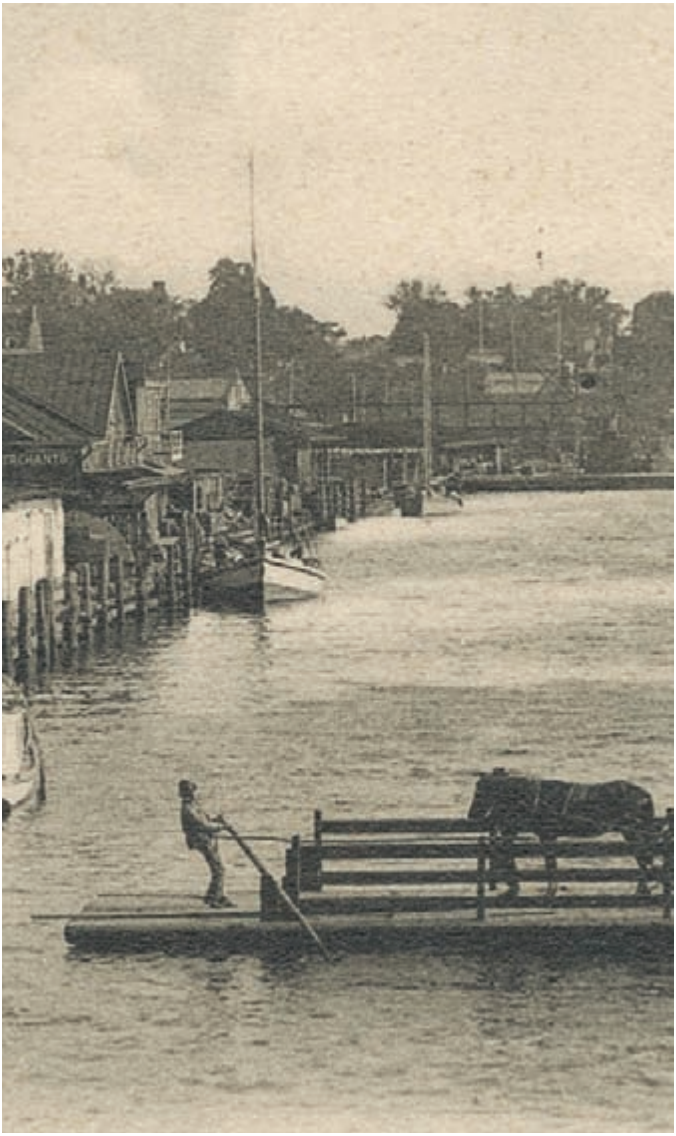
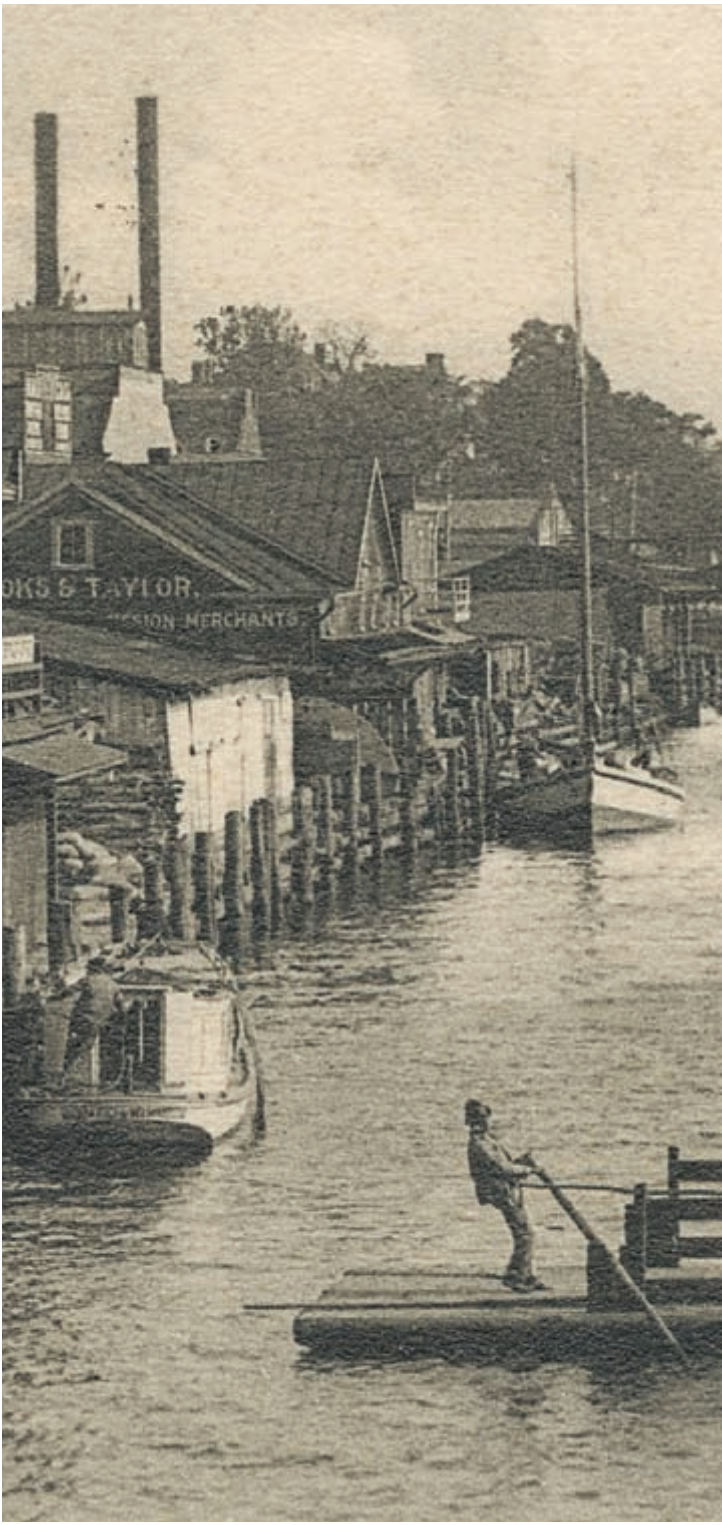
A Guide to Wilmington's

