poem Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing, known as the Black National Anthem which was set to music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson.*

### John Rosamond Johnson 1873–1954, Composer/Conductor/Actor

*John Rosamond Johnson was a music virtuoso who composed the music to Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing and more than 150 spirituals. After moving to New York City, Johnson wrote over 160 songs and shows alone and as partner of the famous Cole and Johnson musical team. He conducted Oscar Hammerstein Opera House in London, and was in the original cast of Porgy and Bess.*



Florida Dept. of State

Florida Dept. of State

architects and builders of the period. The building was home to the college's high school department, printing plant and cafeteria. Renovated in 1980, it now houses the college library and a collection of African art. (904) 366-2510.

### **Clara White Mission**

613 West Ashley Street

This mission is a memorial to Clara English White (1845-1920). Eartha M.M. White (1876-1974) continued the humanitarian work of her mother, with a life of public service in Jacksonville that included the Clara White Mission, the Milnor Street Nursery, and a tuberculosis sanitarium for Jacksonville's African American community. The Clara White Mission moved in 1932 to its current location where it serves as both a museum and a homeless center. (904) 354-4162, [www.clarawhitemission.org](http://www.clarawhitemission.org).

### **Genovar's Hall**

638-644 West Ashley Street

Constructed between 1891 and 1895 to house the grocery store of Minorcan descendant Sebastian Genovar, the three-story building has housed African American owned and operated businesses such as the Wynn Hotel and the Lenape Tavern/Bar. The building is being rehabilitated to house a museum and office space.

### **J. P. Small Memorial Stadium**

Southeast Corner of Myrtle Avenue and 8th Street

J. P. Small Memorial Stadium is the last remaining historic stadium in Jacksonville. The park was first called Barrs Field after local businessman, Amander Barrs, who was president of the Jacksonville Baseball Association. In 1911 Barrs gained control of the area close to downtown Jacksonville from Dr. Jay Durkee who had inherited it from his grandfather, Joseph Harvey Durkee. The historic African American community that emerged in and around the property became known as Durkeeville. Under city ownership in 1926, the recreation field was renamed Durkee Field and sometimes called the Myrtle Avenue Ball Park. Originally used for spring training by the Philadelphia Athletics and the Brooklyn Dodgers, the field was later home to the Jacksonville Red Caps, a local team associated with the Negro Southern Leagues. J. P. Small Park was declared a local historic landmark in 2003. (904) 353-7804.

### **Kingsley Plantation**

Off Heckscher Drive on Fort George Island

Kingsley Plantation is one of the few remaining examples of the plantation system of territorial Florida and the site of what may be the oldest plantation house in the state. Plantation owner Zephaniah Kingsley was married to a Senegalase woman, Anna Madgigine Jai, whom Kingsley originally purchased as a slave. Visitors can explore the plantation house, remains of 23 tabby construction slave quarters, a barn, waterfront, kitchen house and interpretive garden. Part of the Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, the National Park Service operates a visitor contact station and bookstore on site. (904) 251-3537, [www.nps.gov/timu](http://www.nps.gov/timu).



Jacksonville & the Beaches Convention & Visitors

Kingsley Plantation

### **Masonic Temple Most Worshipful Grand Lodge**

410 Broad Street

Completed in 1916 by the Black Masons of Florida, this six-story red brick structure serves as headquarters of the Masons of the State of Florida Grand East and the focal point for the Jacksonville black community's commercial and fraternal events. Designed by Earl Mark and Leeroy Shefall, the architectural design reflects the works of both Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. The 1926 Negro Blue Book described it as, "one of the finest buildings in the world owned by Negroes." (904) 353-7834.

### **Matthew Gilbert School**

1424 Franklin Street

Reflecting the Italian Renaissance style, Matthews Gilbert School was constructed in 1926 to serve the Oakland and



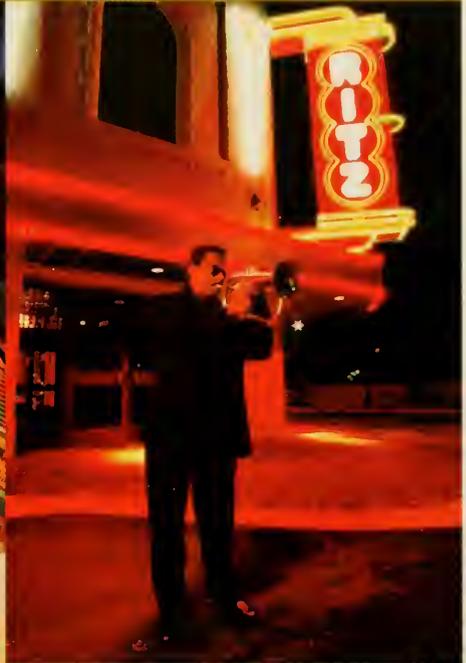
Florida Dept. of State

### **A. Phillip Randolph 1889 – 1979, Labor Leader**

Born in Crescent City, Florida, Randolph was one of the nation's foremost spokesmen for black labor. In 1925 he organized and served as the first President of the all-black International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He organized two major marches in Washington, D.C. in 1941 and 1963, which resulted in important advances in black civil rights. He helped found the Negro American Labor Council and was a Vice President of the Executive Committee of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). Randolph received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Johnson in 1964.



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There's a fascinating urban trail, meandering along the streets of Jacksonville, that can take you back to some of the most important moments—and sites—of the civil-rights movement. From the Bethel Baptist Institutional Church to Catherine Street Fire Station #3, Centennial Hall to the Kingsley Plantation, each has its own story to tell. Come explore them all for yourself. To sample the best Florida has to offer, call the Jacksonville & the Beaches Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-733-2668, or log on to [visitjacksonville.com](http://visitjacksonville.com).



East Jacksonville communities. Alumni include two-time Olympic gold medal winner, Robert "Bullet Bob" Hayes. The site was originally occupied by the Florida Baptist Academy founded in the 1890s by Bethel Baptist Institutional Church. J. Rosamond Johnson, brother of James Weldon Johnson, served as music director at the academy. The Florida Baptist Academy relocated to St. Augustine to become the Florida Normal and Industrial Institute, and then to Dade County, where it is now Florida Memorial College. (904) 630-6700.

### **Moncrief Cemetery District**

*Intersection of Moncrief Road and Edgewood Avenue*  
Memorial, Sunset Memorial and Pinehurst Cemeteries were developed and managed by the Afro-American Life Insurance Company to provide burial options for blacks in segregated Jacksonville. With over 6,000 graves, these three cemeteries along with the adjacent Mount Olive Cemetery, New Mount Herman Cemetery and Greenwood Cemetery, were the major burial grounds for Jacksonville's African American community. Six members of the Lewis family, including Abraham Lincoln Lewis, founder of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company are interred in the 1939 Art Deco style Lewis Mausoleum in Memorial Cemetery. The Lewis Mausoleum was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

### **Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church**

*841 Franklin Street*

Designed and built by Jacksonville's first black architect, Richard L. Brown, this 1922 church reflects his eclectic style. Built of concrete block, textured on the upper stories to simulate quarry stone, the church includes a large portico at the main sanctuary entrance. A.L. Lewis, one of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company founders, served for over 50 years as Sunday School Superintendent of Mount Olive AME Church. (904) 354-6085.

### **Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church**

*201 East Beaver Street*

After the Civil War, several dozen freedmen formed the Society for Religious Worship and were formally recognized in 1866 as the Mount Zion AME Church. A 1901 fire destroyed their brick sanctuary which seated 1,500

worshippers. Within months the church was rebuilt. This Romanesque Revival style church features arched windows and door openings, art-glass windows and a prominent bell tower. (904) 355-9475.

### **The Norman Studios**

*Arlington Road between Rogero Road and Cesery Boulevard*

In the 1920s, Richard E. Norman (1891-1960) a white filmmaker and distributor of silent films, produced a number of works using all African American casts and crews. This was during the era of a rising racism, including the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan. Norman's feature-length "race films," such as the "Flying Ace" and "Bull Doggers," were part of a national movement to portray positive images of blacks, and served as an antidote to the racism of the time. The Norman Studios in Jacksonville represent the last remaining vestiges of the city's movie industry that rivaled Hollywood, California, in the early years of filmmaking. They are nationally significant as one of the few remaining intact studios in the country that demonstrate the participation of African American in the early history of filmmaking in the United States. (904) 353-7804.

### **Old Brewster Hospital**

*1885 Monroe Street in the LaVilla neighborhood*

Built in 1855, this Victorian style residence was sold in 1901 to the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church. Here, the missionary society established the first Jacksonville hospital for blacks and the first training facility for black nurses. The hospital and nursing school were an outgrowth of the Boylan-Haven School, a private institution for black girls also located at that time in La Villa. The hospital moved to other facilities in 1910, eventually relocating to North Jefferson where it became Methodist Medical Center. The Old Brewster Hospital building was moved from its original location to its present site in 2006.

### **Old City Cemetery**

*Bounded by East Union, Long, Jessie and Washington Streets*

Opened in 1852 on land donated by steamboat captain Charles Willey, the Old City Cemetery was the primary



### **Augusta Savage 1892-1962, Artist**

Augusta Savage was born on February 29, 1892 in Green Cove Springs. Savage moved to Jacksonville, Florida in search of work as a sculptor, but was unsuccessful. In 1921, she moved to New York's Harlem community where she established herself as an artist and a teacher. Her sculpture, *The Harp* was influenced by Negro spirituals and hymns, most notably James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Every Voice and Sing." *Gamin*, a sculpture of her nephew, won her the Julius Rosenwald Fellowship in 1929 and the opportunity to study in Paris for one year. Upon returning from Europe, Savage established the *Savage Studio of Arts and Crafts* in Harlem in 1932. In 1937, she became the first director of the *Harlem Community Arts Center*, an institution where African Americans could learn about their culture through the study of fine arts. After 1945, Savage fell into seclusion. Jacksonville's *Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens* has a rare bronze Savage sculpture, *The Diving Boy*, on permanent display.

Augusta Savage (American, 1892-1962), *The Diving Boy*, c. 1939, bronze, 32 1/2 in. Bequest of Nimah M.H. Cummer, C 0602.1

burial ground for Jacksonville's pre-1880 residents. Sections were designated for Freedmen, confederate soldiers, Jews, Masons and Catholics. Members of Jacksonville's pioneer black families, such as Clara and Eartha M. M. White, are interred here. The cemetery's one mausoleum is the grave of African Princess Laura Adorkor Kofey, a disciple of Marcus Garvey and his Universal Negro Improvement Association. Mother Kofey formed a rival organization before her murder in Miami on March 8, 1928. Reportedly over 7,000 followers accompanied Mother Kofey's funeral procession from Miami to West Palm Beach, and finally to Jacksonville, where over 10,000 attended her interment.

### **Old Jacksonville Beach Elementary School**

376 4th Avenue South

Mother Rhoda Martin founded the Jacksonville Beach Elementary School for Colored People. In 1939 the county built a four-room brick school structure, which also served as a community center, well-baby clinic and recreational area for the community. The building was moved to its present location and renovated to house the Rhoda L. Martin Cultural Heritage Museum, depicting the 1939-era school with original furniture and artifacts. (904) 241-6923.

### **Old Stanton High School**

521 West Broad Street (Private)

The Trustees of Florida Institute established Stanton High School in 1868 as the first public black school in Jacksonville. It was named for Edwin M. Stanton, an outspoken abolitionist and Secretary of War under Abraham Lincoln. This masonry vernacular style structure, completed in 1917, was the only black high school in the country at the time. James Weldon Johnson, the first African American to pass the Florida bar exam, and the lyricist of *Lift Ev'ry*

*Voice and Sing*, "the black national anthem," was a student at Stanton High and served as principal from 1894 to 1902. Closed as a public school in 1971, the building now houses the private school, "Academy of Excellence."

### **Ritz Theater**

829 North Davis Street



Jacksonville & the Beaches Convention & Visitors

Located in a traditionally black commercial district in the La Villa neighborhood, this 1929 Art Deco style building housed a cinema, shops and offices. The Ritz and surrounding commercial properties grew into a thriving arts, entertainment and shopping area for this black community. Though the original Ritz Theater structure

was demolished, the decorative corner and sign were incorporated into the new Ritz Theatre and La Villa Museum. The museum exhibit of African American history tells the story of everyday life in northeast Florida, while the theater presents African American shows and educational performances. (904) 632-5555, [www.ritzlavilla.org](http://www.ritzlavilla.org).



Ivy Bigbee

### **MaVynee Betsch, "The Beach Lady" 1935-2005, Preservationist and Conservationist**

*MaVynee Betsch (Marvyne Elisabeth Betsch) known as "The Beach Lady," was born on January 13, 1935, in Jacksonville. The Beach Lady, with her seven foot long dreadlocks, her buttons and her love of the heritage left by her great-grandmother, was the official historian and matriarch of American Beach and an important character in American Beach: A Saga of Race, Wealth and Memory by Russ Rymer. Founded by her millionaire great-grandfather, A.L. Lewis, American Beach on Amelia Island, was the African-American Hyannisport, where the crème de la crème of black society came to relax in the Jim Crow South. MaVynee was raised in the lap of luxury but her wealth and privilege vanished after she gave away her entire fortune to environmental causes. She earned a double degree in voice and piano from the Oberlin Conservatory and sang opera in Europe for many years. In 1962,*

*Betsch returned to Jacksonville and began to both study and promote conservation and protection of the environment, focusing on her beloved beach and the American Beach community. She was featured on CBS, PBS, and NPR, and in such publications as USA Today, the New York Times, and The Smithsonian as well as many others, and was a member of over sixty different charitable organizations and a lifetime member of ten. MaVynee gave visitors to American Beach the unique privilege of experiencing a guided walking tour through the eyes of a woman who grew up on the beach during its heyday; she was an extraordinary, animated and colorful woman whose passion for the history and preservation of American Beach was unparalleled. "The Beach Lady" Betsch passed away on Monday, September 5, 2005 after a long struggle with cancer. She was 70, the same age as her beloved American Beach.*

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### Susie Tolbert House

1665 Pearce Street (Not currently open to the public)  
This house on the Edward Waters College campus is named for Susie Ella Middleton Tolbert. Born in Chicago, Mrs. Tolbert made her home in Jacksonville and pursued her life's work in there. The mother of seven developed the Willing Workers Club and the Christian Endeavor Organization for her church, New Bethel AME. Mrs. Tolbert supported needy Edward Waters College students by providing free room and board, and lobbied for better facilities and equipment for the black children in Jacksonville. The house is undergoing renovation. (904) 470-8258.

## Flagler County

**Flagler County Tourist Development Council**  
(800) 881-1022, [www.flaglerchamber.org](http://www.flaglerchamber.org)

### Palm Coast

**African American Cultural Center**  
4422 U.S. Highway 1 North  
Built in 2001, the center provides office, classroom and reference library facilities. (386) 447-7030.

### Masonic Cemetery

Old Kings Road  
Local groups are working to refurbish this long-abandoned African American cemetery. (386) 447-7030.

## Nassau County

**Amelia Island Tourist Development Council**  
(800) 683-7800, [www.ameliaisland.org](http://www.ameliaisland.org)

### Amelia Island American Beach

Off Highway 105 between Amelia City and Franklinton  
The American Beach historic district is at the south end of Amelia Island. In 1935, A.L. Lewis, president of the Pension Bureau of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company bought 33 acres of oceanfront property. Company employees were invited to use the beach and the company held outings on the property. Later subdivided, lots were sold to company executives and shareholders. The Pension Bureau acquired more land and developed an oceanfront resort, providing an open pavilion, guest houses and vacation homes for purchase. (904) 261-0175.

### Fernandina Beach

**Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
202 South 9th Street

Organized in 1872 from the Prayer Band started some years earlier by Samuel Irving, Macedonia AME Church was originally located on the corner of Seventh and Beech Streets. The Congregation moved into its newly built sanctuary in 1899. The bell in its belfry is original to the building. In the 1940s families purchased stained glass windows in honor of their loved ones. (904) 261-4114.

