



STOPS

18

HERITAGE TRAILS

African-American Heritage Trail

Trail Summary

The African-American Heritage Trail consists of sites that provide a historical glimpse into the life of African-Americans who resided in Cumberland County. The hard labor bourn by slaves, the entrepreneurship of free blacks, the devotion to religion and education, the service to our country, and the desire to learn and preserve valuable history await to tell the visitor a grand story.



The Stops

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau 2. Fifer's Grave 3. Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church 4. Saint Ann Catholic Church 5. Cross Creek Cemetery (Brookside) 6. Saint Joseph's Episcopal Church 7. Orange Street School 8. Fayetteville State University 9. E.E. Smith Monument (Fayetteville State University) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. MLK Park 11. Sandhills Heritage Center 12. Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church 13. Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church 14. Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex 15. Airborne and Special Operations Museum 16. Fayetteville Area Transportation & Local History Museum 17. Market House | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Historical Markers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) Charles W. Chesnutt 1858-1932 - Gillespie Street B) Henry Evans - Person Street at Cool Spring Street C) Hiram R. Revels - NC 210 (Murchison Road) at Blue Street D) Lewis Leary - NC 210 (Murchison Road) E) Omar Ibn Said - NC 210 (Murchison Road) F) Fayetteville State University - NC 87/210 (Murchison Road) |
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African-American Heritage

African-Americans arrived in this area as slaves of European settlers. The institution of slavery sustained the agrarian-based society that had quickly developed. Slave labor was also used to support another leading industry – naval stores – the harvesting of resin from pine trees to produce tar, pitch, and turpentine. When the nation recorded its first census in 1790, Cumberland County’s total population was 8,671, which included more than 2,100 blacks.

In the early years of the 18th century, smaller farms required that slaves and their white owners work side-by-side to cultivate the land. African-American slaves worked primarily in the fields. However, many specialized as artisans, such as 22-year-old Bob, who worked as a cooper – a sister industry to naval stores – crafting wooden containers such as barrels.

Free blacks and freed slaves lived in the area, working as boatmen and draymen (men who drove wagons to make deliveries). Some blacks were free at birth because of their mother’s status as a free person. Freed slaves obtained their liberty through their master’s will or by being purchased by family members who were emancipated.

The Revolutionary War brought about a dichotomy, pitting the issue of slavery against the Patriots’ fight for freedom. While Virginia’s Governor Dunmore promised freedom to slaves who would bear arms against the colonist, North Carolina’s legislature, in 1780, promised “one prime slave...” to white men who would join the Continental Line. Blacks joining the Continental Line typically served as laborers to build fortifications and clear roads or as skilled craftsman making weapons and shoeing horses. Some served as guides, musicians, and servants to white officers. Isaac Hammond, a free black from Fayetteville, joined the 10th NC Regiment, serving as a fifer.

Many Southern churches began as a brush arbor, which is an outdoor structure built with wood and sticks to provide shade and shelter. To the local African-American culture, it was referred to as a “hush arbor” or “bush arbor” because laws prevented slaves from congregating for fear of slave uprisings. Defying the rule, slaves gathered to worship in their own customs and traditions. A free black named Henry Evans, a Methodist preacher from Virginia, made Fayetteville his home because he felt blacks were in need of Christianity. Eventually, blacks and whites worshipped together to hear him preach. Many other local churches are rooted in African-American traditions or were begun due to the local custom of segregation.



STOP

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Fayetteville Area Transportation &
Local History Museum



Fayetteville Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (FACVB)

245 Person Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

01

Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (FACVB) positions Fayetteville and Cumberland County as a destination for conventions, events, and individual travel. Operating a Visitors Center with a drive-through window. The FACVB is located just minutes from the heart of downtown. Signs from I-95 provide clear directions to the Visitor Center. Call for information and help planning your visit to the area or stop by when you arrive for maps, brochures and more.

• **HOURS :**

Open to the public
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

• **NEXT STOP**

Exit the FACVB parking lot, making a left onto Person Street, enter into roundabout, take third exit onto N. Cool Spring Street, and Fifer's Grave will be on the left.



Fifer's Grave

North Cool Spring Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

02

The fifer, Isaac Hammond, lies buried here. Hammond became the first fifer in the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry and served 30 years. He also served in the 10th NC Regiment Continental Line during the Revolutionary War. He became a barber in town and participated in politics even though blacks were not permitted to vote at the time.

• **HOURS :**

Exterior View Only.
Open to the public, daily
before dusk.

• **NEXT STOP**

Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church is on your left a few yards from Fifer's Grave.



Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church

301 North Cool Spring Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-483-2862

03

This church was chartered in 1801, and the current building was built in 1893. The congregation was founded by Henry Evans, a black shoemaker and Methodist preacher. His arrival into Fayetteville was the beginning of Methodism in Fayetteville and eastern North Carolina. Evans preached to a congregation of both blacks and whites. By the 1870s, the church became a part of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. A tablet in the basement marks the grave of Henry Evans.

• **HOURS :**

Exterior view or by
appointment only.

• **NEXT STOP**

Saint Ann Catholic Church is on your left a few yards away from Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church.



Saint Ann Catholic Church

357 North Cool Spring Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-483-3216

04

This church was created in 1934 because a group of African-Americans were tired of attending Mass near a sign that read, "Colored Catholics Sit Here." Historically, St. Ann's served the blacks while St. Patrick's was predominantly white. However, the St. Ann Catholic School was the first school in North Carolina to be integrated from its inception. Another unique aspect of St. Ann Church is the beautiful collection of stained-glass windows depicting the church's history.

• HOURS :

Exterior view or by appointment only.

• NEXT STOP

Part of Cross Creek Cemetery is on your right. The African American Brookside section is in the other section of Cross Creek Cemetery. Continue on North Cool Spring Street. Make a left onto Grove Street. Make a right onto Ann Street. Make a right onto Lamon Street.



Cross Creek Cemetery (Brookside)

North Cool Spring and Grove Streets
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

05

Brookside, an area of Cross Creek Cemetery dedicated to burials for African-Americans post Civil War, contains the graves of many notable families of the Fayetteville area. This cemetery was designated by the City Council as a local landmark in September 2003. Some of those notable families and individuals include E.E. Smith; members of the Chesnutt family; Dr. Paul Melchor; Robert Harris, the first principal of the Howard School, and Bishop Hood. The grounds consist of free blacks buried after the Civil War and others born during the days of slavery.

• HOURS :

Exterior view only.
Daily before dusk.

• NEXT STOP

Turn around on Lamon Street. Make a Left onto Ann Street. Make a Right onto Grove Street. Make a Right onto Ramsey Street. Turn Left onto Moore Street.



Saint Joseph's Episcopal Church

509 Ramsey Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-323-0161

06

The church, built in 1896 to serve a black congregation, formed in 1873 and represents the second-oldest Episcopal congregation in Fayetteville. Most notable are five Resurrection windows from Tiffany & Co. in New York. A pipe organ built in 1857 is one of the oldest still in use in America and has been powered by hand, water, gas and now electricity.

• HOURS :

Exterior view, daily before dusk or by appointment only.

• NEXT STOP

Continue on Moore Street. Make a right onto Orange Street.



Orange Street School

600 Orange Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-483-7038

07

Built in 1915 by African-American contractor James Waddell, The Orange Street School is believed to be the oldest building associated with education in Fayetteville. Before its construction, black students had been attending classes in a small, one-room schoolhouse for nearly 50 years. The school continued to function as an educational facility for 38 years. The upstairs now serves as a museum where Bishop James Walker Hood's top hat and bible can be viewed. He was an early founder and pastor of Evans Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church. The home of Edward Evans, the original principal of Orange Street School, is located across the street.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk. Exterior view or by appointment only.

• **NEXT STOP**

Keep going on Orange Street. Make a left onto Cumberland Street. Make a slight right onto Murchison Road. Make a right onto FSU Campus on Coley Drive.



Fayetteville State University

1200 Murchison Road
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-672-1111

08

Fayetteville State University is the second- oldest public university in North Carolina that is a part of the University of North Carolina System. The college was originally named the Howard School for African-Americans and was founded in 1867. It was named after General O.O. Howard, director of the Freedman's Bureau, when seven black men purchased land for \$136. In 1877, the Howard School was designated as the first State Colored Normal School to educate African-American teachers. In 1939, it became a four-year college, and in 1972, it became part of the UNC System. At the Chesnut Library, historical artifacts, such as E.E. Smith's sword, can be viewed in the archives room.

• **HOURS :**

Open to the public, daily before dusk.

• **NEXT STOP**

Continue on Coley Drive through the FSU campus. E.E. Smith Monument is located on your right.



E.E. Smith Monument at Fayetteville State University

1200 Murchison Road
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

09

Dr. E.E. (Ezekiel Ezra) Smith, a respected African-American educator, headed Fayetteville State University for an impressive 50 years. In fact, Smith gave some of his own land to build some of FSU's first buildings. He also served as an ambassador to Liberia and as the adjutant of the 3rd NC Regiment during the Spanish-American War. Other notable accomplishments include founding North Carolina's first black newspaper and serving as a Baptist Minister for the black First Baptist Church.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only.

