



Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project's

Roots Run Deep

African American History Tours in the Shenandoah



Harrisonburg, Virginia

An African American History Tour

So much of our African American History has been lost. Historic Churches, homes and early businesses were lost to Urban Renewal. Early communities lost their home places because of Jim Crow's laws and the Great Depression. Black farmers were unable to get the same support from the Federal Government that White farmers received. This tour reflects those losses.

Out of the first ten sites, only two of the original structures are standing today. Of the last fourteen sites, eleven have the original structures but some have had major renovations.

- This tour can be taken all at once or by sections.
- We have included driving directions with several locations where you can stop or park.
- With the included map you can walk from site to site. Go to our website www.rootsrundeep.org to learn more about each site.
- On your smartphone you can download the Traipse App for free and find our Roots Run Deep Tours. This app will have directions and information about each site.



Roots Run Deep

African American History Tours in the Shenandoah

Harrisonburg, Virginia

Our tour starts in what was the *historic jail hill area* where freeborn families owned and built homes in the early 1800's. We will end our tour at Harry Lee's Shoe Shine Parlor. Harry Solomon was a popular musician. He had several well known bands. Follow the links provided for you at this last stop and you will be able to enjoy listening to Wallace Redd and Reverend Harold Brown, Sr, both local musicians. Reverend Brown shined shoes in downtown Harrisonburg in the 1950's and Wallace Redd's band played all around the Shenandoah Valley in the 1940's - 1960's.

1 Jail Hill. (Parking lot of Otterbein Methodist Church, 176 W Market St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

This was in the old Jail Hill area. Named after the old jail that was down the street, the area is bounded by West Elizabeth Street to the north, North Liberty Street to the east, West Market Street to the south and North High Street to the west.

Many free people of color first purchased land on Jail Hill in the early 1830s and a community of property owning freedmen was well-established in the area by the 1850s. The John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church was located in this neighborhood.

The included photo is of a small part of a painting by Emma Lyon Bryan. Painted in 1867, it is of early Harrisonburg, including the old jail shown here.



Ryan Bachman's Book, African-American Property Ownership, Harrisonburg, VA 1850-1860 is our source. Ryan's research is well documented and very illuminating. (Contact us if you would like a copy of his book.) Permission to use a part of the Emma Lyon Bryan painting granted by Rocktown History.

Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 2:

William Strother House, 170 N High Street, Harrisonburg, VA
22802

- Starting from the Otterbein Methodist Church Parking Lot **(1)** on West Market St
- Make a right out of the lot onto West Market St
- Proceed to the next intersection, where you will make a right onto High St(Rt. 42).
- Make a right at the next intersection (High St and W Wolfe St)
- Site # 2; The Strother House, 170 N. High St is on your right at this intersection. It faces High Street. Blue Ridge Legal is across the street.



Site #2; William
Strother House, 170 N
High Street,

William Strother was an early African-American property owner in Harrisonburg. He bought and sold several properties between 1830 - 1850. He was a well known well and grave digger. It is believed that his home on the corner of North High Street and West Wolfe Street is still standing.

William Strother and his second wife, Mary lived in this house with their children, Archibald, Jane, William, Jr., and Beal in 1860. Unfortunately, William died in 1865 and his wife and children's inheritance suffered. Poor record keeping on the part of the previous property owner resulted in many years in court and in 1876, the seizure and removal of the family from the home William built.
African American Property Ownership Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1850-1860 by Ryan Bachman

Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 3:

Jeremiah Gibson's Workshop, 188 N Liberty St, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; Present Day - Liberty Street Park

- Continue down W Wolfe St
- The next cross street is N Liberty St
- Cross N Liberty Street and Site 3 is on your right, the Liberty Street Park.

Jeremiah Gibson was born in 1791 in Staunton, Virginia. By 1827 he had moved to Harrisonburg and purchased a home on the corner of Liberty Street and Wolfe Street.

Jeremiah worked as a wagon-maker and his workshop stood where Liberty Street Park is today. It was a short walk to his home.

Like many other craftsmen in Harrisonburg, Jeremiah passed down the knowledge of his trade to his sons. St. Clair and Marcellus both followed in their father's footsteps. In fact, during the decade before the Civil War, the Gibsons were one of only three local families that built wagon and carriages, the others being the Rohr and Morrison families.

In July 1854, Jeremiah found himself in debt. He entered into an arrangement with his wife, Margaret and Harrisonburg attorney, Charles D. Gray, that gave Margaret ownership of the Gibson Property, with the condition that upon her death, it be transferred to Gray.