**The Williams House**  
103 South 9th Street

Though Jefferson Davis stayed at this 1859 Antebellum mansion when he was president of the Confederacy, it later became part of the Underground Railroad for runaway slaves. The secret room used for that purpose is still in existence. The house now serves as a bed and breakfast inn. (904) 277-2328.

**Nassauville**

**Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church**   
State Road 107

The traditional site for free Blacks, Indians, Spanish Indians and Mulattoes, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church served as the rallying place for the African American community in Nassau County. The original church was built in 1870, burned in 1920 and rebuilt with community funding the same year.

**Putnam County**

**Putnam County Chamber of Commerce**  
(386) 328-1503, [www.putnamcountychamber.org](http://www.putnamcountychamber.org)

**Palatka**

**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
179 Reid Street

The residents of the community of Newtown organized the Bethel AME church in 1866. This Romanesque Revival style building was constructed by the congregation circa 1908-1912. (904) 328-3540.

**Finley Homestead**

522 Main Street (Private)

This two-story frame vernacular structure was the home of Adam Finley, a free African American artisan. Finley acquired the property in 1883. His grandson, Dr. Harold E. Finley was a nationally known zoologist.

**Old Central Academy High School**   
127 Washington Street

Established in 1892, Central Academy became the first accredited Negro high school in Florida in 1924. The first Central Academy building was destroyed by fire in 1936. The present building replaced it in 1937 and now serves as the County School Board Service Center.

**St. Johns County**

**St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches CVB**  
(800) 418-7529, [www.getaway4florida.com](http://www.getaway4florida.com)

**St. Augustine**

**Butler Beach**

On Anastasia Island east of St. Augustine on Highway A1A just south of the Mary Street ramp

In 1927, Lincolnville businessman Frank B. Butler bought land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Matanzas River,

which he developed into Butler Beach. For many years this was the only beach that African Americans were allowed to use between Jacksonville and Daytona Beach.

**Cary A. White, Sr. Complex, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind**

207 North St. Marco Avenue

This classroom and dormitory area is dedicated to the memory of the first African American deaf graduate of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Cary A. White, Sr., worked at the school for 46 years and was an assistant in the dorm where Ray Charles lived while he was a student at the school. (904) 827-2219.

**Excelsior High School**

102 Martin Luther King Avenue

Built in 1924 as a public high school for St. Augustine's African Americans, for 50 years this building also served as a state social service center. Currently home to the Excelsior Museum and Cultural Center of Lincolnville, the exhibit includes seven historical themes. The building also includes a reading resource center and a small library. (904) 824-1191.

**Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose' (Ft. Mose')**   
Saratoga Boulevard two miles north of St. Augustine off U.S. 1

In 1693, King Charles II of Spain decreed runaway slaves were to be given sanctuary in his colonies. Black fugitives from the British Colonies made their way south and fought against a British retaliatory attack on St. Augustine. In 1728, the territorial governor abolished the slave market and freed any remaining soldiers who were slaves. Ten years later Governor Montiano established Fort Mose' as the first free black settlement in North America and the northernmost outpost protecting the capital of Spanish Florida. The Spanish encouraged enslaved Africans to flee English settlements in the Carolinas, promising them freedom if they converted to Catholicism. Fort Mose' was a diverse community made up of people from widely varied backgrounds: Nandingos, Congos, Carabalís, Minas,



St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & the Beaches Visitors & Convention

Ft. Mose' Reenactors



Gambas, Lecumis, Sambas, Gangas, Araras and Guineans. The fort and village were abandoned in 1763 and for more than 175 years the remains of this first free black town lay forgotten in a salt marsh north of St. Augustine. Although nothing remains of the fort, it was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1994 and is a tangible reminder of the people who risked and often lost their lives in their struggle to attain freedom. A festival is held annually to reenact the journey to freedom. A Florida State Park Visitor Center is being built adjacent to the Fort Mose' Historic Park. (904) 461-2033.

## Lincolnvile Historic District

*Bounded by DeSoto Place, Cedar, Riberia, Cerro, and Washington Streets*

In 1866 former black slaves began settling a three-block area in St. Augustine at first known as Africa but later renamed Lincolnvile. By 1885, Lincolnvile was a growing black business and residential community. Lincolnvile has the greatest concentration of late 19th century architecture in the city.

## St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church and School

78 Martin Luther King Boulevard

This block of property in the Lincolnvile District is owned by the Catholic Church and contains historic buildings important to St. Augustine's African American heritage. It was part of the "Yallaha" orange grove plantation before the Civil War and was conveyed to the church by the Dumas family in 1890. The first building constructed in 1898 was the school (currently under renovation), originally called St. Cecilia, later St. Benedict. It is the oldest surviving brick schoolhouse in St. Augustine. With a tower and original wraparound porch, it is a landmark of Victorian architecture. It was the gift of Saint Katharine Drexel, a wealthy Philadelphia



St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church



St. Benedict Rectory

heiress who founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People and established more than 60 Catholic parochial schools around the country. The Sisters of St. Joseph who came from Le Puy, France in 1866 operated the school. They were involved in a civil rights case in 1916, when three Sisters were arrested for violating a 1913 Florida law that made it a criminal offense for whites to teach black children. St. Benedict the Moor Church, located on the north end of the property, designed by Savannah architects Robinson and Reidy, was completed in 1911. The rectory was built in 1915 and housed the Josephite Fathers out of Baltimore, who pastored here for many years. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., visited the rectory in 1964. (904) 824-2806.

## St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church

69 Washington Street

Here, on June 9, 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., told 500 supporters that he would participate in a sit-in at a motel restaurant the next day, anticipating correctly that he would be jailed. Segregation practices in St. Augustine drew national coverage when police arrested and jailed one of the demonstrators, the 72-year-old mother of the Governor of Massachusetts. Protestors in St. Augustine referred to the community as "America's Oldest Segregated City," and helped propel Congress to passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This Italian Gothic style church was constructed in 1920. (904) 824-1314.

## St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church

85 Martin Luther King Avenue

This 1910 Gothic Revival style church served as an assembly point for blacks demonstrating against segregated beaches, lunch counters and other facilities in 1964. The kitchen fed hundreds of volunteers who came from other states. Baseball great Jackie Robinson addressed a crowd of 600 here, urging them on to a determined, peaceful struggle. (904) 829-3918.

## Willie Galimore Community Center

399 South Riberia Street

This recreational facility is named in honor of St. Augustine native Willie Galimore. The former Florida A&M three-time All American played seven years with the Chicago Bears in the National Football League. (904) 824-5209.

## CENTRAL WEST

### Citrus County

Citrus County Visitors and Convention Bureau  
(800) 587-6667, [www.visitcitrus.com](http://www.visitcitrus.com)

### Floral City

#### Frazier Cemetery

Corner of Great Oaks Drive and East Tower Trail

H.C. Frazier established this African American cemetery in 1908 when he buried his son here. Arthur Norton, one of the first black settlers who worked in the phosphate mines is buried here. The overwhelming majority of Floral City's phosphate workers were African American.

#### Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

8200 East Magnolia Street

Built between 1895 and 1910, this wood frame church is the oldest surviving African American church in Floral City.

### Hernando County

Hernando County Tourist Development Council  
(800) 601-4580, [www.hernandocounty.us/visit](http://www.hernandocounty.us/visit)

### Brooksville

#### Bethlehem Progressive Baptist Church

661 South Brooksville Avenue

According to oral histories, Frank Saxton, a white man, built this church in 1861 for his former slaves. By 1869, 15 black Baptist churches in the state formed the Bethlehem Baptist Association. Fort Taylor Cemetery, south of Brooksville is the resting place of Fort Taylor's late 1800s African American community, most of whom worked in the timber business. Enville Cemetery in Masaryktown contains the remains of those employed in the turpentine and lumbering industry that flourished between 1890 and 1915.

### Hillsborough County

Tampa Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau  
(813) 223-1111, [www.visittampabay.com](http://www.visittampabay.com)

### Plant City

#### Bing Rooming House

205 Allen Street

The Bing Rooming House was built in 1926 by Janie and E.L. Bing and operated by Mrs. Bing until 1975. During segregation, this boarding house served as the most prominent hotel for blacks in Plant City, including the visiting Negro Baseball League teams and players such as Satchel Paige. (813)757-6760.

#### Glover School

5104 Horton Road

Seven miles south of Plant City, the Bealsville area was settled in 1865 by freed slaves who built their homes of logs from the trees cleared for future farmland. Bryant Horton and Alfred Beal planted orange seeds, starting the heritage of orange production in Bealsville. The first of five churches, Antioch Baptist, was established in 1868, and included a school. Residents raised funds to build the wood-framed school building in 1933. A concrete block addition was built in 1945 and another building was added in 1949. (813) 737-1352.

### Tampa

#### Black History & Art Museum

1112 East Scott Street

Located inside the Paradise Missionary Baptist Church, this museum is in the heart of the historic Central Avenue neighborhood once called The Scrubs. The building was constructed in 1891 as the Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church. The museum includes hundreds of photographs, documents, and artifacts. (813) 728-4676.

Hillsborough Co. Economic Development Dept.



### La Union Marti-Maceo 1226 East 7th Avenue

Ybor City's second Cuban Club, La Union Marti-Maceo was founded by Afro-Cubans in 1900 and named for liberation leaders Jose' Marti', a white Cuban patriot and General Antonio Maceo, an Afro-Cuban leader of Cuba's war for independence who died during battle. In early years the club served Afro-Cubans excluded from other Cuban and Spanish clubs. Black and white cigar makers were initially part of the same mutual aid society, but Florida laws in the 1900s against integrated social clubs required them to separate. In 1909 the La Union Marti-Maceo constructed

its own clubhouse which included a theater and dance hall. The Marti-Maceo mutual aid society provided social and self-help activities for the black Cubans in Ybor City's National Historic Landmark District. The present one-story club with a distinctive tile mural on the outside wall paying homage to the club's namesakes Marti and Maceo, has occupied its current location since 1965, after the original structure that stood nearby was razed during urban renewal. (813) 223-6188.



Florida Dept. of State

### **The Dr. Walter Smith Library**

905 North Albany Avenue

Dr. Smith is a former President of Florida A&M University and author of *The Magnificent Seven, a History of Black Community Colleges in Florida*. (813) 254-0605.

### **Helping Hand Day Nursery**

623 East 7th Avenue (Private)

Opened in 1924 by Inez Boyer, this school is located in the historic Central Avenue neighborhood, one of Florida's oldest black business districts. Previous students include former Florida State Senator James Hargrett, Tampa City Council Chair Gwen Miller and the late Sylvia Rodriguez Kimbell, former Hillsborough County Commissioner. It is one of the few businesses that survived 1960s urban renewal.

### **Historic Oaklawn Cemetery**

Morgan and Jefferson Streets

Oaklawn opened in 1859 as Tampa's first public cemetery. The first person buried here was an unnamed slave who was owned by the Lesley family. A slave burial ground is located in the center, along with grave sites of prominent citizens Nancy Ashley, Benjamin and Fortune Taylor, and Vicente Martinez Ybor. (813) 274-8615.

### **The Jackson House**

851 Zack Street (Private)

This two-story wood frame house was built around 1900 as a family home. Expanded to 24 rooms, it became known as the Jackson House. One block from the Union Station Railroad Depot, the house served porters and other black travelers to Tampa who could not live in segregated facilities. (813) 274-5690.

### **North Franklin Street Historic District**

Roughly bordered by Florida Avenue, East Fortune Street, Franklin Street and East Harrison Street

A sparsely settled area of private wood-frame dwellings and businesses, this neighborhood formed around 1900 and peaked during the 1930s. A segregated area until the 1960s, the F.W. Woolworth Department Store on the corner of Franklin and Polk Streets was the site of sit-ins in late February 1960. (813) 274-5690.



North Franklin Street Historic District, circa 1920s

Hillsborough Co. Economic Development Dept.

### **Robert W. Saunders Public Library**

1505 North Nebraska Street

The Ybor City Library was renamed in 2003 for Robert W. Saunders, former Field Secretary of the NAACP. Saunders followed in the footsteps of Harry T. Moore who was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan on Christmas night 1951. In this difficult and dangerous role Saunders guided the state through challenging years, working with Roy Wilkins at the NAACP, and serving as Chief of Civil Rights for the southeast region. (813) 274-5833.

### **St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church**

506 East Harrison Street

The St. Paul AME congregation dates back to 1870. The original church structure, a brick vernacular building with Gothic and Romanesque detailing, was erected in downtown Tampa between 1906 and 1917. With its large sanctuary, balcony and basement, this church was the site of numerous civil rights meetings in the 1950s and 1960s. Former Florida NAACP State Field Director, Robert W. Saunders, was a life-long member of the church. (813) 318-0816.

### **St. Peter Claver School**

1401 Governor Street

St. Peter Claver is the oldest black school, public or private, still functioning in Hillsborough County. Opened on February 2, 1894, it was destroyed by arson ten days later. The Catholic Church rebuilt the school one year later at its present location, in what was then called The Scrubs area. Nuns faced prosecution by authorities in 1916, when they continued to teach black students, but were cleared because the school was privately operated.

## **Pasco County**

**Pasco County Tourist Development Council**

(800) 842-1873, [www.visitpasco.net](http://www.visitpasco.net)

## **Dade City**

**Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church**

14440 7th Street

Freedtown AME was organized in the late 1800s at Lake Buddy. This congregation moved into Dade City and became known as Mount Zion AME Church. A frame meeting house built in 1903 served as the parsonage. The present building, dedicated in 1920, was the first Protestant church of masonry construction in Pasco County. (352) 567-3696.

**Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church**

14518 7th Street

Organized in 1896, this congregation built its first sanctuary, a small wooden structure, on a nearby lot donated by W. I. Porter. The present brick church was dedicated on January 1, 1920, by Pastor C. J. Smith. (352) 567-6565.



St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church



Union Academy

Chris Walton

Heritage Village

## Pinellas County

**St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
(877) 352-3224, [www.floridasbeach.com](http://www.floridasbeach.com)

## Clearwater

**Pinellas County African American History Museum**  
1101 North Marshall Street

Headquartered in the former Curtis Elementary School, the museum serves as a research center for the study of African American culture and life and as lead sponsor of the Florida African American Heritage Celebration. (727) 532-1698.

## Mt. Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church

600 Jones Street

Constructed in 1913, the historic Gothic Revival style building is located on the site of the original church built in 1896 for the Mount Olive AME parishioners. (727) 443-2142.

## Largo

### Heritage Village

Heritage Village is a 21-acre living history museum and village that includes 28 historic structures. Of special interest is the Union Academy building which stood on the grounds of the 1915 Union Academy in Tarpon Springs, one of the first "Negro schools" established in Pinellas County. The Sulphur Springs Depot is a 1924 wood-frame railroad depot typical of rural stations in the south that required separate facilities for white and "colored" passengers during segregation. The Pinellas County Historical Museum archives and library contain collections pertaining to local African American history. (727) 582-2123, [www.pinellascounty.org/heritage](http://www.pinellascounty.org/heritage).

## St. Petersburg

### Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

912 3rd Avenue North

Built in 1922, the Bethel AME Church is Gothic Revival in style and located in the Jamestown neighborhood northwest of St. Petersburg's downtown core. It is the first and oldest predominantly African American church and denomination in the city, playing a key social, civic and religious role in the life of that community. (727) 235-3458.

### Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum

2240 9th Avenue South

The Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum is named in honor of the man, born of slave parents, who became the driving force behind The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and first editor and publisher of The Journal of Negro History. Dr. Woodson is often called "The Father of Negro history". The museum is housed in the former Jordan Park Housing Development Community and Management office. Built between 1939 and 1941, the Jordan Park neighborhood was established on land donated by the Elder Homer Jordan, a successful entrepreneur. The facility provides exhibitions and educational programming. (727) 323-1104.

