

Call & Response

News from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission

Winter 2010 Volume V, Number 1



<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/afamer/hpaahcommission.htm>

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Message from the Chair

Leon A. Love, Chairperson



It's spring and the leaves are bursting out all over. After a long cold winter and a wonderful annual meeting in January, the Commission is moving to continue broadening our base. Let me first welcome our newest member of the Commission, Bhakti Larry Hough (see his profile on page 6.) Larry is a former member of the Commission, and we are happy to have him return.

On March 3, in a pre-conference session to the Landmark and Preservation Conference, held in Georgetown this year, the Commission partnered with the Gullah/Geechee Cultural

Heritage Corridor Commission and presented a discussion about the benefits of ethnic tourism. Panelists for the discussion included Michael Allen, Coordinator of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor; Emory Campbell, Chairman, Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission; Ron Daise, Vice President for Creative Education at Brookgreen Gardens; George Estes, Director of Operations for the Office of Heritage Tourism at the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Jenny Stephens, Executive Director of the Center for Heirs Property Preservation Center and me representing the Commission. There was a lively discussion between the panelists and participants, and many ideas flowed about the value of ethnic tourism. After the session, the Commission hosted a reception with renowned visual artist, Jim Harrison. Harrison created an original work of art to benefit the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Landmark & Preservation Conference also provided an opportunity for members of the Commission to take a tour of several sites relating to African American History. Dr. Barbara Jenkins and Jannie Harriot toured Friendfield Plantation. Dr. Jenkins, Jannie Harriot and I also attended a reception at Hobcaw Barony. The conference presented opportunities for Commission members to network with other preservation organizations from around the state.

The Commission will soon partner with another preservation organization - the SC National Heritage Corridor for a Diversity Forum on June 27th in Charleston. This will be a pre-conference session to the International Heritage Development Conference.

Finally, let me again encourage you to become a member of the SC African American Heritage Foundation. The Foundation supports the efforts of the Commission and we need your help to continue to "Preserve Our Places in History." Please see the membership form on page 10.

The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

In The News ***Preserving Our Places In*** ***History Awards Luncheon***

Friday, January 29, 2010

Archives & History Center, Columbia

**MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL AWARD RECIPIENTS &
NOMINEES ~ SC IS MORE RICH
BECAUSE OF YOUR WORK !!**



**GROUP OR
ORGANIZATION AWARD**

**SWEETGRASS
CULTURAL ARTS
FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**

MOUNT PLEASANT



**LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

**QUEEN QUET
ST. HELENA ISLAND**



PROJECT AWARD

DAUFUSKIE ISLAND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION



INDIVIDUAL AWARD

**ANDREW AGHA (far right) &
NICOLE ISENGARGER (2nd from left)
MOUNT PLEASANT**



**LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

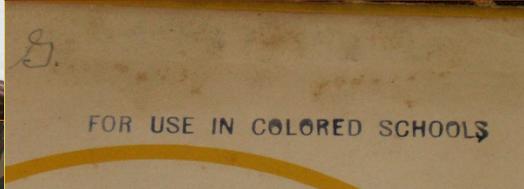
**DR. CLEVELAND
SELLERS, JR.
DENMARK**

**Award accepted
by Cleveland
Sellers III
(far left)**

Annual Meeting: At A Glance
Preserving Our Places In History:
African Americans & The Civil War

Friday, January 29, 2010

Archives & History Center



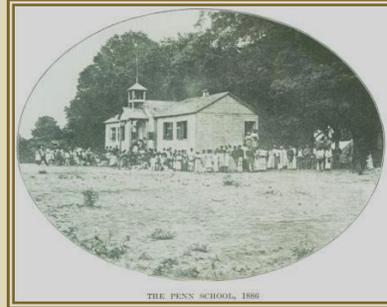
A Sesquicentennial Series: *African Americans during the Civil War - Stony The Road They Trod* Part 2: Educating the Masses in SC Abel Bartley

Dr. Bartley is Director of the Pan African Studies Program & Associate Professor of African American and Urban History, Clemson University



