

Reflections



Georgia African American
Historic Preservation Network



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BOUND FOR THE PROMISED LAND: THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM PROGRAM

By Barbara Tagger, Historian, Southeast Region Coordinator
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program
National Park Service

Almost everyone has heard of it or seems to have some knowledge about it. Such names as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Levi Coffin lend further clues to its popularity. Even states like New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan and foreign nations such as Canada have developed a claim to fame because of their association to this phenomenal story. Yet, the full story of the Underground Railroad has not come close to being told.

Why is this remarkable American story so hard to know and appreciate? First, much of what is known about the Underground Railroad is buried in family histories and non-traditional sources. Because of the secretive nature of the Underground Railroad, and the high risks that were involved for those who actively engaged in its activities, written records are not readily available.



This is the home in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where Frederick Douglass lived after his escape from enslavement. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque

Secondly, passed from one generation to another, stories of the Underground Railroad were embedded in oral tradition, and often attached to myth and legend. Thus, oral histories and traditions have become important vehicles in gathering personal accounts. Though this particular method has been challenged by scholars, information derived from oral accounts cannot and should not be overlooked. Indeed, oral history not only provides valuable clues to our understanding of how the Underground Railroad operated, but are essential to helping us to know and fully appreciate the risks and sacrifices these unsung heroes made in order to make the Underground Railroad a success.



The daring escape of William and Ellen Craft from Macon to Boston was documented in their own account: *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*. In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Bill, and the Crafts fled to England. They returned to Georgia and operated a school and farm after Emancipation. This photo of the Crafts appeared in William Still's *The Underground Rail Road*, published in 1872. (Public Domain)

To completely understand the significance of the Underground Railroad, the story must be placed in a broader context. In this instance, the Underground Railroad must include an examination of slavery. The southeastern portion of the United States, for example, provides a rare opportunity to interpret slavery and the various types of plantations. More important, stories of daily activities and working conditions help people understand why enslaved people sought escape as one method to resist human bondage.

Reaching freedom was indeed a difficult task. In most instances, it required tenacity, ingenuity, and the willingness to take a tremendous risk. For those who lived in the lower south, destinations of freedom did not necessarily include travel to Canada. On the contrary, in most cases it was easier for runaways to seek liberty or refuge closer to the point of flight or beyond. Perhaps the most common places of refuge for freedom seekers were natural areas such as forests, swamps, mountains, and bayous. Native American groups such as the Seminoles, as well as maroon societies frequently harbored runaways. Often these communities served as

continued on page 2

BOUND FOR THE PROMISED LAND: THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM PROGRAM

Barbara Tagger, continued from page 1

the first places of protection long before a runaway received shelter in homes, schools, inns, barns, and churches beyond the southeastern areas. The maritime industry soon became common modes of transportation to liberty as freedom seekers, with the help of seamen, stowed away on boats and ships. Some refugees eventually made their way north, while others followed the coastal waters and major rivers to Mexico, Key West, Florida, Andros Islands, Cuba, and the Bahamas Islands. For those who chose to travel by land, freedom routes led them to join free black communities centered in large urban areas like Charleston, Savannah, Pensacola, and New Orleans.

Though escape was one measure runaways sought to secure their freedom, resistance to enslavement took other forms. Prior to 1865, more than 100,000 enslaved and free African Americans performed military service to gain their individual freedom and to liberate their people. During the Civil War, for instance, thousands of enslaved African Americans fled plantations and sought refuge with the Union forces. Eager to secure their liberation, more than 200,000 African Americans volunteered their services to the Union army and navy in the name of freedom.



Black soldiers fought for the Union Army during the Civil War. These reenactors perform a drill at the Port Hudson Civil War State Commemorative Park in Louisiana. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque

These various methods of resistance used by enslaved people of African descent are just a few examples of the intriguing stories that are interpreted throughout the southeastern region of the United States, the Caribbean, in particular, and the entire nation in general. The National Park Service recognizes the importance of these fascinating stories, and is committed to preserving and commemorating the legacy of the Underground Railroad as a significant part of the American story.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program (also known as the "Network to Freedom Program") will celebrate its sixth anniversary on July 21, 2004. Authorized by the United States Congress as the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act, the Network to Freedom Program has made a critical transition from a start-up endeavor to a mature program achieving national and international statute. The Network to Freedom Program identifies the Underground Railroad comprehensively as the historical process of resistance against slavery in the United States through escape and flight. The program

demonstrates the significance of the Underground Railroad not only in the eradication of slavery, but also as a cornerstone of our national civil rights movement.

