

# Reflections



## Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network



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

Volume VII, No. 1

July 2007

## HUBBARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESERVES WOMEN'S DORMITORY

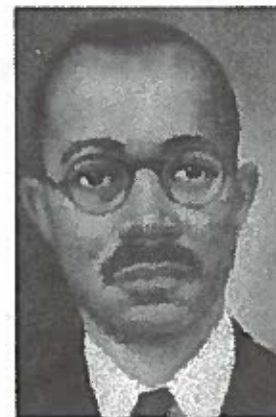
Jeanne Cyriaque, African American Programs Coordinator  
Historic Preservation Division

In 1900 William Merida Hubbard opened a school with seven students in the Kynette Methodist Church in the city of Forsyth. Like many schools in the Jim Crow South, churches presented the only option for educating black children. He opened this school at a time when there was little interest and minimal financial support for African American public education in Georgia. Undaunted by this challenge, William Hubbard cultivated partnerships with the white community in Forsyth. In 1902, Hubbard and five white men from Forsyth successfully petitioned the Superior Court of Monroe County to incorporate the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School with one small building on ten acres of land.

Hubbard's mission was to prepare teachers to educate African American youth in Monroe and surrounding counties. In less than 15 years, William Hubbard developed a curriculum for the school that extended classes to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. By 1916, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades were added and the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School became one of a handful of senior high schools that existed in Georgia for African Americans.

Hubbard continued his quest for partnerships with the white community to ensure that the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School became a County Training School. In 1917, it was accredited. With this designation, by 1918 the Georgia Assembly passed the Smith-Hughes Act and the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School became the state's first

vocational school for African Americans. In 1922, another milestone was achieved when the Georgia legislature passed an act that made the Forsyth Normal and Industrial School the "School of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts for the Training of Negroes." In 1927, the school became a junior college, but sadly that same year a fire destroyed the main building. William Hubbard sought additional land and buildings for the institution that by that time educated over 2,000



(Public Domain)

**William Merida Hubbard**  
Founder

Courtesy of Hubbard  
Alumni Association



The Women's Dormitory is one of the historic buildings that remain from the State Teachers and Agricultural College era when the school was one of Georgia's three African American institutions in the University System of Georgia. The dormitory was constructed in 1936. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque

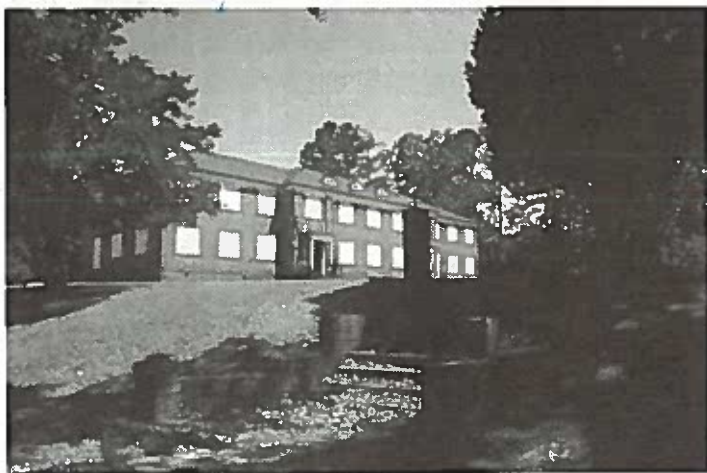
students and operated a farm on 300 acres of land.

Construction of new buildings after the fire began during the Great Depression on Georgia Highway 83 within walking distance of the original complex. By 1936, several brick buildings were completed, including an auditorium, the president's house, administration building, gymnasium, and the home economics building. Never losing site of his original mission to educate teachers, William

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## HUBBARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESERVES WOMEN'S DORMITORY

Jeanne Cyriaque, continued from page 1



*This view of the Women's Dormitory illustrates the brick stairs that once were the entrance to the various buildings that comprised the historic campus of the State Teachers and Agricultural College for Negroes.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

Hubbard orchestrated the construction of dormitories so that students would have a place to stay while they were receiving training.

