

North Carolina Black History Sites

Site	Picture	Location	County	Type	Date(s)	Date of Installation	About
African American Cultural Arts & History Center		Burlington	Alamance	Museum/Cultural Center		2017 AACAHC founded.	With the desire to uncover the history of African Americans in Alamance County, Jane Sellers began collecting local Black history. Under the direction of her daughter Shineece Sellars, the African American Cultural Arts and History Center actively collects and preserves Alamance County's African-American history and serves as a museum, gathering space and research center. The AACAHC, in collaboration with Elon University, Burlington Recreation and Parks, and Alamance County Libraries as part of the Power and Place Collaborative, is working to record, preserve, and present oral histories from Burlington's African American Communities. https://www.aacahcenter.org
Washington Waterfront Underground Railroad Museum		Washington	Beaufort	Museum/Cultural Center	~early 1800s Havens Wharf built.	2016 Museum founded.	Washington was a center of international trade, and by 1850 was a major shipbuilding port in North Carolina. The shipyard at Havens Wharf, built by enslaved persons, was on the Pamlico River which was one of the state's most traveled routes for people attempting to self emancipate. Enslaved and free Black river pilots, known as Black Jacks, traveled up and down the east coast and it is believed that they carried messages to and from abolitionists working on the Underground Railroad and also aided freedom seekers by providing crucial information such as where to hide on ships and how to know when to disembark. The Washington Waterfront Underground Railroad Museum, a designated site on the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, tells the crucial history of this historic port. https://www.youraudiotour.com/tours/african-american-history/stops/9609
James City Historical Society: Slave Quarters		New Bern	Craven	Historic Site	~1850 Slave quarters built.	1991 James City Historical Society founded.	Renovated and preserved by the James City Historical Society, the slave dwelling was moved from its original location on the site of the Meadows farm and now sits at the intersection of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Neuse Blvd in New Bern. It features a duplex with two front doors leading to separate living areas, each with a central fireplace and sleeping loft. https://www.jamecityhistory.org/about-jchs
James City Historical Society: Far Cemetery & Monument		New Bern	Craven	Historic Site	1862 - 1930 Cemetery in use by formerly enslaved.	1991 James City Historical Society founded.	An archaeological investigation revealed that 522 graves exist beneath land that was razed by the military to build a temporary military base during WWII. The grave markers were loaded onto trucks and reburied at an unknown location. A monument was erected in 2003 to honor the people buried on the land, many of whom were formerly enslaved. https://www.jamecityhistory.org/about-jchs

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Historic Jarvisburg Colored School		Jarvisburg	Currituck	Historic Site, Museum/Cultural Center	1868 - 1950 School operated to served Black students.	2014 Museum opened.	In 1998 a committee of volunteers from the Corinth Baptist Church investigated the feasibility of restoring the Old Jarvisburg Colored School. They realized that the building was one of the oldest remaining former colored schools in the state and in 2002 an official organization was formed to undertake the restoration. The school reopened in 2014 as a museum to share stories of the history, culture and education of African American children in Currituck County, beginning in 1867 and continuing up to the consolidation of all the small rural schools in the 1950's. https://www.hjcschool.org
Freedom Trail (Freedmen's Colony on Roanoke Island)		Roanoke Island	Dare	Historic Site	1862 - 1867 Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony established.	2001 Granite monument installed. 2024 Freedom Trail interpretive markers unveiled.	In 1862, Roanoke Island was occupied by Union forces and thousands of enslaved people flocked to the island for safe haven. In 1863 the Union Army gave instruction to "settle the colored people on the unoccupied lands and give them agricultural implements and mechanical tools... and to train and educate them for a free and independent community." At its peak, the colony had almost 4,000 residents, but after the war the government restored all lands to former owners and the colony was decommissioned in 1867. The Freedom Trail at the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site features interpretive signs that tell the story of the Freedmen's Colony. https://www.nps.gov/articles/the-freedmen-s-colony-on-roanoke-island.htm
Historic Stagville		Durham	Durham	Historic Site	1771 - 1865 Bennehan and Cameron families held over 1000 Black people in bondage.	1976 Site preserved as a state property.	Historic Stagville uses written records, oral histories, architecture and archaeology to interpret the lives, culture, and labors of enslaved people on the former Bennehan-Cameron plantations. The site preserves a small part of the plantation holdings of the Bennehan-Cameron families who profited from the forced labor of enslaved Africans and African Americans from 1771 to 1865. https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/historic-stagville/history
Pauli Murray Center for History & Social Justice		Durham	Durham	Historic Site, Museum/Cultural Center	1898 (1914*) The home was built in 1898. Murray moved there in 1914.	2024 Center opened to the public.	Pauli Murray was the first African American to earn a J.S.D. (Doctor of Juridical Science) from Yale Law School and was a co-founder of the National Organization for Women and of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Murray coined the term "Jane Crow" to describe the intersectional racial and gender oppression faced by Black women. Murray also compiled and published <i>States' Laws on Race and Color</i> which was regarded as the "bible" of civil rights work. The Pauli Murray Family Home stands on its original site in the historically Black, working-class West End neighborhood in Durham. It was designated a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2015 and a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service in 2016. Using as much salvaged original material as possible, the home was restored to reflect its early 20th-century appearance and now serves as The Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice. https://www.paulimurraycenter.com

