WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE



SELF-GUIDED DRIVING TOUR

frican Americans have lived and worked Winchester and Frederick County for almost three centuries.

At first, most were enslaved. They worked in the fields alongside English, Scots-Irish, and German farmers, growing produce for the household and grains for market.

But these small family farms did not generally fit with the plantation slave system, and after the American Revolution many of the area's Quakers, Baptists, and Methodists denounced slavery. Some owners freed their enslaved people. Between 1830 and 1840, Winchester's free Black population grew by one-third, while its enslaved population declined by one-quarter.

In the years before the Civil War, the number of free Blacks in Winchester was proportionally greater than that of the state as a whole, and the idea that Winchester was a mecca for free Blacks persists in oral tradition. As a market center, the city needed skilled workers, and a fair number of those practicing the 46 trades recorded in the city in the 1830s may have been African Americans. Randall Evans, for example, ran a restaurant on Loudoun Street that specialized in oysters. Born enslaved, he gained freedom in 1833 and worked five more years to buy freedom for his family. Alfred Wells, a "free man of Colour," also purchased freedom for his wife Isabella and his daughters Maria and Emily.

After emancipation, and through the years of segregation, Winchester continued to offer opportunities for work. In 1898, the city directory records 1,760 African Americans in a variety of occupations, including

The Virginia Informer

JULY 1. 1939 WINCHESTER, VA.

" Me cover Birginia like the Sky covers the earth Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8

This is an experiment whereby we hope to find out if Colored Winchester and Northern Va. went and will support a Negro weekly. In this edition we bring to you comments and criticisms, of Winchester's leading citizens. Read what they have to

EDITORIAL country and his fellow men. We mourn his passing; he was a citizen, a Churchman and a gentle-their initial edition of the Virginia Informer man. May he rest in peace.

Local Notes Mrs. Marcia taper and Mrs. Anna Q. Tokes are attending Summer school at Va. State College.
Mrs. M. Pinn, Mr. and Mrs. Gouverneur Pinn attended the last rites of their father-in-law and a fair representation in the White or large Negro ton, D.C. last week.

The Virginia Informer, Winchester's Black newspaper (see Site 7)

KHAUMEUSA

Whereas, the President of the United States did, on the first day of the present month issue his Proclamation declaring "that, all persons held as Slaves in certain designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free," and that the Executive Government of the United States. including the Military and naval authorities thereof, would recognize and mantain the freedom of said persons. And Whoreus, the Lanty of kredrick is included in the teritory designated by the Proclamation of the President, in which the Slaves should become free, I therefore hereby notify the citizens of the city of Winchester, and of said County, of said Proclamation, and of my intention to maintain and enforce the same.

President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was announced in Winchester on January 5, 1863

barber, livery owner, restaurant owner, cook, laborer, drayman, servant, porter, waiter, children's nurse, shoe shiner, wash woman, errand boy, house girl, pastry cook, shoemaker, dressmaker, plasterer, gardener, blind weaver, mattress maker, and chair caner. Later city directories portray a vigorous and self-sufficient, separate Black community. African Americans were blacksmiths and grocers, confectioners and barbers, practical nurses and stone masons. They ran hotels and tourist homes, restaurants and lunchrooms, beauty parlors and funeral parlors. They drove taxicabs and repaired cars. A few were doctors and dentists; many were clergyman.

Like people everywhere, the African Americans of Winchester worked hard at their occupations, supported their churches and social organizations, made sure their children were well cared for and as well educated as possible, contributed to their community when they could and left when they had to, and in general looked out for each other. Their struggles and their contributions to Winchester are reflected in the following brief accounts of businesses, churches, schools, and families.

WE INVITE YOU TO WALK IN THEIR SHOES.



Willard Gibson, publisher and printer of The Virginia Informer (see Site 7)



Turn right out of the parking lot onto Pleasant Valley and go to the first stoplight. Turn left on Hollingsworth Dr. At the stop sign, turn left onto Opequon Ave. Go two blocks, turn right on Millwood Ave. Cross the railroad tracks and turn left on Southwerk St. Go up the hill. The site is on your left.



DR. JOHN POULSON OFFICE 200 E. SOUTHWERK STREET



Dr. John Poulson, a general practitioner, was the first Black physician to practice in Winchester. He had been encouraged to come to the city by Dr. John Brown (see Site 25). Dr. Poulson first opened his practice next to the Community Food Store (see Site 3). Although he did not have hospital privileges, he cared for any patient who came to see him, Black or White. By 1936, he had moved his home

and practice to Southwerk Street. This structure, now gone, stood where the townhouses are today.