In 1931, the Georgia legislature once again changed the name of the school and it became the State Teachers and Agricultural College for Negroes (STAC). At that time, STAC became one of three public colleges for African Americans in the University System of Georgia. By 1933, STAC introduced the Exchange Teachers Plan that trained teachers for service in many of the 242 Rosenwald Schools that once existed in Georgia.

Despite William Hubbard's demonstrated success, STAC was closed in 1938 when the state transferred its financial support to the Fort Valley State College in nearby Peach County. The following year the campus became the property of the Monroe County Board of Education and the school was re-opened as the Hubbard Training School. Samuel Hubbard, the son of William Hubbard, became the school's principal.



*The William M. Hubbard Education Building at Fort Valley State University is located behind the "Wildcat" sculpture on the campus.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

Samuel Hubbard, like his father, led the school during turbulent years. In 1955, a new building was added and the name of the school was changed to the Hubbard Elementary and High School. Samuel Hubbard was the principal of both schools until Monroe County's schools were desegregated in 1970. Today, the Hubbard campus includes the non-historic William M. Hubbard Middle School and the Samuel E. Hubbard Elementary School.



*(Public Domain)*

**Samuel E. Hubbard**  
**Principal, 1939-1970**

*Courtesy of Hubbard  
Alumni Association*

What became of the historic buildings that are a significant part of the Hubbard legacy? The women's dormitory continued to be used for a number of years to provide housing for teachers as part of the Exchange Teachers Plan and for a time after the fire the first floor served as classrooms and housed the school library. By 1970, all buildings constructed during the STAC era disappeared from the landscape except for the women's dormitory, president's home and the teachers' cottage.



*The Teachers' Cottage was built during the Great Depression with the financial assistance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. It is the only teachers' cottage that currently exists among the 43 surviving Rosenwald School buildings that have been located by African American programs. The Teachers' Cottage and the Women's Dormitory were listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 30, 2003. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

Standing vacant for many years, the women's dormitory was endangered until several alumni from all the Hubbard Schools formed the Hubbard Alumni Association. They included Larry Evans, Annie Evans, Winifred Berry, Mable Smith, Mary Chambliss, John Thomas Lyons, Annie McCray, Lillian Davis, Linwood Gantt, Jr. and Herbert Gantt. By 1989, the Hubbard Alumni Association



## HUBBARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESERVES WOMEN'S DORMITORY

was chartered as a nonprofit organization to continue the legacy of William and Samuel Hubbard. Today, 62 alumni are life members of the association. W. James Green is the current president. Like the school's founder, the Hubbard Alumni Association continued a mission of education. By 2007, the Hubbard Alumni Association had awarded 47 scholarships.

In the tradition of the school's founder, the Hubbard Alumni Association cultivated partnerships with the Monroe County Board of Education to preserve the Hubbard Women's Dormitory and revitalize it for use as a museum, training and cultural center. This building along with the teachers' cottage were subsequently listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 30, 2003. This recognition paved the way for a new relationship with the Historic Preservation Division.



*The Hubbard Alumni Association, in partnership with the Georgia Historical Society, erected this marker in 2003 on the side of the campus that faces Georgia Highway 83. The marker provides visitors with a short history of both the State Teachers and Agricultural College and its transition to the Hubbard Training School. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

The Hubbard Alumni Association received two Georgia Heritage grants for the preservation of the Women's Dormitory. In September 2002, the Office of Jack Pyburn (OJP) developed a preservation plan as a predevelopment grant. The plan outlined the steps required to rehabilitate the dormitory. OJP architects subsequently assisted the Hubbard Alumni Association with a development Georgia Heritage grant that provided funding for a new roof and gutters to protect the building from further deterioration. To further augment the importance of the Hubbard legacy to African American education in Georgia, a historical marker was erected through a partnership with the Georgia Historical Society in 2003.