African American Heritage

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Though the United States of America was founded as a nominally free republic based on notions of freedom, justice, and equality, the existence of slavery overshadowed these ideals from its inception. In 1829, David Walker (1785-1830), a pioneer African American abolitionist and Wilmington native, published *Walker's Appeal in Four Articles,* which called for the immediate and uncompensated emancipation of slaves. Subsequent abolitionist arguments denounced slavery on a variety of religious, moral and patriotic grounds.

When the Civil War began in 1861, slavery was the primary underlying cause of the conflict. On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a wartime measure, the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, to abolish slavery. The proclamation stated that on January 1, 1863, "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." The Emancipation Proclamation also authorized the enlistment of African Americans into the Union army and navy. The African Americans who served in the Union armed forces were not merely combatants. They also served as liberators, helping to free their sisters and brothers from the bondage of servitude. Ratified in December, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolished slavery nationwide.

— **Dr. John Haley,** Professor Emeritus
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

In recognition of

the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of Wilmington's Historic Preservation Commission, the city published, *A Guide to Wilmington's African American Heritage,* featuring critical religious, educational, social, and cultural sites.

Begin the Journey...

1 1898 Monument and Memorial Park

1081 North 3rd Street

The City of Wilmington dedicated the 1898 Monument and Memorial Park on November 8, 2008. Designed by sculptor Ayokunle Odeleye of Atlanta, GA, the composition memorializes the African Americans and whites harmed by the violence of 1898 and honors those who have continued their work for racial progress.

2 Bellamy Mansion Slave Quarters

503 Market Street

The Bellamy Mansion, built between 1859 and 1861, is an exuberant example of Classical Revival antebellum architecture built for plantation owner John D. Bellamy, M.D. (1817-1896). It was constructed largely by both free and enslaved African American artisans. Behind the Bellamy Mansion are two two-story brick structures. The one in the northwest corner of the site is the reconstructed carriage house. On the northeast corner is the "Negro House" or slave quarters, which served as the home to the enslaved people who were house servants for the Bellamy family. As architectural historian Catherine Bishir states, "The remarkably unchanged structure is the most intact of surviving urban slave quarters in the state and among the most intact in the South." The domestic workers who lived there included Sarah, the cook, and Joan, the nursemaid for five of the Bellamy's children. Guy, the butler and coachman, probably lived on the second floor of the carriage house. Urban slaves, unlike plantation slaves, had more freedom of movement and often interacted with Wilmington's free population. As a result, many urban slaves acquired skills such as reading, writing, blacksmithing, carpentry and midwifery.

