African American Historic Places in South Carolina

Addendum covering
July 2009– June 2012

State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Florence Benson Elementary School, Columbia
Listed in the National Register October 7, 2009
This publication is an addition to “African American Historic Places in South Carolina” last published June 2009. It provides information on properties in South Carolina that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places or have been recognized by the South Carolina Historical Marker program from July 2009-June 2012 and have important associations with African American history. The June 2009 publication is available on the State Historic Preservation Office website: http://shpo.sc.gov/

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 of Historic Places or recognition with the South Carolina Historical Marker program. The State Historic Preservation Office at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History welcomes questions regarding the listing or marking of other eligible sites.

State Historic Preservation Office
The South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) helps the state’s citizens preserve their heritage. The SHPO was established in 1969 to implement the goals of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which extended federal support to state and local preservation efforts. The SHPO is a program of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. From the beginning, the SHPO has identified, recorded, and helped to preserve historic and prehistoric resources throughout the state.

Please visit http://shpo.sc.gov for more information about South Carolina’s State Historic Preservation Office.

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 in 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. More information about the National Register is available at http://shpo.sc.gov/properties/register/, or call 803-896-6179.

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. More information about historical markers is available at http://shpo.sc.gov/properties/markers/, or call 803-896-6182.

Acknowledgements
The information in the summary descriptions in this publication came from the National Register and Historical Marker files at the Archives and History Center.

All photographs, unless otherwise noted, are from the State Historic Preservation Office files at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History Center.

This publication was compiled and designed by Adrienne Margolies from Clemson University, an intern at the State Historic Preservation Office.

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.
Aiken County

THE HAMBURG MASSACRE
U.S. Hwy. 1 / 78 / 25, under the 5th St. Bridge on the North Augusta side, North Augusta

(Front) The Hamburg Massacre, which occurred nearby on July 8, 1876, was one of the most notable incidents of racial and political violence in S.C. during Reconstruction. White Democrats across the state organized “rifle clubs” to intimidate black and white Republicans during the gubernatorial election of 1876. Clashes between groups of armed men were frequent, in some cases even including the militia.

(Reverse) After a dispute between whites and a black militia company, about 200 men from local rifle clubs tried to disarm 38 black militiamen and others barricaded in a warehouse. One white was killed and men on each side were wounded before the blacks fled. Two blacks were killed trying to escape. Whites captured 25-30 blacks and executed four of them. 87 whites were charged in the massacre but were never tried for it.

Erected by the Heritage Council of North Augusta, 2010

Allendale County

HAPPY HOME BAPTIST CHURCH
Memorial Ave., near Railroad Ave. W, Allendale

(Front) This church, founded soon after the Civil War, held its first services in a brush arbor in the Woods community of what was then Barnwell County. It built its first permanent church, a frame building, in the Zion Branch community near Old Allendale, and adopted the name Zion Branch Baptist Church. The church bought this site in 1875, built a new frame sanctuary here, and was renamed Happy Home Baptist Church.

(Reverse) Rev. Jacob S. Daniels served the church for almost thirty years, and the congregation grew from 86 members in 1877 to 258 members in 1890. By 1902, his son, Rev. George C. Daniels, succeeded him as pastor, and the church had 379 members. In 1911, during the pastorate of Rev. S.J. Rice, the church received a state charter and built its present church, a brick Gothic Revival building.

Erected by the Congregation, 2011

Anderson County

“THE HUNDREDS”
305 West Queen St., Pendleton

(Front) This area was a hub of African-American life from the late-19th to mid-20th centuries. Anderson County Training School, built ca. 1922 as a Rosenwald school, closed in 1954 under the equalization program for black and white schools. It burned in the 1960s. The agricultural building is now a community center. The Faith Cabin Library, built ca. 1935 by a program to give black schools their own libraries, is one of only two such libraries still standing in S.C.

(Reverse) A frame store built nearby by Benjamin Horace Keese (1881-1975) and long known as the “Keese Barn” was a favorite gathering place for many years. Built ca. 1900 as a grocery store, it was later expanded and served as a cafe and antiques store/auction house. In 2003 Clemson University architecture students dismantled the Keese Barn and reused its historic materials to build the Memorial Block, to honor the store and its significance in Pendleton.

Erected by Pendleton Pride in Motion, 2011

Beaufort County

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH
209 Dillon Rd., Hilton Head Island

This church, founded in 1886 by former members of First African Baptist Church, is one of the oldest surviving institutions remaining from the town of Mitchelville, a freedmen’s village established here by the United States Army in 1862. The present brick sanctuary, covered in stucco, is the third to serve this congregation. It was built in 1972 and renovated in 2005.

