

*Several sites on the trail are located **private property**, this is a **driving only tour**.

African American Legacy Tours are family-friendly driving tours that reinvestigates and rediscovers the histories and stories of African American life and experiences in the **Southwest Virginia from Slavery to Civil Rights**.

Scan the **QR code below** to learn more about each tour site and view historic photographs.



Contact us

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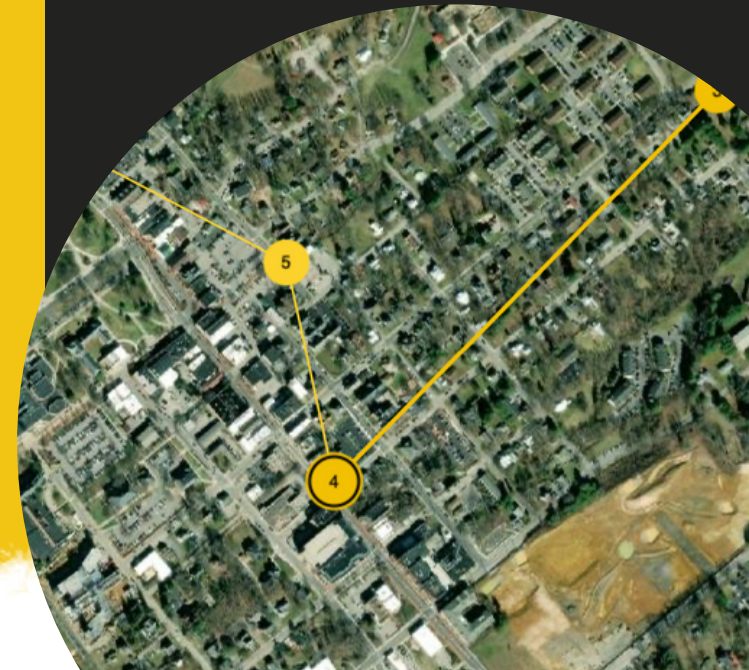


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African American Legacy Tour Series:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CHRISTIANSBURG INSTITUTE INC.



Christiansburg Sites

1 Christiansburg's Town Square | 2 E. Main Street

A site where enslaved humans were trafficked at public auction before the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in 1865. *In 2022, Christiansburg Institute, Inc. collaborated with the Montgomery Museum of Art & History to install three storyboards in the town square that recognize and celebrate Black history in Montgomery County.*

2 Eureka Hotel | 10. Depot St.

The Eureka Hotel was listed in the 'Green Book'. The hotel provided lodging for African Americans during Jim Crow and offered so much more. At this site was also a gas station, grocery store, barber shop, beauty parlor and during the 80's it held Rosalie's Soul Kitchen.

3 Rosa L. Peters Playground | 260 Depot St. NE.

Rosa L. Peter Playground was a formerly segregated park in Christiansburg for local Black children.

4 Hill School Community Center and Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church | 580 High St. NE.

Travel back to the Reconstruction Era and explore the Hill School Community Center (built in 1885), an early location of Christiansburg Industrial Institute.

5 Historic Christiansburg Industrial Institute and Edgar A. Long Building | 140 Scattergood Dr.

Next up is the historic site of C.I.I.'s farm campus. Supervised by Booker T. Washington from 1894-1919, thousands of students received a quality education.

6 Scattergood Hall | 135 Scattergood Dr.

Scattergood Hall was built in 1954 as a state of the art multipurpose building, it contained a gymnasium, industrial arts facilities and classroom spaces.

7 **Smokehouse Museum | 140 Scattergood Dr.**
The CI Alumni Association (CIAA) built a replica of the original Smokehouse in 1988 to serve as a museum.

8 Friends Elementary School | 1180 N. Franklin St.

We move on just a block to Friends Elementary School. This former African American primary school is located on the hill overlooking C.I.I.'s campus.

9 CI Principals' Cemetery | 580 High St. NE.

This is where Principals Charles Marshall, Edgar A. Long, Anna Long, their families, and some Christiansburg Institute staff and buried.

Blacksburg Sites

1 **Nellie's Cave Community | 1900 Grissom Ln.**
This is one of the oldest Black communities in Virginia. Many of the residents living there today are descendants of formerly enslaved people who acquired their land after the Civil War.

2 **Paris Mountain Farm | 2072 Lusters Gate Rd.**
Right down the mountain we reach Paris Mountain Farm. This 648-acre farm was once the Riverdale Plantation. You can see the historic Paris Mountain House on the property.

3 **Lee Street Cemetery | Blacksburg, VA.**
We continue to Lee Street Cemetery, an historically segregated Black cemetery. Many Christiansburg Industrial Institute alumni and descendants are resting here. Located across the street from Westview Cemetery.

4 **Cabo Fish Taco | 117 S Main St.**
Initially a Presbyterian church, the building is now the oldest building remaining on Main St. The bricks of this building were handmade by stone mason Jason Deryle, a person enslaved in Montgomery County.

5 Nannie B. Snell | 200 Progress St NE, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Nannie B. Snell, an African American business woman and CI alumni, owned a beauty salon on the corner of Jackson and Progress St. for fourteen years.

6 St. Luke and Odd Fellows at historic New Town | 203 Gilbert St

In 1874, Gilbert Vaughn, formerly enslaved on the Wade Plantation in Christiansburg, bought a half-acre plot of land and became the first black landowner of New Town. The neighborhood quickly grew and St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall became a vibrant community space until its destruction in the 1970s and 1980s.

7 Fraction Family House | 705 West Campus Dr.

The Fraction Family House served as living quarters for members of the Fraction family that were enslaved at the Solitude plantation, which is a part of greater Smithfield Plantation.

8 Kentland Plantation | 5250 Whitethorne Rd.

James Randal Kent owned the largest plantation in Montgomery County during the Civil War. At that time, he owned 6,000 acres of land and 122 documented enslaved people, more generally suspected to be 200-300 people.

9 Wake Forest | 2060 Wake Forest Rd.

After the Civil War, formerly enslaved people from Kentland Plantation establish a thriving African American community known as Wake Forest. There is now a museum dedicated to the rich history of Wake Forest. **museum tours are by appointment only**