An area where African Americans played a pivotal role was in the education. Between 85 and 90 percent of African American slaves were illiterate when slavery ended. Most African Americans understood that the quickest way to make their freedom real was through education, and northern missionaries and teachers flooded into the South to provide educational services for the newly-freed slaves. Charlotte Forten was the first northern African American schoolteacher to go south. Born into a prominent Philadelphia family in 1837, Forten graduated from a Normal School in Salem, MA and began her teaching career in the Salem schools as the first African American ever hired. There she gained valuable experience learning the teaching profession. Once the Civil War started and people began to see the tremendous educational needs of the South, Forten took advantage of her chance to be part of a larger cause. In 1862, she traveled to St. Helena Island, SC where she worked with Laura Towne. As a black woman, Forten hoped to develop a kinship with the freedmen, and use her education to aid the former slaves. Though she wanted to develop a bond with the islanders, her elitist background, education, and personality set her apart. She had difficulty developing relationships with her students and actually felt more comfortable with the white abolitionists. The physical and emotional stress proved too much for the young delicate Forten who was always frail and sickly. She was forced by illness to leave St. Helena after two years. In 1864, she published "Life on the Sea Islands" in *The Atlantic Monthly*, which brought the work of the Port Royal Experiment to the attention of northern readers. Forten's personal diaries, recording her life from 1854-64 and 1885-92,

are treasured examples of what a cultured well-educated African American thought about the war and people who were affected by it. She embodied the intellectual potential of all black people. She was, above all, dedicated to social justice. After the war, Forten moved to Washington D.C. where she supported African American civil rights. She married the minister Francis Grimke, nephew of the famous abolitionists Angelina and Sarah Grimke. After a prolonged illness, she died in 1914.



The Penn School, St. Helena Island, 1880s.
From <http://www.public.coe.edu/~theller/soj/saw/sydenham.htm>

No matter what side people were on during the war, one thing is undeniable. The Civil War set the stage for free public education in the South. After Union forces occupied lands owned by former slave owners, they turned the land over to the freedmen. This became known as the Port Royal Experiment. The 10,000 slaves who remained on the Sea Islands were aided by northern philanthropic organizations as they established independent communities free from white control. Since education was one of the first needs of the mostly illiterate poor former slaves, the Penn Center was formed as a result. It was designed to educate the freedmen on the Sea Islands around Port Royal Sound. Penn School was part of an effort by abolitionists from Pennsylvania who joined with churches in creating the Freedmen Association. In April 1862, Laura Towne came to St. Helena Island. Ellen Murray joined her in June, and together they pledged to serve the people of the islands for 40 years. The school was wildly successful. It quickly outgrew its original building. A 50-acre tract of land across from the church was purchased from Hasting Gantt. The building was erected on this land and became the first Penn School building.

One subject which historians have not given enough attention to was the progressive attitude that South Carolinians demonstrated towards education during the post-war period. When you consider that SC experimented with integrated education, you begin to see how progressive the early advocates were. South Carolina was one of only two southern states that experimented with integrated education during

Reconstruction. With all of the discussions about budget cuts, outdated schools, and low graduation rates, it is rare that you see the words progressive and education used in the same sentence when discussing SC. However, there was a time when SC was ahead of the curve on educational issues. During Reconstruction, African Americans in SC were blessed to have some of the best educated, most effective leaders in the South. The state constitution was a very progressive document, which continues to serve as the foundation for state government today. The constitution called for abolition of slavery, integrated free public education, equality before the law, an expanded franchise, a new tax assessment system, and new rules governing marriage. The men who spent 53 days debating and writing that constitution redefined what it meant to be a South Carolinian.

Free public education proved to be one of the most lasting changes. Representative B.F. Randolph first introduced the measure calling for extension of the Freedman's Bureau in the state along with the creation of a Bureau of Education to ensure an efficient system of schools. Another black legislator, A. J. Ransier, then followed this up by establishing a Committee on Education to establish a state system of common schools. Robert Smalls then took up the issue offering an amendment to the constitution to create a compulsory school attendance for at least six months a year for all children ages seven to fourteen. As a result, The Committee on Education put in a provision in the state constitution which required the compulsory attendance "at either public or private schools of all children between the ages of six and sixteen years not physically or mentally disabled, for a term equivalent to twenty-four months."

