



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
African American Heritage Trail

Champaign County Board Meeting
April 20, 2023

Trail Leadership



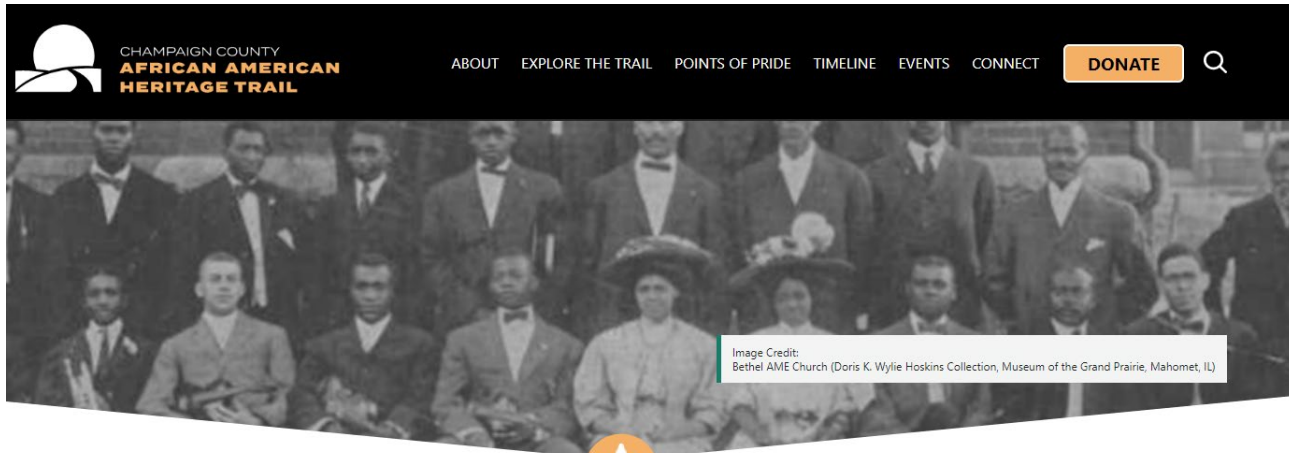
Angela Rivers



Barbara Suggs Mason

Website

www.CCAfricanAmericanHeritage.org



Celebrate the hidden and incredible stories
Right here in East Central Illinois

Champaign County African American Heritage Trail

Discover over 170 years of rich cultural history and building community. Through Reconstruction and the Great Migration, through the Depression and two world wars, through the Civil Rights era right up to the present day, learn the powerful stories of African Americans who directly shaped the place we call home.

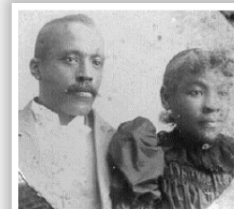
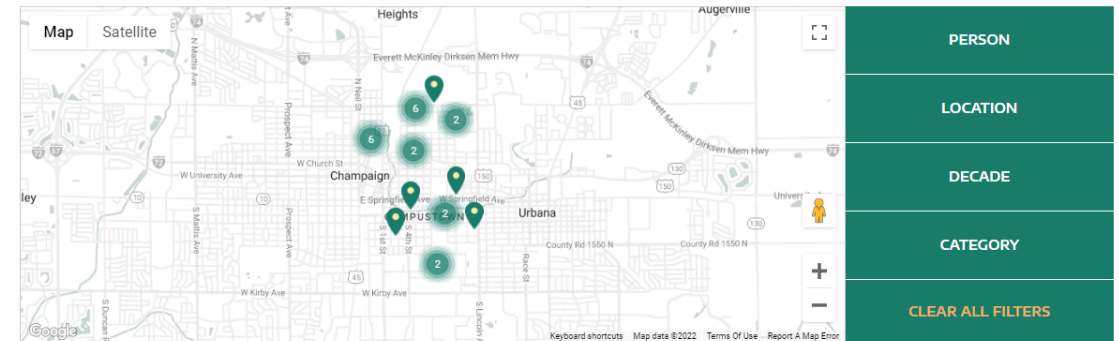
The mission is to educate today's residents and visitors about the rich cultural history of a people whose stories have been largely

Explore the Trail

Discover over 170 years of African American history in Champaign County. From historic churches to self-made individuals, you'll discover powerful stories of African Americans and the rich history of building community in Champaign County.

