

# Reflections



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

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## PRESERVING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SPARTA

Sparta, named for the classical Greek city, is the largest municipality in Hancock County, Georgia. Surrounded by the Oconee and Ogeechee rivers, Hancock County is located in the Piedmont region of eastern middle Georgia. In 1795, Major Charles Abercrombie, an American Revolutionary War veteran, founded the town of Sparta. Abercrombie was a planter from North Carolina who settled in Hancock County after purchasing 8,304 acres of land for his 24 enslaved Africans to farm. When the cotton gin was invented in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the region became a major area for production of “King Cotton.” The rich Piedmont soil, enslaved Africans, and planters determined the future of Sparta and Hancock County.

With increased production of cotton, the planters from Hancock County built massive estates of Federal and Greek Revival style architecture. Though furnishings and materials were imported from Europe, enslaved Africans were responsible for carpentry, masonry and blacksmith work on these estates. Hancock’s planters shaped the development of the cultural landscape during the 19<sup>th</sup> century by constructing academies and religious/educational institutions for their white descendants. Hancock County emerged as a primary region for educated, innovative leaders. Four Georgia governors were from Hancock County: Nathaniel Harris, James McDonald, William Northen, and William Rabun. Following emancipation, African Americans continued their impact on the cultural landscape in Sparta. Lucius H. Holsey, a former slave, became a CME bishop and founded Paine College in Augusta. Charles L. Harper, founder of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP and civil rights leader, was from the African American community in Hancock County.



*The Hancock County Courthouse in Sparta was completed circa 1883. It is the cornerstone of the Sparta Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 16, 1974.*

The cotton economy influenced the development of a biracial culture in Hancock County. In 1850, Hancock County’s enslaved population was 7,306, while the white population totaled 4,210. At the eve of the Civil War, five percent of the families of Hancock County owned 40% of the enslaved population, and over half the land. One of the most famous planters was David Dickson, “Prince of Georgia Farmers.” David Dickson’s career began as a merchant who traded and lent money at interest. He lived on the Dickson farmstead with his mother, and between 1841-1849, he amassed an estate of 2,010 acres of land and 53 enslaved



*David Dickson is buried in the Sparta Cemetery, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 22, 2001. His obelisk, surrounded by an iron fence, was characteristic of 19<sup>th</sup> century burial practices.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

Africans. Dickson developed the “Dickson Compound” fertilizer, and a crop rotation system managed by his enslaved labor force. He published numerous articles on his farming techniques in *Southern Cultivator*, and his fertilizers and plows were sold commercially. By 1863, Dickson’s estate included 160 enslaved Africans.

In 1849, Dickson raped his mother’s house servant, Julia. Nine months later, Amanda America Dickson was born.

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## PRESERVING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SPARTA

Soon after the birth of Amanda, she was taken from her mother, and raised in her white grandmother's room in the Dickson household. Until her grandmother's death in 1864, Amanda was legally considered a slave. In 1865, after the Civil War ended, both Julia, then 29, and Amanda, who was 16, remained on the Dickson plantation. Amanda married David



*Julia Frances Lewis Dickson's home is a circa 1850 two room cottage with a side addition. It was purchased by her grandson, Julian Dickson. Julia lived in this house from 1895 until her death in 1914. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

Dickson's white nephew, Charles Eubanks, a returning confederate soldier. Since Georgia laws forbade interracial marriages, Dickson arranged a marriage in a northern state. Amanda and Charles had two sons, Julian and Charles, and lived on a plantation David Dickson had purchased for them near Rome. By 1870, Amanda returned to the Dickson plantation with her sons, and David Dickson made arrangements for Amanda and the boys to change their surname to Dickson. David Dickson built a two-story house for his "outside family" within 300 yards of the Dickson farmstead in 1871.

