

# African American Historic Places in South Carolina

The following properties in South Carolina were listed in the National Register of Historic Places or recognized by the South Carolina Historical Marker program from July 2019 - June 2020 and have important associations with African American history

State Historic Preservation Office  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

**HM** = Historical Marker

**NR** = National Register of Historic Places

---

## CHARLESTON COUNTY

### **MOSQUITO BEACH HISTORIC DISTRICT NR** **MOSQUITO BEACH ROAD, CHARLESTON VICINITY**

Mosquito Beach Historic District is located on an approximately .13-mile strip of high ground in the immediate vicinity of the local municipalities of Charleston, James Island, and Folly Beach, South Carolina. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a significant and well-preserved cultural, commercial, and recreational epicenter for the coastal black community in the Charleston area during Jim Crow segregation.

Outstanding features of the district include its retained viewshed and rural landscape, as well as the survival of midcentury structures representative of the area's recreational peak during the Jim Crow era. The buildings, although simple and vernacular in nature, retain original finishes and detail, and their arrangement within the preserved landscape of Mosquito Beach, as well as the surviving remnants of the boardwalk, still reflect the original intent for the strip: a place of socializing and congregation. Of the five Charleston County beaches that served African Americans during segregation,



Mosquito Beach possesses the most integrity and survives as the best representative example of its kind. *Listed in the National Register September 23, 2019.* <http://schpr.sc.gov/index.php/Detail/properties/62145>

## **MOSQUITO BEACH HM**

***INTERSECTION OF SOL LEGARE RD. & FOLLY RD., CHARLESTON VICINITY***

(Front) Located 1.5 mi. SW of here, Mosquito Beach is a .13-mile strip of land that served African Americans during the Jim Crow era, when nearby Folly Beach was segregated. The beach began as a gathering spot for workers at a nearby oyster factory in the 1920s and 1930s. A store selling seafood and drinks first opened in the 1930s. Other businesses followed in the 1940s and 1950s. (Reverse) Mosquito Beach lies along a tidal marsh historically known for the large mosquito population that gave the beach its name. By the 1960s, the beach provided African American leisure-seekers with music venues, pavilions, restaurants, and a hotel. Mosquito Beach's businesses as well as the land were owned by African Americans. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2019. *Sponsored by Historic Charleston Foundation and Mosquito Beach Business Association, 2019*

## **DIANNA BROWN ANTIQUE SHOP NR**

***62 QUEEN STREET, CHARLESTON***



The Dianna Brown Antique Shop is significant at the local level in the areas of African American and Women's history for its association with successful antiques dealer Dianna McCall Brown (1860-1949). Arriving in Charleston in the late-1870s, Brown was a member of a locally prominent African American family who became one of the city's best-known early 20th century antique dealers and the first woman of color

to enter the city's antiques trade. Working from 1913 until her death in 1949, Brown operated her shop on the first floor of the family's two-story residence at 62 Queen Street, the oldest portions of which likely date to the 1870s. Navigating the limitations placed on women of color in the early 20th century,



Brown developed an extensive business network believed to have stretched across the United States, distinguishing herself among black and white Charlestonians alike as a successful entrepreneur. A modern addition at the rear of the property is connected by a hyphen. Previously listed as a contributor to the Charleston Historic District. *Listed individually in the National Register March 12, 2020.*

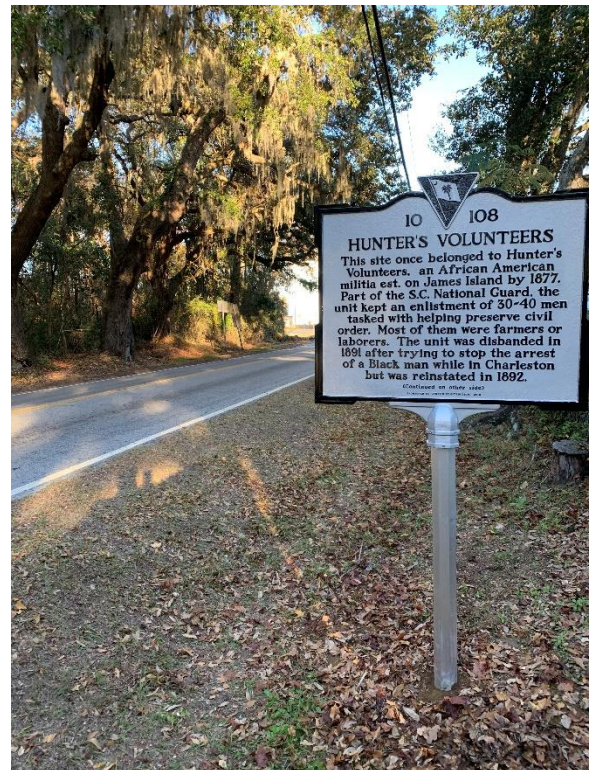
<http://schpr.sc.gov/index.php/Detail/properties/71001>

