

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 2024 - June 2025 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

Aiken

Sardis Elementary School HM

268 Poplar St. SE, Salley

Sardis Elementary School opened at this site in 1954. The school served African American residents of Salley and surrounding areas and was built through the S.C. equalization program, a state effort to preserve segregation by upgrading Black schools. It replaced the nearby Sardis or Salley Colored School as well as Union Academy, which stood several miles outside of Salley. Both were originally Rosenwald schools. Sardis Elementary School's first principal at this site was Clyde Blassingale, a local teacher and farmer. The campus included three buildings and was designed by prominent Columbia architects Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle & Wolff. Sardis remained an all-Black elementary school until 1970, when it became the integrated Sardis Multi-Media School. The campus later housed a Headstart program. It still stands. **Sponsored by Aiken County Historical Society and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Beaufort

Washington Street Playground HM

East side of Newcastle St. between Washington St. and Greene St, Beaufort

In 1942 a group of local African American leaders known as the Beaufort County Negro Recreational Association acquired around one acre of land at this site for a "Recreational Center for Negro Citizens." Upon opening, it was the only public playground in Beaufort open to African Americans. In 1945-46 playground equipment was first installed with support from Beaufort City Council and local civic groups. Eventually named for nearby Washington Street, the playground became an important local gathering venue for Black residents. It hosted athletic contests, performances, religious services, and other events. In 1959, Youth Center Inc. began a long-term lease of the property. That group and the Association merged in 1993 to form the Beaufort County Community Center. By that time the site was known as Washington Street Park. **Sponsored by Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Association and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Calhoun

St. Matthews Railroad Cut HM

602 F.R. Huff Dr., St. Matthews

Across the street is the St. Matthews Railroad Cut. The cut was built in 1841 as part of the first branch line of the S.C. Railroad, the longest railroad in the world upon its 1833 completion. The branch began 28 mi. S in Branchville and ran 38 mi. N to Columbia, connecting the capital city to Charleston. The line reached Columbia in 1842 and was initially owned by the Louisville, Cincinnati & Charleston Railroad Co. Tradition holds the half-mile-long segment through St. Matthews was built by enslaved African Americans hired out to the railroad company by Jacob M. Dantzler and John J. Wannamaker, who provided the land for the cut. Workers had to hand-dig and haul away tons of earth in order to lay level track through hilly terrain. The steep, 100-foot-wide cut became a defining feature of the town of St. Matthews that developed around it. **Sponsored by Calhoun County Museum and Historical Commission, 2025**

Charleston

Louie Tenement HM

Luella Ave. and Lester St., North Charleston

Near this intersection is the site of Louie Tenement, a housing complex that served residents of North Charleston's Liberty Hill community. Liberty Hill was established in 1871 as a settlement for formerly enslaved African Americans. The tenement near this site was developed c.1928 by Louis "Louie" Joseph (1876-1950), a Syrian immigrant who came to the U.S. from Damascus in 1901. He worked in Charleston as a peddler before moving to Liberty Hill by 1920. Louie Tenement included around a dozen wood frame shotgun houses situated on roughly one-acre of land. It became a well-known Liberty Hill enclave and a valuable source of housing for local Black residents during segregation. Louis Joseph also operated a local grocery store. His 1950 death certificate listed his father's surname as "Masphy." The complex stood into the early 1970s, when houses began being demolished. None remained by the end of the 1980s. **Sponsored by Liberty Hill Historical and Genealogical Society and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Frederick Deming Jr. Industrial School HM

1030 5th Ave., Charleston

The Frederick Deming Jr. Industrial School opened at this site in 1892. It was founded to serve African American residents of Marvillie, a Black town chartered in 1886 and later annexed into the City of Charleston. Early school leaders included Mary Matthews Just, Rev. George Clinton Rowe, and Joseph C. Berry. It was supported by the American Missionary Association (AMA) and named for an AMA benefactor. The original Deming School campus included a 2-story classroom and teacherage building, and an annex. Both burned in 1897 and were replaced by a 1-story wooden building. Deming was part of St. Andrew's School District No. 10. It closed in 1953 and had around 200 students in grades 1-8 in its last year. Students then attended Wallace Consolidated School (2 mi. W). Deming was razed a few years later, and a playground opened in 1962. **Sponsored by Preservation Society of Charleston.**