The Network to Freedom Act specifies that the Network include elements such as "governmental and non-governmental facilities and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to the Underground Railroad." This provision of the legislation invites inclusion of a variety of different elements. "Facilities" and "programs" in the Network can have an educational, research, or interpretive scope, as long as they are directly related to, and verifiably associated with the Underground Railroad. "Facilities" can include, but are not limited to, operating archives and libraries, research centers, museums, collections, and cultural and commemorative centers. "Programs" can include, but are not limited to, tours, interpretive talks, traveling exhibits, theater productions, living history productions, and educational programs.

There are a multitude of Underground Railroad-related "sites" around the United States that have suffered the impacts of prolonged negligence or developments inconsistent with the historical character of the site. Nonetheless, these sites are often integral parts of the Underground Railroad story. Their significance should not be lost, so the Network to Freedom is designed to include these impacted "sites" with the provision that they must be associated with an interpretive program and signage. The association of such a site must be documented in a verifiable way using professional methods of historical research, and must be related to Underground Railroad activity.

Managed by the National Park Service, the Network to Freedom Program is recognized as a unique *partnership* program. To date, the Network has accepted more than 180 sites, programs, and facilities in 25 states and the District of Columbia into the program. The Program has developed a visual identity to raise awareness by developing a distinct logo. Shelly Harper is the graphic artist who designed the Network to Freedom logo.



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Photograph

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To encourage a broad range of participants in the Network to Freedom Program, the Network highly encourages partnerships between the National Park Service and local, grassroots organizations, individuals, and federal, state, and local governments that have as their goal the preservation, commemoration, and interpretation of the Underground Railroad-related sites and stories. The vehicle through which this can happen is for these local entities and individuals to become NETWORK PARTNERS. It is often through

the dedicated efforts of Network Partners that elements are added to the Network to Freedom Program.

For those elements that are accepted into the Network to Freedom Program, there are several advantages of being a listed member. These benefits include:

- National recognition of the authenticity of historic sites, programs, and facilities.
- The use and display of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom logo.
- Eligibility for Network to Freedom grants, when funds are appropriated, and assistance in locating project funding. The Network to Freedom Program is working with partners to identify funding sources and raise funds to support interpretation and commemoration efforts.
- Inclusion in a Network database featured on the Network to Freedom Program's web site that will include standard information on every site, program and facility that has been reviewed and accepted into the Network.
- Inclusion in a nationwide system of comparable sites, programs, and facilities that fosters networking and coordinating educational, preservation, and commemorative activities.

Regrettably, the benefits offered to elements accepted into the Network to Freedom Program are not extended to Network Partners. Yet, Network Partners are recognized as an integral part of the Network Program. Partners are included in the Network to Freedom Program directories that are published by the National Park Service, and more importantly, Network Partners act as consultants and are encouraged to assist the Network in sharing information with others in their areas of expertise or general issues of the Underground Railroad.

The Network to Freedom Program invites the public to share its community-related or family accounts of the Underground Railroad. The Network to Freedom Program is always in search of stories and sites associated with the Underground Railroad, especially in the state of Georgia. To receive national recognition of commemorative programs, facilities or sites related to the Underground Railroad, one must apply to the Network. **Applications are accepted twice each calendar year: January 15 and July 15.** Are you interested in becoming a part of the Network to Freedom Program? If so, please check out the Network to Freedom



Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network

This photo depicts freedmen and women who escaped to Fort Pulaski after General Hunter's Emancipation Proclamation.

Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

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Program website for additional details: www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr or contact Barbara Tagger, Southeast Region Coordinator, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, at the National Park Service. My mailing address is 100 Alabama Street, Atlanta, GA 30303. My email address is: Barbara_Tagger@nps.gov or telephone 404/562-3108 x 518.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN GEORGIA

By Barbara Tagger and Jeanne Cyriaque, Reflections Editor

In Georgia, the Network to Freedom Program has formally recognized the *Fort Pulaski National Monument* as a National Park Service *site* near Savannah and *From Africa to Eternity Traveling Exhibit* as a *program* owned by Denise Fields of Brunswick. Though completely different, both elements have achieved national recognition for their commemorations of the Underground Railroad.

Fort Pulaski National Monument achieved national attention for its association with the Underground Railroad in 2001. Listed among the first to be inducted into the Network to Freedom Program, Fort Pulaski served as a military fort during the Civil War. In April 1862, the Union Forces, under the command of General David Hunter, demanded the unconditional surrender of the fort. Confederate Colonel Charles H. Olmstead refused the demand, and the two sides began exchanging cannon fire. After 30 hours of battle the Union forces prevailed and took possession of Fort Pulaski.

On April 13, 1862, General Hunter announced in General Order No. 7 that "All persons of color lately held to involuntary service by enemies of the United States in Fort Pulaski and on Cockspur Island, Georgia, are hereby confiscated and declared free."

This order was issued approximately eight months before Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Fort Pulaski served as a destination for enslaved people attempting to reach freedom. More importantly, the fort played a significant role as a recruitment station for freed African American males wanting to serve in one of the nation's first black regiments, the 1st South Carolina Volunteer Infantry.

One of the first African Americans that assisted freedom seekers after General Hunter's proclamation was March Haynes. He was an experienced stevedore and river pilot while a slave, and smuggled fugitives into Union lines after the fall of Fort Pulaski. He served as a spy for the Union forces, and conducted nightly raids along the Savannah River in his boat, collecting information and bringing refugees to freedom. *General David Hunter's Proclamation*, a book by Charles J. Elmore of Savannah State University, describes how Haynes assisted refugees in their quest for freedom.



(Public Domain)

*General David Hunter
Union Army*



*Georgia African American
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Photograph Not Available

*March Haynes
Photo courtesy of
Charles J. Elmore*

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN GEORGIA

Barbara Tagger and Jeanne Cyriaque, continued from page 3



Denise Fields is the curator for *From Africa to Eternity*. Her traveling exhibit was the first Georgia program to join the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque

from the colonial era to the end of the Civil War, with specific emphasis on the Underground Railroad. Students and adults alike are drawn to this extraordinary display.



Denise Fields' *From Africa to Eternity* traveling exhibit includes rare artifacts, like these circa 1840 shackles that were used on captured runaway slaves. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque

The collection offers viewers a rare opportunity to learn more about the multifaceted operations of the abolition movement and its relationship to the Underground Railroad. The *From Africa to Eternity* exhibit has appeared at public schools, colleges, and universities as well as local, state, and federal programs throughout the states of Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Florida. The Underground Railroad segment is only part of the total collection of over 3,000 artifacts encompassing the pre-enslavement period to current times. The exhibit was displayed for ten months at the Coastal Center for the Arts in Brunswick.

For information about the *From Africa to Eternity* Traveling Exhibit, contact Denise Fields at 912/261-0461. Denise Fields is a member of the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition, and is administering plans for the 2004 Georgia Sea Islands Festival. The festival will be held on August 14-15, 2004 at Neptune Park on St. Simons Island.

Denise Fields is the president and curator of *From Africa to Eternity, Inc.* Her exhibit is an excellent example of the various ways communities and individuals are creatively educating the public about the Underground Railroad legacy. For more than 25 years, Fields served as an educator as well as a community social worker. She is an avid collector of African American history and memorabilia. *From Africa to Eternity* traveling exhibit includes rare artifacts, slave documents, books, periodicals, and photographs that represent enslavement and its resistance

THE HARRIET TUBMAN SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY

By Barbara Tagger, Historian, Southeast Region Coordinator
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program
National Park Service

Araminta. Minty. Harriet. Enslaved. Freedom Seeker. Conductor. General. Nurse. Spy. Scout. Humanitarian. These are just a few names and words that describe one of America's most extraordinary heroines, Harriet Tubman. Araminta Ross, nicknamed "Minty", was born around 1821 or 1822. As a child, she grew up on the Edward Brodess Plantation in Dorchester County, Maryland. In 1844, Minty married a freeman, John Tubman. She soon emancipated herself by escaping via the Underground Railroad in 1849. After safely arriving in Philadelphia, she changed her name to "Harriet" and began her life anew in liberty.

