

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The steering committee represent various expertise and interests in the community, providing advice and oversight to the project's successful completion.

Lew Myers, Chair

Dr. Faye Calhoun

E'Vonne Coleman-Cook

John Compton

Minnie Forte-Brown

Deborah Giles

Dr. Rhonda Jones

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HOW IS HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE EVALUATED?

According to the National Park Service, "The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling and association and..."

Property associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history.

Property associated with lives of significant persons in the past who contributed to American history.

Property has distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction (architecture).

Property is significant and distinguishable as an entity but its components lack architectural or historical significance individually. It represents an exceptional historic movement, event, architectural period, way of life or culture.

The property must have yielded or may be likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

However other criteria are used to help determine whether a property is important.

DURHAM COUNTY DOCUMENTATION OF HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN SITES



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PARTNERSHIP WITH



THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION HELPS PEOPLE PROTECT, ENHANCE, AND ENJOY THE PLACES THAT MATTER TO THEM. LEARN MORE AT WWW.PRESERVATIONNATION.ORG

THE DURHAM DOCUMENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC SITES PROJECT

WHAT IS DDAAHS?

Recently the preservation community has begun to understand the richness African American historic resources offer communities and their importance to the story of America's development. The National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded Preservation Durham a matching grant to identify, document and designate historic African-American sites.

The project will complement previous preservation activity to fill in the gaps where time or resources were limited. It involves community meetings to understand what the community feels is historic, field surveys of identified sites, evaluation of sites based on criteria set by the National Park Service, research and documentation, and preparing sites and neighborhoods for Local and/or National historic designation.

The project will focus on sites and neighborhoods in the city of Durham as well as Durham County. Current neighborhoods of interest are West End, Pearsontown, Walltown and College View. Sites are evaluated based on important events, architectural themes and people of significance related to broad themes in American history of local, state and/or national significance.

WHY IT MATTERS

Historically African-American communities in general face threats of neglect, aggressive development, demolition, highway construction and university expansion. Though sometimes ignored for lack

of grandiose architectural details, residential communities help define the African American experience and connects people to "sites of memory".

The identification of historic sites in African-American communities yields community pride and a sense of identity. It connects the community to the past in order to relate to the present through the preservation of stories embedded in the built environment.

THE COORDINATOR

Few African-American women are charged with the task of improving community through the preservation of buildings. April Johnson holds a B.S. in Economics from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Master's in Urban and Environmental Planning with a certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Virginia.



Ms. Johnson and the steering committee will facilitate a series of community meetings to receive input from the community about preservation issues, provide volunteer opportunities and to keep the community informed on the process. Ms. Johnson will conduct site surveys and coordinate research opportunities for interested persons. Please contact April Johnson to share stories and insight about how a site relates to this community's African American history or to contribute research for documentation.

WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!

ATTEND NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY MEETINGS

MAKE CONNECTIONS

SHARE STORIES

VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST PLANNING, ORGANIZING, PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES ETC.

COMMUNITY HISTORY RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

BE A DONOR



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