



Contact: Julia Jackson
Historic Augusta, Inc.
706-724-0436
julia@historicaugusta.org



Contact: Christine Miller-Betts
The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History
706-724-3576
cbetts@lucycraftlaneymuseum.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**This Place Matters:
Preserving Augusta's African American Communities
October 28-29, 2011**

The public is invited to experience first-hand why Augusta's historic African American communities matter. On October 28 and 29, 2011, Historic Augusta, Inc. and the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History will lead an examination of historically and architecturally significant resources in the Laney-Walker, Bethlehem and Sand Hills neighborhoods and the local and national issues that affect their preservation. Current trends and strategies as well as recent preservation successes and challenges will be discussed.

The two-day event will begin on Friday, October 28 at 7 pm at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1223 Laney-Walker Boulevard. Dr. Richard K. Dozier, Dean of the Robert Taylor School of Architecture & Building Construction Sciences at Tuskegee University, will highlight "Neighborhood Preservation Issues" in a lecture to be held in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

On Saturday, October 29, the discussion will continue at the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, 1116 Phillips Street. A welcome and preview of the bus tour will be given at 9 am by Christine Miller-Betts, the museum's Executive Director. Continental breakfast will be served and tours of the museum will be offered.

A guided bus tour will take participants past significant African American sites to include: the former Immaculate Conception School, Penny Savings Bank, Paine College, and Summerville's African American cemetery. The homes of many prominent citizens from the past will also be noted, including Rev. C.T. Walker, W.S. Hornsby, Luvenia Pearson, and Dr. S.S. Johnson. The event will conclude with a picnic lunch on the grounds of Paine College.

The goal of "This Place Matters," now in its second year, is to protect Augusta's irreplaceable African American resources by increasing awareness of various preservation issues and considering solutions. Registration for this event is \$20 per person which includes all meals and the bus tour. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Historic Augusta at 706-724-0436 or www.historicaugusta.org, or the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History at 706-724-3576 or www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com.