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Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum		Gibsonville	Guilford	Historic Site, Museum/Cultural Center	1902 Alice Freeman Palmer Memorial Institute founded.	1987 Palmer campus designated a memorial and state historic site.	<p>In 1902, Charlotte Hawkins Brown established the Alice Freeman Palmer Memorial Institute. It began as an agricultural and manual training facility and evolved into a fully accredited, nationally recognized college preparatory and social finishing boarding school for African Americans.</p> <p>In 1987, the memorial officially opened as the state's first African American historic site. The Carrie M. Stone Teachers' Cottage has been restored as a visitor center and the furnished and restored Canary Cottage (Dr. Brown's home) serves as a historic museum.</p> <p>https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/charlotte-hawkins-brown-museum</p>
International Civil Rights Center & Museum		Greensboro	Guilford	Historic Site, Museum/Cultural Center	1960 Four NCA&T students staged sit-in at Greensboro Woolworth's lunch counter.	2010 Museum opened.	<p>On Feb. 1, 1960, four Black college students from North Carolina A&T State University — David Richmond, Frank McCain, Ezell Blair, and Joseph McNeil — conducted a non-violent sit-in at the whites-only lunch counter at the F.W. Woolworth's in Greensboro. The International Civil Rights Center & Museum opened in 2010 inside the former Woolworth's and serves as a comprehensive museum of the Civil Rights Movement.</p> <p>https://www.sitinmovement.org</p>
Historic Rosenwald School and River Center		Hamilton	Martin	Historic Site, Museum/Cultural Center	~1920 Hamilton Colored School built.	2019 Renovation plan completed.	<p>Resulting from a partnership between Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish-American clothier and president of Sears, Roebuck and Company and African-American educational leader and president of the Tuskegee Institute, Booker T. Washington, Rosenwald schools were constructed across the segregated south to educate African American school children. North Carolina had the most of any state with 787 Rosenwald Schools. In 2002, the National Trust placed Rosenwald Schools on its Endangered Historic Sites list because only roughly 10% of the original sites remain.</p> <p>The Hamilton Rosenwald School (formerly the Hamilton Colored School) is currently undergoing preservation and renovation efforts and will serve as the Rosenwald River Center, an interpretive site to celebrate the Rosenwald School and the region's Underground Railroad history.</p> <p>https://roanokeriverpartners.org/project/rosenwald-river-center</p>
1898 Memorial Park & Wilmington 1898 Museum		Wilmington	New Hanover	Memorial, Museum/Cultural Center	1898 Wilmington race riot occurred.	2008 Memorial dedicated. 2028 Planned opening for museum.	<p>On November 10, 1898 white citizens of Wilmington overthrew the democratically elected multiracial government of the city and killed an unknown number of Black residents. 110 years later in November of 2008 a memorial park was dedicated in remembrance of the event. Currently, a museum is being developed that is slated to open in 2028. The museum will feature interactive exhibits and will be located adjacent to the Memorial Park.</p> <p>https://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/Parks-Recreation/Parks-Trails/1898-Memorial-Park https://www.wilmington1898museum.org</p>

