

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FACTS

Black History Month is celebrated annually to honor and celebrate the achievements of African Americans. It is a time for acknowledging the important place of African Americans in U.S. history. What we now call Black History Month originated in 1926 and was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson as "Negro History Week." The month of February was selected to honor Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln who were both born in that month. February has been designated as Black History Month by every U.S. President since 1976.

In 1865, slavery was abolished by the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Black History Month celebrates the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. This month showcases the stirring stories of African-American people who triumphed—many of whom faced unimaginable hardship to contribute to American life.

To celebrate this month, visit our African American Landmarks, Subject Markers, and Half Mile of History stones placed within our historic downtown. Learn about the individuals who enriched Tyler's history and achieved exceptional successes in their areas.



AFRICAN AMERICAN Heritage Trail

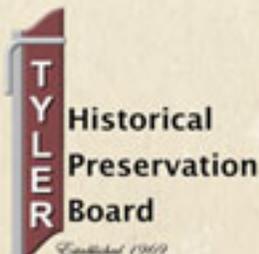
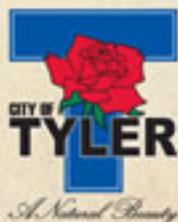
City of Tyler
Planning Department

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Visit our website to learn more at
www.TylerHistoricPreservation.com



*Welcome
to the*

AFRICAN AMERICAN Heritage Trail



WELCOME

Welcome to Tyler! You'll find us a warm and welcoming community with a strong appreciation of history.

We know that our diversity contributes to our great community. As you travel to see the various landmarks, subject markers and Half Mile of History markers outlined in this brochure, remember with us the incalculable contributions made by the African-American community to our heritage. Enjoy!

1 Gladys and T.B. Stewart Park (2713 Frankston Hwy.) was donated to the City in 2012 by Gladys and T.B. Stewart, who were long-time St. Louis Community residents. Stewart Park is a heritage park, which, when construction is finished, will tell the history of one of the oldest African-American neighborhoods in the area.

2 Katie A. Stewart (1407 S. Lyons Ave.) learned the value of an education from her parents and the everlasting impact of one's contribution to the community.

2

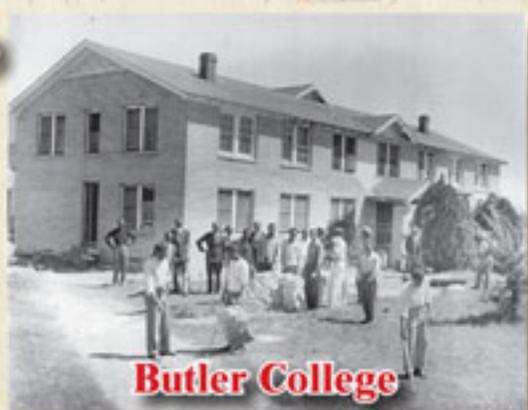


Katie A. Stewart

AFRICAN AMERICAN Heritage Trail



3



3 Butler College (1900 Bellwood Rd.) was established by the Reverend Cornelius M. Butler, born in Alabama before the turn of the century, and freed from slavery at the age of 17. He was taught to read and write by his wife. In 1905, Rev. Butler led the East Texas Baptist Association to establish the East Texas Baptist Academy, where he served as the first principal. In 1924, the Academy was renamed Butler College in honor of Reverend Butler.

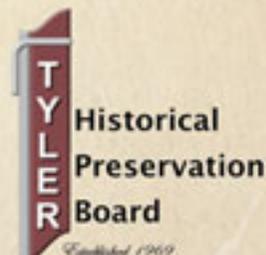
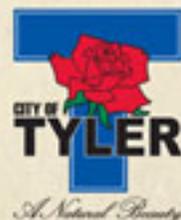
CONTINUED INSIDE (unfold for more)

To Apply for a
**HALF MILE
OF HISTORY
LANDMARK**

or a
**TYLER
HISTORIC
SUBJECT
MARKER**

Contact the

City of Tyler Planning Department
423 W. Ferguson St.
Tyler, Texas 75702
(903) 531-1175



Visit our website to learn more at
www.TylerHistoricPreservation.com

AFRICAN AMERICAN Heritage Trail

4 Ivy Service Center, Gamma Omicron Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., formerly known as the Ella Reid Public Library and the Tyler Negro Public Library (1400 W. Lollar St.) was chartered in 1941. The first recorded beginnings of the Tyler Negro Public Library date back to the World War II era. In July 1941, the Tyler Negro Public Library was chartered and located in the basement of Bethlehem Baptist Church. In the fall of 1949, the Library was moved to 1400 W. Lollar St. In November 1961, the Board requested the name be changed to the Ella Reid Public Library in honor of a church and community leader who was highly respected by Tyler's African American Community.

5 Bethlehem First Baptist Church (1121 W. Lollar St.) was established in 1866. This church was formed in 1866 as the First Baptist Church (for African Americans). In 1891, a new church was built on West Front Street, it was the first brick church in Texas to be built by African Americans.

6 M.P. Timms Educational Building (711 W. Oakwood St.) was built in 1955. The two-story educational building includes an office, a general assembly area and a downstairs prayer chapel that once remained opened 24 hours a day. This building contains some of the original stained glass.

