

# Reflections



## Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network



A Program of the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Volume II, No. 1

DESTINATION THOMASVILLE:

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STEVENS STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Thomas County, near the Florida border in southwest Georgia, was founded in 1825, by combining parts of surrounding Irwin and Decatur counties. Nestled among piney woods is Thomasville, the county seat. Thomasville, the "city of roses," developed as the center of political, religious, and educational institutions for the region. One block northwest of the Thomas County Courthouse and the central business district is the Stevens Street Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 10, 2001. The nomination was sponsored by Thomasville Landmarks, Inc.



*The Mitchell-Young-Anderson House, 319 Oak Street, is a contributing resource in Thomasville's Stevens Street Historic District. Built in the late 1800s, the residence was once a brothel. Sam and Emma Young purchased the home in 1909. Sam Young, an African American carpenter, converted the downstairs' dance hall into additional bedrooms for his family. In 1940, Virginia Anderson, Young's granddaughter, inherited the family home. She and her husband, Essic, started "Rosebud Tourist Home" to provide lodging for African American travelers. Today, Jule C. Anderson, her daughter, operates the home as a bed & breakfast inn. For information, call 229/226-3463 or email Jule Anderson: [edjuleeducationaltours@hotmail.com](mailto:edjuleeducationaltours@hotmail.com).*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

In 1853, Stevens Street was initially developed in a gridiron pattern sloping towards two creeks. When the railroad was built in the 1860s, whites began to abandon the Stevens Street area due to noise from the railroad and commercial activity. During the same period, the new freedmen left plantations and moved into the area seeking employment, and Stevens Street evolved into an African American neighborhood.



*This residence was once known as the Recreation Center. It was built by W.E. Gibson, an African American brick mason, circa 1920. The recreation center featured a swimming pool in the backyard. In 1938, the Gibson family converted the brick building into a family residence. It is a community landmark building in the Stevens Street Historic District of Thomasville. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

The Stevens Street Historic District includes 341 buildings, most of them dwellings varying from shotgun houses and Craftsman style bungalows to two-story Colonial Revival and Greek Revival residences. Contributing historic properties in the district also include churches, a school, and two recreation centers. West of the Stevens Street Historic District is the Dawson Street Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 7, 1984. This district is a white neighborhood developed during the same period. "Jim Crow" segregation practices influenced the development of these socially separate communities. Many of the African American residents in the Stevens Street community were servants or laborers for white families in the Dawson Street community. In some instances, African American craftsmen built many of the affluent homes in the nearby white community. Regardless of social or economic status, African Americans were forced to live in the Stevens Street neighborhood. This factor influenced architectural patterns reflecting a mix of middle and working class housing stock in the same neighborhood.

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## STEVENS STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT



*Dr. William J. Mosley, an African American physician, owned this home while practicing family medicine in Thomasville from 1913-1920. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*



*This home was owned by Dr. Martin Luther Walton, the first African American dentist in Thomasville.*

“Jim Crow” racial segregation practices also influenced the development of African American businesses in Thomasville. From 1890-1915, African Americans developed a second downtown area on Jackson Street. Commercial businesses included a drug store, grocery store, and carriage repair shop. By the 1970s, following integration, these commercial buildings gradually deteriorated, and were destroyed.

### THOMASVILLE’S EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

How were African Americans educated in Thomasville in the years following the Civil War? As Reconstruction began, a number of schools were operated under the auspices of the Freedmen’s Bureau. By 1868, there were three to five schools in Thomasville, each averaging up to 60 pupils. When the Freedmen’s Bureau closed in 1869, African American schools were adversely impacted by insufficient funds and few teachers, and became dependent on state and local appropriations. Freedmen continued to operate private institutions, and received help from the religious community to continue their educational pursuits.

The American Missionary Association (AMA) founded a number of private schools and colleges for African Americans during this period. In 1885, AMA received a \$10,000 gift of property owned by Mrs. F.L. Allen of Waterbury, Connecticut. Mrs. Allen owned a hotel known as the Allen House, in Quitman, Brooks County, and wanted to use the facility for a school for African Americans. The Congregational Church of Waterbury raised funds to convert the hotel, and provided three teachers and a principal. When the school opened in October 1885, five boarding students and 40 community pupils attended classes. The African American community was elated with the opening of the school. However, the white community refused to visit the school, and faculty members were often insulted while off campus. Six weeks after the school opened, a mysterious fire destroyed all the campus buildings. Surrounding communities, including Thomasville, submitted proposals for the school to relocate to neighboring towns.

