



State of Delaware
Historical Markers Program
celebrates

BLACK
HiSTORY
MONTH



Thank you for joining us as we recognize the achievements, the milestones, and the legacy of Delaware's rich African American history.

We honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Delawareans in every area of endeavor throughout our state's history including civil rights, social change, politics, education, the arts, and athletics.

The Delaware Historical Marker Program began in 1931 when the General Assembly of Delaware passed an act establishing a commission to erect historical markers throughout the state. These markers celebrate historic significance based on their influence, effect, or impact on the course of history or cultural development in Delaware. Since the beginning of the program in the 1930s, the State of Delaware has erected more than 700 markers, **95 are related to Black history**. The Delaware Public Archives has administered the Historical Markers Program since 1990.

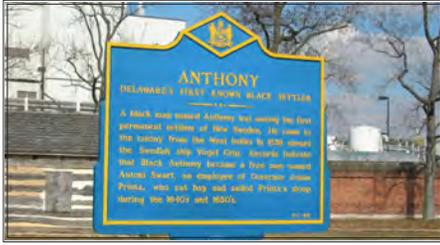
In this booklet, we have listed every historical marker that pays tribute to those individuals, organizations, and events that have contributed to Black history in Delaware and enriched our state.

Updated February 2026 Delaware Public Archives

Front Cover Photo:
May Day Crowning Ceremony at Phyllis Wheatley School
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Photo digitally enhanced
Resource ID: 8005-000-015_1658p



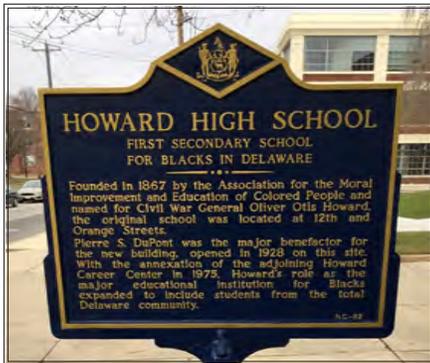
NEW CASTLE COUNTY



1110 East 7th Street
WILMINGTON

ANTHONY - Delaware's First Known Black Settler

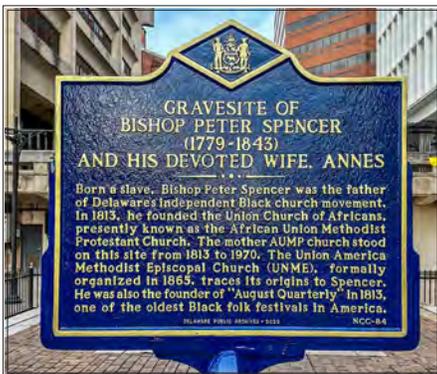
A black man named Anthony was among the first permanent settlers of New Sweden. He came to the colony from the West Indies in 1639 aboard the Swedish ship Vogel Grip. Records indicate that Black Anthony became a free man named Antoni Swart, an employee of Governor Johan Printz, who cut hay and sailed Printz's sloop during the 1640's and 1650's. **NCC-80**



1301 Clifford Brown Walk
WILMINGTON

HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL - First Secondary School For Blacks In Delaware

Founded in 1867 by the Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of Colored People and named for Civil War General Oliver Otis Howard, the original school was located at 12th and Orange Streets. Pierre S. DuPont was the major benefactor for the new building, opened in 1928 on this site. With the annexation of the adjoining Howard Career Center in 1975, Howard's role as the major educational institution for Blacks expanded to include students from the total Delaware community. **NCC-82**



800 North French Street
WILMINGTON

GRAVESITE OF BISHOP PETER SPENCER (1779-1843) AND HIS DEVOTED WIFE, ANNES

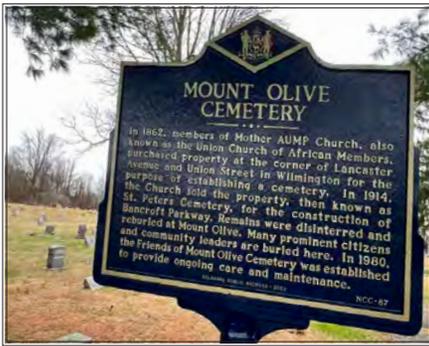
Born a slave, Bishop Spencer was the father of Delaware's independent Black church movement. In 1813, he founded the Union Church of Africans, presently known as the African Union Methodist Protestant Church. The mother AUMP church stood on this site from 1813 to 1970. The Union American Methodist Episcopal Church (UAME), formally organized in 1865, traces its origins to Spencer. He was also the founder of "August Quarterly" in 1813, one of the oldest Black folk festivals in America. **NCC-84**



New Castle Avenue and
S. Claymont Street
WILMINGTON

SOUTH WILMINGTON - Cradle of African American Political Leadership

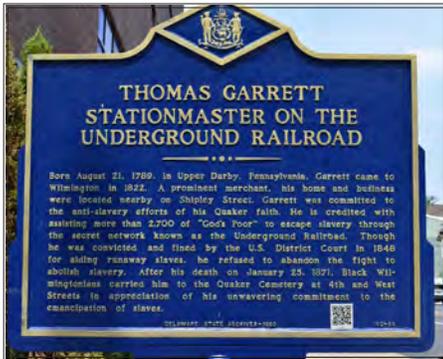
William J. Winchester, after serving 16 years on Wilmington City Council, became the first of his race elected to the Delaware House of Representatives. He served from 1948 until his death in 1952. Herman M. Holloway, Sr., became the first African-American elected to the State Senate in 1964. Henrietta Johnson was the first African-American female elected to the House of Representatives, serving from 1970-1978. **NCC-86**



4003 Lancaster Pike
WILMINGTON

MOUNT OLIVE CEMETERY

In 1862, the members of Mother AUMP Church, also known as the Union Church of African Members, purchased property at the corner of Lancaster Avenue and Union Street in Wilmington for the purpose of establishing a cemetery. In 1914, the Church sold the property, then known as St. Peter's Cemetery, for the construction of Bancroft Parkway. Remains were disinterred and reburied at Mount Olive. Many prominent citizens and community leaders are buried here. In 1980, the Friends of Mount Olive Cemetery was established to provide ongoing care and maintenance. **NCC-87**



4th and Shipley Streets
WILMINGTON

THOMAS GARRETT - Stationmaster On The Underground Railroad

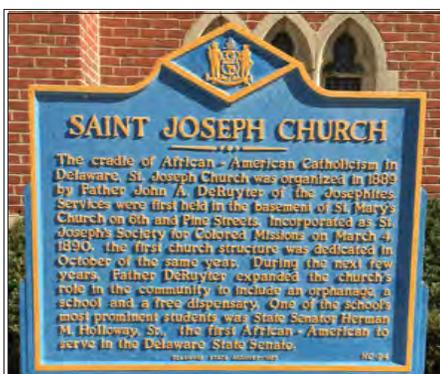
Born August 21, 1789, in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, Garrett came to Wilmington in 1822. A prominent merchant, his home and business were located nearby on Shipley Street. Garrett was committed to the anti-slavery efforts of his Quaker faith. He is credited with assisting more than 2,700 of "God's Poor" to escape slavery through the secret network known as the Underground Railroad. Though he was convicted and fined by the U.S. District Court in 1848 for aiding runaway slaves, he refused to abandon the fight to abolish slavery. After his death on January 25, 1871, Black Wilmingtonians carried him to the Quaker Cemetery at 4th and West Streets in appreciation of his unwavering commitment to the emancipation of slaves. **NCC-88**



624 Main Street
ODESSA

APPOQUINIMINK FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Believed to be one of the smallest Quaker Meeting Houses in the nation, the Appoquinimink Friends Meeting House was built in 1785 by David Wilson and presented to the Friends as a gift. Local tradition identifies this structure as a stop on the Underground Railroad during the years preceding the Civil War. While enroute to destinations north of Delaware, runaway slaves would hide in the loft of the church in order to escape capture. Prominent local Quakers who served as agents on the Railroad included John Alston and John Hunn. The Appoquinimink Friends Meeting House was placed on the national Register of Historic Places in 1972. **NCC-90**



1012 North French Street
WILMINGTON

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

The cradle of African-American Catholicism in Delaware, St. Joseph Church was organized in 1889 by Father John A. DeRuyter of the Josephites. Services were first held in the basement of St. Mary's Church on 6th and Pine Streets. Incorporated as St. Joseph's Society for Colored Missions on March 4, 1890, the first church structure was dedicated in October of the same year. During the next few years, Father DeRuyter expanded the church's role in the community to include an orphanage, a school and a free dispensary. One of the school's most prominent students was State Senator Herman M. Holloway, Sr., the first African-American to serve in the Delaware State Senate. **NCC-94**

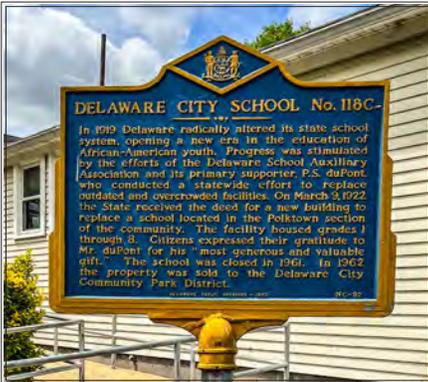




3701 Kiamensi Road
WILMINGTON

THE HOME OF WILLIAM JULIUS "JUDY" JOHNSON

In 1975, William Julius "Judy" Johnson became the first Delawarean elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. During his career, 1921 through 1936, Johnson was considered the best third baseman in the Negro Leagues. In 1935, Johnson served as captain of the Pittsburgh Crawfords, a team that also featured Hall of Famers Satchel Paige, Oscar Charleston, Josh Gibson and Cool Papa Bell. Later he served as a scout for the Philadelphia Athletics, the Philadelphia Phillies, and the Milwaukee Braves. This house, where Johnson and his wife Anita lived for 55 years, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. [NCC-95](#)



611 Madison Street
DELAWARE CITY

DELAWARE CITY SCHOOL NO. 118C

In 1919, Delaware radically altered its state school system, opening a new era in the education of African-American youth. Progress was stimulated by the efforts of the Delaware School Auxiliary Association and its primary supporter, P.S. du Pont, who conducted a statewide effort to replace outdated and overcrowded facilities. On March 9, 1922, the State received the deed for a new building to replace a school located in the Polktown section of the community. The facility housed grades one through eight. Citizens expressed their gratitude to Mr. du Pont for his "most generous and valuable gift." The school was closed in 1961. In 1962 the property was sold to the Delaware City Community Park District. [NCC-97](#)



3301 Green Street
CLAYMONT

OLD CLAYMONT HIGH SCHOOL

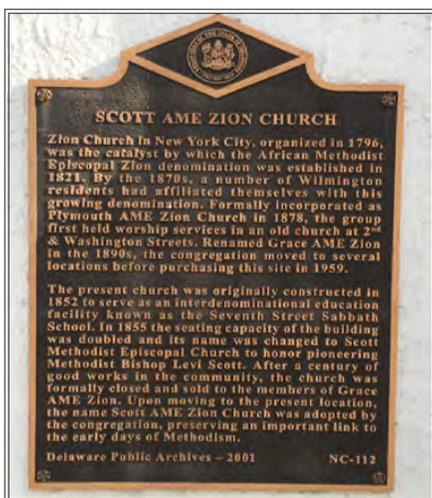
Constructed 1924-25. Also known as the Green Street School. Prominent in United States history as the first public high school in the 17 segregated states to be legally integrated. In January 1951, eight black students applied for admission. Due to the "separate but equal" education system in place at that time, the Claymont Board of Education was unable to permit their entry. In July 1951, noted civil rights attorney Louis L. Redding of Wilmington filed a civil action suit seeking the students' admission. On April 1, 1952, Delaware Chancellor Collins J. Seitz rendered his landmark decision, declaring that opportunities for black students in local schools were not equal to those of whites and that the situation should be remedied immediately. This decision was upheld by the Delaware Supreme Court. On September 3, 1952, the Claymont Board voted to admit 12 students, who with their parents, the board, and Redding, swiftly made legal preparation for their admission September 4. When school administrators were ordered September 5 by the State Board of Education and Delaware Attorney General to send the students home to await a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Claymont Superintendent H.E. Stahl and the local Board refused, successfully insisting that the students stay enrolled. Mrs. Pauline Dyson, a long-time teacher of Claymont's black students, worked closely with school district officials and the community to ensure the success of the effort. The Delaware case was later included for argument in the famous Brown vs. Board of Education suit. Claymont's first integrated class graduated in 1954. High school classes were moved to another facility in 1969. Middle school classes were located here until 1978. In 1980 the building became the home of the Claymont Community Center. [NCC-99](#)



604 North Walnut Street
WILMINGTON

BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

On May 10, 1846, a group of African-American residents of Wilmington who had affiliated themselves with the African Methodist Episcopal Church held a meeting for the purposes of electing trustees and organizing as a corporate body. At the time, approximately 15 families were meeting from house to house, worshipping under the direction of ministers from Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia. The following September, the congregation purchased land at 12th and Elizabeth Streets on which a church was to be erected. The new structure was dedicated in April 1847. In 1853 the congregation relocated to a site at 6th and Penn Streets. They continued to worship there until 1865 when their need for a larger building led them to purchase the present site, where the Zion Evangelical German Lutheran Church then stood. The old building was used until 1878 when it was demolished and a new structure was built here. A tragic fire led to the complete destruction of the church on New Year's Day, 1935. On March 5, 1939, the members of the Bethel A.M.E. Church dedicated their new house of worship. The church was expanded in 1976 with the opening of the adjoining Multipurpose Building. [NCC-102](#)