The Hubbard Alumni Association sponsors their annual membership drive at a black-tie celebration. In February 2007, the celebration was held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth. Hubbard alumni and corporate partners contributed \$100 per person for membership dues or donations

that benefit the Hubbard Alumni scholarship fund and the women's dormitory rehabilitation project. The keynote speaker was James E. Donald, who is the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC). He discussed the planned relocation of GDC central offices in metro Atlanta to the former campus of Tift College in Forsyth, and the economic benefits of this consolidation. Relocation of GDC's offices and training facilities will move training facilities to the former college campus and create 350 to 400 new jobs in Forsyth.

Each spring Hubbard alumni celebrate Founder's Day with the annual Queen's coronation and parade. Other fundraising initiatives include the annual golf tournament, banquet, social and the Chick Willis Blues Festival that is held in Culloden. Hubbard alumni are currently pursuing pledges to restore the 50 double-hung windows in the women's dormitory. With a pledge of \$1,000, donors will be recognized with their names engraved on the window sills.

The Hubbard Alumni Association is working closely with the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center to implement a \$500,000 redevelopment grant for adaptive reuse of the women's dormitory as a community center. The first floor will be used as a museum while preserving one dormitory room and providing office space for the Hubbard Alumni Association. The plan outlines use of the second floor of the building for a job skills training center for the community. For more information, visit their website at [www.hubbardalumni.org](http://www.hubbardalumni.org).



*Hubbard alumni proudly wear their school t-shirts on parade day.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*



*Current school officials and descendants of the Hubbard family attended the William Merida Hubbard Founder's Day celebration on April 18, 2007. Pictured from left to right are: Fletcher Johnson, Assistant Principal, Angie Dillon, Principal, Hubbard cousin Margaret Douthard, Clifton Hubbard, Leola Hubbard, and W. James Green, president of the Hubbard Alumni Association. Photo courtesy of the Hubbard Alumni Association, Inc.*

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD? A TOOLBOX FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Hermina Glass-Avery, African American Programs Assistant  
Historic Preservation Division*

In February, the Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network (GAAHPN) hosted its third preservation conference. The theme of the conference in Augusta was "What's New in the Old Neighborhood? A Toolbox for Historic Preservation." While partnering with national and local preservation organizations, the network used two African American historic districts in Augusta as a case study. The opening program and reception was held in the Laney-Walker Historic District at the Lucy Craft Laney Comprehensive High School. This school is a vivid model of a community's efforts to preserve aspects of its historic past and to remember Miss Lucy Craft Laney, a tireless educator and civic leader.

Born in 1854 in Macon to enslaved parents, Lucy Craft Laney learned to read through the kindness of slave owners, the Campbells. In 1869, she graduated from high school at the age of 15 and was among the first students to attend classes at Atlanta

University. After graduation, in 1873 she moved to Augusta to open the first school for black children in the basement of Christ Presbyterian Church, formerly located on 10<sup>th</sup> and Telfair Streets. After only two years, enrollment at the school increased dramatically from the original six students to over 230.

As Reconstruction ended, the school needed to expand in order to accommodate the growing number of black children beginning to attend classes. So, in 1886, she traveled to Minnesota to solicit funding from the Presbyterian Church Convention. Her visit



*Lucy Craft Laney*

*Courtesy of Lucy Craft Laney Museum*

availed no results. However, upon her return, Miss Laney received a letter from Mrs. Francine E. Haines, president of the Woman's Department of the Presbyterian Church, USA who had heard her speak at the convention. Impressed with Miss Laney and her mission to educate black children in Augusta, Mrs. Haines was able to secure funding for the expansion of the school in the amount of \$10,000.00. Touched by the kindness of this stranger, Miss Laney named the new school the Haines Normal School.

In 1886, the school was chartered by the State of Georgia and Miss Laney, the faculty and students moved into its new location at 800 Gwinett Street, now Laney-Walker Blvd. Sixty years later, Haines Normal and Industrial Institute closed due to declining enrollment. The Cauley-Wheeler Memorial Building is the only extant building of the former Haines Normal and Industrial Institute. This building sits behind the modern Lucy Craft Laney Comprehensive High School, named in honor of its founder. Lucy



*GAAHPN Steering Committee member Dr. Gerald Golden discusses the Laney legacy with the Haines Alumni Association hosts who sponsored the opening reception and program in the Cauley-Wheeler building.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

Craft Laney is buried on the grounds adjacent to the school and an eternal flame burns at the site for the community and visitors to commemorate her legacy.