In 1886, the AMA opened the school in a one-story frame building on a lot provided by the City of Thomasville. By 1887, a larger, three-story building was constructed. The school was initially called “Allen Normal and Industrial School for Colored Girls.” By 1891, with enrollment exceeding 200 pupils, the name was changed to the “Allen Normal and Industrial School.” Allen Normal and Industrial School offered classes for primary, grammar,

and intermediate grades. The curriculum included classes in sewing and nursing for women, skill training for men, and teacher training.

As the population of Allen Normal and Industrial School soared, the AMA built Bethany Congregational Church in 1891 opposite the campus to meet the religious needs of students. When Allen Normal and Industrial School closed in 1933, Bethany



Georgia African Americans Historic Preservation Network

Photograph Not Available

*The Allen Normal and Industrial School campus included a three-story classroom building and housing for students and faculty. The Allen Normal Alumni Association provides an annual scholarship to descendants of former students. Photo courtesy of Jack Hadley Black History Memorabilia, Inc.*

Congregational Church became the neighborhood church for the surrounding African American community. In 1955, an energetic, newly ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, Reverend Andrew Young, became the pastor. Young organized youth programs at Bethany and a Thomasville voter registration drive. Reverend Young would eventually become a leading aide for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. In 1972, Andrew Young was elected the first



*Bethany Congregational Church  
HPD File Photo*



*The home on the left provided housing for Bethany Congregational Church ministers and their families. On the right is the Allen Normal and Industrial School faculty residence. These homes are the last remaining buildings from the Allen Normal and Industrial School campus. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

African American congressman from Georgia since Reconstruction. President Jimmy Carter appointed Young U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in 1977. He subsequently served two terms as mayor of Atlanta and was a co-chair of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. Bethany Congregational Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 7, 1985.

### PEBBLE HILL PLANTATION

Following the end of the Civil War, Northern tourists visited the Thomasville area to escape the harsh winter climates. Thomasville became a winter resort area, as Northern visitors built summer homes there and hunted game on many plantations in the Red Hills between Thomasville and Tallahassee, Florida. These tourists gradually purchased many of the plantations in the area.

In 1895, Pebble Hill Plantation was acquired by the Hanna family. In 1901, Mel Hanna gave his daughter, Kate Hanna Ireland, the main house and surrounding land at Pebble Hill. Gradually,



she acquired 4,000 acres of land, and each year she would bring her two children, Robert Livingston, and Elizabeth "Pansy" to Pebble Hill to escape the winter in Cleveland, Ohio. She was an avid sportswoman, and gradually developed Pebble Hill into a quail hunting preserve. She also raised a championship herd of Jersey cattle, horses, and dogs to support the hunts. Kate Hanna Ireland was divorced in 1919, and married Perry Williams Harvey in 1923.

Mrs. Harvey established two schools at Pebble Hill to provide education through 7<sup>th</sup> grade for children of the African American families who worked on the plantation. She also provided free housing and gardens for each family. A nurse's office was established through the Visiting Nurse's Association to meet the medical needs of the families. Each year, Easter, Emancipation Day (May 20th), and Christmas were major holidays for the staff and their families. These celebrations included food, games and gifts from the Harvey family.

When Mrs. Harvey died in 1936, "Pansy" Ireland inherited the plantation, and continued preservation of the estate. Ms. Ireland expanded Pebble Hill operations to include thoroughbred horses, and she increased the hunting dog kennel to over 100 animals. She married Parker Barrington Poe in 1946, and founded the nonprofit Pebble Hill Foundation (PHF). Since her death in 1978, PHF has opened the plantation main house and grounds for public viewing. Pebble Hill Plantation was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 23, 1990.