African American Property Ownership Harrisonburg, Virginia,

The Gibson Family

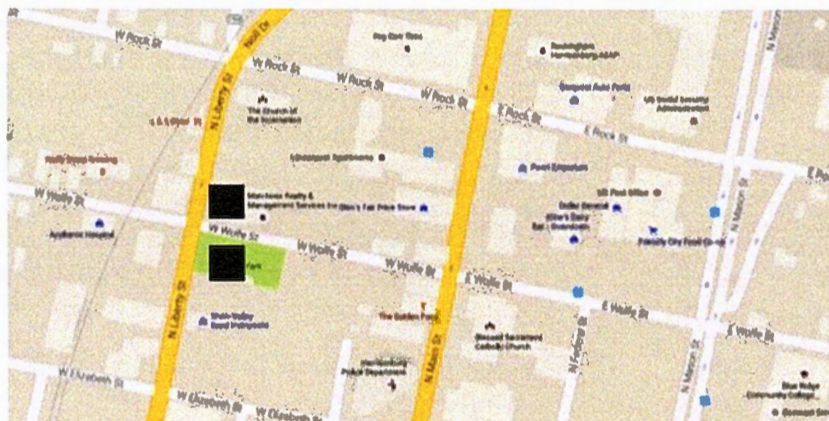


Figure 1. Location of former Gibson properties:
Number 1: Gibson home lot
Number 2: Site of Jeremiah Gibson's workshop

Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 4:

Hite Family home; 277 N Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; Present Day - Glen's Fair Price Store Parking Lot

- Continue down W Wolfe St
- The next cross street is N Main St, which is one way north. Make a left at the intersection and Site 4 is on your left. The Hite Home stood where Glen's Fair Price Store Parking Lot is today.

The Hite family lived in the African-American neighborhood along North Main Street before the Civil War. The Hite house stood on a half acre lot on North Main Street, a short distance north of the intersection with West Wolfe Street.

Today, the property is the parking lot of Glen's Fair Price Store. Lear Hite was the first of her family to be emancipated. She was granted the property on North Main Street by the will of Samuel Chandler in September, 1828.

As a free person, one of Lear's first acts was to purchase her enslaved husband, John. It is common for freed spouses to purchase their partners and emancipate them, but interestingly Lear did not free her husband. Lear likely chose not to free her husband as a way to avoid the law that required freedmen to either leave Virginia within a year, face re-enslavement, or attempt to file for a special exemption with the state legislature.

Their son James bought the home with his brother, William, in April, 1830 but by the time the 1830 Federal Census is taken, James is the only male living on the property. James was a blacksmith. He deeded the property in trust to a local attorney in 1833. By 1842 an additional home was built on the property.

James died sometime between 1858-1860, when the family lost the properties to Sprinkle, the attorney who owned shares in the trust. One of the larger homes eventually became the Campbell Hotel which was torn down in 1985.

African American Property Ownership Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1850-1860 by Ryan Bachman

Driving Instructions to Site 5:

Joshua and William Peters' Properties; 75 N Mason Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; Present Day - The block between E. Elizabeth and E Market Streets and N Mason and East Market Streets was the Peter's home and business.

- Continue down N Main St from Glen's Parking Lot.
- Make a right onto E Rock St
- Go one block to N Mason St and make a right.
- Go two blocks to E Elizabeth St
- Make a right onto E Elizabeth St, Site 5 is on your left.

Walking Directions to Site 5:

- Make a right as you exit the parking lot at Glen's Fair Price Store
- Walk south on N Main St To E Elizabeth St
- Make a left onto E Elizabeth St
- Cross N Federal St
- Site 5 is on your right. It includes the entire block. Today Two banks are on this property.

Joshua Peters was born free in Cumberland County on March 30, 1783. He was bound out to a saddle maker as a young child until he was 21 years old. He moved to Harrisonburg and opened a shop making saddles and harnesses. He married Sally Fortune.

Joshua's shop at 180 East Market Street, faced East Market Street (where Suntrust is today). Their son William was born about 1817, continued in his father's footsteps. Their business was very successful and the Peters were a well known and liked family.

William Peters was one of the most successful businessmen in antebellum Harrisonburg. By the time of the Civil War, William owned six houses, a saddle-making business, a blacksmith shop, and a livery where he both sold and boarded horses.

However, William's support of the Union during the Civil War created hardships for the years following the war. Arrested and released he was almost lynched. His debts mounted and many difficult years followed. Yet the business continued and by the time of his death William was once again a well known and liked man, however he had lost most of his rental properties.

African American Property Ownership in Harrisonburg, 1850-1860

by Ryan Bachman

Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 6:

The Blue Circle 30 Club; 145 E Wolfe Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; Present Day - The parking lot of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

- On Elizabeth St, go to the intersection with N Federal St
- Make a right onto N Federal St
- Go one block to E Wolfe St
- Site 6 is on your right

Site 6 was the building that housed the Newman Insurance Offices and The Blue Circle 30 Club headquarters. In the photo, George Newman with his son Fred (holding the infant) are standing in the doorway.

The Blue Circle 30 Club was a men's group whose mission was to support community projects. Each Christmas, The Blue Circle 30 Club hosted a holiday party for the children of the neighborhood. All the children received gifts from Santa and a tree adorned the outside of the building.

The Blue Circle 30 Club started in January, 1927 with the purpose "to promote social and athletic activities and to all behind, all worthy movements for the betterment of the colored race." It was in the Pythian Building and was remodeled in 1927 for the club. The building included rooms for "musical instruments, billiard tables, and other recreational facilities".

