A Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina

2015

Revised and Edited by the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation
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Artwork: Temporary window coverings created by students from Benedict College, Claflin University, Columbia College, and the University of South Carolina for Bethel A.M.E. Church/Renaissance Cultural Arts Center Columbia
The South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation (SCAAHF) is very pleased to introduce the updated and revised edition of *A Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina*. It was initially published in 2008 and first revised in 2012.

The SCAAHF supports the efforts of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC). The Commission was established by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1993 as the South Carolina African American Heritage Council; then it was established as a Commission by Executive Order in 2001.

The SCAAHC’s mission is “To identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina.” *A Teacher’s Guide* serves as an outreach instrument for public schools throughout the Palmetto State to assist educators with incorporating the information herein into their classroom instruction.

This 2015 edition of *A Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina* is the product of a team of dedicated teachers representing all grade levels K-12. They are: Lacy Bryant (Charleston County School District); Wallace Foxworth (Marion County School District); Spencer Gaither (Darlington County School District); Frank Gause (Richland School District One); Mary Haile (Richland School District One); Katelyn Price (Richland School District One); Lisa Seeber (Charleston County School District); Marlon Smith (Richland School District One) and Brian Williams (Richland School District One). This project was also made possible through the work of Dr. Valinda Littlefield (Director, African American Studies, University of South Carolina); Jannie Harriot (Executive Director South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation and SCAAHC Secretary); Urca P. Floyd (Vice-President, South Carolina Council for African Americans Studies); Chanda Robinson (Richland School District One, Executive Director, South Carolina Council for African American Studies and SCAAHC Ex officio Board member); Alada Shinault Small (former SCAAHC Board member); Dr. Larry Watson (Professor of History, South Carolina State University, SCAAS President and SCAAHC Ex officio Board member) and Joy Young (South Carolina Arts Commission; Adjunct Faculty in Music, Benedict College and SCAAHC Ex officio Board member).
This revised edition of *A Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina* includes sites identified and approved by The National Register of Historic Places (NR) or the South Carolina Historical Marker Program (HM). All of the lesson plans from the previous editions have been revised to eliminate references to the Common Core literacy standards and are replaced with the South Carolina College-and-Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts.

**Correlation of Standard Indicators (SI)**

As in the previous versions of *African American Historic Places in South Carolina*, this edition of *A Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina* correlates the sites to the 2011 South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standard Indicators. The standard indicators are listed below each site summary.

**Correlation of South Carolina College-and-Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts (ELA SI)**

These standards, published in 2015, are the result of a process designed to identify, evaluate, synthesize, and create the most high-quality, rigorous academic criteria for South Carolina students. They are designed to ensure that South Carolina students are prepared to enter and succeed in economically viable career opportunities or postsecondary education and ensuing careers.

**Correlation of South Carolina Visual and Performing Arts Academic Standards (ARTS)**

The 2010 South Carolina Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts is presented as a series of seven documents that individually address the arts areas of dance, choral music, general music, instrumental music, media arts, theatre, and visual arts from kindergarten through high school.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - 2008 & 2012 eds.

The committee of dedicated teachers truly made this project possible. With-out their contributions of time and experience, hard work, and creativity, this guide would not exist.

2008 edition: Ellen Bagby (Midlands Technical College), Lisa Bevans (Drayton Hall Elementary School), Anthony Blair (Fairfield Central High School), Cleo Crank (Greenville Tech Charter High School), Dale Evans (Robert E. Howard Middle School), Linda Hardin (Tanglewood Middle School), Harmonica Hart (Kelly Mill Middle School), Anne Howard (Lexington Intermediate School), Gina Kessee (Fairfield Central High School), Rosamond Lawson (Charleston School of the Arts), Barbara Padgett (Gilbert Middle School), Sherie Sawyer (Latta Elementary School), Linda Smith (A.C. Flora High School), Jacqueline Smith (North Myrtle Beach Intermediate School), and Patrick Wise (Dent Middle School).