Edisto Island Baptist Church HM

1644 S.C. Hwy. 174., Edisto Island

This wood frame church was built in 1818 as Edisto Island Baptist Church. The church was founded primarily through the efforts of Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend (1780-1847), a white woman who sought to revive Baptist worship on Edisto Island after years of dormancy. In the antebellum era

most who worshipped here were enslaved African Americans who worked on local plantations. In 1860, Edisto Island Baptist Church had more than 450 Black members and a white minister. The congregation was part of the Charleston Association. After abolition, local freedpeople reorganized the church under Black leadership. It had more than 1,000 members after the Civil War. The original square-shaped section rests on a tabby foundation and was likely expanded around that time.

Sponsored by New First Missionary Baptist Church.

Chester

Old Zion A.M.E. Zion Church HM

2231 West End Rd., Chester

Old Zion Church formally organized by 1873. It was originally located 2 mi. E on Goings Rd. where it shared a cemetery with St. Paul Baptist Church. Around 1890, Old Zion moved to this site on land conveyed by Martha Wise to church trustees John Franklin, Captain Jagers, Ezekiel Simpson, Nealy Walker, and Abraham Wright. Members built a wood frame church with a front tower. Old Zion was part of a wave of African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion congregations founded in S.C. after the 1867 establishment of the Church's state conference. Old Zion disbanded sometime around 1970. The church building fell into ruins. In 2010, trustee descendants organized the Old Zion-St. Paul Halsellville Cemetery Association to maintain and preserve the site. **Sponsored by Old Zion-St. Paul Halsellville Cemetery Association and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Finley High School NR

112 Caldwell St., Chester

Finley High School is locally significant in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black as the only African American public high school in Chester, South Carolina between 1956 and 1970. Finley High School was established in 1923 as Chester Colored High School, the first Black public high school in the city. The original campus was located about a quarter of a mile north; the school moved to the current site in 1956 with the completion of a new campus as part of the state's equalization program, an effort to perpetuate a system of "separate but equal" schools in South Carolina in the 1950s. Finley High School is also locally significant under Architecture as an especially intact example of equalization school design. Its Modern architectural features embody mid-twentieth century trends in educational planning and design as applied through the state equalization program. Its period of significance encompasses its years of service as a segregated school, spanning from its construction in 1956 to 1970, when the school became an integrated junior high school. Finley High School is listed under the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Equalization Schools in South Carolina, 1951-1960, as an intact representation of a typical school built through the state's school equalization program, which sought to stave off legal challenges to segregation by improving Black school facilities under the principle of "separate but equal." **Listed in the National Register January 28, 2025.**

Clarendon

Butler Cemetery/Butler School HM

7214 Liberty Hill Rd., Summerton

This cemetery dates to at least the 1860s and likely began as a burial ground for white members of the Butler and Nelson families. By the turn of the 20th century it was a community cemetery for local African Americans who lived in St. Paul and St. James Townships. Among Butler Cemetery's Black occupants are members of the Johnson, Butler, and Nelson families. Adjacent to Butler Cemetery for many years was Butler School. Housed in a small wood frame building, it served local African American families and was part of St. Paul School District (No. 4). Around 30-50 students attended in the mid-1930s. Butler closed in 1951 and was consolidated with St. Paul School (4 mi. N). In its

final year the school enrolled 55 students in grades 1-6. **Sponsored by Butler Cemetery/School Historical Society and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Colleton

