

15. The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History

The center represents the culmination of many years of controversy and dialogue at the University. Dr. Stone, one of the original professors of Afro-American Studies at UNC, died suddenly in August of 1991. She was a strong advocate for black students in addition to her work as a tireless teacher and scholar.

Her death sparked a student-led movement to ensure the creation of a permanent and free-standing black cultural center on campus.

Protests, fund raising efforts, and debates over the issues of separation and inclusion continued for years until the groundbreaking for the Stone Center occurred on Thursday, April 26, 2001. The Stone Center officially opened on August 20, 2004.

16. Old Chapel Hill Cemetery



The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery — which remains segregated to this day — dates back to 1798 and is the final resting place of over 800 black town residents. Many of the graves in the black section remain unmarked and there are only a few stones that clearly identify people

as slaves of the University, such as Dilsey Craig who was memorialized as “60 years a slave principally in the Home of Dr. James Phillips.”

The first monument to University slaves and later black workers is the Wilson Swain Caldwell monument which also acknowledges the contributions of David Barum, Henry Smith, and November Caldwell, to UNC.

Also note the old stone wall that divides the black section from the white section of the cemetery. These dry rock walls, which are also present at various points around campus, are the product of slave labor. Professor Elisha Mitchell, namesake of Mount Mitchell, taught his slaves how to construct these walls and in 1844 was reimbursed \$500 by the University for his slaves' labor. Professor Mitchell owned 20 slaves in 1850 making him the largest slave owner on campus.

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A WALKING TOUR OF BLACK HISTORY AT UNC



The Tour begins at the northeast corner of campus and moves to the southwest

Created by the Students for the Advancement of Race Relations committee (SARR) of the Campus Y

1. The Chapel of the Cross

Throughout the early years of the University and the village of Chapel Hill, church services were held in Person and later Gerrard Hall. Completed in October 1848, the Chapel of the Cross was the first church built in Chapel Hill.



It was promoted and paid for in part by Professor William Mercer Green. He supplied the bricks and slave labor that spurred the construction of the original sanctuary, which lies in back of the current church. A balcony built by and for slaves still remains.

More recently, Pauli Murray — the first black woman ordained as an Episcopal priest — was the first woman to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in Chapel of the Cross. Ms. Murray's grandmother, who had been a slave in Chapel Hill, was baptized in the church.

2. Spencer Dormitory

The first dormitory for female students at UNC was named after Comelia Phillips Spencer (1825-1908), a controversial figure in the history of the University.

Spencer was ardently opposed to the Reconstruction forces that ruled over North Carolina at the end of the Civil War, a stance that has led some to decry her as a segregationist. Yet Spencer holds a notable place in the history of the University as the prime advocate of its re-opening following UNC's closure for a brief time during the late 1860s.

Spencer's brother, Samuel Phillips, maintained law offices that were located next door to the present site of Spencer Dorm.

An enslaved woman owned by Spencer's family is buried in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery (see the Dilsey Craig grave).



3. The Sundial at the Planetarium

The sundial, circa 1957, was supposed to contain thirteen marble stars in its facade in order to commemorate the thirteen states represented in the Confederate Flag.

According to a University engineer named Joe Hakkan, John Motley Morehead, namesake of the planetarium, wanted the stars in the paths of the sundial but University President William D. Carmichael, recognizing the potential conflict that such a symbol might cause, persuaded Morehead to support the present configuration.

4. Battle Hall

The current home of the Department of African and Afro-American Studies, Battle Hall was formerly the site of one of the hotels that serviced the campus community with the help of slave labor.

The building is named after Kemp Plummer Battle, the first president of the University after it re-opened at the end of Reconstruction. Battle was a lawyer and owned a large number of slaves — which he acquired through marriage — on two plantations in Eastern North Carolina.

His history of the University is a useful source of information about black Chapel Hill, even though his attitudes and assumptions are clearly a product of his times.