Continue 2 blocks down Southwerk. Turn right on Loudoun. Go 4 blocks, through the light, and 1 more block. Turn right on Pall Mall Street. The site, a gray house, is halfway down the block on the left.



NEGRO DAY NURSERY 20 E. PALL MALL STREET



This early "day care center" was established in 1938 by the Civic Club of Winchester as a nursery for working mothers with support from the United Fund. It prepared children for first grade and was well known for performing elaborate plays at John Mann

(see Site 5) or Mt. Carmel (see Site 27) Church. It continues as the Fremont Street Nursery (see Site 15). Cartwright's Funeral Home (see Site 22), then called Paynter's, was first located here.

Continue 1½ blocks down Pall Mall. Turn left onto Kent. Go 4 blocks and turn left on Cecil. The site, now the Ruth Jackson Memorial Park, is on the right. This is a good place to stop and walk around.



JACKSON FAMILY BUSINESSES 126½ E. CECIL AND 321 S. KENT STREETS 💿



ivienne Jackson with photo of her mother, Ruth

In 1927, Ruth and Boyd Jackson opened a tea room on this site. Their daughter Vivienne continued its operation through the 1990s. Workmen building the fashionable George Washington Hotel ate their lunches here. Next door, on

the corner, was the Community Food Store, opened the same year by Russell A. and Hilda Jackson, relatives of Ruth and Boyd. Russell Jackson also held the distributorship for national newspapers. Under many different owners, the store served the community for more than 50 years. Neither building still stands, but the park memorializes their contributions. Continue down Cecil. Turn right at the next corner onto Cameron and then right again onto Cork. The site is down the block, on the right.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU 115 E. CORK STREET (PARKING LOT)

In 1865, Robert Orrick (see Site 26) purchased property where this parking lot is now, and the buildings that stood here are likely the rooms he rented to the Freedmen's Bureau in 1866 for offices and a school. The bureau was a U.S. government agency established after the Civil War to aid newly freed African Americans. The Winchester office was set up in 1865 to help find work for freedmen, make sure they were paid, and sponsor schools. It operated at several different sites and in 1869 was at the corner of N. Loudoun and Piccadilly Streets.

The next site is next door, farther down Cork.



JOHN MANN METHODIST CHURCH, 1858 119 E. CORK STREET



This church was organized in 1857 with the support of Market Street Methodist Church (on the corner across the street) and built the following year under the leadership of Robert Orrick (see

Site 26) and other preachers. It was named for John Mann, who had promoted Methodism among Blacks. The congregation now meets at Wesley United Methodist Church on Van Fossen Street.

Continue down Cork. At the light, where it crosses Kent, on the southeast corner, is the next site.



MADISON BRISCOE CHILDHOOD HOME CORNER OF S. KENT AND E. CORK STREETS •



Madison Briscoe, PhD, a scientist nationally recognized for his research in tropical medicine, grew up in this low stone home with his cousin, Helen Cartwright, who was the first Black nurse at the Winchester Hospital. Both attended the Winchester Colored School in the Old Stone Church

(Site 9). Briscoe served in the U.S. Army and on the faculty of Storer College and Howard University.

Continue up the hill on Cork for 1 block. Cross the railroad tracks and immediately turn left on East Lane, before the cemetery. The site is on the left, across the railroad tracks.

POWELL W. GIBSON HOME, GIBSON'S PRINT SHOP, AND THE OFFICE OF THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

119 S. EAST LANE



Powell W. Gibson, who lived here from 1916 until his death in 1959, was one of Winchester's leading educators and the author of plays and poems. Before moving to Winchester, he was a teacher and school supervisor in Manassas, Virginia, and in Chestertown, Maryland. But he is best remembered as the beloved principal of Douglas School (see Site 11), educating generations of children for more than a quarter century. His son

Willard operated a print shop behind this old brick residence, where in the late 1930s he published The Progressive Advocate and The Virginia Informer, Winchester's only Black newspapers. Continue on East Lane. The next site is on the next corner, also across the railroad tracks, on the north side of Sharp Street.