Dennis Hadley, a Pebble Hill chauffeur, worked on Pebble Hill for 53 years while his wife, Rosetta, raised 14 children! One of their sons, James "Jack" Hadley, has collected memorabilia on African American history and implemented several preservation projects. In 1997, Jack Hadley developed a *Black Heritage Trail Tour Guide* from private donations. The guide identifies 40 African American historical sites in Thomasville. He uses the guide for *Step On, Step Off* tours he organizes for family reunions and special events. Hadley's next preservation project evolved from his collection of photographs from PHF archives of African American staff at Pebble Hill. He developed a partnership with the Thomas County Museum of History, and they received a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a publication. Hadley and Dr. Titus Brown, a history professor at Florida A&M University, enhanced the publication by collecting oral histories from 16 former employees who lived and worked on Pebble Hill and other hunting plantations. Their book, *African American Life on the Southern Hunting Plantation*, was published in 2000 by Arcadia. It is available at the Thomas County Museum of History and local bookstores, or can be ordered through Jack Hadley's Black History Memorabilia, Inc. For further information about the book or tours, contact 229/228-6983 or [jachadle@rose.net](mailto:jachadle@rose.net). The Thomas County Museum of History features a permanent exhibit of all Thomasville plantations.



*Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church, organized in 1885, was built by Kate Ireland Harvey for African American families who lived on Pebble Hill Plantation.*

## LIEUTENANT HENRY OSSIAN FLIPPER

Henry Ossian Flipper was born a slave on March 21, 1856. He was the oldest of five sons, and his parents were Festus and Isabella Buckhalter Flipper. Festus Flipper was owned by Ephraim Ponder, a Thomasville city alderman, while Isabella and the children were enslaved by Rev. Reuben Lucky, a Methodist minister. Festus Flipper was a skilled shoemaker and carriage repairman, and Ponder permitted him to earn additional income. By the outbreak of the Civil War, Flipper saved enough money to loan Ponder for the purchase of Isabella and the boys. The Flipper family moved to Atlanta with Ephraim Ponder in 1861. By 1873, while a freshman at Atlanta University, Henry Flipper received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy.



Source: National Archives (Public Domain)

**Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper** When Henry Ossian Flipper arrived at West Point, the Academy curriculum focused on military tactics, while providing training in engineering, geology, French and Spanish. On June 14, 1877, he graduated and received his commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. While other African American cadets were admitted to West Point, Flipper was the first to graduate. His first assignment was with the Tenth U.S. Cavalry, an all-black regiment, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He supervised installation of telegraph lines and a drainage system to control floodwaters and erosion. This drainage system was significant in combating malaria-infested mosquitoes. Today, a bronze marker in Oklahoma commemorates his accomplishment, and "Flipper's Ditch" was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1977.

While assigned to Fort Davis, Texas, Lt. Flipper was appointed post quartermaster and commissary agent. When a discrepancy totaling \$1,440 was discovered in an audit, Flipper was accused of embezzlement, and "conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman." Following court-martial proceedings, he was cleared of the embezzlement charges, but dismissed from the U.S. Army on June 30, 1882.

Henry Ossian Flipper continued his career as a civilian engineer and surveyor in El Paso, Texas. He conducted land grant surveys, developed expertise in translation of Spanish mining laws, and wrote two autobiographies: *The Colored Cadet at West Point* and *Black Frontiersman – the Memoirs of Henry O. Flipper*. Despite these successes in civilian life, Lt. Flipper attempted to clear his name until his death in 1940.

Thomasville memorializes the accomplishments of Henry Ossian Flipper. The Thomas County Library has a room named in his honor, with a bronze bust, and his honorable discharge, awarded in 1976. Lt. Flipper is buried in Old Magnolia Cemetery next to his parents. In 1998, Thomasville dedicated a post office in his honor, and Jack Hadley is spearheading a campaign to memorialize Flipper in a U.S. postage stamp. President William J. Clinton pardoned Lt. Flipper in 1999. Information about this Thomasville hero is available at the Thomasville Museum of History and Jack Hadley Black History Memorabilia, Inc.

