



Charlotte Andrew Stephens

Pioneering African American teacher, career spanned 70 years of service in the Little Rock School District; taught all grades Latin, Science, and English. Stephens was the first black teacher in 1875 and 1885, pivotal in the evolution of black education. Stephens' School located at 17th and Maple Streets is named in her honor.



Joseph Albert Booker (1859 - 1926)

Born in Portland, AR (1859 - 1926); editor, educator, community leader, author, and civil rights advocate. The American Association of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909 selected him as advisor to the nine African American students who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Booker's home at 1207 West 29th Street was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2001.



Daisy Lee Gatson Bates (1914 - 1999) of Hurting, AR, civil rights leader, president of the Arkansas State NAACP, and the first African American woman elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1957. Bates' home at 1207 West 29th Street was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2001.



Lucius Christopher (L.C.) Bates

A tireless civil rights advocate and long-time

supporter of the NAACP; L.C. and wife, Daisy Lee Gatson Bates, published the Arkansas State Press, a black newspaper, 1941-1973.



Ellen T. Carpenter (1916 - 2003)

West Little Rock resident, mother of children,

Mrs. Carpenter is active in many church and

civic organizations, charter member of the

Soroptimist International of America, appointed

in 1990, member, Mosaic Templars Cultural

Center Advisory Board, established in 2002.

Mrs. Carpenter is President of both boards.



Annie Abrams USA
dear grandmother, long-time social activist and strong proponent of participatory democracy; past president of the Little Rock Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW); attended the 2004 Democratic Convention; life member of the NAACP; active member of the Mayor's committee; 50th Anniversary of the Little Rock Central High School Integration Crisis



Elias McSails Woods: author of *Black of the Month* and *Argentina Arkansas*; Little Rock; Central Printing; Central Printing Co., 1907



Annie Mae Bankhead (1904-1989); dedicated civic leader who founded College Station Community Center, 1971; Blankhead Drive is named in her honor.



"Testament"
A bronze memorial sculpture of the Little Rock Nine on the grounds of the State Capitol by Deering, Scallion, Dierckx, and Associates. The Little Rock Nine were the first African American students to integrate Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Melba Puryear, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest G. Green, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Carlotta Walls Laemmle, Terrence Roberts, Melba Puryear, Thelma Mothershed Wair, U.S. postage stamp featured "Testament" in 2002.



5 Little Rock Central High School
National Historic Site

Site of the 1957 desegregation crisis in which nine black students successfully entered in what was a largest high school. Designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1982.



6 Philander Smith College
Chester and Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive; established 1877; affiliated with the United Methodist Church



7 Mt. Zion Baptist Church
305 Cross Street; Organized in 1877; listed on the National Register of Historic Places; built in 1927 under the leadership of the late Rev. F.T. Guy

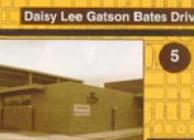


8 MARADE:
Marade is held in 1983; the annual march and parade honors the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It traverses the South End neighborhood along historic Dr. MLK, Jr. Drive to the State Capitol



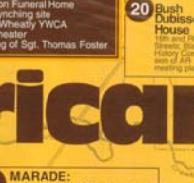
9 Arkansas Baptist College

Established in 1884, Arkansas Baptist College is a private, coed, liberal arts college affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist Consolidated Convention. The Old Main building, one of the oldest buildings of its type in Little Rock, is currently being restored.

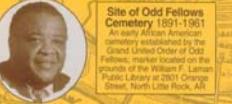


19 Dunbar Community Complex

• Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
• Tabernacle Hall
• Dunbar Woods
• Dunbar Funeral Home
• 1927 Lynching site
• Phyllis Wheatley YWCA
• Dunbar Woods
• Shooting of Sgt. Thomas Foster



