

1.Aaron Hendrick Home
105 South Front Street

This was the home of **Aaron Hendrick** and his wife, **Alice Fain Hendrick**. Aaron maintained a livery stable in the backyard. Mrs. Hendrick had a full-time maid who assisted her with cooking, cleaning and gardening. Daughter Alice and sons, **Will** and **Edward** (“Ed”) lived with them. Edward became Warren County’s electrician and Will retired from the United States Navy.

2. Green’s Funeral Home
R. H. Greene Funeral Home
109 South Front Street

Otis M. Green founded Warrenton’s first African American-owned funeral home. which was originally located at 210 West Franklin Street. His brother, **Norwood Green** served as the embalmer and his son, **O. Manson Green** was the funeral director. **Richard H. Greene** purchased the funeral home and also housed his insurance business there. Later the funeral home was sold to **Nathaniel Yarborough**.

3.Green’s Shoe Repair Shop
Johnson’s Beauty/Barber Shop
Bolton’s Fish Market
Jordan’s Florist
Quality Cleaners
Nail Salon
117 South Front Street

Brothers Irving and Flavius Green ran the shoe repair shop. They were both violinists and Irving was also a magician. Jasper Johnson’s barbershop was originally located at 111 West Market Street. His wife, Ida Johnson’s beauty salon was located in the back of the South Front Street building. **James Jordan**, Warren County Schools’ second assistant superintendent,

opened the florist shop that was known for exquisite floral designs.

4.Ellis’ Market
111 ½ West Market Street

This site housed a butcher shop owned by **Ossian Ellis** and his wife **Corrinia**. Ossian and his son John were the butchers.

5.Green’s Market
Gilliand and Clayton, Attorneys
Clayton and Ballance, Attorneys
Julia Carroll Fitts’ Florist
113 West Market Street

Green’s Market was built out of rocks **Jimmy Green** found on his West Franklin Street property. He and his brother, **Joe King Green** were the butchers. Frank Gilliand and **Theaoseus T. Clayton**, an African American, opened the first integrated law practice in North Carolina. Clayton and **Frank Ballance** practiced law at this site before moving to 307 West Franklin Street. Located on the first floor was **Julia Fitts’ Florist**. After the dissolution of the law partnership with Attorney Clayton, Attorney Ballance built the building now located on this site and moved his law practice here.

6.Davis’/Shearin’s Service Station
202 West Franklin Street

The full-service station was owned by **Edward (Ed) Hendrick** and was managed by **Julius Davis**, and later **George Shearin** who became the first African American elected to the Warren County Board of Commissioners. The station had two female attendants, **Sally Crews** and **Brenda Shearin-Bullock**.

7.All Saints Episcopal Church
South Front/Franklin Streets

Over 120 years ago, African American parishioners were

mistreated at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The church started in the home of **Albert** and **Anna Burgess** which was located between the Peter Davis store and the Aaron Hendrick home. The basement of the church also housed a school for African American children. Hand-made blocks for the structure were made by **Freeman** and **Marion Jenkins**. The Thomas White Cain Sanctuary was built in 1914. The Episcopal Church’s first African American bishop, **The Right Reverend Henry Beard Delany**, served as one of its rectors. The second African American Bishop, **The Right Reverend Bravid W. Harris** was a member of All Saints and as a bishop served the Diocese of Liberia, Africa.

8.John Edwards Building
South Front/Franklin Streets

This building was built in the 1930s by **John Edwards, Reverend James (“Jim”) Burchette, Emmanuel Davis, Jacob (“Jake”) Jordan** and **H. P. Williams**, a group of African American men. This building housed numerous offices and businesses. Included were grocery stores and restaurants: **Walter H. Thornton Grocery Store; Walter H. Thornton and Joseph Richardson Restaurant;** and restaurants managed by **Esther and Robert Ransom, Sr., Theresa Hyman** and **Mittie Perry**. **Corrine Plummer** and **Ernestine Russell** had beauty salons and **Wilbur Daniels** and **Henry H. Greene** had barbershops. **Dr. Roy Wynn**, a physician, had an office and his brother, **McKinley Wynn**, a pharmacist, owned the first African American drug store. The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service housed its farm agents and

home demonstration agents at this site. Included were: **C. S. Wynn, Annie Brown Branch, Gwendolyn Harris Fitz, Ms. Faulcon, Carter Jones, I. C. Murfree** and **L. C. Cooper**. Two dentists, **Dr. Parry Jones**, a Warren County native, and **Dr. Andrew Harris** had offices there. Later **Dr. Thomas W. Haywood’s** office was also located in this building. He was a general practitioner and practiced in Warrenton for over 50 years. Also housed in this building was **Sound and Print United (WVSP-FM)**.

9.The Community Center
109 West Franklin Street

The Warren County Community Center, constructed in 1931 of hand-made bricks, was built with donated labor. At that time there were no public restrooms available for African American citizens in Warrenton. The building has an assembly area, ladies’ lounge and restrooms for women and men. A library housed in the building also used a bookmobile to take books to the 40+ African American schools in Warren County. **Mollie Lee**, a Durham, NC public librarian, assisted **Mable H. Davis** of Wise, NC, in cataloging the Community Center Library’s first print and non-print collections.

10.Willie Lyons Stand
West Franklin Street

Willie Lyons, an independent blind citizen, ran a candy stand at this site. His wife would drive him to and from this location each day.