## STATE TEACHERS AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE (THE HUBBARD SCHOOL)

Robert Ciucevich

Historic Preservation Planner, Middle Georgia Regional Development Center

The Hubbard Elementary School, in Forsyth, Monroe County, is located on the former campus of the State Teachers and Agricultural College (STAC). William Merida Hubbard founded the school in 1900, and it was incorporated in 1902 as the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School. The school's mission was to prepare African American teachers for the education of black youth in Monroe and surrounding counties. In 1916, the school became a senior high school. By 1917, the school attained county Training School status and was classified an A class accredited high school. As a result of the Smith-Hughes Act of 1918, the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School became the first African American vocational school in Georgia. The following year Principal Hubbard successfully petitioned the



William M. Hubbard

Courtesy of Hubbard Alumni Association

Monroe County Board of Education to make all of the African American schools in the county branch schools of the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School. In 1922, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation to make the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School the "school for agricultural and mechanical arts for the training of Negroes." In 1927, the school became a junior college. By the end of the 1920s, the school enrolled over 2,000 students, offering day, night, correspondence, and summer school classes, with 17 regular teachers and 27 instructors for summer school. The school owned approximately half of the institution's farmland, totaling over 300 acres.

In 1931, the Georgia General Assembly changed the name of the school to the State Teachers and Agricultural College (STAC), as the school was the official state college for training African American teachers. In 1932, STAC became one of three African American colleges in the state university system. The Exchange



The Hubbard Alumni Association (HAA) secured a lease from the Monroe County Board of Education for this dormitory on the campus of the State Teachers and Agricultural College (STAC). The Middle Georgia Regional Development Center is submitting a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the dormitory and remaining historic campus buildings of STAC and the Hubbard School. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque

Teachers Plan, hallmark of the school's contribution to education in the state, was developed and introduced at STAC in 1933. The school's program trained African American teachers for service in rural county school systems statewide. Teachers from Georgia and neighboring states were sent to STAC by county school systems to receive their teachers' certificates. Despite the success the school had in training African American teachers, the Georgia Board of Regents elected to close the school in 1938-1939, investing their resources in Fort Valley State College in nearby Peach County. However, the legacy of STAC lived on in the faculty at Fort Valley State College, who continued the Exchange Teachers Plan until the desegregation of Georgia's public schools in 1970.

Because the school had grown considerably since its inception, the construction of a new campus within walking distance of the original complex was begun in 1930. By 1936, several brick buildings were built, including the administration building, a chapel, the home economics building, the teachers' cottage, dormitories, the gymnasium, and the president's house.

In 1939, the old STAC campus became the property of the Monroe County Board of Education, who reopened the school as the Hubbard Training School, Monroe County's first African American high school. Samuel Hubbard, the son of William Hubbard, served as the school's principal. In 1955, a new school building was built and the name of the school was changed to Hubbard Elementary and High School. Samuel Hubbard continued as principal of the school until Monroe County's schools were desegregated in 1970. The Hubbard Elementary School continues to operate today as a unit of the Monroe County school system.



Samuel E. Hubbard  
Principal, 1939-1970

Courtesy of Hubbard Alumni Association

In 1986, several graduates and faculty of the Hubbard School formed the Hubbard Alumni Association (HAA). HAA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve the legacy of the Hubbard School through the creation of a museum and to promote educational excellence by providing two annual partial scholarships. Since its inception, HAA has awarded \$500 scholarships to 27 students. HAA recently secured a 15 year lease on the Hubbard Dormitory from the Monroe County Board of Education to rehabilitate the building for use as a museum and cultural center. The building, originally built in 1934-36 to serve as a women's dormitory, is the most prominent building remaining from the 1930s era campus of the State Teachers and Agricultural College.

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hubbard School, the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center submitted a National Register nomination for the dormitory and the remaining historic campus buildings in October 2001. HAA recently received a \$9,000 Georgia Heritage Grant from the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, to prepare a master plan for the dormitory rehabilitation.



## THE FIRST: ROME'S MAIN HIGH SCHOOL

Jacinta Williams  
African American Programs Intern  
Historic Preservation Division

In 1883, the Board of Trustees for Rome City Schools rented office space for \$57.32 in the Bale and Kane Building, located in the "Five Points" area of Rome, Floyd County. This was the beginning of Main High School. This school was known as "Main School" because it was the main or principal school for African Americans in the Rome school system. At that time, classes were offered for first through fourth grades, and the first principal of the school was Arthur B. Fortune.