The museum is open for tours.
Admission fee. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm, Sunday 1-5 pm 910.251.3700.
bellamymansion.org

3 Orange Street Landing

Orange and South Water Streets

A kiosk marks the spot where 22 slaves escaped to freedom by way of the Cape Fear River. The journey to freedom was recorded by slave William Benjamin Gould (1837-1923), in a diary he kept from October 13, 1863 through September 5, 1864, while serving in the Union Navy. The Orange Street location was dedicated in 2005 by the National Park Service as part of its National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. The mission of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program is to preserve and commemorate the history of the Underground Railroad as the beginning of the Civil Rights movement in this country, which involved resistance to enslavement through escape and flight.

4 City Hall/Thalian Hall

102 North 3rd Street & 310 Chestnut Street

Construction of the combination municipal, library and theater building began in 1855 and concluded in 1858. Much of the work was done by free and enslaved

African American craftsmen, who dominated the city's building trades in the 19th century. Before the Civil War, slaves and freedmen were occasionally admitted to the theater's performances. Life in Wilmington changed dramatically after the Civil War, and African Americans gained greater access to City Hall/Thalian Hall. During the 1870s and 1880s, freedmen in the Cape Fear region became a powerful voting bloc. By 1897, three African American Republicans were elected to the City's ten-member Board of Aldermen. African American notables Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Marian Anderson and Caterina Jarboro (1898-1986), Wilmington native and renowned opera singer, appeared at Thalian Hall. *Fee charged for tours. Call in advance at 910.632.2241. www.thalianhall.com*

5 Wilmington National Cemetery

2011 Market Street

Wilmington was one of the most important cities of the Confederacy, as it was the last major Atlantic port still in Southern control. On January 15, 1865, Fort Fisher fell, closing Wilmington and with it the Confederacy's last major blockade-running seaport. In February 1867, the U.S. government purchased five acres for a national cemetery. Remains were removed from the Oakdale Cemetery, the Wilmington Town graveyard, Fort Fisher, and the surrounding area and reinterred in the new burial ground. The remains of the U.S. Colored Troops who died during the advance to Wilmington–55 known individuals and 502 unknown individuals-are buried in the northwest corner of the cemetery. Their grave markers are identified with the inscription, "U.S.C.T." or "U.S. Col. Inf."

Free and open daily from 7:30 am–4 pm. 910.815.4877.

6 Pine Forest Cemetery
815 North 16th Street

In 1860, the Town of Wilmington purchased fifteen acres to establish a cemetery for slaves and free persons of color. The cemetery was incorporated in 1869, when African American legislator George W. Price (1843-1901) introduced a bill of incorporation in the state legislature. In 1870, the city deeded the property over to the non-profit Pine Forest Cemetery Corporation.

Many notable residents are buried there, including
Henry Taylor (1823-1891), a builder and the father of John and Robert Taylor;
John E. Taylor (1858-1925), Deputy Collector of Customs for the port of Wilmington;
Robert Robinson Taylor (1868-1942), the nation's first professionally trained, African American architect and graduate in architecture from M.I.T.;
Dr. James Francis Shober (1832-1889), a graduate of Howard University Medical School and the state's first African American physician;
Dr. James B. Dudley (1859-1889), educator, founder and president of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College; and
George L. Mabson (1846-1885), North Carolina's first African American attorney.

The cemetery is open daily from 8 am–5 pm.

7 Giblem Lodge No. 2, Free & Accepted Prince Hall Masons

720 Princess Street

Founded in 1866 on the principles of fellowship and mutual aid, Giblem Lodge No. 2 is one of the first African American Masonic lodges organized in North Carolina. The building, constructed between 1871 and 1873, housed Wilmington's first library for African Americans and a thriving marketplace. In 1875, the state's first Agricultural and Industrial Fair was held there, drawing thousands of attendees. The lodge is still active today.

