

RESOLUTION No. 34 OF 2019

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF THE PARISH OF CADDO SUPPORTING THE ADDITION OF SHREVEPORT, CADDO PARISH SITES TO THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Civil Rights Trail is a collection of landmarks, particularly in the Southern states, “where activists challenged segregation in the 1950s and 1960s to advance social justice.”;

WHEREAS, currently, the only Louisiana sites on the trail are located in New Orleans and Baton Rouge;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser is holding several town hall meetings around the state in May 2019 to solicit input on adding Louisiana stops to the trail ;

WHEREAS, he will be holding a meeting in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA on May 21, 2019;

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to nominate several sites for consideration/inclusion for addition to the U.S. Civil Rights Trail;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that we, the Caddo Parish Commission, do nominate the following sites for consideration/inclusion for addition to the U.S. Civil Rights Trail:

**Antioch Baptist Church
1057 Texas Ave, Shreveport La 71101**

The oldest African American Church in Shreveport. The Antioch Baptist Church was organized in 1866 when seventy-three newly freed blacks secured letters of honorable dismissal from the First First Baptist Church (white) and formed the First Colored Baptist Church. The church was the meeting place for many reconstruction era meetings for African Americans. Baptist Church (white) and formed the First Colored Baptist Church. The church was the meeting place for many reconstruction era meetings for African Americans.

**Star Cemetery
2100 block of Texas Avenue**

Star Cemetery was the first cemetery established to serve Shreveport’s African American community, and the only burial ground devoted solely to the black community until the late 1920s. Oral tradition suggests that slaves were interred in this cemetery prior to its official establishment in 1883. The cemetery is not planned on a grid, but has randomly placed markers, of which there are approximately 1300. The local community believes that up to 10,000 people may actually be buried there. Most burials are below ground, with small, often hand-crafted markers, although there are a few more elaborate, commercially produced markers. Hand-crafted markers display folk motifs, such as a hand with finger pointing toward heaven, the lamb, and the dove. Symbols of important fraternal organizations and benevolent societies are also used as decorative motifs on a number of headstones, with emblems reflecting membership in the Masons, the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and so forth. The Star Cemetery is no longer used, but remains an important cultural property of the African American community in Shreveport. The Star Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

**The Avenue
800-1300 Texas Avenue**

Extending west on Texas Avenue from downtown Shreveport, this five block section known as "The Avenue" was a diverse and successful commercial district that developed in the first years of the 20th century. This vibrant, multicultural community was home to many African American businesses. The *Shreveport Sun* newspaper, the Star Theater, Johnson Brothers Barber Shop, Dr. Tim Johnson's dentist office, as well as numerous mercantile establishments, haberdashers, drugstores, bakeries, and restaurants thrived along the Avenue well into the 1970s. The Avenue, dubbed The Texas Avenue Historic District, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Calanthean Temple

975 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, La 71101

The Court of Calanthe, an African-American women's organization, built the Calanthean Temple in 1923. It stood as the largest building in the United States brought into existence by African-American creativity and savvy. Due to African Americans not being allowed to perform at the Louisiana Hayride (Municipal Auditorium) prior to the 1960s, the Calanthean Temple was a robust nighttime musical venue on the vaunted rooftop which hosted all the famous African American musicians of the day- Louis Armstrong, Dizzie Gillespie, Count Basie, Jelly Roll Morton and many more African American artists. At its peak in the early 1900s, the Calanthean Temple was home to African American professional offices; dentists, doctors, attorneys

Old Galilee Baptist Church

854 Williams Street Shreveport, La 71103

This historical landmark church was built on the site in 1877. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave speeches at Old Galilee in 1958 and 1962, and it is considered the home of school integration in Caddo Parish. Although services are no longer held at the church, plans are underway to develop Old Galilee Baptist Church as a civil rights museum.

Freeman & Harris Café

317 Pete Harris Drive Shreveport, La 71103

Opened in 1921 in the 1100 block of Texas Street by Jack Harris and Van Freeman, the Freeman and Harris Café was one of the first African American owned restaurants in the United States. The Café moved to the Pete Harris Drive location in 1930. Civic and business leader Pete Harris, took over the Café, which became known as Pete Harris Café in the 1990s (see #13). Since it opened, this family-run business has been a popular social center for the African American community in Shreveport. Prior to ceasing operation in the mid-2000s, it was considered to be the oldest, continuously operating, African American owned restaurant in the United States.

