McCollum-Murray House
Greeleyville, Williamsburg County
Historic Preservation Grants/National Register of Historic Places

Photo Source: Jackson Davis Collection, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Clockwise from top left: Edward McCollum (builder & home's first owner) in front of the home in 1925, home before restoration began, home undergoing restoration with replacement siding, finished home with historical marker ready to unveil.

The McCollum – Murray House, built ca. 1906, was the home of prominent African American educator Dr. Charles Edward Murray. During his 53 year career he was both a teacher and administrator, serving for 23 years as principal of the Williamsburg County Training School, which was renamed the C.E. Murray Elementary and High School in his honor. After his death in 1999, the house sat vacant until 2001 when concerned citizens formed the non profit Dr. Charles E. Murray Historical Foundation of Greeleyville with dreams of restoring the building for community use. In 2006, the Foundation nominated it to the National Register of Historic Places. That same year, the Foundation received a federal planning grant from the SHPO to hire an architect to develop plans for the preservation and re-use of the house as a community center interpreting the life and career of Dr. Murray and offering educational and enrichment programs. Diligent fundraising, from private and public sources, including a Community Development Block Grant, enabled the Foundation to purchase the house and complete repairs. In 2010, the house opened as the newest branch of the Williamsburg County Library, bringing computers and internet access to the community and providing a quiet place for children to study and get help with their schoolwork. It is a fitting use for the home of a man who devoted his life to the education of children in Williamsburg County, and the project was honored with an Achievement Award by the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

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