

7. South Liberty/Urban Renewal

Beginning in the late 1950s, the city of Spartanburg aggressively pursued Federal funding for Urban Renewal projects in a misguided effort to enhance the city's impoverished areas. The hope was that newer, more substantial buildings would build up the communities affected. Instead, with only a few buildings left intact, the heart of one of Spartanburg's African-American neighborhoods was gutted and the tangible connection to its remarkable past was severed.

8. Episcopal Epiphany Church

One of the few sites left preserved during Urban Renewal was the Episcopal Epiphany Mission, which was built here in 1914. It began as a mission church of the Episcopal Church of the Advent and remains on its original site. The road through this section follows the original route of South Liberty Street.

9. Majority Baptist Church

In 1902, with the Southside community growing, a group of families withdrew from Mt. Moriah Baptist Church to form a new congregation, soon after known as Majority Baptist Church. By the 1920s, they had built a large brick church on Liberty Street, which was replaced in the 1990s by the current structure.

10. J.C. Bull Apartments

This apartment complex honors Dr. J. C. Bull, who served as a physician in Spartanburg from 1939 to 1987. Beyond his professional life, Dr. Bull acted as one of the preeminent leaders of Spartanburg's black community during desegregation. His personable attitude and calm demeanor kept tensions at bay during moments of crisis and he was remembered fondly by a wide circle of friends and colleagues.

11. Mary H. Wright Elementary/Carver Middle School



Although the first public schools for Spartanburg's black students opened in the 1890s, many on the Southside found the distance to North Dean Street too far to comfortably walk. Mary H. Wright, who had served as a teacher in church-sponsored schools, opened her home to students and soon after began receiving funds from the public school system. This became the Carrier Street School and later Mary H. Wright Elementary. In 1938 this site was joined by Carver High School, the Southside's first black high school.

12. Mount Moriah Baptist Church

In the years following the Civil War, African-Americans across the South began establishing independent churches to meet their spiritual needs. In Spartanburg, Mt. Moriah was the first black Baptist congregation and soon began meeting on lands owned by Joseph Young, one of the black patriarchs of the Southside community. A pillar of Spartanburg's black heritage, Mt. Moriah also hosted an early visit from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose uncle was the pastor of Mt. Moriah for many years.



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