Ruffin High and Elementary School NR

155 Patriot Ln., Ruffin

Ruffin High and Elementary School is locally significant in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black for its associations with African American education in the unincorporated community of Ruffin, South Carolina. It is locally significant in those areas for its role as the only public high school for Black residents of Ruffin from its 1954 construction until integration in 1970, and the only local Black elementary school from 1962 to 1967. It is also significant as the only extant local example of a school built through the South Carolina equalization program, massive building campaign that improved underfunded segregated Black schools in an attempt to thwart legal challenges to school segregation. In 1962, the school district constructed an addition to the school to house the segregated Ruffin Elementary School. Further modifications to the school for integration were made between 1969 and 1971. John H. Truluck, Jr., was the architect of the building's original construction as well as its 1960s and early 1970s additions. The original facility was built by contractor Craig-Robertson, while the 1962 addition was built by Edisto Construction Company. Ruffin High and Elementary School is also significant under Architecture at the local level as the only extant institutional example of Modernism in Ruffin. An excellent and largely intact example of Modernism, Ruffin High and Elementary School retains many of its character-defining features and clearly conveys the principles of the Modern Movement. The historic buildings on the campus are distinguished by their low, horizontal massing, flat rooflines, and metal exterior walkways. The high school building is especially notable for its steel-framed and pierced-brick entryway and pyramidal buttresses. One of two Modern equalization buildings constructed in Ruffin, the property is the only one that stands and is the only extant example of institutional Modernism in the local context. The period of significance begins with the school's initial construction phase in 1954 and ends with its transition to the integrated Ruffin Middle School in 1970. **Listed in the National Register January 3, 2025.**

Dorchester

St. George Rosenwald School HM

205 Ann St., St. George

This wood frame building dates to 1925-26 and was originally a public school for Black residents of St. George and other parts of Dorchester County. At that time it was known as St. George Colored School or Greenleaf School. It was one of two county schools built with support from the Julius Rosenwald Fund and is the only one that still stands. The design of the school follows one of the Fund's six-teacher plans. The building was expanded several times, including in 1935 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It was renamed Williams Memorial School in the 1940s. In 1954 the school moved ½ mi. S to a campus built through the state equalization program. The school enrolled more than 800 students in grades 1-12 during its last year at this site. After falling into disrepair, the Rosenwald building underwent a major restoration c.2023. **Sponsored by St. George Rosenwald School Board and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Kennedy-Jenkins Hill High School HM

145 Hill St., Harleyville

Kennedy High School opened at this site in 1954-55. It served Black families from Dorchester Co. School District No. 3 (Harleyville-Ridgeville). About 700 students in grades 1-12 attended the first

year. The brick facility cost around \$300,000 and had over twenty classrooms plus a library, athletic field, and gym. It was built through the state equalization program, which upgraded Black schools in order to defend segregation. The school was named after its first principal, John B. Kennedy Jr. It was renamed Jenkins Hill High School upon the 1964 death of David A. Jenkins, the longtime principal of an older Jenkins Hill School that stood nearby before being replaced by the equalization school. Jenkins Hill became a middle school in 1970-71 as part of integration. It was later an elementary school and was demolished in the 2000s. **Sponsored by Alumni of Kennedy and Jenkins Hill Schools.**

Fairfield

Blackjack Baptist Church

HM

178 Reservoir Rd, Winnsboro Vicinity

This congregation was founded around 1870, mainly by Black former slaves of members of nearby Fairfield Baptist Church. They acquired this site in 1873 as their first formal place of worship. This was previously the site of the old Fairfield church where early Blackjack members worshipped while enslaved. Some 1800s maps identify the Fairfield church as Black Jack Meeting House. The name “Blackjack” was likely inspired by the abundance of blackjack oak trees in the nearby area. Upon organizing, Blackjack Baptist Church was part of Gethsemane Baptist Association, Upper Division. Graves in the church cemetery date as early as 1871. The current church building dates to 1935. It was brick-veneered in 1953, and an education wing was added several years later. **Sponsored by Blackjack Baptist Church and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Florence

Snow Hill Baptist Church

HM

3503 Hoffmeyer Rd., Florence

Snow Hill Baptist Church organized in the 1880s. Tradition holds the church initially worshipped under a brush arbor on land owned by farmer London Nettles. In 1888 church trustees acquired this one-acre site from Johanna Hoffmeyer and built their first house of worship. Upon organizing, the Snow Hill congregation joined the Pee Dee Baptist Association. In its first few years it had as many as one hundred members. Snow Hill Baptist Church served Black residents of Ebenezer Township and other nearby sections of Florence County. In 1908 church leaders organized a Colored Cemetery Association and acquired land one-mile south for a graveyard. Adjacent to the church’s east is the hall building for Snow Hill Masonic Lodge 387. The current church building was constructed around 1950, replacing the original. It was later expanded. **Sponsored by Snow Hill Baptist Church and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Masonic Hall (Effingham)

