

for, and the importance of, this story while explaining how they came to devote so much of their lives to it. Panelists included Charles Blockson, whose scholarship and extensive collection are largely responsible for the resurgence of interest in the Underground Railroad.

The conference concluded with a session by Bernice Johnson Reagon, “Songs and Singing in the Struggle for Freedom and Survival during the Era of Slavery in the United States of America.” This presentation mixed a capella renditions of many well-known songs performed by Dr. Johnson Reagon with analysis of their meaning. She also discussed historically and culturally accurate versions of many songs.

The conference was a part of the Smithsonian Institution’s Program in African American Culture’s Annual African American History Month Observance.

For more information on the Program in African American Culture, visit the website at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/paac/>

The new African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa will exhibit and interpret the state’s African American history. Photo courtesy of Kristine Chiafos.

STATE INITIATIVES

New Building for Iowa African American Museum

Pam Edwards
The African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa

The African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa will open its new facility in Cedar Rapids during the summer of 2003. Iowa’s forgotten black history—such as the enslaved African American York on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Underground Railroad exploits, Iowa’s 1867 lawsuit desegregating its schools, and the Civil Rights ferment of the 1960s and 1970s—will be exhibited.

Founded in 1994 by members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, the African American Historical Museum quickly outgrew its

original concept as a local history collection. The upcoming grand opening will reveal a 17,000 square foot museum that will explore Iowa’s black history through exhibitions, educational programming, and the Iowa Communications Network—a state-owned fiber optic link connecting Iowa’s educational institutions and libraries.

While past indifference has regrettably allowed invaluable historical artifacts to be lost, the Museum’s staff is now working to preserve as much as possible statewide. In addition, exhibition artifacts borrowed from other museums include slave shackles, a Civil War projectile, and a desk used in the South Carolina statehouse during Reconstruction.

For more information, contact Executive Director Joseph McGill, Jr. at PO Box 1626, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406. Phone: 319/862-2101, e-mail: valjoe@aol.com or curator Susan Kuecker at grahamjames@mcleod.net.





National Register Nominations

Rustin Quaide and Caridad de la Vega
National Conference of State Historic
Preservation Officers

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church of Monongahela City, located in Washington County, Pennsylvania, was constructed in the Gothic Revival style and served as the social center of the African-American community since the 1870s. Bethel AME derives its significance in the areas of architecture and ethnic heritage. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 17, 2002, Bethel AME stands as one of the oldest African-American congregations in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The construction of the church is attributed to a well-known local architect/builder, John Blythe, who was involved in the construction of other local buildings during the city's largest building boom in history. Construction on the church commenced in 1871 with the interior of the sanctuary not completed until 1894, however, the congregation utilized the building starting in 1871.

Previously housed at a smaller church located on Fair Street (currently known as Sixth Street), Bethel AME stands as the oldest landmark of Monongahela's African-American community because almost all African-Americans residing in Monongahela prior to the 1880s were associated in some respect with this congregation.

Bethel AME was designated a National Register property on November 17, 2002 for its architectural contribution as a Gothic Revival style church, and as the social center for African-Americans in Monongahela City, Pennsylvania, since the 1870s. Photo courtesy of Terry A. Necciai.

As the oldest enduring African-American institution in the eastern half of Washington County, Bethel AME has met the religious and social needs of its congregation for more than a century.

St. Christopher's Mission

St. Christopher's Mission, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 18, 2002, is located just east of the town of Bluff, Utah. It was established in 1943 with the construction of the Mission House, constructed of local red sandstone. H. Baxter Liebler (1889-1982), an Episcopal priest from Connecticut, came to Bluff in 1943 to establish a mission to the Navajos, which he named St. Christopher's Mission. Father Liebler established himself within the community, by participating in Navajo ceremonies and rituals, and growing his hair long and wearing it tied back. The Navajo called him "The One With Long Hair Who Drags His Robe Around" or "Long Hair" for short.