The group's first officers were; Percy Wells, president, Joe Yokely, Vice President, H. W. Sellers, secretary, John P. Harper, treasurer and Page Mitchell was the advisory Counsellor. This building was torn down during the Urban Renewal Project in the 1960's. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Vickers.



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 7:

The Vicker's Home; 138 E Wolfe Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; Present Day - Gamer Oasis

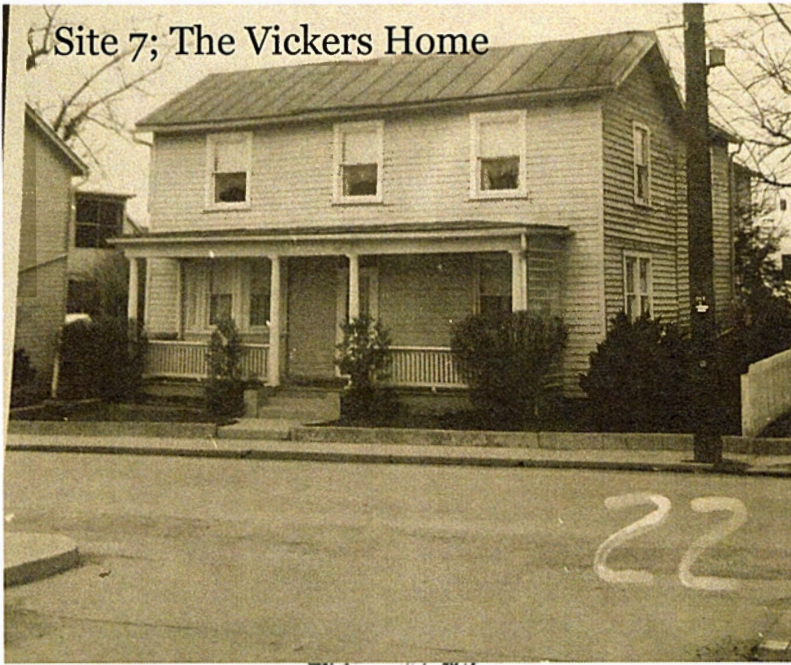
- Cross Wolfe Street from Blessed Sacrament Church's parking lot
- Site 7 is about where Gamer Oasis is today (140 E Wolfe St)

The Vickers home was destroyed during the Urban Renewal Project in the 1960's. This was a beautiful home. Savilla Vickers was a well known caterer. She worked with other chefs from the area, including her cousin, Mrs. Edna Toliver Rhodes, and neighbor, Mrs. Eleanor Beatrice Lewis Walker.



Chef Edna Toliver Rhodes (on left) and Chef Savilla Vickers
Photos courtesy of Jennifer Vickers

Site 7; The Vickers Home



The Vickers Home; 138 E Wolfe Street. This is the R4 photo taken of the Vickers Home before it was destroyed. They did two photos of each structure they destroyed. One of the front and one of the back.

As you can see this house was in good condition and had a lovely back yard. Many homes and black owned business were destroyed.



Wanetta Frances Curry (1927 - 1985) photographed in the Vickers' yard. Wanetta was the daughter of Warren R Curry and Annie Shipman Curry. They lived on E Gay Street not far from the Vickers' home.

Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 8:

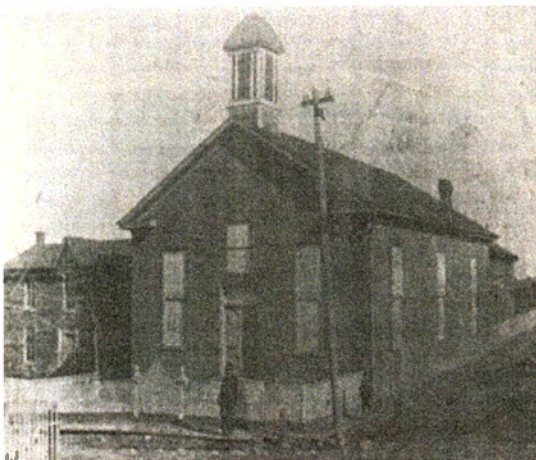
The First Baptist Church, about 201 N Mason Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; Present Day - N Mason Street. The Church was torn down when Mason Street was widened.

- Walk to the corner of E Wolfe St and N Mason St
- Site 8 would have been in the corner of the Friendly City Food Co-op's parking lot close to N Mason St and E Wolfe St

In 1873 a church was erected on the corner of E Wolfe and Mason Street (Site #8). It cost 850.00 and soon it's congregation outgrew the church. In 1878, the old church was set back on the property and a new church was built in front of it. In later years a parsonage was built.

In 1963, the church was purchased by the city of Harrisonburg for the Urban Renewal Program and like most of the surrounding neighborhood, was torn down. Here is a link to the Church website's history page. <http://firstbaptisthbgva.org/pages/church%20history.html>

What remains on the east side of this intersection (E Wolfe and N Mason Streets) is what is referred to as "Old Mason Drive". Doc Dickerson's house is on the north east corner. Standing next to it is the home of Dr. Atkins. Another neighbor was a boarding house for well known African Americans who were unable to stay in local hotels.