HM

1814 Poor Farm Rd., Effingham

This two-story wood frame building dates to c.1924 and was originally a meeting hall for several African American masonic lodges. It was likely built by members of St. Joseph Lodge No. 1362, Grand Lodge of the United Sons and Daughters of Moses No. 5, and Joint Stock Lodge No. 217, whose trustees together acquired one acre of land at this site in 1924 for \$100. After its construction, the building became known as “The Hall” and served a variety of functions for local Black residents. Area lodges used the hall for meetings, special events, and other community programming. At one point the building also housed a public school for African Americans. In 1984, the members of J.H. Fordham Lodge No. 7 became the property’s sole trustees. **Sponsored by J.H. Fordham Lodge No. 7 (PHA).**

Green's Funeral Home and Ambulance Service **NR**

433 Ward St., Lake City

Green's Funeral Home and Ambulance Service is locally significant under Commerce, Social History, and Ethnic Heritage: Black as the earliest extant Black funeral home in Lake City during the Jim Crow era. Green's business opened in another building (not extant) in 1931 as the first Black-owned funeral home in Lake City, and it moved to the nominated building upon its 1938 completion. It remained there until 1950, when the business relocated to Church Street. The period of significance covers the funeral home's operation at 433 Ward St. from 1938 to 1950. Operated by owner Luther M. Green and his brother Abram Green, the funeral home was part of a parallel economy that existed for white and Black citizens in an era of legal and cultural segregation. Like many other southern Black funeral directors, Green also held broader civic importance for Lake City's Black community, becoming a leader in the state's Progressive Democratic Party and championing the civil rights of local African Americans in this period. The funeral home is therefore also locally significant under Social History: Civil Rights, and Ethnic Heritage: Black as the extant property best associated with Luther M. Green during his political activism in the 1940s. **Listed in the National Register January 28, 2025.**

Greenville

Chapman Grove School **HM**

240 Chapman Grove Rd., Pelzer

This was the site of Chapman Grove School, est. 1921 by J.H. "Prof." Chapman and other Black residents of lower Greenville County. The school eventually enrolled grades 1-12 with classes held in separate elementary and high school buildings. It served local African American students and others from neighboring counties. In 1930-31 a brick teacherage was built with support from the Rosenwald Fund. Chapman Grove School specialized in agricultural training and provided farming and home demonstration programs for children as well as adults. The campus included a poultry house, cannery, and sweet potato house available to local farmers and funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Chapman Grove School closed in 1954 as part of the consolidation of county schools. **Sponsored by Fork Shoals Historical Society.**

McClaren Medical Shelter **HM**

110 Wardlaw St., Greenville

McClaren Medical Shelter, a one-story brick building on a raised basement, was a privately run hospital for African Americans opened in 1949. It was established by Abbeville-native Dr. Edward E. McClaren (1902-1985), a 1931 graduate of the Howard University College of Medicine. The Medical Shelter succeeded the Working Benevolent Society Hospital (1920-1948) as the only Black-run hospital in the city of Greenville. Medical Shelter patients received treatment from Black and white doctors and Black nurses. The hospital closed in 1954, three years after Greenville General Hospital first allowed Black doctors to work in its segregated ward. Over five years McClaren staff admitted 1,072 patients, delivered 211 babies, and conducted 194 and 582 minor operations. In 2020 the hospital building was moved 50 ft. N to this site. **Sponsored by The Urban League of the Upstate, 2025.**

Greenwood

Edgewood School **NR**

200 Edgewood St., Ninety Six

Situated on a 12.55-acre campus, Edgewood School is comprised of the original equalization school built in 1956 and a one-story, two-room, science wing addition built in 1993. The original building, designed by architect John M. Lambert, Jr., typifies equalization school architecture that incorporated modern, efficient, building materials like masonry, cast concrete, steel, and glass into a style that emphasized horizontality and austerity of ornamentation. Edgewood School is locally significant as the only public school for Black students in Ninety Six from its construction in 1956 through its transition into an integrated middle school in 1970. Edgewood School is also significant as the only school in Ninety Six with a clearly documented connection to the state's mid-century school equalization program, a massive statewide building campaign aimed at "equalizing" white and Black schools in order to thwart legal challenges to segregation. The school is also locally significant for its architecture as an especially intact example of the Modern design influences that characterized the equalization program. **Listed in the National Register December 30, 2024.**