2012 Edition: Frederica Walker Brown (Baron DeKalb Elementary), Amishacoe Fulmore (Lake City High School), Jeremy K. Gerken (J. Paul Truluck Middle School), Dr. Cynthia Gregory-Smallis (Beaufort Middle School), Debra Koger (Alternative Center for Education), Dr. Marsha Myers-Jones (Alcorn Middle School), and Rhonda Willis (Wade Hampton High School).

These teachers sacrificed numerous weekends and evenings to correlate the South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards, the English Language Arts Standards, the Visual and Performing Arts Standards and historic sites to develop teaching activities, lesson plans and to update previous versions of the guide.

Particular thanks to Chanda Robinson, Richland County School District One, Dr. Valinda Littlefield, Director of African American Studies, University of South Carolina; and, Don Stewart, former director of Teaching American History, South Carolina, for their leadership and concept development of this guide.

Urpa C. Floyd and Dr. Larry Watson of the executive committee of the South Carolina Council for African American Studies (SCCAAS) provided invaluable editorial assistance, 2012 edition. Ginetta Hamilton, Jennifer Strickland-Poole, and Joel Walker of SCCAAS also provided invaluable editorial assistance. These State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff members provided editorial assistance for the 2008 edition: Andrew Chandler, Alisha Cromwell, Rebekah Dobrasko, Elizabeth Johnson, J. Tracy Power, Brad Sauls, and Richard Sidebottom. Tim Belshaw of the Department of Archives and History designed the book.

The listing of African American sites in the National Register was originally compiled by students from South Carolina State University who interned with the Department of Archives and History in the 1990s and with assistance from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission. The Department of Archives and History gratefully acknowledges their contributions.

Most of the information in the summary descriptions in this book came from the National Register and Statewide Survey of Historic Properties files at the Archives and History Center. The following publications also provided much valuable information:


Special thanks also to the following for images used in this publication:

- Chicora Foundation for the Mitchelville photograph;
- Constance Schulz, History of South Carolina Slide Collection, for photographs of Dr. York Bailey, flooding of a rice field at high tide, Avery Institute, Jenkins Orphanage Band, Dizzy Gillespie, workers at Hobcaw Barony pounding rice, Modjeska Simkins, and Mary M. Bethune;
- The South Carolina State Museum for the photograph of Liberty Hill A.M.E Church;
- The Original Sweetgrass Marketplace Coalition for the photograph of basket making; and
- Cecil Williams, Freedom and Justice, for the photograph of Lennie Glover demonstrating in front of the Columbus, South Carolina Woolworths building in 1961.
All other photographs are from the State Historic Preservation Office files at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History Center.

*A Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina* was made possible through generous grants and assistance from the South Carolina Department of Education; The Humanities Council, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities; Teaching American History in South Carolina; and the Terence L. Mills Memorial Endowed Preservation Services Fund for North and South Carolina of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In 1947, John Hope Franklin, the dean of African American history, wrote: “It has been necessary, therefore, to a considerable extent, to retell the story of the evolution of the people of the United States in order to place the Negro in his proper relationship and perspective.” As prophetic as these words are, it has taken nearly fifty years of effort on the parts of scholars from all disciplines to raise this consciousness to a level that demands a more universal and scholarly inquiry into the major contributions of people of African descent to the development of world civilization and more specifically the United States. This has been especially true in many regions such as South Carolina. Due in part to the impact of the modern Civil Rights Movement and more enlightened views of black and white political leaders and educators, the state has embarked on a multitude of initiatives specifically designed to promote the study and appreciation of the African American experience. Of particular importance here is the 1984 South Carolina State legislature mandate that required:

*By the 1989-1990 school year, each public school of the State must instruct students in the history of the black people [African Americans] as a regular part of its history and social studies courses. The State Board of Education shall establish regulations for the adoption of history and social studies textbooks, which incorporate black [African American] history and shall, through the State Department of Education, assist the school districts in developing and locating suitable printed materials and other aids for instruction in black [African American] history. (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-29-55)*

This directive lent governmental credence to the growing interest in incorporating the African American experience into the K-12 teaching of social studies.