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 9:

Doc Dickerson's House; 203 E Wolfe St Harrisonburg, VA, 22802;
Present Day - The Free Virginia and Accepted Masons, 226 Omar
Lodge

- Cross N Mason St on E Wolfe St. Site 9 is on your left.

Doc Dickerson's house is now the home of the Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Omar Lodge 266. Dr. Eugene Dickerson was a surgeon. Born in Charlottesville, Virginia, Dr. Dickerson attended the public "colored" schools of Charlottesville. His desire to become a doctor led him to Leonard Medical College in Raleigh, North Carolina, graduating with an MD degree in 1900. He spent a year of postgraduate work at Howard University and another year at the Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, DC.

Dr. Dickerson began his medical career in Ware Neck, Gloucester County, Virginia. In 1910, he briefly moved his practice to Staunton, Virginia, before spending the next 30+ years in Harrisonburg. Because Dr. Dickerson was not allowed to perform surgery at Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg, his surgical patients were sent to the Freedmen's Hospital, where Dr. Dickerson had admitting privileges and an office. Dr. Dickerson was active in the Newtown area of Harrisonburg, being a member of the Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge, and the Order of the Eastern Star.

In 1924, Dr. Dickerson wrote a letter to W.E. B. Dubois about the KKK activity in Harrisonburg. He wrote about an Evangelist Preacher, who had come to Harrisonburg following the burning of Tulsa. He was concerned the Preacher was attempting to incite a similar riot in Harrisonburg.

Dr. Dickerson moved to Washington, DC, in 1947 and died in the Freedmen's Hospital in April, 1955. His body was returned to Harrisonburg for burial in the Newtown Cemetery, and his grave has no marker.



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 10:

Miss Jenny's Tea Room/Jennie's Chicken Shack; 203 E Wolfe Street Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; Present Day - Comcast parking lot

- Continue up E Wolfe St
- Cross Community Street and Site 10 is on your right.

Known both as Miss Jenny's Tea Room and Jennie's Chicken Shack, this small restaurant was in a multi-use building on E Wolfe Street. There was a barber shop there as well as a room for the Effinger Street students to play basketball, as the school had no gym.

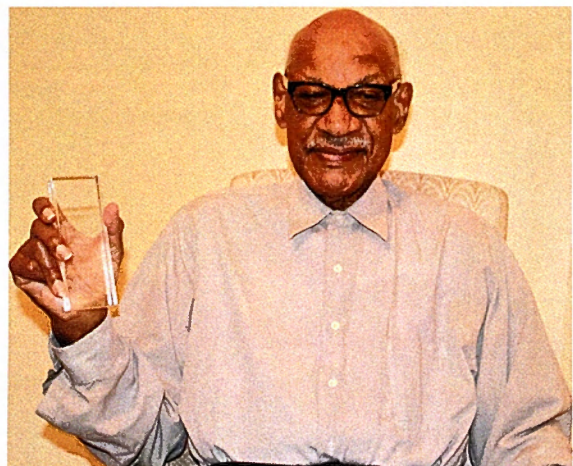
Jennie T. Long and Charles Robinson were the owner operators. Charles was born July 16, 1894 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He served in WWI and died January 7, 1950 and is buried in the historic Newtown cemetery in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He came to the Shenandoah Valley because his father was born here. He married Jennie Long (born in 1899) and lived across the street from the restaurant.

The building was torn down during the urban renewal project in Harrisonburg.



Comcast lot 2021.

In 2020, we honored Chef Charles Robinson and his wife at our Honoring Shenandoah Valley Soul Food and History and Chefs Program. Mr. Wallace Robinson of Pennsylvania accepted the award in honor of his Uncle.



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 11:

Mary Fairfax's home; 395 Broad Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; Present Day - a private home

- Continue up E Wolfe St
- Make a left onto Broad St and cross E Rock St
- Site 11 is on your left at the intersection of Broad St and E Gay St on the southwest corner.

Mary Awkard Fairfax was a well known educator. She taught for many years at the Lucy F. Simms School. After graduating high school in Harrisonburg in the 1930's, she was asked to teach at the one room school in Mt. Jackson in Shenandoah County.

Unable to attend local universities due to segregation, she spent her summers working in New York City while she studied and received her Masters Degree at Columbia University. She was active in her church and was known for leading the choir and playing the piano. She challenged her students and provided many opportunities for them.

When the schools were integrated, the schools for African-Americans were closed. After Simms School closed she was one of the few teachers to find appointments in Harrisonburg. She taught at Waterman, where unfortunately she was not treated with the respect she deserved.

Source: Interview with Cheryl Metz, Massanutten Central Library.



Site 11: cont.

Mary Fairfax's home; 395 Broad Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802;

Mary Fairfax's home was on the edge of the area that was torn down during the R4 projects. In the interview she did with Cheryl Metz, she talks about that time. She said, she took the check she had received back downtown and told them no one was tearing her father's house down.