## **HUNTER'S VOLUNTEERS HM**

**SW CORNER OF GRIMBALL RD. AND RIVERLAND DR., CHARLESTON VICINITY**

(Front) This site once belonged to Hunter's Volunteers, an African American militia est. on James Island by 1877. Part of the S.C. National Guard, the unit kept an enlistment of 30-40 men tasked with helping preserve civil order. Most of them were farmers or laborers. The unit was disbanded in 1891 after trying to stop the arrest of a Black man in Charleston but was reinstated in 1892. (Reverse) In 1899, Hunter's Volunteers bought this site from Sarah Grimball and Henry Grimball. Over time, the unit became more of a mutual aid society and social club than a military outfit. In 1897, a year after being disarmed by the state, members chartered the Hunter Volunteer Charitable Society. A two-story wooden building razed in the 1960s served as their lodge and may have originally been an armory.

*Sponsored by Canter Construction, 2019*



*Photo provided by Jonah Carter.*

## **LINCOLN THEATRE/LITTLE JERUSALEM HM**

**601 KING ST., CHARLESTON**

(Front) In 1919, the Lincoln Theatre opened at 601 King St. and became Charleston's lognest operating theater for African Americans. It was run for most of its history by African American manager Damon Ireland Thomas (1875-1955). For a time it was the only theater in the city where black patrons sat without restrictions. The Lincoln hosted movies, vaudeville troupes, public

speakers, and local acts. It closed c.1971 and was razed in 1989 after sustaining damage from Hurricane Hugo. (Reverse) In the first decades of the 1900s, Jewish-owned stores clustered along King St. in an immigrant neighborhood sometimes called “Little Jerusalem.” Businesses here included furniture and dry goods stores, shoe repair shops, Zalkin’s kosher meat market, and Mazo’s deli. One early arrival, Russian-born Samuel L. Banov (1870-1933), ran a successful clothing store at 595 King St. and invested in real estate nearby, including 601 King St., which he opened in 1919 as the Lincoln Theatre. *Sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, 2019*

## **CHESTER COUNTY**

### **BLACK ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH/BLACK ROCK SCHOOL HM** **1006 OLD RICHBURG RD, CHESTER**

(Front) Black Rock Baptist Church formally organized by 1874 and was originally part of the Gethsemane Baptist Association. The church traces its roots to the early ministry of its first pastor, Leroy Featherstone (c.1836-1919), believed to have begun when he was enslaved. The congregation worshipped at this site as early as 1907. The current sanctuary was built c.1920. (Reverse) As early as 1884, Black Rock Baptist Church hosted a school for African Americans. Early teachers included Mansel Phillip Hall, later founder of Friendship College in Rock Hill. Black Rock School first met in the church before moving into a one-room schoolhouse on church grounds, where it operated for several decades. The school closed in 1957 as Chester Co. consolidated its country schools. *Sponsored by the Congregation and the Golden Age Club, 2019*

## **CHESTERFIELD COUNTY**

### **CHESTERFIELD COLORED SCHOOL HM** **NORTH SIDE OF TOATLEY DR., CHESTERFIELD**

(Front) This was the site of the Chesterfield Colored School, a segregated school built in 1937 to serve African Americans. The wood frame building originally had eight classrooms and enrolled students in grades 1-8. Additional classrooms and an auditorium were built in 1943-44, and grades 1-12 attended by 1948. Student activities included basketball, chorus, clubs, a newspaper, literary society, and student council. (Reverse) By the early 1950s, more than 500 students were enrolled at Chesterfield Colored School. The campus burned down on November 21, 1952. The school reopened in temporary housing, where it remained until 1954-55, when pupils transferred

to Gary High School (formerly Zoar School) and Edwards Elementary. The latter was built as part of S.C.'s equalization campaign to preserve segregation. *Sponsored by Chesterfield Historical Society and Town of Chesterfield, 2019*