EVANS HOTEL 224 SHARP STREET



This old structure was long the only Black-owned hotel in Winchester. Starting in the 1920s, it was owned and operated by the Evans family— Cyrus B. and Velma Evans, Hattie Evans Bell, and finally

Meta Boyd Evans Harper. The hotel included a ballroom, a small grocery, a beauty shop, and a preschool. Black workmen rented rooms here while they were constructing the George Washington Hotel and Handley High School. Ruth's Tea Room (see Site 3) on Cecil Street and the Square Deal Café and Parker's Eating House, both on Piccadilly, were favorite places for meals. In the early 1970s the hotel became a boardinghouse and closed in 1994, following Meta Harper's death.

Continue down East Lane 3 blocks to the traffic circle. This would be a good place to stop and walk around. The sites are on the right and across the circle.



WINCHESTER COLORED SCHOOL, 1878/ **OLD STONE CHURCH, 1788 304 E. PICCADILLY STREET** •



This stone church was built by the city's Presbyterians more than 200 years ago. In 1858 it was leased to the Old School Congregational Baptist Church of Color (see Site 13), whose

members bought 50-cent shares to pay the rent. In 1878, the city's first public school for Black children opened here. It was known as the Winchester Colored School. The building was divided into three rooms, heated by a single wood stove. The older boys had the job of keeping the fire going. The street served as the playground. By the 1920s, the building was no longer big enough for all the children enrolled, and in 1924 the Black community petitioned the Winchester School Board for a new school (see Site 11). The Old Stone Church has been restored as a church and is now used for weddings and special services.

Walk across the circle to the small park.

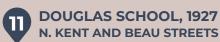
DR. TAYLOR F. FINLEY OFFICE 232 E. PICCADILLY STREET



Dr. Finley, whose office was on this site from 1936 until the 1950s, was not only the Black community's dentist. He taught science and manual training at Douglas School (see Site 11) and operated the Finley Recreation Center (see Site 12).

His grandson, Donald L. Finley Sr., was the first African American male elected to City Council. The building is no longer standing. Historic markers in the park honor him and describe Black education in Winchester.

Enter the traffic circle and exit at National Avenue. Go 4 blocks and turn left on Smithfield. Continue 0.6 miles. On the left you will pass Frederick Douglass Park and the rear of Douglas School. To approach the school, continue on Smithfield, turn left on Green and left again on Sherlock. Turn right on Beau. The site is on the left. This would be a good place to stop and walk around.





In 1924, as a result of the Black community's petition (see Site 9), the Winchester School Board began construction of new facilities with funds from the Handley Trust, and a parade of

1,000 people, nearly a mile long, celebrated the laying of the cornerstone. Three years later, in November 1927, there was another parade, as 150 students and six teachers marched from the old school building to the new one. The new facility had six classrooms, offices, restrooms with showers, a projection room where movies could be shown, and a branch of the Handley Library for Negro Citizens.

Here generations of African American children from Winchester studied through grade 9. Those who wanted more education had to go elsewhere, and they did. In 1938, of a graduating class of eight, five went to high school in Washington, D.C.: one became a lawyer, one a research biologist, one a psychologist, and one the first Black fire marshal of Washington, D.C.

By 1948, Douglas was a regional high school, also serving Frederick, Warren, and Shenandoah Counties. Additions, including more classrooms, an industrial arts shop, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria, made the school a full high school by 1953. In 1966, when the Winchester schools were integrated, Douglas became an intermediate school. Later, as the Douglas Community Learning Center, it was home to the Boys and Girls Club, Head Start, and educational programs. In 1999, this building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has been rehabilitated to serve as the Winchester School Board offices and a site for community events and activities.

Continue down Beau and turn left on Kent. You are now in the heart of Winchester's historic Black neighborhood, and there are many sites to see, so either drive slowly along Kent Street or park and walk, about 0.2 miles.

FINLEY RECREATION CENTER 567 N. KENT STREET



The brick building on the right was a skating rink and dance hall opened in 1950 by Dr. Taylor F. Finley (see Site 10). Until the mid-1950s, children could rollerskate or play basketball here

during the day, and in the evenings adults enjoyed this popular gathering place. Lloyd Price and Fats Domino played to sell-out crowds. The center was also rented for private parties and social functions, and the first meetings of the Douglas Alumni Association were held here. Today the building is a bar and grill that can still be rented for community functions.

In the next block, on the left.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH, 1911 **522 N. KENT STREET**



The history of Shiloh Church is much older than its current building, constructed in 1911. Before the Civil War, as the Old School Congregational Baptist Church of Color, it met in the Old Stone Church (see Site 9). Later the congregation met on Cameron Street and in a hall on N. Loudoun Street rented from Charles C. Brown, the father of the Drs. Brown (see Site 25).

