



HISTORY

IS CREATED

THROUGH MOMENTS IN TIME. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND PLACES IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED. A COMMUNITY'S RIGHTS, IDENTITY, HISTORY AND FUTURE ARE ALL INTERTWINED TO CREATE ITS STORY AND PROTECT ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE. RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPES ALLOWS US TO EXPLORE THE RICH HISTORY THAT EXISTS IN ORLANDO'S BLACK AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. WE INVITE YOU TO OPEN YOUR EYES AND DISCOVER THESE GREAT PLACES.

THE FABRIC OF OUR

COMMUNITIES



CITY OF ORLANDO



DOWNTOWN ORLANDO™



BLACK HISTORICAL SITES

ORLANDO.GOV

THE MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICE PROUDLY SUPPORTS THIS PROJECT.



DID YOU KNOW?

PARRAMORE HERITAGE OVERLAY DISTRICT

The Holden-Parramore Historic District, developed in the early decades of the twentieth century, holds most of the remaining historic African-American resources in Downtown Orlando. The district is bounded by West Church Street on the north, McFall Avenue on the west, Long Street and West South Street on the south, and South Division Avenue on the East. Due to segregation, African-Americans were not permitted to live in the City's predominately white neighborhoods and were relegated to the area west of Downtown on the other side of "Division Street". In 1928, much of the land in Parramore was zoned for industrial uses; coupled with the construction of several highways beginning in the 1960s, these factors have made a lasting impact on the homes, businesses and cultural institutions of Parramore.

Today, the Parramore Heritage area embodies traditional neighborhood design, with its structure of small blocks, collections of buildings at varied scales and mixed uses. Some streets still maintain the original bricks; many lined by the mature oak canopies overhead.

Despite some of those early setbacks, the African American community grew and in many ways flourished in the early to mid-twentieth century. Yielding a number of African American businesses, lawyers, doctors, educators and other professionals. The foundation of Parramore was established through the work of great community builders like Dr. Jerry Callahan, Cecil Eccleston, Sylvester Hankins, William Monroe Wells and many others who created a sense of community and cultural pride. These are the qualities which make the Parramore Heritage District so unique. **(National Register of Historic Places 2009)**

JONESTOWN

Formerly located northwest of the historic Greenwood Cemetery between Central Boulevard and South Street, a 12 block section of the city was known as Jonestown. In early 1939 a fire destroyed the home of a black land owner. When he sought to rebuild the structure, there was public outcry against the rebuilding. Non-black residents in nearby neighborhoods wanted to clear out the substandard structures of Jonestown; since replacing the burned structure would have delayed their future construction plans. It was suggested that the Housing Authority eliminate the substandard housing and move the existing residents to the predominantly black neighborhoods west of downtown. The housing authority ultimately decided to enact that plan and demolished the neighborhood and moved the residents to a new housing project funded by the federal government. Jonestown property owners filed an injunction against the city to halt the destruction of their homes for a federally funded slum clearance project. However, the city decided to go forward with the project and a portion of Jonestown was razed and residents relocated to Griffin Park an Orlando Housing Authority development.



1. Washington Shores Savings and Loan Bank
2. Dr. J.B. Callahan Neighborhood Center
3. Carter Tabernacle C.M.E.
4. Carver Court Housing Project
5. Dr William Monroe Wells House

6. Dr. I. S. Hankins House
7. Ebenezer United Methodist Church
8. Grand Avenue Elementary School
9. Griffin Park Housing Project
10. Maxeý-Crooms House

11. Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church
12. Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Institutional Church
13. Nicholson-Colyer Building
14. Shiloh Baptist Church of Orlando

15. The Hankins Building
16. Tinker Field History Plaza
17. Wellsbuilt Hotel
18. Holden Street Elementary School
19. Shotgun Houses

1. WASHINGTON SHORES SAVINGS AND LOAN BANK

715 SOUTH GOLDWYN AVENUE

Washington Shores is home to many firsts in the state of Florida. The Washington Shores Federal Savings and Loan Bank, was the first black owner savings and loan bank in the state. It was established in 1963 by seven black men including Dr. James R. Smith, Charles Hawkins and Paul Perkins. The bank building is currently the Axiom Bank.