## **CLARENDON COUNTY**

### **SCOTT'S BRANCH SCHOOL/ *BRIGGS v. ELLIOTT* HM**

**SCOTT'S BRANCH ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL, NW CORNER OF 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND LARRY KING HWY., SUMMERTON**

(Front) Previously located at Taw Caw Baptist Church outside Summerton and at a site on 1<sup>st</sup> St., Scott's Branch School moved here 1937-38. The first school at this site was a white, ten-room, frame building and enrolled African American students in grades 1-11. The current campus, completed in 1952, was the first school built through S.C.'s equalization program, a statewide effort to preserve segregation by upgrading black schools. (Reverse) In the late 1940s, Scott's Branch School became the focal point of petitions and lawsuits filed by local African Americans to secure equal resources for black pupils in Summerton schools. Facing fierce opposition, 20 families ultimately sued to desegregate local schools in 1950. These efforts, led by Rev. Joseph A. DeLaine and the NAACP, resulted in *Briggs v. Elliott* (1951), first among five cases that in 1954 led the U.S. Supreme Court to declare segregated schooling unconstitutional. *Sponsored by Scott's Branch High School Alumni Association, Inc., 2020*

## **GEORGETOWN COUNTY**

### **ST. STEPHEN AME CHURCH HM**

**1915 WINYAH ST., GEORGETOWN**

(Front) In 1897, members of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, led by Rev. Washington P. Carolina (1864-1939), obtained 1/2 ac. of land at this site and founded St. Stephen AME Church. Tradition holds that members met beneath a brush arbor until 1899, when a church was built during the tenure of first pastor Rev. Jordan W. Whittaker (1853-1902). That church, said to have been destroyed in a storm, was replaced in 1902. (Reverse) For more than a century, St. Stephen AME served African American residents of Georgetown's West End from this location. Here, members worshipped and hosted public events like denominational meetings, public talks, and political rallies. A white, wood frame church was built in 1940 and brick-veneered in the 1950s. St. Stephen AME moved 1 mi. NW to Highmarket St. after that third church burned on October 23, 2011. *Sponsored by the Georgetown Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 2020*

## **GREENVILLE COUNTY**

### **HOLLY SPRINGS SCHOOL NR**

**130 HOLLY SPRINGS ROAD, VICINITY OF BELTON**



Holly Springs School is locally significant as an early example of an African American school in Greenville County, South Carolina. Built ca. 1891, the school is a single-story, one-room, wood-frame building with a double front entrance. The building faces east and is located on Holly Springs Road in a rural area of southwestern Greenville County. The school stands as a symbol of the educational struggle of freed

men and women in the late 19th century as they worked to overcome the lingering effects of slavery-era anti-literacy laws and provide their children with education despite the re-enshrinement of white supremacy following Reconstruction. It continued to serve nearby black families until 1951, when Greenville County officials shuttered the school as part of a statewide campaign to equalize, and thereby preserve, segregated education. The property thus has multiple significant associations with the historical education of African Americans in Greenville County, extending across several decades. Listed in the National Register October 7, 2019.

<http://schpr.sc.gov/index.php/Detail/properties/62147>

## **ORANGEBURG COUNTY**

### **WILKINSON HIGH SCHOOL (GOFF CAMPUS) HM**

**822 GOFF AVE., ORANGEBURG**

(Front) In 1938, Orangeburg's first black high school opened in this building, constructed by the Works Progress Administration. It was named for Dr. Robert Shaw Wilkinson (1865-1932), pres. of S.C. State A&M College. The school's mascot was the Wolverines, and its colors were maroon and gray. Its motto was "Strive to excel, not to equal." Throughout Wilkinson's history, it was the only black high school in the city of Orangeburg. (Reverse) In 1953, Wilkinson



moved to a new campus on Belleville Rd., built to help the state preserve segregation by equalizing black and white schools. Wilkinson students were active in the 1960s in the civil rights movement. After *Swann v. Mecklenburg* (1971), Wilkinson integrated with the white high school to form Orangeburg-Wilkinson High. Grades 9-10 attended the Wilkinson campus until 1973, when it became Belleville Junior High. *Sponsored by Wilkinson High School Alumni, 2019*



