

ABOUT THE TRAIL

The African American Heritage Trail celebrates the accomplishments of local African American leaders, as well as African American history, arts and culture in Onslow County.

The Trail begins at the Linda Richardson Memorial (J1) at 1099 Gum Branch Road, Jacksonville. Richardson dedicated 32 years of her life to public service. As a result of her knowledge and passion, she was instrumental in forming what is now known as the Business Diversity Council of the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce in 2008.

From there, the Trail spans more than 200 years of African American history in Onslow County. The sites include schools, religious institutions, cemeteries, recreation areas, etc.

The Trail takes you beachside to Ocean City (TS1) in North Topsail Beach. This site was the first in a segregated area to allow African Americans to purchase oceanfront property and gave them access to water recreation. Ocean City Beach was unique as it was first residential beach community with African American home ownership in the state of North Carolina. The first property was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Wade Chestnut in 1949.

You will also learn of other influential leaders in the community such as Tyrone Willingham (J12), the first African American head coach for Notre Dame, and Lillian Parker Willingham (J10), who was the first African American woman to serve on the Onslow County School Board.

The Trail was unveiled in February 2011 with thirteen sites and has now grown to more than 20 historical sites. As the influence of African American history and culture is uncovered, more sites will be added.



GET IN TOUCH



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1099 Gum Branch Rd.
Jacksonville, NC 28540

910-347-3141 ext. 222

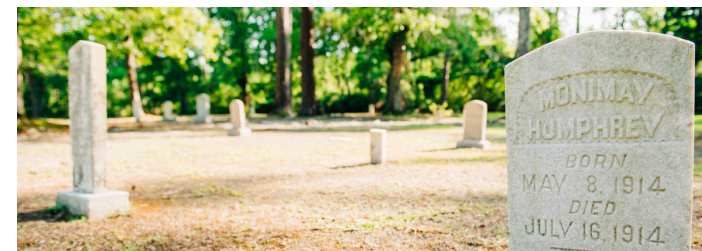
JACKSONVILLE-ONSWLOW AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

Discover the Story...

Thank You
PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT



Jacksonville • Onslow
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



JACKSONVILLE•ONSLOW

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL



The African American Heritage Trail is intended to be a self-guided driving trail. Each location has a marker providing the historical significance of that site. The addresses provided are the closest available to the site marker. In some cases, the marker might be .5 miles away from indicated address.

Please note: Some historic sites featured here are privately-owned property. Please respect the privacy of current residents and refrain from approaching or entering the property unless it is clearly marked as a museum or public space.

JACKSONVILLE

- *J1** Linda Richardson Memorial and Jacksonville-Onslow Sports Hall of Fame
1099 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28540
- *J2** Georgetown High School
228 Georgetown Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28540
- J3** Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church
1503 Hargett St., Jacksonville, NC 28540
- J4** Belgrade Community Center
482 Spring Hill Rd., Maysville, NC 28555
- J5** Verona Loop Cemetery
3601 Wilmington Hwy., Verona, NC 28540
- J6** St. Julia AMEZ Church
112 Kerr St., Jacksonville, NC 28540
- J7** Montford Point Marines
109 Montford Landing Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28540
- J8** African-American USOs
240 L P Williamham Pkwy., Jacksonville, NC 28540
- J9** Kellumtown School
223 Kellumtown Rd., White Oak, NC 28539
- J10** Lillian Parker Willingham
25 L.P. Willingham Waterfront Park, Jacksonville, NC 28540
- J11** Voting Rights Task Force
Kerr St. Recreation Center
36 Kerr St., Jacksonville, NC 28540
- J12** Tyrone Willingham
36 Kerr St., Jacksonville, NC 28540
- J13** First Baptist of Belgrade
561 Spring Hill Rd., Maysville, NC 28555
- J14** McIver Family Legacy
40 Kerr St., Jacksonville, NC 28540
Louise Anderson
46 L P Willingham Pkwy., Jacksonville, NC 28540

RICHLANDS

- *R1** Onslow County Museum
301 S Wilmington St, Richlands, NC 28574
- R2** Harrison Chapel AME Church
205 Dreadnaught St., Richlands, NC 28574
- R3** Blooming Hill Freewill Baptist Church
784 Francktown Rd., Richlands, NC 28574
- R4** Edney Chapel
5578 Richlands Hwy., Jacksonville, NC 28540
- R5** Woodson Elementary
In the 200 block of Woodson St., Richlands, NC 28574

SWANSBORO

- *S1** Hammocks Beach State Park
1572 Hammocks Beach Rd., Swansboro, NC 28584

SNEADS FERRY

- SF1** Little Zion AMEZ Church
120 Zion Ln., Sneads Ferry, NC 28460

NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH

- TS1** Ocean City
2649 Island Dr., N. Topsail Beach, NC 28460

The sites marked with an asterisk (*) have a public building that you can enter to learn more about the history of that location.

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Visit the Onslow County Tourism website for more information regarding the trail's sites. You will also find site details, photos, and video clips.