Of the five historic districts in the Augusta area, the Bethlehem and Laney-Walker Historic Districts are recognized for their ethnic and architectural heritage as well as their contribution to African American education.

Conference planners considered these areas and factored them into the sessions that highlighted a range of topics from local black history

and pioneers to economic development, neighborhood revitalization, historic landmarks, and other preservation issues. The conference committee planners were Isaac Johnson, GAAHPN chair, Jeanne Cyriaque, African American programs coordinator, Erick Montgomery and Julia Jackson of Historic Augusta, Anne Floyd, planning director of the Central Savannah River Area Regional Development Center and Nancy Tinker, program officer from the southern office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The conference was partially supported by a \$1,400 seed grant from the



*Shotgun houses are common throughout the residential sections of the Bethlehem and Laney-Walker Historic Districts in Augusta.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

National Trust's African American Preservation Fund. Approximately 100 conferees were in attendance hailing from cities all across the United States. The board of directors and statewide networks of the African American Preservation Alliance attended, and 10 states were represented at the conference. Georgia participants came from: Alpharetta, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Bronwood, Brunswick, Columbus, Decatur, Hephzibah, LaGrange, Marietta, Monticello, Morven, Rome, Savannah, Stone Mountain, Thomasville, Washington and Waynesboro.



## WHAT'S NEW IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD? A TOOLBOX FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The goal of the conference was for preservationists and others working in the field to exchange ideas on what is or is not working in their cities and to work toward finding preservation-oriented solutions. In the past, preservationists focused on saving the “mansions on the hill” and frequently African American resources were overlooked, under-represented, and underestimated when it came to preserving those districts, sites, buildings and structures. Today, preservationists are realizing the importance of including African American resources as vital strategies in telling the whole story of our shared past. The process of preserving such historic resources, however, is undoubtedly challenging as many communities find themselves grappling with high rates of unemployment, economic deprivation, and sheer misconceptions about the significance of preservation, funding sources and what it means to be designated as a historic district or certified local government.



*Carmen LeJeune Thompson, president (middle) shares information from the Haines Alumni Association archives with researchers. Models of students wearing uniforms and other memorabilia are located in the Cauley-Wheeler building.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

The Haines Alumni Association hosted the opening program at the Lucy Craft Laney Comprehensive High School and a reception in the historic Cauley-Wheeler Building. The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tem Betty Beard welcomed participants to Augusta, and Principal Hawthorne Welcher and ROTC students at Lucy Craft Laney Comprehensive High School provided connections to the school named for Miss Laney today. Agnes Scott College historian and author of *Woman of Color, Daughter of Privilege*, Kent Anderson Leslie, spoke about the legacy of Lucy Craft Laney. Dr. Leslie shared highlights from her forthcoming biography about Miss Laney.

As attendees networked and exchanged information over the course of the conference, Augusta's own jazz saxophonist Lonnie Thomas Youngblood graced attendees with his soul-stirring traditional gospel renditions. Youngblood is a 1959 graduate of Lucy Laney High School. He now resides in Little Ferry, New Jersey.

The educational sessions of the conference were held at the Beulah Grove Baptist Church *Building of Opportunity* in the

Bethlehem Historic District. GAAHPN chairman, Isaac Johnson, also an Augusta native and Laney alumnus, along with W. Ray Luce, Historic Preservation Division director, welcomed guests and stressed the importance of the conference. Erick Montgomery, executive director of Historic Augusta, introduced the keynote speaker, Bobby Donaldson, who is an assistant professor of History and African American Studies at the University of South Carolina.