Erected by the Congregation, 2011

FORT HOWELL
Beach City Rd., just SW of its junction with Dillon Rd., Hilton Head Island

(Forward) This Civil War fort, named for Gen. Joshua Blackwood Howell (1806-1864), was built by the U.S. Army to defend Hilton Head
(Reverse) This fort was an enclosed pentagonal earthwork with a 23’ high parapet and emplacements for up to 27 guns. It was built from August to November 1864 by the 32nd U.S. Colored Infantry and the 144th N.Y. Infantry. Though Fort Howell never saw action, it is significant for its design and its structural integrity. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

Erected by the Hilton Head Island Land Trust, Inc., 2011

WILLIAM SIMMONS HOUSE
Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island, 187 Gumtree Dr., Hilton Head Island
(Front) This house, built in 1930, is typical in materials and methods of construction of those built on the S.C. Sea Islands from the end of the Civil War to the mid-20th century. It was built on land bought after 1865 by William Simmons (ca. 1835-1922). Simmons, born a slave, had served in the U.S. Army during the war, enlisting in the 21st U.S. Colored Infantry as Ira Sherman.
(Reverse) William Simmons’s granddaughter Georgianna Jones Bryan (1900-1989) built this house in 1930 for her brother, William “Duey” Simmons (1901-1966). It illustrates everyday life and the persistence of Gullah culture in an African-American farm community until after a bridge was Hamlin Beach community. White and black descendants still live here today.
Sponsored by the Christ Church Parish Preservation Society 2011

First African Baptist Church
70 Beach City Rd., Hilton Head Island
(Front) This church, organized in 1862, was first located in the town of Mitchelville, a freedmen’s village established on Hilton Head by the United States Army. Rev. Abraham Murchinson, its first pastor, was a former slave. The congregation numbered about 120 members when it was organized in August 1862.
(Reverse) The church moved to the Chaplin community after the Civil War and was renamed Goodwill Baptist Church. It moved to this site by 1898 and was renamed Cross Roads Baptist Church before retaking its original name; it is the mother church of five Beaufort County churches. The present building was built in 1966.
Sponsored by the Congregation, 2012

Berkeley County
FRENCH HUGUENOT PLANTATION
112-114 Westover Dr., Goose Creek
(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) FREEDMAN’S PLANTATION
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
BERKELEY TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL
320 N. Live Oak Dr., Moncks Corner
(Front) Berkeley Training High School, located here from 1955 to 1970, replaced a four-room wood frame school 1 mi. S at Main St. and Old U.S. Hwy. 52. That school, built in 1918-1920 at a cost of $6,700, had been partially funded by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. The new brick school, built here in 1955 at a cost of almost $400,000, opened with an enrollment of more than 500 students in grades 8-12.
(Reverse) Joseph H. Jefferson, Sr. (1919-1983) was the only principal of Berkeley Training High School at this location, from 1955 to 1970. By the 1964-65 school year this school reached its peak of 723 students in grades 8-12. Its enrollment was reduced to grades 9-12 in 1965-66 and then to grades 10-12 in 1968-69. Berkeley Training High School closed in 1970 after the desegregation of Berkeley County schools.
Erected by the Berkeley Training High School Alumni Association, 2010

Charleston County
BURKE HIGH SCHOOL
Burke High School, 144 President St., 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

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
104-106 Line Street, 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

COOK’S OLD FIELD CEMETERY
just N. of Rifle Range Rd., Mt. Pleasant vicinity
(Front) This plantation cemetery predates the American Revolution. It was established by early members of the Hamlin, Hibben and Leland families. James Hibben (d. 1835), one of the founders of Mount Pleasant, is buried here. Generations of both white and black families are interred here. In 2003 this cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
(Reverse) COPAHEE PLANTATION AND HAMLIN BEACH
Thomas Hamlin established Copahee Plantation here in 1696. Later divided into Copahee and Contentment Cottage, it is now known as Hamlin Farms. In 1881 African American farmers bought 31 ten-acre lots from the Hamlins and founded the Hamlin Beach community. White and black descendants still live here today.
Sponsored by the Christ Church Parish Preservation Society, 2011
CAMP OF WILD’S “AFRICAN BRIGADE,” 1863-1864
Folly Beach Community Ctr., 55 Center St., Folly Beach
(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. 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

CANNON STREET HOSPITAL
135 Cannon St., Charleston
(Front) Cannon Street Hospital, established here in 1897, served the African-American community of Charleston until 1959. Officially the Hospital and Training School for Nurses, it occupied a three-story brick building constructed ca. 1800. Dr. Alonzo C. McClennan (1855-1912), then one of only six black physicians in Charleston, was one of its founders and also edited The Hospital Herald 1898-1900.
(Reverse) McCLENNAN-BANKS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
By 1956 Dr. Thomas C. McFall, director of the Cannon Street Hospital, led a campaign to build a new hospital. McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital, which opened on Courtenay Street in 1959, was named for Dr. McClennan and Anna DeCosta Banks (1869-1930), first head nurse of the Cannon Street Hospital. The old hospital here was torn down in 1961; the new hospital closed at the end of 1976 and was torn down in 2004.
Erected by the Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, and the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, College of Charleston, 2010

INLAND RICE FIELDS, ca. 1701-1865
Palmetto Commerce Parkway, NW of Ashley Phosphate Rd., North Charleston vicinity
(Front) Embankments and ditches dating from the early 18th century are still visible here and show the elaborate layout of rice fields that were part of Windsor Hill and Woodlands plantations. Before the American Revolution, lowcountry planters grew rice in inland fields that did not use the tides for flood waters.
(Reverse) Windsor Hill was established ca. 1701 by Joseph Child (d. 1717), and Woodlands was established ca. 1800 by Thomas Parker (d. 1821). The remnants of these rice fields are a tangible reminder of the skill and labor of the enslaved people who constructed them, many of whom had been rice farmers in Africa.
Sponsored by Charleston County, 2012