629 East 7th Street
WILMINGTON

SCOTT AME ZION CHURCH

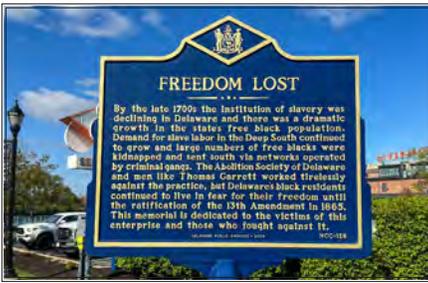
Zion Church in New York City, organized in 1796, was the catalyst by which the African Methodist Episcopal Zion denomination was established in 1821. By the 1870s, a number of Wilmington residents had affiliated themselves with this growing denomination. Formally incorporated as Plymouth AME Zion Church in 1878, the group first held worship services in an old church at 2nd & Washington Streets. Renamed Grace AME Zion in the 1890s, the congregation moved to several locations before purchasing this site in 1959. The present church was originally constructed in 1852 to serve as an interdenominational education facility known as the Seventh Street Sabbath School. In 1855 the seating capacity of the building was doubled and its name was changed to Scott Methodist Episcopal Church to honor pioneering Methodist Bishop Levi Scott. After a century of good works in the community, the church was formally closed and sold to the members of Grace AME Zion. Upon moving to the present location, the name Scott AME Zion Church was adopted by the congregation, preserving an important link to the early days of Methodism. [NCC-112](#)



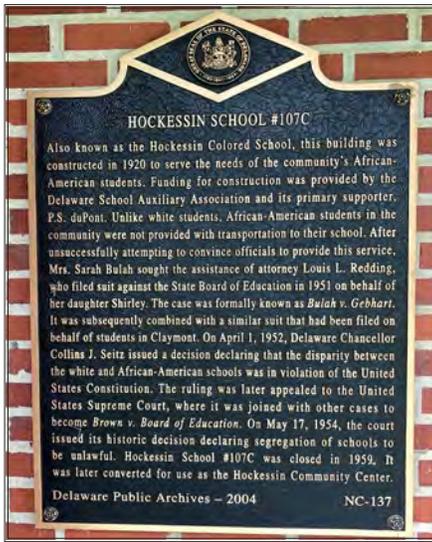
401 N West Street
WILMINGTON

WILMINGTON FRIENDS MEETING - Burial Place of Thomas Garrett

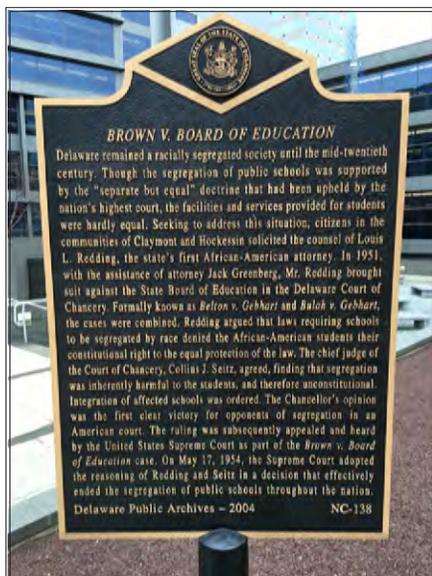
The first Meeting House on this site was built in 1738. It was replaced in 1748 when a larger building was constructed. The old Meeting House was then converted into a school. Known as Wilmington Friends School, it was relocated to a new facility in 1937, and is the oldest existing school in the state. The present Meeting House was built in 1816. Wilmington was the last major stop on the East Coast overland route of the Underground Railroad. One of the central figures of this clandestine network was Thomas Garrett, a Wilmington resident and member of this Meeting, who was known as the "Stationmaster of the Underground Railroad." Found guilty of violating the Fugitive Slave Law in 1848, he was forced to sell his possessions to pay his fine. Many were purchased and returned to him by members of the Meeting and other supporters. Garrett is credited with helping more than 2,700 slaves escape to freedom. His last public appearance was as presiding officer of a suffrage meeting, continuing his dedication to the still held Quaker tenets of Simplicity, Equality, and Peace. Following his death in 1871, he was laid to rest in the adjoining burial ground. [NCC-125](#)



Entrance to Riverside Park at intersection
of S. Shipley and S. Market Streets
WILMINGTON



Millcreek Road, 200 ft south of
intersection of Millcreek Road
and Grant Avenue
HOCKESSIN



500 N. King Street
WILMINGTON

FREEDOM LOST

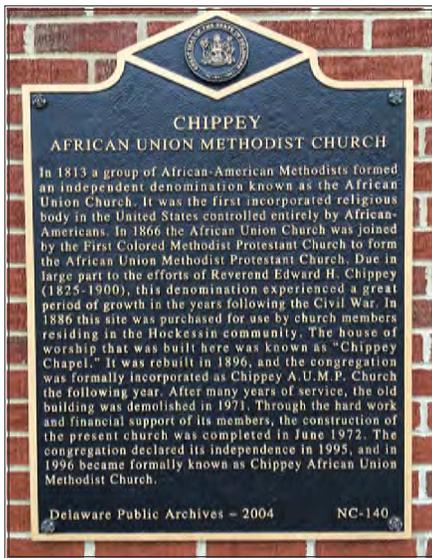
By the late 1700s, the institution of slavery was declining in Delaware and there was a dramatic growth in the state's free black population. Demand for slave labor in the Deep South continued to grow and large numbers of free blacks were kidnapped and sent south via networks operated by criminal gangs. The Abolition Society of Delaware and men like Thomas Garrett worked tirelessly against the practice, but Delaware's black residents continued to live in fear for their freedom until the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865. This memorial is dedicated to the victims of this enterprise and those who fought against it. **NCC-128**

HOCKESSIN SCHOOL #107C

Also known as the Hockessin Colored School, this building was constructed in 1920 to serve the needs of the community's African-American students. Funding for construction was provided by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association and its primary supporter, P.S. du Pont. Unlike white students, African-American students in the community were not provided with transportation to their school. After unsuccessfully attempting to convince officials to provide this service, Mrs. Sarah Bulah sought the assistance of attorney Louis L. Redding, who filed suit against the State Board of Education in 1951 on behalf of her daughter Shirley. The case was formally known as *Bulah v. Gebhart*. It was subsequently combined with a similar suit that had been filed on behalf of students in Claymont. On April 1, 1952, Delaware Chancellor Collins J. Seitz issued a decision declaring that the disparity between the white and African-American schools was in violation of the United States Constitution. The ruling was later appealed to the United States Supreme Court, where it was joined with other cases to become *Brown v. Board of Education*. On May 17, 1954, the court issued its historic decision declaring segregation of schools to be unlawful. Hockessin School #107C was closed in 1959. It was later converted for use as the Hockessin Community Center. **NCC-137**

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Delaware remained a racially segregated society until the mid-twentieth century. Though the segregation of public schools was supported by the "separate but equal" doctrine that had been upheld by the nation's highest court, the facilities and services provided for whites and African-Americans were hardly equal. Seeking to address this situation, citizens in the communities of Claymont and Hockessin solicited the counsel of Louis L. Redding, the state's first African-American attorney. In 1951, with the assistance of attorney Jack Greenberg, Mr. Redding brought suit against the State Board of Education in the Delaware Court of Chancery. Formally known as *Belton v. Gebhart* and *Bulah v. Gebhart*, the cases were combined. Redding argued that laws requiring schools to be segregated by race denied the African-American students their constitutional right to the equal protection of the law. The chief judge of the Court of Chancery, Collins J. Seitz, agreed, finding that segregation was inherently harmful to the students, and therefore unconstitutional. Integration of affected schools was ordered. The Chancellor's opinion was the first clear victory for opponents of segregation in an American court. The ruling was subsequently appealed and heard by the United States Supreme Court as part of the *Brown v. Board of Education* case. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court adopted the reasoning of Redding and Seitz in a decision that effectively ended the segregation of public schools throughout the nation. **NCC-138**



4272 Millcreek Road
HOCKESSIN

CHIPPEY AFRICAN UNION METHODIST CHURCH

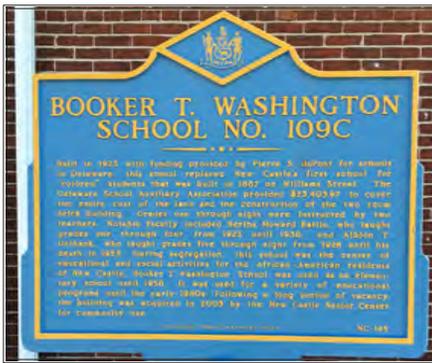
In 1813, a group of African-American Methodists formed an independent denomination known as the African Union Church. It was the first incorporated religious body in the United States controlled entirely by African-Americans. In 1866 the African Union Church was joined by the First Colored Methodist Protestant Church to form the African Union Methodist Protestant Church. Due in large part to the efforts of Reverend Edward H. Chippey (1825-1900), this denomination experienced a great period of growth in the years following the Civil War. In 1886 this site was purchased for use by church members residing in the Hockessin community. The house of worship that was built here was known as "Chippey Chapel." It was rebuilt in 1896, and the congregation was formally incorporated as Chippey A.U.M.P. Church the following year. After many years of service, the old building was demolished in 1971. Through the hard work and financial support of its members, the construction of the present church was completed in June 1972. The congregation declared its independence in 1995, and in 1996 became formally known as Chippey African Union Methodist Church. **NCC-140**



800 N Walnut Street
WILMINGTON

EZION-MOUNT CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

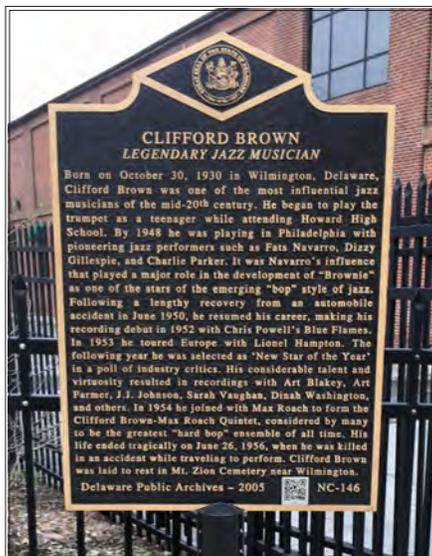
In 1805, a group of African-Americans, desiring greater freedom of worship, withdrew from Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church to form a separate congregation. Led by Peter Spencer and William Anderson, they established what was then known as the African M. E. Church at 9th and French Streets. This was Delaware's first church to be organized by African-Americans. The original house of worship was replaced by a new brick structure on the site in 1870. It was formally renamed Ezion Methodist Episcopal Church in 1885 and was rebuilt the following year after a devastating fire. The congregation continued to worship there until 1971. Mount Carmel Methodist Episcopal Church was established on Forrest Street in 1920 by a group of Wilmington residents who had migrated from lower Delaware. The congregation later moved to 304 E. 11th Street, and in 1942 they relocated again to 924 Lombard Street. On February 14, 1971, the congregations of the two churches officially merged to form Ezion-Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church. Construction of the present building was commenced in February 1973. The new church was formally consecrated on April 28, 1974. **NCC-143**



400 South Street
NEW CASTLE

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL

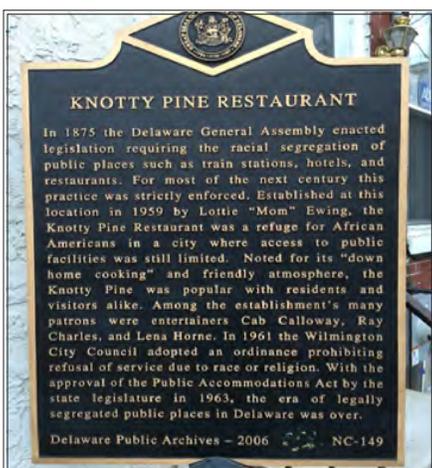
Built in 1923 with funding provided by Pierre S. duPont for schools in Delaware, this school replaced New Castle's first school for "colored" students that was built in 1867 on Williams street. The Delaware School Auxiliary Association provided \$23,405.97 to cover the entire cost of the land and the construction of the two room brick building. Grades one through eight were instructed by two teachers. Notable faculty included Bertha Howard Battle, who taught grades one through four from 1923 until 1938, and Albion T. Unthank, who taught grades five through eight from 1926 until his death in 1953. During segregation, this school was the center of educational and social activities for the African-American residents of New Castle. Booker T. Washington School was used as an elementary school until 1958. It was used for a variety of educational programs until the early 1980s. Following a long period of vacancy, the building was acquired in 2005 by the New Castle Senior Center for community use. [NCC-145](#)



1500 Clifford Brown Walk
WILMINGTON

CLIFFORD BROWN - Legendary Jazz Musician

Born on October 30, 1930 in Wilmington, Delaware, Clifford Brown was one of the most influential jazz musicians of the mid-20th century. He began to play the trumpet as a teenager while attending Howard High School. By 1948 he was playing in Philadelphia with pioneering jazz performers such as Fats Navarro, Dizzy Gillespie, and Charlie Parker. It was Navarro's influence that played a major role in the development of "Brownie" as one of the stars of the emerging "bop" style of jazz. Following a lengthy recovery from an automobile accident in June 1950, he resumed his career, making his recording debut in 1952 with Chris Powell's Blue Flames. In 1953 he toured Europe with Lionel Hampton. The following year he was selected as 'New Star of the Year' in a poll of industry critics. His considerable talent and virtuosity resulted in recordings with Art Blakey, Art Farmer, J. J. Johnson, Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, and others. In 1954 he joined with Max Roach to form the Clifford Brown-Max Roach Quintet, considered by many to be the greatest "hard bop" ensemble of all time. His life ended tragically on June 26, 1956, when he was killed in an accident while traveling to perform. Clifford Brown was laid to rest in Wilmington's Mt. Zion Cemetery. [NCC-146](#)



308 E. 11th Street
WILMINGTON

KNOTTY PINE RESTAURANT

In 1875, the Delaware General Assembly enacted legislation requiring the racial segregation of public places such as train stations, hotels, and restaurants. For most of the next century, this practice was strictly enforced. Established at this location in 1959, by Lottie "Mom" Ewing, the Knotty Pine Restaurant was a refuge for African Americans in a city where access to public facilities was still limited. Noted for its "down home cooking" and friendly atmosphere, the Knotty Pine was popular with residents and visitors alike. Among the establishment's many patrons were entertainers Cab Calloway, Ray Charles, and Lena Horne. In 1961 the Wilmington City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting refusal of service due to race or religion. With the approval of the Public Accommodations Act by the state legislature in 1963, the era of legally segregated public places in Delaware was over. [NCC-149](#)



215 W. 23rd Street
WILMINGTON

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

The origin of this congregation can be traced to 1875, when members of a Sunday School class affiliated with First Baptist Church met to plan the organization of a separate church to serve the needs of the city's African-American residents. Formally organized on May 31, 1876, Shiloh was the first African-American Baptist church in the State of Delaware. The first pastor was Reverend Benjamin T. Moore, who continued to serve in that capacity until his death in 1928. For several years meetings were held in the Old Masonic Hall on West 12th Street. The rapid growth of the congregation resulted in a demand for additional space. Construction of a church at the corner of 12th and Orange Streets was initiated in 1881. Members continued to worship there until 1946, when the old building was sold and the congregation moved to the former site of East Baptist Church at 5th and Walnut Streets. The sale of that property to the City of Wilmington resulted in the completion of a new church on this site in 1972. A desire to extend Shiloh's active Outreach Ministry to the community led to the purchase of additional property in 1994.