St. Christopher's Mission was the first medical facility to treat tuberculosis among the Navajos in Utah. By 1950, a room in the east wing of the mission house became the official clinic, which averaged nearly 300 outpatients a month, and during the years that the mission ran the hospital, there are estimates of 500 Navajo births at the clinic.

Today, St. Christopher's remains a church; its other duties have been taken over by federal, state, and tribal facilities. Before Father Liebler arrived in Bluff, there were no missions, schools, or medical facilities for the Navajo living in the barren and remote Utah section of the Navajo reservation, and less than 100 miles of road serviced the whole Navajo reservation.

Congregation Tifereth Israel

Congregation Tifereth Israel was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on November 21, 2002. Tifereth Israel is located on the south side of 54th Avenue between 109th and 111th Streets, in the Corona neighborhood of Queens, New York. Built in 1911, the property consists of two contributing buildings: the synagogue and the rabbi's residence.

Congregation Independent Chevra Tyfers Israel Anshei Corona was organized in 1907 but did not incorporate until 1911. Unlike synagogues formed by Jews immigrating from a single town in Europe, who often included in their synagogue's name the phrase "Anshei" plus the name of their European town of origin, in Corona what united the synagogue members was their new neighborhood, hence the name "Anshei Corona" ("People of Corona"). It was built as the religious center of the Ashkenazic community. According to its incorporation, the congregation's purpose was "[t]o have a synagogue for the purposes of praying, to bury their dead, and to advance its members spiritually and intellectually."

One of the members of the synagogue was Josephine Esther Mentzer who grew up to become the successful cosmetic entrepreneur, Estee Lauder. Although the relatively small Jewish population of Queens has grown over the past decades, the population of Corona was shrinking until recent Bukharan immigrants arrived and added life to Tifereth Israel. The Corona synagogue survives today as a distinctive

One of the more famous members of Tifereth Israel was Estee Lauder, who began her cosmetic business selling products door-to-door in the Corona neighborhood of Queens, New York. Photo courtesy of Kathy Howe.

The St. Christopher's Mission has served the Navajo community in Bluff, Utah, for 60 years. Photo courtesy of Corey Jensen.





The Oregon-American lumber mill in Veronica, Oregon employed people of multiple Asian descents and of African descent during its 30-year history. Photo courtesy of Janice Dilg.

architectural, cultural, and religious landmark of the Yiddish-speaking, Eastern European Jewish community in New York City.

Oregon-American Lumber Company Mill Office

The Oregon-American Lumber Company Mill office, built in 1924, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in December 5, 2002. It is significant as the only remaining building of the mill's complex that once covered more than 100 acres at the city limits of Veronica, Oregon. The Oregon-American Lumber Company was a major employer of African Americans, Filipino, Japanese, and East Indian workers.

The workers lived in company housing segregated by ethnicity. Filipinos worked as experienced

timber workers in the mill while the Japanese men mainly performed section gang work on the logging railroad. The national decree that sent Japanese-Americans to internment camps during the war ended their presence in Veronica, and none returned to the mill after World War II. Little is known of the East Indian workers and their experiences working for the mill and living in Veronica. Company officials recruited numerous African American workers and their families from Kansas City, Missouri, to work at the company. Although an NAACP chapter secured access to public schools for African American children in 1926, African American families left Veronica with the closing of the mill.

The Oregon-American Lumber Company Mill Office building is a

one-and-one-half-story wood frame building that reflects the Craftsmen Bungalow style, and is roughly L-shaped in plan, with a concrete foundation and brick chimneys.

Moncure Tipi

The Moncure Tipi, in Busby, Montana, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 20, 2002. The Moncure Tipi is one of three permanent tipi-shaped buildings to have been constructed in Montana during the early 20th century, and was a site of tribal ceremonies and dances for the Northern Cheyenne American Indian community. In addition, it housed Civilian Conservation Corps work crews during the 1930s construction of the Busby School.

The Moncure Tipi stands along Montana Highway 212 on the southwestern edge of the small community of Busby, a town with over 400 people lying within the Northern Cheyenne Indian reservation in southeastern Montana, in the Rosebud Creek valley. The Moncure Tipi is a two-story conical wooden building clad in continuous courses of wood shingles from the top to ground level. An expression of Northern Cheyenne culture and a gathering place for the small town of Busby, the Moncure Tipi is both architecturally and historically significant to the local community.