Privately owned, it is standing today at the corner of Broad and Gay Streets. It represents the many homes taken from hard working families.



Lucy Simms Chorus, 1964. Pianist Mary Awkard Fairfax (far left) and conductor Nathaniel Moore (far right). Courtesy Mary Fairfax.

Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 12:

Effinger Street School; Roses parking lot, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802;
Present Day - Roses parking lot

- Make a left onto E Gay St
- Make the right into the parking lot
- Site 12 was here

The Effinger Street School was built in 1882. At one time Effinger Street continued to Main Street. It was cut off in the 1960's with the R4 Urban Renewal program. The Effinger Street School would have been on the south side of Effinger Street in what is now a shopping center.

It served the community until it was torn down in 1937. The Lucy F. Simms School opened in 1939. This latter school was named after the well known educator, Lucy Frances Simms. She never taught at the school named after her but she did teach for many years at the Effinger Street School.



Lucy F Simms with her class in front of the Effinger Street School
Photo Courtesy of Billo Harper

Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 13:

Dallard/Newman House; 192 E Kelley Street, Harrisonburg, VA,
22802; Standing today

- Exit the parking lot onto E Gay St
- Make a left out of the parking lot
- Make a left onto Myrtle St
- Make a left onto E Kelley St
- Site 13 is on your right

Constructed about 1875 at 192 Kelley Street, the historic Dallard-Newman House is one of Harrisonburg's oldest and most enduring monuments to African American culture and heritage.

The building, constructed by formerly enslaved including the Dallards, who were enslaved on the Riverbanks Plantation in Elkton, Virginia. They were master carpenters and the plantation house and the Kelley Street residence are wonderful examples of their skills. Both homes with multi levels and beautiful staircases display architecture rarely seen on today's landscape.

The Dallards were trustees at Long's Chapel in the nearby community called Little Africa at the time. The Newman's who married into the Dallard family, were a well known family. Educators, entrepreneurs and ministers, they and their descendants continue to contribute to the history of this community.

The house stayed in the family until 2015 and plans are for it to be a museum.



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 14:

Bethel AME Church; 184 E Kelley Street, Harrisonburg, VA,
22802; Active today

- Next door to the Dallard/Newman House

This historic church was built about 1885 by local carpenters, including the Dallards. They were enslaved on the Riverbanks plantation, in Elkton, Virginia and also built the Dallard/Newman house next to the church. Before 1885 the church had services at several downtown locations starting about 1856.



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 15:

Miss Lena's Store; 165 E Kelley Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; private home today

- Across the street from Bethel AME Church

The Record Shop was in the home of Henry & Lena Stuart, 165 E. Kelley Street. Long time resident, Doris Allen said in 2016 “they started with selling records, then cigarettes and knick-knacks, then ice cream and so on.” It was first known as The Record Shop but later became known as Miss Lena's Store.

Both the Stuarts were born in Harrisonburg. Henry Stuart, 1915-1993, attended Wilberforce University and was a WWII Veteran. Lena Mae Vickers Stuart, 1917-2003, graduated from the Effinger Street School. In addition to operating The Record Shop with her husband, she raised a family and worked at Harrisonburg Auto Auction and H&R Block. The Stuarts were active in their churches, the Bethel AME Church, across the street from their home and the John Wesley United Methodist Church.



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 16:

First Baptist Church today; 611 Broad Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; active today

- Drive west on E Kelley St
- Make a right onto Broad St
- First Baptist is a short distance on Broad Street on your left

The First Baptist Church on Broad Street is active and an important part of today's community. You can find their full history on their website. Here is a link. <http://firstbaptisthbgva.org/pages/Church%20History%20Doc.htm>.

The church was first started organizing in 1971. A meeting house of worship was started. It was on West Market Street. In 1873 a church was erected on the corner of Wolfe and Mason Street (Site #8). It cost 850.00 and soon it's congregation outgrew the church. In 1878, the old church was set back on the property and a new church was built in front of it. In later years a parsonage was built.

In 1963, the church was purchased by the city of Harrisonburg for the Urban Renewal Program and like most of the surrounding neighborhood, was torn down.

The present church (Site #16) is an important part of the community today just as it was when it was built in 1963-1964. The cornerstone dates at the church are "1878-1964".



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 17:

Lucy F. Simms House; 231 E Johnson Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; private home today

- Continue north on Broad St
- Make a right onto E Johnson St
- Cross Myrtle St
- The Simms House a short distance on the right

This is the home of Lucy F. Simms. Born enslaved in 1856, Lucy F. Simms went on to receive her degree from Virginia's Hampton Institute, and eventually settled in Harrisonburg to teach over 1,800 students from three generations of families.

The following is from the Celebrating Simms Exhibit: "Lucy F. Simms brought this energy and dedication to the three schools where she spent her 56-year teaching career, starting in Athens Colored School, later known as Zenda, in 1877.

A desire for fair pay led her to Harrisonburg, where she taught out of the basement of the Harrisonburg Catholic Church. There, however, the janitor frequently threw out her students' work in preparation for Sunday services.