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Hargraves Community Center		Chapel Hill	Orange	Museum/Cultural Center	1939 Negro Community Center Association formed.	2023 Center recognized as part of NC Civil Rights Trail.	In 1939 the Negro Civic Club began advocating for a community center for Black residents. The Negro Community Center Association was formed to raise funds and secure a site for the center. The land was purchased in Sept 1939 and construction began in Jan 1941 but was halted due to WW2. In 1942 the center served as housing for the U.S. Navy's all-Black B1 band attending Navy Pre-Flight School at UNC Chapel Hill because the sailors were barred from segregated campus housing. In 1947 the first official meeting of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP was held at the center and in 1960 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. met with local civil rights leaders at the center. In 1973 it was renamed the Hargraves Center for former Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation Commissioner William M. Hargraves, Jr. In 2023 it was recognized as part of the North Carolina Civil Rights Trail. https://openorangenc.org/buildings/hargraves-community-center-hargraves-center-robertson-street-center-negro-community-center
Nina Simone Plaza		Tryon	Polk	Memorial	1933 Nina Simone born.	2010 Plaza opened.	The Nina Simone Plaza opened in 2010 to honor the life of pianist, singer/songwriter and Tryon native Nina Simone. Known as "The High Priestess of Soul" her music blended gospel, blues, folk, pop, and classical. She was a staunch advocate for civil rights and her fight against oppression was often reflected in her music. Her civil rights anthem "Mississippi Goddam" was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Recording Registry and is noted as "one of the most vital songs to emerge from the Civil Rights era". https://exploretryon.com/business-listings/nina-simone-plaza
Nina Simone House Restoration		Tryon	Polk	Historic Site	2018 Home designated a national treasure.	2025 Restoration completed.	Under threat of demolition, Nina Simone's childhood home purchased in 2017 by a group of four African American artists. The three room, 664 sq ft house was designated a national treasure in 2018 and restoration was completed in fall of 2025, though the house is not yet open to the public. Preserved memorabilia inside the home includes an organ, sheet music, beds and a cook stove. https://savingplaces.org/places/ninasimone
Pope House Museum		Raleigh	Wake	Historic Site, Museum/Cultural Center	1901 Pope House built.	2011 Pope House Museum opened.	The Pope House Museum, which opened in 2011, features original furnishings and artifacts of Dr. Manassa Thomas Pope (1858-1934), one of the first graduates of the Leonard School of Medicine at Shaw University, an officer in an all-Black volunteer unit during the Spanish-American War and a candidate for Raleigh City Council in 1919. Built in 1901 in Raleigh's once-thriving African American Third Ward neighborhood, the home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. https://raleighnc.gov/pope-house
Freedom Park		Raleigh	Wake	Memorial	2002 Public discussions held to determine a monument reflecting the African-American experience in NC.	2023 Freedom Park opened to the public.	Designed by renowned North Carolina architect Phil Freelon, Freedom Park is a one acre greenspace in downtown Raleigh built with the intention to serve as a space of reflection on and commemoration of the African American struggle for freedom in North Carolina. The Carolina red clay-like walls are etched with quotes from North Carolina African Americans that reflect the journey towards freedom. The park's five walkways lead to the 45-foot-tall Beacon of Freedom structure which is lit at dusk each evening. https://ncfreedompark.com

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Oliver Nestus Freeman Round House and African-American Museum		Wilson	Wilson	Historic Site, Museum/Cultural Center	1946 Round House built.	2001 Round House museum opened.	<p>Born in rural Wilson, Oliver Nestus Freeman was educated at the Tuskegee Normal School (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama where he majored in industrial arts and gained experience in construction and masonry. He taught at Tuskegee and later at the Wilbanks School after returning to Wilson. He became a preeminent brick and stonemason known throughout Wilson for his stonework for foundations, chimneys, columns, and other architectural elements.</p> <p>In 1946 Freeman built a unique bungalow of rough stone, known today as the Freeman Round House, that features a circular plan divided into wedge-shaped rooms. The house was opened to the public as a museum in 2001 featuring artifacts that highlight the contributions of African Americans to the history and development of Wilson.</p> <p>http://www.theroundhousemuseum.com</p>