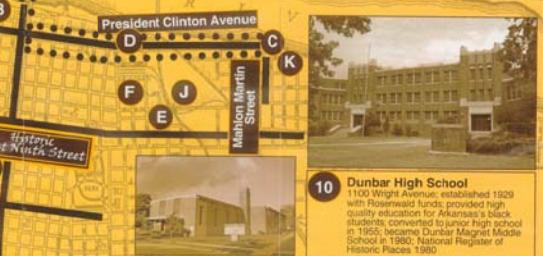
20 Bush-Dubisson House
109 and Ringe Streets; historical marker; history committee meeting place



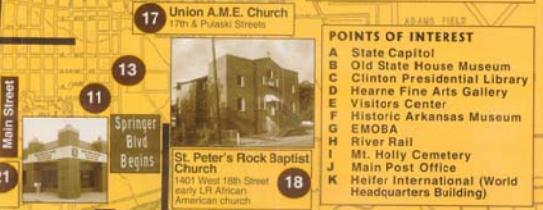
Curtis H. Sykes (1930 - 2007)
Chairman of the Little Rock History Commission of Arkansas; historian, educator, community leader, charter member of the North Little Rock History Commission



H Site of the North Little Rock Colored School; Hickory Street High School; **Scipio A. Jones High School**, 1909 - 1970; Hickory Street and Jones Drive, North Little Rock, AR



10 Dunbar High School
1100 Wright Avenue; established 1929 when Little Rock schools provided high quality education for African American students; converted to junior high school in 1960; became a magnet school in 1980; National Register of Historic Places 1980



11 Union A.M.E. Church
17th & Pulaski Streets
I Mt. Holly Cemetery
J Main Street Post Office
K Heifer International (World Headquarters Building)



12 Mosaic Templars of America Headquarters Building

West Ninth and Broadway Streets

Built in 1907 by Frank M.

Blasius, headquaters for the Mosaic

Templars Fraternal Order.

The black fraternal organization provided

insurance and other services to a segregated

community destroyed by fire in March 2005; the new

structure, the Mosaic Templars Cultural

Center, will open in fall 2008.



11 Horace Mann High School
109 and Ringe Streets; established 1909 as the only high school for black students; now Mann Arts and Science Magnet Middle School



14 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage and Enrichment Center

3012 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. established in 2003. A grassroots success story; tornado-damaged home restored; education center, meeting facility, and computer training

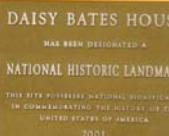


13 Fraternal Cemetery
21st and Barber Streets; resting place for many significant African American citizens



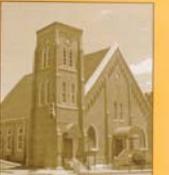
14 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heritage and Enrichment Center

3012 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. established in 2003. A grassroots success story; tornado-damaged home restored; education center, meeting facility, and computer training



15 DAISY BATES HOUSE
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

THIS SITE IS DESIGNATED AS
IN COMMEMORATING THE HISTORY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2001
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



16 First Missionary Baptist Church
Established in 1874; Mt. Seven and Gaines Streets; pioneering African American church in Little Rock

African American History in Little Rock, Arkansas

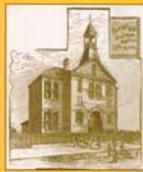
1847 - Present

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MTA founders:

John E. Bush and Chester W. Keatts



Capital Hill Elementary

1865-1904
This school, built by African American students opened in 1879 and continued until its demolition in 1906. Charitable organizations, including the Colored People's Fund of Arkansas from 1898-1912, Bush led early protest movements against discrimination and segregation. In 1901, he organized the Mosaic Templars, who also waged the political opposition to proposed racial separation of public school funding in 1905.

Chester W. Keatts (1854-1908), was born near Little Rock, Arkansas, of slave parents. As a boy he worked to support his family. After the Civil War, he became the first for the family. Beginning in 1875, Keatts served for seventeen years as a railway mail service clerk, a federal government appointed position. In 1895, Keatts became the first African American to be elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives. In 1876, he assumed the post of U.S. Deputy Marshal for the Eastern District of Arkansas, serving under President Ulysses S. Grant and the first Constable of Big Rock Township. In 1882, Bush and Keatts established the Mosaic Templars of America (MTA) in reaction to Jim Crow segregation laws and the challenges of the post-Civil War South. The Mosaic Templars strived for and achieved racial advancement through economic self-help programs and successful entrepreneurship within the American free enterprise system.



