



Horace King
Respected Bridge Builder

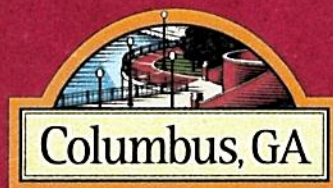
Black Heritage

VISITORS GUIDE

Ma Rainey
Mother of the Blues



Alma Thomas
World Renowned Artist



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Points of Interest

- 1. Ma Rainey Home**
805 5th Avenue; Open for tours. National Historic Register. This is the last home where Gertrude "Ma Rainey" Pridgett (1886-1939) resided. She enjoyed national fame as a gospel and blues performer and recording artist in the 1920's. Known as "The Mother of the Blues," she received the 1993 Woman of Achievement Award and was inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. A stamp honoring her was issued in 1994 and is available for purchase by collectors.
- 2. First African Baptist Church**
901 5th Avenue; Tours by appointment. Founded by a slave, Joseph, and eleven white men in 1830, the First African Baptist Church is the oldest black church in Columbus. It was given its own house of worship in 1840.
- 3. St. John A.M.E. Church**
1510 5th Avenue; Exterior viewing only. National Historic Register. The original church congregation of Columbus was built in 1870 as an outgrowth of St. James A.M.E. Church.
- 4. Claflin School**
1532 5th Avenue; Exterior viewing only. This site was the first school for blacks in Columbus. With grades one through four, it was established by the Freedman's Bureau in 1868, four years before black schools became part of the Muscogee County School System. The original structure was destroyed by fire in 1958.
- 5. Metropolitan Baptist Church**
1633 5th Avenue; Tours by appointment. Established April 16, 1890 by the Rev. W.S. Ramsey who was called as their first pastor, after pulling out from First African Baptist Church. It hosts the "Emancipation Day" celebration in Columbus every January 1st.
- 6. Restored Train Station**
1200 6th Avenue; (Columbus Chamber of Commerce). National Historic Register. Originally Union Train Station, it had waiting rooms for blacks and whites, illustrating a system of segregation.
- 7. St. James A.M.E. Church**
1002 6th Avenue; Tours by appointment. National Historic Register. This site was given to the African Methodist Church by an act of the Georgia Legislature in 1875. The church houses the second oldest pipe organ in the state. The doors of the church were hand-carved by slaves.
- 8. Friendship Baptist Church**
831 6th Avenue; Exterior viewing only. National Historic Register. Founded in 1892 at 4th Avenue and 6th Street, the church moved to its present home in 1897. This is the church Ma Rainey attended and sang in the choir when she retired to Columbus.
- 9. The Liberty Theatre**
823 8th Avenue; Tours by appointment. National Historic Register. In 1924, this theatre was built for African-Americans by the Martin family. It was both a place for movies and a social gathering place. During the old days, you could get in with two RC Cola bottle tops. It also served as a stop on the Black Chitlin' Circuit for entertainers like Lena Horne, Ethel Walters, Step N Fetch'it, Ella Fitzgerald and Cab Calloway.
- 10. Original William H. Spencer High School**
10th Avenue at Lummus Industries; Historic Marker. On this site was the first high school for African-Americans in Columbus. It was named for William H. Spencer, the first supervisor of the elementary schools for African-Americans. Spencer High School served as the first voting precinct in Muscogee County to use black poll workers.
- 11. Porterdale Cemetery**
10th Avenue; Tours by appointment. Historic Marker. This is an outgrowth of an old slave cemetery. African-American families including Ma Rainey and Primus King are buried here in family plots.
- 12. Old Slave Cemetery**
6th Avenue and 6th Street (Northeast corner). Historic Marker. A burial ground included in Thomas' Original Survey Map and the City Minutes for the interment of the blacks of Columbus, whether slave or freeperson.
- 13. Fifth Avenue School**
627 5th Avenue. An elementary school built in 1908 for African-Americans, called the "low" school by children who came downtown from Claflin to complete grades five through nine. Ninth grade was the last year of education for blacks until Spencer High School opened.

14. Mildred L. Terry Library

640 Veterans Parkway; Open to the public; Historic Marker. Built during the 1950's, the library was designed and built to meet the needs of the black community before desegregation. The library was named for its first librarian.

15. Fourth Street Baptist Church

222 5th Street; Tours by appointment. In 1900, the Mt. Canaan Church was established when a few African-Americans met to worship under a fig tree on 3rd Avenue. In 1901, one of the leaders separated from this group and started New Canaan Baptist Church, from which Fourth Street Baptist evolved. A book has been published on the church's history.

16. The Spencer House

8th Street and Veterans Parkway; Tours available by appointment. National Historic Register. William H. Spencer was the first African-American to serve as Supervisor of Colored Schools in Muscogee County. Built in 1912, his house is an outstanding example of Neoclassical Revival architecture popular during the early 20th century.