OLD BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH
222 Calhoun Street, Charleston
(Front) This church, built in 1797 in the meetinghouse form, was dedicated in 1798 and completed in 1809. It is the oldest Methodist church standing in Charleston. Originally at the corner of Pitt and Calhoun Streets, Bethel Methodist Church was a congregation of white and black members, both free blacks and slaves. Many blacks left the church in 1833 during a dispute over seating. Though some later returned, many did not.
(Reverse) In 1852 the congregation moved this building west to face Calhoun Street, to make room for a new brick church, completed the next year. This church, called “Old Bethel,” was used for Sunday school before its black members acquired it in 1876. They kept the name Old Bethel and moved the church to this location in 1882. Old Bethel Methodist Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.
Erected by the Congregation, 2011

Darlington County
FLAT CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
1369 Society Hill Rd., Darlington vicinity
(Front) This African-American church was founded in 1877, with Rev. Daniel Jesse as its first pastor. It held its first services in a brush
arbor, and acquired a site about 2 mi. SE on Flat Creek Rd. in 1881, building a frame sanctuary there. The church, known through the years as Simmons’ Flat, Summer’s House, the Grove, and Marggie Branch, was renamed Flat Creek Baptist Church by 1927.

(Reverse) In 1913 Rev. Henry Hannibal Butler (1887-1948), newly ordained, came to Flat Creek Baptist Church as his first pastorate. Butler, principal of Darlington Co. Training School / Butler School in Hartsville (renamed for him in 1939), was later president of the S.C. State Baptist Convention and president of Morris College. The congregation moved here and built the present brick church in 2000.

Erected by the Congregation, 2011

THE SEIZURE OF THE PLANTER
Historic Charleston Foundation, 40 E. Bay St., Charleston

(Reverse) Northern and Southern newspapers called this feat “bold” and “daring.” Smalls and his crew, a crewman on another ship, and eight other enslaved persons including Smalls’s wife, Hannah, and three children, won their freedom by it. Smalls (1839-1915) was appointed captain of the U.S.S. Planter by a U.S. Army contract in 1863. A native of Beaufort, he was later a state legislator and then a five-term U.S. Congressman.

Sponsored by Historic Charleston Foundation and the African American Historical Alliance, 2012

Colleton County
TRAINING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
1447 Mighty Cougar Drive, Walterboro, near the Colleton County High School Student Parking Lot

(Reverse) Trainees here flew the P-39, P-47, and P-40 fighter planes and the B-25 bomber. The officers’ quarters and enlisted men’s barracks stood just east and just west of this spot, respectively. Segregation on American military posts, in place until 1948, was made worse by the fact that German POWs held here could use “White” facilities but the “Colored” officers and men of the U.S. Army Air Corps could not.

Erected by the Hiram E. Mann Chapter, Tuskegee
JOHN WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
304 E. Main St., Lamar
(Front) This church, founded about 1865, is the first African-American church in Lamar and was long known as Lamar Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. It was organized by Rev. John Boston, a former slave who was its first minister, serving here 1865-67. Boston, who also represented Darlington Co. in the S.C. House 1868-70 and 1872-74, is buried in the church cemetery. The old Boston Township was named for him.
(Reverse) The church held its first services in a brush arbor, but completed a frame sanctuary here about 1866. That church burned in 1906 and was replaced later that year by the present frame sanctuary, a Gothic Revival building. In 1916 trustees donated a half-acre for the Lamar Colored School, later Spaulding High School. Electricity replaced gas lights in 1935 and the exterior was covered in brick veneer in the 1950s.
Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2011

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
3208 N. Governor Williams Hwy., Dovesville vicinity
(Front) This church, founded in 1869, was organized by 36 black members of nearby Black Creek Baptist Church, who received letters of dismissal to form their own congregation. Rev. William Hart, its first minister, served until his death in 1872. He was succeeded by his son, Rev. Alfred Hart, who served here 1872-79, after representing Darlington County in the S.C. House 1870-72.
(Reverse) The church held its first services in a brush arbor on this site, which its trustees bought from James C. McCallman in 1872. After worshiping under a frame shelter for several years, Mt. Zion built its first permanent sanctuary, a frame building, in 1890. The congregation grew enough to build a second frame church in 1908. The present brick sanctuary was dedicated in 1979.
Erected by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2011

Dillon County
PINE HILL A.M.E. CHURCH
2258 Centerville Rd., Latta
(Front) This church, founded in 1876, was in Marion County before Dillon County was created in 1910. At first on S.C. Hwy. 34, the church acquired this site in 1891 when Alfred Franklin Page (1863-1929) and his wife Laura Willis Page (1886-1963) donated 1.97 acres here. The congregation built a new Pine Hill A.M.E. Church shortly afterwards. This sanctuary was built in 1977.
(Reverse) PINE HILL ROSENWALD SCHOOL Pine Hill Rosenwald School, one of the first ten Rosenwald schools in the state, was built here in 1917-18. One of 500 rural black schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation 1917-1932, it was a frame two-room school. With two to four teachers, it reached a peak of 208 students in grades 1-7 in 1938-39. The school closed in 1957 and burned in 1977.
Erected by the Congregation, 2011