[NCC-152](#)



Near 131 Hickman Road
CLAYMONT

HICKMAN ROW

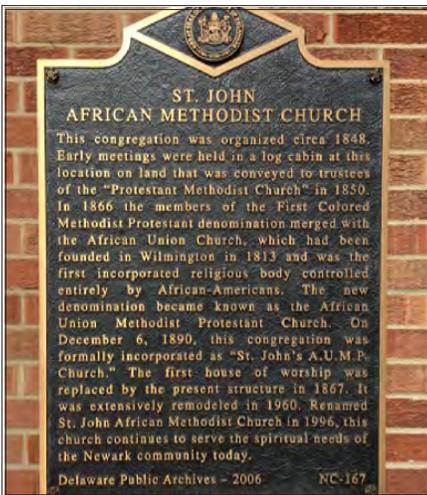
The industrial expansion of Brandywine Hundred in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was largely reflective of national trends in the growth and development of heavy industry. As large corporations moved to locations outside of major cities, some industrialists recognized the benefits of providing a living environment for workers close to factories. Through the efforts of the Worth Steel Corporation, the community of Hickman Row was constructed to serve as segregated housing for the company's African American workforce. Many residents were part of the great exodus of African Americans who fled the South to escape racism and pursue economic opportunity. Completed in 1919, the buildings were designed as simple brick row houses facing the street with back lots large enough to raise vegetables and livestock. These amenities made the homes particularly attractive to families who had formerly farmed and raised cattle. The intimate nature of the design promoted a strong sense of community, emotionally supporting families seeking a new life and friendships in a foreign place. When the buildings were sold by the company in 1962, many African American families continued to live here and build new homes nearby. The Hickman Row Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

[NCC-162](#)



Tweed's Park, 100 Fitness Way
HOCKESSIN

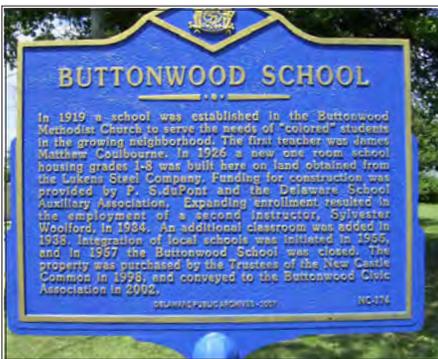
THE BULAH FAMILY AND BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION
 After several failed attempts to convince Delaware's Department of Public Instruction to provide transportation of black children at Hockessin Colored School #107C to local white schools, Fred and Sarah Bulah who lived near this site with their daughter Shirley enlisted the help of Louis Redding and Jack Greenberg. The cases *Belton v. Gebhart* (1952) and *Bulah v. Gebhart* (1952) were filed in the Delaware Court of Chancery. Chancellor Collins J. Seitz ruled the plaintiffs were being denied equal protection of the law and ordered that the eleven children involved be admitted to the white Claymont and Hockessin schools. The case became part of *Brown v. Board of Education*. **NCC-164**



77 New London Road
NEWARK

ST. JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH

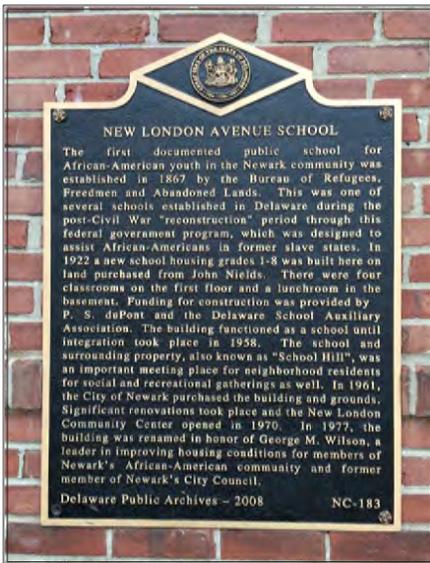
This congregation was organized circa 1848. Early meetings were held in a log cabin at this location on land that was conveyed to trustees of the "Protestant Methodist Church" in 1850. In 1866 the members of the First Colored Methodist Protestant denomination merged with the African Union Church, which had been founded in Wilmington in 1813 and was the first incorporated religious body controlled entirely by African-Americans. The new denomination became known as the African Union Methodist Protestant Church. On December 6, 1890, this congregation was formally incorporated as "St. John's A.U.M.P. Church." The first house of worship was replaced by the present structure in 1867. It was extensively remodeled in 1960. Renamed St. John African Methodist Church in 1996, this church continues to serve the spiritual needs of the Newark community today. **NCC-167**



111 Buttonwood Avenue
NEW CASTLE

BUTTONWOOD SCHOOL

In 1919, a school was established in the Buttonwood Methodist Church to serve the needs of "colored" students in the growing neighborhood. The first teacher was James Matthew Coulbourne. In 1926 a new one-room school housing grades 1-8 was built here on land obtained from the Lukens Steel Company. Funding for construction was provided by P.S. duPont and the Delaware School Auxiliary Association. Expanding enrollment resulted in the employment of a second instructor, Sylvester Woolford, in 1934. An additional classroom was added in 1938. Integration of local schools was initiated in 1955, and in 1957 the Buttonwood School was closed. The property was purchased by the Trustees of the New Castle Common in 1998 and conveyed to the Buttonwood Civic Association in 2002. **NCC-174**

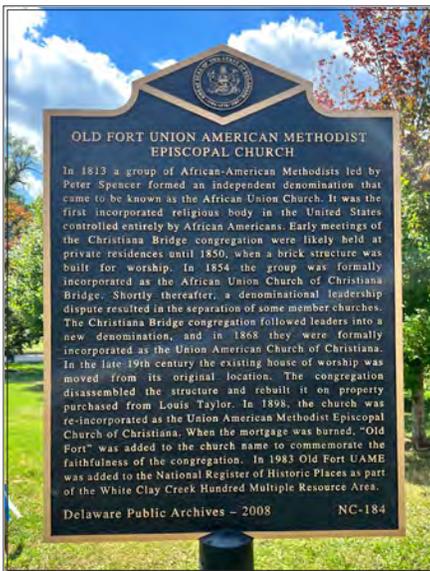


303 New London Road
NEWARK

NEW LONDON AVENUE SCHOOL

The first documented public school for African-American youth in the Newark community was established in 1867 by the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. This was one of several schools established in Delaware during the post-Civil War “reconstruction” period through this federal government program, which was designed to assist African-Americans in former slave states. In 1922 a new school housing grades 1-8 was built here on land purchased from John Nields. There were four classrooms on the first floor and a lunchroom in the basement. Funding for construction was provided by P. S. duPont and the Delaware School Auxiliary Association. The building functioned as a school until integration took place in 1958. The school and surrounding property, also known as “School Hill”, was an important meeting place for neighborhood residents for social and recreational gatherings as well. In 1961, the City of Newark purchased the building and grounds. Significant renovations took place and the New London Community Center opened in 1970. In 1977, the building was renamed in honor of George M. Wilson, a leader in improving housing conditions for members of Newark’s African-American community and former member of Newark’s City Council.

Delaware Public Archives – 2008 NC-183



37 North Old Baltimore Pike
NEWARK

OLD FORT UNION AMERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In 1813, a group of African-American Methodists led by Peter Spencer formed an independent denomination that came to be known as the African Union Church. It was the first incorporated religious body in the United States controlled entirely by African Americans. Early meetings of the Christiana Bridge congregation were likely held at private residences until 1850, when a brick structure was built for worship. In 1854 the group was formally incorporated as the African Union Church of Christiana Bridge. Shortly thereafter, a denominational leadership dispute resulted in the separation of some member churches. The Christiana Bridge congregation followed leaders into a new denomination, and in 1868 they were formally incorporated as the Union American Church of Christiana. In the late 19th century the existing house of worship was moved from its original location. The congregation disassembled the structure and rebuilt it on property purchased from Louis Taylor. In 1898, the church was re-incorporated as the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church of Christiana. When the mortgage was burned, “Old Fort” was added to the church name to commemorate the faithfulness of the congregation. In 1983 Old Fort UAME was added to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the White Clay Creek Hundred Multiple Resource Area.

Delaware Public Archives – 2008 NC-184





634 Grant Avenue
HOCKESSIN

FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN SCHOOLHOUSE IN HOCKESSIN

Local tradition states that a school was present at this location as early as 1829. However, in 1878 the first documented school for African-Americans in Hockessin was established in this vicinity. The school was funded and built primarily by the local African-American community and church. Additional support for materials, books, and the teacher's salary was provided by the Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of Colored People. Students typically attended school from two to five months between November and March to coincide with the agricultural off-season. Depending on the time of year, enrolled students varied from less than 10 to approximately 40. In 1891 responsibility for funding Delaware public schools was transferred to county superintendents and the school was placed in District 107. The land on which the school stood was sold in 1900 by Edward McGovern to Lodge No. 4 of the Colored American Protective Association. Shortly after, the land was conveyed to School District 107. In 1920 the original school was replaced by Hockessin School #107C (colored) on nearby Mill Creek Road, a school funded by P.S. duPont's Delaware School Auxiliary. The original 1878 schoolhouse is now incorporated into a private residence on this property.

NCC-194



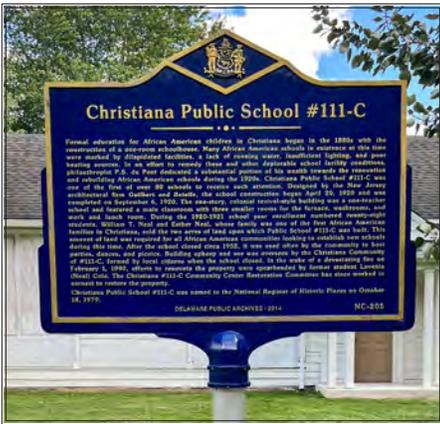
701 E. 5th Street
WILMINGTON

MOTHER UNION AMERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Established in 1813 by free African American Peter Spencer, the Union Church of Africans was the first independent African American religious denomination in the United States. After leaving Ashbury Methodist Episcopal Church to start Elon Methodist Church in 1805, Spencer broke with the Methodist Episcopal denomination completely in 1812 due to the barring of African American leadership within the church. As one of the founding churches under the auspices of the Union Church, Mother Union American Methodist Episcopal (UAME) was among the first of its kind to be organized and directed by African Americans, and was unique in its encouragement of significant female participation. Originally located at 12th and French Streets, Mother UAME moved to 701 East 5th Street in 1996. The Union Church denomination celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2013 and continues to serve the needs of its numerous domestic and international communities, thereby ensuring the perpetuation of Spencer's movement. In 2014, this historical marker was dedicated by and for the Church community with Presiding Bishops Rt. Reverend Michael S. Moulden and Rt. Reverend Linwood Rideout III, and Bishop George W. Pointdexter (Retired) in attendance.