Call 910.343.0333 for an appointment to visit the interior.

8 Wilmington Daily Record

413 South 7th Street (demolished)

In the 1890s, Wilmington's African American residents had their own newspaper, *The Wilmington Daily Record,* edited by Alexander Manly (1866-1944). He studied at Hampton Institute and was reputedly the son of the state's governor, Charles Manly (1795-1871). Despite its Republican political leanings, the city's leading Democratic newspaper, *The Wilmington Messenger*, called *The Daily Record* a "very creditable colored paper" and *The Messenger's* editor, Thomas Clawson, sold Manly his printing press. *The Daily Record* was patronized by many of the city's white merchants and businessmen. The white Wilmington community generally withdrew its support of the paper following an August 1898 editorial in which Manly condemned the

practice of lynching. He was forced to leave his office downtown and he relocated to the Love and Charity Hall Building which was located on this now-vacant lot. Alex Manly's newspaper press, located on the second floor of the building, was burned by an angry white mob on November 10, 1898.

9 Wilmington Journal
412 South 7th Street

The Wilmington Journal is an outgrowth of R.S. Jervay Printers, formed in 1901. In 1927, Jervay (1873-1941) founded the *Cape Fear Journal*. His son, Thomas Jervay, Sr. (1901-1993) continued the family ownership of the business, changing the name to *The Wilmington Journal* in the 1940s. Among many of his notable accomplishments is his term as President of the American Negro Press Association. Still a Jervay family-owned business, *The Wilmington Journal* continues to be a voice of the local African American community.

10 North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company

510-1/2 Red Cross Street

John Merrick, Charles Spaulding and Aaron Moore, M.D., founded the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1899 in Durham, North Carolina. By 1943, the company was considered the largest African American-owned and operated enterprise in the world, with 700 agents and 375,000 policyholders. *Exterior viewing only.*

11 Shaw Funeral Home

518-520 Red Cross Street

The Shaw Funeral Home was founded in 1895 by John H. Shaw (1865-1921). According to local historian, William Reaves he was a man of "keen foresight and sound judgment and one who placed integrity of character and service to humanity far above mere personal gains." His sons William L. and Herbert Bell later joined the business. The Shaws moved the funeral home to 515 Red Cross Street in the 1920s. By 1946, the business moved across the street to its current location, eventually expanding to include a chain of funeral homes throughout the state. *Exterior viewing only.*

12 Herbert Bell Shaw House

611 Grace Street

While Herbert Shaw (1908-1980) was a partner in the Shaw Funeral Home, he is best known as a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was named to various positions within the Methodist Church in the U.S. and abroad and resided in this house. *Exterior viewing only.*

13 Campbell Square

North 6th, 7th Red Cross & Walnut Streets

Campbell Square is named for William Campbell, a white man from Philadelphia who, before moving his residence to Louisiana in 1845, deeded this land to the city for use by the "Negro" population. On the square were a "Grave Yard for Colored Persons," a public colored (Peabody) school, the First Baptist Colored Church and St. Stephen's African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Presbyterian and Episcopal churches also had lots in the block, but chose not to build churches on the square.

14 Brooklyn Neighborhood

Intersection of North 4th & Red Cross Streets

Originally settled in the mid-19th century, Wilmington's Brooklyn neighborhood was physically isolated by the railroad cut. Bridges at North 4th, 5th and 6th Streets provided the only access. By the 1890s,

the lower end of North 4th Street had become Brooklyn's commercial center, with several grocers, cobblers, bakers and eating houses and dry goods dealers. The majority of the population at that time was a mixture of Germans, Russian Jews, Chinese, black and white unskilled labor and railroad workers.

15 Minnie Evans, Airlie Gardens

300 Airlie Road

The visionary artist Minnie Evans (1892-1987) was born in Pender County's Long Creek community. Evans led a very simple life and had no artistic training. In 1939, she began to paint after a Good Friday dream in which she said God told her to "draw or die." Her fantastic creations were often inspired by dreams and visions founded on her strong religious convictions. She used any handy material, including grocery bags and window shades, and worked with paint, crayon, pencil and markers. Between 1948 and 1974, Evans was employed as the gatekeeper at Airlie Gardens. When not selling tickets, she occupied her time with painting.

