

# DURHAM DOCUMENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC SITES

## Inventory and Preservation Plan

April M. Johnson Durham, NC

Program Overview  
April 2012

Preservation Durham in partnership with the National  
Trust for Historic Preservation

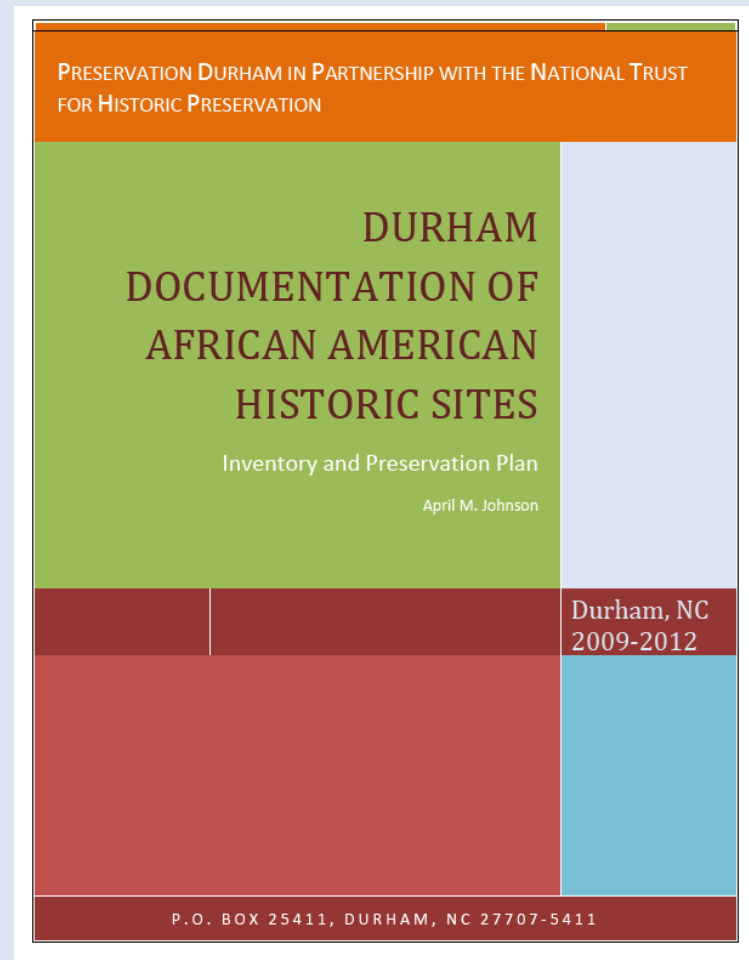
# Purpose of Project

African American based preservation activities celebrates the history and accomplishments of African Americans that contributed to life and culture in their communities.

- Identify and Document overlooked African-American Historic Sites.
- Bring together various community and institutional stakeholders.
- Provide a consensus and evaluation of preservation worthy resources.
  - ▣ Survey and Inventory
  - ▣ Inspire consensus on historic assets to protect
  - ▣ Community input meetings

# Purpose of Project

- ❑ Create an inventory of historic sites
- ❑ Create a Preservation Plan for African American historic resources.
- ❑ Increase public participation in preservation activities within the African American community.



# Identification and Documentation Summary

- Inventory serves as a useful tool for future planning
- 50 Individual Sites/Properties Identified
- 15 Neighborhoods Identified
- 7 Resources (Tier 1-High Priority) are likely significant enough to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

# Existing Designated/Documented Sites

Site/Person	Address/Location (Durham, NC)	Historic Designation/Documentation				
		Nat'l Register of Historic Places	State Historic Site	Local Historic Landmark	Local Historic District	Other*
Emmanuel A.M.E. Church (formally)	710 Kent Street	✓				
Downtown Durham (includes Parrish Street)	Downtown Durham	✓			✓	
Horton Grove Complex	Stagville Rd, 0.1mile N. of Old Oxford Rd	✓				
Russell School	2001 St. Mary's Road (Durham County)	✓				
St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church	2521 Fayetteville Street	✓				
Mechanics and Farmers Bank/NC Mutual Life Insurance Co. (5/15/1975)	114-116 W. Parrish Street	✓			✓	
North Carolina Central University (3/28/1986)	bounded by Lawson St, Alston Ave, Nelson St & Fayetteville St	✓				
Scarborough House (8/9/1985)	1406 Fayetteville Street	✓				
Stokesdale Historic District (12/28/2010)	bounded by Fayetteville St, Umstead St, Lincoln St, Lawson St, Moline St, Concord and Dunstan St	✓				
Stagville (5/25/1973)	5828 Old Oxford Highway	✓	✓			
Fayetteville Street Historic District	1200-2100 Block of Fayetteville Street				✓	
North Carolina Mutual Building <sup>1</sup>	411 W. Chapel Hill Street					✓
*Other denotes other forms of documentation						
1. The company self published a book on its history.						