NCC-200





40 N Old Baltimore Pike
NEWARK

CHRISTIANA PUBLIC SCHOOL #111-C

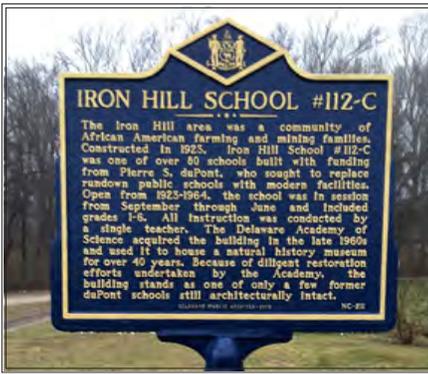
Formal education for African American children in Christiana began in the 1880s with the construction of a one-room schoolhouse. Many African American schools in existence at this time were marked by dilapidated facilities, a lack of running water, insufficient lighting, and poor heating systems. In an effort to remedy these and other deplorable school facility conditions, philanthropist P.S. du Pont dedicated a substantial portion of his wealth towards the renovation and rebuilding of African American schools during the 1920s. Christiana Public School #111-C was one of the first of over 80 schools to receive such attention. Designed by the New Jersey architectural firm Gullbert and Bertelle, school construction began April 20, 1920, and was completed on September 6, 1920. The one-story, colonial revival-style building was a one-teacher school and featured a main classroom with three smaller rooms for the furnace, washrooms, and work and lunch room. During the 1920-1921 school year enrollment numbered twenty-eight students. Richard and Ester Neal, whose family was one of the first African American families in Christiana, donated two acres upon which Public School #111-C was built. Such a donation of land was required of all African American communities looking to establish new schools during this time. After the school closed circa 1952, it was used often by the community to host parties, dances, and picnics, building upkeep and use was overseen by the Christiana Community of #111-C, formed by local citizens when the school closed. In the wake of a devastating fire on February 1, 1990, efforts to renovate the property were spearheaded by former student Lavenia (Neal) Cole. The Christiana #111-C Community Center Restoration Committee has since worked in earnest to restore the property. Christiana Public School #111-C was named the National Register of Historic Places on October 18, 1979. **NCC-205**



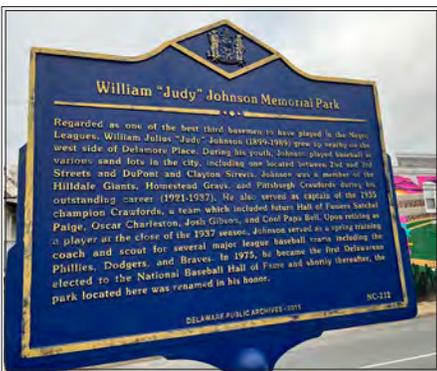
120 Silver Lake Road
MIDDLETOWN

FORMER SITE OF THE ALSTON AND HUNN FARMS

Near this location were the farms of John Alston (1794-1872) and John Hunn (1818-1894), cousins who shared the Quaker faith and were well documented operatives on Delaware's Underground Railroad, John Alston sometimes employed fugitives as laborers on his farm and in 1850, sheltered a young woman named Molly who was later captured thereby by bounty hunters. In his diaries, Alston wrote this prayer, "Enable me to keep my heart and house open to receive thy servants that they may rest in their travels." The noblest act of disobedience to take place at Hunn's farm occurred in December 1845 when Samuel D. Burris, a free African American man from Kent County, DE led a group of twelve fugitives escaping from Queen Anne's County, MD to Hunn's farm. Pursued by bounty hunters on their way north to freedom, the group included Samuel and Emeline Hawkins, along with their six children. For abetting their escape, an illegal activity according to the laws of the time, Hunn was sued by their owners and severely fined. The expense caused Hunn to lose his farm and other assets. He continued with his Underground Railroad activities in Delaware until the outbreak of the Civil War. After the Union Navy captured the South Carolina Sea Island in 1862, Hunn relocated there and continued his work aiding the newly freed. In 1872 Hunn wrote, "I ask no other reward for any efforts made by me in the cause than to feel I have been of service to my fellow-men." **NCC-210**



1355 S. Old Baltimore Pike
NEWARK



Near intersection of W 2nd
and N Clayton Streets
WILMINGTON



1000 N. Walnut Street
WILMINGTON

IRON HILL SCHOOL #112-C

The Iron Hill area was a community of African American farming and mining families. Constructed in 1923, Iron Hill School #112-C was one of over 80 schools built with funding from Pierre S. duPont, who sought to replace rundown public schools with modern facilities. Open from 1923-1964, the school was in session from September through June and included grades 1-6. All instruction was conducted by a single teacher. The Delaware Academy of Science acquired the building in the late 1960s and used it to house a natural history museum for over 40 years. Because of diligent restoration efforts undertaken by the Academy, the building stands as one of only a few former duPont schools still architecturally intact. **NCC-211**

WILLIAM "JUDY" JOHNSON MEMORIAL PARK

Regarded as one of the best third basemen to have played in the Negro Leagues, William Julius "Judy" Johnson (1899-1989) grew up nearby on the west side of Delaware Place. During his youth, Johnson played baseball at various sand lots in the city, including one located between 2nd and 3rd Streets and DuPont and Clayton Streets. Johnson was a member of the Hilldale Giants, Homestead Grays, and Pittsburgh Crawfords during his outstanding career (1921-1937). He also served as captain of the 1935 champion Crawfords, a team which included future Hall of Famers Satchel Paige, Oscar Charleston, Josh Gibson, and Cool Papa Bell. Upon retiring as a player at the close of the 1937 season, Johnson served as a spring training coach and scout for several major league baseball teams including the Phillies, Dodgers, and Braves. In 1975, he became the first Delawarean elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and shortly thereafter, the park was renamed in his honor. **NCC-212**

WALNUT STREET YMCA

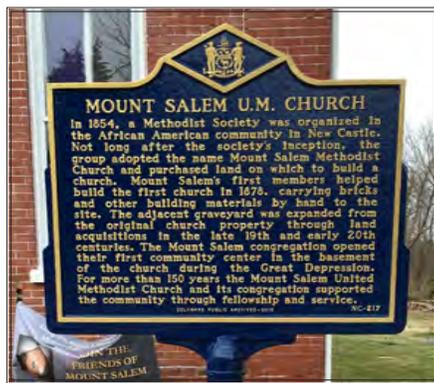
Walnut Street YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) was designed by Wilmington architect G. Morris Whitehead II as a community center for the city's African-American population. Construction began on the three-story structure in 1939 and the building was dedicated in September 1940. A gift from Mr. and Mrs. H. Fletcher Brown funded both the 1939 construction and a maintenance trust fund. The finished site featured a fully equipped gymnasium, auditorium, pool, library, bowling alleys, and billiard room. The facility housed both the YMCA and the YWCA, and provided meeting space for organizations like the Human Rights League of Delaware and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). A 1941 meeting sponsored by the National Negro Congress to support an equal rights bill for Delaware African Americans was held here. Speakers included John P. Davis of the Negro Congress, and Louis L. Redding, Delaware's first African-American attorney. The Walnut Street YMCA has continued as a hub for Delaware's African American community because of its proximity to Wilmington's Eastside neighborhood. In 1998, the original Walnut Street YMCA was demolished to build a new YMCA on the same site. The tower and relief friezes, depicting Marian Anderson, Booker T. Washington, and Dr. George Washington Carver, are the only original 1939 remnants used in the new building. **NCC-215**



Tatnall Playground, Intersection
of W 24th and Tatnall Streets
WILMINGTON

ONE LOVE PARK

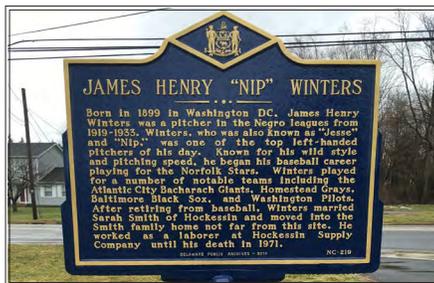
Originally named Tatnall Street Playground in 1907, this park is located across the street from the home at 2311 Tatnall Street that singer-songwriter Bob Marley occupied with his mother in 1966. In order to raise funds to start his own record label in Jamaica, Marley assumed the alias “Donald Marley” and worked as a lab assistant at DuPont and on the assembly line at the nearby Chrysler plant, among other jobs. To honor Marley’s time in Delaware, the park was renamed “One Love Park” in 2014, taking its name from the singer’s hit 1977 song with The Wailers, “One Love/People Get Ready.”
NCC-216



140 E 4th Street
NEW CASTLE

MOUNT SALEM U.M. CHURCH

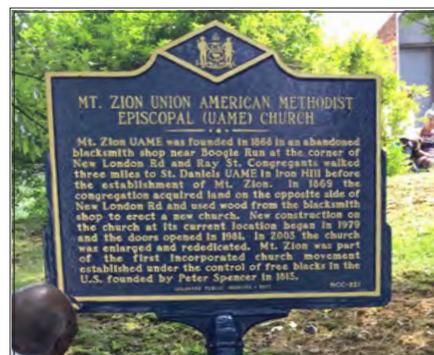
In 1854, a Methodist Society was organized in the African American community in New Castle. Not long after the society’s inception, the group adopted the name Mount Salem Methodist Church and purchased land on which to build a church. Mount Salem’s first members helped build the first church in 1878, carrying bricks and other building materials by hand to the site. The adjacent graveyard was expanded from the original church property through land acquisitions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Mount Salem congregation opened their first community center in the basement of the church during the Great Depression. For more than 150 years the Mount Salem United Methodist Church and its congregation supported the community through fellowship and service.
NCC-217



878 Valley Road
HOCKESSIN

JAMES HENRY “NIP” WINTERS

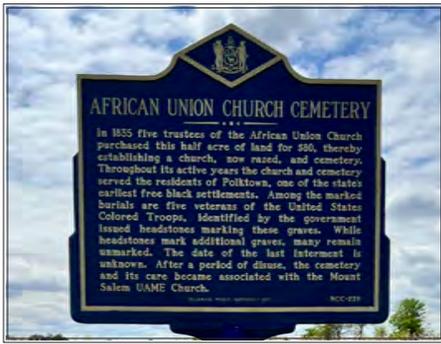
Born in 1899 in Washington DC, James Henry Winters was a pitcher in the Negro leagues from 1919-1933. Winters, who was also known as “Jesse” and “Nip,” was one of the top left-handed pitchers of his day. Known for his wild style and pitching speed, he began his baseball career playing for the Norfolk Stars. Winters played for a number of notable teams including the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Homestead Grays, Baltimore Black Sox, and Washington Pilots. After retiring from baseball, Winters married Sarah Smith of Hockessin and moved into the Smith family home not far from this site. He worked as a laborer at Hockessin Supply Company until his death in 1971.
NCC-219



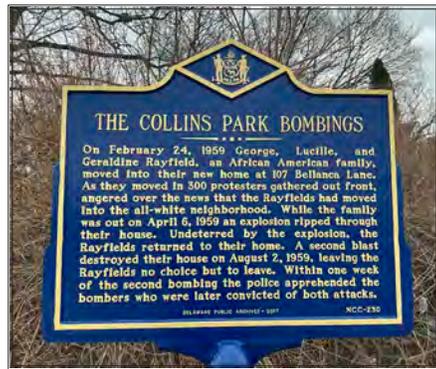
100 New London Road
NEWARK

MT. ZION UNION AMERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (UAME) CHURCH

Mt. Zion UAME was founded in 1868 in an abandoned blacksmith shop near Boogie Run at the corner of New London Rd and Ray St. Congregants walked three miles to St. Daniels UAME in Iron Hill before the establishment of Mt. Zion. In 1869 the congregation acquired land on the opposite side of New London Rd and used wood from the blacksmith shop to erect a new church. New construction on the church at its current location began in 1979 and the doors opened in 1981. In 2003 the church was enlarged and rededicated. Mt. Zion was part of the first incorporated church movement established under the control of free blacks in the U.S. founded by Peter Spencer in 1813.
NCC-221



Along Michael N. Castle Trail near cemetery, approx. 1850 ft from the intersection of 5th Street and the start of the trail
DELAWARE CITY



Near intersection of Route 9, Cherry Lane and Riverview Drive
NEW CASTLE



116 W. 9th Street (Installed on N. Shipley Street side of the intersection)
WILMINGTON



302 East Lake Street
MIDDLETOWN

AFRICAN UNION CHURCH CEMETERY

In 1835, five trustees of the African Union Church purchased this half acre of land for \$80, thereby establishing a church, now razed, and cemetery. Throughout its active years, the church and cemetery served the residents of Polktown, one of the state's earliest free black settlements. Among the marked burials are five veterans of Delaware's United States Colored Troops, identified by the government issued headstones marking these graves. While headstones mark additional graves, many remain unmarked. The date of the last interment is unknown. After a period of disuse, the cemetery and its care became associated with the Mount Salem UAME Church. [NCC-229](#)

THE COLLINS PARK BOMBINGS

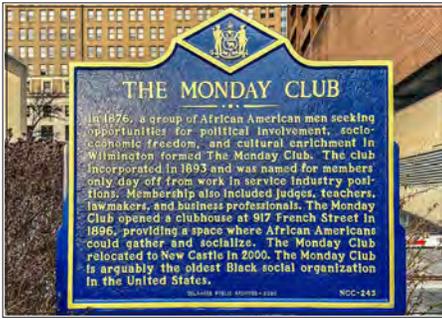
On February 24, 1959, George, Lucille, and Geraldine Rayfield, an African American family, moved into their new home at 107 Bellanca Lane. As they moved in 300 protesters gathered out front, angered over the news that the Rayfields had moved into the all-white neighborhood. While the family was out on April 6, 1959, an explosion ripped through their house. Undeterred by the explosion, the Rayfields returned to their home. A second blast destroyed their house on August 2, 1959, leaving the Rayfields no choice but to leave. Within one week of the second bombing, the police apprehended the bombers who were later convicted of both attacks. [NCC-230](#)

BURTON V. WILMINGTON PARKING AUTHORITY

In August 1958, Wilmington City Councilman and Civil Rights activist William "Dutch" Burton worked with the NAACP to expose the racially discriminatory practices of the Eagle Coffee Shoppe. The restaurant was located on this site in a complex owned and operated by the Wilmington Parking Authority. When Burton was denied service at the Eagle due to his race, attorney Louis L. Redding filed suit against the Authority. The case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which decided in favor of Burton in 1961. The Court ruled that private tenants of a public facility were bound by the 14th Amendment and could not discriminate on the basis of race. [NCC-238](#)

LOUIS L. REDDING COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

The Louis L. Redding Comprehensive High School opened in 1953 and served African American students in grades 1-12 in the Middletown area. It replaced the smaller Middletown School 120-C, a three-room wood structure on East Lake Street. The school was named in honor of Delaware's first African American lawyer, Louis L. Redding, who was known for his work challenging segregation laws in the state. In 1969, after the Middletown, Odessa, and Townsend School Districts merged to create the new and desegregated Appoquinimink School District, the school became the Louis L. Redding Intermediate School and later, the Louis L. Redding Middle School. [NCC-240](#)



Near 903 N. French Street
WILMINGTON

THE MONDAY CLUB

In 1876, a group of African American men seeking opportunities for political involvement, socio-economic freedom, and cultural enrichment in Wilmington formed The Monday Club. The club incorporated in 1893 and was named for members' only day off from work in service industry positions. Membership also included judges, teachers, lawmakers, and business professionals. The Monday Club opened a clubhouse at 917 French Street in 1896, providing a space where African Americans could gather and socialize. The Monday Club relocated to New Castle in 2000. The Monday Club is arguably the oldest Black social organization in the United States. **NCC-243**