Serious debate erupted over the compulsory education issue. Francis L. Cardoza made an impassioned plea to adopt compulsory education arguing that it was the key to South Carolina's future. He argued that residents should follow the example of Prussia and Massachusetts who developed their educational institutions. He argued that you either pay taxes for schools or for prisons. He recommended that compulsory education should follow a state-supported system of free public education, to cover all state citizens. With his plea and amendment the resolution was passed, and SC joined the long list of states offering free compulsory public education.

Francis L. Cardoza may have been one of the best-educated persons in SC. Born in Charleston to a prominent Jewish businessman and economist and his free-black wife in 1837, he was educated in the

free schools in Charleston. At 12, he was apprenticed as a carpenter. In 1858, he studied at the University of Glasgow and several other prominent Presbyterian seminaries in England.

He returned to the US in 1864 and to SC the next year working with the American Missionary Association as a teacher. Sensing a need, he helped found the Avery Normal Institute in Charleston. His goal at Avery was to train black teachers. About the training of black teachers, Cardoza said, it "is the object for which I left all the superior advantages and privileges of the North and came South, it is the object for which I have labored during the past year, and for which I am willing to remain here and make this place my home." Cardoza proved to be an invaluable asset at both the 1865 and 1868 state conventions. He was elected Secretary of State in 1868. He served on the advisory board of the state Land Commission, served as president of the SC Union League, and he was on the board of trustees for the University of SC. He also served two terms as state Treasurer. In 1876, he lost power as the Democrats regained power in the state. Cardoza then moved to Washington, DC in 1878 where he became part of that city's emerging black elite.

By 1890, the number of illiterate African Americans above the age of 10 in SC was still relatively high. There were still 301,262 illiterates out of the total black population of 470,232, although significant progress had been made. The white illiteracy rate had been tremendously reduced down to 59,443 out of a population of 332,174. When one considers the steady increase in school attendance, you quickly see just how significant the increase was. In 1870, there were only 18,000 African Americans attending school in SC. Just five years later, that number had more than quadrupled to 63,415. By 1882, there were 80,575, and by 1890 there were 122,556 African Americans attending school. These numbers show that South Carolinians were slowly beginning to accept the idea of public education and beginning to expend more resources on facilities and teachers.

African Americans continued to blaze a trail in education in the Palmetto State. For example, in 1873, Secretary of State Henry E. Hayne attended the University of South Carolina's Medical School. He was followed by C.M. Wilder, the postmaster in Columbia; Joseph D. Barton, a representative from Newberry; and Lawrence Cain and Paris Simkins from Edgefield who studied law. By 1900, South Carolina had firmly established its educational foundation.

Preservation Project Profile

*Charleston's Borough Houses
dedicate their historical marker*

A. Shinault-Small



Photo provided by the family

On March 19th, a monument was dedicated to mount the plaque that the Borough Houses received in 2006 from the City of Charleston during the Moja Arts Festival.

Thirty-five Calhoun Street (above) was built in 1852 by Irish immigrants, and it was purchased in 1939 by Willis Johnson, a Gullah/Geechee who was born on Drayton Hall plantation. In 1940, two of Johnson's sons built 35 1/2 Calhoun St. to the rear of #35 to complete their carpentry apprenticeship. Today, these homes are among the remaining structures in Charleston's historic district that are still African American-owned.

The monument was donated by Mr. & Mrs. David Scott of Charleston. The Scotts also replaced the signage next to #35 that describes the site's powerful story to passersby. The monument sets handsomely next to the new signage.

Spotlight on...