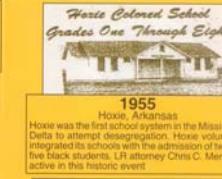
Elias C. Morris
(1865-1924) Originally from Macon, Georgia, moved to Helena, AR in 1877, where he founded the First Baptist Church in Helena from 1879-1924. In 1894 he founded the First African American Baptist College in L.R. It was the first National Baptist Convention in 1891; under his direction membership grew to 2.2 million.



Centennial Baptist Church
Helena, Arkansas
Built in 1905, designed by black architect Henry James Price; Dr. E.C. Morris, Pastor. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 2003.



Lynchings 1927
Lynchings of African Americans were most influential race relations in Little Rock, in one case, West Ninth Street became Maryland Ave. west of High Street (now Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive).



Hoxie, Arkansas
Hoxie was the first town in Mississippi Delta to attempt desegregation. Hoxie voluntarily integrated its schools with the admission of twenty-five black students. LR attorney Chris C. Mercer was active in this historic event.

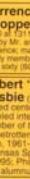


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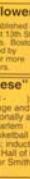


1959 The Hon. George Howard, Jr.

Congressman from Little Rock, 1963, Dept. of Finance and Administration, Dir., 1989, Withrop Rockefeller Foundation, Dir.



1980 Mahlon Martin of Little Rock, first black City Councilor of Little Rock, 1983, Dept. of Finance and Administration, Dir., 1989, Withrop Rockefeller Foundation, Dir.



1981 Charles Bussey of Little Rock, first African American elected Mayor of Little Rock, 20th Street named in his honor



1984 The Hon. P.A. "Les" Hollingsworth of Little Rock, appointed to the AR Supreme Court



1987 Edith Irby Jones, MD. (1927-) born near Coopers, AR first African American to receive her medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). In 1988, she served as Chief of Staff at St. Elizabeth Hospital, and was named "Physician of the Year" by the American Medical Association, 1989.



1993 W.G. Hall - Anthony Building
16th & High Streets (now Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive). Built in 1911, it housed the first African American to enter a black business, including the first Uncle T's Market, Waco Barber, Blackway, Bowen TV Repair, and the first Black Branch of the Central Arkansas Library System.



KWTD 1986
First black owned radio station in AR established in LR by Wiltmon and Thessia Dunn



2004 Lakeview School District
Piney Woods, AR, being founded by Joyce Elder, the first African American teacher and principal for the district's first black student induction.



McGraw Learning Institute
Learning facility established 1983 by Dr. Patricia Washington McGraw in LR



2007 John W. Walker
One of the foremost civil rights advocates in U.S. history, Walker has been a civil rights attorney in LR, and is responsible for handling much of the civil rights laws in AR, including the continuing desegregation of Little Rock School Districts desegregation lawsuits, responsible for the making of law in numerous discrimination cases.



Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau
PO Box 31202 Little Rock, AR 72203
501-684-4718
littlerock.com

1847

1890

1895

1900

1950

1980

2007



1861-1865 Civil War
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
14th & Pine Streets (now Daisy Lee Gafford Bates Drive) established 1875; demolished

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION
January 1, 1863. U.S. President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in Confederate states

1865 Reconstruction Era
Beginning of the Reconstruction Era and the establishment of the Freedmen's Bureau

1866 Civil Right Act
African Americans gained citizenship and equal rights

Joseph Carter Corbin (1833-1911), founder and president of Arkansas Industrial Normal College of the Arkansas Industrial University, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; author of many articles on mathematics; in 1898 with R.C. Childress, co-founded first black teacher's association

Mifflin Wistar Gibbs (1823-1915) born in Philadelphia, PA, and moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1850. He became the first black municipal judge in American history in Little Rock in 1875, received several federal appointments, and was the first black to serve as a U.S. Commissioner of the Little Rock Land Office (1877). Receiver of Public Monies in Little Rock (1889), and United States Consul to Tamatave, Madagascar (1897). Gibbs Magnet School named in his honor