When David Dickson died in 1885, he willed his \$309,543 estate and 15,000 acres of land to Amanda, his mulatto daughter. After the will was upheld in Probate Court, the white Dickson family appealed this decision in the Superior Court of Hancock County and the Georgia Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that property rights were equal for black and white citizens under the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and Amanda Dickson became the richest African American woman in Georgia!

After emancipation, African Americans remained on Sparta and Hancock County estates as sharecroppers, craftsmen, and domestic workers. When the boll weevil destroyed cotton production in the 1920s, followed by the Great Depression and World War II, the agricultural economy, driven by a sharecropping system, was devastated. By 1990, the population of Hancock County was 85% African American, and unemployment was the highest in Georgia.

In 1999, challenged with the paradox of unemployment and poverty and a historic, rural community that could attract heritage tourism, a partnership was formulated to increase economic opportunities for Sparta residents while preserving the cultural and built environment. The Sparta-



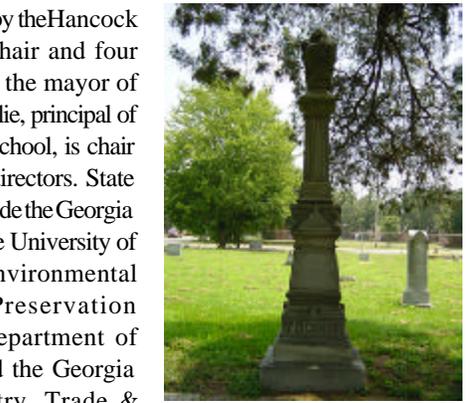
*Amanda America Dickson purchased this home on Telfair Street in Augusta in 1886.*

Hancock Alliance for Revitalization and Empowerment (SHARE), a nonprofit organization, was created to facilitate economic development projects in this historic community. The SHARE volunteer board of directors has

five members appointed by the Hancock County Commission chair and four members appointed by the mayor of Sparta. Dr. Awanna Leslie, principal of Southwest Elementary School, is chair of the SHARE board of directors. State partners for SHARE include the Georgia Department of Labor, the University of Georgia School of Environmental Design, the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism. Through these government partnerships, SHARE is pursuing Certified Local Government status. The Georgia Power Company and Georgia Pacific Corporation have provided support while the Department of Labor is assisting funding of staff positions with Hancock County.

Hancock County provides office space for SHARE at the Sparta-Hancock Museum. SHARE also uses this historic building as a welcome center and museum. Arts and crafts made by local residents are available for sale at the museum including quilts made by Nina Butts, an African American artist. Kent Anderson Leslie is the author of a book about Amanda America Dickson: *Woman of Color, Daughter of Privilege*. Leslie's book is sold at the Sparta Museum and bookstores. In 2000, her biography of the Dickson heiress was transformed into a movie aired by Showtime: *A House Divided*. The movie is currently available at video stores. In July 2001, SHARE received a \$10,000

special projects grant from the Georgia Humanities Council for creation of an exhibition on the lives of Hancock County's famous biracial family, the Dicksons. SHARE plans to open the exhibition during Black History Month in 2002.



*Amanda America Dickson is buried in the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Augusta.*



*The Sparta-Hancock Museum.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

SHARE conducts downtown walking/driving tours of historic Sparta properties. Brochures designed by Industry, Trade & Tourism are available at the museum, and SHARE is planning a Hancock County tour to include the Dickson properties and other African American historic resources. SHARE encourages downtown business development by sponsoring a storefront



*Gladys Archer, board member, and Cleveleen Walker, SHARE Project Coordinator.*

facade grant program to maintain the 19<sup>th</sup> century look of Broad Street in the Sparta Historic District. Each fall, SHARE participates in the Pine Tree Festival. The Department of Labor has assisted SHARE in establishing a website to promote heritage tourism in Sparta. For more information, contact SHARE at: [www.historicspartahancock.org](http://www.historicspartahancock.org) or visit the Sparta-Hancock Museum, 719 Boland Street, 706/444-7462.

## HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

Tracy Dean, *Historic Preservation Consultant*

Hancock County was established in 1793 by merging parts of adjoining Washington and Greene Counties. Located in the Central Savannah River Area Regional Development Center's jurisdiction, Hancock County is known for beautiful craftsmanship in the built environment and its educational institutions. African Americans have contributed to the history of Hancock County and many African American resources are still present. Enslaved labor and design talent was probably employed to construct the impressive structures in Hancock County. Several slave cabins are still in existence and are occupied by tenant farmers on a few of the plantations.

*The Camilla-Zack Country Life Center in Powelton, Hancock County, is one of several buildings in the Camilla-Zack Community Center District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in December 1974.*

*Founded by Benjamin Hubert, the center was*



*named to honor his parents, Zacharias and Camilla Hubert. The Huberts were former slaves who successfully raised 12 children, including Benjamin Hubert, former president of Savannah State Industrial College. The center was constructed circa 1932 from pine logs, and was founded to serve the nearby African American farming community. The cabin is Craftsman style with paired log supports on granite piers. The district includes a cafe and cooperative store.*

The Georgia Historic Resources Survey is used to identify resources and collect data for inclusion in a statewide, computerized inventory maintained by the Historic Preservation Division (HPD). The survey is used to identify individual buildings and districts for possible listing in the National or Georgia Register of Historic Places. Survey information assists counties and communities in historical designations of buildings and districts, expedites environmental review by governmental agencies, aids preservation and land-use planning, and promotes research of the state's history and architecture.

Information collected on each survey form includes an architectural description of the structure, outbuildings, age, history, location, setting, general condition, integrity and significance. Endangered properties are identified. The properties are photographed and completed survey forms are submitted to the local sponsoring organization and the Historic Preservation Division.

The Georgia Survey Manual outlines the methodology for completing the survey form. Funding for surveys supported by local sponsors is available each year through HPD. \$12,000 was provided for the Hancock County Historic Resource Survey by HPD, in partnership with the Sparta Hancock Preservation Review Commission, who contributed \$2,500. The survey identified 600 historic properties. **For a copy of the Georgia Historic Resources Survey Manual, or for information on sponsoring, conducting or funding a survey, contact: Kenneth Gibbs, Survey Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources at 404/651-6432.**

## THE JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish businessman, was born in 1862. He grew up in Chicago, Illinois, where he became an extremely successful and wealthy retailer. Later in life, this former president of Sears, Roebuck and Company decided that he wanted to help improve public education for African Americans in the southern states. His concern was practical as well as philanthropic: the United States needed more productive agriculture to support urban and industrial development. He believed that in the South, this could be achieved only by creating a better-trained African American labor force through industrial education, similar to the model promoted by Tuskegee Institute. Like other northern industrialists, Rosenwald was attracted to Booker T. Washington and his belief that African Americans should be industrious and self-reliant. In 1912, Rosenwald gave Tuskegee Institute \$25,000, a grant to assist existing schools implementing the Tuskegee model. Washington used the remaining \$2,000 of this grant to help build more public schools for African American children in rural areas of the southern states. In 1913, the Loachapoka School in Lee County, Alabama was opened, the first rural public school partially built with Rosenwald assistance. In 1917, the Julius Rosenwald Fund was officially established.

One of the aims of the Rosenwald Fund was to facilitate better education by building "model schoolhouses." In the summer of 1920, the organization issued guidelines for an expanded "Rural School Building Program." Each state school superintendent and African American school agent were required to submit a tentative annual budget for school construction to the Rosenwald Fund. All Rosenwald schools had to be built according to approved design patterns called "Community School Plans." These plans included all facets of the proposed school structure, from the number of classrooms in a building to acreage allotment. The southern office of the Rosenwald Fund in Nashville, Tennessee, approved each state's allocation and architectural plans. The organization required that any proposed school structure needing aid meet certain minimum standards and pass an on-site inspection before receiving the grant.