The social sciences represent the very heart of humankind. Properly taught, students learn how and where people lived; how they maintain order and control; how they shared resources; and how they adapted to change over time. One of the main objectives in creating *A Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina* is that the student, regardless of his background, develops a high level of understanding of the total history of South Carolina when exposed to historically significant sites of the state’s entire people. The instructional use of African American historic sites helps students to grapple with and understand the basic issues of the American experience. This applied history approach is just one more innovative method of retelling “the story of the evolution of the people of the United States in order to place the Negro in his proper relationship and perspective.”

— *South Carolina Council for African American Studies*
African Americans have made a vast contribution to the history of South Carolina throughout its over 300-year history. The African American story lies at the very heart of our heritage. From the first English settlements African slaves provided the primary workforce, and by 1708 they formed a majority of the non-native population in the colony. By 1720 the black population of South Carolina was twice that of the white population. Except for a period between 1790 and the 1820s, African Americans made up the largest segment of the population in South Carolina until 1922. It is believed that half of today's African American population in the United States has ties to South Carolina.

A wealth of historic buildings, structures, and sites document the state's African American heritage from slavery to freedom and from segregation and political and economic disenfranchisement to the struggle for equal rights. Slave houses, archaeological sites, and rice fields remind us of the legacy of slavery. Buildings in Charleston, Camden, and Columbia attest to the contributions of free African Americans during the antebellum period. The years of Civil War and Reconstruction are remembered in places as diverse as campgrounds associated with African American soldiers fighting for the Union, the site where the Emancipation Proclamation was first celebrated, and the homes of African American legislators. Buildings that housed African American schools, businesses, professional offices, and social and fraternal organizations are reminders of the years of Jim Crow segregation. The struggle for equal rights is commemorated in places such as the homes of Civil Rights leaders, meeting places, and the sites of protests.

As a group these historic places remind us of the courage, endurance, and achievements of black South Carolinians. Through their documentation and preservation all South Carolinians can begin to more fully understand and appreciate the contributions of African Americans to the rich history of our state.

This publication provides information on properties in South Carolina that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, are listed as National Historic Landmarks, or have been recognized with South Carolina Historical Markers and have important associations with African American history. More information on these and other properties is available at the South Carolina Archives and History Center. Many other places in South Carolina are important to our African American history and heritage and are eligible for listing in the National Register or for recognition with the South Carolina Historical Marker program. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History welcomes questions regarding the listing or marking of other eligible sites.

In this edition we emphasize historic places as opportunities for transformative education. The SHPO staff recognized this publication as an untapped educational resource.

The use of local historic sites in the curriculum makes the history we teach our children relevant and personally meaningful. Using local historic sites creates an opportunity for students to think critically about the past within a context they understand because they are immersed in their surroundings daily. These sites also provide an opportunity for students to become engaged in their communities by analyzing how the built environment served the community in the past and how they see it being utilized in the future.

With this in mind the African American Historic Places in South Carolina booklet was distributed to participants of the Teaching American History in South Carolina Summer Institutes in 2006 and 2007. The booklet was also circulated and presented at teacher conferences. We learned over the course of the next two years that while the site information in the AAHP was a valuable resource, teachers needed more prepared materials to integrate those sites into the curriculum. This version, re-titled A Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina, was created as a standards-based resource that can be readily used in the classroom, encouraging the incorporation of local African American historic places into the social studies and arts curriculum. Doing so will prepare students to become more engaged and better-informed citizens who respect, understand, and are equipped to function in our multicultural society.

— Leah E. Brown, Editor, 2008 Edition
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

List of Historic Sites
The historic sites listed in this book are those that have a significant association with African American history and are recognized by at least one of the following programs: the South Carolina Historical Marker Program, the National Register of Historic Places, and the National Historic Landmark Program. The sites are categorized alphabetically, first by the county within which they are located, second by the site’s location within a city, town or community vicinity, and lastly by the name of the site.