Horry

Atlantic Beach Historic District

NR

Wiley Drive, 29th Avenue S, 32nd Avenue S, and the Atlantic Ocean, Atlantic Beach

The Atlantic Beach Historic District is significant as one of the state's only oceanfront recreational sites open to African Americans during segregation. The district encompasses the entire incorporated town of Atlantic Beach. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the city of North Myrtle Beach. The district includes the beach itself, as well as historic dwellings, hotels, motels and/or inns, commercial businesses, entertainment venues, government buildings, and a church. Three of the four north-south streets in the district terminate at sandy trails that provide public ocean access. Except for Highway 17, none of Atlantic Beach's streets intersects with adjacent North Myrtle Beach streets. The "cut-off" nature of the Atlantic Beach street grid is a remnant of segregation. The district is also notable for its low-density development and lack of high-rise buildings, which stands in stark contrast with the surrounding area. Black entrepreneur George W. Tyson established Atlantic Beach in 1934. The Black-owned Atlantic Beach Company further developed the town in the 1940s and 1950s. Although devastated by Hurricane Hazel in 1954, development continued and the town incorporated in 1966. Atlantic Beach was unusual as a Black-owned and -governed community during Jim Crow. Segregation and the greater American pursuit of entertainment and recreation made Atlantic Beach a hub of Black social life in South Carolina from the time of its founding. Music, dancing, amusement rides, motels, and dining maintained a steady flow of visitors from the across the region into the mid-1970s. The popularity of Atlantic Beach declined following integration. **Listed in the National Register January 22, 2025.**

Kershaw

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

HM

801 Broad St., Camden

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church was established in 1866 and is one of the oldest Black Baptist congregations in Kershaw County. It formed when more than 100 African American members of Camden Baptist Church requested dismissal to organize their own congregation. They began worshipping at this site soon after and had the current church constructed in 1891. At that time the congregation included around 200 members. Mt. Moriah's first minister was Rev. Monroe Boykin. In 1867 the congregation was a founding member of the Gethsemane Association, the first Black Baptist association in the state. Early baptisms sometimes took place at pond on the east side of Camden. By the 1930s the church had grown to around 400 members. The church building was

brick-veneered in 1947 and the interior was rebuilt following a 1956 fire. **Sponsored by Mt. Moriah Baptist Church and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Lexington

Batesburg Colored School/ Twin City High School **HM**

Maple St., approx. 500 ft. south of Howard St., Batesburg-Leesville

This is the site of Batesburg Colored School, built c.1922 with support from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. The Colored Educational Society of Batesburg paid for the land and local African Americans provided the largest share of the two-story frame building's construction costs. The school burned in 1933. It was replaced by a brick building that also caught fire in 1940 and was destroyed and rebuilt. Around 1950 students from neighboring Leesville began attending and the school was renamed Twin City High School. Major additions and renovations were funded in 1953 by the equalization program, a state effort to preserve segregation by upgrading Black schools. Twin City's colors were blue and gold and its mascot was the Hornets. It closed in 1970 as part of integration. The school burned in 1974 and was demolished. **Sponsored by Twin City High School Alumni Association and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Oak Grove Colored School **HM**

222 Cromer Rd., Lexington

This is the former site of Oak Grove Colored School, est. 1900 as a public school for African Americans. It was built on a lot previously owned by John Sewell (1831-1915), a Black farmer who lived nearby. He conveyed the land to school trustees in 1899 and later sold them materials for the school's construction. Upon opening, it was part of Lexington Co. School District No. 2 (Oak Grove). Oak Grove was also called Sweet Gum Colored School and was housed in a wooden one-room building. Twenty-six students attended in 1900-01 with one teacher. In the mid-1930s around thirty-five students in grades 1-7 attended each day for a four-month term. The school closed in 1952 as part of the consolidation of Lexington Co.'s country schools. It burned down a few years later. **Sponsored by John Sewell Foundation, Lexington County Museum, and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Lexington Rosenwald High School **HM**

420 Hendrix St., Lexington

(This is the site of one of four Lexington Co. schools built with support from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. The five-teacher wood frame building was funded 1928-29 and was part of Lexington Co. School District No. 1. It served Black elementary-age students from the town of Lexington and later expanded to grades 1-12. Known as Lexington Rosenwald High School, its mascot was the Blue Hornet and its colors were blue and gold. (Reverse) Renovations and additions in the 1950s were funded by the state equalization program. Enrollment grew to around 500 following the 1953 consolidation of small country schools in areas like Gilbert and Pelion. Rosenwald High School closed 1969 when this campus became Lexington Intermediate School during integration. The original Rosenwald building was later demolished but the equalization wings remain. **Sponsored by Lexington Rosenwald Alumni and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Orangeburg