**2. DR. J.B. CALLAHAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, FORMERLY JONES HIGH SCHOOL AND CALLAHAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

101 NORTH PARRAMORE AVENUE

In 1895, the first school for African Americans was built and later became known as the Johnson Academy. Because of increased enrollment, the school was moved to the corner of Parramore Avenue and Washington Street and was renamed Jones High School. Years later, when Jones High School was relocated to its current



location in 1952, the school became Callahan Elementary School. The school was renovated and dedicated as the Dr. J.B. Callahan Neighborhood Center in 1987. Today the Dr. J.B. Callahan Center is the cornerstone of the Parramore community and provides a variety of programs and events for citizens. Dr. Jerry B. Callahan was born on a family owned plantation in Abbeyville County, South Carolina on December 9, 1883. Dr. Callahan moved to Orlando from Daytona Beach in 1908 after earning a medical degree from Shaw University. Dr. Callahan was the first black doctor to open a medical practice in Orlando; he was also the first African American doctor to practice surgery at Orange General Hospital which is today known as Orlando Health. (Orlando Regional Healthcare)

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3. CARTER TABERNACLE C.M.E., NOW BLACK BOTTOM HOUSE OF PRAYER

921 BENTLY STREET

In 1925, constructed as Spanish Mission Style architecture, Pleasant Hill Colored Methodist Episcopal congregation, later renamed Carter's Tabernacle C.M.E. was built. The building architecture was Spanish Mission Style with a stucco finish, arched doorways and casement windows. The current location is now home to Black Bottom House of Prayer. Carter Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal(C.M.E.) Church is now located at 1 South Cottage Hill Road.



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4. CARVER COURT HOUSING PROJECT

775 WEST GORE STREET

Built in 1945 to house African-American families, Carver Court was a public housing development built by the Orlando Housing Authority



in an effort to stimulate the economy, resolve growing slum and housing problems, and meet local demands associated with the massive defense buildup that had occurred during World War II. The development

consisted of 16 one-story buildings and 12 two-story buildings. Carver Court was a prime example of a planned residential community, reflecting important urban planning and housing design theories of the period. In 1959, due to construction of the interstate exit ramp, six buildings from the southeast corner of the Griffin Park property were relocated to Carver Court. This move was a result of the Housing Authority deeding some of its property to the Florida Department of Transportation. The buildings were rolled onto railroad tracks, and moved to and angled onto new foundations. This group of structures at Carver Court was known as "Little Griffin."

5. DR. WILLIAM MONROE WELLS HOUSE

519 WEST SOUTH STREET

William Monroe Wells, an African American physician and owner of the Wellsbuilt Hotel and South Street Casino, built this house in 1924. He is credited with delivering over 5,500 babies during his career, which included a year during WWII when he was the only black doctor in the City. In 2002, the house was moved from 407 W. South Street to its current location.



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6. DR. I. S. HANKINS HOUSE

219 LIME STREET

Built in 1935 as the home of Orlando's pioneer black physician, Dr. Isaiah Sylvester Hankins. He campaigned for improved race relations and black home ownership. Dr. Hankins was born in



Orlando and attended Johnson Academy through the 8th grade, the highest grade offered for African American children in Orlando at the time. The house features both, Spanish and French eclectic styles.

7. EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, NOW GREATER REFUGE MEMORIAL CHURCH

596 WEST CHURCH STREET

Ebenezer United Methodist church was the first African-American Methodist church in Orlando built by African Americans. In 1872, a wooden structure was built on the corner of Church and Terry Streets to house the congregation. In 1927, the congregation built the Gothic-style brick structure. In 1937, the parsonage was built. Over the years, the church built additions to the structure, which was finished in 1959 with the completion of the basement.

**8. GRAND AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

800 WEST GRAND STREET

Grand Avenue School, a two-story Mediterranean Revival structure was constructed in 1926. It is one of a pair of identical schools that



was designed by Howard M. Reynolds during the Florida Land Boom, the twin being the Princeton School in College Park. Grand Avenue's details are characteristic of Mediterranean Revival

style including its stucco walls, low pitched tile clad gable roof, multi-paned windows, decorative gable vents and medallions, and the projecting parapet entry with its columns and arched doorway.

9. GRIFFIN PARK HOUSING PROJECT

520 CALLAHAN DRIVE

Bounded by Murphy Street, Division Avenue, Avondale Avenue and Carter Street is Griffin Park. The housing project was named in memory of "Uncle" Charlie Griffin, a 102 year old former slave who had lived nearby. Griffin Park is an excellent example of the German style "Zeilenbau" site design format. In the Zeilenbau concept,

apartments are lined up one behind the other, with streets lying at the ends of the units. Today the interiors of the residential buildings remain virtually unchanged.

**10. MAXEY-CROOMS HOUSE**

638 WEST ANDERSON STREET

The Woodford James Maxey House constructed circa 1924 was built by local contractor Jim Murrell. It is a frame vernacular residence



which features Craftsman elements. The house reflects the development and evolution of the local African-American community not only in terms of its architectural merit but to the status gained by the original owner. Mr. Maxey represents the level of success achievable in this historically black neighborhood despite the discriminatory conditions against African-Americans during the first half of the 20th century.