This property was obtained in 1911 from Ada Jackson of Pittsburgh, formerly of Winchester.

Also in 500 block, on the left, is a historic marker for Spottswood Poles.

SPOTTSWOOD (SPOTSY) POLES HOME **530 FREMONT STREET** •



In a house on a narrow street one block over, baseball star Spottswood Poles was born on November 7, 1886, to Matilda and French Poles, a laborer. Spottswood Poles is remembered as the fastest man who ever played in the Negro Leagues. He was also quite a hitter. In 1911, playing for the New York Lincoln Giants, he batted .440 and stole 41 bases in 60 games. In 10 exhibition games against Major League teams, he had an amazing .610 batting

average. During World War I, Poles enlisted in the 369th Infantry and earned five battle stars and a Purple Heart fighting in France, where he also organized a baseball team. Retiring from sports in 1923, he returned to Winchester, where he operated a taxi business and organized exhibition games. Today a street in Winchester's Jim Barnett Park is named for Poles, where another historic marker honors his achievements. Visible in between houses on the left is the rear of the next site. It is across the street from Poles's birthplace.

FREMONT STREET NURSERY 533 FREMONT STREET



When the Negro Day Nursery (see Site 2) moved to this site in 1953, it was renamed the Fremont Street Nursery. Today, with several dozen children and a staff of teachers, it continues to serve the city.

The next site is just a little farther on, on the left.

JOHN KIRBY HOME 442 N. KENT STREET



Jazz great John Kirby was raised in this house by the Rev. Washington Johnson. Johnson's daughter Mary taught Kirby to play the piano, and Powell W. Gibson, principal of Douglas School (see Sites 7 and 11), taught him to play the trombone. In 1926, Kirby moved to Baltimore, where he took up playing the tuba. He also played bass. From there, he went to New York, where in the 1930s he played with Chick Webb and Fletcher Henderson's

band. Eventually Kirby formed his own band, John Kirby and His Onyx Club Boys, which opened at the Onyx Club on West 52nd Street and recorded with rising stars such as Benny Goodman. His jazz recordings for Columbia, Decca, and RCA Victor are recognized today as classics.

Two doors down, on the left, on a lot incorporated in another structure.

HAYWOOD SHEPHERD HOME **438 N. KENT STREET**



On the morning of October 17, 1859, Haywood Shepherd, a baggage master for the Winchester and Potomac Railroad at Harpers Ferry, walked onto the tracks to prepare for an eastbound train. He did not know that John Brown's band of men had seized the railroad bridge and depot. Two of Brown's men startled him, and as he began to run, they shot him. Ironically, the first man to die in John Brown's raid to free

the slaves was a free Black man. Shepherd, 46 years old with a wife and five children, was brought back to his home on Kent Street (now gone) for burial.

Just beyond where the Shepherd Home was, on the left, look through to the

ST. STEPHEN'S CME CHURCH **424 CHASE STREET**



The St. Stephen's congregation of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1923, was noted for its active Sunday School and auxiliaries. This church building was first located on S. Cameron Street, and later, raised onto logs, it was moved to this site. In 2005, the congregation moved to 2020 Maple Street. About five doors farther down Kent Street, on the left.

KING HIRAM MASONIC LODGE 418 N. KENT STREET



In 1885 local men petitioned the Prince Hall Grand Lodge for a Black Masonic Lodge in Winchester, and King Hiram Lodge was established the next year. The first meetings were held in a building owned by Charles C.

Brown (see Site 25) on N. Loudoun Street. Following a reorganization, the Masons and Apple Blossom Chapter 196 of the Order of the Eastern Star moved into this building in 1976 and met here for many years. Next door, still on the left.

ELKS CLUB 414 N. KENT STREET



This old stone structure stands on a lot once owned by the Shug Evans family, who operated a livery business and taxi service here. Later the building housed Ruth Harris's beauty shop and the offices of the Southern Aid

Society Insurance Company. In 1948, the Evans family sold the building to the Daniel J. Farrar Lodge, and the Elks have met here ever since.

From this point, the driving tour continues. Follow the jog in Kent Street. The next site is on the right, on the corner of Kent and Fairfax Lane.