Nina Starr, an art scholar, "discovered" Minnie Evans and promoted her work in New York's Whitney Museum. The Cameron Art Museum, Airlie Gardens, and the NC Museum of Art have exhibited her work.
In 2004 a striking Bottle Chapel, designed by Virginia Wright-Frierson, graced the gardens in commemoration of Minnie Evans' art.
Fee admission to Gardens.

16 Seabreeze

North of Snow's Cut, US 421
Carolina Beach Road

In the 1920s, the Freeman family developed a recreational area along the Intracoastal Waterway named Seabreeze. African American families would come from all over the state to play at Seabreeze. The area's first building was constructed in 1922, and by the 1940s, the area was almost fully developed. Freeman's Beach, located on the north end of Carolina Beach, was a short distance by launch from the resort. Seabreeze began to decline when integration allowed African Americans access to all beaches and hurricanes ravaged the buildings, few of which exist today.

17 Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church

712 Chestnut Street

Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church (USA), North Carolina's oldest African American Presbyterian church and a designated Wilmington Historic Landmark, is a combination of Carpenter Gothic and Italianate styles. The structure was built as a mission in 1858 as part of the "Third Great Revival" by First Presbyterian Church. After one month of operation, the racially mixed congregation became the Second Presbyterian Church. In 1864, the building was sold to the "colored members" of the Second Presbyterian Church and was renamed First African

Presbyterian Church. The members then changed the name to Chestnut Street United Presbyterian Church in 1867. Among the members were the prominent citizens David Sadgwar, Alfred Hargrave and Henry Taylor.
Call 910.762.1074 for an appointment to visit the interior.

18 St. Mark's Episcopal Church
220 North 6th Street

St. Mark's Episcopal Church was a product of the "Third Great Revival." Initiated in 1858, by 1866 the church had evolved into an African American mission of the racially mixed St. Paul's Episcopal Church. In 1871, work began on a building to house the St. Mark's congregation. Designed by the Boston architects Emerson and Fehmer, this church building is an excellent example of an early English Gothic Revival style parish church, with a steeply pitched roof, low entrance bay and octagonal tower. On June 18, 1875, the church became the first Episcopal church consecrated for colored people in North Carolina. The edifice was completed under the leadership of Rev. Charles O. Brady. Alfred Howe, a well-known African American builder, supervised the construction; he also served as a vestryman for twenty years. The new congregation offered free pews to congregation members and welcomed strangers.

Monday through Friday, 1–4 pm.
Call 910.763.3858 for an appointment to visit the interior.

19 St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church
501 North 5th Avenue

St. Stephen AME was organized in 1865, when 642 African Americans withdrew from the integrated Front Street Methodist Church to form their own church under the leadership of the Reverend W.H. Hunter, a former slave and an Army chaplain stationed in Wilmington with the federal occupation troops. The brick Gothic Revival style church was designed by former slave Lewis Hollingsworth, who also served as the construction supervisor. The building was built entirely by artisan members of the congregation. In 1894, Hollingsworth added the spire and bell tower from plans by architect J.K. Vaughn. The interior is an untouched, spectacularly beautiful space. In September of 1898, Booker T. Washington spoke at the church about the importance of "industrial education of the Negro." In 1909, President Taft spoke at City Hall/ Thalian Hall and St. Stephen Church. Added in 1913, St. Stephen's Annex served the community's needs with housing services for the elderly, a library, swimming pool and physician's office.
Call 910.762.9829 for an appointment to visit the interior.

20 St. Thomas Catholic Church/ St. Thomas Preservation Hall
208 Dock Street

On January 1, 1845, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ignatius Aloysius Reynolds, Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, officially

formed the Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Thomas and the Apostle in Wilmington and a church was built in 1846 on Dock Street. In 1849, the priest in charge, Father Thomas Murphy, baptized Maria Cenna Jones, a slave. She is believed to be the first African American in the state to be baptized into the Roman Catholic Church. During the city-wide yellow fever epidemic in 1862, Murphy helped tend to the religious and medical needs of the population.