7 M.P. Timms House (704 W. Oakwood St.) was built in 1949-1950. The parsonage is one of the few remaining pastoral parsonages in the City owned by African Americans. Church trustees commissioned architect/builder M.P. Kemp to design and build a seven-room brick residence. The Georgian architecture retains its original double-hung sash windows and gable roof with a brick chimney.

8 Saint James Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (408 N. Border Ave.) was built in 1891. St. James CME is a significant monument to those pioneer members who established this church in 1891. At the time, it was one of the first church buildings for African Americans in Tyler and Smith County. The original building is an excellent example of American Georgian architecture.

9 Willie Lee Campbell Glass (110 N. College Ave.) received her master's degree, a rare accomplishment for an African-American woman in the 1930s, and began her career teaching at Virginia State University. After three years, Ms. Campbell returned to her hometown of Nacogdoches and married Professor D.R. Glass, who became president of Texas College.

10



Charles Evan Coleman

10 Charles Evan Coleman (112 W. Erwin St.) was Tyler's first licensed African-American attorney. He felt compelled to help encourage African Americans to vote. He, along with other leading citizens, organized the North Tyler Voter's League, which enabled political participation of many African-American citizens by registering them to vote, and by paying the poll tax.

11 Texas College (100 E. Ferguson St.) is the oldest institution of higher learning in Tyler. It was referred to as the "fastest-growing college in the Southwest." Under the direction of Dr. D.R. Glass, the longest-serving president (three decades), the graduation classes grew from three to more than 200 graduates.

12 Henry Miller Morgan (212 E. Erwin St.) opened the first barber college for African Americans in 1933. Within 16 years, Mr. Morgan had branches of his barber college in New York City, Jackson, Mississippi, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Dallas, Texas.

13 Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church (502 N. Horace Ave.) was built in 1908. It provided heritage and cultural development of the east Tyler area by the establishment of the Frank J. Black Youth Center, a Community Missions Center and the Datie Florence Brown Children's Home, which addressed the emergency care and needs of at-risk children. This has been designated as both a landmark and subject marker.

12



Henry Miller Morgan

14 Mr. Noble Earnest "Doc" Young (1711 N. Palace Ave.) graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, with a degree in pharmacy. He later attended Bishop College in Marshall, Texas, where he received a B.S. degree in chemistry and biology, and a supervisory certification of Education. Further pursuit of educational excellence was obtained at the University of Nebraska. He opened a drugstore in Tyler in 1946 and stayed there until 1984, when he retired.

15 Emmett J. Scott Senior High School (1900 Englewood Ave.) was established in 1888. It was a four-room structure housing grades 1 through 10. The building burned in 1921. A new building was erected in 1923 and renamed Emmett Scott Junior High. What began as a four-room school with its graduating class of four students in 1949, became 26 classrooms, an administrative suite, library, cafeteria, shop, auditorium, gymnasium, and band hall. Emmett J. Scott High School closed in June 1970, through an integration order affecting all Texas public schools.

16 Thomas Jefferson, Sr. And Annie Mae Givens House (2209 N. Grand St.) was built in 1931. Thomas Jefferson Givens, Sr., built this American Cottage style home during the oil boom for his wife and son, who wanted to be near Texas College. Mrs. Givens provided housing for many young ladies attending the college, including her own granddaughter. Four generations of the Givens family have lived in the home.

17 Texas College Campus President's House (2404 N. Grand Ave.) was built in 1944 for D.R. Glass, the first president of Texas College for 30 years, who served from 1931-1961. The two-story brick colonial home housed the college president and his family as well as serving as a guest house to visiting dignitaries for many years.



Texas College President's House

18 Texas College Campus D.R. Glass Library (2404 N. Grand Ave.) was built in 1950. It is a two-story brick structure that houses all of the library resources. The library is named for Dominion Robert Glass, the first president of Texas College. The present collection contains approximately 80,000 volumes, which includes basic standard reference books, professional and technical literature, recreational reading materials, and current bound publications as well as the Black Studies Collection that contains extensive material by and about the African-American experience. The Black Studies Collection is one of the largest collections in East Texas.

19 Texas College Campus J.C. Martin Hall (2404 N. Grand Ave.) was built in 1924. It is named for Bishop Joseph C. Martin and is a good local example of a Classical Revival-influenced education building. It is the only surviving intact example of a 1920s education building in the City. Martin Hall is a three-story red brick building erected from plans of an unknown source. Martin Hall retains its original 1,000-seat auditorium. The auditorium contains a 1943 mural depicting events in the history of Texas College.

20 Texas College (2404 N. Grand Ave.) was established in January 1894, less than 30 years after the abolition of slavery. One of the beginning goals of the school was to educate the children of former slaves. Texas College received its official charter in 1907. It is the oldest institution of higher learning in Tyler. Texas College has received a Half Mile of History Stone, Subject Marker and multiple Landmark building recognitions.

21 Texas College Campus Gus F. Taylor Gymnasium (2404 N. Grand Ave.) was built in 1940 for \$30,000. The one-story brick structure has hosted sporting events and yearly formals, along with elite speakers for the college and community.

15 Emmett J. Scott Senior High School