Eventually the growing number of students prompted the construction of Effinger Street School, where Miss Simms taught alongside her half-brother, Ulysses Grant Wilson, for the next 52 years. At Effinger, she took on what was often described as a maternal role with her students, treating them with kindness, high expectations, and respect."

In 2020, Dale E. MacAllister published his book about Lucy Simms, "Lucy Frances Simms, From Slavery To Revered Public Servant".



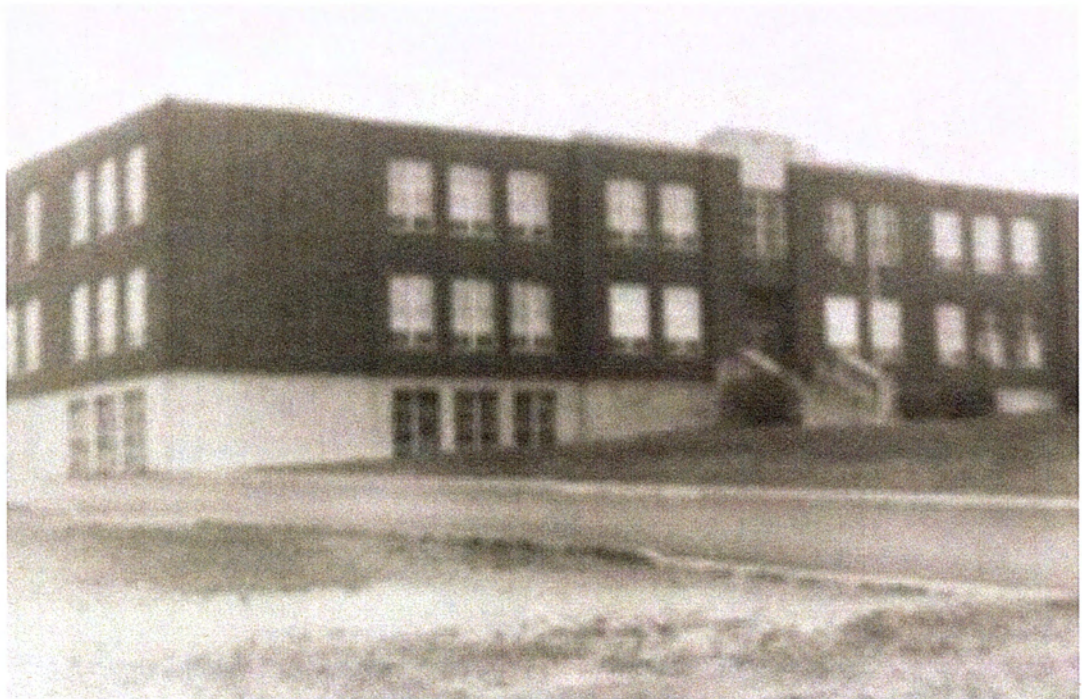
Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 18:

Lucy F. Simms Center; 620 Simms Ave Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; active today

- Continue east on E Johnson St
- It dead ends at Simms Ave (Simms Center is in front of you)
- Make a left onto Simms Ave
- Make right into the Lucy F. Simms Center parking lot

The Lucy F. Simms Center originally was the Lucy F. Simms School. It has been added onto, but the original part of the building still faces Simms Avenue. The original lockers, stage and several classrooms remain to remind us of the school's important past.

In the main corridor outside the auditorium is a photo exhibit, "Celebrating Simms". You can explore the exhibit online at <https://omeka.lib.jmu.edu/simms/celebrating-simms-exhibit>



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 19:

Ralph Sampson Park; 430 E Washington St, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; active today

- Exit the Simms parking lot
- Make a right onto Simms Ave
- Make a right onto E Washington St
- Drive up the hill and the park is on your right
- Pull into the parking lot

Ralph Sampson Park is located on East Washington Street and covers 31 acres. The park has two picnic shelters, restroom facilities, two tennis courts, three basketball courts, playground equipment, a sports field, and horseshoe pits.

A recently added, natural surface walking trail (0.3 miles) runs through the park as well. This park surrounds the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center.

Located on East Washington Street on the site of the former Hilltop Plantation (c. 1820-1874) now a city park named for Harrisonburg native and famous basketball player Ralph Sampson Jr. Sampson is a four-time All-Star, an NBA Rookie of the Year and an NBA All-Star Game MVP(1985).



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 20:

Newtown Cemetery; Hill St, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; active today

- Exit the parking lot and make a left onto E Washington St and go back down the hill to Simms Ave
- Make a left onto Simms Ave
- Drive past the Lucy F Simm Center
- Make a left onto Kelley St, the Cemetery is on your right
- Go to Hill St and make a left. You are now at the top of the cemetery

Newtown Cemetery is an historic cemetery. It is bounded on the north by E Kelley Street, the west by Sterling Street and the east by Hill Street. It is bisected by an extension of Effinger Street.

The roughly 4-acre parcel has been the primary burial ground for the city's African-American dead since its founding in 1869. It is estimated to hold 900 graves.