The tiny congregation engaged Robert B. and John C. Wood, celebrated brick masons, to design a church building in the Gothic Revival style replacing that of the St. James Episcopal-but without the tower and pinnacles. A parochial school for African American children opened on October 11, 1911 in the basement of the church. When Wilmington's St. Mary Church was completed at 5th and Ann Streets in 1912, it ministered to the white Roman Catholic population; the city's African American Catholics continued to worship at St. Thomas. After a fire in 1966, St. Thomas' members were transferred to St. Mary. A group of concerned community members lobbied successfully to save the deconsecrated St. Thomas building, forming the St. Thomas Preservation Society in 1979. The society rehabilitated the building, renaming it St. Thomas Preservation Hall. It is currently used for private events. *Exterior viewing only, or call 910.763.4054 for an appointment to visit the interior. www.saintthomaspreservationhall.com.*

21 Central Baptist Church
702 Red Cross Street

The congregation was formed in 1883, under the leadership of the Reverend L.T. Christmas, who raised the funds to erect the building. The oldest African American Baptist church in the city, it was constructed between 1888-1891. Central Baptist Church is a fine example of a brick cross-gable, Victorian Gothic Revival style church with a corner entrance. The church bell that sits on the corner of the property was toppled in 1954 during Hurricane Hazel.

22 St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
419 South 7th Street

In 1861, Bishop James Walker Hood formed St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The congregation was housed in a twin tower brick church building constructed on the site in 1878. In 1944, fire

destroyed the building. Because the fire occurred during World War II, the church had to seek permission from the U.S. War Protection Board before reconstruction could begin. The new brick church, designed by architect, Leslie N. Boney, reflects the original church's steep gable roof and corner tower.

23 Gregory Congregational United Church of Christ

609 Nun Street

The Gothic Revival style brick church was built in 1880-1881 by S. B. Weston. It is one of three buildings that Massachusetts philanthropist Samuel Williston paid for in support of the American Missionary Association's efforts. After the Civil War the association sent white New England schoolmarms to teach African American students in the South. One of their main missions was to teach students to be teachers. The private school, Gregory Normal Institute and Teacherage, originally located next to the church, has been torn down.

24 Williston Graded School; Williston Industrial High School/ Gregory Elementary Schools

319-401 South 10th Street

The Freedmen's Bureau began at Williston in 1865 as an elementary school for African Americans. The American Missionary Association operated the school, which was named in honor of the Massachusetts benefactor, Samuel Williston. It became the city's first public school for African Americans when it was purchased in 1873 by the city's Board of Education. A vocational curriculum was added in 1915, when a larger school was constructed on the site. In 1931, construction was completed on a new three-story brick high school on the corner of South 10th and Nun streets, but the building burned down only five years later. The 1938 replacement school was designed by architect Leslie N. Boney and built by contractor U. A. Underwood. When the modern high school was constructed in 1953, the 1938 replacement school became today's Gregory Elementary School. Williston, the premier secondary educational institution for Wilmington African Americans, ceased to function as a high school in 1969, when the school board desegregated the school system. Williston graduates include basketball player Meadowlark Lemon, tennis champion Althea Gibson and a host of other business, political and professional leaders.
Call 910.815.6906 in advance for interior viewing.

25 The Sadgwar House
15 North 8th Street

Frederick Cutlar Sadgwar, Sr., (1843-1925), an African American carpenter-builder, built the core of the house in 1889 on property owned by his father, David Elias Sadgwar (1817-1889). Frederick Sadgwar married Caroline Huggins (1843-1932), as their family grew he added a second floor, creating a Neoclassical Revival style dwelling. In 1910, Frederick completed his education at Lincoln University and returned to Wilmington to establish a Freedmen's School in Whiteville, NC. He taught carpentry at his Wilmington home. Frederick and his father are buried at Pine Forest Cemetery. Fredrick's daughter Caroline (1871-1965) married Alexander Manly, the publisher of *The Daily Record* newspaper. For many years, the dwelling was home to a Baha'i congregation.

Exterior viewing only.