### Johnnie Ruth Clark Health Center at the Historic Mercy Hospital Campus

1344 22nd Street South

Built in 1923, Mercy Hospital is St. Petersburg's oldest surviving hospital building. Designed by St. Petersburg architect, Henry Taylor, it was directed by Dr. James Ponder, one of the most influential leaders of St. Petersburg's African American community. Dr. Ponder became St. Petersburg's first African American physician in 1926. As the primary care facility for the City's African Americans from 1923 to 1966, Mercy Hospital was the site of protests demanding the desegregation of the City's hospital facilities during the civil rights movements of the 1960s. A public gallery features early contributions by African American physicians and health workers to St. Petersburg's medical community.

## **Manhattan Casino**

642 22nd Street South (Private)

Built in 1925, the Manhattan Casino is significant for its association with Elder Jordan, a local African American entrepreneur, who, with his five sons settled in St. Petersburg in 1904. Jordan and his sons contracted in 1925 to build the two-story building, which first opened as the Jordan Dance Hall in 1931. Later known as the Manhattan Casino, it was the place for cultural and social entertainment in the black community during segregation. Closed in 1966, the original Manhattan Casino space has been restored. (727) 893-7539 (City of St. Petersburg, Midtown/Economic Development).

## **Royal Theater**

1011 22nd Street South

The Royal Theater operated from 1948 to 1966 in the African American community in St. Petersburg. During segregation it was one of only two movie theaters serving African Americans in St. Petersburg. Built in 1948, the theater was designed by Philip F. Kennard for the Gulf Coast Entertainment Company. It is one of the few remaining "Quonset Huts" within St. Petersburg. As a lightweight, portable, and economic building type, these huts are inherently rare pieces of architecture. The building was renovated in 2002 and now provides the Midtown community with ballet and music studios, a performing stage and 150-seat auditorium. (727) 327-6556.

## **Trinity Presbyterian Church/Happy Workers Day Care**

902 19th Street South

Built in 1929, the Trinity Presbyterian Church/Happy Workers Day Care is important for its link to St. Petersburg's educational, social and religious history. In 1928, the Presbyterian Synod of Atlanta determined that south St. Petersburg should have a church, and chose Rev. Oscar M. McAdams as ordained minister. His wife, Willie Lee, established the church in a wood frame vernacular-style building believed to have been constructed as a private residence in 1928. In 1929 the McAdams' established a Day Nursery at the church. (727) 894-5337.

## **Tarpon Springs**

### **Rose Cemetery**

Jasmine Avenue off Keystone Road

Rose Cemetery, formerly known as Rose Hill Cemetery was a segregated burial site built in the 1800s. Ground-penetrating radar has identified the grave of J. Richard Quarls, honored for his service by the Sons of Confederate Veterans because he joined the Confederate Army and fought against the Union Army. Quarls was the only black citizen of Tarpon Springs to have gone to the National Convention of the United Confederate Veterans. In 2003 a graveside dedication was held for the tombstone that reads: "Pvt. J. Richard Quarls, Co. K, 7 SC Inf. CSA."

## **CENTRAL**

### **Highlands County**

Highlands County Visitor Convention Bureau  
(800) 545-6021, [www.visithighlandscounty.com](http://www.visithighlandscounty.com)

### **Avon Park**

#### **Hopewell Public School**

100 Ernest E. Sims Street (Private)

Hopewell School was the first public school for African Americans in Avon Park, serving for many years as the center for educational, cultural and social activities. After extensive renovation, it is now The Hopewell Academy for the Arts Charter School, the only Charter School in Highlands County.



Avon Park Chamber of Commerce

The Hopewell Academy for the Arts Charter School

### **Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church**

818 South Delaney Avenue

This one-story masonry vernacular style building with Neo-Gothic elements was built in 1940. The congregation was organized in 1920.

### **Sebring**

#### **The E.O. Douglass School Marker**

School Street

Built in 1957, the E.O. Douglass School was an all-black school named for the citizen activist and president of the First National Bank. The old wooden school building was originally located on Harris Street. Following integration, the final structure on School Street became headquarters of the Highlands County School Administration.

#### **First Missionary Baptist Church**

Lemon Street

Organized in 1913, the First Missionary Baptist Church was constructed from concrete blocks made with a hand-block press by Sebring's first black carpenter and second black police officer, John Grady. It is one of the town's oldest black churches.

#### **Home of Clarence Marion**

829 Lemon Street

Clarence Marion was Sebring's first black principal and the principal of the E.O. Douglass School. The property is being restored to serve as a museum and community center.



## Lake County

Lake County Department of Tourism  
& Business Relations  
(352) 429-3673, [www.lakecountyfl.com](http://www.lakecountyfl.com)

### Clermont

#### The Townsend House

480 West Avenue

This building is the home of Clermont's first black residents, James and Sally Townsend. The Townshend's founded the St. Marks African Methodist Episcopal Church and established the area's first black school. The house was moved to its present location, restored and now serves as a museum featuring artifacts and history of early settlers and residents. (352) 394-6611, [www.historicvillage.org](http://www.historicvillage.org).

### Eustis

#### The Ace Theatre

1609 East Bates Avenue

Built in the late 1940s, the Ace Theatre served as the place for African American moviegoers in the Eustis community during segregation. The building was later used for church services and other community functions. Restoration plans for the structure are underway. (352) 589-6448.

#### Eustis High School Annex – Curtright Campus

East Bates Avenue

Built in 1925, this school served African American students during segregation. Originally named the Curtright Vocational High School, it is now a ninth-grade center.

#### Mt. Olive Cemetery aka Mt. Homer Cemetery

North of U.S. Hwy 441 between David Walker Drive and Dillard Road

This public cemetery was established for African Americans in Eustis at the beginning of the 20th century. Markers bear

the name of Black Mutual Aid Societies and Black Fraternal organizations such as: Beauty of Tangerine Chambers, Rising Sun Chamber, Queen of Sheba Chamber, and Knights of Pythias. The cemetery was designated a local historic landmark by the City of Eustis in 2004. (352) 357-6576 ext. 2101.



City of Eustis

Mt. Olive Cemetery

### Mount Dora

#### Witherspoon Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons #111

1420 Clayton Street

Established in 1898 and one of the oldest functioning African American lodges in Florida, the Witherspoon Lodge follows the traditions of Prince Hall who opposed racial oppression in Colonial New England. Purchased in 1903, the building has served as the lodge's meeting place ever since. (407) 290-9611.

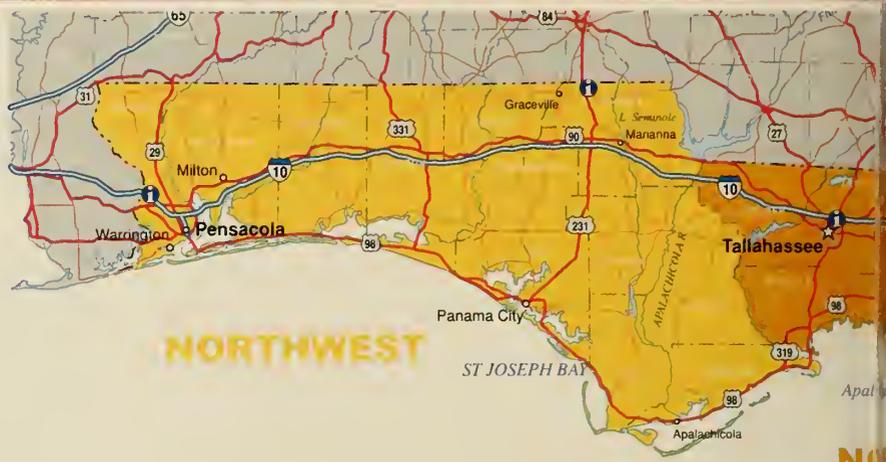


### Virgil Hawkins 1906-1988, Attorney

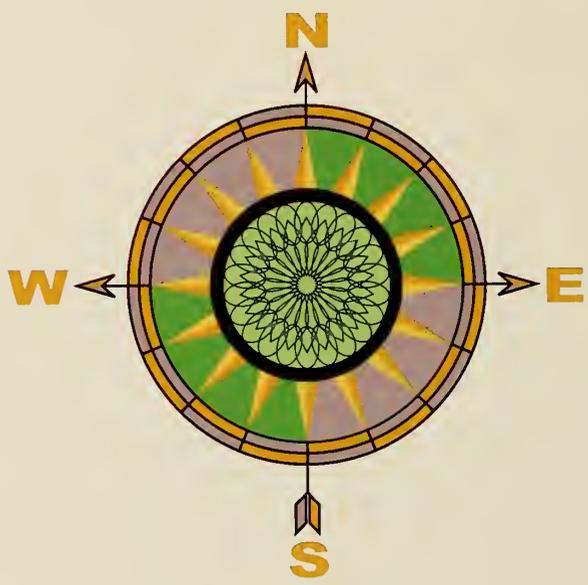
A monument honoring Virgil Darnell Hawkins (1906-1988) stands in Okahumpka, Florida next to the Post Office, near the intersection of State Roads 33 and 48. The monument is about a mile from his gravesite, and a few blocks from the home where Virgil was born and spent his childhood. Hawkins made many personal sacrifices that desegregated Florida's universities allowing other African Americans to pursue a law degree. In 1946, Hawkins applied for, but was denied entrance into the University of Florida Law School. He filed a law suit against the State of Florida. When the suit was filed, the state opened a law school at Florida A & M University as a defense to his lawsuit. Hawkins refused to enter FAMU School alleging that the state, by opening the school at historically black FAMU was maintaining discrimination. After nine years, the state agreed to desegregate the UF Law School, if Virgil Hawkins withdrew

his request for admission. His withdrawal, giving up his own opportunity for entrance, made it possible for others to enter the UF Law School. Thereafter, the school was open to others who qualified, regardless of race. He completed law school in Massachusetts. However, that school was unaccredited. His request to take the test and be admitted to the Florida Bar after graduation was denied. At age 70, after much litigation, the Florida State Supreme Court agreed to admit Virgil Hawkins to the Florida Bar as a means of "righting a wrong". The law library at University of Florida today is named the Virgil Hawkins Library in honor of the sacrifices he made.



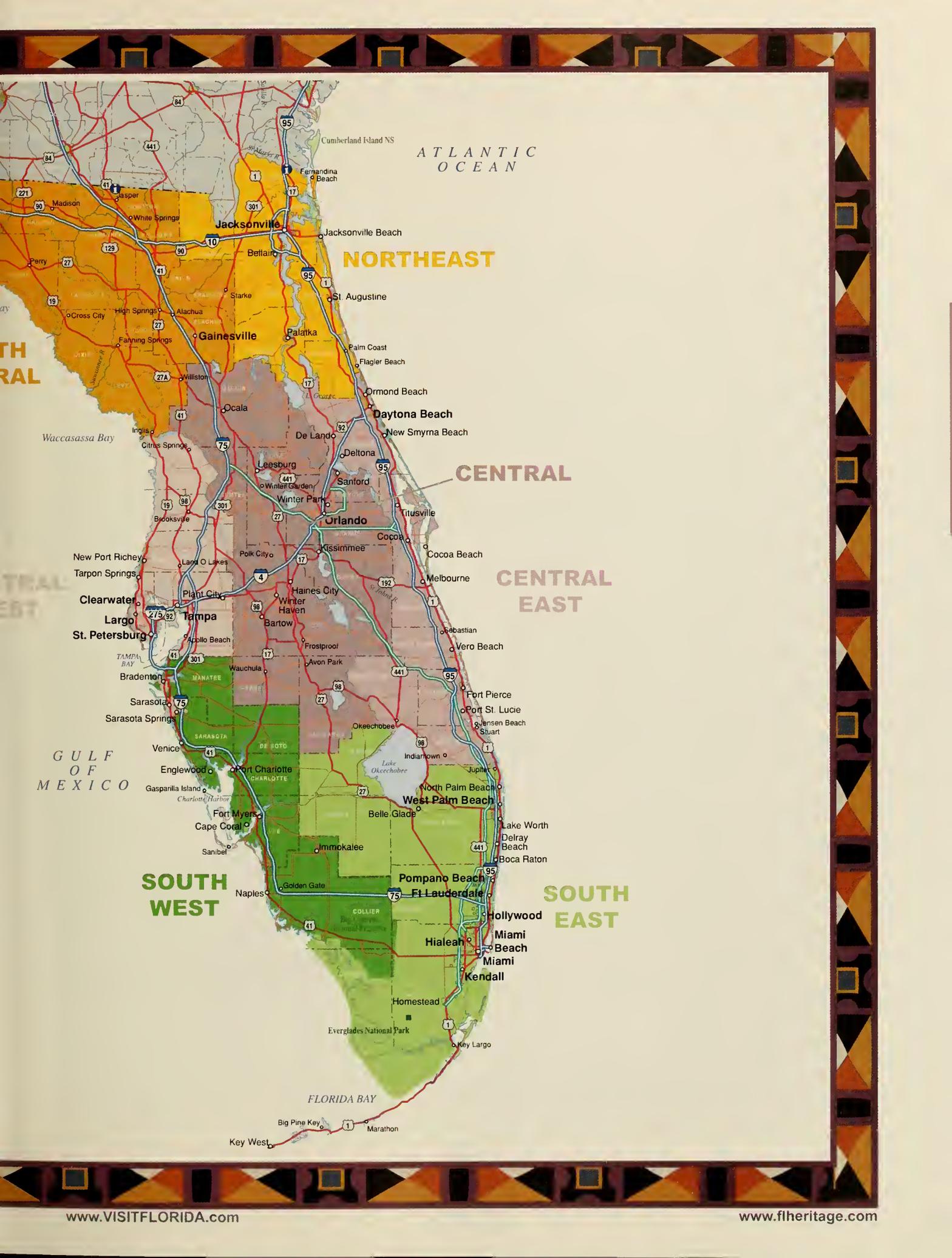


# Black Heritage Trail



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**CENTRAL EAST**

**SOUTH WEST**

**SOUTH EAST**

GULF OF MEXICO

FLORIDA BAY

## Marion County

Ocala/Marion County Visitor and Convention Bureau  
(352) 291-9169, [www.marioncountyfl.org](http://www.marioncountyfl.org)

### Dunnellon

#### Second Bethel Baptist Church

1991 West Test Court (Private)

This frame vernacular style building was completed in 1888 and served as a school for the black community. The pastor, the Reverend Henry Shaw, was the first to minister to the local African American turpentine, sawmill and phosphate workers.

### Ocala

#### Fessenden Elementary School

4200 NW 90th Street

Established in 1868, the school became Fessenden Academy in 1898, in honor of Ferdinand Stone Fessenden, a wealthy businessman from Boston who provided financial support and encouraged the American Missionary Association to sponsor the school. Existing buildings date from the Great Depression. (352) 671-4935.

#### Howard Academy Community Center

306 NW 7th Avenue

Howard Academy was established in 1886 by the Board of Public Instruction as a "grade school for Negroes." (352) 629-7082.

#### Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church

623 South Magnolia Avenue

The only surviving brick 19th century religious structure in Ocala, the present Gothic Revival church stands behind the site of the original white frame building. Construction of the first brick church owned by a black congregation began in 1891 under the supervision of black architect and builder, Levi Alexander, Sr. (352) 873-8000.

#### West Ocala Historic District

Silver Springs Boulevard between Eastbound I-75 and Pine Avenue

This historic district includes more than 100 buildings that are significant to the African American community that flourished here between 1886 and 1920.

## Orange County

Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
(800) 646-2087, [www.orlandoinfo.com](http://www.orlandoinfo.com)

### Eatonville

#### The Moseley House

11 Taylor Street

Constructed between 1888 and 1889, Moseley House is the second oldest remaining structure in Eatonville, and one of two remaining examples of the pre-1900 wood-frame structures typical to the town. The Moseley House has been

restored and is furnished with period pieces. The house is directly associated with descendents of two first-generation Eatonville citizens: Joe Clark, Eatonville founder and second mayor, and Mrs. Matilda Clark Moseley, niece of Joseph E. Clark, who was married to Jim Moseley, son of Sam Moseley, Eatonville's fourth mayor. Miz Matilda, or Tillie, as she was known, was Zora Neale Hurston's best childhood girlfriend. Hurston was a frequent visitor at the Moseley house. (407) 622-9382.