Dorchester County
SHADY GROVE CAMP GROUND
off U.S. Hwy. 178, just SE of the Orangeburg County/Dorchester County line, St. George vicinity
(Front) This camp ground, established about 1870, is the largest of 4 Methodist camp grounds in Dorchester County. Tradition holds that Cesar Wolfe and a group of former slaves, caught in a storm, stopped in a grove here for shelter. Rice planter S.M. Knight asked them to help harvest his fields, and after they did so he gave them this spot as a place of worship. They named it Shady Grove.
(Reverse) The group first met under a brush arbor but later built “tents,” the rough-hewn cabins typical of church camp grounds. The first tents burned in 1958 and were replaced; fires also occurred in 1969 and 1976. The “tabernacle” here is the centrally-located shelter where services are in session ending the fourth Sunday in October. A trumpet call on a ceremonial horn opens the meeting.
Erected by the Upper Dorchester County Historical Society, 2010
ST. PAUL CAMP GROUND  
940 St. Paul Rd., Harleyville vicinity  
(Front) This Methodist camp ground, one of four in Dorchester County, was established in 1880. African-American freedmen in this area held services in a brush arbor at the “Old Prayer Ground” nearby as early as 1869. By 1873 they acquired two acres nearby and founded St. Paul A.M.E. Church, building their first permanent sanctuary just southwest.  (Reverse) In 1880 four community leaders purchased 113 acres here and deeded it to trustees for a new St. Paul Camp Ground. “Tents,” or rough-hewn cabins, form a circle around the “tabernacle,” the open-sided shelter where services are held. This camp ground, in session the week ending the third Sunday in October, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.  
Erected by the Upper Dorchester County Historical Society, 2011

Florence County  
GREGG-WALLACE FARM TENANT HOUSE  
310 Price Rd., Mars Bluff vicinity  
(Front) This house, built as a one-room tenant house ca. 1890 and later enlarged several times, features a narrow front porch and rear shed addition typical of many tenant houses on plantations and farms in the post-Civil War South. Like the families who lived here, most tenants were African American.  
(Reverse) From 1890 to 1999 members of the Williams, Waiters, Frazier, Martin, and Gregg families lived here, working as wage laborers or sharecroppers, on land owned by the Gregg and Wallace families. This tenant house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

WILSON SCHOOL  
corner of Palmetto & Dargan Sts., Florence  
(Front) Wilson School, later Wilson High School, was the first public school in Florence, and stood here from 1866 to 1906. At first a private school for black children, it was established by the New England Branch of the Freedmen’s Union Commission and operated by the Freedmen’s Bureau. Thomas C. Cox, its first principal, later served as Darlington County sheriff. The school became a public school after the S.C. Constitution of 1868 authorized a system of free public schools.  
(Reverse) WILSON HIGH SCHOOL  
Rev. Joshua E. Wilson (1844-1915), a Methodist minister, was an early principal of what was long called “the Colored Graded School.” It was most likely named Wilson School for him. The school on this site, a frame building, was torn down in 1906 to make way for Central School. A new Wilson School was built on Athens Street. Wilson High School was on Athens Street 1906-1956 and on North Irby Street 1956-1982. It has been on Old Marion Highway since 1982.  
Erected by the Wilson High School Alumni Association, Inc., 2010

Greenville County  
ALLEN TEMPLE A.M.E. CHURCH  
109 Green Ave., Greenville  
Allen Temple A.M.E. Church, built 1929-30, is significant as the first A.M.E. church in Greenville, and architecturally significant as an excellent example of early twentieth century Classical Revival ecclesiastical design by Juan Benito Molina, a Cuban-born and educated architect, the only black architect practicing in Greenville in the early twentieth century. Organized during Reconstruction as a mission church, Allen Temple A.M.E. was formally organized as a separate congregation in 1881. The church is a large gable-front, steel-frame brick building laid in American bond, with projecting twin towers of unequal height, set upon a partially-subterranean brick basement foundation that features a soldier course water table. A rowlock brick course is located between the water table and the facade’s first floor windows and wraps the building at the window sill level. Other architectural features along the upper facade and other elevations include another bordered soldier course band around the entire building, square cast-stone
SIMPSONVILLE ROSENWALD SCHOOL
The Reedy River Baptist Association built a school for the African-American children of Simpsonville and other area communities here in 1891-92, on the present site of the church. In 1923-24 the Simpsonville Rosenwald School, an eight-room elementary and high school, was built nearby. One of about 500 schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation 1917-1932, it closed after the 1953-54 school year.

FOUNTAIN INN ROSENWALD SCHOOL
Mt. Zion Dr., near Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Fountain Inn
(Front) The Fountain Inn Rosenwald School, also known as the Fountain Inn Colored School, was a complex of several buildings built here from 1928 to 1942. The first school, a frame seven-room elementary school for grades 1-7, was a Rosenwald school, one of 500 rural schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Fund from 1917 to 1932. It was built in 1928-29 at a cost of $7,200. (Reverse) The Fountain Inn Colored High School, a frame three-room high school for grades 8-11, was built in 1930. A frame teacherage was built in 1935 for principal Gerard A. Anderson, and by 1942 this complex included a library, gymnasium, and three new classrooms. The high school closed in 1954, and the elementary school closed in 1960. The 1935 teacherage is the only building standing; the rest were demolished in 2000.