17. Primus King Site

Columbus Consolidated Government Building. This site symbolizes the courageous act of Primus King, when on July 4, 1944, he presented himself to vote at the old brick courthouse, also located here. He was denied the right to vote and subsequently won a court case establishing the right to vote for the black-man throughout the state of Georgia.

18. First Interracial Law Firm in Columbus

832 1st Avenue; Exterior viewing only. This was the location of the law firm of John Allen and Bobby Peters. Allen, an African-American man, is now a Superior Court Judge, and Peters, a southern white man, served as Mayor for two terms. Both men are Columbus natives and received their education in our public schools.

19. 802 1st Avenue – Current Home of Columbus Urban League

Built between 1870-1895, this building depicts the typical southern church style with Gothic influence of that period.

20. Brick Streets Laid by Slaves

Preserved on Broadway between 4th and 9th Streets in the Historic District.

21. Springer Opera House

10th Street at 1st Avenue; Tours available Monday and Wednesday at 3:30pm. National Historic Landmark. "Ma" Rainey made her first appearance on the stage in 1900.

22. Dr. Thomas H. Brewer Assassination Site

1025-1/2 1st Avenue; Exterior viewing only; National Historic Register. Dr. Thomas H. Brewer spearheaded the Primus King case and served as President of the local branch of the NAACP. He was assassinated outside his office on February 18, 1956. (Historic Marker)

23. Temperance Hall

1st Avenue between 12th and 13th Streets (west side); Historic Marker only. This was the site of the first black public school in Columbus, which was founded in 1872.

24. City Mills

1st Avenue and 18th Street; Exterior viewing only. National Historic Register. This mill was built by Horace King, a freeperson of color and former slave. (see #27)

25. Greater Shady Grove Baptist Church

1901 2nd Avenue; Tours available by appointment. In the church basement are remnants of the old Carnes Confederate Hospital. There are stories that blacks would sing and tend to the soldier patients.

26. Kinfolks Corner - Slave Auction Site

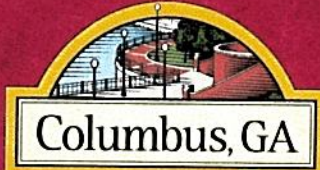
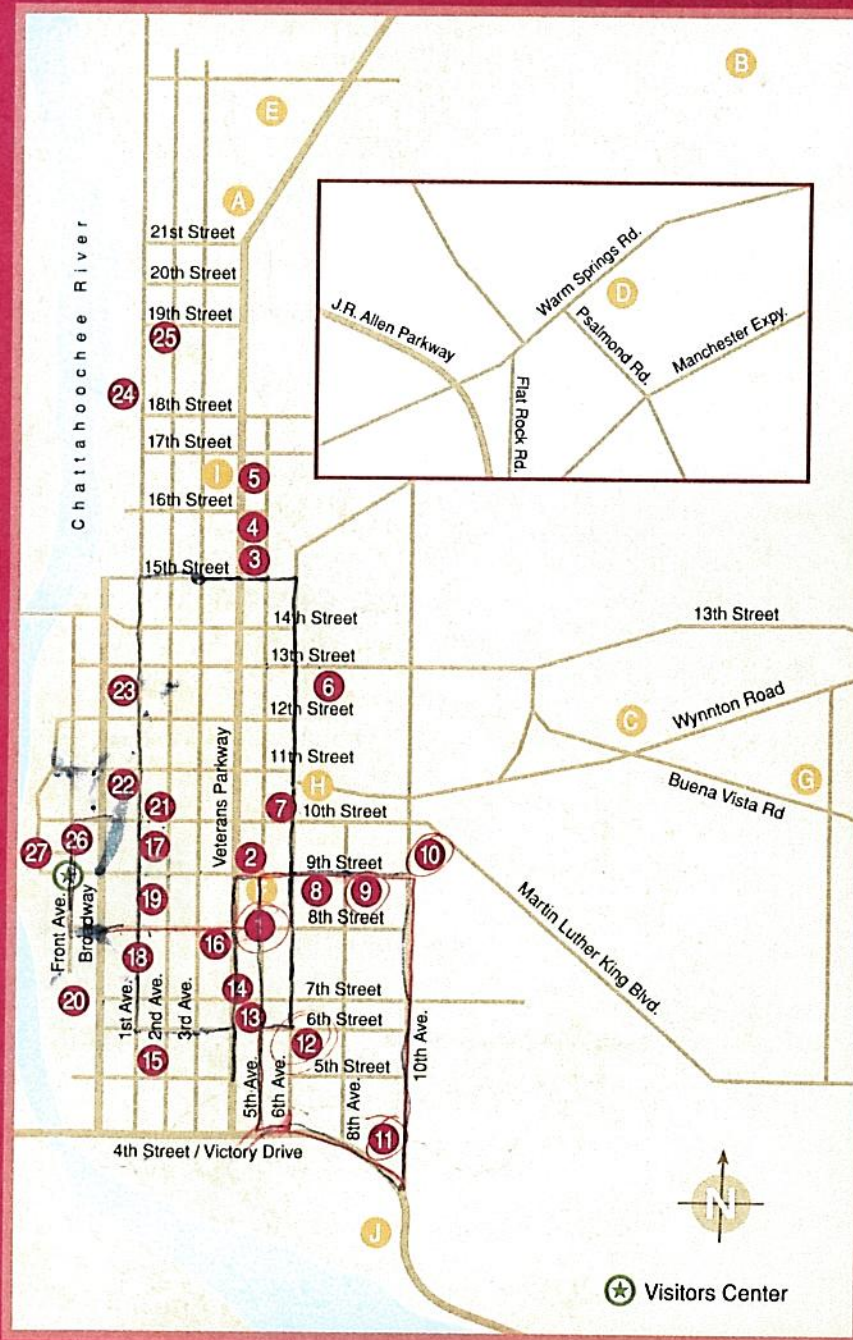
10th Street and Front Avenue; Exterior viewing only; Historic Marker. For decades, this site was the social gathering place on Saturdays for the African-American community of farmers from Alabama.