# Determining Factors of Significance

- Property associated with the life of a **person** or group of people
- Property associated with **events** in history
- **Architecture**
- Structure contributes to **character of community**
- Likelihood of NRHP nomination (or approval of NC SHPO Study List)
- **Structure is sound** with reasonable rehab costs
- Strong **local significance**
- Capability of compatible **adaptive reuse** within context of the community

# Prioritize Sites

- Properties prioritized based on significance level and potential for national or local designation (i.e. NRHP, Local Historic Landmark).
  
- Four levels of priority
  - High
  - Medium
  - Low
  - Potential Future Sites

# Levels of Priority

## □ Tier1-High Priority

- Currently listed on NC SHPO Study List (or strong potential to be on the study list)
- Has maintained most of its material integrity
- Strong historic significance as it relates to people, events or architectural design
- Faces threats to its existence (i.e. vacancy, vandalism, deterioration or demolition)
- Merits immediate preservation activity to preserve and protect the history and the site



# Levels of Priority

## □ Tier 2-Medium Priority

- Little national or statewide importance or influence
- Strong local significance or influence
- Material integrity range from high to medium
- Properties/sites generally fit within the character of the neighborhood
- More research is needed to determine whether the property merits local landmark or local historic district status

# Levels of Priority

## □ Tier 3-Low Priority

- Little to moderate historic significance
- Material integrity generally low
- Period of significance too recent
- An example for this group are churches. Many of the AA churches originated over 100 years ago however the current building is new or only 50 years old. The building has low architectural merit and perhaps no significant event or person is associated with the site, nevertheless the heritage is rich and the church continues to operate in the same historic AA neighborhood since its inception.

# Levels of Priority

## □ Tier 4-Potentially Significant

- Potentially significant within the next 15 to 50 years
- Person associated with the site is still living, however has contributed greatly to the community and perhaps a “first African-American” to accomplish a particular position or event; the person or group is making history
- Property is too recent or not particularly architecturally significant
- Time is needed for the history associated with the site to be fully appreciated

# High Priority/Significant Resources

- Harriet Tubman YWCA
  - ▣ 312 E. Umstead St.
  - ▣ Significant in the topic of Social History for its contributions to empowering black women.



# High Priority/Significant Resources

- Floyd B. McKissick Sr. House (Freedom House)
  - 1123 N. Roxboro St.
  - Recently listed on Study List
  - Significant for its association with McKissick Sr. and local and national civil rights activism



# High Priority/Significant Resources

- John Hope Franklin House
  - 208 Pineview Street (507 Linwood Ave)
  - 507 Linwood is the historically significant location however the original house was demolished and another rebuilt on the site.
  - Significant for its association with an important person in our nation who contributed to advancing the study of African American history nationally.

# High Priority/Significant Resources

- Holy Cross Catholic Church
  - Moved to Fayetteville St.
  - Significant for being the last extant Black Catholic church in the Southeast State Diocese and architectural merit



# High Priority/Significant Resources

- Robert G. Fitzgerald/Pauli Murray House
  - ▣ 906 Carroll Street
  - ▣ On Study List
  - ▣ Already programming and preservation activities for the site





