

BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS

ALABAMA

- Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, 1878**
454 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery
The church from which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., pastor from 1954 to 1969, organized the black boycott of segregated city buses in 1955.
- Tuskegee Institute, 1881**
Tuskegee, Macon County
A fitting memorial to the great black educator, Booker T. Washington. Tuskegee Institute is perhaps the best known black university in the United States.
- Swayne Hall, Talladega College, 1857**
Talladega County
The oldest campus building, constructed by slave labor before the liberal arts college was established.

CONNECTICUT

- First Church of Christ, 1771**
Farmington, Hartford County
This building served as the center of worship and community life of the *Amistad* captives, a group of slaves who revolted en route to the United States and, after a trial here, was eventually freed. Their case established the legal precedent that under specific circumstances, Africans had the rights of kidnapped free men.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Blanche K. Bruce House, 1865**
909 M Street, N.W.
Home of the first black American to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate (1875 - 1881), representing the state of Mississippi.
- Mary Ann Shadd Cary House, 1821**
1421 W Street, N.W.
The first black newspaperwoman in America. Shadd was also an educator, lawyer, abolitionist and, during the Civil War, recruiting officer for the Union Army. She lived here between 1881 and 1886.
- Charlotte Forten Grimké House, c. 1880**
1698 R Street, N.W.
Born of wealthy, free black parents, Grimké, a writer, poet, educator, and activist was among the first group of northerners involved in educating slaves in the occupied Union territories of the South.
- General Oliver Otis Howard House, 607**
Howard Place, N.E.
Howard University
Residence of the Union General and the only one of the four original Howard University buildings still standing.
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 15th**
and Church Streets, N.W.
Church founded in 1876 by Alexander Crummel, a black scholar and spokesman for black liberation. St. Luke's is a testimony to Crummel's belief that the church should play a role in education and social change.
- Mary Church Terrell House, 1907**
326 T Street, N.W.
Residence of the civil rights leader and first president of the National Association of Colored Women.
- Cartier G. Woodson House, 20th**
century
1538 Ninth Street, N.W.
Founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and the *Journal of Negro History*, Woodson helped to educate the nation about the contributions that Afro-Americans made in its development and progress. Woodson lived here from 1915 until his death in 1950.

FLORIDA

- Nancy McLeod Bethune Home, c. 1920**
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach
Home of the black activist and educator on the campus of Bethune-Cookman College, founded by Bethune in 1904.
- British Fort, 1814**
Six miles southwest of Sumatra, Franklin County
Site at which runaway slaves lived alongside Seminole Indians. Its destruction in 1816 precipitated the first Seminole War.

GEORGIA

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District, Atlanta**
The district includes his birthplace, gravesite, and the church where King served as assistant pastor.
- Stone Hall, Atlanta University, 1882**
Atlanta
This hall is most closely associated with the history of the university, founded in 1866 by the American Missionary Association to offer black Americans a quality academic education.
- Sweet Auburn Historic District, Auburn Avenue**
Atlanta
Auburn Avenue was once called "the richest Negro street in the world." The district typified the rapid growth of black enterprise in the wake of post-Civil War segregation.

ILLINOIS

- Robert S. Abbott House, 4742**
Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago
Home (from 1926 to 1940) of the founder and editor of the *Chicago Defender*, a newspaper which encouraged southern blacks to migrate northward, especially during the first half of the 20th century.
- Oscar Stanton De Priest House, 1920s**
4536-4538 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Chicago
Residence of the first black American elected to the House of Representatives from a northern state (1935).
- Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable Homesite, Pioneer Court**
401 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago
This site, home of the black fur trapper and his family, is recognized as the first settlement of Chicago.
- Ida B. Wells-Barnett House, c. 1889 - 1890**
3624 South Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago
Home of the 1890s civil rights advocate, crusader of the rights of black women and founder of the *Memphis Free Speech* newspaper.
- Daniel Hale Williams House, 1905**
445 East 42nd Street
Chicago
Home of one of America's first black surgeons, responsible for establishing quality medical facilities for blacks at the end of the 19th century.

IOWA

- Fort Des Moines Provisional Army Officer Training School, 1917**
Des Moines
The first black officers' training camp, used in 1917. Black units led by men trained here served in the Ninety-Second Division in France.