26 Alfred Howe House
310 Queen Street

The Alfred Howe House, with its Mansard roof, is an excellent example of a Second Empire style house. Alfred Howe (1817-1892) and his two brothers, Anthony (ca. 1807-1870) and Pompey (d. 1869), were slave carpenters who purchased their freedom when they were young. They built many fine houses in Wilmington, including Alfred's dwelling at 310 Queen Street. Alfred devoted his life to public service. He was a member of the Board of Alderman, a city assessor and a director of the Freedmen's Savings & Trust Bank. He served as a vestryman and senior warden of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, as well as the president of the board of Pine Forest Cemetery, where he is buried, and a member of the Wilmington Free School Committee. *Exterior viewing only.*

27 John E. Taylor House
114 North 8th Street

John E. Taylor (1858 -1925) had this Italianate style house built in 1884. The son of Henry Taylor, John Taylor was a carpenter and business man. He was among the artisans who built the Bellamy

Mansion, Hemenway School and many other buildings. Taylor graduated from Howard University, served as city clerk and treasurer in 1896, and was first assistant to the mayor in 1897. Governor Daniel L. Russell appointed Taylor as the first African American Deputy Collector of Customs for the Port of Wilmington, the first African American to serve in that capacity. He was a well-known, successful real estate dealer and the owner of the first African American-owned shoe store in Wilmington. *Exterior viewing only.*

28 Robert Robinson Taylor House

313 McRae Street

Robert Robinson Taylor (1868-1942) received his degree in architecture from M.I.T. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). He was the first African American to graduate from that prestigious school in 1892, and while studying there, he received the Loring Scholarship twice because of his "hard work and superior performance." Taylor was born in Wilmington to Henry and Emilie Taylor. He attended Williston School and Gregory Normal Institute. His father, a successful contractor and builder, taught him the basics of construction and encouraged him to attend M.I.T. Taylor met Booker T. Washington while a student and developed a friendship that eventually took him to Tuskegee, where he dedicated the rest of his life to teaching and designing campus buildings. He retired to Wilmington and is buried in Pine Forest Cemetery. The city named the first public housing project (now demolished) in North Carolina in his honor. *Exterior viewing only.*

29 Yarborough House
214 Church Street

Katherine Lee Yarborough (1898-1986) was born in Wilmington and educated at St. Thomas Catholic School and Gregory Normal School. Her family lived in this 1900 one-and-a-half story Queen Anne style house. Known by her stage name, Caterina Jarboro, she was the first African American woman to perform in an American opera house as part of the Chicago Opera Company in 1933. Caterina performed benefit concerts at Thalian Hall, St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church and for residents suffering though the 1930s Great Depression.
Exterior viewing only.

30 Nathan Green House
312 South 4th Street

This two-story Greek Revival style house was built around 1849. Nathan Green and his mother were freed from slavery in 1792. Green most likely built this house, which was moved from 319 South 3rd Street to 312 South 4th Street, sometime between 1893 and 1898.
Exterior viewing only.

31 Hubert Eaton House

1406 Orange Street

Hubert Eaton, Sr. (1916-1991) was a medical doctor, community activist and an award-winning tennis player. His successful litigation led to the desegregation of New Hanover County schools, the public-supported hospital, the municipal golf course, and the public library.

Dr. Eaton and another physician invited Althea Gibson (1927-2003), a young tennis prodigy, to live with his family so that he could supervise her education and tennis training. She perfected her game on the court in Eaton's backyard. Gibson was the first African American

to be accepted into the United States Lawn Tennis Association and, in 1951, the first to play. She won the American Tennis Association Championships in 1944 and 1945, the French Open in 1956, Wimbledon in 1957 and 1958, and the U.S. Open Championship in 1957 and 1958. The tennis court remains in the rear yard.
Exterior viewing only.

32 Avant House and Office
813 Red Cross Street

Designed by African American architect John E. Moore and built in the 1920s, this two-story brick house was the residence and office for Dr. F.W. Avant (1876-1973), a noted physician in the city. Doctors Avant and Foster F. Burnett together opened the Community Hospital, a hospital for African Americans. Avant was president of the New Hanover County Negro Medical Society, the Old North State Medical Society and a charter member of Society of Former Interns and Residents of the Freedman's Hospital (Washington, DC).
Exterior viewing only.