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
206 Moore St., Simpsonville
(Front) According to tradition, this African-American church was organized by Rev. Tom Jones shortly after the Civil War. It held its first services in a brush arbor, then built its first permanent church here. The congregation, with a membership of about 250, built a second frame sanctuary in 1938 at a cost of $3,000. It was covered in brick veneer in 1962. The present brick church was dedicated in 1986.
school built in 1930, a library, and the Clayton “Peg Leg” Bates Gymnasium, built in 1942. The school and its appurtenant buildings served the educational needs of the Fountain Inn’s African American community until the students of this community were enrolled in Fountain Inn High School in the 1960s. The teacherage was constructed originally as a home for teachers that provided educational instruction for African Americans in Fountain Inn, and by the 1940s housed teachers and the principal and his family. Its separate entrance at the building’s southwest corner accessed the kitchen and accommodated home economics classes. These buildings were designed to offer comfortable domestic amenities like front corner porches and modern indoor bathrooms, but they were also meant to serve as instructional facilities. The house is nearly identical to Plan No. 301 (“Teachers Home for Community Schools”) for teacherages supported by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Although this house was constructed after the end of the Rosenwald Fund school program, its design is consistent with plans frequently used for Rosenwald schools and related buildings. Listed in the National Register June 27, 2011.

http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/greenville/S10817723070/index.htm

THE LYNCHING OF WILLIE EARLE
Old Easley Rd. (S.C. Hwy. 124) & Bramlett Rd., Greenville

(Front) The Willie Earle lynching was the last recorded in S.C. and the one of the last in the South. On the night of February 15, 1947, white cabdriver Thomas W. Brown was found mortally wounded beside his cab in Pickens County. Earle, a young black man, was thought to be Brown’s last passenger. He was arrested near Liberty on February 16, accused of assault and robbery, and held in the Pickens County Jail.

(Reverse) Early on February 17, 1947, a white mob forced the Pickens Co. jailer to give Earle up. They drove Earle back to Greenville, lynched him, and left his body on Bramlett Rd. Brown died later that day. The May 12-21 trial of 31 men, rare at the time, drew national attention. Though 26 men admitted being part of the mob, an all-white jury acquitted all defendants. Outrage led to new federal civil rights policies.

Erected by the Willie Earle Commemorative Trail Committee, 2010 [2011]

GREENVILLE COUNTY COURT-HOUSE
35 W. Court St., behind the Old Greenville County Courthouse, Greenville

(Front) This Beaux Arts building, built in 1916-18, was the fourth Greenville County Courthouse, from 1918 to 1950. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. The largest lynching trial in U.S. history was held here May 12-21, 1947. Willie Earle, a young black man accused of assaulting white cabdriver Thomas W. Brown, had been lynched by a white mob on Bramlett Road in Greenville.

(Reverse) THE WILLIE EARLE LYNCHING TRIAL
The trial of 31 whites, 28 of them cabdrivers, was rare at the time and drew national attention. Though 26 defendants admitted being part of the mob, all defendants were acquitted by an all-white jury. Rebecca West’s “Opera in Greenville,” published in The New Yorker on June 14, 1947, interpreted the trial and its aftermath. Widespread outrage over the lynching and the verdict spurred new federal civil rights policies.

Erected by the Willie Earle Commemorative Trail Committee, 2010 [2011]
Greenwood County

BENJAMIN E. MAYS BIRTHPLACE
at the Mays House Museum, 237 N. Hospital St., Greenwood
(Front) This house, originally 14 mi. SE on U.S. Hwy. 178 in the Epworth community, was the birthplace of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays (1894-1984), Baptist minister, college president, author, and civil rights pioneer. Mays was the eighth child of Hezekiah and Louvenia Mays, both born into slavery. In 1911 he left the tenant farm where this house stood to attend high school at S.C. State College in Orangeburg.
(Reverse) Mays, a graduate of Bates College and the University of Chicago, was an early and forceful opponent of segregation. Best known as president of Morehouse College, in Atlanta, 1940-1967, Mays was described by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as his “spiritual mentor.” Mays’s inspiring memoir Born To Rebel (1971) is a civil rights classic. This house was moved here, renovated, and dedicated as a museum in 2011.
Sponsored by the Mays House Museum, 2012

Horry County

LEVISTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
100 11th Ave., Aynor
(Front) This school, built in 1953, was one of many African-American schools built by the equalization program of Gov. James F. Byrnes, intended to preserve school segregation by building new schools for black children. Students in grades 1-7, who had previously attended the Allen, Cool Springs, Pleasant Hill, and Union Chapel schools, began the 1953-54 school year here. The last graduating class was the Class of 1969.
(Reverse) This school became the Aynor Elementary School Annex in 1973; it closed in 1997. It was named for Nellie Burke Levister (1884-1968), the first Jeanes teacher in Horry County, who held that post from 1922 until 1958. The Jeanes Fund, established in 1908, was also called the Negro Rural School Fund. Its supervising teachers were consultants for the rural teachers and schools in their counties.
Erected by the Levister Development Activity Center, 2010