Between 1894-1896, the school relocated, constructing a building on a hill overlooking the Etowah River and adding fifth through seventh grades. Since these grades were not taught at the African American elementary schools constructed just after the turn of the century, some students had to transfer to Main School in order to complete these grades. In 1925, a two-room annex was built on the property. From 1926-1930, classes were offered for grades eight through 11. Students received diplomas based on completion of 11 years of work until 1952-53, when 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes were offered.

Charles W. Aycock, who started as a mathematics instructor in 1931, was named principal of the school in 1940 and served in that capacity until 1966. Under his guidance, Main High School experienced tremendous growth and success, including accreditation by the Georgia Accrediting Commission and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1932. At one point, enrollment exceeded 1,100 pupils and 40 teachers (unprecedented for the time). Increased enrollment led to the construction of another building in 1934. This structure was built behind the original Main High School building. The new building became the school for upperclassmen and was constructed with funds from the Civil Works Administration, in the Colonial Revival style of architecture. The building served as the only public African American high school for city and county residents, until the new Main High School was built next to it in the mid-1950s. Classes were first held in the new building at the beginning of the 1958-59 school term, while junior high and some high school classes were taught in the old building.



Georgia African American  
Historic Preservation Network

**Photograph**

**Not**

**Available**

Main High School, circa 1934. The school is a one-story, stretcher-bond brick veneer structure, with a brick foundation and eight brick chimneys. It originally contained four classrooms, two restrooms, and a small office. By 1938, two additional classrooms and an auditorium were constructed, designed by Atlanta architect, Odis Clay Poundstone.

The 1960s were a period of great transition for both Rome and Main High School. Some of the students in 1963 and 1964 staged peaceful "sit-ins" around the city. When arrested, students were represented by Vernon E. Jordan and Horace T. Ward, prominent civil rights attorneys. These "sit-ins" were a catalyst for the desegregation of all public accommodations and schools in the

city. During the 1966 school term, 200 students (county residents) were transferred from Main High School to previously all white county high schools. Approximately the same number of city students were transferred to East and West Rome High Schools. During the 1967-68 school year, all students were allowed to attend the school of their choice under the Freedom of Choice Desegregation Plan. Main High School ceased operations as a school in 1969.

Main High School, its teachers, and administrators played an invaluable role in the education and complete well-being of countless students. To honor the epic achievement of Main High School, the City of Rome recently sponsored its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

### ROME'S RUFUS N. TURNER JR.

Anyone who believes that one person cannot significantly impact the world around them has clearly never spent time in the presence of Rufus Neal Turner, Jr. Mr. Turner or "Mr. Rome" (as he is affectionately referred to by some of his former classmates at Main High School) is a tireless crusader in the effort to promote and preserve African American educational, political, and social contributions to Rome, Georgia - past, present, and future. His civic and community involvement encompasses everything from school rehabilitation to school board elections. He is affiliated with various organizations, including the city's Historic Preservation Review Board and the local chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. Inspired by the trail blazed by his former instructors and classmates at Main High School, this lay historian/preservationist is determined to ensure that all of the pieces that comprise Rome's rich, cultural tapestry are fully represented.

In the mid 1990s, at the behest of several alumni, Turner undertook the monumental task of preserving Main High School. He approached the City of Rome and effectively conveyed the significance of the school, in both a historical and social context. His argument was so convincing that the city responded by having a new roof put on the building. Shortly after that, Turner was asked to join the city's Historic Preservation Review Board. Presently, Turner is seeking resources to assist with rehabilitating the school into a museum/mentoring center. When asked about the importance of this project at the recent Main High School reunion, "Mr. Rome" said, "I just want the coming generations, black, white, and everyone else, to know of the standard of excellence created at Main High School and that they cared for your well-being as a whole, academically, personally, and spiritually."