The Rosenwald Fund encouraged communities to develop school partnerships. The organization required fund-raising drives involving African Americans, whites and the local school district. More importantly, the Rosenwald Fund required the African American community to provide leadership. Rosenwald hoped these requirements would strengthen rural African Americans' commitment to their community. From 1912 to 1932, the Rosenwald Fund helped to build close to 5,000 schools for African American children in 15 southern states. In Georgia, more than 35,000 students were taught in the state's 242 Rosenwald schools and 103 of the state's counties had at least one Rosenwald school. The Rosenwald Fund ceased operations in 1946.

What happened to Georgia's Rosenwald schools? Because of the significance of Rosenwald Fund schools in the areas of architecture, education, and African American historic preservation, GAAHPN is researching extant schools and locations of former schools. If you are an alumnus or have any information or photographs of Georgia Rosenwald schools, please contact Jacinta Williams or Jeanne Cyriaque (see page 7).

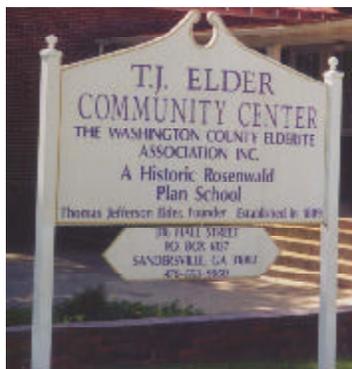
By the late 1970s, a trio of Georgia buildings stood in their respective counties, their historical past forgotten by most. The first of the three structures—which still retained the bank of windows that identified it as a school building—faced the threat of demolition, the second had been converted into a warehouse and the third was now a church meeting hall. These properties were once Rosenwald schools, landmarks in southern rural African American education, and their period in obscurity was about to end. Emerging during this time was a growing interest in African American historic preservation. This development would serve as a catalyst to launch the first rehabilitation of a Rosenwald school in the state of Georgia. Through the combined efforts of former Rosenwald students and the Historic Preservation Division, three Rosenwald schools have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



*T.J. Elder High and Industrial School, circa 1981. Photo by James R. Lockhart*

Thomas Jefferson Elder High and Industrial School is located in Sandersville, Washington County. On May 12, 1981, it was the first Rosenwald school in Georgia to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. African American educators Thomas Jefferson Elder and his wife, Lillian Phinizy, who are buried on the campus, founded the school in 1889. The previous year, Elder had begun teaching African American children at the Springfield Baptist Church in Sandersville. Desire for a more academic environment led Professor Elder and his group of trustees to purchase land and build the school. Originally named the Sandersville High and Industrial School, it was the only school for African American students in town, and provided dormitories where children from nearby farms resided during the school year. Elder's school soon grew to become the largest African American school in the central rural section of the state, averaging over 300 students per term by the turn of the century.

T.J. Elder High and Industrial School is important as being a genuine Rosenwald Plan school. The building is constructed out of brick and has an "H" shape. The features of the school include: a front porch, a bank of windows, an auditorium, two classrooms on each side of the building with another pair behind, a stage with curtains, and wooden floors. In 1917, a domestic-science building was built with the help of the Rosenwald Fund, and from 1927 to 1928, the fund also provided monetary assistance for the completion of a brick dormitory building. Six classrooms with restrooms were added to the rear wings in 1938.



Renamed to honor Professor Elder in 1933, this school was the first in central rural Georgia to offer industrial training as a part of its curriculum. The students were also required to study Latin, math, social studies, and a host of other academic courses from handpicked teachers who met the highest standards in their professional and personal lives. In fact, T.J. Elder hosted one of the state's two training institutes for rural African American school teachers. Professor Elder combined state funds, local funds, student tuition and foundation grants to build a school of outstanding quality and impeccable standards.