#### The Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts and Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community Inc. (PEC)

227 East Kennedy Boulevard

From the 1880s to the 1930s, hundreds of communities founded by and for African Americans were established throughout the southern U.S. Few have survived, but Eatonville is an exception. In 1887 it was the first of these communities to incorporate with an all black government. This 20-acre historic district includes buildings constructed between 1882 and 1946. The museum provides information on the community and displays the works of artists of African descent. Quarterly exhibitions feature the works of emerging and legendary artists. Eatonville's Zora Neale Hurston Trail correlates 16 historic sites and 10 markers with Hurston's writings. A walking/driving tour brochure is available at the Museum. The Zora Neale Hurston trail is continued with the "Dust Tracks Heritage Trail" in Ft. Pierce. (407) 647-3307.

### Orlando

#### Callahan Neighborhood

Bounded by Colonial Drive, Central Avenue, Division Street and Orange Blossom Trail

This is one of Orlando's oldest black communities, originating in 1886. The district includes Callahan Neighborhood Center, the former old Jones High School, established in 1895. (407) 246-2305.



Florida Dept. of State

Callahan Neighborhood Center

#### Dr. I.S. Hankins House

219 Lime Street (Private)

This Mediterranean Revival style residence was built in 1935 as the home of Orlando's pioneer black physician who campaigned for improved race relations and black home ownership.

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## Hankins Building

647 West South Street (Private)

Dr. I.S. Hankins constructed this Art Deco commercial building in 1947. Hankins was an African American physician, civic leader and active participant in the Washington Shores development, which provided opportunities for new home ownership for Orlando's African American residents.

## Nicholson-Colyer Building

29 West Church Street

This late Victorian structure was built in 1911 for J.A. Colyer, an African American tailor and J.E. Nicholson, a Canadian baker. It was one of few properties outside the traditional African American neighborhoods that was owned and operated by African Americans.

## Old Ebenezer Church

596 West Church Street

This Gothic Revival church was built circa 1900 by the congregation of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church. When the congregation moved, the structure became home to the Greater Refuge Church of Our Lord. (407) 244-0433.

## Old Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

701 West South Street

The congregation first met in a shed in 1919, and erected this stone church in 1920. This Romanesque style building now houses the Tabernacle of the Enlightened Church of God. (407) 841-3658.

## Wells' Built Museum of African American History & Culture

511 West South Street



Wells' Built Museum of African American History & Culture

Dr. William Monroe Wells, an African American physician, built this hotel in 1926 to provide lodging to African Americans visiting the Orlando area. Second-floor hotel rooms complemented three first-floor store fronts. The adjacent South Street Casino attracted many famous entertainers, and the hotel became their favorite stopping place. Today, with authentic furnishings of the 1930s, the museum, features artifacts that include official hotel documents, an original Negro League baseball jersey and slave records. Fully restored by The Trust for Public Land and the Association to Preserve African American Society, History and Tradition, Inc. (PAST), the Museum focuses on African American contributions to jazz and entertainment. (407) 245-7535.

## Winter Park

### Hannibal Square Historic Neighborhood

Pennsylvania and Morse Boulevard

From its beginning in 1881, African Americans played an integral part of Winter Park's development. The original town plan designated the Hannibal Square neighborhood for homes of African Americans who worked in the groves, hotels, homes, and as carpenters and farmers. Landmark buildings include Mount Moriah Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Flowers Temple, Grant Chapel, the Early Rising Lodge and Lake Hall Lodge.

## Osceola County

### Kissimmee Convention & Visitors Bureau

(800) 333-KISS, [www.floridakiss.com](http://www.floridakiss.com)

## Kissimmee

### Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

1702 North Back Street

This one-story Masonry Vernacular church was constructed in 1916. The name of Lawrence Silas, a prosperous black cattleman in Florida's range country, appears on the cornerstone. With his father's estate gone, Lawrence Silas rebuilt the family fortune and eventually owned thousands of head of cattle, contained within 50 miles of fence. (407) 847-4446.

## Polk County

### Central Florida Visitors & Convention Bureau

(800) 828-7655, [www.sunsational.org](http://www.sunsational.org)

## Bartow

### Brown Home

470 South 2nd Avenue

The oldest black residence in Bartow, this Victorian style building was built in the late 1800s by Lawrence Bernard Brown, a self-taught master carpenter. Brown invested in property in Bartow and built a large number of houses which he sold or rented, becoming a leading citizen in the community. The house is restored and houses a museum. (863) 533-6129, [www.lbbrown.com](http://www.lbbrown.com).



L.B. Brown Home

## **First Providence Missionary Baptist Church**

1030 West King Street

Organized in 1856 as the Colored Providence Baptist Church, the congregation is the oldest black church in Polk County. Known today as the First Providence Missionary Baptist Church, it is located in one of Polk County's oldest settlements of West Bartow. The church served as the place where the South Florida District Association began and where many other black church groups were formed.

## **Historic Evergreen Cemetery**

Highway 60 West

This historic cemetery is located on 12 acres of land on the western edge of Bartow. One of the area's oldest black cemeteries, it includes the headstone of Andy and Tamer Moore from 1891. The Moores were brought to Bartow as slaves prior to the Civil War and remained after slavery, becoming prominent farmers.

## **St. James African Methodist Church**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard

This AME church started as a small wooden structure in 1894 and has grown to encompass an entire corner. It is all that remains of a once thriving African American district. (863) 533-6109.

## **Haines City**

### **Bethune Neighborhood Center**

8th Street and Avenue E

Formerly known as Oakland High School, this five building complex was a school for black children from Haines City, Loughman, Davenport, Lake Hamilton, Dundee and the unincorporated areas of Northeast Polk County. It is presently used for civil, recreational and educational functions. (863) 421-3725.

## **Lakeland**

### **Buffalo Soldiers Encampment Historical Marker**

20 Lake Wire Drive

One of four all-black regiments in the regular army at the outbreak of the Spanish American War, the 10th Cavalry camped at this site on the shore of Lake Wire in the spring of 1898 while awaiting transport to Cuba. The black regiments gained renown and the nickname "Buffalo Soldiers" as a result of their exploits in campaigns against the American Indians on the Western frontier.

## **Lake Wales**

### **Roosevelt School**

115 East Street North

Roosevelt is Lake Wales' only remaining historic school, and the historic site for African American education in Lake Wales. The largest building, constructed in 1937 is of masonry vernacular construction with Italian Renaissance elements. (863) 678-4258.

## **Seminole County**

### **Seminole County Convention & Visitors Bureau**

(800) 800-7832, [www.visitseminole.com](http://www.visitseminole.com)

## **Sanford**

### **Little Red School House**

519 Palmetto Avenue

Built as Sanford Primary School #1 between 1906 and 1912, the Schoolhouse is part of the Sanford Residential Historic District. Today it houses the Tajiri School which features the Sanford "Out of the Dust Ancestral Path to Dignity" Tour. (407) 324-5907, [www.tajiriarts.org](http://www.tajiriarts.org).

### **Hopper Academy**

1101 South Pine Avenue

Built between 1900 and 1910, this frame vernacular two-story T-shaped building served as Sanford High School. One of the few remaining early black high schools in Florida, the facility now houses an educational community service center.

### **John H. Hurston House**

621 East 6th Street (Private)

The Reverend John Hurston was the father of noted author and anthropologist, Zora Neale Hurston. Reverend Hurston and his wife, Mattie, lived in this Second Empire style residence.

### **St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church**

819 Cypress Avenue

Organized in 1867, the church purchased land on the corner of East 9th Street and South Cypress Avenue. Sanford's oldest church founded by blacks, St. James is a red-brick English Gothic Revival style building with four matching stained glass windows. Constructed in 1913, it is the work of African American architect Prince W. Spear. (407) 324-0705.



Florida Dept. of State

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church

## Sumter County

Sumter County Chamber of Commerce  
(352) 793-3099, [www.gosumter.com](http://www.gosumter.com)

### Bushnell

**Dade Battlefield State Park**   
Off State Road 476 West Highway 301

Louise Pacheco (Patio), a Negro slave and interpreter for Major Francis L. Dade, was one of only four survivors of the Dade Massacre. The 1835 battle marked the beginning of the Second Seminole War, the most protracted and costly of the nation's Indian wars. (352) 793-4781.

### Wildwood

**Community of Royal / Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
390 East Highway 462

When slavery was abolished in 1865, the Royal community was founded by former slaves from the old Green Plantation located near the Withlacoochee River. Moving further inland to farm for themselves, the former slaves built log cabin homes and dug wells for water. The community was called Pickettsville because of the white picket fences designating each 40-, 80- or 120-acre homestead. In 1875, the Reverend Alfred Brown built the first church, Ebenezer AME Church. Four churches have been built on the property, two wooden and two block. The present structure was completed in 1977. The site is now home of the Royal Volunteer Fire Department and the Royal Community Center/Library. (352) 748-4484.

## CENTRAL EAST

### Brevard County

Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism  
(877) 572-3224, [www.space-coast.com](http://www.space-coast.com)

### Cocoa

**Harry T. Moore Center**  
307 Blake Avenue

This is the site of the first black school in Cocoa and the only original black high school now standing in Brevard County.

Built in 1924 as Cocoa Junior High School, when classes were moved to a new facility in 1954, the old schoolhouse was named the Harry T. Moore Center, in honor of the civil rights activist from Mims. (321) 264-6777.

### Hilltop Cemetery/Cemetery Hill

Off U.S. Highway 1 and Taft Street

This African American cemetery, known to locals as Hilltop Cemetery, was established during the 1880s. The oldest grave stone found is dated 1889.

### Malissa Moore Home

215 Stone Street (Private)

Built beside the Indian River in 1890, the home was moved to its current location and became a restaurant and then a boarding house. Mrs. Moore helped establish the Mount Moriah AME Church.

### Richard E. Stone Historic District

121-304 Stone Street

The district is named for Richard E. Stone, who invented and patented the Directional Signal Light for automobiles in 1935. Stone established the first recreational center building, Cocoa's first black professional baseball team, and helped start the Cocoa-Rockledge Civil League.

### Stone Funeral Home

516 King Street

This funeral home was established in 1923 to serve all of Brevard County. By the 1930s, brothers Richard E. Stone and Reverend Albert T. Stone operated the Stone Brothers Funeral Homes, with branches in Melbourne, Fort Pierce and Cocoa.

### Melbourne

**Wright Brothers House**

2310 Lipscomb Street (Private)

Wright Brothers was among Melbourne's first settlers, establishing his homestead in the area by 1877. Brothers' frame vernacular house was constructed circa 1892.



### Harry Tyson Moore 1906-1951, Civil Rights Activist

A native of Suwannee County, Harry T. Moore was president of the Brevard County Branch of the NAACP and later president, then state coordinator, of the Florida Conference of the NAACP. For seventeen years, Moore traveled through Florida, organizing NAACP branches, investigating lynchings, protesting acts of police brutality and organizing voter registration campaigns. On the evening of Christmas day 1951, a bomb planted under Moore's small, six-room cottage in Mims killed Moore and his wife Harriette. In August of 2006, then Attorney General Charlie Crist released the results of a 20-month investigation into the murder of Harry and Harriette Moore. The fatal bombing of the couple's home – on their 25th wedding anniversary – was never officially solved. The investigation pointed to extensive circumstantial evidence that the Moores

were victims of a conspiracy by exceedingly violent members of the Ku Klux Klan. Details of the investigation and the Harry Moore case are available at <http://myfloridalegal.com/HarryMoore>. Moore was designated a Great Floridian in 2007.

## Brothers Park

Corner of Church Street and Race Street

The site of the first black school of south Melbourne, the two-story Melbourne School was built by Brevard County between 1920-1921 on land donated by pioneer landowner, John S. Stone. Burned to the ground in December 1953, only the band room was left standing. (321) 255-4608.

## Merritt Island

**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Community Cemetery**

North Tropical Trail, Merritt Island

Originally known as the White Lily Cemetery, the Mount Olive Courtenay Community Cemetery was on the grounds adjacent to the Bethel AME Church, one of the first black churches on Merritt Island. Grave sites date from 1919.

## Mims

**Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center**

2180 Freedom Avenue

The Moore Memorial Park, on the property of the original Moore family home site, honors the lives of Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore, educators and leading local and national civil rights activists. Opened in 2004, the 11.93-acre park features the Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center, dedicated to preserving African American history. The Cultural Center is a repository of Moore family artifacts, historical documents, and features a timeline of strategic events of the pre-civil rights era beginning with slavery. To stimulate appreciation of African American culture and heritage, programs include visual, literary and performing arts, as well as on-site and outreach exhibitions.

## Titusville

**Gibson Tenement Houses**

**Chain of Lakes Heritage Park at Brevard**

**Community College, Titusville Campus**

Three shotgun style tenement houses formerly located on Palm Avenue are the remaining evidence of what used to be the vibrant black-owned business section along South Street in Titusville. Owned by the William Gibson family and built in the early 1900s, a complex of these homes provided housing for grove workers, farm hands, and railroad workers. The remaining three houses were relocated by the Brevard County Historical Commission to Chain of Lakes Heritage Park on Brevard Community College's Titusville Campus and are awaiting restoration. (321) 433-4415.

## Indian River County

**Indian River County Chamber of Commerce**  
(772) 567-3491, [www.indianriverchamber.com](http://www.indianriverchamber.com)

## Gifford

**Old Macedonia Colored Church**

28th Court and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

On February 18th, 1907, Murray E. and Sara Braddock Hall, members of early white families, donated land for the

Macedonia Colored Baptist Church in Sebastian. A church was built in 1908 and later named Macedonia Baptist Church, to serve blacks from as far north as Titusville and as far south as Stuart. The church is undergoing restoration as part of the proposed Martin Luther King, Jr., Historical Park Complex.

## St. Lucie County

**St. Lucie County Tourist Development Council**  
(800) 344-TGIF, [www.visitluciefla.com](http://www.visitluciefla.com)

## Fort Pierce

**A.E. "Bean" Backus Gallery & Museum**

500 North Indian River Drive

This gallery was established in 1960 by A.E. Backus, a preeminent Florida landscape painter and local art enthusiast. Backus was recognized for his friendship and encouragement in the 1950s of a number of African Americans who became known as "The Highwaymen". This museum and gallery features the work of Backus as well as that of a number of Highwaymen artists. (772) 465-0630.



Backus Museum and Gallery

A.E. "Bean" Backus Gallery & Museum

## The Zora Neale Hurston Home

1734 Avenue L

In 1957 Zora Neale Hurston moved to Fort Pierce, and was offered a small two-bedroom house, rent free, by Dr. C.C. Benton, a family friend from her Eatonville childhood. Dr. Benton, a respected physician, had worked to establish the School Court community. He sold land for a new black high school, built duplexes on the south side in 1950, and individual houses in 1957. School Court was the first attempt by a private enterprise to provide affordable, safe housing for the community. This house was Hurston's home from 1957 until her death in 1960. During this period she wrote for the *Fort Pierce Chronicle*, a black weekly, and worked on her manuscript, *Herod the Great*. Contemporaries recall her dog Sport, a back bedroom full of papers, books and a typewriter, a garden with beans, peas, onions, and collards and a flower yard with roses, zinnias and hibiscus.

**Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail**  
**Zora Neale Hurston Branch Library**  
 3008 Avenue D

The Zora Neale Hurston Branch Library is named for the African American author, storyteller, folklorist and anthropologist who grew up in Eatonville, and spent the last years of her life in Fort Pierce where she is buried. The library serves as the starting point of the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail. (772) 462-2154, [www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/zora/index.htm](http://www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/zora/index.htm).