Though the building's design is reminiscent of roadside architecture often constructed in an effort to entice automobile travelers to stop and visit, the Moncure Tipi was not designed as a tourist attraction. Rather, it recalls the traditional tipi design used by the Northern Cheyenne, and is indicative of the importance of cultural tradition in the community. In 1941, the building was sold to Northern Cheyenne tribal members. It was later used as a restaurant and furniture store before passing out of use, but it has remained a local landmark for the Northern Cheyenne people.

Booker T. Washington School

The Booker T. Washington School in Terre Haute, Indiana, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 2002. Built in 1914, it was located in what was the heart of the African American community. The original two-story, rectangular brick structure features a flat roof, a raised concrete base-ment, and concrete and limestone detailing. It replaced the 10th District School (1884-1914), which was renamed for Booker T. Washington in 1906. The new Booker T. Washington School was formally dedicated on May 28, 1915, at South 13th Street between Craft and Franklin, where it still stands. The Washington School became a meeting place for African American clubs, groups, and other activities.

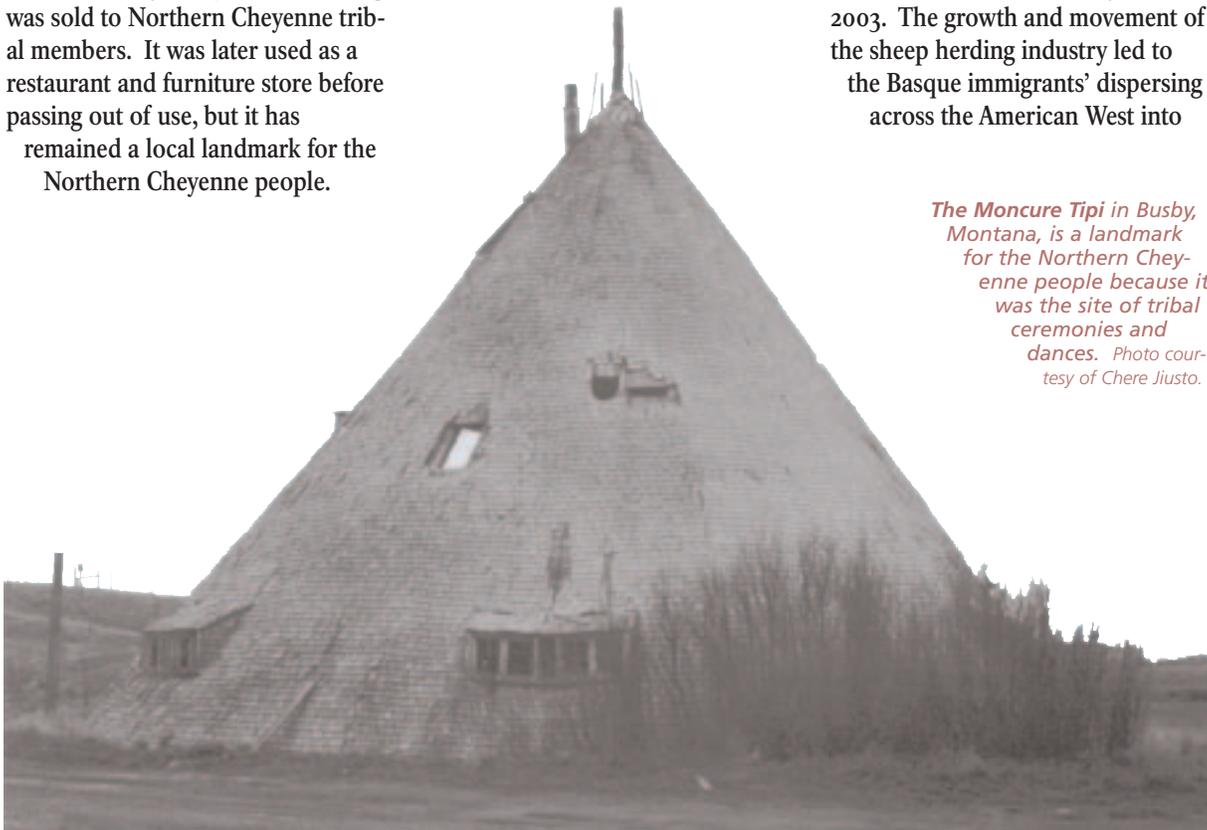
Part of the Washington School's significance lies in its educators, including Charles T. Hyte, Jane Dabney