Greenbank Park, 250 Greenbank Road
(near brick tower)
WILMINGTON

THE LYNCHING OF GEORGE WHITE

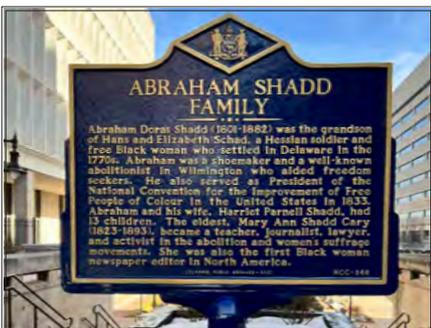
On June 23, 1903, George White, a black farm laborer, was lynched near this site by a mob of white citizens. After being accused of murdering a white girl on June 16, Mr. White was taken to the New Castle County Workhouse to await trial. On June 21, a local minister urged at least 3,000 white residents to exact swift public vengeance. The next evening, a mob stormed the jail and carried Mr. White to Price's Corner. He was tortured and burned alive on June 23 in front of hundreds of spectators, who took pieces of his remains as souvenirs. No one was convicted for Mr. White's lynching, one of over 4,000 racial terror lynchings from 1877 to 1950. **NCC-244**



W. Cleveland Avenue and
New London Road
NEWARK

NEW LONDON ROAD COMMUNITY

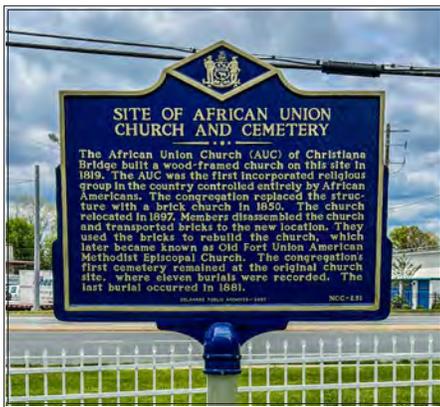
The African American New London Road community can be traced back to 1786 when free black families began settling in the area. The community clustered around New London Road and was bounded by Cleveland Avenue to the south and Corbit and Ray Streets to the north. At a time when African Americans were not welcomed in businesses on Main Street, the community was self-sufficient. Residents owned and operated many businesses including a barbershop, gas station, pool hall, convenience store/co-op, hair salons, and an ice cream parlor. Children attended the New London Avenue School until it closed in 1958. **NCC-245**



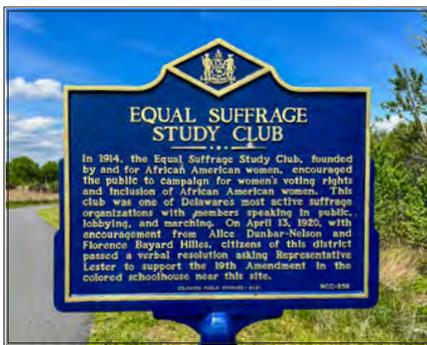
849 N. French Street
WILMINGTON

ABRAHAM SHADD FAMILY

Abraham Doras Shadd (1801-1882) was the grandson of Hans and Elizabeth Schad, a Hessian soldier and free Black woman who settled in Delaware in the 1770s. Abraham was a shoemaker and a well-known abolitionist in Wilmington who aided freedom seekers. He also served as President of the National Convention for the Improvement of Free People of Colour in the United States in 1833. Abraham and his wife, Harriet Parnell Shadd, had 13 children. The eldest, Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823-1893), became a teacher, journalist, lawyer, and activist in the abolition and women's suffrage movements. She was also the first Black woman newspaper editor in North America. **NCC-248**



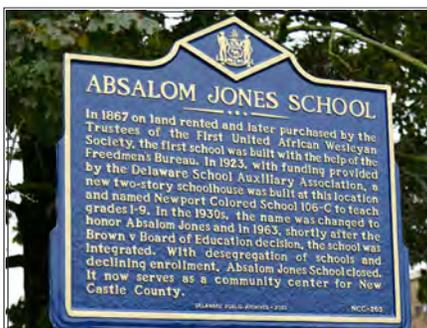
2000 Varsity Lane
BEAR



Mike Castle Bike Trail
(behind Kathy's Crab House)
DELAWARE CITY



1402 Newport Gap Pike
WILMINGTON



310 Kiamensi Road
WILMINGTON

SITE OF AFRICAN UNION CHURCH AND CEMETERY

The African Union Church (AUC) of Christiana Bridge built a wood-framed church on this site in 1819. The AUC was the first incorporated religious group in the country controlled entirely by African Americans. The congregation replaced the structure with a brick church in 1850. The church relocated in 1897. Members disassembled the church and transported bricks to the new location. They used the bricks to rebuild the church, which later became known as Old Fort Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation's first cemetery remained at the original church site, where eleven burials were recorded. The last burial occurred in 1881. **NCC-251**

EQUAL SUFFRAGE STUDY CLUB

In 1914, the Equal Suffrage Study Club, founded by and for African American women, encouraged the public to campaign for women's voting rights and inclusion of African American women. This club was one of Delaware's most active suffrage organizations with members speaking in public, lobbying, and marching. On April 13, 1920, with encouragement from Alice Dunbar-Nelson and Florence Bayard Hilles, citizens of this district passed a verbal resolution asking Representative Lester to support the 19th Amendment in the colored schoolhouse near this site. **NCC-258**

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR COLORED GIRLS

In 1919, the Industrial School for Colored Girls was founded by the Federation of Colored Women's Club of Delaware for the care and education of African American girls unable to attend the all-white Woodshaven School in Claymont. With donations from T. Coleman du Pont and other prominent citizens, the State purchased the former Grier and Woodward Farms adjacent to the predominantly black neighborhoods of Liberty and Belvedere, on the current site of Delcastle High School. In 1943 the reform school was renamed the Edwina Kruse School in honor of her role as principal of Howard High School, and remained in operation until 1960. **NCC-259**

ABSALOM JONES SCHOOL

In 1867 on land rented and later purchased by the Trustees of the First United African Wesleyan Society, the first school was built with the help of the Freedmen's Bureau. In 1923, with funding provided by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association, a new two-story schoolhouse was built at this location and named Newport Colored School 106-C to teach grades 1-9. In the 1930s, the name was changed to honor Absalom Jones and in 1963, shortly after the Brown v Board of Education decision, the school was integrated. With desegregation of schools and declining enrollment, Absalom Jones School closed. It now serves as a community center for New Castle County. **NCC-263**

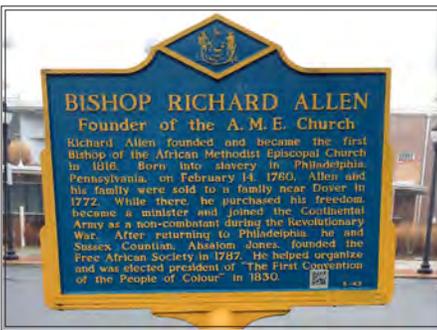
KENT COUNTY



1200 N. Dupont Highway
DOVER

DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE - First College For Blacks In Delaware

Established May 15, 1891, by an act of the Delaware General Assembly as the State College for Colored Students, by virtue of the 1890 Morrill Land-Grant Act and under the provisions of the 1862 Morrill Act of Congress. Incorporated July 1, 1891. Reincorporated March 10, 1911. Name changed to Delaware State College in 1947. **KC-42**



Loockerman & Federal Streets
DOVER

BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN - Founder of the A.M.E. Church

Richard Allen founded and became the first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1816. Born into slavery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on February 14, 1760, Allen and his family were sold to a family near Dover in 1772. While there, he purchased his freedom, became a minister and joined the Continental Army as a non-combatant during the Revolutionary War. After returning to Philadelphia, he and Sussex Countian, Absalom Jones, founded the Free African Society in 1787. He helped organize and was elected president of the "The First Convention of the People of Colour" in 1830. **KC-43**



Student Health Center
Delaware State University
DOVER

DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

On June 17, 1921, the Board of Trustees of the State College for Colored Students, later known as Delaware State College, approved a resolution recommending the establishment of a four year high school for Negro students on its campus. This was the second such institution in the state, and the first outside of Wilmington. Many of the classes were held in the Dupont Building, also known as the Practice School. This building was named for Pierre S. Dupont, a Delaware philanthropist who was instrumental in funding the construction of Negro Schools throughout the state. With the establishment of a comprehensive high school for Negro students in each county, the State College High School was closed in 1952. **KC-45**



357 Voshells Mill Star Hill Road
DOVER

STAR HILL A.M.E. CHURCH

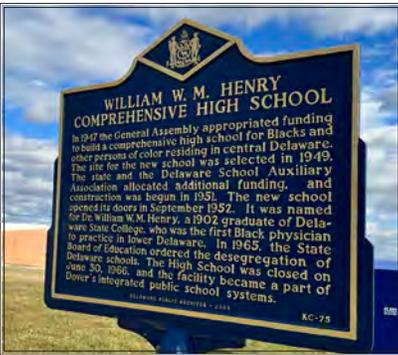
By the end of the 18th century, this area was home to a large number of African Americans, many of them freed slaves. Their settlement was largely due to the efforts of local Quakers. A congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was established here circa 1863. On June 12, 1866, the congregation purchased land from Henry W. Postles as the site for their church, which they named "Star of the East." Members of the church are believed to have participated in the activities of the Underground Railroad, and the church's name is attributed to the symbol of the star as a guide for escaping slaves. **KC-50**



Delaware State University
1200 N. Dupont Highway
DOVER

LOOCKERMAN HALL

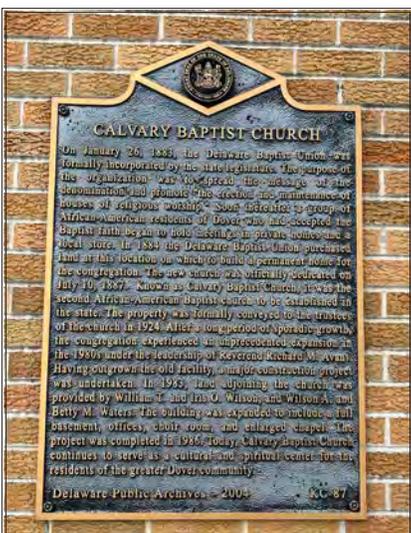
In 1723, Nicholas Loockerman purchased 600 acres of land known as “The Range.” Following his death in 1771, the property passed to his grandson Vincent Loockerman Jr. Evidence suggests that he built the Georgian-style mansion known today as Loockerman Hall soon after inheriting the property. A member of the early Revolutionary-era Committee of Inspection, and County Militia, Vincent Loockerman Jr. died on April 5, 1790. On August 24, 1891, 95 acres of the old plantation where slaves had once toiled were purchased for the purpose of establishing the “Delaware College for Colored Students.” Loockerman Hall became the center of the campus, serving variously as a dormitory, classroom, and administration building. In 1971 the structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service. **KC-60**



34 Carver Road
DOVER

WILLIAM W.M. HENRY COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

In 1947, the General Assembly appropriated funding to build a comprehensive high school for Blacks and other persons of color residing in central Delaware. The site for the new school was selected in 1949. The state and the Delaware School Auxiliary Association allocated additional funding, and construction was begun in 1951. The new school opened its doors in September 1952. It was named for Dr. William W. M. Henry, a 1902 graduate of Delaware State College, who was the first Black physician to practice in lower Delaware. In 1965, the State Board of Education ordered the desegregation of Delaware schools. The High School was closed on June 30, 1966, and the facility became a part of Dover’s integrated public school system. **KC-75**

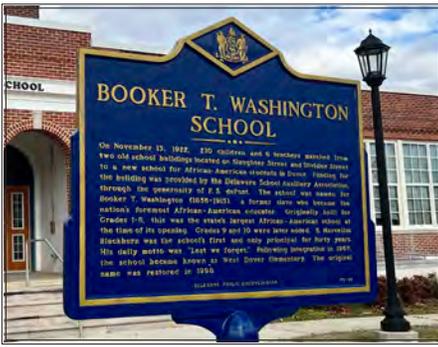


410 Fulton Street
DOVER

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

On January 26, 1883, the Delaware Baptist Union was formally incorporated by the state legislature. The purpose of the organization was to spread the message of the denomination and promote “the erection and maintenance of houses of religious worship.” Soon thereafter a group of African-American residents of Dover who had accepted the Baptist faith began to hold meetings in private homes and a local store. In 1884 the Delaware Baptist Union purchased land at this location on which to build a permanent home for the congregation. The new church was officially dedicated on July 10, 1887. Known as Calvary Baptist Church, it was the second African-American Baptist church to be established in the state. The property was formally conveyed to the trustees of the church in 1924. After a long period of sporadic growth, the congregation experienced an unprecedented expansion in the 1980s under the leadership of Reverend Richard M. Avant. Having outgrown the old facility, a major construction project was undertaken. In 1983, land adjoining the church was provided by William T. and Iris O. Wilson, and Betty M. Waters. The building was expanded to include a full basement, offices, choir room, and an enlarged chapel. The project was completed in 1986. Today, Calvary Baptist Church continues to serve as a cultural and spiritual center for the residents of the greater Dover community. **KC-87**

