

FOOTPRINTS

TRACES OF BLACK HISTORY IN RICHMOND, KENTUCKY

Footprints are a fascinating aspect of human history, as they provide connections to the past and help trace the movements of our ancestors. When we walk in the same places where our ancestors once walked, we are literally following in their footsteps and experiencing a small piece of their lives. Buildings have been demolished, memories have dimmed, elders are now deceased ... **only traces of Richmond's rich Black heritage remain.**



Early Arrivals

Often overlooked when honoring Black Americans, Domestic workers are our unsung heroes. Maid, cook, seamstress, servant, housekeeper, nannie, nursemaid, laundress, or washerwoman, gardener, chauffeur or driver ... called by any name, “The Help” were the early arrivals, the support staff, allowing the creation of a vibrant community.

The hub of Black social and spiritual life in segregated Richmond. The Hill was referred to as “Downtown” by the community as it contained over 20 Black - owned businesses, four major community churches, and most of the African American civic organizations.

The Hill

Uptown

Crossing West over “B” Street meant moving from “Downtown” to “Uptown” in segregated Richmond. It was home to Black medical professionals, tailors, seamstresses, and other service-based industries which catered primarily to white clientele. Uptown was also the interface between the Black and white communities in Richmond.

To the Black community of Richmond, the East End was an area of education. It was home to Richmond High School and bore witness to the victories and heartbreaks of not only the sporting events the neighborhood was known for, but of desegregation.

East End

Cemeteries

Black people have a long history of exemplary military service. For many, our local cemeteries are their final resting places. In all branches, in many units, under many names, at home and abroad, the heroes and the unsung, MIA, WIA, KIA, both men and women: they served.

Join the Blacks in Madison Historical Society and the Richmond Tourism Commission at our website dedicated to the history of Black people and their experiences in Madison County. This website serves as a repository for the stories of our Black community with a focus on their preservation. The site will serve as the root of our Footprints Walking Tour and will be updated with more information as it is discovered.