Shackleford, and Evangeline Harris Merriweather, all of whom have all been intimately tied to Washington School and the history of African American education in Indiana. Shackleford taught at the Washington School from 1925-1962. Shackleford wrote textbooks on African Americans or their achievements, including *My Happy Days* and *The Child's Story of the Negro*. Merriweather also taught at the Washington School, and received fame as a musician and author. She performed throughout the United States and penned the readers *The Family* and later *Stories for Little Tots*, a book geared for African American elementary school students that included brief biographies of prominent African American men and women.

Anduiza Hotel

The Anduiza Hotel, in Boise, Idaho, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 25, 2003. The growth and movement of the sheep herding industry led to the Basque immigrants' dispersing across the American West into

The Moncure Tipi in Busby, Montana, is a landmark for the Northern Cheyenne people because it was the site of tribal ceremonies and dances. Photo courtesy of Chere Jiusto.



Idaho, Nevada, and parts of Oregon and Utah, but California and Idaho held the greatest number of Basque colonies. Basques may have arrived in Idaho as early as 1891. The Basque people originate from an area in Spain occupying the Pyrenees at the Bay of Biscay on either side of the border of northern Spain and southern France.

Basques built boarding houses across the American West to fulfill the need for short-term housing for the sheep herding industry. The first boarding house in Boise was documented in Ada County city directories in 1903, and by 1920 as many as 13 Basque boarding houses operated within five blocks of one another in downtown Boise. Juan "Jack" Anduiza, a Basque immigrant, built the Anduiza Hotel in 1914. Local architects Benjamin Nisbet and Frank Paradise designed the build-

ing for Anduiza specifically as a Basque boarding house with a fronton (ball court) integrated into the structure. The incorporation of the handball court into the design of the boarding house reflects the strong associations with the Basque "national" game of *pelota*.

Many Basques did not speak English, however the proprietors, or hoteleros of the boarding houses, did, and could provide a link to employment and the wider community. Anduiza was active in the Basque and local community, and he founded an organization to aid Basques with insurance matters. The Anduiza Hotel's significance is derived from the fact that only two completely intact *pelota* courts remain in the state of Idaho while formerly, there were at least four courts in Boise, and as many as five others in the state.

Eagle Saloon Building

The Eagle Saloon Building, in New Orleans, Louisiana, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 16, 2002. South Rampart Street, home to the Eagle Saloon Building, was once a flourishing entertainment and commercial district for African Americans containing drugstores, barbershops, theaters, live music venues, combination grocery stores/saloons, second-hand stores, saloons and pawnshops. Those who knew South Rampart in its heyday remember it as a central hub of the African American community. South Rampart was one of New Orleans' most important neighborhoods in the early development of jazz.

The Eagle Saloon was a favorite haunt of early jazz musicians, possibly giving its name to the Eagle



Band, the successor to Buddy Bolden's band. Bolden, among the earliest to play jazz, was called by some "the father of jazz." The third floor of this building is widely believed by locals to be the location of the famed Odd Fellows ballroom, an early jazz venue where musicians such as Bolden and the Robichaux Orchestra played. The Eagle name is generally regarded by jazz historians as progressing from the pawnshop, to the saloon, to the famous Eagle Band.

The three-story, plaster-over-brick Eagle Saloon Building fronts onto South Rampart, at the corner of Perdido. The building was remodeled in the 1920s and features a cast concrete parapet composed of sections of openwork Italianate balustrade punctured by solid panels with ornamental bas-relief. It is listed for its significance to local history and to the history of jazz in America.