CHESTNUT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
at North Myrtle Beach Middle School, 11240 Hwy. 90, Little River
(Front) Chestnut Consolidated School, which was located here 1954-1970, was built under the equalization program of Gov. James F. Byrnes, intended to preserve segregation by building new schools for blacks. Named to honor Horry County educator J.T. Chestnut (1885-1967), it educated African-American students in grades 1-12.
(Reverse) CHESTNUT CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL
This school, consolidating schools in several northeastern Horry County communities, was a one-story brick building with two wings. After county schools desegregated in 1970, it became North Myrtle Beach High School and was later North Myrtle Beach Middle School. The 1954 building was demolished in 1995.
Erected by the Chestnut Consolidated High School Alumni Association, 2011

WHITEMORE SCHOOL
1808 Rhue Street, Conway
(Front) Whittemore School, one of the first African-American schools in Horry County, educated elementary and high school students on this site from 1936 to 1970. Founded in 1870, it was named for Benjamin F. Whittemore (1824-1894), former Union army chaplain, Freedmen’s Bureau educator 1865-67, and later a state senator and U.S. Congressman. The first school was just E on Race Path Ave. After it burned, classes moved to the Conwayborough Academy on 5th Ave.
(Reverse) WHITTEMORE HIGH SCHOOL
A new Whittemore Training School was built at Race Path Ave. and Thompson St. in 1911, with students in grades 1-9 until 1929, 1-10 until 1933, and 1-11 afterwards. A new school built here in 1936 burned in 1944 and occupied temporary buildings until separate new elementary and high schools were completed in 1954. Grade 12 was added in 1949. The schools closed when Horry County schools desegregated in 1970.
Erected by the Whittemore High School Historical Marker Commission, 2011

CHESTNUT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
at North Myrtle Beach Middle School, 11240 Hwy. 90, Little River
(Front) Chestnut Consolidated School, which was located here 1954-1970, was built under the equalization program of Gov. James F. Byrnes, intended to preserve segregation by building new schools for blacks. Named to honor Horry County educator J.T. Chestnut (1885-1967), it educated African-American students in grades 1-12.
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This school, consolidating schools in several northeastern Horry County communities, was a one-story brick building with two wings. After county schools desegregated in 1970, it became North Myrtle Beach High School and was later North Myrtle Beach Middle School. The 1954 building was demolished in 1995.
Erected by the Chestnut Consolidated High School Alumni Association, 2011
Kershaw County

MONROE BOYKIN PARK
Campbell St., Camden
(Front) This five-acre park, laid out in the 1798 city plan, features large pine trees reminiscent of the area before the Revolution, when Camden was known as “Pine Tree Hill.” In 1912 it was named Monroe Boykin Park for Rev. Monroe Boykin (d. 1904), longtime pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, one of Camden’s oldest African-American churches. Boykin, born a slave, had been owned by Judge T.J. Withers after Withers’s marriage to Elizabeth Boykin in 1831.
(Reverse) After emancipation Monroe Boykin was given two acres here by Withers’s heirs. In 1866 he and other freedmen withdrew from First Baptist Church of Camden to form a new congregation. Ordained by Northern missionaries, Boykin became the first pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church and served for 34 years. He also founded many churches in Kershaw, Lancaster, Sumter, and Clarendon Counties. In 1912 the city developed a part of Boykin’s land here into Monroe Boykin Park.
Erected by the City of Camden, 2011

Laurens County

FRIENDSHIP A.M.E. CHURCH & CEMETERY
at Friendship Cemetery, N. Bell St. at Friendship Dr., Clinton
(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) BELL STREET SCHOOLS
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

McCormick County

HOPEWELL ROSENWALD SCHOOL
S.C. Sec. Rd. 33-12, Clarks Hill vicinity
The Hopewell Rosenwald School, built in 1926, is significant in the areas of education, African American heritage, and architecture. Hopewell is a One Teacher Community Plan school, embodying the distinctive architectural characteristics that fall under the guidelines set out by the Julius Rosenwald School Building Program from 1913 to 1932. Though it appears from the exterior to be a one room school house, inside are two smaller rooms and one large room. The larger space was reserved as the class room. Hopewell was built, along with one other Rosenwald school in McCormick County, at a cost of $400 per school. Hopewell is the only Rosenwald School remaining in the county. Hopewell greatly impacted the education of rural McCormick County’s African American students from 1927 to 1954. By 1954, Hopewell’s enrollment dropped to only nine students as many of the African American families left the area for better opportunities. The school was then left for the benefit and use of the community. Because South Carolina’s white students and schools were afforded more, African American schools, especially in rural counties such as McCormick, were extremely important in the education they provided, the safe environment they gave, and the belief that if students studied and did their best, they could better their future and community. The history of Hopewell Rosenwald School shows its impact on McCormick County’s educational and black heritage landscape for just such provisions and aspirations. Listed in the National Register June 9, 2010.
http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/mccormick/S10817733021/index.htm
Newberry County

HOPE ROSENWALD SCHOOL
1917 Hope Station Rd., Pomaria vicinity

(Front) This school, built in 1925-26 at a cost of $2,900, was one of more than 500 rural African-American schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation between 1917 and 1932. The original two-acre lot for the school was donated by James H. Hope, Mary Hope Hipp, and John J. Hope. James H. Hope, then S.C. Superintendent of Education, was its longest-serving head, 1922-1947.