In 1960, the Thomas Jefferson Elder High and Industrial School was converted into an elementary school when a new high school was built. In 1980, due to the town's plans to expand the elementary school, the now empty original Rosenwald classrooms faced the threat of demolition. The proposed plan became a call to



*T.J. Elder Community Center, circa 2001. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

action for former graduates of the institution, affectionately referred to as "Elderites." The group received a \$300,000 community development block grant and additional funding. Preservation architect Lane Greene oversaw the building's rehabilitation and today it serves as the T.J. Elder Community Center. The Washington County Elderites, Inc. were honored with a 2001 Preservation Award for Preservation Service by The Georgia Trust.

The Noble Hill School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 2, 1987. Located in Cassville, Bartow County, the site was the first of two Rosenwald schools in northwest Georgia. Noble Hill is a good example of the first standardized Rosenwald "Community School Plan." It had two classrooms, two cloakrooms, two vestibules, an industrial room, and a large bank of windows.

The Noble Hill School is located in a historical area of Cassville occupied by colleges during the 1850s. The local residents referred to it as "College Hill." These institutions were destroyed during the Civil War. Through the joint partnership of local African Americans, whites, the Bartow County Board of Education, and the Rosenwald Fund, Noble Hill School was opened in 1924. The school offered a seventh grade curriculum and the students were required to study mathematics, reading, spelling, English, history,

## SAVING GEORGIA'S ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

geography, writing, music, and industrial arts. In 1927, Noble Hill School employed two teachers and had an enrollment of 88 students. These students were Cassville residents who walked to school.



*The Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center is located in Cassville, Bartow County. Noble Hill School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.*  
Photo by James R. Lockhart

In 1955, when all schools for African Americans in Bartow County were consolidated into the Bartow Elementary School in the Cassville community, Noble Hill was closed. The Bartow County Board of Education sold the property to New Hope Baptist Church. The building was being used as a warehouse, when in 1983, Dr. Susie Wheeler, a founding member of GAAHPN, and one of Noble Hill's first students, decided to spearhead a project to revitalize the school. She approached the property's owner, Bertha Wheeler (her sister-in-law), and convinced her to donate the building as a heritage museum. In 1984, a group of selected trustees, including the future State Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Benham, began working to restore the building as the Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center. (Judge Benham is an advisor to GAAHPN.) The group raised \$200,000 in private donations and obtained grants totaling \$3,000 from the Historic Preservation Division and the Georgia Humanities Council. Today, the center is furnished with Depression-era artifacts, photos, and historical information about schools for African Americans from the early 1900s. Future plans include a Rosenwald classroom model and heritage village.

The Hiram Colored School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 10, 2001. Located in Hiram, Paulding County, the institution has the distinction of being the sole Rosenwald school built in the county. The Hiram Colored School is an excellent example of a Rosenwald school because it used the organization's "Two Teacher Community School" plan, which included: a building constructed on at least a two-acre lot, single, paired, and ribbon windows, two large open classrooms separated by a moveable partition, an industrial room, wood or

masonry exterior facade, and hipped or gable roof. Located on the west side of Georgia State Route 92, the school was constructed on a 3 1/2 acre lot (well exceeding the Rosenwald Fund's minimum requirement of 2 acres) in order to accommodate the mandatory garden and playground.

Opened in 1930, the Hiram Colored School was the only African American school in Paulding County to have a library and it was one of two African American schools that offered a ninth grade curriculum. Although the property deed to the school was held by the school board, the institution was run by trustees and employed two teachers, one for the elementary students and one for the eighth and ninth graders. Among the first teachers at Hiram Colored School were G.R. Newell and Eva I. Harper. The school averaged an enrollment of 60 students per term.

On February 2, 1954, the Paulding County Board of Education resolved to reorganize the county schools into eight schools for whites and one, the Matthews Consolidated School, for African Americans. The Hiram Colored School closed in 1955. Later that year, the school board sold the building and property to the Sweet Home Baptist Church.