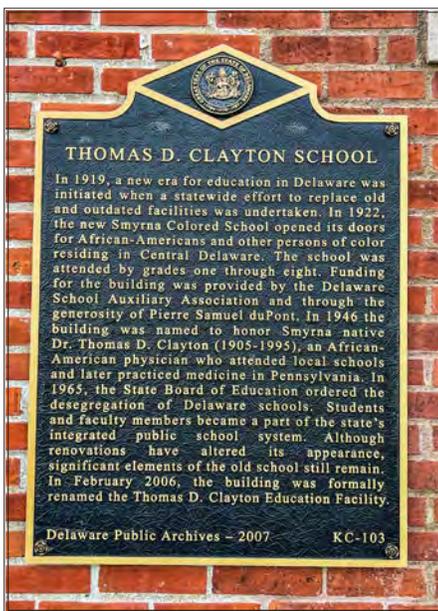




901 Forest Street
DOVER

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL

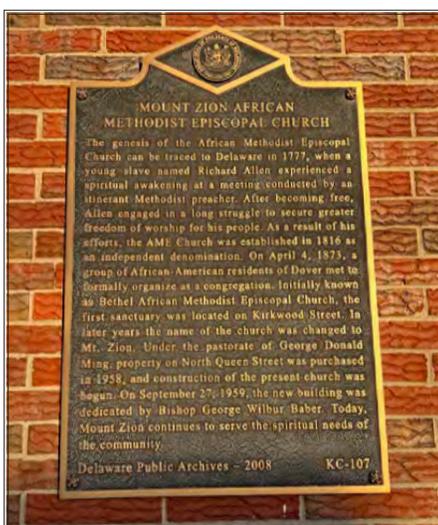
On November 13, 1922, 210 children and 6 teachers marched from two old school buildings located on Slaughter Street and Division Street to a new school for African-American students in Dover. Funding for the building was provided by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association, through the generosity of P. S. duPont. The school was named for Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), a former slave who became the nation's foremost African-American educator. Originally built for Grades 1-8, this was the state's largest African-American school at the time of its opening. Grades 9 and 10 were later added. S. Marcellus Blackburn was the school's first and only principal for forty years. His daily motto was "Lest we forget." Following integration in 1965, the school became known as West Dover Elementary. The original name was restored in 1998. **KC-88**



80 Monrovia Avenue
SMYRNA

THOMAS D. CLAYTON SCHOOL

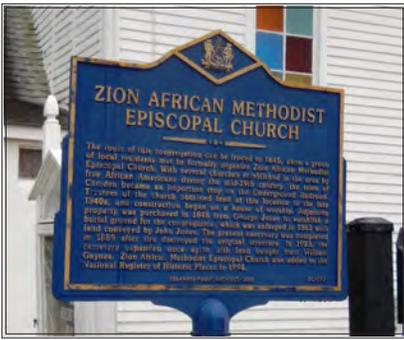
In 1919, a new era for education in Delaware was initiated when a statewide effort to replace old and outdated facilities was undertaken. In 1922, the new Smyrna Colored School opened its doors for African-Americans and other persons of color residing in Central Delaware. The school was attended by grades one through eight. Funding for the building was provided by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association and through the generosity of Pierre Samuel DuPont. In 1946 the building was named to honor Smyrna native Dr. Thomas D. Clayton (1905-1995), an African-American physician who attended local schools and later practiced medicine in Pennsylvania. In 1965, the State Board of Education ordered the desegregation of Delaware schools. Students and faculty members became a part of the state's integrated public school system. Although renovations have altered its appearance, significant elements of the old school still remain. In February 2006, the building was formally renamed the Thomas D. Clayton Education Facility. **KC-103**



101 North Queen Street
DOVER

MOUNT ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The genesis of the African Methodist Episcopal Church can be traced to Delaware in 1777 when a young slave named Richard Allen experienced a spiritual awakening at a meeting conducted by an itinerant Methodist preacher. After becoming free, Allen engaged in a long struggle to secure greater freedom of worship for his people. As a result of his efforts, the AME Church was established in 1816 as an independent denomination. On April 4, 1873, a group of African-American residents of Dover met to formally organize as a congregation. Initially known as Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first sanctuary was located on Kirkwood Street. In later years the name of the church was changed to Mt. Zion. Under the pastorate of George Donald Ming, property on North Queen Street was purchased in 1958, and construction of the present church was begun. On September 27, 1959, the new building was dedicated by Bishop George Wilbur Baber. Today, Mount Zion continues to serve the spiritual needs of the community. **KC-107**

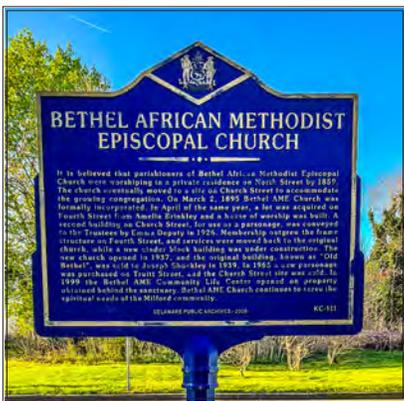


20 Center Street
CAMDEN

ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The roots of this congregation can be traced to 1845 when a group of local residents met to formally organize Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. With several churches established in the area by free African Americans during the mid-19th century, the town of Camden became an important stop on the Underground Railroad. Trustees of the church obtained land at this location in the late 1840s, and construction began on a house of worship. Adjoining property was purchased in 1848 from George Jones to establish a burial ground for the congregation, which was enlarged in 1863 with land conveyed by John Jones. The present sanctuary was completed in 1889 after a fire destroyed the original structure. In 1923, the cemetery expanded once again with land bought from William Gaynes. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

KC-110



205 N.W. 4th Street
MILFORD

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

It is believed that parishioners of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church were worshipping in a private residence on North Street by 1859. The church eventually moved to a site on Church Street to accommodate the growing congregation. On March 2, 1895, Bethel AME Church was formally incorporated. In April of the same year, a lot was acquired on Fourth Street from Amelia Brinkley and a house of worship was built. A second building on Church Street, for use as a parsonage, was conveyed to the Trustees by Emma Deputy in 1926. Membership outgrew the frame structure on Fourth Street, and services were moved back to the original church, while a new cinder block building was under construction. The new church opened in 1937, and the original building, known as "Old Bethel", was sold to Joseph Shockley in 1939. In 1965 a new parsonage was purchased on Truitt Street, and the Church Street site was sold. In 1999 the Bethel AME Community Life Center opened on property obtained behind the sanctuary. Bethel AME Church continues to serve the spiritual needs of the Milford community.

KC-111

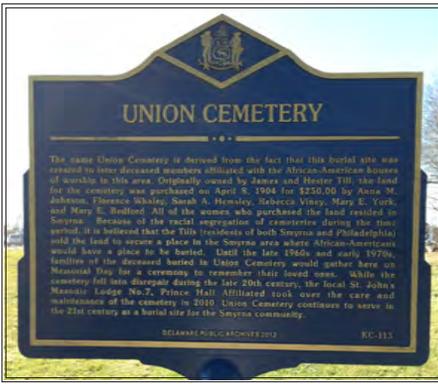


131 Dickerson Street
CLAYTON

BYRD'S AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the early 1890s, Clayton was home to an increasing population of African-Americans, many of whom were railroad workers. Byrd's African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church was built in 1894 to accommodate this growing community who previously had to walk several miles to Mount Friendship Church for services. The land was purchased from Willis C. Dickerson by the trustees of the Clayton A.M.E. Church for 100 dollars on July 13, 1894. The Church takes its name from Reverend Elijah Byrd who served as pastor for both Mt. Friendship Church and the newly established Byrd's A.M.E. Church. The two congregations maintained very close ties and in 1901 they jointly purchased five acres of land from John P. Hudson for the formation of an annual ten-day camp-meeting intended to raise funds and provide an inspirational vacation for members. Byrd's A.M.E. Church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and continues to serve the spiritual needs of the Clayton community.

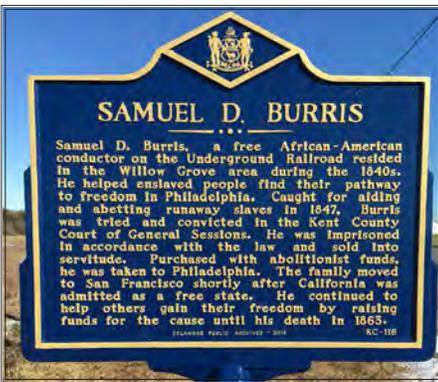
KC-112



45 Monrovia Avenue
SMYRNA

UNION CEMETERY

The name Union Cemetery is derived from the fact that this burial site was created to inter deceased members affiliated with the African-American houses of worship in this area. Originally owned by James and Hester Till, the land for the cemetery was purchased on April 8, 1904 for \$250.00 by Anna M. Johnson, Florence Whaley, Sarah A. Hemsley, Rebecca Viney, Mary E. York, and Mary E. Bedford. All of the women who purchased the land resided in Smyrna. Because of the racial segregation of cemeteries during the time period, it is believed that the Tills (residents of both Smyrna and Philadelphia) sold the land to secure a place in the Smyrna area where African-Americans would have a place to be buried. Until the late 1960s and early 1970s, families of the deceased buried in Union Cemetery would gather here on Memorial Day for a ceremony to remember their loved ones. While the cemetery fell into disrepair during the late 20th century, the local St. John's Masonic Lodge No.7, Prince Hall Affiliated took over the care and maintenance of the cemetery in 2010. Union Cemetery continues to serve in the 21st century as a burial site for the Smyrna community. **KC-113**



Intersection of Henry Cowgill Road and
Willow Grove Road
CAMDEN

SAMUEL D. BURRIS

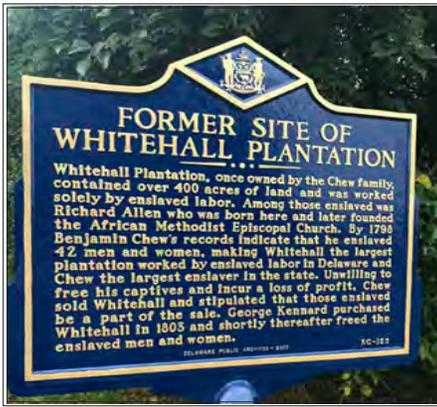
Samuel D. Burris, a free African-American conductor on the Underground Railroad resided in the Willow Grove area during the 1840s. He helped enslaved people find their pathway to freedom in Philadelphia. Caught for aiding and abetting runaway slaves in 1847, Burris was tried and convicted in the Kent County Court of General Sessions. He was imprisoned in accordance with the law and sold into servitude. Purchased with abolitionist funds, he was taken to Philadelphia. The family moved to San Francisco shortly after California was admitted as a free state. He continued to help others gain their freedom by raising funds for the cause until his death in 1863. **KC-118**



103 West Mispillion Street
HARRINGTON

ST. PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH

St. Paul AME was established as a congregation in 1830. Members met in congregants' houses and public spaces before building a church. Construction of the church began in 1895 on New Street making St. Paul the last of eleven AME churches built in Kent County between 1867 and 1895. The congregation formally incorporated on March 11, 1896. In 1917, the church was moved by a team of mules to its current location. A fire damaged the church in 1993, but it was soon rebuilt and rededicated on March 20, 1994. **KC-122**



2610 Whitehall Neck Road
SMYRNA

FORMER SITE OF WHITEHALL PLANTATION

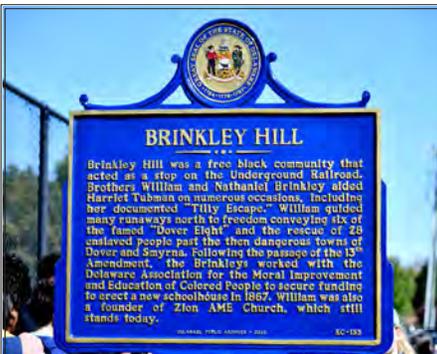
Whitehall Plantation, once owned by the Chew family, contained over 400 acres of land and was worked solely by enslaved labor. Among those enslaved was Richard Allen who was born here and later founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church. By 1798 Benjamin Chew's records indicate that he enslaved 42 men and women, making Whitehall the largest plantation worked by enslaved labor in Delaware and Chew the largest enslaver in the state. Unwilling to free his captives and incur a loss of profit, Chew sold Whitehall and stipulated that those enslaved be a part of the sale. George Kennard purchased Whitehall in 1803 and shortly thereafter freed the enslaved men and women. **KC-123**



Near 2276 Sharon Hill Road
DOVER

SITE OF CARLISLE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In 1849, Caper and Leah Carlisle deeded a quarter-acre of land to Meeting House Trustees Jacob Allston, Peter Carlisle, James Collins, Perry Hawkins, and Nathaniel White. The Carlisles and the trustees were part of a free African American community located nearby at Cassons Corner. A wood-framed church was built on this site after 1849 and was reconstructed in 1879. Carlisle African Methodist Episcopal Church formally incorporated in 1921 and remained active through at least 1937. A cemetery remains at this site. Known surnames of those interred here include Downs, Driggus, Fisher, Fulman, Hovington, Johns, Robinson, Ross, Scott, and Simmons. **KC-132**



Caesar Rodney High School
CAMDEN

BRINKLEY HILL

Brinkley Hill was a free black community that acted as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Brothers William and Nathaniel Brinkley aided Harriet Tubman on numerous occasions, including her documented "Tilly Escape." William guided many runaways north to freedom conveying six of the famed "Dover Eight" and the rescue of 28 enslaved people past the then dangerous towns of Dover and Smyrna. Following the passage of the 13th Amendment, the Brinkleys worked with the Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of Colored People to erect a new schoolhouse in 1867. William was also a founder of Zion AME Church, which still stands today. **KC-133**

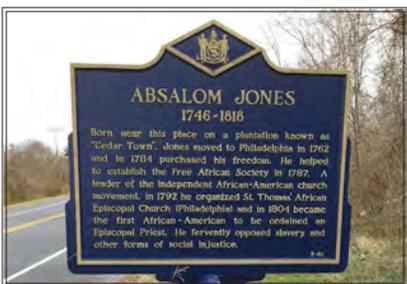
SUSSEX COUNTY



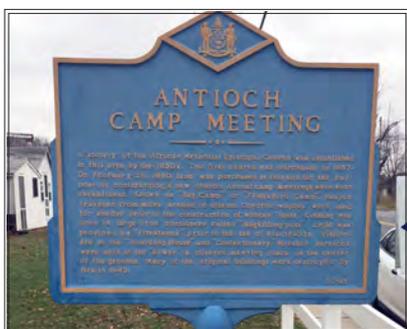
South side of Henry Drive and
Church Road intersection
SEAFORD



Rt. 404 in front of Del Tech Campus
(21225 College Dr.)
GEORGETOWN



South Side of Route 36, approximately
1/8 mile west of the intersection of
Route 36 and Route 1
MILFORD