27. Dillingham Street Bridge

Bay Avenue crossing to Alabama; Historic Marker. Horace King, master bridge builder, assisted his master, John Godwin in building the Dillingham Street Covered Bridge in 1832.

Additional Sites

- A. Alma Thomas**
Childhood home located at 411 21st Street. Considered one of the country's foremost black female painters, Alma Thomas' work is displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Corcoran Gallery. The Columbus native lived in the 21st Street home before moving to Washington, DC at the age of fourteen.
- B. Corporal Eugene Jacques Bullard**
Marker located inside airport terminal. As the world's first black aviator, Bullard flew combat missions for France during World War I and received the Croix de Guerre, France's highest military decoration. Bullard was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame in 1989. A Columbus native, he attended the 28th Street private school until the third grade. Bullard returned to New York City in 1940 and is buried in Brooklyn, New York. A segment of his unpublished memoirs, *All Blood Runs Red*, is housed in the Columbus State University Archives.
- C. Radcliff School**
526 Radcliff Avenue. Originally organized in the fall of 1914 as Wynnton High School. In 1929, the school was changed to Radcliff after a new building was erected on land purchased through a grant from the Reasonable Foundation. It started as an elementary school for blacks, but as the years went by, more grades were added. In 1944, it became the second black senior high school in Columbus. There were only four graduating classes (1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949). A fire destroyed the school in 1971.
- D. Thomas "Blind Tom" Wiggins**
Marker at Dismukes House-Warm Springs Road. Blind at birth and a slave, Wiggins became an international celebrity because of his ability to replicate musical compositions upon only hearing, regardless of their complexity. Wiggins' master arranged tours of the U.S. and Europe for the musician during and after the Civil War.
- E. The 28th Street School**
Corner of 28th Street and 5th Avenue. Founded by M.A.J. Ketchum in 1872, this private school for black children was attended by such notable Columbusites as Eugene Bullard and Alma Thomas.
- F. Sconiers Funeral Complex**
504 9th Street. Established by John L. Sconiers, Sr. in 1916. This location was originally the site of Columbus' first black bank.
- G. The Columbus Times Newspaper**
2230 Buena Vista Road. The Columbus Times has been the voice of Columbus' black community since it was established by Joseph Clark in 1924. Clark later became the U.S. Assistant Post Master. The Times, as it exists today, was created by Vernon Mitchell 33 years ago at 8th Street and 7th Avenue.
- H. Royal Cafe**
600 11th Street. Lila Mae Star opened the Royal Cafe in 1964. This establishment specializes in down home cooking, serving breakfast and lunch. Many of Columbus' leading business professionals frequent this popular eatery.
- I. The Isaac Maund House**
1608 3rd Avenue; Exterior viewing only. National Historic Register. Isaac Maund was a black mill worker and carpenter and built this house in 1890. It is a significant testimony to the ability of whites and blacks to live together in what accounted to be an integrated neighborhood in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- J. Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Museum**
1002 Victory Drive. During the American Civil War, nearly 20% of the U. S. Navy was comprised of African-Americans. Unlike the experience of those who served in the army, the Navy boasted integrated ship crews and blacks served in virtually all enlisted ranks.



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What progress has preserved.