(Reverse) This two-room school, with grades 1-8 taught by two teachers, closed in 1954. In 1958 it was sold to the Jackson Community Center and Cemetery Association, comprised of nine members of the adjacent St. Paul A.M.E. Church. That group maintained the school for many years. It became the Hope Community Center in 2006 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

Erected by the Hope School Community Center, 2010

Orangeburg County

JACOB BEDENBAUGH HOUSE
Prosperity vicinity

Bedenbaugh House, built circa 1860, is significant in social history due to the original owners, Jacob and Sarah Bedenbaugh, being an interracial couple who weathered the prejudices of a society that was bent on keeping whites and blacks as separate as possible. This couple lived in defiance of the prevailing social mores during the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow eras, as interracial relationships were considered “unnatural” during this period. While the couple may have been able to marry during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods, finding someone who was willing to conduct the ceremony would have been difficult. Following the adoption of 1895 South Carolina state constitution, the couple was forever barred from marrying. While participating in an interracial relationship was not specifically against the law, the couple was indicted and tried for fornication in July 1890. The prosecution of the couple reflects the extent to which South Carolina courts went to keep interracial couples from being together in a time when the black population was being continually disenfranchised. The home has been continuously owned by the same family since its original construction. Jacob Bedenbaugh purchased the property in 1858 and the two-story I-house was constructed shortly thereafter. Sometime between 1860 and 1864, Jacob Bedenbaugh entered into a relationship with a mulatto woman named Sarah. The couple never married, although Sarah took the Bedenbaugh name. They remained together for approximately 42 years and produced eight children. Jacob died in 1915 and Sarah died in 1936.

BOWMAN ROSENWALD SCHOOL
corner of Adam & Center Sts., Bowman

(Front) Bowman Rosenwald School, which stood here from 1927 to 1952, was one of several African
American schools in Orangeburg County funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. The school, built in 1926-27 at a cost of $6,000, was a five-room frame building typical of the larger rural schools built by the Rosenwald Foundation between 1917 and 1932. The school burned in 1952.

(Reverse) Bowman Rosenwald School educated about 250 students a year for most of its history, at first in grades 1-8 with five teachers and a five-month session, but by 1948-49 in grades 1-12 with nine teachers and an eight-month session. Its enrollment grew dramatically after World War II, reaching a peak of 576 students in 1951-52, its last full school year. Erected by the Bowman-Rosenwald Historical Marker Committee, and the Orangeburg Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, 2011

Oconee County

RETREAT ROSENWALD SCHOOL
150 Pleasant Hill Circle, Westminster vicinity

(Front) This school, often called Retreat Colored School, was built in 1924 for the African-American students in and near Westminster. A two-room, two-teacher, elementary school, it was built by local builder William Walker Bearden of Oakway at a cost of $2,300. It was one of more than 500 schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation between 1917 and 1932.

(Reverse) This public school replaced a one-room private school established by Pleasant Hill Baptist Church about 1870. About 50-60 students a year, in grades 1-7, attended Retreat Colored School from 1923 until it closed after the 1949-50 school year. The school was sold to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in 1950. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2011. Erected by Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 2011

Richland County

I. DeQUINCEY NEWMAN HOUSE
2210 Chappelle Street, Columbia

(Front) Isaiah DeQuincey Newman (1911-1985), Methodist minister, civil rights leader, and state senator, lived here from 1960 until his death. Born in Darlington County, he attended Claflin College and was a graduate of Clark College and Gammon Theological Seminary. Newman, a long-time pastor, was also a major figure in the Civil Rights Movement in S.C. for more than forty years, beginning in the 1940s.

(Reverse) In 1943 Newman helped found the Orangeburg branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. State field
director of the S.C. NAACP 1960-69, he later advised governors and Congressmen on poverty and on improving housing and medical care in S.C. In 1983 Newman became the first black member of the S.C. Senate since 1888. He resigned in 1985 because of ill health and died a few months later.

Sponsored by the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate, 2012

FLORENCE BENSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
226 Bull St., Columbia
The Florence C. Benson Elementary School is significant for its association with the system of racial segregation in Columbia, South Carolina. Constructed ca. 1953-1955 in Wheeler Hill, a poor African-American neighborhood that was segregated from the white sections of Columbia by custom, to serve African-American students who were segregated from their white counterparts by law, the Florence C. Benson Elementary School is both an example of the state government’s efforts during the early 1950s to maintain “separate but equal” school systems for black and white children and one of the last remnants of a segregated black residential area. The school opened as the Wheeler Hill School in 1955 for 270 African American students in the first through sixth grades. The Wheeler Hill School replaced the Celia Dial Saxon Negro Elementary School, which was overcrowded and needed rehabilitation. In 1958, it was renamed in honor of Florence Corinne Benson, a former teacher at the school. The school, built of concrete block and red brick veneer on a masonry foundation with a three-finger plan, was designed by local white architect James B. Urquhart. With its one-story classroom wings and rows of interior and exterior windows, the building was a typical equalization school, and typical of new school construction in the post-World War II era, reflecting influences of the Modern and International styles. Comprising eighteen classrooms, a library, a nurse’s office, a large modern kitchen, and a combined cafeteria and auditorium, the school served approximately five hundred students. The equalization funds also paid for desks, tables, visual aid and music equipment, maps, and cafeteria equipment. The school served the Wheeler Hill community until 1975, when it closed its doors due to declining enrollment. Listed in the National Register October 7, 2009.
http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/richland/S10817740148/index.htm