Bull Swamp Colored School **HM**

112 Purity St., Orangeburg

In 1936 the 3-room Bull Swamp Colored School was built near Bull Swamp Baptist Church. The building cost \$3,000 and was a New Deal project of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA). Upon opening, around 70 students in grades 1-7 attended each day for a 4-month term. An earlier school for Black residents of the Bull Swamp area was in operation as early as the 1910s. The design of Bull Swamp Colored School was similar to ones developed earlier by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation, emphasizing natural light, ventilation, and spacious classrooms. The school closed in 1958. Students subsequently attended Nix Elementary School (5 mi. W) in Orangeburg, built through the state equalization program. Bull Swamp Colored School still stands. **Sponsored by Bull Swamp Colored School, Bull Swamp Baptist Church, and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Richland

Harold Boulware House

HM

101 Lake Murray Blvd., Irmo

This was the adult home of pioneering S.C. civil rights attorney Harold R. Boulware (1913-1982). Born and raised in Irmo, Boulware attended Harbison Institute where his parents were both teachers. In 1938 he obtained his law degree from Howard Univ. He began practicing in Columbia around 1940. He became chief counsel for the S.C. NAACP in 1941. He moved to this site in the early 1950s to care for his parents. The extant home dates to 1956. Boulware worked cases that equalized Black teacher pay (1944-46) and yielded such landmark rulings as *Elmore v. Rice* (1947), which ended S.C.'s white primary system, and *Briggs v. Elliott*, one of five cases in 1954 led the U.S. Supreme Court to find school segregation unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Later a Richland County judge, Boulware lived in this house from 1956 until his death in 1983. **Sponsored by African American Historical Society of Irmo and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

St. James A.M.E. Church (Columbia)

HM

413 Henderson St., Columbia

This African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) church organized in 1871. In that year, five church trustees acquired this lot where members built their first house of worship, a small wood frame building. The land was donated by Dr. Ezra Wheeler, namesake of the surrounding Wheeler Hill neighborhood. Upon forming, the church was known as Glendale Mission. Members adopted the name St. James in the early 1900s. St. James is one of the oldest A.M.E. congregations in Columbia and became an important institution for residents of Wheeler Hill. The church hosted social clubs, meetings, and other community events, as well as religious services. Much of Wheeler Hill was demolished from the 1960s to 1980s as part of urban renewal. Though heavily altered, a St. James sanctuary dating at least to the 1910s still stands. **Sponsored by Columbia SC 63.**

Sumter

B.T. Williams House

HM

314 W. Bartlette St., Sumter

This brick-veneered house was the home of Dr. Booker Taliaferro Williams, dentist and civil rights activist. Born 1900 in Elloree, S.C., he obtained his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Meharry Medical College in 1929. Within a few years he came to Sumter and opened his own dental practice, working until his death. This house was built by his brothers c.1939. Williams lived here with his wife Catherine Fredrick Williams, who was a teacher at Lincoln High School, and their daughter. Williams became active in a number of causes in support of African American. He was a co-founder of the Sumter NAACP in 1939. He was later treasurer and first vice president of the NAACP State

Conference and helped raise funds for its teacher pay equalization campaign and the Briggs v. Elliott school desegregation case. He was also co-plaintiff in a lawsuit that desegregated the Sumter public library in 1963. Dr. B.T. Williams died 1971 and is buried at Hillside Memorial Park. **Sponsored by S.C. African American Heritage Commission, Center for Civil Rights History and Research, and Omicron Kappa Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Sumter S.C.**