*Dedication of Wilkinson High School historical marker at Goff Avenue.*



*Dedication of Wilkinson High School historical marker at Belleville Road.*

## **WILKINSON HIGH SCHOOL (BELLEVILLE CAMPUS) HM** **1255 BELLEVILLE RD., ORANGEBURG**

(Front) In 1938, Orangeburg's first black high school opened on Goff Ave. at a campus built by the Works Progress Administration. It was named for Dr. Robert Shaw Wilkinson (1865-1932), pres. of S.C. State A&M College. The school's mascot was the Wolverines, and its colors were maroon and gray. Its motto was "Strive to excel, not to equal." Throughout Wilkinson's history, it was the only black high school in the city of Orangeburg. (Reverse) In 1953, Wilkinson moved to a new campus at this site, built to help the state preserve segregation by equalizing black and white schools. Wilkinson students were active in the 1960s in the civil rights movement. After *Swann v. Mecklenburg* (1971), Wilkinson integrated with the white high school to form Orangeburg-Wilkinson High. Grades 9-10 attended the Wilkinson campus here until 1973, when it became Belleville Junior High. *Sponsored by Wilkinson High School Alumni, 2019*

## **RICHLAND COUNTY**

### **CYRIL O. SPANN MEDICAL OFFICE HM**

**2226 HAMPTON ST., COLUMBIA**

(Front) From 1963 to 1979, this was the office of Dr. Cyril O. Spann (1916-1979), one of the first fully trained African American surgeons in S.C. Born in Chester, Spann fought in World War II and attended nearby Benedict College. After graduating from Meharry Medical College, he traveled to different S.C. towns to perform surgery and train other black doctors. He built this office after acquiring the site in 1962. (Reverse) A local civil rights leader, Spann helped desegregate public accommodations and once performed life-saving surgery on a student stabbed during a sit-in. While Spann saw patients at this office, he conducted surgery at Good Samaritan-Waverly Hospital, where he worked as early as 1957 and later served as chief of staff. After Spann's death, other black doctors continued practicing at his office into the 1990s. *Sponsored by Tnovsa Global Commons and Richland County Conservation Commission, 2019.*

### **1900 BLOCK OF HENDERSON STREET / WILLIAM J. SUMTER HM**

**1931 HENDERSON ST., COLUMBIA**

(Front) This block features a dense collection of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> c. houses historically associated with and home to African Americans. Residing here through the mid-1900s were many middle- and working-class African Americans, including barbers, teachers, nurses, carpenters, cooks, porters, maids, a butcher, a pastor, and a blacksmith. By the 1940s, several properties here were owned by barber William J. Sumter. (Reverse) The house at 1931



*Dedication of the 1900 Block of Henderson Street / William J. Sumter historical marker*

Henderson St. was the home of William J. Sumter (1881-1967), an African American entrepreneur who owned and operated a well-known barber shop on Main St. from 1905-1954, said to have been the oldest in Columbia when it closed. Sumter purchased



this house in 1909 from African American carpenter John W. Bailey. Sumter and his wife Daisy A. Robinson, lived here with their children. He later owned 1921 and 1925 Henderson St., which he rented to tenants. *Sponsored by Richland County Conservation Commission, 2019*

## **COLUMBIA HOSPITAL “NEGRO UNIT”/COLUMBIA HOSPITAL “NEGRO NURSES” HM**

***NW CORNER OF HARDEN ST. & LADY ST. INTERSECTION, COLUMBIA***

(Front) Columbia Hospital, est. 1892, opened a segregated wing for African Americans in 1934 at its Hampton St. location. In 1943, it built an expanded “Negro Unit” at the NW corner of Harden and Lady Sts. This 4-story facility was designed by architects Lafaye, Lafaye, & Fair and cost \$333,000. When opened, it was equipped for 165 patients plus 30 infants. In 1972, Columbia Hospital was replaced by Richland Memorial Hospital. (Reverse) In 1935, Columbia Hospital opened a segregated School of Nursing for African Americans. A first class of ten graduated in 1938. In 1941, a 3-story dormitory for African American nurses was built at the corner of Laurens and Washington Sts. It included classrooms, an auditorium, and a library. By the time the school closed in 1965, more than 400 nurses had graduated. The school was accredited by the state of S.C. *Sponsored by the Columbia Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Black Nurses, 2019*