Karnofsky Tailor Shop-House

The Karnofsky Tailor Shop-House, in New Orleans, Louisiana, a two-story brick building, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 2002. The building at 427-431 South Rampart is locally significant within the context of New Orleans' African American history as a rare survivor of once flourishing entertainment/business district, which stretched for several blocks along South Rampart. Aside from the African American presence, a mixture of Jewish, Italian, and Chinese stores, tailor shops, and other businesses were common in the area. The Louisiana State

Historic Preservation office staff estimate the date of construction for the Karnofsky Tailor Shop-House around 1910.

While it has had various occupants over the years, the most famous in local jazz circles are the Karnofskys, a Jewish family that has attained almost mythical status for befriending a young Louis Armstrong (1901-1971), who would grow up to be the international performer called by many the greatest of all jazz musicians. In unpublished memoirs Armstrong relates that, as a youngster, he worked for Louis Karnofsky's junk business. Armstrong recalled that the Karnofskys loaned him money on his salary to buy a "real horn."

Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Properties Projects

Angela Shearer
National Park Service

For more than a quarter century, the Federal Historic Tax Incentives Program has been an effective tool for stimulating economic revitalization in communities throughout the United States while preserving our culturally significant places. Administered by the National Park Service, in partnership with State Historic Preservation Offices and the Internal Revenue Service, this program offers a 20% federal tax credit of the cost of rehabilitating an income-producing building. The following are two notable examples of successful rehabilitation projects that utilized the federal tax credit program while protecting valuable diverse resources.

(left and above) The Eagle Saloon and the Karnofsky Tailor Shop-House, both on South Rampart Street in New Orleans, Louisiana, are connected to the beginnings of jazz through Buddy Bolden and Louis Armstrong, respectively. Photos courtesy of Donna Fricker (left) and State of Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Office of Cultural Development, Historic Preservation (above).

HERITAGE MATTERS

JUNE 2003

Douglas Junior and Senior High School

For nearly 40 years, the Douglass Junior and Senior High School, located at the corner of Bruce Street and Tenth Avenue in Huntington, West Virginia served as the educational, cultural, and athletic center for the African-American community. Named in honor of Frederick Douglass, this three-story red-brick school was built 1924-1926 to replace the old "Douglass" school and was designed by the Ohio firm of Frampton and Bowers.

This Neoclassical style building features white terra cotta exterior trim and large elegant windows. The school's expanding educational curriculum and growth were facilitated with the addition of a two-story auditorium in 1937 and a gymnasium in 1950. Graduates of Douglass School who achieved distinguished careers include: Dr. Leroy Allen, educator (served as President of Bluefield State College); Dr. Vernie Bolden, pastor and author on several books on psychology; Earl Johnson, attorney, involved in many civil rights cases in Florida

during the 1960s; and Hal Geer, athlete, star of the Philadelphia 76ers basketball team.

Douglass High School closed in 1961 and was later renamed the Fairfield School. Between 1963 and 1981, the building served as a school for special education, educational offices, and a student-testing center. Although the interior was renovated several times after the building initially closed in 1961, the exterior barely changed. On December 25, 1985, the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance to African-American history during the period of segregation. The historic name of Douglass Junior and Senior High School was returned to this landmark building the same year.

In the summer 2001, rehabilitation work was undertaken to convert Douglass Junior and Senior High School to a new use as a medical outreach clinic and job training center. Prior to the rehabilitation work, the original windows were highly deteriorated with more than 50% of the original windows having been previously replaced. Replacement windows and new

entrance doors returned the building to its original appearance. In addition, the brick and terra cotta trim were cleaned according to National Park Service guidance using the gentlest means possible. The gymnasium roof was also replaced. The project was completed in January 2003.