**Bhakti Larry Hough
Hemingway**

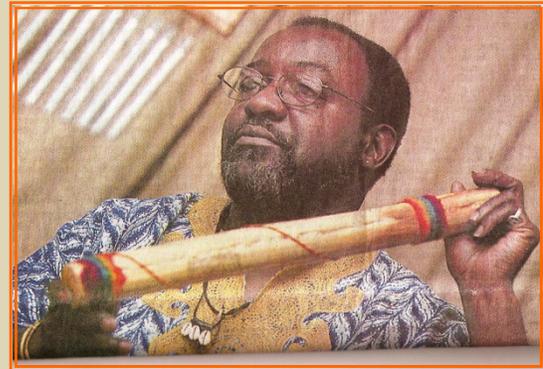


Photo from the Florence Morning News

Bhakti Larry Hough is an award-winning writer and one of the most accomplished and versatile media, mass communications, and cultural resources development professionals in SC. Over a nearly 30-year career, he has held positions in virtually every phase of media and communications planning, development and execution. A passionate advocate of African American and African culture, history and empowerment through mass media, the arts and the humanities, he has blazed trails and has been the force behind many creative and visionary community projects and programs. Early in life, he adopted the belief that acquisition and sharing of knowledge and information, along with a deep understanding and appreciation of culture, history and spirituality are the keys to the liberation and empowerment of African American people.

A consummate media and communications artist/technician, he has a well-documented track record of success as a newspaper reporter and editor (*The State*, *Florence Morning News*, SC Black Media Group); editor and columnist (Media General newspapers); a radio talk and music program producer/host (Cumulus Broadcasting); a TV public affairs show interviewer (WIS-TV); a government agency public relations coordinator (SC Department of Social Services); a grants researcher and proposal writer; and nonprofit organization CEO (Association of Hartsville Entrepreneurs for Advancement and Development). He is a poet whose work has been published in general circulation and literary magazines, including *ESSENCE* and *CATALYST*, and a jazz musician who sings and plays percussion instruments.

Spotlight on... Bhakti Larry Hough continued

Bhakti is the president of *New World Communications Group*, a company that specializes in public relations, media and mass communications services, personal management, and cultural resources development and strategic planning for nonprofit, cultural, artistic and religious organizations and projects.

A talented writer, Hough's work has received numerous awards and citations, including the 2004 *A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award for Journalism Excellence* from the *National Newspaper Publisher's Association*. He has also won awards from the *SC Press Association*, the *Associated Press Managing Editors Association*, the *National School Public Relations Association*, the *SC State Board of Education*, the *SC Education Association*, and *Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*.

Since 2005, he has been general manager of *WLGI-FM 90.9 (Radio Baha'i)* of Hemingway, SC. Also, since 2000, he has been producer/host of *City Beat*, a public affairs talk show on *Cumulus Broadcasting-Florence* radio station *WYNN-FM* that focuses on social, cultural and historical issues of relevance to the African American community.

Bhakti Larry Hough, second from left, stands with fellow musicians from WGQ.



News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Elizabeth M. Johnson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

The Department of Archives and History recently approved texts for the following historical markers associated with African American history. Please note that all of these markers may not have been erected yet. After the text is approved, the markers must be manufactured and installed. Staff contact: Tracy Power (803) 896-6182 or power@scdah.state.sc.us.

To search the online database of historical markers go to <http://www.scaet.org/markers/>.

French Huguenot Plantation/Freedman's Plantation, Goose Creek, Berkeley County (Front) Abraham Fleury, sometimes called Abraham Fleury Sieur De La Plaine, settled here about 1680. He was one of the first French Huguenot planters in Carolina. The Huguenots, Protestants who escaped the persecution of Catholic France, immigrated with encouragement from the Lords Proprietors, who promised them opportunity and religious freedom. They later assimilated into the predominantly Anglican society of the lowcountry. (Reverse) This tract was often called Cherry Hill after it was merged into that plantation before the Revolution. In 1858 freedman and planter Lamb Stevens (1766?-1868) added it to his extensive holdings. Stevens, born into slavery in N.C., later purchased his freedom and moved to S.C. He owned as many as 30 slaves, some of them relatives he bought in order to protect them and their families. Lamb died in 1868 at the age of 102. Erected by the City of Goose Creek, 2010

Camp of Wild's "African Brigade," 1863-1864, Folly Beach, Charleston County (Front) Folly Island was occupied by Union troops April 1863-February 1865. Gen. Edward A. Wild's "African Brigade" camped nearby from November 1863 to February 1864. The two regiments in Wild's brigade were the 55th Massachusetts, made up largely of free blacks, and the 1st North Carolina, made up of former slaves. (Reverse) A cemetery was laid out nearby for soldiers in Wild's Brigade who died here in 1863-64.