## **UNION COUNTY**

### **CLINTON CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH NR**

***108 S. ENTERPRISE ST., UNION***



Located at 108 South Enterprise Street in Union, Clinton Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church is a Gothic Revival church significant for its associations with Union’s African American community from the late 19th century through World War II. Built in 1893 with an annex added in 1948, Clinton Chapel was constructed during a period of growth for the AME church and the consolidation of Jim

Crow segregation. It is representative of the important role that black churches played as social and cultural institutions during this period, nurturing the spiritual needs of their parishioners and providing spaces for public gatherings and community events. As a late 19th century Black church, Clinton Chapel comes under the umbrella of the National Register Multiple Property Listing "Historic Resources of Union, S.C., c.1823-c.1940," which includes Black churches as a property type significant for representing "...the growth and expansion of black congregations in Union." *Listed in the National Register March 12, 2020.* <http://schpr.sc.gov/index.php/Detail/properties/71003>

## **WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY**

### **CHUBBY CHECKER HOME HM**

***INTERSECTION STEADFAST RD. AND U.S. HWY. 521, SPRING GULLY***

(Front) On Oct. 3, 1941, Ernest Evans, later known by his stage name, "Chubby Checker," was born to Raymond and Eartle (Scott) Evans in a small house at 1040 Steadfast Rd., approx. 1 mi. SW. In 1947, the family bought the nearby lot at 976 Steadfast Rd., where they likely then built the white shotgun house that still stands. They lived there until moving to Philadelphia, Pa., around 1948. (Reverse) The descendant of African American farmers, Evans later recalled joining his family doing agricultural work while living here in Spring Gully. His decades-long singing career as Chubby Checker began in the late 1950s. His 1960 cover of "The Twist," originally by Hank Ballard and the Midnighters, became one of the best-selling singles of all time and a classic of American popular music. *Sponsored by Williamsburg County Council, 2020*

## **YORK COUNTY**

### **BRICK HOUSE/LYNCHING OF JIM WILLIAMS HM**

***HISTORIC BRATTONSVILLE, MCCONNELLS VICINITY***

(Front) In 1841, Dr. John S. Bratton began construction of a new, all-brick two-story house at Brattonsville. Completed c.1843, the Greek Revival building housed the Brattonsville Store and Post Office. A two-story rear frame section was added c.1855 to house the Brattonsville School. Napoleon Bratton took over the store by 1870 and constructed a new store building c.1885. It closed in 1915. (Reverse) In March 1871, York Co. Ku Klux Klan members, led by Dr. J. Rufus Bratton, lynched black militia Capt. James Williams, hanging him from a tree near his home 1.5 miles away. His body was carried to the Brick House the next day where a coroner's inquest was held. The murder was part of a wave of Reconstruction-era Klan violence that led to a declaration of

martial law in nine S.C. counties. *Sponsored by Culture and Heritage Museums of York County, 2019*

**GEORGE FISH SCHOOL HM**  
**401 STEELE ST., FORT MILL**

(Front) This was the site of Fort Mill's longest operating school dedicated to African Americans. Built on a 4-acre parcel acquired in 1925, the brick school opened in 1926 and cost \$12,200, a portion of which was paid by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The school was named for George Fish (1868-1933), a white mill manager who supported its construction. African Americans were previously taught at the old Fort Mill Academy building 1 mi. SW. (Reverse) The design of the George Fish School followed the Rosenwald Fund's six-teacher floor plan and included six classrooms, an auditorium, stage, and library. By the 1930s, the school enrolled grades 1-8 before adding a ninth grade and, by 1941, a high school. It remained a segregated school for African Americans until 1968, when it integrated and became Fort Mill Jr. High. The school was sold in 1986 and later demolished. *Sponsored by Fort Mill School District, 2019*

**CARROLL ROSENWALD SCHOOL HM**  
**4789 MOBLEY STORE ROAD, ROCK HILL VICINITY**

Built 1929-30 for \$4250, this was originally the Carroll School for African American residents of the nearby Ogden community. Its cost was paid by local African Americans, the school district, and the Julius Rosenwald Fund. It closed in 1954 as part of S.C.'s effort to preserve segregation by equalizing black and white schools. In its last year, 141 students were taught by 4 teachers. *Sponsored by Rock Hill School District 3, 2020*