• **NEXT STOP**

Turn around on Coley Drive. Make a Left onto Murchison Road. Make a Right onto Blue Street.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

Enjoy a picnic pavilion and open space as the beginnings for the 13 acres of land commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. An impressive sculpture of Dr. King reigns high over the park. Plans include a fountain, lighted spire, gardens and walking trail.

739 Blue Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-488-5549

10

• **HOURS :**

Daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Open to the public.

• **NEXT STOP**

Continue on Blue Street. Make a left onto Murchison Road and follow all the way into Spring Lake. Murchison Road will merge with Bragg Blvd in Spring Lake. Continue on Bragg Blvd. Make a right onto Chapel Hill Road.



Sandhills Heritage Center/Farmers Market

Formerly called the Spring Lake Civic Center, it was founded by African-Americans as a community activity facility for local black youth in 1951. The center was used for youth and adult social gatherings, such as family reunions, birthday parties, church gatherings and during the 1960s, as a civil rights meeting place. Plans are underway to restore the building as an African-American Heritage Center by the Sandhills Family Heritage Association, which frequently hosts events and tours here about African-American heritage. Today, you can view several outside exhibits including, a replica of a brush arbor, a section of a plank road and a farmer's market.

230 Chapel Hill Road
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

919-499-0628

11

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only or by appointment.

• **NEXT STOP**

Turn around on Chapel Hill Road. Make right onto Bragg Blvd. Make a left onto Vass Road.



Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church

The Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church was founded in 1873 as a mission, known as the "Little Ark." The late Jack Murchison built a brush shelter to preach to two neighboring plantations. A few years later, a Presbyterian minister preached at Little Ark and established it as a Presbyterian church. Subsequently, a Methodist minister from Fayetteville arrived and converted them to Methodism, which later became apart of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church movement.

255 Vass Road
SPRING LAKE, NC

STOP

910-497-3445

12

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only or by appointment.

• **NEXT STOP**

Turn around on Vass Road. Turn right onto Bragg Blvd. Merge with NC 210, Murchison Road. Take I-295 South to All-American Freeway, towards Fayetteville. Take next exit to the right onto Santa Fe Drive. Make right onto Santa Fe Road. Make right onto Yadkin Road.



Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

5760 Yadkin Road
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-867-2708

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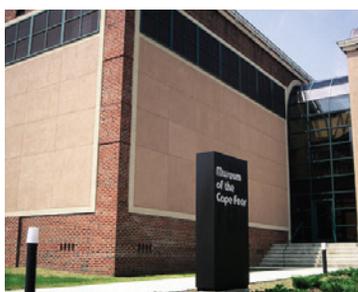
According to a deed dated November 18, 1873, a piece of land was sold by Henry McDonald to the Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America. With this tract of land, the first substantial building was constructed with the name of Beaver Creek Chapel, and steps of progress were seen. In 1887, under the leadership of Rev. M.N. Levy, an antique church bell was purchased. In October 1923, under the administration of Rev. E. Johnson McKoy, the church building was remodeled. The name was changed from Beaver Creek A.M.E. Zion Church to Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church on November 9, 1976, in recognition of Simon the Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry his cross.

• HOURS :

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only or by appointment.

• NEXT STOP

Turn around on Yadkin Road. Continue on Yadkin Road. Yadkin Road becomes McPherson Church Road. Make a Left onto Morganton Road. Morganton Road becomes Hay Street. Make a Right onto Bradford Avenue. Make a Right onto Arsenal Avenue.



Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

801 Arsenal Avenue
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-500-4240

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At the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, artifacts help tell some of the African-American story. For example, there is a winnowing basket used by the slaves for harvesting rice, slave shackles and reproduction gourd instruments. African-Americans, whether slaves, freed from slavery or born free, worked in the naval stores industry, helping North Carolina earn the nickname Tar Heel state. Many free African-Americans were farmers, belonging either to the tenant or yeoman class. The lives of many are told collectively through the museum's exhibits. The 1897 Poe House is part of the historical complex. A tour of the Poe House discusses the roles of African-American women working as domestic servants at the turn of the 20th century. Discover a bit of what life was like for the African-Americans in the Jim Crow south. The remains of the U.S. Arsenal in North Carolina comprises the third component of the museum's campus. Walk this site, and you walk the grounds where African-Americans, both free and enslaved, labored to help construct a federal arsenal prior to the Civil War. Now known as Arsenal Park, the facility manufactured weapons and other ordinance goods for the Confederacy. In March 1865, Union troops fulfilled an order by General William Sherman to "batter, blast and burn" the arsenal. Ruins of the building foundations and a modern steel semblance known as the Ghost Tower keep vigil for the lives associated with this historic site.

• HOURS :

Sun. 1-5 p.m.
Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed Mon.
Open to the public.