Determined to liberate her family and friends, Harriet returned to Maryland between the years 1851 and 1860, emancipating at least 70 to 80 people with the assistance of noted stationmasters and sympathizers like William Still, Thomas Garrett, and Gerrit Smith. Harriet set up temporary residence in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. In 1859, Tubman purchased seven acres of land and a house in Auburn, New York from Senator William Seward. This site would eventually serve as her permanent residence.

When the Civil War began, Tubman volunteered her services to the Union Army. From 1862-1864, she served as a scout and spy under the command of Major General David Hunter. Tubman served as a cook and nurse, and facilitated a raid against the Confederacy that liberated more than 700 enslaved African Americans.

At the conclusion of the war, Tubman returned to Auburn, New York, and in 1869 she married Charles Nelson Davis at the Central Presbyterian Church. Harriet lived the remainder of her life helping others in the Auburn community. She began the Home of the Aged for destitute individuals who could no longer care for themselves. In 1913, Harriet Tubman Davis quietly passed away in her home in Auburn, New York due to failing health. She was interred at Fort Hill Cemetery with military honors.

In 2000, the United States Congress requested that the National Park Service conduct a study to determine how best to commemorate the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman. The public is invited to share information on Harriet Tubman, and is highly urged to suggest ideas for commemorating and honoring her. The National Park Service is seeking further information from anyone with particular knowledge of Tubman and the places where she lived and worked. Visit www.HarrietTubmanStudy.org for more information or contact Barbara Tagger. The project manager is Barbara Mackey. You can reach her at 617/223-5138 or Barbara_Mackey@nps.gov.



The Smith College collection features Harriet Tubman, her adopted daughter, and her second husband, Charles Nelson Davis.

THE GOVERNOR'S AWARDS IN THE HUMANITIES

Since 1986, the Georgia Humanities Council has recognized achievement in the humanities through a special awards ceremony. These awards are presented to honorees for a variety of contributions to the humanities, including behind the scenes work in museums, libraries, publications, cultural heritage and preservation. On May 13, 2004 Governor Sonny Perdue presented Awards in the Humanities to nine individuals and two organizations. Three African Americans were recipients of the awards.

Cornelia Walker Bailey, Sapelo Island historian, was recognized for her contributions to the preservation of Georgia's Geechee culture. In 2000, Bailey published *God, Dr. Buzzard, and the Bolito Man: A Saltwater Geechee Talks About Life on Sapelo Island*. In this book co-authored with Cristena Bledsoe, Bailey shares the history of the Geechee community of Hog Hammock on Sapelo Island. Her second book, *Sapelo Voices*, is a compilation of oral histories from Sapelo Island elders and anthropological studies that she co-authored with Ray Crook, Norma Harris and Karen Smith from the State University of West Georgia.

Charlotte Hawkins Frazier was one of the volunteers who organized the Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network (GAAHPN). She is a graduate of Spencer High School in Columbus. This school is named in honor of William H. Spencer, an African American educator who was the first Supervisor of Colored Schools in Muscogee County. Frazier and the *Golden Owlettes*, an alumnae group, preserved the home of William H. Spencer. His residence was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Frazier was instrumental in preserving the Columbus home of Gertrude Pridgett "Ma" Rainey, the nationally recognized blues legend who is considered "mother of the blues." Her favorite cultural heritage initiative is tracing historic sites and theatres where "Ma Rainey" and other artists performed. These venues and the artists who performed there were known as the *Chitlin Circuit*.

While Frazier was chair of GAAHPN, she diligently pursued the establishment of a position specializing in African American programs in the Historic Preservation Division. She is

currently a member of the Columbus Board of Historic and Architectural Review and the Liberty Theatre Cultural Center. The Liberty Theatre is a Columbus African American theatre that was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. Frazier is featured in *Lift Every Voice*, a documentary about African American heritage in Columbus. The documentary and pictorial exhibit are currently featured at the Columbus Museum.