Donaldson fused the principles of historic research, public memory and preservation in his talk as he emphasized the significance that African Americans played in local and national history, politics and education. He recalled shared stories and memories of historic street names, buildings, and sacred sites that were influential in the lives of many of his predecessors and even his own – sites and spaces that have received little or no recognition in the historic records. For example, he recalled: 844 Walton Way, formerly Calhoun Street, was the gateway into Augusta's black Mecca... where a casino and nightclub were owned and operated by African Americans. On Hopkins Street, Harmony Baptist Church was formed in 1868 as a sister church from Springfield Baptist. And he noted the segregated Cedar Grove cemetery where blacks were denied equality even in death.

Dr. Donaldson cited notable individuals influenced by Miss Lucy Craft Laney: Mary McCleod Bethune, Mary Church Terrell, Roland Hayes, as well as Charles T. Walker, Wellborn Jenkins, Richard Dent, Silas Floyd, Lucius Henry Holsey, Judson W. Lyons, Channing Tobias, John Hope, R.S. Williams, and John Wesley Gilbert. The subject of his upcoming biography is William Jefferson White, a local political activist, Baptist minister, and journalist. White founded one of America's premier institutions of higher learning for African American males in 1867: Morehouse

College. It began in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church before moving to its present location in Atlanta. Lastly, Professor Donaldson expressed how encouraged he is by the efforts of preservationists whose work provides new ways of learning and teaching history.

The Honorable Willie Burns, the first African American mayor of Washington, Georgia emphasized the importance of preservation and pointed out key preservation projects in his city. As a 2006 Preserve America grant recipient, Washington is involved in an innovative project that will allow it to begin preserving and interpreting its African American history. The city in Georgia named for the nation's first president, Washington has a host of historic resources with numerous sites specific to African Americans. Some



*Historic Preservation Division director W. Ray Luce congratulates keynote speaker Bobby Donaldson following his presentation on Augusta's rich African American past.*

*Photo by Hermina Glass-Avery*

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD? A TOOLBOX FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Hermina Glass-Avery, continued from page 5*

significant resources include: School Street Cemetery, Wingfield House, and the Old School. The mayor and Main Street manager, David Jenkins, have aggressive plans to market Washington as a preservation and heritage tourism destination.

GAAHPN is most appreciative of the exceptional speakers who contributed to the conference program. Patsy Fletcher discussed her community outreach efforts in Washington, D.C. Joan Garner, President/CEO of the Historic District Development Corporation in Atlanta was the luncheon speaker. She provided valuable insight about forming partnerships in the redevelopment of the Auburn Avenue commercial district and the restoration of the historic Herndon Plaza while creating compatible infill housing in the historic neighborhood that lies adjacent to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Melissa Jest of the Historic Savannah Foundation informed participants about strategies that work in Savannah's historic districts by providing grassroots community participation. Maggie O'Connor of the City of Wilmington (NC) presented successful community design competitions and Brent Runyon of Thomasville Landmarks discussed community rebuilding initiatives in the Stevens Street Historic District. Thomas Spinks of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs discussed strategies for successful Community Development Block Grants.



*Two sculptures designed by Richard Hunt are elements in Springfield Village Park.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

At the close of the program, participants traveled to historic Springfield Baptist Church for a presentation by sculptor Richard Hunt who introduced his most recent sculpture in Springfield Village Park: *And They Went Down Both Into the Water*. This sculpture is the newest element in the park, as it sits beneath the *Tower of Aspiration*. Springfield Baptist Church hosted the Hunt presentation in the church, followed by an evening reception in the historic St. John wood-sided building that adjoins the brick sanctuary. Together with the park, these structures interpret the free black community who once lived on the Savannah River, presently the site of Augusta's Riverwalk.

Another highlight of the conference was the field session sponsored by Historic Augusta. It consisted of a bus tour that illustrated the new, old, and blighted areas of the Bethlehem, Laney-Walker, and downtown Historic Districts. Christine Miller-Betts, executive director of the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, and Corey Rogers,