194 Clayton Avenue
FRANKFORD

PILOT TOWN

Pilot Town is the section of the Hamlet of Concord where many free African-American families have lived in harmony with the white families since around 1765. It was so named for the many Negro pilots who lived in the area and piloted vessels down the Nanticoke River to Chesapeake Bay. Two of the best known were Cann Laws and George Laws. **SC-66**

WILLIAM C. JASON COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

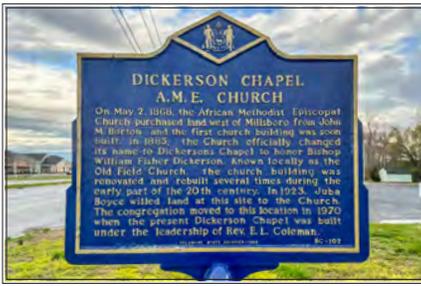
First African-American Secondary School in Sussex County. Named after the first African-American president of Delaware State College, the school opened in October 1950. Funds were provided in the will of H. Fletcher Brown, a local philanthropist, and by the State General Assembly. Initially Jason High School served grades 9 through 12, but in 1953 it expanded to include students from seventh and eighth grades. The desegregation of schools in Delaware led to the closing of Jason in June 1967 after which it became part of Delaware Technical and Community College. **SC-80**

ABSALOM JONES 1746-1818

Born near this place on a plantation known as "Cedar Town", Jones moved to Philadelphia in 1762 and in 1784 purchased his freedom. He helped to establish the Free African Society in 1787. A leader of the independent African-American church movement, in 1792 he organized St. Thomas' African Episcopal Church (Philadelphia) and in 1804 became the first African-American to be ordained an Episcopal Priest. He reverently opposed slavery and other forms of social injustice. **SC-81**

ANTIOCH CAMP MEETING

A 'society' of African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in this area by the 1830's. The First church was purchased in 1857. On February 28, 1890, land was purchased at this site for the purpose of constructing a new church. Annual camp meetings were soon established. Known as "Big Camp" or "Frankford Camp", people traveled from miles around to attend. Covered wagons were used for shelter prior to the construction of wooden "tents". Cooking was done in large iron containers called "hogkilling pots." Light was provided by "firestands" prior to the use of electricity. Visitors ate at the "Boarding House" and "Confectionary." Worship services were held in the "Bower" a covered meeting place in the center of the grounds. Many of the original buildings were destroyed by fire in 1943. **SC-93**



28845 East Dupont Boulevard
MILLSBORO

DICKERSON CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH

On May 2, 1868, the African Methodist Episcopal Church purchased land west of Millsboro from John M. Burton and the first church building was soon built. In 1885, the Church officially changed its name to Dickersons Chapel to honor Bishop William Fisher Dickerson. Known locally as the Old Field Church, the church building was renovated and rebuilt several times during the early part of the 20th century. In 1923, Juba Boyce willed land at this site to the Church. The congregation moved to this location in 1970 when the present Dickerson Chapel was built under the leadership of Rev. E. L. Coleman. [SC-102](#)



220 South Railroad Avenue
GEORGETOWN

PROSPECT A.M.E. CHURCH

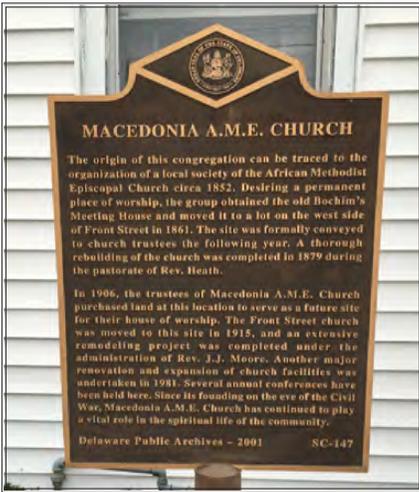
The roots of African-American Methodism in this community can be traced to the organization of a black "class" within the local Methodist society in the 1790's. By the 1830's a group of residents had affiliated themselves with Bishop Richard Allen's African Methodist Episcopal Church. On November 13, 1839, trustees Moses Robinson, Timothy Jacobs, Curtis Jacobs, George Ratcliff, and Isaac Waples, purchased land for the construction of a church and establishment of a cemetery. The original structure was replaced by the present church circa 1867. For many years Prospect A.M.E. was the site of one of the few schools for African-American youth in Sussex County. [SC-107](#)



32137 Powell Farm Road
FRANKFORD

UNION WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND CAMPGROUND

The roots of African-American Methodism in this area can be traced to the late 18th century when Methodism pioneers such as Francis Asbury and Freeborn Garrettson traveled locally organizing black "classes" for worship. Over time some groups chose to leave the mother church, while others such as this congregation remained affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal faith. By the mid-1800's members of Union Wesley were gathering regularly for services. Many of the early meetings were conducted in the open air nearby. On December 18, 1873, the trustees of Union Wesley purchased the lot where the first church was built. Standing in the area where the cemetery is located, the building served the needs of the congregation until it was destroyed by fire in 1957. The present church was erected here on the former site of the District #207-C Blackwater School. The land had been obtained in 1951 following the destruction of the school by fire. The new church was completed in 1961. Prior to the placement of permanent structures on the Wesley Campground, persons attending services used covered wagons for shelter. The wagons were placed in a circle surrounding a pulpit. By the 1930's wooden boarding "tents" had replaced the wagons, and a confectionery and bower had been constructed. One building that was adapted for use was the old #207-C Schoolhouse. Constructed in the late 19th century, the structure was used as a school until 1922 when it was replaced by the building that stood on this site. This was the last camp in Delaware to use wooden fire stands for lighting purposes. Their use was discontinued in 1943 when electricity was brought to the grounds. Wesley Campground is believed to be one of the oldest of its type in continuous use. [SC-119](#)

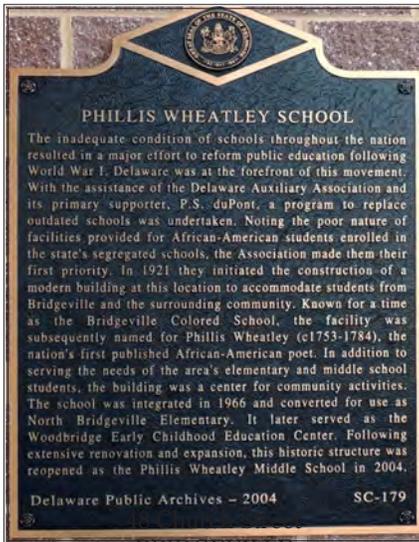


431 North Street
SEAFORD

MACEDONIA A.M.E. CHURCH

The origin of this congregation can be traced to the organization of a local society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church circa 1852. Desiring a permanent place of worship, the group obtained the old Bochim's Meeting House and moved it to a lot on the west side of Front Street in 1861. The site was formally conveyed to church trustees the following year. A thorough rebuilding of the church was completed in 1879 during the pastorate of Rev. Heath. In 1906, the trustees of Macedonia A.M.E. Church purchased land at this location to serve as a future site for their house of worship. The Front Street church was moved to this site in 1915, and an extensive remodeling project was completed under the administration of Rev. J.J. Moore. Another major renovation and expansion of church facilities were undertaken in 1981. Several annual conferences have been held here. Since its founding on the eve of the Civil War, Macedonia A.M.E. Church has continued to play a vital role in the spiritual life of the community.

SC-147

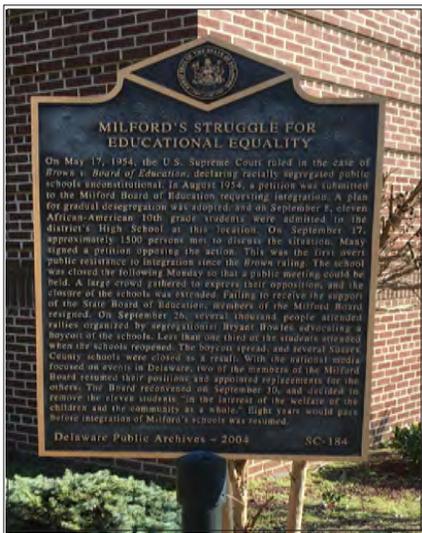


BRIDGEVILLE

PHILLIS WHEATLEY SCHOOL

The inadequate condition of schools throughout the nation resulted in a major effort to reform public education following World War I. Delaware was at the forefront of this movement. With the assistance of the Delaware Auxiliary Association and its primary supporter, P. S. du Pont, a program to replace outdated schools was undertaken. Noting the poor nature of facilities provided for African-American students enrolled in the state's segregated schools, the Association made them their first priority. In 1921 they initiated the construction of a modern building at this location to accommodate students from Bridgeville and the surrounding community. Known for a time as the Bridgeville Colored School, the facility was subsequently named for Phillis Wheatley (c 1753-1784), the nation's first published African-American poet. In addition to serving the needs of the area's elementary and middle school students, the building was a center for community activities. The school was integrated in 1966 and converted for use as North Bridgeville Elementary. It later served as the Woodbridge Early Childhood Education Center. Following extensive renovation and expansion, this historic structure was reopened as the Phillis Wheatley Middle School in 2004.

SC-179



Milford Middle School
612 Lakeview Avenue
MILFORD

MILFORD'S STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY

On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, declaring racially segregated public schools unconstitutional. In August 1954, a petition was submitted to the Milford Board of Education requesting integration. A plan for gradual desegregation was adopted, and on September 8, eleven African-American 10th grade students were admitted to the district's High School at this location. On September 17, approximately 1500 persons met to discuss the situation. Many signed a petition opposing the action. This was the first overt public resistance to integration since the *Brown* ruling. The school was closed the following Monday so that a public meeting could be held. A large crowd gathered to express their opposition, and the closure of the schools was extended. Failing to receive the support of the State Board of Education, members of the Milford Board resigned. On September 26, several thousand people attended rallies organized by segregationist Bryant Bowles advocating a boycott of the schools. Less than one third of the students attended when the schools reopened. The boycott spread, and several Sussex County schools were closed as a result. With the national media focused on events in Delaware, two of the members of the Milford Board resumed their positions and appointed replacements for the others. The Board reconvened on September 30, and decided to remove the eleven students "in the interest of the welfare of the children and the community as a whole." Eight years would pass before integration of Milford's schools was resumed. **SC-184**

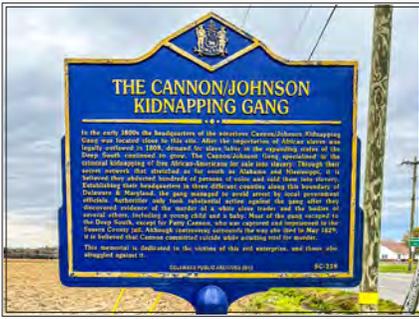


Crepe Myrtle Drive
MILLSBORO

ROSEDALE BEACH HOTEL AND RESORT

On this site was located the Rosedale Beach Hotel and Resort. The hotel and resort operated from the early 1900s to the 1970s. In the pre-integration era of the 20th century, there were very few places for people of color to go for entertainment and hotel accommodations. Because of this, Rosedale Beach was a destination point for many people along the East Coast. Rosedale Beach was officially incorporated on April 14, 1937. The resort featured a hotel, boardwalk, dance hall, picnic and beach area, campground and amusement park. Well-known artists such as Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, James Brown, Cab Calloway, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Fats Domino, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Jackie Wilson and Stevie Wonder played at the resort. Once Delaware integrated its beaches, hotels and other public facilities, visitation to Rosedale Beach began to decline. The boardwalk was destroyed by the storm of 1962 and was never replaced. Although people still visited the resort until the mid-1970s, the Rosedale Beach Hotel and Resort was eventually sold to Gull Point Inc. in 1983. **SC-226**

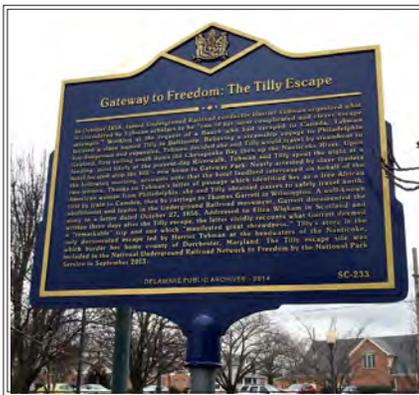




25701 Line Road
SEAFORD

THE CANNON/JOHNSON KIDNAPPING GANG

In the early 1800s, the headquarters of the notorious Cannon/Johnson Kidnapping Gang was located close to this site. After the importation of African slaves was legally outlawed in 1808, demand for slave labor in the expanding states of the Deep South continued to grow. The Cannon/Johnson Gang specialized in the criminal kidnapping of free African-Americans for sale into slavery. Through their secret network that stretched as far south as Alabama and Mississippi, it is believed they abducted hundreds of persons of color and sold them into slavery. Establishing their headquarters in three different counties along this boundary of Delaware & Maryland, the gang managed to avoid arrest by local government officials. Authorities only took substantial action against the gang after they discovered evidence of the murder of a white slave trader and the bodies of several others, including a young child and a baby. Most of the gang escaped to the Deep South, except for Patty Cannon, who was captured and imprisoned in the Sussex County jail. Although controversy surrounds the way she died in May 1829, it is believed that Cannon committed suicide while awaiting trial for murder. [SC-228](#)