Charlotte Hawkins Frazier is a member of the Mayor's Commission on Diversity. She received a resolution from the Georgia Senate in recognition of her African American preservation initiatives.

Jack Hadley, a veteran of the United States Air Force, was honored for his contributions to the legacy of African Americans in his native Thomasville. Hadley spent his career with the U.S. Postal Service in Thomasville.

He is a collector of African American historic artifacts, and is president of the Jack Hadley Black History Memorabilia, Inc. His humanitarian projects include recognition of Henry Ossian Flipper, a Thomasville native and the first African American graduate from West Point. Hadley's current preservation project centers on Douglass High School. Jack Hadley raises awareness of African American sites on his *Step on, Step Off* heritage tours in Thomasville. He is the co-author with Titus Brown of *African-American Life on the Southern Hunting Plantation*, a chronicle of the African Americans who lived and worked on Pebble Hill Plantation, a National Register of Historic Places property near Thomasville.



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Photograph Not Available

Cornelia Walker Bailey



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Photograph Not Available

Charlotte Hawkins Frazier



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Photograph Not Available

James "Jack" Hadley

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION ANNUAL PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each year during Historic Preservation Month in May, the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) holds its Preservation Achievement Awards ceremony. The honorees are recognized for contributions made while working specifically with, but not for, HPD and its programs. Cumulative career achievement or completion of noteworthy projects are considered in the nominations. Staff recognize individuals and organizations for contributing to the mission and goals of HPD.

Cynthia Rosers of Newnan was one of this year's awards recipients.



Recipients of the 2004 Historic Preservation Division's Preservation Achievement Awards included, from left to right: Monica Kocher, Michael Miller, Cynthia Rosers, Tom Gresham, Anne Floyd and Randy Weitman. Other recipients (not in picture) were Andrea MacDonald and Hope Moorer.
Photo by Jeanne Cyrtaque

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION ANNUAL PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

continued from page 5

Cynthia Rosers is president of the African American Alliance, Inc. She is a member of the board of directors of the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society. She is committed to increasing diversity in Newnan's preservation community, and has successfully implemented several projects that contribute to the mission of HPD.

Rosers and other members of the Alliance led the effort to list the Powell Chapel School in the National Register of Historic Places (June 2003). Through her leadership, the African American Alliance leased a shotgun house threatened for demolition by the

City of Newnan, and adaptively used this structure to house the Coweta County African American Heritage Museum and Research Center, Newnan's first African American Museum. The museum is a repository for information about Newnan's African American past and is a facility where individuals can conduct genealogical research. The museum was dedicated in April 2003.

Rosers assisted the Rosenwald school inventory by linking HPD African



Cynthia Rosers receives her award from Richard Cloues, deputy state historic preservation officer and manager of HPD's Survey and National Register Unit.

Photo by Jeanne Cyrinaque

American programs with the mayor of Turin and the Walter B. Hill Industrial School in that community.

Her recent preservation projects included development of a tour of the Chalk Level community, one of Newnan's historical African American residential districts. Under Rosers' leadership, the African American Alliance secured a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council to produce a catalog of homes on Pinson Street. This information will be used to support the nomination of the Chalk Level Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

Recently Rosers and the African American Alliance acquired a slave cabin from a Newnan family. This cabin will be reassembled at the site of the museum, and may assist in future interpretation of plantation life in the 1800s.

GEORGIA HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM

*Cherie Bennett, Planning & Local Assistance Coordinator
Historic Preservation Division*

Funding through grant programs is, more often than not, vital in the success of historic preservation projects. One of these crucial programs is the Georgia Heritage Grant Program administered by the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Since its inception in 1994, the Georgia Heritage Grant Program has provided seed-money to make hundreds of statewide historic preservation projects a reality. Many of these important projects have involved the restoration of historic African American resources.