# High Priority/Significant Resources

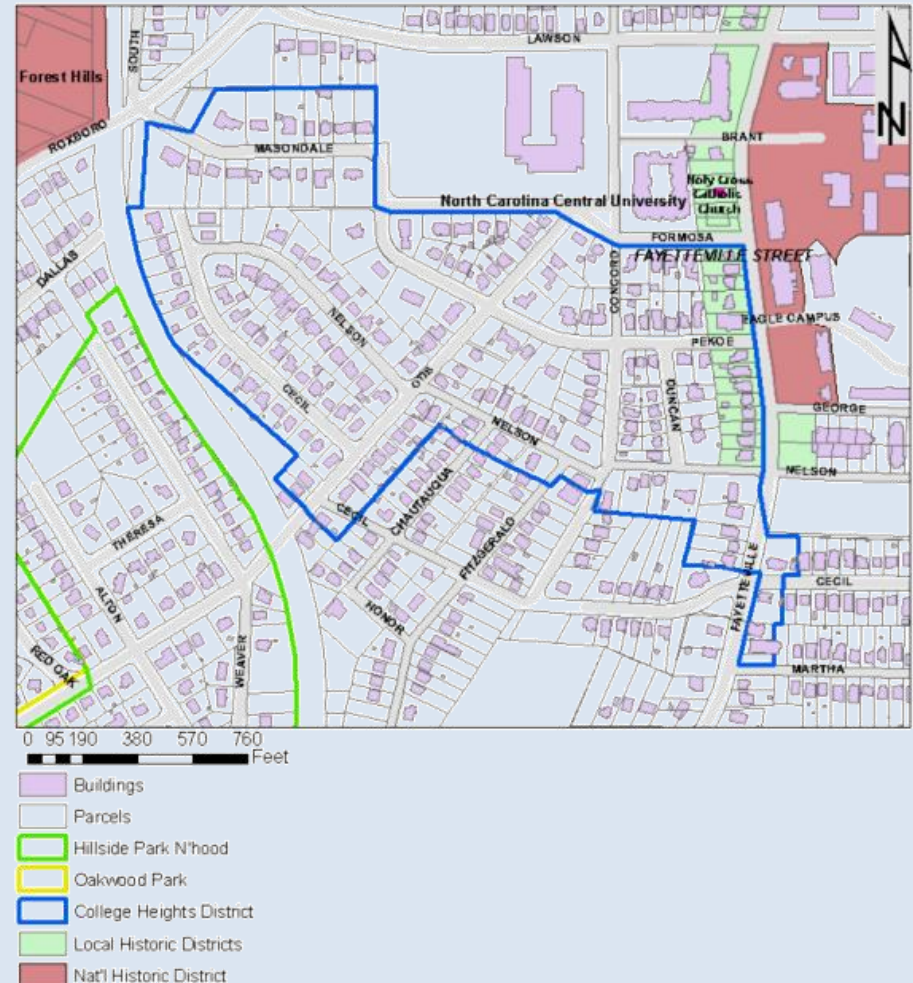
- Hillside Park High School
  - ▣ E. Umstead Street
  - ▣ On Study List
  - ▣ Part of City/County community redevelopment plans



# High Priority/Significant Resources

- College Heights Historic Neighborhood
  - ▣ Adjacent to NCCU campus
  - ▣ Historically black educators, politicians, businessmen resided in this community
  - ▣ Architecturally significant

College Heights Historic District, Durham NC



# Tools for Preservation

There are many activities that can respect the history or importance of an event or person within the African American community!

- Nomination for national or local designation
- Historic marker
- Restoration, renovation, adaptive reuse
- Historic property covenants
- Community education programs/community events
- Preservation planning
- Research projects
- Historic tax credits
- Preservation easements
- Conservation Districts
- House museums
- Cultural/community centers
- Digital history/digital history mapping
- Community celebrations

# Your input is needed!

Please  
tell us!

- ❑ What narratives are missing from the history of the African American experience in Durham?
- ❑ Who are the unsung heroes?
- ❑ Are there sites/properties related to those narratives?
- ❑ What other properties should be included in this inventory?

# DDAAHS Steering Committee

- Lew Myers, Chair
- Dr. Faye Calhoun
- E'Vonne Cole-Cook
- John Compton
- Minnie Forte-Brown
- Deborah Giles
- Dr. Rhonda Jones
- Dr. Ben Speller Jr.
- Starla Tanner
- C. Eileen Watts-Welch
- Carl Webb
- Sara Young

# Durham Documentation of African-American Historic Sites

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