KANSAS

- Nicodemus Historic District, 1877**
Nicodemus, Graham County
The only remaining town of the black "Exoduster" movement. This brought blacks out of the south to the midwest in the hope of finding a better life.

KENTUCKY

- Lincoln Hall, Berea College, 1887**
Berea, Madison County
Founded in 1855, Berea was the first college established in the United States for the specific purpose of educating blacks and whites together.

LOUISIANA

- The African House, Yucca Plantation, 18th**
and 19th centuries
La. 119, 0.1 mile east of intersection with La. 493
Melrose, Natchitoches Parish
Established by a former slave who became a successful business-woman, the plantation includes probably the oldest buildings of African design built by blacks for blacks in the U.S.

MISSISSIPPI

- James H. Dilard Home, 19th**
century
571 Audubon Street
New Orleans
Home of the black educator who helped strengthen vocational and teacher-training programs in the 19th century.
- Port Hudson, 1860s**
Port Hudson
East Feliciana Parish
A Confederate stronghold and the scene of a Civil War assault by two Union regiments composed of free blacks and ex-slaves from Louisiana.

MASSACHUSETTS

- African Meeting House, 1805**
8 Smith Court
Boston
This brick meeting house and community center was used as the first black church in Boston and is the oldest existing black church in the U.S.
- Maria Baldwin House, 196**
Prospect Street
Cambridge
Home (from 1892 to 1922) of one of the most distinguished educators and a leader in community organizations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Paul Cuffe Farm, c. 1797**
1504 Drift Road
Westport, Bristol County
A pioneer in the struggle for minority rights in the 18th and early 19th centuries, Cuffe was active in the movement for black settlement in Africa.
- William E. B. DuBois Boyhood Homesite, 1868**
Route 23, Great Barrington
Berkshire County
Site of the boyhood home of the prominent black sociologist and writer who was a major figure in the civil rights movement during the first half of the 20th century.
- William C. Nell Residence, 3**
Smith Court
Boston
Home (from 1851 to 1856) of the abolitionist and leader in the fight against Boston school segregation. Nell was also the publisher of the first history of black Americans written by a black historian and the first black to hold a federal position (postal clerk, 1860).
- William Monroe Trotter House, c. 1890**
97 Sawyer Avenue
Dorchester
Home of the founder of the radical black newspaper, *The Guardian*, and a leading civil rights activist during the first decades of the 20th century.

MISSOURI

- Isaiah Thornton Montgomery House, 1910**
West Main Street
Mound Bayou, Bolivar County
Home of the founder, in 1887, and first mayor of Mound Bayou, a southern town in which black Americans could obtain social, political, and economic rights in an age of white supremacy in the South.
- Oakland Memorial Chapel, 1838**
Alcorn University
Alcorn, Claiborne County
This chapel dominates Alcorn University, the first black land grant college in the United States.
- Scott Joplin Residence, 1890s**
2685-A Morgan
St. Louis
The last surviving residence of Scott Joplin, the king of ragtime and one of the most creative black musicians of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

NEW JERSEY

- T. Thomas Fortune House, 94**
West Bergen Place
Red Bank, Monmouth County
Home (from 1901 to 1915) of the owner and editor of three New York newspapers, the *New York Globe*, the *New York Freeman*, and *New York Age*, who led a relentless fight in the press against corrupt politicians and those who denied blacks their full rights of citizenship.