120 Front Street
SEAFORD

GATEWAY TO FREEDOM: THE TILLY ESCAPE

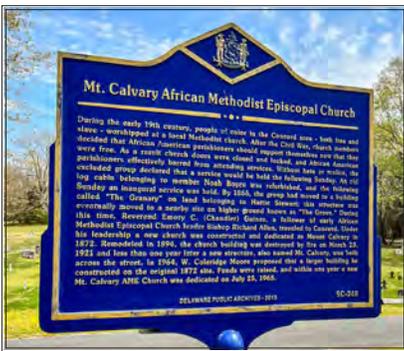
In October 1856, famed Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman organized what is considered by Tubman scholars to be “one of her most complicated and clever escape attempts.” Working at the request of a fiancé who had escaped to Canada, Tubman located a slave named Tilly in Baltimore. Believing a steamship voyage to Philadelphia too dangerous and expensive, Tubman decided she and Tilly would travel by steamboat to Seaford, first sailing south down the Chesapeake Bay then up the Nanticoke River. Upon landing, most likely at the present-day Riverwalk, Tubman and Tilly spent the night at a hotel located atop the hill – now home to Gateway Park. Nearly arrested by slave traders the following morning, accounts note that the hotel landlord intervened on behalf of the two women. Thanks to Tubman’s letter of passage which identified her as a free African American woman from Philadelphia, she and Tilly obtained passes to safely travel north, first by train to Camden, then by carriage to Thomas Garrett in Wilmington. A well-known abolitionist and leader in the Underground Railroad movement, Garrett documented the story in a letter dated October 27, 1856. Addressed to Eliza Wigham in Scotland and written three days after the Tilly escape, the letter vividly recounts what Garrett deemed a “remarkable” trip and one which “manifested great shrewdness.” Tilly’s story is the only documented escape led by Harriet Tubman at the headwaters of the Nanticoke, which border her home county of Dorchester, Maryland. The Tilly escape site was included in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom by the National Park Service in September 2013. [SC-233](#)



211 Broadkill Road
MILTON

MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL #196-C

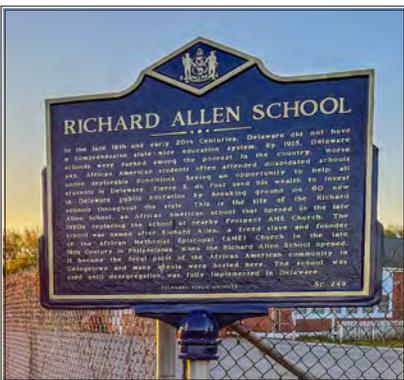
In an effort to remedy deplorable school facility conditions, philanthropist P.S. du Pont dedicated a substantial portion of his wealth towards construction of African American schools during the 1920s. Milton Public School #196-C, which stood at this location, was one of over 80 schools to be built with such funding. Designed by New Jersey architectural firm Guilbert and Betelle, construction of the two-room schoolhouse began circa 1921 and was completed the following year. In addition to classroom space, the schoolhouse also featured an attached kitchen where hot lunches were later prepared for students. Desegregation efforts during the 1950s and 60s saw students successfully integrate with the Milton Special School District, which became one of three towns to form the Cape Henlopen School District during 1969-1970. The school building collapsed in 2006, and on April 19, 2014 over 120 former students, teachers, friends and family attended a reunion luncheon in Georgetown to remember their shared history and ensure the continuation of the school's legacy. **SC-241**



25206 School Road
SEAFORD

MT. CALVARY AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

During the early 19th century, people of color in the Concord area – both free and slave – worshiped at a local Methodist church. After the Civil War, church members decided that African American parishioners should support themselves now that they were free. As a result church doors were closed and locked, an African American parishioners effectively barred from attending services. Without hate or malice, the excluded group declared that a service would be held the following Sunday. An old log cabin belonging to member Noah Boyce was refurbished, and the following Sunday an inaugural service was held. By 1866, the group had moved to a building called “The Granary” on land belonging to Hattie Stewart; this structure was eventually moved to a nearby site on higher ground known as “The Grove.” During this time, Reverend Emory C. (Chandler) Gaines, a follower of early African Methodist Episcopal Church leader Bishop Richard Allen, traveled to Concord. Under his leadership a new church was constructed and dedicated as Mount Calvary in 1872. Remodeled in 1894, the church building was destroyed by fire on March 23, 1921 and less than one year later a new structure, also named Mt. Calvary, was built across the street. In 1964, W. Coleridge Moore proposed that a larger building be constructed on the original 1872 site. funds were raised, and within one year a new Mt. Calvary AME Church was dedicated on July 25, 1965. **SC-248**

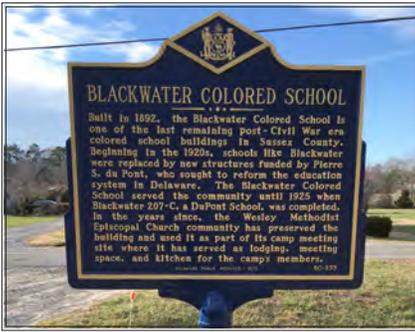


316 S. Railroad Avenue
GEORGETOWN

RICHARD ALLEN SCHOOL

In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, Delaware did not have a comprehensive state-wide education system. By 1915, Delaware schools were ranked among the poorest in the country. Worse yet, African American students often attended dilapidated schools under deplorable conditions. Seeing an opportunity to help all students in Delaware, Pierre S. du Pont used his wealth to invest in Delaware public education by breaking ground on 80 new schools throughout the state. This is the site of the Richard Allen School, an African American school that opened in the late 1920s replacing the school at nearby Prospect AME Church. The school was named after Richard Allen, a freed slave and founder of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in the late 18th Century in Philadelphia. When the Richard Allen School opened, it became the focal point of the African American community in Georgetown and many events were hosted here. The school was used until desegregation was fully implemented in Delaware. **SC-249**

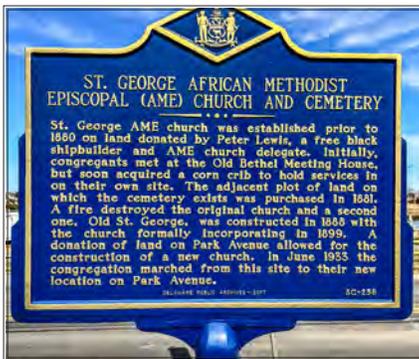




32137 Powell Farm Road
FRANKFORD

BLACKWATER COLORED SCHOOL

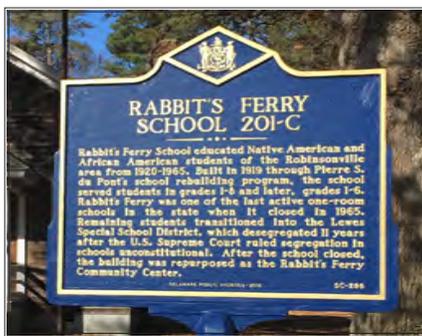
Built in 1892, the Blackwater Colored School is one of the last remaining post-Civil War era colored school buildings in Sussex County. Beginning in the 1920s, schools like Blackwater were replaced by new structures funded by Pierre S. du Pont, who sought to reform the education system in Delaware. The Blackwater Colored School served the community until 1925 when Blackwater 207-C, a DuPont School, was completed. In the years since, the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church community has preserved the building and used it as part of its camp meeting site where it has served as lodging, meeting space, and kitchen for the camp's members. [SC-253](#)



391 Pilottown Road
LEWES

ST. GEORGE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH AND CEMETERY

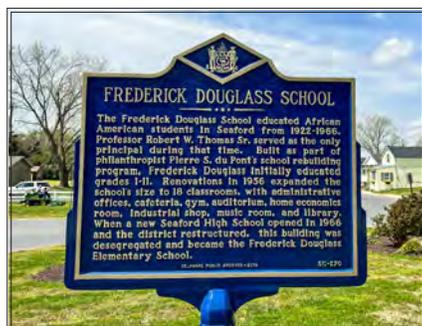
St. George AME Church was established prior to 1880 on land donated by Peter Lewis, a free black shipbuilder, and AME church delegate. Initially, congregants met at the Old Bethel Meeting House but soon acquired a corn crib to hold services in on their own site. The adjacent plot of land on which the cemetery exists was purchased in 1881. A fire destroyed the original church and a second one, Old St. George, was constructed in 1888 with the church formally incorporating in 1899. A donation of land on Park Avenue allowed for the construction of a new church. In June 1933 the congregation marched from this site to their new location on Park Avenue. [SC-258](#)



19112 Robinsonville Road
LEWES

RABBIT'S FERRY SCHOOL 201-C

Rabbit's Ferry School educated Native American and African American students of the Robinsonville area from 1920-1965. Built in 1919 through Pierre S. du Pont's school rebuilding program, the school served students in grades 1-8 and later, grades 1-6. Rabbit's Ferry was one of the last active one-room schools in the state when it closed in 1965. Remaining students transitioned into the Lewes Special School District, which desegregated 11 years after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled segregation in schools unconstitutional. After the school closed, the building was repurposed as the Rabbit's Ferry Community Center. [SC-266](#)



1 Swain Road
SEAFORD

FREDERICK DOUGLASS SCHOOL

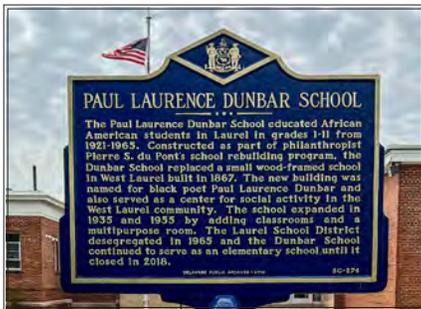
The Frederick Douglass School educated African American students in Seaford from 1922-1966. Professor Robert W. Thomas Sr. served as the only principal during that time. Built as part of philanthropist Pierre S. du Pont's school rebuilding program, Frederick Douglass initially educated grades 1-11. Renovations in 1956 expanded the school's size to 18 classrooms, with administrative offices, cafeteria, gym, auditorium, home economics room, industrial shop, music room, and library. When a new Seaford High School opened in 1966 and the district restructured, this building was desegregated and became the Frederick Douglass Elementary School. [SC-270](#)



20230 Plantation Road
LEWES

ISRAEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

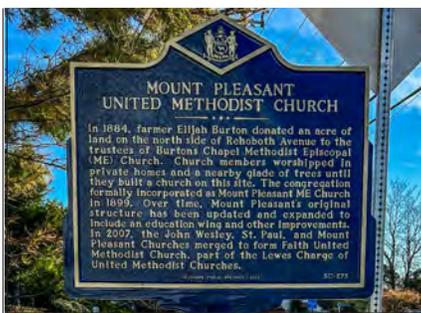
In 1840, Israel United Methodist Church formed in the Belltown community west of Lewes. Israel established a cemetery in 1854 and formally incorporated in 1877. The congregation rebuilt the church in 1890 and again in 1916. Over time, the 1916 structure has been updated with the additions of a vestibule, annex, and stone cemetery wall. In 1966, Israel became part of the expanded Lewes Charge of Methodist Churches, which also included the John Wesley, St. Paul, and Mt. Pleasant Methodist churches of Belltown, Lewes, and Rehoboth Beach. [SC-271](#)



499 West 6th Street
LAUREL

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR SCHOOL

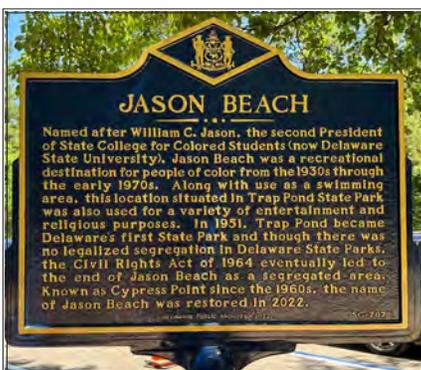
The Paul Laurence Dunbar School educated African American students in Laurel in grades 1-11 from 1921-1965. Constructed as part of philanthropist Pierre S. du Pont's school rebuilding program, the Dunbar School replaced a small wood-framed school in West Laurel built in 1867. The new building was named for black poet Paul Laurence Dunbar and also served as a center for social activity in the West Laurel community. The school expanded in 1935 and 1955 by adding classrooms and a multipurpose room. The Laurel School District desegregated in 1965 and the Dunbar School continued to serve as an elementary school until it closed in 2018. [SC-274](#)



20230 Plantation Road
LEWES

MOUNT PLEASANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In 1884, farmer Elijah Burton donated an acre of land on the north side of Rehoboth Avenue to the trustees of Burton's Chapel Methodist Episcopal (ME) Church. Church members worshipped in private homes and a nearby glade of trees until they built a church on this site. The congregation formally incorporated as Mount Pleasant ME Church in 1899. Over time, Mount Pleasant's original structure has been updated and expanded to include an education wing and other improvements. In 2007, the John Wesley, St. Paul, and Mount Pleasant Churches merged to form Faith United Methodist Church, part of the Lewes Charge of United Methodist Churches. [SC-275](#)



Jason Beach, Trap Pond State Park
LAUREL

JASON BEACH

Named after William C. Jason, the second President of State College for Colored Students (now Delaware State University), Jason Beach was a recreational destination for people of color from the 1930s through the early 1970s. Along with use as a swimming area, this location situated in Trap Pond State Park was also used for a variety of entertainment and religious purposes. In 1951, Trap Pond became Delaware's first State Park and though there was no legalized segregation in Delaware State Parks, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 eventually led to the end of Jason Beach as a segregated area. Known as Cypress Point since the 1960s, the name of Jason Beach was restored in 2022. [SC-287](#)



State of Delaware Historical Markers Program

DELAWARE PUBLIC ARCHIVES

State of Delaware Historical Markers preserve and share Delawareans' history while fostering pride in local communities. Visit our website to learn about the Historical Markers Program, review FAQs and eligibility criteria, request a marker, or report a marker issue.



Whether you're planning a road trip, researching local history, or simply curious about the stories that shaped the First State, the State of Delaware Historical Markers Map is your gateway to exploring Delaware's past through an interactive, user-friendly experience.



The Delaware Public Archives operates the State of Delaware Historical Markers Program. Markers are placed at historically significant sites across the state. For more information, contact the Delaware Public Archives at (302) 744-5000 or historicalmarkers@delaware.gov.





African American Delaware WWI draftees in Wilmington

Date: 1917

Photo digitally enhanced

Resource ID: 9015-001-003_022p

Bethesda Colored School with students and teacher
Date: 1926
Photo digitally enhanced
Resource ID: 8005-000-015_543n



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