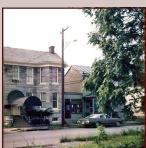
CARTWRIGHT'S, BROWN'S, AND **OTHER BUSINESSES 209 N. KENT STREET**



This small building was the site, successively, of several Black businesses when they first opened. As business grew, all moved to larger and more permanent locations. In the 1930s Brown's Tonsorial Parlor

(see Site 23) and Hanshew Bros. Cleaners and Shoe Repair were here. In 1936 it was Cook's Pool Hall, and in the 1940s it was Cartwright's Funeral Home (see Site 22). Turn right on Piccadilly and make the next right onto Cameron. The next site is 31/2 blocks down on the left.

CARTWRIGHT'S FUNERAL HOME **437 N. CAMERON STREET**



Cartwright's has served the community for nearly a century. It was established by Robert S. Paynter in the mid-1930s and was located first on E. Pall Mall Street (see Site 2). Joseph Cartwright assumed its ownership in 1940. For a time, the business was located at 209 N. Kent Street (see Site 21).

Then, for more than 40 years, Cartwright's operated in this building. Today the establishment is at 232 E. Fairfax Lane and is owned by Joseph's nephew, Bruce Cartwright. The next site is next door—the low, one-story building between two buildings.

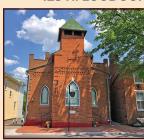
BROWN'S BARBER SHOP 439 N. CAMERON STREET



There was a Brown's Barber Shop in Winchester for almost a century. After operating at various locations, Brown's opened at this site in 1943; a decade later the barbers were Spotswood Brown, William Brown, and Archie Burns.

Not everyone who came in got a haircut. Brown's was a place where Black men got together and talked. It was here that the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was organized in the late 1940s, and in 1949 a committee of Black men and women developed a strategy for opening the Handley Library to Black patrons. By the late 1950s, the library was integrated; then followed Winchester's theaters and stores. There was a lot to discuss, and always a lot going on at Brown's. Go 1 block farther on Cameron and turn left on North and left again on Loudoun. The next site is about ¾ of a block down, on the left.

ST. PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST **EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1887 428 N. LOUDOUN STREET**



The church, organized in 1867, was one of the first 50 AME congregations chartered in the country. The building was constructed in stages, and services were held in the basement until the sanctuary was built. The vestibule and bell tower followed. Today the tower houses a

650-pound bell. In February 1986 the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society recognized the structure as a historic site, and it remains the only designated landmark in Winchester owned by African American people. The church completed a major renovation in 2005. Continue 2½ blocks down Loudoun. The next site is on the southeast corner of Fairfax Lane.

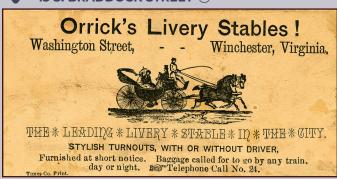
BROWN FAMILY HOME CORNER OF N. LOUDOUN STREET AND E. FAIRFAX LANE



On this corner stood the home of Charles C. and Maria Fairfax Brown. Six of their eight children became doctors of medicine or pharmacy, but all had to leave Winchester to study and practice. Dr. John W. Brown moved to Pittsburgh. His brothers Dr. Harrison Brown and Dr. James Erroll Brown also practiced in Pittsburgh, where James was a professor at University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Edward P. Brown was a pharmacist. Their sister, Dr. Nancy Fairfax Brown, was

a teacher and doctor of pharmacy in Washington, D.C. Perhaps the most distinguished member of this accomplished family was Dr. Sara Winifred Brown, an educator and doctor, the first woman to serve on Howard University's board of trustees, and a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt. All six Drs. Brown are buried in Orrick Cemetery (see Site 28), to which they donated funds for upkeep and a fence. Continue 1 block on Loudoun. Turn right on Piccadilly, then left at the light onto Braddock. Continue 2½ blocks. The next site, a stone house, is on the right.

ROBERT ORRICK HOME 15 S. BRADDOCK STREET



Robert Orrick's business card, printed on leather

Robert Orrick, a prominent Black citizen of Winchester, left a legacy of community spirit that continues today. Born enslaved, he became a noted minister, forceful speaker, successful businessman, and real estate owner. His livery

business on Washington Street and later on Braddock Street contracted with the U.S. government to carry mail from Leesburg to Winchester and later to Rock Enon, Romney, Cedar Creek, and other areas. He is said to have been the first African American awarded a mail contract. When Orrick died in 1902, his wealth was estimated at \$25,000 (more than a three-quarters of a million in today's dollars). He donated materials to rebuild a church in Stephens City that had been destroyed in the Civil War. It was renamed Orrick Chapel in his honor, as was the African American cemetery on Valley Avenue (see Site 28), for which he purchased land and added lots.