NEW YORK

- Louis Armstrong House, c. 1900**
3456 107th Street
Corona, Long Island
For years the home of the famous jazz musician whose talents entertained millions throughout the world.
- Ralph Bunch House, 115-125**
Grosvenor Road
New Gardens, Queens County
Home of the undersecretary of the United Nations and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his 1949 contribution to peace in the Middle East.
- Will Marion Cook House, 1891**
221 West 138th Street
New York
Home of the early 20th century black composer whose music was a forerunner of the jazz of the Big Band era. Duke Ellington called him "the master of all masters of our people."
- Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington Residence, 935**
St. Nicholas Avenue, Apt. 4A
New York
Residence of "Duke" Ellington, considered by many to be the most creative black composer of the 20th century.
- Lamuel Haynes House, 1793**
Route 149
South Granville, Washington County
Home of the first black ordained minister in the United States and the first black minister of a white congregation.
- Matthew Hanson Residence, 1928**
Dunbar Apartments
246 West 150th Street
New York
Home of the black explorer who was assistant to Robert E. Peary and in 1909 became the first man to reach the North Pole.
- James Weldon Johnson Residence, c. 1900**
187 West 135th Street
New York
From 1925 to 1938, the home of the song writer, poet, author, first black general secretary of NAACP, and civil rights activist.
- Villa Lawaro, 1918**
North Broadway
Greenburgh, Westchester County
Designed by the noted architect Vertner Woodson Tandy for Madame C. J. Walker, a cosmetics manufacturer and the country's first black millionaire, the villa illustrates the achievements of blacks in both architecture and business.
- Claude McKay Residence, 1931**
180 West 135th Street
New York
From 1941 to 1946, the residence of the black poet and writer often called the father of the "Harlem Renaissance."
- Florence Mills House, 1886**
220 West 135th Street
New York
Home of the internationally popular singer who became a symbol of success for black Americans in the 1920s.
- New York Amsterdam News Building, 2293**
Seventh Avenue
New York
Home of one of America's best known black newspapers, the pages of which have historically reflected the interests and concerns of black Americans.
- Paul Robeson Residence, 1916**
555 Edgecomb Avenue
New York
Residence of the talented black actor and singer who suffered public condemnation in the 1940s and 1950s for his political sympathies.
- John Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson Residence, c. 1915**
5224 Tilden Street
Brooklyn
Home of the baseball player who in 1947 became the first black to play in the major leagues, thus opening the doors to full black participation in professional sports.
- St. George's Episcopal Church, 1856**
Third Avenue and East First Street
New York
Home church of Harry Thacker Burleigh, the black musician who helped establish the Negro spiritual as an integral part of American culture.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, 180-182**
South Street
Auburn, Cayuga County
Established in 1908 for aged and indigent blacks by the most famous "conductor" of the Underground Railroad; Tubman led more than 300 slaves to freedom.
- North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, 114-116**
West Parish Street
Durham
Home of the black-managed company, founded in 1898, that achieved financial success in an age of Jim Crow.
- Union Tavern, c. 1800**
Milton, Caswell County
The workshop-studio (from 1848 to 1858) of Thomas Day, a free black who became a well known cabinetmaker, employing both slaves and white apprentices as assistants.

OHIO

- Paul Lawrence Dunbar House, 1890**
299 N. Summit Street
Dayton
Dunbar, one of the first Afro-Americans to gain distinction as a poet and writer, lived here from 1903 to 1906.
- John Mercer Langston House, 1855**
207 East College Street
Oberlin, Lorain County
Langston, who was the first black American elected to public office (1855) and first dean of Howard Law School, was appointed resident minister of Haiti and chargé d'affaires to Santa Domingo by President Theodore Roosevelt. He lived here from 1856 to 1867.
- Colonel Charles Young House, Columbus**
Pike between Clifton and Stevenson Roads
Wilberforce, Greene County
Residence (from 1894 to 1898) of the highest ranking black officer in World War I and the first black military attaché.

OKLAHOMA

- Boley Historic District, 1903**
Boley, Okfuskee County
Largest of the Negro towns established in Oklahoma to provide black Americans with the opportunity for self-government in an age of white supremacy and segregation.
- Ranch Historic District, 1879**
Mariand, Kay County
Home of the "101 Wild West Show" which featured Bill Pickett, inventor of steer-wrestling and member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

PENNSYLVANIA

- Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1889**
419 6th Street
Philadelphia
Founded by a former slave in 1793, this became the mother church of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in America.
- Henry O. Tanner Homesite, 2903**
West Diamond Street
Philadelphia
Boyhood home of the late 19th and early 20th century black expatriate painter whose work earned recognition in Europe and, later, in the United States.
- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper House, 1006**
Bainbridge Street
Philadelphia
Home of the black writer active in 19th century woman's suffrage, temperance, black rights, and abolitionist movements.

RHODE ISLAND

- Site of the Battle of Rhode Island, 1778**
Providence
The only Revolutionary War battle in which an all black unit, the First Rhode Island Regiment, participated.