Palmer Funeral Home/Palmer Memorial Chapel **HM**

304 S. Main St., Sumter

Palmer Funeral Home opened at this site in 1933. It was founded by Edmund Perry Palmer Sr., who in 1925 graduated from N.Y.'s Renouard Training School for Embalmers and became one of the first formally trained Black funeral directors in Sumter. He and wife Ellie Dibble Palmer were both children of Reconstruction-era state legislators and ran the business together. They also resided on-site with their four sons. Four generations of the Palmer family have managed the funeral home, later renamed Palmer Memorial Chapel. The Palmer family, under leadership of Robert John Palmer, actively supported numerous mid-20th century social causes, including civil rights and voter education. Freedom Riders briefly sheltered at the funeral home in 1961 when passing through Sumter. Though altered, the original funeral home still stands. **Sponsored by Blackjack Baptist Church and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Williamsburg

Union School **HM**

West side of Union Missionary Baptist Church, 216 Union Church Rd., Salters

This is the site of Union School, a public school that served African Americans mostly from the Salters and Lane communities. The school was founded by nearby Union Baptist Church, which organized c.1890. Around 70-90 elementary-age students attended each day in the mid-1930s. The school had one teacher at that time and operated for a term of 4-5 months. For much of its history Union School was part of Williamsburg County School District No. 2 (Heineman). In 1950 it enrolled around 80 pupils and had two teachers. It closed a few years later during the consolidation of the county's small country schools. Students subsequently went to schools in Greeleyville and Lane. Though altered, a frame building that housed the school still stands. **Sponsored by Union Missionary Baptist Church and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

St. John School **HM**

Green Rd. and south end of McKenzie Look, Lake City

This was the site of St. John School, a public school for African American children of the Moore's Crossroads area. It was in operation by 1920 and its name was taken from nearby St. John Methodist Church. At that time it was part of Williamsburg County's Pergamos School District (No. 29). St. John was founded by members of the Wilson family and other local residents. Pergamos School District was later consolidated with Florence County's Lake City School District. In the mid-1930s, St. John School operated 4-5 months out of the year. Around 30 students in grades 1-7 usually attended at that time. The school closed in 1953 amid efforts to consolidate country schools. It was housed in a wood frame school building that no longer stands. **Sponsored by Williamsburg County and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

York

St. Mary Catholic Church **HM**

902 Crawford Rd., Rock Hill

St. Mary Catholic Church formed in 1945. It was organized by Fr. Edward Wahl, a white Oratorian who sought to minister to local African Americans. The first church was constructed at this site and dedicated in 1946. Also built at that time was a recreation center that hosted social events, athletic leagues, and other programs for local Black residents. At the time of its founding, St. Mary had five members. St. Mary grew to more than sixty members by the mid-1950s. In 1951 the church established Crawford Federal Credit Union to provide financial assistance to local African Americans. The Sisters of Christian Doctrine founded a preschool and kindergarten in 1956. An education center across Crawford Road was dedicated in 1969. A larger church was built next to the original in 2008 to accommodate St. Mary's roughly 450 members. **Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #15611 and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery **HM**

East side of Banks Rd., 1/4 mi. north of Banksridge Rd, Fort Mill

This cemetery dates to at least c.1900 and was established by members of Bethlehem Baptist Church. Bethlehem historically worshipped at a site north of here in Fort Mill. Tradition holds the cemetery lot was given by church trustee Handy White. It is roughly one acre in size and likely contains around 100 burials. The cemetery mainly served African American residents of Fort Mill's Paradise community. It was also known as the Banks Street Cemetery. It was overseen by the Bethlehem congregation as well as Jerusalem Baptist Church, which worshipped nearby on Brickyard Road. Burials no longer take place. **Sponsored by George Fish School Foundation LLC and S.C. African American Heritage Commission.**

Jefferson High School **HM**

Pinckney St. just north of Spruce St., 1/4 mi. north of Banksridge Rd, Fort Mill

Jefferson High School was built at this site c.1924. It was funded with support from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation and served African American students from York and nearby areas. The brick-veneered, wood frame building followed a six-teacher plan and was also known as York County Training School. It enrolled elementary and high schools students and replaced a graded school est. 1903 on West Jefferson Street. By the late 1940s Jefferson High School included three buildings and served around 300 students in grades 1-12. Elementary students moved to a separate school built across the street in 1955. That campus as well as 1956 additions and renovations to the high school were funded by the state equalization program. Jefferson High School's mascot was a Blue Devil. It closed in 1970 when the two campuses became an integrated middle school. **Sponsored by Culture & Heritage Museums of York County, Jefferson Remembered, and S.C. African American Heritage Commission**