***News from the
South Carolina Department
of
Archives and History
continued***

Most graves were removed after the war. In 1987 relic hunters discovered additional graves of U.S. Colored Troops. In 1987-88 archaeologists removed 19 burials and published their findings. These soldiers were reburied with full military honors at Beaufort National Cemetery in May 1989. Erected by The Friends of the 55th Massachusetts, 2010

Calvary Episcopal Church, Charleston (Front) This church, located on Beaufain Street for 91 years, was organized in 1847 to give free blacks and slaves in antebellum Charleston a separate Episcopal congregation of their own. The Rev. Paul Trapier was its first minister, and the church met in the St. Philip's Episcopal Church parsonage, then in Temperance Hall, before acquiring a lot at the corner of Beaufain and Wilson Streets. (Reverse) A stuccoed brick church on Beaufain Street was completed and consecrated in 1849. In 1940 Charleston Housing Authority bought the historic church and lot to build the Robert Mills Manor housing project. The congregation bought this lot on Line Street from the city and dedicated this sanctuary in 1942. Three African-American cemeteries have been on this site: one "Colored," one Baptist, and Calvary Episcopal. Erected by the Congregation, 2010

Burke High School, Charleston (Front) This school, founded in 1910, was the first public high school for African-Americans in Charleston. It succeeded the Charleston Normal & Industrial School, a private school at Bogard & Kracke Streets, which had been founded in 1894 by Rev. John L. Dart. The new Charleston Colored & Industrial School, built here at President and Fishburne Streets by the City of Charleston, opened in January 1911 with 375 students. (Reverse) David Hill became the first African-American principal in 1919. The school was renamed Burke Industrial School in 1921 in memory of J.E. Burke, vice chairman of the public school board. By 1930 Burke, with 1,000 students, had a full elementary and high school curriculum in addition to its vocational curriculum. Burke merged with

Avery High School in 1954, was accredited, and was renamed Burke High School, in a new complex on this site. It was rebuilt in 2005. Erected by the Burke High School Foundation, Inc., 2010

Friendship A.M.E. Church & Cemetery/ Bell Street Schools, Clinton, Laurens County (Front) This church held its first services in a nearby brush arbor shortly after the Civil War and was formally organized in 1880. Trustees purchased this 3-acre lot, and members and friends built a frame church here, naming their congregation Friendship A.M.E. Church. The present brick church on South Bell Street was built in 1937. The cemetery here includes graves of veterans of American wars from World War I to Vietnam. (Reverse) Friendship School, founded in 1883 by Friendship A.M.E. Church, eventually grew to include grades 1-11. In 1926 it became a public school, moved into a new building, and was renamed Bell Street School. It was the first accredited black high school in the county. The 1950 school nearby became an elementary school in 1956, renamed Martha Dendy School in 1960. Later a middle school, it closed in 2008. Erected by Friendship A.M.E. Church, 2010

Harriet Barber House, Richland County (Front) In 1872 Samuel Barber (d. 1891) and his wife Harriet (d. 1899), both former slaves, bought 42 1/2 acres here from the S.C. Land Commission, established in 1869 to give freedmen and freedwomen the opportunity to own land. Barber, a well-digger as a slave, was a farmer and minister after the Civil War. The Barber family has owned a major portion of this tract since Samuel and Harriet Barber purchased it in 1872. (Reverse) Samuel Barber's wife Harriet (d. 1899) received title to this land in 1879. This one-story frame house was built ca. 1880. The Barbers' son Rev. John B. Barber (1872-1957) inherited the property in 1899. He was a schoolteacher and pastor of St. Mark and New Light Beulah Baptist churches. This house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. Erected by South East Rural Community Outreach, 2010