Note: Trail stops with a physical location will feature a 📍 in their description. The remaining share detailed history relevant to people, places, and significant events that shaped Champaign County but do not have a physical location to visit. At this time, we encourage those who would like to explore the Trail in-person to use the map below to schedule self-guided walking or driving tours to locations of interest. In addition to using the map below, you can find lists of sites for [Champaign](#), [Urbana](#), and [Homer](#).

The historical references currently provided are a small sampling of what will be included on the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail. The organizing committee is currently curating additional significant historical events, places, and people that will be featured as the Trail continues to be developed.



Wiley & Frances Jones

Wiley Jones came to Homer from Decatur, Georgia, after the Civil War with William C. Custer. Jones would run a barber shop for years in Homer, was a trustee of the Homer Savings and Loan Association, and was nominated to serve on the Village Board several times. In 1877, Wiley Jones and Mrs. Fannie Roberson Morgan were married at the home of Rev. Whitlock. Fannie died in 1914 and Wiley Jones died in 1919 in a fire while lighting his stove. Wiley and Fannie are buried in the Homer G.A.R. Cemetery.

Interpretive Signage



Immersive and Interactive Components



Murals

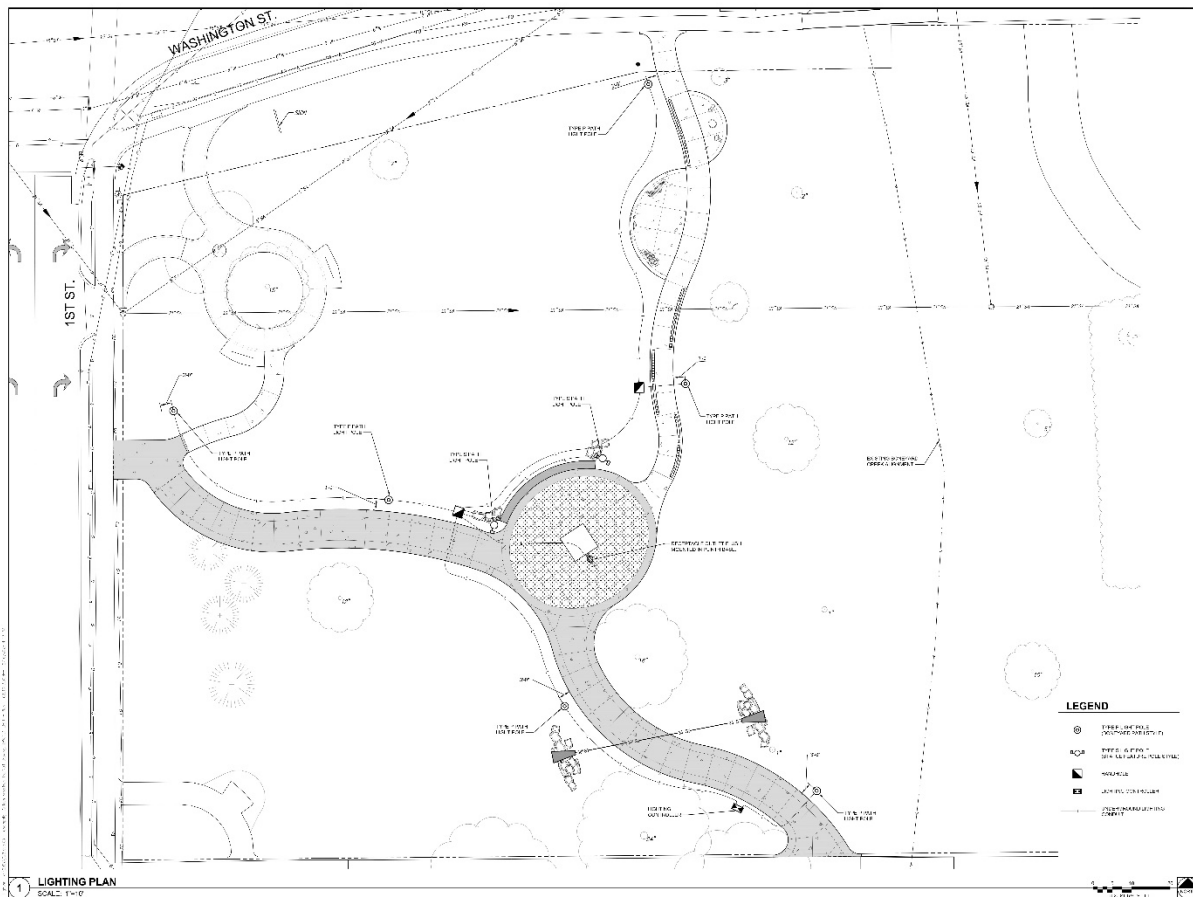


Bus Tours

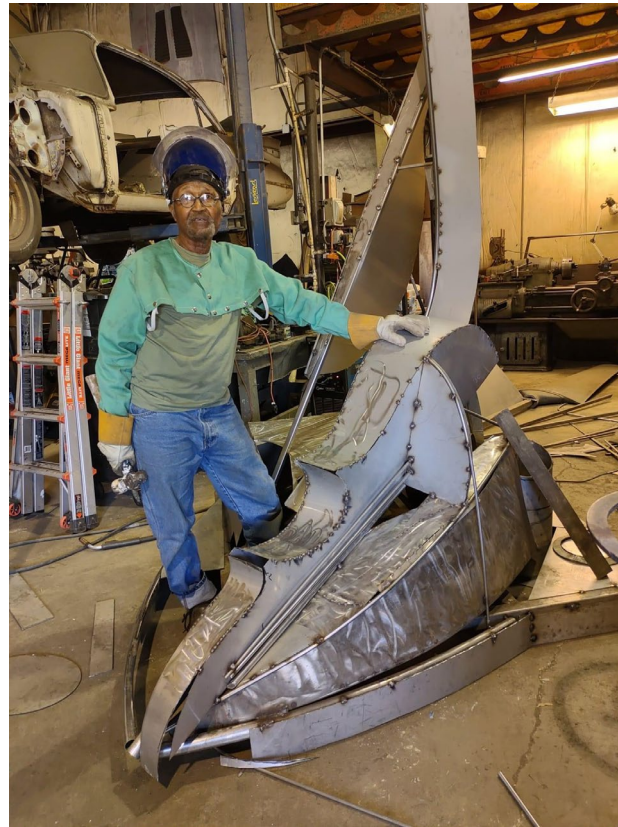


Education

Skelton Park Transformation



Skelton Park Transformation



Trail Partners for Skelton Park

- Illinois Office of Tourism
- Visit Champaign County Foundation
- Champaign Park District
- City of Champaign
- Rotary Club of Champaign



**CHAMPAIGN
PARK DISTRICT**



Media Coverage

Skelton Park will be transformed to a park plaza honoring African American musicians

Julie McClure February 14, 2023 - 12:10pm

Champaign's Skelton Park transformation underway, donations needed

by: [Noah Nelson](#)

Posted: Feb 16, 2023 / 01:49 PM CST

Updated: Feb 16, 2023 / 06:58 PM CST

Skelton Park

Big plans brewing for northeast Champaign's Skelton Park

By DEBRA PRESSEY dpressey@news-gazette.com Feb 16, 2023



Smile Politely



The News-Gazette