Georgia African American  
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**Photograph**

**Not**

**Available**

Mrs. Ware/Student Council



Georgia African American  
Historic Preservation Network

Photograph Not Available

*"I just wanted to do for the school, alumni, and community, what was done for me."*

## THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places was created on October 15, 1966, with the signing of the National Historic Preservation Act. Since that time, the National Register has served as our country's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. The National Register is a vital tool that helps to preserve a wide range of historic properties. In Georgia, we have over 1,800 listings including over 400 districts, and totaling approximately 52,000 properties listed in the National Register. Georgia ranks among the top ten states nationally in the number of properties listed. Because each listing represents a preservation project as well as a significant historic resource, the numbers illustrate the impressive amount of preservation activity that has taken place in the state since 1966.

Historic African American properties constitute approximately 10% of Georgia's National Register listings and represent a broad range of properties associated with Georgia's African American heritage. National Register nominations encompass entire communities, residential neighborhoods in



*The Clay Street YMCA building is a community landmark building in Thomasville's Stevens Street Historic District. It was built circa 1890 to provide recreation services to the African American community. Today, the building functions as True Vine Church of Deliverance. It is owned by the Douglass High School Alumni Association. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

numerous towns and cities throughout the state, or historic African American commercial districts and buildings. Archaeological sites associated with former African American settlements along the coast and buildings and structures designed by African American craftsmen have received recognition. Rural and urban historic community landmark buildings such as schools, churches, and fraternal lodges are significant African American properties. Historic African American houses, ranging from slave cabins, shotguns, and tenant houses to bungalows and mansions are represented in the National Register.

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a property must meet certain requirements. The property or district must be historic, which generally means over 50 years old, have historic significance, and retain its historic physical characteristics. The property or district must meet one or more of the National Register Criteria by association with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past; association with the lives of people who were important in the past; significance in the areas of architectural history, landscape history, or engineering; or have the potential to yield important information through archaeological investigation.

The National Register is not a "static" list. New nominations are added to the list at the rate of approximately 50 per year. Previously listed nominations, particularly districts, continue to be updated to include additional information, update

properties that recently reached the 50-year mark, and expand boundaries of the nomination. An example of expanding district boundaries is the recently updated Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District in Atlanta. Listed on May 2, 1974, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District was Georgia's first National Register nomination for historic African American properties. The boundaries of the historic district were recently enlarged in June 2001 to include the historic African American community that influenced King's ideals in his adult life.

The National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, maintains the National Register. In Georgia, the National Register program is administered by the Historic Preservation Division (HPD). To nominate a historic property or district, there is a 17-step process that includes planning, evaluation, and research. Although it may seem daunting, the first steps in the nomination process are basic planning steps such as determining what property to nominate, why the property should be nominated, and who is going to compile the necessary documentation. Frequently, the next step in the process is contacting HPD or the preservation planner in your Regional Development Center to verify that the property is not yet listed and to obtain HPD's National Register application packet. Requests for listing are reviewed by HPD's National Register staff to determine eligibility and verify that the documentation is complete. Once the nomination has been approved by HPD, the proposed nomination is scheduled for a meeting of the Georgia National Register Review Board. The nomination is presented to the board and if approved, is signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, who submits the



*The Church of the Good Shepherd (Good Shepherd Episcopal Church) was built circa 1894. A wing connects the church to a two-story parish hall and school. John W. "Jack" Carter, an African American community leader, was instrumental in the development of the school. The school provided private education from kindergarten through the fifth grade until 1964. Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 5, 1987, the Church of the Good Shepherd is a community landmark building and a contributing resource in Thomasville's Stevens Street Historic District. Photo by James R. Lockhart*

nomination to the National Register in Washington, D.C. The final step involves review and approval by the Keeper of the National Register, and the property is subsequently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register listing **does not** place obligations or restrictions on the use of private property. National Register listing



## A WARM WELCOME TO NEW READERS

can lead to a wide range of preservation activities. Some activities are broad scale, such as heritage tourism, heritage education, local district designation, and the revitalization of downtowns and neighborhoods. Along with the official recognition, National Register-listed properties may qualify for specific preservation benefits and incentives. Owners of income-producing properties listed in the National Register are eligible for a federal investment tax credit for rehabilitation work that meets preservation standards. Owners of residential and income-producing properties are eligible for the state historic property tax abatement program. Non-profit agencies and local governments are eligible to apply for state and federal grants for planning and rehabilitation. Another benefit of National Register listing is that federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects are required to consider the effect of the project on historic properties. National Register listing also provides consideration of fire and life safety code compliance alternatives when rehabilitating historic properties.