• NEXT STOP

Make a right onto Arsenal Avenue. Make a left onto Bradford Avenue. Make a right onto Hay Street. Make a left onto Bragg Blvd. Make a right onto Walter Street and into the Airborne and Special Operations Museum parking lot.



Airborne and Special Operations Museum

100 Bragg Boulevard
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-643-2778

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The Airborne and Special Operations Museum preserves the extraordinary feats performed by parachute and glider-borne troops and their brothers in arms, the special operations forces. By exploring the artifact displays, life-size dioramas, audio and visual displays and motion simulator, you will gain a deeper respect and pride for the remarkable achievements of these brave All American Airborne soldiers. There is an exhibit on the Triple Nickels or the 555th Battalion – a historically all-black airborne unit.

• **HOURS :**

Sun. 12-5 p.m.
Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Open to the public.

• **NEXT STOP**

Exit the museum parking lot, turn Left onto Bragg Blvd. Bragg Blvd. turns in Robeson Street. Turn left onto Franklin Street. Turn right into the Fayetteville Area Transportation Museum parking lot.



Fayetteville Area Transportation & Local History Museum

325 Franklin Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-483-1457

16

The Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum exhibits contributions made by local African-Americans. The museum also has staff oversight of Fayetteville’s Historic Districts and Designated Local Landmark Properties, many of which have strong ties to African-American history. Maintained in the museum archives are all the National Register and Local Landmark nominations for use by researchers. Also, the museum is a repository of historical information concerning local African-Americans. Museum staff is available to assist citizens with directed research in the area of local African-American history.

• **HOURS :**

Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Fourth Fridays 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Closed Sun. and holidays
Open to Public.

• **NEXT STOP**

Make a left out of the parking lot onto Maxwell Street. Make a right onto Franklin Street. Make a left onto Gillespie Street. Continue on Gillespie Street until you reach the traffic circle. The Market House is directly in front of you.



Market House

Intersection of Person and Hay Streets with
Green and Gillespie Streets
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

17

Previously known as the State House, it was here that North Carolina ratified the U.S. Constitution in 1789 and chartered the University of North Carolina. In 1831, a fire destroyed downtown Fayetteville, including the State House, and the Market House was rebuilt on its site. As a marketplace, various peddlers sold cotton and other agricultural products here. In fact, one of the first meat merchants to sell their goods under the Market House in 1832, was a freeborn African-American. Although not built as a slave market, slaves were sold here over the years until slavery was abolished in 1865. Historical debate also circles around the possibility that the structure was built by a local free black man, Thomas Grimes, one of the best brick masons in the area at the time.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk.
Exterior view only.

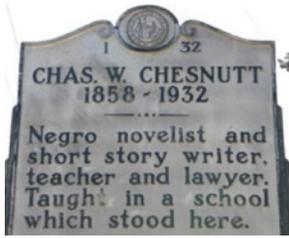
• **NEXT STOP**

Historical Markers

Historical Markers

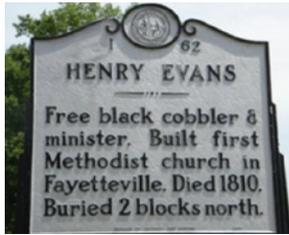
A) Charles W. Chesnutt 1858-1932 - Gillespie Street

Negro novelist and short story writer, teacher and lawyer. Taught in a school which stood here.



B) Henry Evans - Person Street at Cool Spring Street

Free black cobbler and minister. Built first Methodist church in Fayetteville. Died 1810. Buried 2 blocks north.



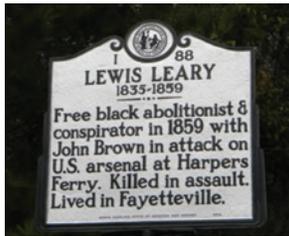
C) Hiram R. Revels - NC 210 (Murchison Road) at Blue Street

First African-American to serve in Congress, he represented Mississippi in Senate, 1870-1871. Born in Fayetteville.



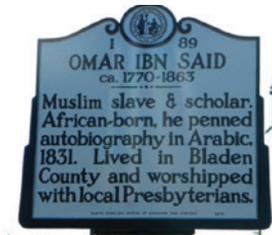
D) Lewis Leary - NC 210 (Murchison Road)

Free black abolitionist and conspirator in 1859 with John Brown in attack on U.S. arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Killed in live assault. Lived in Fayetteville.



E) Omar Ibn Said - NC 210 (Murchison Road)

Muslim slave and scholar. African-born, he penned autobiography in Arabic, 1831. Lived in Bladen County and worshipped with local Presbyterians.



F) Fayetteville State University - NC 87/210 (Murchison Road)

Est. 1867 as Howard School. State supported since 1877. A part of the University of North Carolina since 1972.