Historic Preservation Program Introductions
South Carolina Historical Marker Program (HM)
South Carolina Historical Markers recognize and interpret places important to an understanding of South Carolina’s past. The cast-aluminum markers can tell the stories of buildings and structures that are still standing, or they can commemorate the sites of important historic events or buildings or structures that have been lost. Places of local, state, or national historical importance are eligible for markers. The markers are erected as close to the historic places as possible, either on state highways or on other public streets or roads.

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History must approve the text for all South Carolina Historical Markers. Because no state funding is available for the erection of markers, they must be sponsored and paid for by historical, patriotic, civic, or other organizations such as church congregations or schools and colleges. South Carolina has more than 260 Historical Markers that are associated with African American history. The complete texts of these markers are printed in this book as they appear on the markers themselves. “Front” and “Back” are used to denote two-sided marker text. More information about historical markers is available at, http://shpo.sc.gov/programs/pages/markers.aspx or you can call 803-896-6179 or 803-896-6182.

The National Register of Historic Places (NR)
The National Register of Historic Places is the nation’s honor roll of historic properties, which is maintained by the National Park Service. The National Register recognizes places that are important to our local, state, and national heritage and are worthy of preservation. Buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts significant to American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture can be listed in the National Register. It helps federal, state, and local governments identify those places that should be considered in planning and those whose preservation should be encouraged. The State Historic Preservation Office at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History administers the National Register program in South Carolina. More information about the National Register is available at http://shpo.sc.gov/programs/natreg/Pages/default.aspx or you can call 803-896-6179 or 803-896-6182.

This publication includes summary information about more than 190 National Register properties in South Carolina that are significantly associated with African American history. More extensive information about many of these properties is available in the National Register files at the South Carolina Archives and History Center. These are now available online as well. To view a nomination, click on this link: www.nationalregister.sc.gov/nrlinks.htm. Where available, a link to the digitized nomination is listed at the end of the property’s summary. To view National Register Multiple Property Submissions that include thematic studies such as African American education or the Civil Rights Movement in various communities, follow this link:

http://shpo.sc.gov/research/pages/conreps.aspx

National Historical Landmark Program (NHL)
National Historic Landmarks are buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that have been determined by the National Park Service to be nationally significant in American history and culture. National Historic Landmarks must possess exceptional value in representing or illustrating an important theme in the history of the United States. Many of the most renowned historic properties in the nation are National Historic Landmarks. The National Park Service administers the National Historic Landmark program. Most Landmarks are identified through theme studies undertaken by the Park Service, which examine related places linked by a theme such as women’s history or World War II. A number of South Carolina’s National Historic Landmarks highlight the state’s African American heritage. To find out more about the National Historic Landmark program visit the National Park Service’s website at http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl.

Important Note
Most of these historic places are PRIVATE PROPERTY and are not open to the public. Please respect the property rights of their owners. See the Places to Visit section for a listing of those sites that are open to the public.

Book Organization and Use
Correlation of Standard Indicators (SI)
The biggest distinction between this and previous versions of African American Historic Places in South Carolina is that the 2015 edition of A Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina includes the correlation of the sites to the 2011 South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standard Indicators, the 2010 Visual and Performing Arts Standards and
the 2015 English Language Arts Standards. These standard indicators are given below each site summary.

Where a site has a summary for recognition as both a National Register or National Historic Landmark and a Historical Marker the standards are listed after the National Register or National Historic Landmark entry.

**Time Periods**
The chronological periods employed in this book are based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) timeline for United States History and integrated with those reflected by the historic sites to form five periods of African American history in South Carolina:

- **Colonization and the Revolution** (1670-1800)
- **Expansion and Reform: Antebellum** (1800-1860)
- **Civil War and Reconstruction** (1860-1877)
- **Modern America and Jim Crow Segregation** (1877-1945)
- **Contemporary America: Civil Rights Movement** (1945-Present)

Symbols are used to represent these periods and are included with the historic site summaries. Some sites, however, are important for other reasons such as architectural significance in which case a time period may not apply. See page 9 for a sample entry from the guide.

**Teaching Activities (TA)**
For most teachers their units of study are already formulated. Thus, teaching activities are provided to aid in the development of lesson plans or to supplement existing lessons. Teaching activities are the simplest means of integrating African American history into the teaching of South Carolina and United States history as well as providing a tangible example of that history. The teaching activities are based on historical themes, subjects, or time periods that the corresponding historic sites illustrate.