Cherie Bennett presents the \$16,000 Heritage Grant from the Historic Preservation Division to the United Concerned Citizens of Dodge County and Robin Nail, historic preservation planner for the Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Development Center. Photo by William Hover

This past year, the Peabody School in Eastman received a grant for \$16,000 to repair and replace the roof of this historic educational building. The school was constructed circa 1938 as the high school for black students in Eastman and much of Dodge County. The structure is a one-story brick, T-shaped building with a metal roof that exhibits Colonial Revival elements. In the late 1950s, a new high school was built so the original Peabody School was converted to serve grades 1-8. After the school ceased operation, the United Concerned Citizens of Dodge County formed to acquire the property. In 1994, this organization purchased the building from the Dodge County Board of Education. The facility is currently used for social activities, such as meeting, reunions, parties, and for the Summer Feed-A-Kid Program.

Each year, approximately 15-20 projects are selected for funding, based on need, degree of threat to the resource, project planning, and community benefit from the resource. Geographical and demographical distribution and variety of resource types and uses are also considered in award decisions. Grants are available for development and predevelopment projects. Development projects include stabilization, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration activities. Predevelopment projects include plans and specifications, feasibility studies, historic structure reports, or other building-specific or site-specific preservation plans. The maximum grant amount that can be requested is \$40,000 for development projects, and \$20,000 for predevelopment projects.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be a local government or private secular nonprofit organization and have documentation of matching funds (equal to at least 40% of the project cost). The property for which funds are being requested must be listed in, or eligible for listing in, the Georgia Register of Historic Places, and be listed prior to reimbursement of funds. All grant assisted work must meet the applicable Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation."

This year's grant applications are currently available, and must be postmarked by July 15, 2004. For further information about the grant program, please contact: Cherie Bennett, Acting Grants Coordinator, at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources. I can be reached at 404/651-5181 or by email at cherie_bennett@dnr.state.ga.us.

THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH & PARSONAGE OF WAYCROSS

*Jennifer Eaton, African American Programs Assistant
Historic Preservation Division*

On April 11, 2003, the First African Baptist Church and parsonage were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The church is presently known as First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. It is the sixth property to be listed in the National Register in Ware County, Georgia. This site is also the first and only African American property listed in the National Register in Ware County. The church and parsonage were listed in the significant areas of architecture and ethnic heritage.

The Gothic Revival-style church retains its original siding, towers, pointed-arch windows, floors, wainscoting, bulls-eye



*The First African Baptist Church in Waycross features Gothic Revival-style dual bell towers.
Photo by James R. Lockhart*

molding, and pressed metal ceiling. The parsonage is an excellent example of a Queen Anne cottage that maintains its original floor plan and materials. The detailed construction and architectural style of these two buildings are not consistent with the typical African American rural church plan. According to Carole Merrit's *Historic Black Resources*, a statewide context on African American historic properties, rural churches were simplistic with few or no stylistic features. These two buildings are good examples of popular architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th century.

The First African Baptist Church was initially organized as the Zion African Baptist Church on October 15, 1870. Worshipers who had just emerged from slavery received help from Rev. William Quaterman, an African American minister, Rev. H.V. Jeffords and Lewis C. Tebeau to organize the church. Rev. Frank Hazzard, the first pastor, and 37 new members began worship in an old log cabin that was later dedicated as the meeting place. They quickly outgrew the log cabin. In 1905, the church congregation moved to the present building, under the leadership of Rev. S. Buford.



*The First African Baptist Church parsonage is a Queen Anne cottage.
Photo by James R. Lockhart*

The two buildings reflect the role of the Baptist church in post-Civil War life in the African American community of Waycross, Georgia. It is the oldest African American Baptist church in the area

and is considered the "Mother Church" of other congregations in Waycross. In addition to the religious foundation provided to the community, the church also formulated the first African American private school for blacks in Waycross. Hazzard Hill Baptist School, though no longer extant, was named after Rev. Frank Hazzard.

The First African Baptist Church provided a spiritual meeting place, educational facility, and a home away from home for many years. It is still a strong and growing congregation within the Waycross community. The efforts of the congregation to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places demonstrates their concern and awareness of historic preservation as well as their hard work and determination to provide a legacy for the future.

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ABOUT GAAHPN



Georgia African American
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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 GAAHPN Steering Committee 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 1,750 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. Visit the Historic Preservation Division website at www.gashpo.org. Preservation information and previous issues of *Reflections* are available online. Membership in the Network is free and open to all.

Reflections

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