Continue on Braddock 4½ more blocks. The next site is on the right, on the corner of Leicester.

MT. CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH, 1893 **423 S. BRADDOCK STREET**



This Baptist church was organized in 1866 and held services at this site from 1868 to 2005. The first church burned in 1890, and the current structure, built in 1893, has been expanded and renovated

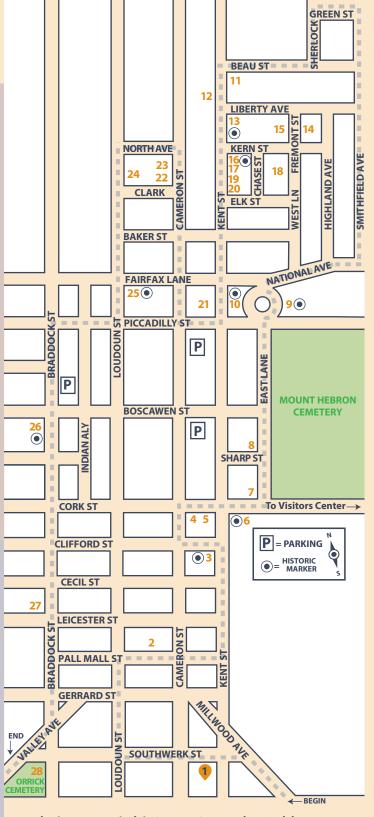
over the years, most recently in 1999. The congregation moved to 1317 South Pleasant Valley Road in 2005, and in 2016 it celebrated 150 years of continuous service. Continue on Braddock 0.4 miles, through 3 lights, as it becomes Valley Avenue. The site is on the left.

ORRICK CEMETERY VALLEY AVENUE AT W. SOUTHWERK STREET



Named for Robert Orrick (see Site 26), who expanded it, this cemetery was first set aside as a burial ground "for the free Negroes, Mullattoes, and Slaves" in 1810. The African American congregation of John Mann Church (see Site 5) maintained and operated it for many years. In 1922 the Orrick Cemetery Company was

formally incorporated to oversee its care and burials. To return to the Visitors Center, turn left on Southwerk and go 6 blocks. Turn right on Millwood and go 2 long blocks to Pleasant Valley Road. Turn left onto Pleasant Valley and then right into the Visitors Center.



Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1400 S. Pleasant Valley Road, Winchester, Virginia 22601



Sources include freedom papers, census records, deeds, diaries, obituaries, newspapers, city directories, and oral history transcripts. Additional information is filed, by site, in the Archives Room at the Handley Regional Library, on the corner of N. Braddock and W. Piccadilly Streets. The photographs are courtesy of the Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives at Handley Regional Library, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University Archives, Howard University, Washington, DC, and Alan Williams and the Kirby Family. The fifth version has been updated by the task force and printed by the Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1400 South Pleasant Valley Road, Winchester, Virginia 22601. Call (540) 542-1326 or visit www.visitwinchesterva.com.

Additional African American sites in the region include:

JOSEPHINE SCHOOL COMMUNITY MUSEUM 303 JOSEPHINE STREET, BERRYVILLE, VA (EAST OF WINCHESTER OFF ROUTE 7)

Josephine City, on the edge of Berryville, was established as a self-sufficient black community after the Civil War. In 1882, its residents built a two-room school at the end of Josephine Street for children in grades 1–5. In 2003, the building was restored and reopened as a museum, where visitors can see an early 20th-century schoolroom and artifacts from the local Black community. This museum is generally open on Sunday afternoons. Call (540) 955-5512 for information.

ORRICK CHAPEL 5310 MULBERRY STREET, STEPHENS CITY, VA (SOUTH OF WINCHESTER OFF ROUTE 11)

This historic African American church was built shortly before 1869 to replace an older church that was destroyed during the Civil War. It was named after Robert Orrick, who helped fund the reconstruction. As a historic site, the church is administered by the Stone House Foundation, 5408 Main Street, Stephens City, and is open by appointment only. Call (540) 869-1700 for information.

BELLE GROVE PLANTATION 336 BELLE GROVE ROAD, MIDDLETOWN, VA (SOUTH OF WINCHESTER OFF ROUTE 11)

With thousands of acres and hundreds of enslaved people in the years before the Civil War, Belle Grove offers insight into plantation slavery. Research is under way to learn more about the lives of the enslaved people who worked here. The museum includes an exhibit on slavery at the plantation, and there is a slave cemetery on the site. Call (540) 869-2028, www.bellegrove.org.