Since its inception in 1966, the National Register has provided recognition for historic properties that represent all aspects of our history and has often been the first step in a broader preservation effort. To learn more about the National Register and how it can help you preserve historic properties, or to obtain an application packet, please contact: **Gretchen Kinnard, National Register Coordinator at 404/651-6782 or by e-mail gretchen\_kinnard@mail.dnr.state.ga.us.**



**Karl Webster Barnes**  
GAAHPN Chairman

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Georgia African American  
Historic Preservation Network

As *Reflections* enters its second year of publication, the Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network (GAAHPN) continues a celebration of the contributions of African Americans to the cultural landscape of Georgia. This publication evolved from the commitment of a statewide network of volunteers who were undaunted in their attempts to recognize the achievements of African Americans in Georgia's heritage. Through *Reflections* we tell the stories of these individuals, the unsung heroes and heroines behind the buildings and history we cherish.



**Jeanne Cyriaque**  
Editor

The premier issue of *Reflections* portrayed African American farmers who acquired their farms in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, maintained them in the same family for over 100 years, and were recognized as Centennial Family Farms. *Reflections* told the story of Sapelo Island and the Geechee residents of Hog Hammock, who represent Georgia coastal communities with Gullah traditions dating from Africa, through enslavement, to the present. Theatres built by African Americans, or white theatres with segregated sections, were portrayed as preservation initiatives that presently provide entertainment venues in Georgia cities. Diversity, developing from the biracial characteristics of the plantation economy to current historic preservation partnerships in rural Georgia communities, was discussed in *Reflections*.

*Reflections* features African American properties or historic resources that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This strategy accomplishes dual objectives: recognition of historic properties and presentation of successful models of preservation initiatives. Each issue includes a description of a program area within the Historic Preservation Division to educate readers about available technical services. Through *Reflections*, GAAHPN highlights collaborations with local, state, regional and federal partners, critical components in successful preservation. These collaborations have aided GAAHPN in raising awareness of diversity in Georgia's heritage. As membership in GAAHPN has increased from 350 Network members to over 900, we recognize that our celebration of African American heritage in Georgia is a celebration that is shared by all Georgians. Thus, with this issue of *Reflections*, we are expanding our distribution to all of HPD's mailing list, an additional 1,870 persons. Whether you are a member of GAAHPN, or receiving this publication for the first time, we welcome you to *Reflections*.

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The Historic Preservation Division, The Georgia Trust, the Macon Heritage Foundation and the Urban Land Institute will host **Georgia Communities at the Crossroads: Growth Strategies and Solutions**, the 2002 State Historic Preservation Conference in Macon, Georgia on February 28-March 1, 2002. The conference will address growth strategies for Georgia communities and the positive role historic preservation can play. Conference sessions include community envisioning, transportation planning, local government issues, incentives and tools, downtowns, neighborhoods, schools, real estate opportunities, open space and archaeology. Tours of historic properties in Macon will be offered as well.

## ABOUT GAAHPN



Georgia African American  
Historic Preservation Network

The Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network (GAAHPN) was established in January 1989. It is composed of representatives from neighborhood organizations and preservation groups. GAAHPN was formed in response to a growing interest in preserving the cultural and ethnic diversity of Georgia's African American heritage. This interest has translated into a number of efforts which emphasize greater recognition of African American culture and contributions to Georgia's history. The Network meets regularly to plan and implement ways to develop programs that will foster heritage education, neighborhood revitalization, and support community and economic development.

The Network is an informal group of over 900 people who have an interest in preservation. Members are briefed on the status of current and planned projects and are encouraged to offer ideas, comments and suggestions. The meetings provide an opportunity to share and learn from the preservation experience of others and to receive technical information through workshops. Members receive a newsletter, *Reflections*, produced by the Network. Membership in the Network is free and open to all.

## Reflections

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