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church circa 1898-1924 West Ninth St. (NE Corner); the first African Methodist Episcopal church in Arkansas; demolished

Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church
Established 1877

Sen. George W. Bell
Democrat from Little Rock, Sen. John Gray Lucas, John C. Calhoun argued unsuccessfully before the state legislature in March 1903 against the segregated coach bill

Shorter College
Mt. Pleasant, AR
Established 1892

J. G. Ish (1865-1938)
Long-time resident of Little Rock and Marietta Kidd Ish immigrated to Little Rock to become a prominent book collector and defining social factors in the community

Rev. Joseph C. Crenshaw (1894-1983) born in Marion, AR, moved to LR in 1907, opened a small grocery store, taught school, farmed, and pressing business in 1909; obtained tiny plot in 1953 at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church; civil rights pioneer and NAACP member in 1975 for refusing to let NAACP members sit in LR on the "desegregation hero" in the 1957 desegregation of LR Central High for his work with the LR Nine and Daisy Bates

State Temple Mosaic Templars of America
1890-1904
Baptist Church
Baptist in 1921; designed by African American architect, Dr. Elias C. Morris, graduate of the University of Illinois

Louis Jordan
born in Brooklyn, NY. The pioneering jazz blues, and boogie-woogie musician and songwriter, known for his "Rock-A-Billy" music

Body Riddled While Living on Ground
while Military Police Look On: "Blasting Gun to Hold Crossed Back"

Arkansas State Trooper Thomas P. Foster (1908-1962) page 1-Vol 12, No. 76, Sgt. Thomas P. Foster gunned down by white policeman on West Ninth Street in 1942; community outcry led to the formation of a committee to deal with discriminatory practices in LR

Dr. William H. Townsend
The Hon. Richard L. Mays
of LR, appointed to the Supreme Court

1957 Nine African American students
integrate Little Rock Central High School

1942 Mrs. Cowan Morris Williams
from Little Rock, AR, a widow, who sued the LR School Board demanding equal pay for her teachers. Williams was first Thurgood Marshall, NAACP Civil Rights lawyer to sue the LR School Board for equal pay. A 1943 repeat overruled the ruling and Williams was reinstated. Su Cowan Morris Williams is named in her honor

1958 Lena Lowe Jordan
born in Helena, AR. The registered nurse and hospital administrator who served as head nurse at the Mosaic State Templars Hospital in Helena, AR, and founder of the Jordan Center for the care of crippled black children. Jordan developed innovative nurses programs for black women

1972 For 70 years, no African Americans were elected to the Arkansas Legislature. In 1972, Richard L. Mays, William H. Townsend, and Dr. J. W. Jones, Pulaski County, were elected in the House of Representatives, and Henry Wilkins III, Jefferson County, elected to the Senate

The Hon. Richard L. Mays of LR, appointed to the Supreme Court

1950 KOKY
First radio station with programming for a black audience, located in Little Rock, AR, DJ: 1440 on your dial

Jeffrey L. Hawkins, Sr.
East LR community leader and Pulaski Co. Justice of the Peace; born in 1940, died in 2010; named in his honor

Nathaniel Hill, Sr.
East LR local leader; Nathaniel W. Hill Community Center, East 9th Street, named in his honor

1976 The Hon. Joyce E. Williams Warren
first African American woman to be elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives, and the first black woman to be elected to the Arkansas Senate

1980 The Hon. Richard L. Mays of LR, appointed to the Supreme Court

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Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
a museum of the Department of Arkansas History and Culture, established 2006; in the early stage of construction, the Mosaic Templars Headquarters Building, located at the historic West Ninth Street and Broadway area, was demolished in 2005, projected to open in 2007

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chronology: an illustrated history

African American History in Little Rock, Arkansas 1847-Present

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Arkansas State Parks Foundation
Archie Abrams Collection
Arkansas State Archives
Little Rock Water Tower and Argenta, Arkansas, 1907
Arkansas State Parks Foundation
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