Guest Corner

Anjuli Grantham

Rosenwald Schools are rare and vanishing historic resources in SC. Of the approximately 500 schools built in the state, at least 34 are known to exist today. Most are in need of urgent preservation, but many continue to be in daily use, or have recently been rehabilitated. Finding the remaining schools is an ongoing challenge. They have been discovered under overgrown vegetation, standing alone in a field, or hidden in plain sight. Finding and preserving these schools is a continuing collaborative effort. Do you know where your Rosenwald School is? Please contact the SHPO if you have information on existing or lost schools, or to find out about preserving a school in your vicinity. Contact Brad Sauls to ask questions or contribute information at 803-896-6172, or write to sauls@scdah.state.sc.us.

Extant Rosenwald Schools

County	School	Town
Aiken	Jerusalem Salley Union Academy	Ridge Spring Salley Salley
Anderson	Mountain Springs New Light North Side Shiloh	Anderson Anderson Anderson Townville
Bamberg	Denmark	Denmark
Charleston	Lincolntown Nine Mile Fork	Lincolntown Wadmalaw Isl.
Colleton	Ruffin	Ruffin
Dillon	Dillon Pleasant Hill	Dillon Latta
Dorchester	St. George	St. George
Florence	Mt. Zion* Vox	Mars Bluff Johnsonville vicinity
Kershaw	Mickle Mt. Joshua Red Hill	Lugoff Lugoff Kershaw
Lancaster	Steele Hill	Van Wyck vicinity
McCormick	Hopewell	Woodlawn

County	School	Town
Newberry	Hannah* Hope * Howard Jr. High* Jalapa Mt. Olive Vaughanville	Newberry Pomaria Prosperity Jalapa Prosperity Vaughanville
Oconee	Retreat Seneca	Westminster Seneca
Orangeburg	Great Branch Teacherage	Orangeburg
Richland	Pine Grove*	Irmo
Spartanburg	Brooklyn	Chesnee vicinity
Sumter	High Hill	Stateburg vicinity
York	Carroll	Rock Hill

* Listed in the National Register of Historic Places



Left: Julius Rosenwald; Right: Pine Grove School in the Columbia area, built in 1923. From <http://www.preservationnation.org/travel-and-sites/sites/southern-region/rosenwald-schools/>

Anjuli Grantham is a graduate assistant for the SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) and is a student in the Public History Program at USC.

Call & Response is the official newsletter of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission and is published three times annually; A. Shinault-Small, Editor. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH). Information published is at the discretion of the Editor.

The Commission extends its heartfelt gratitude to SCDAH graphic artist Tim Belshaw for his ongoing technical and graphics support.

South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation

The South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation supports the efforts of the South Carolina African Heritage Commission to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures buildings, and culture of the African American experience and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Please consider supporting these efforts by becoming a member of the SCAAH Foundation. Members receive:

- ◆ Invitations to all Commission meetings
- ◆ A copy of *African American Historic Places in South Carolina*
- ◆ A subscription to *Call & Response*, the Commission's quarterly newsletter
- ◆ A subscription to *News and Notes*, a monthly online newsletter from the Historic Preservation Division of the SC Department of Archives & History
- ◆ Notification of special workshops and meetings
- ◆ Discount registrations for workshops and meetings



The African American Heritage Foundation's on Facebook !! Click on the link to the SCAAHC web page at the upper left corner of page 1, beneath our logo, then click on the Facebook link. Become a fan and join us there !!!

Membership Form

Please complete and return to: South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation ◆ P.O. Box 1053 ◆ Hartsville, SC 29551 or contact: Jannie Harriot, Commission Vice Chairperson, at 843-332-3589 or e-mail scaaheritagefound@gmail.com .

- I would like to become member of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation. Enclosed is my \$25 annual membership.
- Our organization would like to become member of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation. Enclosed is our \$75 annual membership which allows 4 of our members to get discounted registrations.
- Enclosed is a contribution to the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-Mail _____