Ike's Café

Ike's Café forms an integral component of the Chinese-American community in the small agricultural town of Walnut Grove, located in California's Sacramento Valley. Although fire twice destroyed the Chinese community's cultural, recreational, and commercial center, a collection of about thirty buildings constructed primarily between 1937 and 1940 forms the city's Chinese American Historic District. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 22, 1990, the district is significant as the last Chinese American commercial district constructed for Chinese agricultural workers of the Sacramento Delta. The district is characterized architecturally by small-scale commercial



buildings, one-and two-stories in height, covered in stucco or a stucco façade with corrugated metal on the other elevations.

Ike's Café was constructed in 1916 following the first fire and is significant as one of only two buildings in the historic district to have survived the 1937 fire. This wood frame building is one story in height at the front elevation, but two stories at the rear elevation. After the 1937 fire, all but the front elevation of the building was covered in corrugated metal as a fire protection measure. The building derives its name from Isaac (Ike) Hanlon, who operated a restaurant and stage depot in the building from the late 1920s to the early 1940s.

After sitting vacant for a number of years, rehabilitation work was undertaken in 1999 and 2000 to convert the building into a retail space and café. The rehabilitation largely covered the existing historic materials including the corrugated metal siding and roofing, storefront, front entrance door, and the original windows. Interior tongue and groove siding was repaired, and missing or broken features were replicated to match the existing historic materials. Plumbing, electrical systems, and HVAC were upgraded. The successful use of the federal tax credit has provided a helpful financial incentive to this important local resource and spawned further revitalization in this community.

For more information, visit the TPS website at www.cr.nps.gov/hos/tps/tax/index.htm.

(left) One of the few structures to survive the fires that ravaged the Chinese American Historic District in Walnut Grove, California, Ike's Café found new life through rehabilitation. Photo courtesy of Technical Preservation Services files.

(right) By taking advantage of the rehabilitation tax credit program, buildings like Douglass High School in Huntington, West Virginia, remain vital parts of the community. Photo courtesy of Technical Preservation Services files.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

City of Atlanta's Comprehensive Historic Resource Survey

Doug Young
Atlanta Urban Design Commission

The Comprehensive Historic Resource Survey (CHRS) is a multi-year project by the city of Atlanta's Urban Design Commission to create a comprehensive inventory of the city's historic places. The survey will focus on neighborhoods, buildings, sites, and structures. Of particular interest to the Atlanta Urban Design Commission are places that have been unrecognized before or that have importance beyond what is known.

The last comprehensive survey of the historic places was completed in the late 1980s. The findings were compiled and published in *Atlanta's Lasting Landmarks*. The Atlanta City Council adopted the finished publication as the official inventory of potential, listed, or designated historic resources in Atlanta. However, since 1987, only neighborhood-oriented or project-specific surveys have been completed.

Maintaining and updating an inventory of historic properties is both a regulatory and policy requirement of the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. The 2000 and 2001 Atlanta Comprehensive Development Plans identified several historic resource or historic preservation issues that necessitate an updated comprehensive historic resource inventory.

For example, properties associated both locally and nationally with the Civil Rights Movement are not

well recognized by the general public, as was demonstrated in the discussion of the fate of the Rich's Department Store complex and the Peachtree-Broad Building. Much of Atlanta's industrial and rural past is slowly vanishing as more in-fill development and redevelopment occurs in and around the city. Pre-history, archeological, and Civil War sites are undocumented. Buildings, structures, and neighborhoods that illustrate Atlanta's development after World War II and were less than 50 years old at the time of the last survey are now old enough to be considered. With the advent of geographic information systems, computer databases, and interactive web-based applications, the ability to catalogue and distribute information about historic properties is greatly increased.

The updated survey will synthesize all efforts since 1987 and at the same time address pressing cultural resource management issues. The Atlanta Urban Design Commission will provide the overall project management, and has formed the Survey Advisory Committee to help oversee the survey. The current Advisory Committee consists of individuals from a variety of backgrounds who have expertise in a wide range of historic preservation, planning, and general design subjects.

Since the convening of the Advisory Committee a year ago, the Committee members and Urban Design Commission staff have been focusing on organizational and logistical issues, basic fact gathering, and consolidation of existing information. As part of this effort, a variety of readily available information sources have been electronically catalogued and mapped. In addition, the