**Zora Neale Hurston's Grave**  
 Avenue S and North 17th Street

Zora Neale Hurston was buried in an unmarked grave until African American novelist Alice Walker (best known perhaps as the author of *The Color Purple*) and literary scholar Charlotte Hunt found and marked the grave in 1973. Located in the Garden of the Heavenly Rest Cemetery, Hurston's grave marker is flanked by two plants and inscribed, "Zora Neale Hurston, A genius of the South."



Zora Neale Hurston's Grave

St. Lucie County Tourism & Economic Development

**Volusia County**

**Daytona Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
 (800) 854-1234, [www.daytonabeachcvb.org](http://www.daytonabeachcvb.org)

**New Smyrna Beach Visitors Bureau**  
 (800) 541-9621, [www.nsbfla.com](http://www.nsbfla.com)

**West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority**  
 (800) 749-4350, [www.stjohnsrivercountry.com](http://www.stjohnsrivercountry.com)

**Daytona Beach**

**Bethune-Cookman University**

640 Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard

In 1904 Mary McLeod Bethune established the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls. At the time, her only assets were \$1.50 in capital and a few packing cases for chairs. Through her persistent efforts, Bethune received funding from several wealthy northern industrialists who wintered nearby, including Thomas H. White of White Sewing Machine Company and James Gamble of the Proctor and Gamble Company. In 1923, her girls' school merged with the Jacksonville-based Cookman Institute to become Bethune-Cookman College. In February of 2007, the college was officially renamed Bethune-Cookman University. The campus is home to several historic buildings and sites including White Hall, a two-story Georgian Revival style building on campus, was constructed in 1916. The college's Carl S. Swisher Library houses the Rosewood Exhibit, depicting life in the community of Rosewood, Florida, from 1845 to the infamous Rosewood Massacre on January 1, 1923, as well as the "New Deal" Permanent Exhibit showcasing Bethune's "Black Cabinet" achievements during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Administration. (386) 481-2602, [www.bethune.cookman.edu](http://www.bethune.cookman.edu).

**The Highwaymen**



Highwaymen artist James Gibson

A. E. Backus, a white Southerner during a time when racial equality was not yet taken seriously, cultivated friendships with Highwaymen artists Harold Newton and R. A. McLendon. In the mid and late 1950s other self-taught African American artists started painting with Backus, or making frames in his studio. The only Highwayman artist believed to have ever taken formal lessons from Backus was Alfred Hair. Hair organized the other (nearly 26) Highwaymen artists and was instrumental in directing the "mass production" of Florida landscape paintings. They painted landscapes with available paints and materials, framing them with molding from doors, ceilings, and baseboards. Sometimes with the paint still wet, the artists would travel the state selling their paintings out of the trunks of their cars

(hence the name, "The Highwaymen"). By selling directly to the public, they set the standard for other self-taught African American artists who started painting Florida landscapes using the highwaymen-like art motif.

## Childhood Home of Mayor Yvonne Scarlett-Golden

506 South Street (Private)

This residence was purchased in the 1860s by Mayor Yvonne Scarlett-Golden's uncle. Born in Daytona Beach in 1926, Mayor Scarlett-Golden was the first African American and only the second woman to serve as Daytona Beach mayor. Elected as Mayor of Daytona Beach in 2003 and re-elected in 2005, she passed away while still in office in December, 2006.

## Howard Thurman Home

614 Whitehall Street

This two-story frame vernacular structure, the childhood home of Dr. Howard Thurman, constructed circa 1888, was one of the first located on the street. Born in the home in 1899, Dr. Thurman lived there until his departure for high school in Jacksonville at age 18. Dr. Thurman was known as a theological advocate of the unity of the human race. As teacher and Dean of Chapel at Morehouse College and Boston University, Dr. Thurman provided pastoral guidance and political counsel to leaders of the nation's civil rights movement. (386) 258-7514 or 822-7598.

## Jackie Robinson Memorial Ball Park

105 East Orange Avenue

Baseball Hall-of-Famer Jackie Robinson played his first exhibition game as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers farm club at this park on March 17, 1946, professional baseball's first integrated game. In 1947, Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers and made baseball history. (386) 257-3172, [www.daytonacubs.com](http://www.daytonacubs.com)

## Mary McLeod Bethune House

641 Pearl Street

This simple two-story frame vernacular structure was the home of Mary McLeod Bethune from the time of its construction in the 1920s until Dr. Bethune's death in 1955. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974, the

house museum contains original furnishings and archives for the Mary McLeod Bethune papers. Visitors may tour the Mary McLeod Bethune Home and gravesite, and the guest bedroom in which her friend, first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, stayed during a visit. (386) 481-2122, ext. 372.



Mary McLeod Bethune House

## Museum of Art and Sciences – African Art Gallery

1040 Museum Boulevard

A 2,000 square foot African Art gallery features masks, sculpted figures, ceremonial and everyday objects from a number of African tribes. Carved commemorative staffs, ritual ornaments, fetishes and 130 pieces of rare Ashante gold are highlights of the collection. (386) 255-0285, [www.moas.org](http://www.moas.org).



MOAS African Ritual Art



## Mary McLeod Bethune 1875-1955, Educator

The daughter of former slaves, Mary McLeod Bethune rose to become a noted black educator and advisor to presidents from Coolidge to Truman. In 1904 she established the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls in Daytona with \$1.50 and sheer determination. "We burned logs and used the charred splinters as pencils and mashed elderberries for ink," she wrote. In 1923, she oversaw the school's merger with the all male Cookman Institute in Jacksonville, created Bethune-Cookman Institute, now known as Bethune-Cookman University. Bethune remained president of the school for more than 40 years.

In 1924, Bethune became president of the National Association of Colored Women, at that time the highest national office a black woman could aspire. And in 1935, she formed the National Council of Negro Women to take on the major national issues affecting blacks.

Bethune served as President Franklin Roosevelt's director of the National Youth Administration's Division of Negro Affairs (1936), becoming the first black woman to serve as head of a federal agency, and later was a consultant to the founding conference of the United Nations.



## DeLand

### **The African American Museum of the Arts**

325 South Clara Avenue

Established in 1994 to enhance public appreciation of African American and Caribbean American cultures, today more than 150 pieces of art from Nigeria, Haiti, South America, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Ethiopia and Kenya are featured in the permanent gallery. (386) 736-4004, [www.africanmuseumdeland.org](http://www.africanmuseumdeland.org).

### **J.W. Wright Building**

258-264 W. Voorhis Avenue

This building was constructed in 1920 and designed by architect Francis Miller, who was active in the Florida land boom of the 1920s. The Wright Building is a two-story masonry vernacular structure. Until the 1960s, the building was a cornerstone of a bustling African American business and entertainment district.

### **Old DeLand Colored Hospital**

230 N. Stone Street

The original masonry vernacular building constructed in 1926 was significant in the development of medical services for African American residents of Volusia County. The original building was replaced because of termite damage with a similar-looking one erected in the mid-1990s. A portion of the new building contains the Black Museum. (386) 740-5800, [www.deland.org](http://www.deland.org).

### **Yemassee Settlement**

Centered around Voorthis, Euclid, Garfield, and Boston Avenue

The Yemassee area contains some of the oldest buildings (1890s through 1920s) associated with black residential neighborhoods in DeLand. Embodying Late Gothic Revival styling, the Greater Union Baptist Church was constructed at 240 South Clara Avenue in 1893.

## Deltona

### **Garfield Cemetery**

Garfield Avenue at Lakeshore Drive

Dating back to the late-19th to mid-20th century, an archeological survey of this African American cemetery has found 13 marked graves.

## New Smyrna Beach

### **Bethune-Volusia Beach**

Highway A1A, 6 miles south of New Smyrna Beach

Educator Mary McLeod Bethune, insurance executive G. D. Rodgers of Tampa, rancher Lawrence Silas of Kissimmee and other black investors purchased this ocean-front property in the 1940s to develop a black residential resort community and recreation area.

### **St. Rita's Black History Museum**

314 North Duss Street

The Old Sacred Heart/St. Rita (Colored) Mission Church building, constructed in 1899, was one of the few houses of worship for black Roman Catholics in this area, and the only one left standing. Moved to this site, the building now houses exhibits with more than 100 replicas of African American inventions, Florida East Coast Railroad artifacts and photographs from Chisholm High School, the first black school in Volusia county. (386) 478-1934, <http://echotourism.com/cultural/blkheritage.htm>.



Black Heritage Museum

## Port Orange

### **Freemanville Historic Site**

3431 Ridgewood Avenue

A state historic marker recognizes this community settled in 1867 by freed slaves after the Civil War. On the second Tuesday in February each year, the City of Port Orange celebrates Freemanville Day, with historic reenactments. (386)756-5201, [www.port-orange.org/living/history2v.php](http://www.port-orange.org/living/history2v.php)

### **Mount Moriah Baptist Church**

941 North Orange Avenue

The last building standing from the Freemanville community, a settlement of freed slaves. Built in 1911, it still serves as a place of worship for descendants of those original settlers.

## SOUTHWEST

### Charlotte County

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands Visitor's Bureau  
(800) 652-6090, [www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com](http://www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com)

#### Cleveland

##### *The George Brown House*

27430 Cleveland Avenue (Private)

This property was built in 1915 by George Brown, a talented African American carpenter and local businessman, for himself and his family. The home is a monument to his second wife, Tommie.

##### *Cleveland Steam Marine Ways*

5400 Riverside Drive

George Brown came to the Peace River area in 1890 to work for a phosphate mining company. During the 1890s he was superintendent of buildings for the Desoto Phosphate Mining Company in Liverpool, near Arcadia. He later founded the Cleveland Steam Marine Ways where he built luxury yachts for affluent white residents of Charlotte Harbor. Brown was an "equal opportunity" employer, hiring whites and blacks, and paying equal wages for equal skills. The building is now a recreation hall for a mobile home park.

### Punta Gorda

#### *Bethel African American Episcopal Church*

260 East Olympia Avenue

"Uncle Dan" Smith, a local African American religious leader, constructed a thatch-roofed hut church on this site in 1886. Several white families, including Colonel Albert W. Gilchrist, who later became governor of Florida, were in attendance at the first service. The first permanent sanctuary, a wooden frame building, was built in 1897 but destroyed by Hurricane Donna in 1960. The building was replaced in the 1960s. (941) 637-9296.

#### *The Blanchard House Museum of African American History & Culture of Charlotte County*

406 Martin Luther King Boulevard

This 1925 house was originally built for Joseph Blanchard, a black sea captain and key member of early Punta Gorda's business community, and Minnie, his mail-order bride. Upon the death of Blanchard's last surviving daughter, African American community historian, Bernice Russell, purchased the Blanchard House. Since Russell's death, the museum has been operated as an open access, educational institute devoted to the procurement, preservation, study and display of artifacts and materials related to the history, culture and contributions of African Americans in Charlotte County. (941) 575-7518.

IN THE EARLY 1900s MOST PEOPLE CAME TO  
CHARLOTTE HARBOR  
FOR THE CLIMATE.  
OTHERS CAME FOR  
EQUALITY.



Equal-opportunity came early in Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf Islands. Here, almost half the original settlers of Punta Gorda were African-Americans, and some employers offered blacks and whites alike equal pay for equal work. Visit the Historic Blanchard House Museum of African-American History and Culture for these stories and a continuing celebration of unity.

800-208-2607

[www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com](http://www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com)



The Blanchard House Museum

Charlotte County Visitor's Bureau

### **New Operation Cooper Street** 650 Mary Street

This is the original site of Baker's Academy, Charlotte County's first African American school. Located in the East Punta Gorda Historical District, in the 1960s, this site was a gathering place and recreation center for the black community. (941) 639-3034 (Grace Nurse).

### **Punta Gorda Railroad Depot & Museum** 1009 Taylor Road

The Atlantic Coast Line Depot, built in the Mediterranean Revival architectural style, was the southernmost station in the U.S. when it opened in the late 1920s. Segregated bathrooms and waiting areas as originally designed, and a refurbished ticket office are part of the exhibit. Rotating exhibits display the historic and cultural impact of the area's aviation and fishing industry. (941) 639-1887.

### **St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church** 402 Dupont Street

St. Mark was founded in the late 1880s by Punta Gorda's African American pioneer, area businessman and civic leader, Dan Smith. Smith named the church and was ordained as the first deacon. Dan Smith's wife, Louisa Evans was a Baptist, and according to his grandson, Smith founded St. Mark's to please his wife. (941) 637-1519.

## **Collier County**

**Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 2 ESCAPE, [www.paradisecoast.com](http://www.paradisecoast.com)

### **Naples**

#### **Macedonia Baptist Church** 1006 Third Avenue North

The oldest African American church in Naples, this church was organized in 1929, and relocated to its present site in 1952. The new, Gothic-style church building was dedicated in 1954, the annex was built in 1973, and the church was renovated in 1975. (239) 262-4877.

#### **Naples Railroad Depot** 1051 Fifth Avenue South

Naples' first railroad passenger station, the Naples Depot was built in 1927 by the Seaboard Air Line Railway. This historic downtown landmark serves today as a branch of the Collier County Museum and is being restored to its 1920s appearance. The separate waiting room originally used by black passengers until the 1960s has been preserved, as well as the stories of the black porters, train conductors and railroad workers who worked here. (239) 262-6525.

## **Black Seminoles**

*Making their journey the first Underground Railroad, slaves from the Carolinas and Georgia as early as 1688 escaped to northern Florida, at that time under Spanish control, and were received by the Seminoles. An association originally limited to mutual material advantage grew into one of reciprocal respect and affection. Intermarriage inevitably occurred. Black Seminoles did not have individual owners, but they did have to provide tribute in crops or cattle in return for relative freedom and protection from re-enslavement however, they were no more subordinate than other tribespeople. They usually lived in separate but nearby towns or villages, rather than with the Seminoles.*

*Some became successful farmers and cattle herders, and a few served as interpreters and military leaders during the Seminole Wars and rose to prominence in Seminole society. No group would resist annexation more than the Black Seminoles. To lose a battle would mean they would simultaneously lose their independence, their homes and their freedom. Over a period of seven years, the U.S. Army sent 40,000 troops to fight about 2,000 Seminoles, approximately 500 being Black Seminoles. Three wars ensued and a truce was called but no peace treaty was ever signed. For this reason, the Seminoles are considered "the Unconquered People."*

*By 1857, most of the Seminoles had been forcibly resettled in the Indian Territories in Oklahoma. The 100 or so Seminoles who stayed fled into the Everglades and now make up the 3000+ Seminole Tribe of Florida. It all began in Florida but their saga took them to Okalahoma, Texas, Mexico and the Bahamas. A cultural blend of African and Native American, these courageous men and women are the Black Seminoles, an almost forgotten part of Florida's past. For more information, visit the Collier County Museum at [www.colliermuseum.com](http://www.colliermuseum.com).*



Naples Railroad Depot

Collier County Museum

### Rosemary Cemetery

*Pine Ridge Road at U.S. 41*

Restored marble headstones and a historical marker at the intersection of Pine Ridge Road and the Tamiami Trail identify Rosemary Cemetery, Naples' primary burial ground until 1947. The cemetery was platted in 1934 to re-inter the remains of the first pioneer residents, moved from an earlier cemetery located at Third Street and Tenth Avenue South.

### Collier County Museum

*3301 Tamiami Trail East*

Permanent displays trace the history and development of Collier County from prehistoric times to the present and include an exhibit on the role of Black Seminole Indians during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). Escaped slaves from American plantations became allies of the Seminoles in the struggles with Americans. (239) 774-8476.



Collier County Museum

Collier County Museum

## Lee County

**The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel**

(800) 237-6444, [www.fortmyers-sanibel.com](http://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com)

### Fort Myers

#### Centennial Park

*2100 Edwards Drive*

The "Civil War's 2nd Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops" monument is dedicated to the black Union soldiers who defended a federal post in Fort Myers against the Confederates in 1865. A single black soldier standing before a wall with a gate represents the gateway to freedom from slavery. (941) 332-6638.