Since 1955, the Sweet Home Baptist Church has used the Hiram Colored School building for several church and community functions. During the 1960s, they used the building for dances, social functions and movies. In the 1980s, the church held its services in the old school building while revitalizing the church building. Today, the former Hiram Colored School functions as a community center and hosts family reunions, church auxiliary meetings, fish fry/barbeque fundraisers, community organization meetings and yard sales.



*The Hiram Colored School features large windows, two classrooms and an industrial room.*  
Photo by James R. Lockhart



*The Hiram Colored School in Paulding County had a library and offered a curriculum for African American students through the ninth grade.*

Photo by James R. Lockhart

## AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

St. Thomas African Methodist Episcopal Church is located in Hawkinsville, Pulaski County. This historic AME church is the cornerstone of the African American community in Hawkinsville. Reverend Henry McNeil Turner organized St. Thomas AME Church in 1866. President Abraham Lincoln appointed Turner as the first African American chaplain in the U.S. Army. Reverend Turner was the bishop of St. Thomas AME Church for 35 years after his consecration in 1880. He served two terms in the Georgia legislature. Turner led the construction of the original church building, a wood-framed structure, completed in 1877. After it was demolished, the current brick, Folk Victorian, building was constructed in 1908, and completed in 1912. African American craftsmen constructed both buildings. These craftsmen incorporated architectural features in St. Thomas AME Church including a side-steeple, wainscoting, wooden double doors, and wrought iron railing for the choir.



*St. Thomas African Methodist Episcopal Church is a neighborhood landmark in the African American community in Hawkinsville.*

*Photo by James R. Lockhart*

McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery is located near the town of Sardis in Burke County. This historic African American church and cemetery complex is in a rural setting surrounded by pine and oak trees. McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church is a wood-framed, Gothic Revival style church, with a side steeple, weatherboard cladding and metal roof. The interior of the church sanctuary features two rows of pews separated by a center aisle, choir stand, and pulpit area. The wood ceiling consists of five diamonds with cross patterns. The cemetery is located to the rear and south side of the church, with granite markers dating from the 1930s. The original cemetery associated with the church was located in Millhaven Plantation, Screven County. Church members were buried at Millhaven, circa 1878 until the 1930s. McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church baptized members at Brier Creek, approximately one mile north of the church.

Reverend Frank Cooper organized the McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church in 1875, and constructed the first church on land he owned in the area known as Cooper Hill. The congregation consisted of families who were sharecroppers at the nearby Millhaven Plantation in Screven County. Reverend Cooper organized five churches in this area. With consultation from white ministers, he learned that if five churches were founded, he could form an association. A church association provided a mechanism to ordain additional ministers. Reverend Cooper envisioned the need for additional ministers, and ultimately formulated the Frank Cooper Missionary Baptist Association in Burke and surrounding counties.

During the 1890s, McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church was destroyed by fire and the congregation constructed a prayer

St. Thomas AME Church is the largest brick building in the African American community in Hawkinsville. Church members Gwen Brown, Willie Boney and Mary Colson were instrumental in the preservation of this community church. The congregation has raised funds for restoration and repair of the church since the depression in 1934. Members worked in partnership with city and county officials, the Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Development Center historic preservation planner Robin Nail, and the business community, to preserve the church. In 1998, the Historic Preservation Division awarded a \$6,000 Georgia Heritage grant to St. Thomas AME for a new roof and masonry repairs. St. Thomas AME Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 7, 2000. The church hosts religious services, Sunday School, and community meetings.

house on the site. Eventually, the congregation expanded, and Reverend G.I. Johnson, pastor for 36 years, led efforts to raise funds to build the present church, constructed in 1912.

McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church is an excellent example of a rural, African American church described by Carole Merritt in *Historic Black Resources*. These Georgia churches were typically one-room, wood-framed buildings with gable roofs and simple architectural detailing, with a cemetery adjacent to the property. Following emancipation, these churches were some of the most important buildings constructed for the free African American community. In rural Georgia, sharecropping families lacked economic independence from surrounding plantations. Typically, one complex provided religious services, burials and one-room schools for several communities. McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery had a church school on the property. The church school provided education for students from grades one through six. Mrs. Leila McKinnon, now in



*McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church is an excellent example of a rural African American church. A cemetery is located behind the church.*

*Photo by James R. Lockhart*

her 90s, taught at the school from 1929 to 1934. She was the last teacher who taught at the school when it was demolished in the 1930s.

In 1996, church member Evelyn Williams wrote a history of McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church for the 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration. With assistance from Anne Floyd, historic preservation planner, Central Savannah River Area Regional Development Center, Ms. Williams submitted the Historic Property Information Form to HPD for the purpose of nominating the church. McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 14, 2001.

## A CHANGING OF THE GUARD



The Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network (GAAHPN) elected new officers at the Steering Committee meeting June 20, 2001. Officers for 2001-2003 are: Karl Webster Barnes, Atlanta, chair; Isaac Johnson, Augusta, vice-chair; Donald Beall, Columbus, treasurer; and Beth Shorthouse, Atlanta, secretary. Chrys Rogers, director of marketing for Core Neighborhood Revitalization, Inc., in Macon, is a new member of the Steering Committee.



*Charlotte Frazier passes on the torch to Karl Barnes, new chair of the GAAHPN Steering Committee.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

The Steering Committee held a celebration to honor the contributions of Charlotte Frazier to GAAHPN. Frazier was presented with photographs of the William H. Spencer House and the Gertrude Pridgett "Ma" Rainey home in Columbus. Frazier will continue her active involvement with the GAAHPN Steering Committee. Barnes has appointed her chair of the Chitlin Circuit research project.



*Donald Beall, treasurer, Isaac Johnson, vice-chair, and Beth Shorthouse, secretary, are new GAAHPN Steering Committee officers.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

Jacinta Williams joined the GAAHPN team as the intern for African American programs in the Historic Preservation Division. Williams is a recent cum laude graduate of Morris Brown College. She received her bachelor of arts degree in history, and plans to attend law school next winter. Williams will assist Jeanne Cyriaque, *Reflections* editor, in research projects on African American schools and the Chitlin Circuit.



*Jeanne Cyriaque, African American Programs Coordinator, and GAAHPN Steering Committee members Linda Wilkes and Beth Shorthouse provide information about GAAHPN. The Network featured an African American historic preservation exhibit at the Georgia Municipal Association annual convention in Savannah.*

*Photo by Paul Simo*

## GEORGIA AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE

### **Karl Webster Barnes**

Atlanta  
Chair  
404/758-4891

### **Isaac Johnson**

Augusta  
Vice-Chair  
706/738-1901

### **Donald Beall**

Columbus  
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706/569-4344

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### **Corinne Blencoe**

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770/254-7443

### **Charlotte Frazier**

Columbus  
706/687-4688

### **Chrys Rogers**

Macon  
478/301-5370

### **Linda Wilkes**

Atlanta  
404/688-0472

### **Thomas Williams**

Atlanta  
404/331-4811



*A GAAHPN Steering Committee meeting. Photo by James R. Lockhart*

### **Jeanne Cyriaque**

African American Programs Coordinator  
Historic Preservation Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
156 Trinity Avenue, S.W. Suite 101  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3600

Voice 404/656-4768 Fax 404/651-8739  
jeanne\_cyriaque@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

### **Jacinta Williams**

African American Programs Intern  
Voice 404/657-1054 Fax 404/651-8739  
jacinta\_williams@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

## ABOUT GAAHPN



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 700 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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W. Ray Luce, Division Director &  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Jeanne Cyriaque, Editor

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**Historic Preservation Division**  
**Georgia Department of Natural Resources**  
**156 Trinity Avenue, S.W.**  
**Suite 101**  
**Atlanta, GA 30303-3600**