Educator Lucy F. Simms is buried here. Doc Dickerson is buried here in an unmarked grave. John Cooper is also buried here. He served with the United States Colored Troops. There are many buried here, who served our country.

In 2021, Governor Terry McAuliffe visited the SVBHP Heritage Center and walked to the cemetery to visit Lucy Simms' grave. The Governor admires Lucy F. Simms and her contributions to her community.



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 21:

SVBHP Heritage Center; 425 Hill St, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; open by appointment

- Continue south on Hill Street
- The SVBHP Heritage Center is a short distance on your right. It is next to the Cemetery on Hill Street.

The Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project opened their Heritage Center in 2018. Open by appointment, the center has a large library and growing archive.

The SVBHP has helped over 100 families with their family trees. Programs include Honoring Shenandoah Valley Soul Food History and Chefs and All Black Sports Reunions as well recovering and identifying burial grounds. Our Intern Program explores topics like Early Schools, Musicians and the Arts.

The Roots Run Deep website has the research being done for the African American History Tours in the Shenandoah Valley.

For more information visit: <https://www.rootsrundeeep.org> or <https://www.valleyblackheritage.org>



Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 22:

John Wesley United Methodist Church; 445 Sterling Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; active

- Turn around and return to E Kelley St via Hill St
- Make a left onto E Kelley St
- Make a left onto Sterling St
- John Wesley United Methodist Church is on your right just past Effinger St

In 2020, John Wesley United Methodist Church celebrated 155 years of service. One of the Churches first places of worship was on one of William Peters' (Site 5) properties. A church was built near Black's Run following the Civil War.



From right to left Henry Winfield Vickers, Charlie Williams, Andrew Temple, Flemming Jordan standing behind Elon Rhodes. In front of John Wesley Methodist Church

Driving and Walking Instructions to Site 23:

Court Square; 68 Court Square, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802;
active today

- Continue on Sterling St to E Market St
- Make a right onto E Market St
- You will come to Court Square and the driving is one way around the Courthouse
- Make a right onto Main St
- Make a left and then another left as you drive around Court Square. Look for parking.
- The last two Sites are a short walk from each other.

The Historic Courthouse in Harrisonburg serves Rockingham County and the city of Harrisonburg.

In 2020, a Historic Highway Marker was added to the Courthouse grounds. It reads:

"Charlotte Harris Lynched, 6 March 1878. About a dozen disguised people took Charlotte Harris from the custody of jailers in eastern Rockingham County on the night of 6 March 1878 and hanged her from a tree approximately 13 miles southeast of here. This is the only documented lynching of an African American woman in Virginia, and it received nationwide attention. A grand jury that met here failed to identify any of the lynchers. Harris had been accused of inciting a young African American man to burn the barn of a white farmer. This man was later acquitted on all charges. More than 4,000 lynchings took place in the United States between 1877 and 1950; more than 100 people, primarily African American men, were lynched in Virginia."

Walking Instructions to Site 24:

Harry Lee's Shoe Shine Parlor; 57 S Main Street,
Harrisonburg, VA, 22802; Office in building today

- From the Highway Marker on Court Square, walk to Main St
- Make a right onto S Main St
- The Site will be on your right

Driving Instructions to Site 24:

- Drive to Main St from Court Square and Charlotte Harris' Highway Marker
- Make a left onto Main St
- Make the next right on E Market St
- Make your first right onto S Federal St

(Note: there is a public parking lot on Federal Street. This is the best place to go to stop and see Site 24.)

- Make a right onto E Water St
- Make a right onto S Main St
- The Site will be a short distance on your left

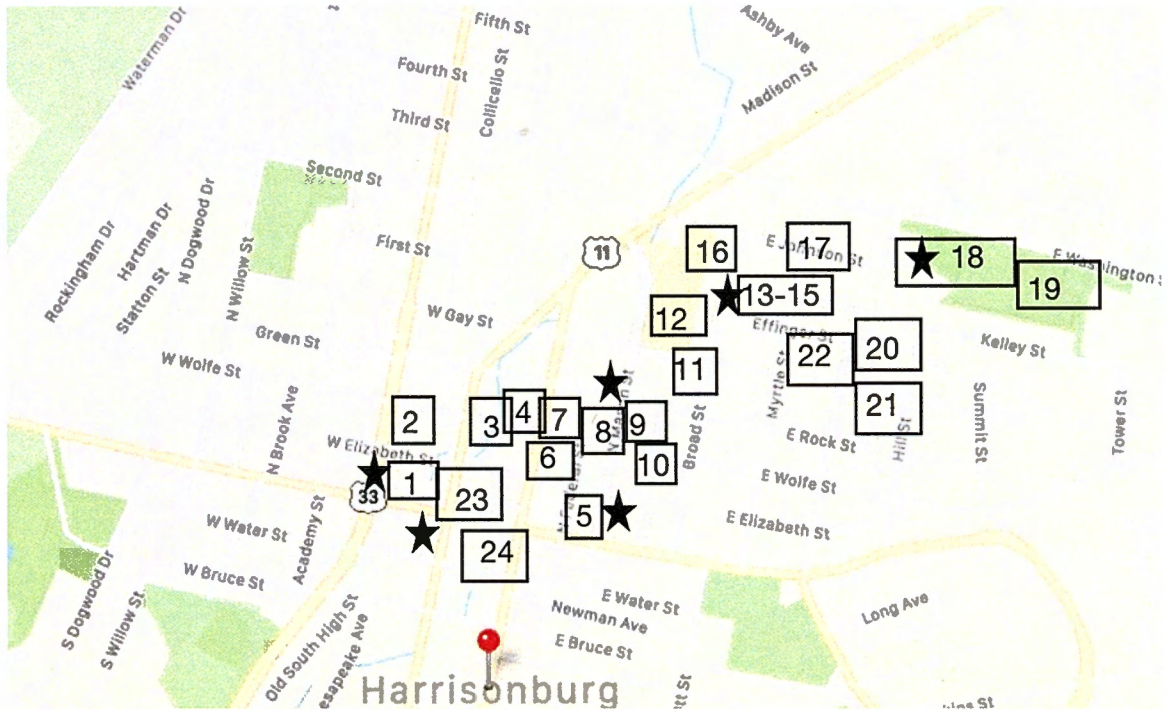
Harry Lee Solomon was born in Harrisonburg, Virginia on March 15th 1896 and died of natural causes on January 18th, 1960 at the age of 63.