**Lesson Plans (LP)**
The lesson plans provided in this book were based on lesson models developed by Teaching American History in South Carolina (TAHSC). They, like the teaching activities, are based on historical themes, time periods, or individual sites. Included in each lesson are the pertinent historic sites, social studies standard indicators, literacy elements, essential questions, historic content, "sources needed," lesson procedures, assessment ideas, and lesson activities. The sources needed section provides for more primary or secondary research and the sources that may be needed to carry out the lesson. Keep in mind that these lessons can be adapted to suit various teaching styles and grade levels.

**Places to Visit**
As mentioned previously, many of the historic sites detailed in this book are private property and not open to the public. Places to Visit is offered as another means of encouragement to teachers to take their students to visit local historic sites or to make students and parents aware of these sites as opportunities for family outings. The majority of the sites listed in this section have yet to be listed in the National Register or recognized by a historical marker. The reasons for non-listing are varied, but because of this they are excluded from the main text. These places, however, are just as significant and more importantly are open to the public and offer interpretation. The historic sites listed in the main text that are also open to the public are denoted by ▼.

**Internet Resources**
The websites found in this section inform our understanding of history. Many provide access to primary source information and are easily navigated by students, teachers and parents. These can be used to supplement the teaching activities and lesson plans found in the book.

**Indices**
The historic sites included in the main text of this book are indexed in four ways to help teachers more easily incorporate them into the curriculum. The Standard Indicator Index helps teachers who are looking for sites that relate to a specific indicator. Sites are also indexed by the chronological time periods discussed previously, alphabetically by place name, and by subject (such as building type or area of significance).
**Benedict College** HM 1600 Harden Street

*Front* Benedict College, founded in 1870 by the American Baptist Home Mission Society to educate freedmen and their descendants, was originally called Benedict Institute. It was named for Stephen and Betsyseba Benedict of Rhode Island, whose bequest created the school. Benedict donated money to buy land in Columbia. Its first board was charted in 1874.

*Back* By the time Dr. Verneeton became Benedict College’s first black president in 1930, its curriculum included primary and secondary courses, college-level liberal arts courses, and courses in theology, nursing, and teaching. This curriculum was streamlined in the 1930s to emphasize the liberal arts and theology. Benedict College was also a significant center for civil rights activities in Columbia from the 1930s through the 1960s.

_Erected by the Historic Columbia Foundation, the City of Columbia, and the S.C. Department of Transportation, 2008_

**Bethel A.M.E. Church** NR CRM 1528 Sumter Street

The church organized in 1832 and moved several times before constructing this church on Sumter Street in 1921. The monumental Romanesque Revival brick church was designed by John Anderson Lankford, one of the first African American congregations in Columbia. The church held meetings in her basement until a sanctuary was completed. Mann left the house to Agnes Jackson, her youngest daughter, who lived there until 1907. Jackson’s second husband, Bill Simons, was a member of the well-known Joe Randall Band. Today Historic Columbia Foundation operates the house as a museum that interprets the lives of free African Americans in antebellum Columbia. For more information, see www.historiccolumbia.org/history/mann_samons.html.

**Mann-Simons Cottage** HM 1403 Richland Street

*Front* This cottage, built before 1850, with alterations and additions throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, was the home of Celia Mann (1809-1867) and her husband Dr. Verneeton. Mann was one of the few black doctors in Columbia in the two decades before the Civil War. Mann was a graduate of South Carolina in the 1840s and moved to Columbia, where she worked as a midwife.

*Back* Three Baptist churches (First Calvary, Second Calvary, and Zion) trace their origins to services held in the basement of this house. After Mann’s death her daughter Agnes Jackson (d. 1907) lived here; descendants of Agnes Jackson’s second husband Bill Simons owned the house until 1960. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and has been a museum since 1977.

_Erected by First Calvary Baptist Church, Second Calvary Baptist Church, and Zion Baptist Church, 2003_