KOKA Radio Building

1315 Milam Street Shreveport, La 71103

The 1959 dedication of the KOKA Radio Station building on Milam Street drew a crowd of 10,000 locals, as well as appearances by national celebrities. At that time, popular radio stations would not play music by African American artist, the beloved KOKA personalities such as Sun Rose, "Gay Poppa" Rutledge, Jr., Uncle Bill Caston, B.B. "Bird Brain" Davis, the late Eddie Jiles provided entertainment and information in a format that included gospel and rhythm and blues. KOKA is now owned by a conglomerate and its offices have relocated, but it still features gospel music for a primarily African American audience.

Old Central Colored High School

1627 Weinstock Street Shreveport, La 71103

Built in 1917, Central Colored High School was the first and only public school for African American children at the time. Central later became a Junior High School, and now serves as an Elementary School. Old Central Colored School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

CC. Antoine Park and House
1766 Milam Street Shreveport, La 71103

Caesar Carpentier Antoine was born to a father who fought in the battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812, and a mother from the West Indies who was born to a captured African chief. Antoine established himself in the grocery business and became a successful business man. He was elected at the age of 31 as a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention. Antoine served as State Senator from Caddo Parish by popular vote, and in 1871, introduced a Senate bill to incorporate the city of Shreveport. Antoine served as Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana under Governor Kellogg from 1872-1876. Antoine's Perrin Street home was built in the Queen Anne Revival style.

Little Union Baptist Church & Anne Brewster Civil Rights Memorial
1846 Milam Street Shreveport, La 71103

Little Union Baptist Church had an original congregation of sixteen members in 1892. In 1961, former mathematics and religion teacher, Rev. C.C. McLain, became pastor. Rev. McLain was an active leader in the Shreveport community, as well as in the Civil Rights movement. During his tenure, the church became a center for NAACP and CORE meetings. The family of attorney Johnny Cochran, Jr., attended Little Union Baptist Church, where Johnnie Cochran, Sr., served as a deacon.

Ms. Anne Brewster was one of only a handful of black, female business women of her time, as co-owner of the Modern Beauty Shop. An associate of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ms. Brewster worked closely with the NAACP and hosted Dr. King and other civil rights advocates in her home. She was jailed several times in the early 1960s for her involvement in sit-ins and other peaceful demonstrations. Ms. Brewster died in 1963, but her memory lives on in the Anne Brewster Award, given each year to a Shreveport-area civil rights leader.

Hattie B Cochran House/ Johnnie Cochran Childhood Home
1933 Milam Street Shreveport, La 71103

Hattie B. Cochran, mother of renowned attorney the late Johnnie Cochran Jr., created the first after-school programs, which she held in her home, for African American children in her neighborhood in the 1930s. Because of her efforts, the 1800 and 1900 blocks of Milam Street has been renamed Hattie B. Cochran Drive in her honor. Inspired by Thurgood Marshall, Johnny Cochran went on to be a successful civil rights and personal injury attorney.

Lakeside Branch of the Shreve Memorial Library
2104 Milam Street Shreveport, La 71103

As African Americans were banned from the Shreveport Memorial Library downtown, the city established the Lakeside Branch to serve the local African American community in the 1950s.. Although the library was well staffed, it was small and understocked in the early years. Nevertheless, it provided a valuable resource for the Lakeside neighborhood. The first librarian, Mrs. Otis Emanuel, continued to serve as a community leader through her efforts at the Antioch Baptist Church and as a commissioner on the African American Multicultural Tourism Commission.

-Booker T. Washington High School

**Lakeside Park Gold Course/ Jerry Tim Brooks Golf Course
2200 Milam Street Shreveport, La 71103**

The Lakeside Golf Course opened in 1938, and was re-opened to serve the African American community in the early 1950s. By the 1970s, Lakeside had become a million-dollar recreational facility housing. The golf course was renamed after the late Jerry Tim Brooks who was a civil rights activist and educator in Caddo and Bossier Parish schools systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy this resolution shall be sent to the Louisiana Lieutenant Governor, Northwest Louisiana Legislative Delegation, and the Louisiana Federal Delegation for Northwest Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision or item or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date