

Waverly Historic District Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Written by Staff Writer

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The Waverly Historic District, one of the few South Carolina residential African American neighborhoods listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will celebrate its 100th anniversary of annexation on June 13 at 11 a.m. at Bishop Memorial AME Church, located 2221 Washington Street.

The celebration will include proclamations presented by local, state and federal government officials, memories shared by residents, refreshments and a stained glass window tour of neighborhood churches. Properties identified with historic plaques and markers will also be featured.

Waverly is significant as Columbia's first suburb. By the early twentieth century, Waverly evolved into a community of black artisans, professionals and social reformers. Many of the residents made significant contributions to the social and political advancement of African Americans in Columbia and across the state. The district's concentration of educational facilities, including Allen University, served the South's African Americans when racial discrimination denied them opportunities for higher education.

The Good Samaritan Waverly Hospital, Visanska- Starks House, Heidt-Russell House, Bishop Memorial Church, Allen University, the site of Judge Matthew Perry's house and other properties contribute to the historic value of Waverly. Today, Waverly is a vibrant urban neighborhood, which celebrates the past and embraces the future.

For further information on the Anniversary events, contact co-chairs Whitney Chisholm,

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