11. MT. PLEASANT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

314 S PARRAMORE AVENUE

The church had a humble beginning in a brush arbor constructed of poles covered with water-repellent branches since 1919. Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, is built of concrete block. Members of the church who were skilled craftsmen handmade the blocks to look like stone

that were used to construct the building in the early 1920's. The congregation remained until it moved to its present location at Burton Boulevard at Price Hall Boulevard.

**12. MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH**

535 WEST WASHINGTON STREET

The history of Mt. Zion is filled with many names, faces and dates. Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church is the first black church in Orlando. In April 1880, the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was organized by Rev. C.J. Scott, who came to Orlando from Monticello, Florida. Thirteen pastors and five different structures later, the current church, constructed of red brick is a classical Revival church which broke ground in 1956.

**13. NICHOLSON-COLYER BUILDING**

27-35 WEST CHURCH STREET

This two-story late Victorian commercial structure has been used for a bakery, dry goods store, drug store, and tailor store. It was built in 1911 for J. A. Colyer, the only black land

owner businessman in Downtown Orlando during that time period, along with J. E. Nicholson, a baker from Canada.

**14. SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF ORLANDO**

604 JACKSON STREET

Founded in late 1899, Shiloh Baptist Church of Orlando is over 119 years old. The church officials purchased a lot on the northwest corner of Gush Row and Depuline Streets now, known as Jackson and Bryan Streets to build the first Shiloh Baptist Church sanctuary. Some pews in the church came from Ocoee, Florida where black churches had been burned down during a race riot. In 1922, the foundation for a new church building at 604 West Jackson Street was built.

**15. THE HANKINS BUILDING**

647 WEST SOUTH STREET

Built in 1947, The Hankins building was one of the first buildings for black professionals in Orlando. It was a professional building for black doctors and lawyers. It was also occupied by the local NAACP chapter, a dentist office, a tailor shop and beauty salon. The Hankins Building is the only Art Moderne commercial building in the historic district from the mid 1930's. Its smooth wall surface, flat roof,



and horizontal emphasis provided by the projecting, rounded canopy are all characteristics of the Art Moderne architectural style. Although alterations to this building include new windows and doors, the

building still retains a high level of historic integrity and contributes to the character of the historic district.

16. TINKER FIELD HISTORY PLAZA

317 S TAMPA AVENUE

The original field and buildings at Tinker Field were built in 1922 and the ballpark was dedicated on April 19, 1923. The ballpark was said to be larger than the New York Yankees field. Many Baseball Hall of Famers including Jackie Robinson, Rod Carew, Bert Blyleven, Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, and Harmon Killebrew played on Tinker Field. The field was also

used by the Minnesota Twins Minor League team, as well as, by other teams for Spring Training, or part of the Florida State League and the Southern League. On March 6, 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his only speech in Central Florida, "Integration Now", from the pitcher's mound. In 2015, the historic baseball diamond and field were landmarked by the Orlando City Council.



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17. WELLSBUILT HOTEL

511 WEST SOUTH STREET

Dr. William Wells constructed this hotel in 1926, now an African American History museum. It provided lodging to African Americans during segregation when hotel rooms were not available to them in other areas.



Many famous black entertainers and athletes stayed at the Wellsbuilt. The Wells' Built Museum opened in June 2009. The museum houses memorabilia of Orlando's African-American community and contains displays on the Civil Rights movement in Orlando.

18. HOLDEN STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

410 WOODS AVENUE (STRUCTURE REMOVED)

Holden Street Elementary School, known as the Kentucky Trail Elementary School, was founded in the Parramore neighborhood and was the first elementary school for Orlando's African American students. It opened in 1935 serving 1st through 4th grades. The building shown, was constructed in 1950. The school was located on the 8-acre property. It is bounded by South

Street, Kentucky Avenue (now Orange Blossom Trail), Woods Avenue, and W. Anderson Street, which was originally named Holden Street, the school's namesake. Holden Street Elementary School closed during the summer of 1971. The building later served as the administrative offices of the Lynx transportation system. The site is home to the Orlando Police Department Headquarters.



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19. SHOTGUN HOUSES

SOUTH LEE STREET

The Holden-Parramore Historic District is notable for its large number of variations on the shotgun type of house. Only a few remain in the area. They were built in both rural and urban areas and often became the most common type of dwelling in black neighborhoods. The houses are small, were inexpensively built, and generally lack amenities. The classic shotgun house is a narrow rectangular domestic residence, usually with a single door and window at each end.