Solomon owned a local shoe shine shop called, "Harry Lee's Shoe Shine Parlor". Solomon was known as more than just a shoeshiner, though. He was known and respected by the entire Harrisonburg community as a most talented musician. He sang for local quartets and at his church.

Solomon was also part of the band, Aces of Rhythm, as the pianist and backup vocalist. Solomon and his fellow band members made a name for themselves in the Harrisonburg and Shenandoah Valley communities respectfully. The band was known to play at local clubs, establishments, schools, and more. Known musical groups: Aces of Rhythm, The Shenandoah Comedy Four and the Night Hawk Orchestra.

Written by Ray Bahlaiwa.

Roots Run Deep, Harrisonburg, Virginia; An African American History Tour



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jail Hill, Otterbein Methodist Church Parking Lot, 176 W Market St 2. Strother House, 170 N High St, <i>still standing</i> 3. Jeremiah Gibson's workshop, 188 N Liberty Street 4. Hite Family Home, 227 N Main St 5. Joshua and William Peters' Properties, 75 N Mason St 6. The Blue Circle 30 Club, 145 E Wolfe Street 7. The Vicker's home, 138 E Wolfe St 8. First Baptist Church, 213 N Mason St 9. Doc Dickerson's house, 203 E Wolfe, <i>still standing</i> 10. Miss Jenny's Tea Room/Jennie's Chicken Shack, 255 E Wolfe Street 11. Mary Fairfax's home, 395 Broad St, <i>still standing</i> 12. Effinger Street School, Roses Parking lot | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Dallard-Newman House, 184 Kelley St, <i>still standing</i> 14. Bethel AME Church, 184 Kelley St, <i>historic church still active</i> 15. Miss Lena's Store, 165 Kelley St, <i>still standing</i> 16. First Baptist Church today, 611 Broad St, <i>active</i> 17. Lucy F. Simms home, 231 E Johnson Street, <i>still standing</i> 18. Lucy F. Simms Center, 620 Simms Ave, <i>active</i> 19. Ralph Sampson Park, <i>active</i> 20. Newtown Cemetery, Hill Street, <i>historic cemetery</i> 21. SVBHP Heritage Center, 425 Hill St, <i>open by appointment</i> 22. John Wesley United Methodist Church, 445 Sterling St, <i>active</i> 23. Historic Courthouse, 80 Court Square, <i>still standing</i> |
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Places you can stop to read and look at the Traipse App or www.rootsrundeep.org





Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project's

Roots Run Deep

African American History Tours in
the Shenandoah Valley

You can pick up maps and brochures about our tours at:

- SVBHP Heritage Center, 425 Hill St, Harrisonburg, VA 22802
- Harrisonburg Tourism located inside the Hardesty-Higgins House Visitor Center, 212 S. Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801
- Lucy F. Simms Center, 620 Simms Ave., Harrisonburg, VA 22802
- The Friendly City Food Co-op, 150 E. Wolfe St. Harrisonburg, VA 22802
- And at member businesses of Downtown Harrisonburg.



Stop #6, The Blue Circle 30 Club



Stop #9. Doc
Dickerson's house



Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project's

Roots Run Deep

Harrisonburg, Virginia



This tour is possible through the generous financial support of the following: The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, Karen Brooks Hopkins and The Jerome L. Greene Foundation, Crescent Cities Charities, the Cargill family, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brown through The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, Dr. & Mrs. Steven E. Gardner, Steven Garner Family Fund of the Community Foundation, Heather Kline and friends, House of Oak and Sofa, and Special thanks to the Harrisonburg Reparations Group and the Friends of the SVBHP for their monthly donations.



T R A I P S E

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