*Penny Savings Bank is a community landmark building in the Laney-Walker Historic District. Its historic use was as a banking institution for African Americans and it is adaptively used for commercial purposes today.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

museum curator, served as tour guides. The tour included glimpses of: mill houses in the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area; the Ezekiel Harris House; Medical College of Georgia campus; the historically black Paine College, founded in 1882; Shiloh Orphanage; Penny Savings Bank; Tabernacle Baptist Church; and the site of the recently demolished Bethel AME Church. "I have a new found appreciation for Augusta, Georgia and for the African American history that it has...it's such a rich history," stated Ebony White, regional representative of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Also included on the tour were: the neglected 1902 St. Benedict's Boarding School, formerly an orphanage and boarding school for African-American girls; and the old Red Star Hotel and Restaurant. This building was situated across from the train depot on Walker Street and patronized a "colored only" clientele during the segregated Jim Crow era. Augusta resident Thelma Pollard Avery lives on D'Antignac Street and she recalled "...the Red Star sold the best food. We used to buy food from them all the time. They had the best fried chicken and shrimp. They had a pick-up window and people used to come from all over. And, whenever people came back to Augusta, they would ask about the Red Star. Of course, it eventually closed down."

*What's New in the Old Neighborhood?* demonstrates the myriad of challenges that Augusta, like many cities all across the country, is facing to preserve its built and cultural heritage. In well-established communities, as well as those blighted by social and economic deterrents, the trend is to build anew in order to simulate some sense of progress. It is imperative that black and white residents, preservationists, developers, local governments, and city planners collaborate on strategies that incorporate the new and old into viable communities. Results from the evaluations included in the GAAHPN conference packet indicated that this conference was beneficial to participants. According to Nancy Tinker of the National Trust "We talked about practical things and a wide range of topics. I think it was a great benefit to a lot of people."



**SAVE THE DATE:  
ETERNAL PLACES: DISCOVERING GEORGIA'S HISTORIC CEMETERIES**

*Carole Moore, Grants Coordinator  
Historic Preservation Division*

**O**n November 1-2 at the Ramada Hotel in Augusta, the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) will sponsor *Eternal Places: Discovering Georgia's Historic Cemeteries*. The conference is the culmination of HPD's *Preserve America* grant to provide technical assistance to historic cemeteries in Georgia. The *Preserve America* grant included \$60,000 in sub-grants to eligible applicants.



**Georgia African American  
Historic Preservation Network**

Photograph Not Available

*Preservationists celebrate the Preserve America grant at Linwood Cemetery in the Pleasant Hill Historic District in Macon.*

Image credit: Georgia HPD



**ETERNAL PLACES**

**DISCOVERING GEORGIA'S  
HISTORIC CEMETERIES**

Sub-grant projects, which will be completed next spring, range from surveys, condition assessment reports, preservation plans, and a tourism plan to new signage, brochures, website development, and a teacher curriculum. Two grants were awarded to African American historic cemeteries in Washington and Macon. The sub-grants awards included:

- City of Washington for the School Street Cemetery, \$19,625.00
- City of Macon for the Linwood Cemetery, \$10,500.00
- City of Kennesaw for Kennesaw City Cemetery, \$10,250.00
- City of Roswell for the Methodist, Presbyterian and Founders' Cemeteries, \$10,000.00
- City of Rome for the Myrtle Hill Cemetery, \$3,000.00

Conference presentations will include attorney James Trotter on laws and legal issues; Chicora Foundation's Debi Hacker on cemetery repair and developing a preservation plan; historian and genealogist Ken Thomas on finding descendants; landscape architect James Cothran on the cultural landscapes of cemeteries; and a variety of speakers representing historic cemetery activities in the areas of repair, planning, tourism and education. The conference will conclude with tours of historic cemeteries in Augusta. Conference participants will receive copies of a new HPD publication on historic cemeteries and the popular *Grave Intentions*, a cemetery "how-to" booklet, written by Christine Neal.



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## ABOUT GAAHPN



Georgia African American  
Historic Preservation Network

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 GAAHPN Steering Committee 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 2,450 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. Visit the Historic Preservation Division website at [www.gashpo.org](http://www.gashpo.org). Preservation information and previous issues of *Reflections* are available online. Membership in the Network is free and open to all.

## Reflections

Published quarterly by the  
Historic Preservation Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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This publication has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products or consultants constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire more information, write to: Office for Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.



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