11.Dudley Jones Pool Hall
146 South Main Street

This business, managed by **Dudley Jones**, provided billiard tables and other games for its clients. He also managed the **Dudley Jones Meat**

Market near South Main Streets and West Franklin Street.

12.J. Stewart Wortham and Mary G. Wortham Memorial Garden
South Main/West Franklin Streets

The garden and kiosk are located on the site of a store owned by **J. Stewart Wortham** and his wife, **Mary G. Wortham**. They were major contributors to the business community. This site is a part of Warrenton’s National Register Historic District. A barbershop was also located here. **Sam Snead, Genie “Pat” Williams, Leonard Faulcon**, and **Leon Harrington**, as well as others, had taxi cab stands nearby.

13.John A. Hyman Marker
South Main/West Franklin Streets

The Honorable John A. Hyman Commemorative Marker honors North Carolina’s first African American US Congressman. He also served as a Representative and Senator in the NC Legislature and also worked at the US Department of the Treasury and the United States Post Office in Washington, DC.

14.Taylor-Harris Barber Shop
108 South Main Street

The Taylor-Harris Barber Shop, located across the street from the Warren County Courthouse was a shop for white men only. The barbershop’s proprietors were **Harrison Taylor** and **Bravid Washington Harris**.

15.Warrenton Colored Baptist Church
South Main Street

Warrenton Colored Baptist Church, later called **Warrenton First Baptist Church**, was built in

1866. **Mansfield Thornton**, Warren County’s second longest serving Register of Deeds, was a member. Its first pastor was **Reverend Isaac Alston**.

16.Grover Brown’s Grocery Brown’s Bail Bond Service
106 East Franklin Street

This full-service grocery store was owned and managed by **Grover Cleveland Brown** and his son’s, **Grover, Jr., Gaynell, Arthur and Allen**. **Gaynell Brown** and his son, **McCoin**, ran the bail bond service.

17.Warrenton Baptist Church
114 South Bragg Street

The **Warrenton Baptist Church** structure was started in 1907 and the cornerstone was laid in 1908. Active members included: **Burrel Thornton**, brother of Mansfield, who was an Assistant Register of Deeds; **Ossian** and **Corrinia Ellis, J. Stewart** and **Mary Green Wortham; Dr. Julian Haywood**, renowned heart specialist, son of **Louise Hayley Haywood** and **Dr. Thomas W. Haywood**. **Louise** and her sister, **Mamie Hayley Mason** both served as organists.

18.John S. Plummer Hook and Ladder Company

The **John S. Plummer Hook and Ladder Company**, organized in 1868 by twelve African American men, was Warrenton’s Volunteer Fire Department. **Jimmie Ransom** and his brother made the first fire wagon. These volunteers held membership in the *NC Colored Fireman’s Association*, and were the oldest, continuous-use African American fire department in North Carolina. **McCarroll Alston** was appointed Chief in 1975 and did much to increase training for both

men and women who served as fire fighters. The site is now a museum.

19.Harris’ Garage

East Macon/South Bragg Streets

Richard (“Red”) Harris, owner, and his brother **Charles, Sr.**, were mechanics who repaired cars for Warren County citizens. Richard, a licensed car dealer, frequently drove car chassis from Detroit, MI to Warrenton. The car bodies were shipped here via train. All of Richard’s sons, **Richard Jr., Bravid, and John Freeman**, worked at the garage, as did **Charles, Jr.**, son of Charles, Sr. Also trained here were: **Henry Alston, Julius Thornton and Boyd Smith, Sr.** who later worked as mechanics for other Warrenton car dealers.

20.Brown’s Funeral Services

310 East Macon Street

This is the second oldest funeral home in Warrenton. Founded in 1946 by **Thurston Brown** and his wife, **Elizabeth Martin Brown**, it was managed by their daughter, **Thurletta Brown-Gavins** before it closed in 2012

21.Oak Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

East Macon/Hall Streets

Oak Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church is the second oldest church for African Americans in Warrenton. Built in 1868, the structure is over 145 years old. Built on land donated by the **Honorable John A. Hyman**, a **Freedmen’s School** was housed in its basement during Reconstruction. During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, this church served as a refuge for student marchers.

22.Shiloh Institute

210 Plummer Street

Shiloh Institute, founded by **Mansfield Thornton, Reverend Isaac Alston** and others, was located in this structure. One of its early professors was Dr. James E. Shepard who wanted to move the school to Durham, NC. The Board of Trustees thought this unwise and he left Warrenton and started the **National Religious Training School and Chatauqua** in 1909. The school’s name was later changed to **North Carolina Central College** and is now, **North Carolina Central University**.

23.John R. Hawkins High School
Hawkins Elementary School
Harris-Turner Funeral Home

404/425 West Franklin Street

John R. Hawkins High School was the second high school built for African American students in Warren County. Its first class graduated in 1929. The original elementary school site became **Harris-Turner Funeral Home**, owned by **John Freeman Harris** and **Ernest Turner**. On the high school site were two Rosenwald buildings built out of hand-made bricks. In 1969, John R. Hawkins High School had its last high school graduation.

Special thanks to . . .
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Aaron Hendrick Home



The Community Center



The John Edwards Building



All Saints Episcopal Church



Plummer Hook & Ladder Co.



Oak Chapel AME Church



John R. Hawkins High School



John A. Hyman Historic Marker



Shiloh Institute



Wortham Memorial Garden



African American Walking Tour Of Warrenton, N.C.



Excerpted from:

*Warrenton, North Carolina
African American Walking Tour©*

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