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Chapelle Administration Building, 1925**
1530 Hazlewood Street
Columbia
One of the finest buildings of John Anderson Lankford, "the dean of black architects," who helped other black architects gain recognition.
- Penn School Historic District, 19th**
century
Frogmore, Beaufort County
Northern missionaries organized one of the first southern schools for blacks here that pioneered in health services and self-help programs.
- Robert Smalls House, 1843**
511 Prince Street
Beaufort
Smalls, the only black captain in the Union army who later fought for black rights while a member of Congress, lived here — as a slave and later as a free man — from 1863 to 1915.
- Stono River Slave Rebellion Site, 1739**
Rantowles vicinity
Charleston County
Site of a slave rebellion during which about 100 escaped slaves burned plantations and murdered whites before being stopped by militia.
- Vesey Denmark House, c. 1820**
56 Bull Street
Charleston
Residence of a free black Charleston carpenter whose 1822 plans for a slave rebellion were a sign of black resistance to slavery.

TENNESSEE

- Fort Pillow, 1861-1864**
Tennessee 87
Fort Pillow, Lauderdale County
This Confederate fort was captured by Union troops in 1862 and recaptured by Confederates in 1864. Heavy losses by black soldiers in that battle made the fort a symbolic "Alamo" for them.
- Jubilee Hall, Fisk University, 1873 - 1876**
17th Avenue North
Nashville
A Victorian Gothic structure, the oldest building on campus. The school was founded by the American Missionary Association to offer a liberal arts education to blacks after the Civil War.

VIRGINIA

- Benjamin Banneker: SW-9 Intermediate**
Boundary Stone, 1792
18th and Van Buren Streets
Arlington
This stone commemorates the accomplishments of perhaps the most famous black man in Colonial America who helped to survey the city of Washington, D.C.
- Charles Richard Drew House, date unknown**
2505 First Street South
Arlington
From 1920 to 1939 the home of the black physician and teacher best remembered for his pioneer work in discovering the means to preserve blood plasma.
- Hampton Institute, 19th**
century
0.8 mile Northwest of intersection of Route 60 and Hampton Roads
Bridge Tunnel
Hampton City
Now a liberal arts college, the Institute was founded by the American Missionary Society to offer vocational education to former slaves. Booker T. Washington was a graduate.
- Virginia Randolph Cottage, 1937**
2200 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, Henrico County
Home of the first supervisor of the Anna Jeanes Fund, an organization established to finance rural black schools in the South. Randolph developed a pattern of teacher supervision that was adopted internationally.

WEST VIRGINIA

- Jackson Ward Historic District, 18th**
and 19th centuries
Between 4th, Marshall, and Smith Streets and the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike
Richmond
A foremost Afro-American community of the 19th and early 20th centuries with a center for ethnic social organizations and protective banking institutions.
- Maggie Lena Walker House, c. 1909**
110A, East Leigh Street
Richmond
Home of the 1903 founder of the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank, the first woman to establish and head a bank.

Eighty-eight sites that commemorate the achievements of black Americans have been designated as National Historic Landmarks by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This guide, developed to accompany the exhibition, BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS, introduces these sites. Seventy-six locations are pinpointed on the map and listed by state. Refer to the guide when planning a trip and use it to supplement your knowledge of black American history. Most of the structures are still standing; addresses are provided in the state listings on the back.

Several sites are, however, no longer in existence and are simply marked by a stone or sign post; others are in danger of being torn down. Still other buildings or areas associated with important black Americans, especially in the western states, have not as yet been officially documented. It is urgent to identify these locations and act to protect them before they are destroyed. By preserving our historical landmarks, we can learn from, take pride in, and be motivated by the achievements of our forebears.

For more information on Black American history, and on historic landmarks in your area, contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Washington, D.C.), your state or local historical societies, museums, libraries, colleges and Chambers of Commerce. *The Directory of Afro-American Resources*, edited by Walter Shatz and published in 1976 by R.R. Bowker, N.Y., lists the research and learning centers of black American history.

Initiated by the Afro-American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS was developed by the National Architectural and Engineering Record, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The exhibition was organized and is circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). SITES is a program activity of the Smithsonian Institution that organizes and circulates exhibitions on art, history, and science to institutions in the United States and abroad.