FORT JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
in front of the Hood Street Elementary School, Hood St., Fort Jackson, Columbia
(Front) Fort Jackson Elementary School was one of the first public schools in S.C. to desegregate when classes began on September 3, 1963. The first school on post and one of the first permanent buildings at Fort Jackson, it was built in only three months. A new federal policy required all schools on military bases to admit African-American students instead of sending them to separate schools off-base.
(Reverse) HOOD STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
This school opened under Principal Thomas Silvester with nine civilian teachers and 245 students in Grades 1-6. A newspaper article described it as “operated without regard to race, creed or color.” Fort Jackson Elementary School, later renamed Hood Street Elementary School after additional schools opened on post, has served the families of Fort Jackson servicemen and servicewomen for more than 45 years.
Erected by Fort Jackson, United States Army, 2009

WAVERLY
1400 block of Harden St., Columbia
(Front) Waverly has been one of Columbia’s most significant black communities since the 1930s. The city’s first residential suburb, it grew out of a 60-acre parcel bought by Robert Latta in 1855. Latta’s widow and children sold the first lots here in 1863.
Shortly after the Civil War banker and textile manufacturer Lysander D. Childs bought several blocks here for development. Waverly grew for the next 50 years as railroad and streetcar lines encouraged growth.

(Reverse) The City of Columbia annexed Waverly in 1913. Two black colleges, Benedict College and Allen University, drew many African Americans to this area as whites moved to other city suburbs. By the 1930s this community was almost entirely black. The Waverly Historic District, bounded by Gervais, Harden, and Taylor Streets and Millwood Avenue, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. *Erected by the Historic Columbia Foundation, the City of Columbia, and the S.C. Department of Transportation, 2010*

**PINE GROVE ROSENWALD SCHOOL**

937 Piney Woods Rd., Columbia

(Front) This school, built in 1923 at a cost of $2,500, is one of 500 African-American schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation from 1917 to 1932. It is a two-room school typical of smaller Rosenwald schools. From 1923 to 1950 an average of 40-50 students a year attended this school, in grades 1-7.

(Reverse) This school closed after the 1949-50 school year, when many districts were consolidated. It was sold to the Pine Grove Community Development Club in 1968, then to the Richland County Recreation Commission in 2002. Pine Grove Rosenwald School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. *Erected by the Richland County Recreation Commission, 2011*

**HARRIET BARBER HOUSE**

Lower Richland Blvd. & Barberville Loop Rd., Hopkins vicinity

(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*
Saluda County
RIDGE HILL HIGH SCHOOL
206 Ridge Hill Dr., Ridge Spring
Ridge Hill High School, built in 1934, is significant in the areas of education and African American heritage. The Ridge Hill High School replaced a Rosenwald-funded wood clapboard school built on the same site in 1924 which burned ten years later. The Ridge Hill High School was rebuilt as a brick version of the original industrial school, using the same six teacher plan, the Six Teacher Community School Plan No. 6-A. The total building cost was around $8000 in a particularly tough economic climate for Saluda County. The new Ridge Hill High School was considered one of the finest school buildings in Saluda County. The school is a large, one-story building with a north/south orientation. Keeping the center of the building for communal uses such as an auditorium, cafeteria, and school events, the six classrooms are situated on the outer perimeter of the plan. The overall effect is symmetrical with the floor plan following an H shape. As such, the back resembles the front in form and materials. Ridge Hill was used as a high school until the 1956-1957 school year and at the time of nomination is still in use for Ridge Spring’s vibrant black community. Listed in the National Register June 9, 2010.
http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/saluda/S10817741011/index.htm

Historic Ridge Hill High School

Union County
SIMS HIGH SCHOOL
200 Sims Dr., Union
(Front) Sims High School, located here from 1956 to 1970, replaced a 1927 school on Union Boulevard, which in 1929 had become the first state-accredited high school for African-American students in the upstate. It was named for Rev. A.A. Sims, founder and first principal 1927-1951. James F. Moorer, principal 1951-1969, also coached the football team to 93 consecutive conference wins 1946-1954. C.A. Powell, who was white, was the school’s last principal, 1969-1970.
(Reverse) A new school was built here in 1956. Notable alumni include the first black head coach in NCAA Division I-A football, the first coach of a black college basketball team in the National Invitational Tournament, and the first black Chief of Chaplains of the United States Army. Sims High School closed in 1970 with the desegregation of Union County schools. This building housed Sims Junior High School 1970-2009. Sims Middle School opened on Whitmire Highway in 2009.
Erected by the Sims High School Reunion Committee, 2011