Centennial Park

Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau

#### McCollum Hall

*Northeast corner of Cranford and Martin*

*Luther King, Jr. Boulevard*

Constructed in 1938 by Clifford McCollum, Sr., McCollum Hall was a commercial center in the Dunbar Community. The second story held a large dance hall with a raised stage for live performances by Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and others. During World War II, the second floor facility served as a USO for African American troops stationed at Page and Buckingham Fields. White residents and soldiers attended when big bands performed at McCollum Hall.

#### Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church

*2754 Orange Street*

One of the oldest churches in the Dunbar community, Mount Olive's congregation dates to 1895. Church services were held for many years at several locations, including the Lee County Courthouse, where the congregation was originally organized. The church was built at this location in 1929. (239) 332-0305.

#### Paul Laurence Dunbar School

*1857 High Street*

Completed in 1927, the Dunbar School served as the "colored" high school for the predominately black Dunbar community and surrounding area. Prior to September 1925, educational opportunities for African Americans were limited to grades one through six. The masonry vernacular structure now houses community programs.



[www.wfr.FloridasGulfIslands.com](http://www.wfr.FloridasGulfIslands.com)  
800-779-0755



### **Williams Academy Black History Museum**

1936 Henderson Avenue

The first Williams Academy, built in 1913, was a two-story building located between Anderson Avenue and Lemon Street. It was the site of the first government-funded, black school in Fort Myers. When the second floor was destroyed by a fire, the building's first floor was moved to the Dunbar campus between 1935 and 1937. In 1995 the building was moved to its current location. The "Living History Classroom" represents the 1940s era and other exhibits present the contributions of blacks to the development of the area. (239) 332-2880.



Williams Academy Black History Museum

Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau

### **Manatee County**

Bradenton Area Convention & Visitors Bureau  
(800) 822-2017, [www.flagulfislands.com](http://www.flagulfislands.com)

### **Bradenton**

#### **Family Heritage House Museum**

5840 26th Street West (in the Manatee Community College Library)

A resource for the study of African American achievements, this extensive black history library of books, newspaper clippings, magazines, photographs and audio cassettes represents over 50 years in the cultural and economic life of African Americans. (941) 752-5319, [mcc1.mccfl.edu/heritage/](http://mcc1.mccfl.edu/heritage/).

### **Sarasota County**

Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau  
(800) 800-4038, [www.sarasotafl.org](http://www.sarasotafl.org)

### **Sarasota**

#### **Booker High School**

3201 North Orange Avenue

Emma E. Booker, a pioneer black educator, was teaching in Sarasota's public school for Negro children in the 1910s. By 1918, she was principal of Sarasota Grammar School,

holding classes in rented halls. The Julius Rosenwald Fund helped build a school that opened in 1924 with eight grades. Under Principal J.R. Dixon, grades were added and the first senior class graduated in 1935. Mrs. Booker attended college during summers for over 20 years to earn her Bachelor's degree in 1937, and the school was renamed in her honor. (941) 355-2967.

### **Grover & Pearl Koons House**

1360 13th Street

The Florida Academy of African American Culture is located in this house that was occupied by Grover and Pearl Koons between 1927 and 1930. The house is an excellent example of a Mediterranean Revival style bungalow. (941) 330-0372 or 360-0993.

### **The Johnson Chapel Missionary Baptist Church**

506 Church Street in Laurel, an unincorporated community in Sarasota County

The only remaining rural church in southern Sarasota County dating from the 1910s, Johnson Chapel was built as the Osprey Missionary Baptist Church, in 1915 on the west side of the Tamiami Trail in Osprey, six miles north of Laurel, by Bertha Potter Palmer. When a new church was constructed in 1947, the Johnson Chapel Missionary Baptist Church purchased and moved the one-story, wood frame vernacular building to its present site. It has since served as a church, community center and a meeting place for the Lily White Lodge #22 (an African American association established to provide burial benefits and health care). (941) 485-5066.

### **The Leonard Reid Home**

1435 7th Street NR (Private)

A one-story frame vernacular building completed in 1926, the Leonard Reid home was originally located on Coconut Avenue. A highly respected African American pioneer of early Sarasota, Reid helped establish Sarasota's first black community, Overtown. Working for a fish merchant in 1900, Reid was introduced to Colonel Hamilton Gillespie, a prominent Sarasota developer and its first mayor. Reid worked closely with Gillespie until his death in 1923. Reid met and married Eddy Coleman in 1901, and the couple moved to this small rental house. He and Eddy helped to establish Sarasota's second oldest African American church, Payne Chapel, an African Methodist Episcopal Methodist Church, in 1906.

### **The Overtown Community**

Extends between Fourth and Tenth Streets from U.S. 41 to Orange Avenue

Though many buildings in this historically African-American community have been lost, others have been rehabilitated and adapted to commercial use. Payne AME Chapel is a symbol of the focus of black spiritual life. The Colson Hotel catered to black workers and tourists, and now serves as multi-family housing. African Americans settled in downtown Sarasota in the 1890s, in an area then known as "Black

Bottom," but by the mid-1920s known as Overtown. The proximity of the black community to downtown prompted some anxiety in the white population, and developers opened a subdivision named Newtown to provide blacks with better places to live. Despite a slow residential migration to Newtown, Overtown continued to operate as the center of African American life in Sarasota. In the mid-1950s demolitions were underway, but the Hood Building and the Payne Chapel are among those saved.

## **SOUTHEAST**

### **Broward County**

**Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 227-8669, [www.sunny.org](http://www.sunny.org)

### **Dania**

#### **The "Colored Beach"**

6503 North Ocean Drive

In the early 1950s the northern tip of what is today John U. Lloyd Beach State Park was purchased by the Broward County Commission for use as the "Colored Beach." Beachgoers took a ferry to reach the beach until a road was built in the 1960s. (954) 923-2833.

#### **St. Ruth Missionary Baptist Church**

145 NW 5th Avenue

Founded by Charlie Chambers in 1908 and named in honor of his daughter, this was the first black church in Dania and housed the first "colored" school. The bell tolled to call the congregation to service and to mark the death of a black member of the community. (954) 922-2529.



City of Dania Beach

St. Ruth Missionary Baptist Church

### **Fort Lauderdale**

#### **The African American Research Library and Cultural Center**

2650 Sistrunk Boulevard

This library, research facility, and cultural center contains 75,000 books, documents and artifacts by and about people of African descent, a community cultural center, a 300-seat auditorium, meeting rooms, exhibit areas, a historic

archive, a viewing and listening center and other historical material on black history in Broward County, South Florida, the Caribbean, the African Diaspora and the nation. Also included are papers of W.E.B. DuBois, the Langston Hughes Collection, the Bethune-Cookman College Collection, the Alex Haley collection, and the papers of Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. (954) 625-2800, [www.broward.org/library/aarlcc.htm](http://www.broward.org/library/aarlcc.htm).

African-American Research Library & Cultural Ctr.



The African American Research Library and Cultural Center

**Dr. James F. Sistrunk Boulevard Historical Marker at the Von Mizell Library**

1408 Sistrunk Boulevard

Dr. James F. Sistrunk was the first black medical doctor to practice in Ft. Lauderdale and the only one for almost 16 years. With his partner, Dr. Von Mizell, Dr. Sistrunk solicited financing for Provident Hospital, which opened in 1938 to serve the city's black population. Dr. Sistrunk served as Chief of Staff and Assistant Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology, delivering nearly 5,000 babies during his 40-year career. In recognition of his distinguished civic and medical service, this street was dedicated to him in 1971.

**The Old Dillard High School** 

1004 NW 4th Street

This Masonry Vernacular structure, one of the oldest buildings in the city, was built in 1924. It was the first black school in Fort Lauderdale and named in honor of James H. Dillard, a philanthropist, educator and promoter of education for blacks. Now a museum, exhibits include a recreated historic classroom, art display and artifacts of local African American heritage.

(954) 322-8828, [www.broward.k12.fl.us/olddillardmuseum](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/olddillardmuseum).



Old Dillard Museum

The Old Dillard Museum

**Florida's Underground Railroad**

*Runaway slaves seeking freedom with great courage and determination traveled the Underground Railroad south to "free" Florida and often continued their tenuous journey through Florida to the Bahamas. Many sought refuge in the wilds of Florida, fought with the British in the War of 1812, others fought in the Seminole Indian Wars against General Andrew Jackson, and during the violent removal of the native peoples of Florida.*

**Fort Mose'** on the northern edge of St. Augustine is a National Historic Landmark and was a precursor site of the Underground Railroad. It is the earliest known legally sanctioned free black community in the present United States.

**British Fort** near the Apalachicola River, also a National Historic Landmark like Fort Mose', was a precursor site as a symbol of the strong relationship between runaway slaves and the Seminole Indians. The fort was used as British headquarters for negotiations between the black and Indian communities and soon became known as "Negro Fort." The fort was destroyed under order of Major General Andrew Jackson. Another fort was built upon the site by Lieutenant James Gadsden and it is known as Fort Gadsden.

**Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park** in Key Biscayne was officially designated in 2005 as a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site. Cape Florida stands as one of the earliest stations on the Underground Railroad and was a secret meeting place and port for runaway slaves and Black Seminoles who sought freedom in the British Bahamas. In 1821 it was reported some 300 freedom seekers bartered for passage aboard 27 sloops or chose to sail Indian dugout canoes 107 nautical miles to secluded Andros Island. The construction of the Cape Florida Lighthouse in 1825 effectively blocked the escape route. Bahamian descendents, some of whom still call themselves "Black Seminoles" live in the Red Bays settlement on Andros.

Coming Soon to Fort Lauderdale  
the  
Dr. Bobby Jones Gospel Complex  
"For Education & Preservation"



To learn more about the Gospel Complex, visit our website at  
[www.gospelcomplex.org](http://www.gospelcomplex.org)

greater **FORT LAUDERDALE**   
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

[www.sunny.org](http://www.sunny.org)  
800.756.1662 ext. 2456

## Pompano

### *The Ely Educational Museum*

595 NW 15th Street

Pompano's first black history museum is located in the former home of Blanche Ely, a local educator and civic pioneer in Pompano Beach's African American community. (954) 831-8529 or 240-8498.

## Dade County

**Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 933-8448, [www.miamiandbeaches.com](http://www.miamiandbeaches.com)

## Coconut Grove

### *Charles Avenue Historic District Marker*

Charles Avenue and Main Highway

The first black community on the south Florida mainland began here in the 1880s when blacks from the Bahamas and southern U.S. came to farm the land or to work at the Peacock Inn, the first hotel in the Miami area.

### *Coconut Grove Cemetery*

3650 Charles Avenue

This cemetery was developed in 1913 by the Coconut Grove Colored Cemetery Association, which included several prominent, local, black citizens including E.W.F. Stirrup, Walker Burrows and Joseph Riddick. It is the final resting place of many influential pioneer settlers.

### *Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church*

3315 Douglas Road

The congregation organized in 1895 as the first Baptist church for black people in Dade County. The church was then known as the Fifty-Six Members Church, and met in a local home. The name was later changed to St. Agnes Missionary Baptist Church and in 1922 changed again to Macedonia Missionary Baptist. Services are still offered at the present structure which was completed in 1948. (305) 445-6459.

### *Stirrup House*

3242 Charles Avenue (Private)

Ebenezer W.F. Stirrup, a Bahamian who came to the United States in 1888, built this two-story frame vernacular structure in 1897. Stirrup invested his earnings in land and built over 100 homes to rent or sell to other Bahamian blacks who came to Coconut Grove around the turn of the century. Many of the houses still stand, some occupied by descendants of those early pioneers.

## Coral Gables

### *MacFarlane Homestead Subdivision Historic District*

Bounded by Oak Avenue, Grand Avenue, Brooke Street and Jefferson Street

Developed by Coral Gables founder George Merrick as a black residential neighborhood, the early homes of this district were built in the late 1920s and 1930s in the

Vernacular style of architecture not seen elsewhere in Coral Gables. The styles include bungalows and one-story frame "shot-gun" homes. The land was formerly the homestead of Flora McFarlane, a white woman who, before there was a public school, taught both black and white children at the Peacock Inn, Miami's first hotel.

## Miami

### *Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park*

1200 South Crandon Boulevard

Situated on the southern tip of Key Biscayne, Cape Florida was the point from which many black Seminoles and escaped slaves sought passage south to the Bahamas when Florida was transferred from Spain to the United States in 1821. Those who could afford passage bargained with the Bahamian "wreckers" while others made the crossing in Seminole dugout canoes fitted with sails and paddles. The lighthouse, built in 1825, was attacked by Seminole Indians during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). Cape Florida was a secret meeting place and port for runaway slaves and Black Seminoles before the lighthouse was built. One of the earliest stations on the national and international Underground Railroad Network, in 2005 the park was dedicated as a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site. (305) 361-5811, [www.floridastateparks.org/capeflorida](http://www.floridastateparks.org/capeflorida).



VISIT FLORIDA

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park



## **Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida**

5400 NW 22nd Avenue

Founded by Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields and incorporated in 1977, this research center contains documents, photographs and artifacts documenting the black experience in Miami-Dade County from 1896 to the present. Artworks showcase Overtown's "Little Broadway" and local historic sites.

(305) 636-2390, [www.theblackarchives.org](http://www.theblackarchives.org).

## **Booker T. Washington School**

1200 NW 6th Avenue

Construction of Booker T. Washington School began in 1926 amid protests from white citizens living in the area. Men in the community took turns standing guard at night and working during the day, until the school was built. Officially opened on March 28, 1927, it is now a middle school. This was the first school in South Florida to provide a twelve grade education for black children. (305) 324-8900.

## **Chapman House**

1200 NW 6th Avenue (on the grounds of Booker T. Washington High School)

This colonial-style residence was built in 1923 by Dr. William A. Chapman, Sr., M.D. for his family and medical practice. In the 1980s Dr. William A. Chapman, Jr., deeded the house and land to Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Designated a historic site by the City of Miami in 1983, this single family home now serves as a district-wide multicultural learning center for school children and offers public programs for adults. (305) 995-1275.

## **D.A. Dorsey House**

250 NW 9th Street

Dana A. Dorsey moved to Miami around 1896 to engage in farming. He purchased lots for \$25 each and advertised as the only colored licensed real estate dealer in the city. A pioneer citizen and developer of early "Colored Town," Dorsey is generally recognized as Miami's most famous early black resident. He organized South Florida's first black bank, served as chairman of the Colored Advisory Committee to the Dade County School Board, and as registrar for black men during World War I. (305) 636-2390.

## **Evergreen Park Cemetery**

3055 NW 41st Street

With nearly 3,300 burial plots, this is one of the oldest black cemeteries in Dade County. Most remains are placed in above-ground vaults, a tradition in the area's black community.

## **Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**

245 NW 8th Street

Home of the oldest black congregation in Miami, Greater Bethel AME Church was organized in 1896, several months before the city was incorporated. Construction of this Mediterranean Revival style building began in 1927 and was completed in 1942. It is one of the few examples of this architectural style in Overtown. (305) 379-8213.

## **Hampton House**

4200 NW 27th Avenue (Not currently open to the public)

Built in 1953 and originally named Booker Terrace, the two-story Hampton House was promoted as the social center of the South. The hotel had 20 rooms, a swimming pool, patio, restaurant and night club. Black performers jammed at the hotel club after playing for all-white audiences in Miami Beach. Visitors included Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Jackie Robinson, Jackie Wilson, Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave an early version of his "I Have a Dream" speech here. (305) 638-5800.

## **Lincoln Memorial Park**

3001 NW 46th Street

Lincoln Memorial, opened in 1924 in the Brownsville section of Miami, was for decades the black cemetery in Miami. Blacks sometimes marched to Lincoln Memorial playing tubas and trumpets in Dixieland funeral processions. Most of the 538 burial plots are above ground vaults. Dana Albert Dorsey, Miami's first black millionaire, and Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry, the first black woman to serve in the Florida Legislature, are among those buried here.

## **The Lyric Theater**

819 NW 2nd Avenue

Prominent black entrepreneur Geder Walker built this masonry vaudeville and movie theater in 1913. Once one of the major centers of entertainment for blacks, this building is the lone survivor of the "Little Broadway" district that flourished in Overtown for almost 50 years. It is the oldest legitimate theater remaining in Miami. Now restored, the 390-seat theater features exhibits, festivals, jazz, theater, dance and multicultural performances. The Lyric Theater anchors the Historic Overtown Folklife Village. (305) 358-1146, [www.theblackarchives.org](http://www.theblackarchives.org).



The Lyric Theater

## **Mt. Zion Baptist Church**

201 NW 9th Street

Home to one of the oldest and most prominent black congregations of South Florida, this structure is noted for its Mediterranean Revival design. The Mt. Zion congregation helped raise funds to build Miami's black-owned Christian Hospital. (305) 379-4147.

## Overtown Neighborhood

*Bordered by NW 21st Street, NW 6th Street, NW 1st Avenue and I-95*

One of the oldest neighborhoods in Miami, Overtown began as a community home to African American railroad, street and hotel workers. As early as 1904, the City of Miami directory listed businesses owned and operated by blacks, including general goods and services, a medical doctor, laundresses and laborers. At least one national convention was held annually in Overtown, and Miami's Colored Board of Trade was established as a clearinghouse for commercial and civic betterment.

## St. John's Baptist Church

*1328 NW 3rd Avenue*

The congregation was organized in 1906. The current building, designed by the black architectural firm of McKissack and McKissack, was completed in 1940. The two-story masonry building is a rare example of the Art Deco style in Overtown. (305) 960-4600.

## Virginia Key Beach Park

*3861 Rickenbacker Causeway (Re-opens Fall 2007)*

In 1918, D.A. Dorsey, an African American millionaire, purchased what is now known as Fisher Island so that blacks could have a beach of their own during segregation. Due to increasing property taxes, Dorsey sold the property and without a beach, blacks protested by attempting to swim in white beach waters. On August 1, 1945, county officials designated Virginia Key Beach a "Dade County Park for the exclusive use of Negroes". The park was only accessible by boat from a downtown dock on the Miami River. Structures included a concession stand, a bathhouse with restrooms, an octagonal carousel building and three picnic pavilions. A 70-foot wood tunnel surrounded by native coral rock was constructed in 1956 for a miniature train, and remains today. In 1944, the Navy conducted Negro training on this beach, since black enlisted men could not be trained on other beaches. Closed in 1982, the park is in the restoration and renovation process and will open Fall 2007. (305) 571-8230, [www.virginiakeybeachpark.net](http://www.virginiakeybeachpark.net).

## Miami Gardens

*Florida Memorial College*

*15800 NW 42nd Avenue*

In the late 1800s, the American Baptist Home Mission Society created two colleges in North Florida: The Florida Baptist Institute for Negroes in Live Oak (1879) and the Florida Baptist Academy in Jacksonville (1892). The two institutions merged in 1941. In 1963 the name Florida Memorial College was adopted and in 1968 the college moved to its permanent campus in Miami. This is the only historically Black university in the southern region of the state. (305) 626-3600.

## Monroe County

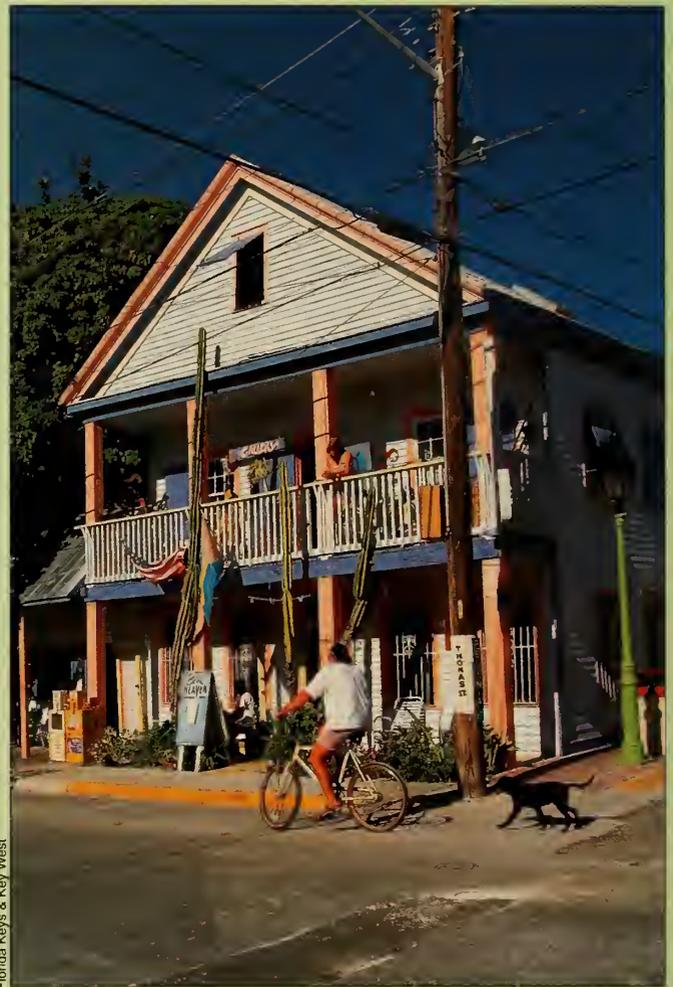
**Florida Keys & Key West Tourist Council**

**(800) 648-5510, [www.fla-keys.com](http://www.fla-keys.com)**

## Key West

**Bahama Village**

*Bordered by Whitehead, Louisa, Fort and Angela Streets*  
Key West's Bahama Village is a time capsule of unique residences, businesses, churches and community centers that were built during the 1800s when several hundred free blacks came from the Bahamas along with white Bahamian (English) settlers. Homes were built on land owned by John Simonton, William Whitehead, and John Fleming. Bahama Village was part of the original platted section of what is now downtown Key West.



Florida Keys & Key West

Bahama Village

## Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

*223 Truman Avenue*

The original church building was first established in 1878, in the 700 block of Duval Street. The Ku Klux Klan claimed responsibility for burning it down in 1922, saying it was tired of the "noise" of church services.



Bethel African Methodist Church

### **Bill Butler Park**

*Poorhouse Lane near the City Cemetery*

This was the site of the county's home for indigent senior citizens, also known as Monroe County Colored Folks Home. In 1986 the City created a park to honor the memory of William "Bill" Butler, a musician and founding father of the Key West Junkanoos and member of the Welter's Coronet Band. The park is the site of the New Year's morning Junkanoo Parade, a celebration with African roots which began in the Bahamas in the 17th century to preserve African cultural traditions in danger of being lost in the displacement process of the slave trade. (305) 292-8296.

### **The Church of God of Prophecy**

*815 Elizabeth Street*

Constructed in the late 1920s, this building began as an 800-square-foot family dwelling. Brother Kemp, a black Bahamian, and his protégé, John Bruce Knowles, Sr., remodeled it. This church was also called the "Jumper Church." (305) 294-1288.

### **The Community Pool at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Community Center**

*300 Catherine Street*

The City of the Key West built this pool for African Americans in 1946, when Key West beaches were segregated. (305) 292-8248.

### **Cornish Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**

*702 Whitehead Street*

This wood-frame, Gothic Revival structure is one of the oldest AME churches in Florida. Built in 1903, it is named in honor of Sandy Cornish, an early Bahamian immigrant who founded the congregation. (305) 294-2350.

### **Higgs Beach Historic Marker**

*Atlantic Boulevard*

In 1860, African men, women and children being transported to Cuba on three American-owned ships, to be sold into slavery, were rescued by the U.S. Navy and brought to Key West. Local authorities took responsibility for the Africans while in Key West. While some returned to Africa, 294 were

too ill to make the journey and died. They were buried in a mass grave on Higgs Beach where West Martello Tower now stands. (305) 294-0884 or 304-6765 (Norma Sawyer)

### **Key West Cemetery**

*Windsor Lane*

Frank E. Adams, a black man, was the first law-enforcement officer in the Keys to be killed in the line of duty. Adams carried a gun and a badge as a Deputy Sheriff when few blacks in the nation held such jobs. Adams died on October 7, 1901, and was buried the next day. The location of his grave remained a mystery until it was discovered that Adams was not buried in the traditional black section of the Cemetery because he was Catholic.



Key West Cemetery

### **Nelson English Park**

*Corner of Thomas and Amelia Streets*

Located in Bahama Village, this park is named for the African American civic leader who was the island's postmaster from 1882-1886.

### **St. James First Missionary Baptist Church**

*312 Olivia Street*

This church was founded in 1876 by freed blacks from Georgia, Alabama and North Florida who had come to the Keys to work on Henry Flagler's railroad. Today's masonry building is built around the wood original. (305) 296-5593.

## **St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

800 Center Street

St. Peter's is the oldest black Anglican Church in the Diocese of South Florida. It was designed and built in 1923 by Joseph Hannibal, a Key West native and son of Shadrack Hannibal, a runaway slave. (305) 296-2346.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

## **Trinity Presbyterian Street**

717 Simonton Street

Served by ministers from the Bahamas on a quarterly basis until 1895, Trinity English Wesley Methodist Church was then accepted in the St. John's Presbytery, and its name changed to Trinity Presbyterian. Established by both black and white Bahamians, the congregation was truly integrated, with no designated seating. (305) 296-3318.



Trinity Presbyterian Church

## **Trinity Wesleyan Methodist Church**

619 Petronia Street

Trinity Wesleyan Methodist Church began when the congregation sought to join the U.S Presbyterian denomination because English ministers stopped coming from the Bahamas to serve Trinity, then the only English Wesleyan Methodist Church in America. George Allen, Sr., became an ordained pastor, and all pastors since have come from within the Allen Family. As a result, Trinity is informally known as Reverend Allen's Church or the Allen Family Church.

## **Truman Little White House**

111 Front Street

At the "Little White House," on December 3, 1951, President Harry S. Truman, wrote the fourth Executive Order establishing the Committee on Government Contract Compliance to secure better compliance by contractors and subcontractors with laws that forbade discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin. Truman announced the Executive Order to the press from the steps of this building. (305) 294-9911, [www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com](http://www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com).

## **V.F.W. American Legion Hall**

803 Emma Street

Architect and County Mayor C.B. Harvey donated plans for the building. Also known as the Black Town Hall, the building was constructed in 1951 by its members. The hall is named to commemorate blacks killed in World War I (William Weech American Legion Post) and World War II (Walter Mickens V.F.W. Post 6021).

## **Marathon**

### **Adderley House**

5550 Overseas Highway

Located in the Crane Point Historic and Archaeological District, this Masonry Vernacular house was built in 1906 by George Adderley, a black Bahamian immigrant who was a sponge diver, boatman and charcoal maker. The one-story building with a hip roof is similar to residences built by blacks in the Bahamas during the 19th century. (305) 743-9100.

### **Pigeon Key Historic District**

Off U.S. Highway 1 at Mile Marker 45

The district consists of seven frame vernacular structures built between 1909 and 1920 as a railroad construction work camp for laborers on Henry Flagler's "overseas railroad." The camp includes a 1912 "Negro Workers' Cottage." (305) 289-0025.

## **Palm Beach County**

**Palm Beach County Convention & Visitor Bureau**  
(800) 833-5733, [www.palmbeachfl.com](http://www.palmbeachfl.com)

### **Delray Beach**

#### **B.F. James & Frances Jane Bright Mini-Park**

East side of NW 5th Avenue, 100 feet south of NW 1st Street

The park contains a bronze marker commemorating five historic sites in one of the oldest sections of Delray Beach. They are: School No. 4 Delray Colored, located on this site; Greater Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 40 NW 4th Avenue; St. Paul AME Church, 119 NW 5th Avenue; Free and Accepted Masons Lodge 275, 85 NW 5th Avenue; and St. Matthew Episcopal Church, 404 SW 3rd Street.

## The La France Hotel

140 NW 4th Avenue (Private)

Built in 1947 by Charles Patrick, the La France Hotel was one of the few establishments in South Florida that rented rooms to African Americans, including such great talents as Duke Ellington. [www.delraycra.org](http://www.delraycra.org).

## The Spady Museum

170 NW 5th Avenue

Located in the 1926 Spanish-style home of the late Solomon D. Spady, a prominent African American educator and community leader, the museum is the only one of its kind in Palm Beach County. A 1935 house used by the city's first black midwife, Susan B. Williams, was moved from Northwest Third Avenue to the museum grounds to house the Kids Cultural Club on the site. (561) 279-8883, [www.spadymuseum.org](http://www.spadymuseum.org).



The Spady Museum

## Lake Worth

### The Osborne School

1726 Douglas Street

The first black school in Lake Worth, the school building was constructed in 1948, and served that purpose until 1971. The school was constructed by local residents and self-taught builders, P.W. Odums, Able Wilson and Frank Jones. In 1980, the Osborne School reopened as a community education facility. (561) 493-1190.



The Osborne School

## West Palm Beach

### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park

2200 N. Flagler Drive

One of the largest memorials commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this park contains numerous plaques and photos honoring Dr. King's life, family, speeches and the civil rights movement.

### Hurricane of 1928 Mass Burial Site Historical Marker



Southwest corner of 25th Street and Tamarind Avenue

On September 16, 1928, a hurricane came ashore near the Jupiter Lighthouse and traveled west across Palm Beach County to Lake Okeechobee. Many of the 1,800 to 3,000 fatalities occurred when the Lake Okeechobee dike collapsed, flooding the populated south side of the lake. Approximately 1,600 victims were placed in a mass grave in Port Mayaca in Martin County. In West Palm Beach, 69 white victims were placed in a mass grave in Woodlawn Cemetery and 674 primarily black agricultural workers were interred in the city's pauper's burial field at Tamarind Avenue and 25th Street. Many others were never found. On October 1, 1928, a city-proclaimed hour of mourning for the victims was observed. Memorial rites were conducted simultaneously at both of the burial sites. At the pauper's cemetery, black educator and activist Mary McLeod Bethune read the mayor's proclamation to the 3,000 people attending the ceremonies.

### Industrial High School

800 11th Street

When Industrial High opened in 1914, it was the first African American high school in Palm Beach County and housed grades one through twelve. The last class graduated in 1950 when a new school, Roosevelt Junior-Senior High School, was opened. The old Industrial High School building, re-named Palmview Elementary, teaches grades one through seven. Other campus buildings of Old Industrial High School have been demolished, with the exception of the chapel.

### Jenkins House

815 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard

Built in 1946, the Jenkins House was home to African American pharmacist, Dr. Joseph Wiley Jenkins, his wife, Roberta and daughter Ramona. In 1966, the Jenkins House was sold to the City of West Palm Beach and designated a historic site. It now houses an art center. (561) 832-1323, [www.artistshowcase.org](http://www.artistshowcase.org).

### The Mickens House



801 4th (Private)

The Mickens House was built in 1917. Alice Frederick Mickens rose to prominence as a promoter of higher education for blacks. She was chosen "Outstanding Woman of the Century" at the American Negro Emancipation Convention in 1963, and entertained such notables as Dr. Ralph Bunche, Mary McLeod Bethune and A. Phillip Randolph at her home.

Spady Museum

Florida Dept. of State

Expanding & Preserving Our Cultural Heritage, Inc.

# SPADY CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM

170 NW 5th Avenue  
Delray Beach, FL 33444  
Tel: 561.279.8883 • Fax: 561.279.2230  
[www.spadmuseum.com](http://www.spadmuseum.com)



The S.D. Spady Cultural Heritage Museum is dedicated to discovering, collecting and sharing the African-American history and heritage of Florida. Located in the former home of the late Solomon D. Spady, the most prominent African American educator and community leader in Delray Beach from 1922 to 1957, the museum opened in July 2001. It is the only African American Cultural Heritage museum of its kind in Palm Beach County.

**Exhibits open Monday thru Saturday**



## Northwest Neighborhood Historic District



Bounded by NW 2nd and 11th Streets, North Rosemary and Douglas Avenues

Local black builders and contractors such as Simeon Mother, R.A. Smith, J.S. Woodside, Alfred Williams and Samuel O. Major constructed most of the buildings in this district. Local architects such as West Palm Beach's first black architect, Hazel Augustus, and the firm of Harvey and Clarke designed a few of the buildings, notably churches. The first blacks arrived here between 1885 and 1890, when residents of the Palm Beach area known as "The Styx" were forced to relocate to the northwest section of the city. This district is the only remaining portion of the original black settlement. [www.cityofwpb.com/neighborhoods/historic.htm](http://www.cityofwpb.com/neighborhoods/historic.htm).

## Old Pleasant City Elementary School

501 21st Street

One of two black schools in West Palm Beach, Pleasant City Elementary School began on the first floor of the Mount Parnassis Odd Fellows Hall. Constructed in 1914, this was the only building in the Pleasant City area designed



Old Pleasant City Elementary School

by Hazel Augustus, the first black architect in Palm Beach County. The school board purchased and renovated the building in 1926. In the early 1960s, the city acquired it for a recreational center. Renamed the Pleasant City Community Multicultural Center, the school today serves as a performance venue. (561) 835-7105.

## Pine Ridge Hospital



1401 Division Avenue (Private)

Harvey and Clarke, an architectural firm responsible for \$7 million worth of new construction in South Florida between 1921 and 1925, designed Pine Ridge Hospital in 1923. It was the only area hospital admitting blacks during segregation. In the 1920s and 1930s, the hospital superintendent, Petra Pinn, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, and all the nurses, were medically certified, but the hospital was ill-equipped. Pine Ridge Hospital was open until 1956, when patients were moved to the new black-only north wing of St. Mary's Hospital. The building was completely renovated in 2000.

## St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church

3345 North Haverhill Road

Organized by the Rev. Charles Long, Sr., in 1900, St. Paul is the oldest church in Pleasant City. As membership grew, the congregation built a small church and named it Gethsemane. When African American families were forced to move from Palm Beach, many settled in Pleasant City, where they built the current church and named it St. Paul. (561) 242-0001.

## Tabernacle Baptist Church

801 8th Street

This church was founded in 1893 as Mount Olive Baptist Church. In 1894, the first public black school in West Palm Beach was organized and held classes in the church through 1896. Built in 1925, this Neo-Romanesque Revival style structure is the sole example of this style in the Northwest Historic District. (561) 832-8338.

Palm Beach County Cultural Council

## Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities

- \* **Bethune-Cookman University**, Daytona Beach, founded 1904. [www.cookman.edu](http://www.cookman.edu)
- \* **Edward Waters College**, Jacksonville, founded 1866. [www.ewc.edu](http://www.ewc.edu)
- \* **Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU)**, Tallahassee, founded 1887. [www.famu.edu](http://www.famu.edu)
- \* **Florida Memorial University**, Miami, founded 1879. [www.fmuniv.edu](http://www.fmuniv.edu)



# The Zora Neale Hurston

## Festival of the Arts and Humanities

One of Florida's Premier Arts and Cultural Events

**The Zora! Festival** takes place the last week of January each year in Orlando, this multi-day, multi-disciplinary event celebrates the life and work of 20th century writer, folklorist and anthropologist, Zora Neale Hurston; her hometown, Eatonville, the nation's oldest incorporated African American municipality and the contributions people of African ancestry have made to Florida, the United States and world culture.

Attracting approximately 50,000 people, ZORA! Festival presents an impressive roster of arts, humanities and cultural programming. The event is a nine-day affair, featuring museum exhibitions, public talks, panel discussions, workshops and concerts. It culminates with a three-day weekend Street Festival of the Arts, which features the ZORA! Literacy Initiative, a Children's Corner, Words and Voices seminar, Center Stage, a Juried Art Lane, and an International Marketplace.

The Festival has featured luminaries such as actors, the late Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Cicely Tyson, Danny Glover and Richard Roundtree; vocalists Al Jarreau and Jeffrey Osborne; writer, Alice Walker; poets Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka and Ntozake Shange; distinguished scholars Dr. John Hope Franklin and Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

ZORA! Festival is named "One of 25 Cultural Success Stories in the United States" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and "One of the Top 100 Events in North America in 2004" by the American Bus Association.

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960), likely the most significant collector and interpreter of Southern African-American culture, writer, folklorist and anthropologist, has since the 1970's enjoyed a revival of interest, due in large part to disciples such as the Pulitzer Prize-winning Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple*; Robert Hemenway, author of *Zora Neale Hurston, A Literary Biography*, and Valerie Boyd, author of *Wrapped in Rainbows*. Awareness of her work was further enhanced by Oprah Winfrey, who produced a television version of her book, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, starring Halle Berry. A woman of great intensity and charisma, Hurston has secured her place among those who have painted 20th century America's cultural landscape.

Both the Festival and the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of the Fine Arts ("The Hurston") are organized and managed by the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. (P.E.C.). The the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of the Fine Arts is located on the town's main street, at 227 East Kennedy Boulevard. For more information on the Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities and the The Hurston, visit [www.zorafestival.com](http://www.zorafestival.com) or call 407-647-3307.



*"I think that you will discover that my viewpoint is that I do not consider Negroes as special oddities among humanity. I see us as people, subject to the same desires and emotions as others...That is the way I see Negroes, and that is the way I write about them."*

-Zora Neale Hurston



These events are only a sampling of events statewide. Please check local listings and visitor information for more event information.

## JANUARY

### City of Daytona Beach Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration

Daytona Beach  
(386) 671-3421

Activities include a parade and festival featuring food, arts and craft vendors, and live entertainment at Cypress Park.

### Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts & Humanities

Eatonville  
(407) 599-9930

[www.zorafestival.com](http://www.zorafestival.com)

Festival highlights the life and works of one of Zora Neale Hurston through theatrical performances, educational programs and a juried art show.



Zora Neale Hurston Library, Ft. Pierce

### African American Cultural Arts Festival

Palatka  
(386) 325-9901

Downtown Palatka art exhibits in observation of Martin Luther King Day.



MLK Cultural Arts Festival, Plant City

### Plant City MLK Cultural Arts Festival

Plant City  
(813) 757-6760

[www.improvementleague.org](http://www.improvementleague.org)

Activities include a parade, statewide step team competition, midway, free concerts, lectures, as well as art and cultural exhibits.

### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration

St. Petersburg  
(727) 893-7465

[www.stpete.org/events/index.htm](http://www.stpete.org/events/index.htm)

The Drum Major for Justice Festival of Bands and National Parade leads festivities that feature a student essay contest, ecumenical faith service and candlelight vigil.

### Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival

Tampa  
(813) 251-6780

[www.tampablackheritage.org](http://www.tampablackheritage.org)

A cultural festival where speakers, musicians, artists, poets and craftspeople entertain. Includes cultural enrichment activities and a street festival.

### Tampa MLK Parade

Tampa  
(813) 363-5383

Held on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, participants include public officials, community organizations, bands and floats.

## FEBRUARY

### L. B. Brown Heritage Festival

Bartow

(863) 534-0100

[www.lbbrown.com/events.htm](http://www.lbbrown.com/events.htm)

This free family event includes jazz, gospel, and contemporary music, dances, story-tellers, vendors, exhibitors and much more.

### Clay Mary Black History Festival

Blountstown

(850) 674-8683

Activities include a gospel-fest, parade, auto show, live music, children's games and an array of soul food with a contest for best recipe.



L.B. Brown House, Bartow

### Sistrunk Historical Festival

Fort Lauderdale

(954) 419-1877

[www.sistrunkfestival.org](http://www.sistrunkfestival.org)

Celebrating the contributions of people of Black American and Caribbean descent, the festival includes a parade, dynamic entertainment, fine and performing arts, crafts and cultural foods for all ages. The oldest African American Festival in the Broward County area.

### Olustee Battle Battle Reenactment and Festival

Lake City

(386) 758-1397

[www.olusteefestival.com](http://www.olusteefestival.com)

The nation's second largest annual Civil War festival and reenactment. Includes arts, crafts, entertainment, food booths, as well as living history presentations.



Battle of Olustee, Lake City

### Florida African American Celebration

Largo

(727) 538-6342

[www.pinellascounty.org/unity.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/unity.htm)

This celebration of the African American culture through art, music, dance, storytelling, historical presentations and ethnic food is held at Pinewood Cultural Park.

### Black Heritage Festival

New Smyrna Beach

(386) 428-6225

This festival celebrates African American history and culture with an array of food, arts and crafts.

### Freemanville Day

Port Orange

(386) 756-5201

The second Tuesday in February marks the celebration of the founding of Freemanville. The descendants of this historic community join in the festivities which features oral history and music.

## **Gadsden County Black History Parade & Festival**

Quincy  
(850) 875-1446

Parade through downtown and festival on the Quincy Courthouse Square on the last Saturday in February.

## **Flight to Freedom**

St. Augustine  
(904) 461-2033

[www.fortmose.org/flight-to-freedom/](http://www.fortmose.org/flight-to-freedom/)  
Demonstrations of the experience of 18th and 19th century slaves fleeing to Fort Mose, America's first community of freedmen.



Fort Mose' Reenactors, St. Augustine

## **City of Tampa Annual Black History Celebration**

Tampa  
(813) 274-8975

This free event celebrates the heritage of Tampa's diverse communities through great entertainment and engaging speakers and promotes the continuing education of African American history to people of all ethnic backgrounds.

## **Hillsborough County Black Heritage Celebration**

Tampa and throughout Hillsborough County

(813) 276-2637

Each year a different Black heritage theme is selected to educate and entertain attendees on contributions made to the world by African Americans.



## **MARCH**

### **Moore Heritage Festival of the Arts & Humanities**

Titusville and Mims

(321) 385-1264

[www.harryharrietteemoore.org/festival.asp](http://www.harryharrietteemoore.org/festival.asp)

This 4-day celebration includes educational programs, a street festival, entertainment, craft and food vendors, a car show and tours of the Moore Memorial Park and Museum.

## **APRIL**

### **Dunbar Easter Parade**

Fort Myers

(239) 489-9338

First held in 1949, the annual Dunbar Easter Parade celebrates the youth and spirit of Fort Myers' African American history and community.



"Strong Women" by Eluster Richardson

## **Zora Fest** Fort Pierce (772) 462-2548,

[co.st-lucie.fl.us/zorafest/index.htm](http://co.st-lucie.fl.us/zorafest/index.htm)

Zora Fest celebrates the life of Zora Neale Hurston through literary events, dances, music and plays

## **Fifth Avenue Arts Festival** Gainesville

(352) 372-0216, [www.culturalartscoalition.org](http://www.culturalartscoalition.org)

A celebration of African American culture using the performing, visual and literary arts with lots of great food.

## MAY

### **Emancipation Day Celebration** Punta Gorda (941) 575-7518

Blanchard House Museum of African American History & Culture is host to soulful performances of local choirs in celebration of freedom. Enjoy music, food and fun.

### **Emancipation Day Celebration** Tallahassee (850) 245-6400

The Knott House Museum hosts the annual commemoration of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation on the front steps of the historic site. Program includes the ceremony, music, and a picnic in Lewis Park across the street.



Knott House, Tallahassee

### **Historic Central Avenue Festival** Tampa (813) 274-5833

The annual celebration of this historic black neighborhood includes a festival in the park and a spelling bee.

### **Florida Folk Festival** White Springs [www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest/default.htm](http://www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest/default.htm)

A 3-day celebration of the music, dance, stories, crafts and food reflecting the state's cultural heritage with more than 300 performances daily.

## JUNE

### **City of Daytona Beach Juneteenth Festival** Daytona Beach (386) 671-3421

This event celebrating African American freedom includes live entertainment, ethnic food, and arts, crafts and clothing vendors.





Florida Folk Festival, White Springs

## SEPTEMBER

### Labor Day Folklife Festival Marianna (850) 482-7497

Demonstrations of lye soap making, quilting, crackling cooking, black pot cooking, broom making and horseback riding.

## OCTOBER

### Goombay Festival Key West (305) 797-7225

[www.goombay-keywest.org](http://www.goombay-keywest.org)

The lively Goombay is known for its island-style food, handmade African arts and crafts, nonstop live entertainment and dancing in the street.

## NOVEMBER

### Walt Disney World Florida Classic Orlando (407) 423-2476

[www.floridaclassic.org](http://www.floridaclassic.org)

Bethune-Cookman College and Florida A&M University renew their classic gridiron rivalry on the field, and a thundering halftime performance from the school marching bands adds to this festive event.

### Glover School Banquet Plant City (Bealsville community) (813) 737-2004 [www.GloverSchool.org](http://www.GloverSchool.org)

A banquet is held each year on the first Saturday of June to recognize Historic Glover School, which provided education during the period of slavery and desegregation.

### Juneteenth Freedom Day Family Fest St. Petersburg (727) 893-7465

Live entertainment, dancing, historical presentations, vendors, medical screening, and social service exhibitors.

### Tampa Bay Caribbean Carnival St. Petersburg (727) 893-7465 [www.tampacarnival.com](http://www.tampacarnival.com)

Island crafts, food, children's area and colorful costume street parade. Music includes Soca, calypso, reggae, Latin and folk.



African Caribbean Dance Theater



Florida Dept. of State

Renaissance Park Festival, Marianna

## **Lincolnvillle Festival St. Augustine (904) 827-6893**

A celebration of St. Augustine's rich cultural heritage through arts, crafts, civil rights trail tours, and music in one of St. Augustine's oldest neighborhoods.

## **DECEMBER**

### **Renaissance Park Fall Harvest Festival Marianna (850) 482-7497**

Demonstrations of pork processing, sugar cane grinding and syrup making, and black pot cooking.

### **Langston Hughes' Black Nativity: A Gospel Song Play St. Petersburg (727) 822-3590**

The poetry of Langston Hughes combines with gospel music of today, performed by a multi-cultural cast of 50 local singers, dancers, actors and musicians.

**For more information on African American sites and events throughout Florida contact:**

Florida Black Chamber of Commerce  
945 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 12-B  
Pensacola, FL 32505  
(850) 465-9872  
[www.FloridaBCC.com](http://www.FloridaBCC.com)

**To order your free Florida Reunions & Gatherings Guide call (888) 735-2872 or visit: [Reunions.VISITFLORIDA.com](http://Reunions.VISITFLORIDA.com)**



# The Trail Starts Here

Fort Mose- the first legally sanctioned settlement of free people of African descent in North America



*Flight To Freedom Historic Reenactment*

[www.floridablackheritage.com](http://www.floridablackheritage.com)

*Throughout the year in St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches, the stories of Florida's black heritage resonate in museums, historic reenactments, visual and performing arts, celebrations and on historic markers. In 2007, we celebrate the first recorded birth of a black child in Florida – it happened four centuries ago in the then-Spanish city of St. Augustine. Founded in 1565, St. Augustine has throughout its long history served as a pivotal setting for defining America's black heritage.*

*Already an oasis for free blacks, in 1693 the King of Spain declared Florida to be a sanctuary for runaway slaves from the British colonies. In 1738, St. Augustine became the dream destination for those fleeing human bondage when Fort Mose was established just two miles from the city's center as a legal community where former slaves could live and prosper as free men and women. The dramatic and inspirational story of Fort Mose will be told in a new, interactive museum opening in October 2007.*

*Struggle and triumph are the common themes for the many inspiring stories of St. Augustine's black heritage. For example, the Lincolnville Historic District was dubbed "Little Africa" when newly-freed slaves settled there in 1866 – it soon became a thriving community that today has the city's largest concentration of Victorian-era architecture; in the 1880's, local nuns defied the law and taught African-American children to read; arrested here, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. helped insure that the fight for equality in St. Augustine would insure passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.*



ST. AUGUSTINE  
PONTE VEDRA  
& THE BEACHES, FLORIDA

Begin your exploration of Florida's Black Heritage Trail with a getaway to St. Augustine Ponte Vedra & The Beaches. Call 1.800.653.2489 for a free planning guide or visit the website above.

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**Florida Department of State**  
**Kurt S. Browning**  
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