33 Foster F. Burnett House and Office
410 North 7th Street

Built in 1928, this two-story, brick Dutch Colonial house was the residence and office for Dr. Foster F. Burnett (1894-1945) who served in WWI. Burnett was a physician, civic leader and founder of Community Hospital and Nursing School in 1920 along with Dr. F.W. Avant. Dr. Hubert Eaton was his son-in-law. The Burnett House is the home of the Burnett-Eaton Museum Foundation.
Call 910.815.1029 or e-mail Spellerislah@yahoo.com for an appointment.

34 C.D. O'Neal House
Alpha Kappa Alpha House
417-419 Red Cross Street

Built in 1909, this two-story, front gable duplex is the home of the local Alpha Psi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The sorority purchased the house in 1982. The sorority was chartered on June 2, 1932 at Dr. Avant's home 813 Red Cross Street. The sorority was founded in 1908 at Howard University and was the first Greek sorority for African American college women in the nation. The Wilmington chapter has a long history of addressing health, economic and educational issues. *Exterior viewing only.*

35 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority House
Wilmington Alumnae Chapter
401 North 7th Street

Built in 1894, this two-story gable roof house with decorative shingles and a two-story front porch was purchased by the Deltas in July 1961. On May 10, 1940, the Wilmington Alumnae chapter was organized. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was the first organization of its kind to receive a loan in Wilmington,

North Carolina. The Building and Loan Company granted the loan after the sorority agreed to make repairs. The Deltas are committed to the *Five Point Program*, an action plan, which promotes economic development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health and political awareness and involvement.
Exterior viewing only.

36 Reverend James W. Telfair
615 Walnut Street

This house was constructed in 1870 for the family of the Rev. James W. Telfair (1837-1914). Born into slavery, he was pastor of St. Stephen A.M.E. Church, presiding elder of the NC Conference of the A.M.E. Church, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Colored Masons, city alderman and president of Pine Forest Cemetery. Prominent members of the Telfair family included his son, James L. Telfair, who was the first African American lawyer admitted to the bar after racial disturbances of November 1898. The house remained in the family for 127 years.
Exterior viewing only.

37 Sampson-Johnson House
602 Walnut Street

The Greek Revival style house was built in 1860 by James Drawborn Sampson (1801-1861), a free black carpenter. At the same time he was listed as the wealthiest freeman in North Carolina. He would purchase slaves for his building business, teach them a trade and then allow them to purchase their freedom. He lived upstairs and his shop was located in the west side of the house. His family also operated a school here after the Civil War. The house was added on to on the east side by Kate E. Johnson (1865-1952), a white school teacher. In 1943 it became the medical office of Dr. Daniel Carter Roane (1907-1986), an African American physician whose house was located next door.
Exterior viewing only.

and the Journey continues...

Highway Markers Recognizing Local People of Historical Significance

- **David Walker**
  North 3rd Street at Davis Street (D:105)*
- **Alex Manly**
  South 3rd Street between Nun and Church Streets (D:103)
- **James Benson Dudley**
  Market Street at 16th Street (D:95)
- **James F. Shober**
  Market Street at 8th Street (D:83)
- **US Colored Troops**
  Market Street between 20th and 21st Streets (D:111)
- **Robert R. Taylor**
  Market Street (D:108)

* Denotes marker identification

For more information on North Carolina's Highway Historic Marker Program visit: www.ncmarkers.com

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Janet Seapker and Beverly Tetterton

Sources

- *Strength Through Struggle*, William M. Reaves, Edited by Beverly Tetterton
- *A Survey of Black Historic Sites in Wilmington, New Hanover County,* Edward F. Turberg
- *Wilmington North Carolina's African American Heritage Trail,* Margaret M. Mulroney
- *Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*, Catherine Bishir,
- Tony Rivenbark, Executive Director, Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, and Gareth Evans, Executive Director, Bellamy Mansion Museum of History and Design Arts
- *Wilmington NC: An Architectural and Historical Portrait,* Tony P. Wrenn;
- National Park Service: Wilmington National Cemetery
- *A Coat of Many Colors,* Walter H. Conser, Jr.

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Historic Preservation Commission

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2013 City of Wilmington, NC

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A Guide to Wilmington's

African American Heritage **MAP**

For More Information on Historic Preservation

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CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA