

MONTCLAIR:

Colored Home for Aged and Orphans
83 Pleasant Avenue

0713-BS-1
E?

This institution, sponsored by the Newark Bethany Baptist Church, served blacks throughout northern New Jersey during the 1930s.

Washington Street Branch, YMCA
41 Washington Street

0713-BS-2
E

This YMCA branch built in the 1930s boasted a forty-room dormitory, gymnasium, banquet hall, social and club rooms, and one of the few swimming pools for blacks in Essex County.

Washington Street neighborhood
Bloomfield Avenue to Elmwood Avenue,
Maple Avenue to Elm Place

0713-BS-3
E

During the middle of the nineteenth century, a black neighborhood gradually emerged in the eastern section of Montclair near the border with Glen Ridge. As this community grew in the early twentieth century, most of Montclair's black organizations were headquartered here. In the 1930s these included six churches and the Washington Street Branch YMCA (see Saint Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church; Washington Street Branch, YMCA). Bibl: 120

Marion T. Wright residence
144 Lincoln Street

0713-BS-4
E

Marion Thompson Wright (1905-1962) was one of the nation's first black female professional historians. During her career on the faculty of Howard University, she maintained a home in Washington, keeping her permanent residence in Montclair. She is best remembered for her book The Education of Negroes in New Jersey, published in 1941. Bibl: 160, 207, 208, 209

NEWARK:

American-Moorish Science Temple
230 Court Street

X

The American-Moorish Science Temple, an independent black religious sect headquartered in Chicago, organized a local temple here in 1928. Bibl: 160

Bethany Baptist Church
117 West Market Street

0714-BS-1
E

Bethany Baptist Church, established in 1871, is Newark's largest black church. It occupied this sanctuary from 1905 until 1976, when the congregation completed a new house of worship. Bibl: 160

Prosper Brewer residence

L?

In 1917 Prosper Brewer led a strike by black dock workers at Port Newark, which led to a wage increase. This was one of the earliest strikes by blacks in the state.

Churchman's Funeral Home
Martin Luther King Boulevard

0714-BS-2
L?

Churchman's Funeral Home, established in the nineteenth century, is one of the largest funeral homes in New Jersey. Bibl: 112

Clinton Memorial AME Zion Church
155 Broadway

0714-BS-3
E

Organized in 1822 and incorporated the following year, this was the first black congregation in Newark, and the first AME Zion Church in New Jersey. The first house of worship, located elsewhere in the city, was a building 30 feet by 40 feet, then unusually large for a black church in New Jersey. The congregation has occupied its present sanctuary since 1931. Bibl: 164

Community Hospital
132-4 West Kinney Street

0714-BS-4
E

This institution was organized in 1928 as Kenney Memorial Hospital, Newark's first black hospital. Dr. John A. Kenney, its namesake, had been Booker T. Washington's personal physician and for twenty-two years headed the John A. Andrew Hospital at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. After Washington's death in 1915, Kenney came to Newark, where he conducted his practice for several years at 134 West Kinney Street. He also edited the journal of the National Medical Association, a professional society for black physicians. In the 1930s, Kenney Memorial was renamed Community Hospital. It consisted of a nurses' residence (134) and a building for hospital operations (132); only the hospital building still stands. Bibl: 57, 89, 142

Divine Riviera Hotel
Clinton Avenue and High Street

0714-BS-5
E

Father Divine (1880?-1965), who proclaimed himself to be God, was the leader of the Harlem-based "Kingdom of Peace" ministry that gained a following in large cities across the nation during the Depression. A Peace Kingdom was established in Newark. Money raised by Divine's ministry was used to acquire real estate and operate businesses. Divine bought this hotel in 1945. Bibl: 108, 160

Douglas Harrison Apartments
Somerset and Barclay streets, from
Waverly Avenue to Spruce Street

0714-BS-6
E

Built by the Prudential Insurance Company in 1932, this was the first housing development in New Jersey built for blacks. Prudential has recently donated these buildings to the New Community Corporation of Newark, which will maintain them. Bibl: 143, 160

Guy Moorehead residence
95 Mercer Street

E?

In 1937, Guy Moorehead was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly as a Democrat. His election, the first by a black Democrat to the state legislature, marked the historic shift during the New Deal era of black political support from the Republican to the Democratic Party (see Walter G. Alexander residence, East Orange). Bibl: 160

Negro Welfare League headquarters
58 West Market Street

X

This institution was founded in 1917 in the four-story brick building that stood here. It later became the New Jersey Urban League. Many of Newark's smaller black community service organizations were housed in this building. Today, the agency, located elsewhere, is called the Urban League of Essex County. Bibl: 37, 130, 144, 160

Matthew Pinkman residence
87 South Sixth Street

X

Mr. Pinkman, partner in a warehouse and trucking business, lived here with his family for many years. The Pinkmans hosted Booker T. Washington, Mary McLeod Bethune, and other black leaders during their visits to Newark. Bibl: 50

Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church
44 Irvine Turner Boulevard

0714-BS-7
E

Organized in 1931, This is the largest of Newark's black Roman Catholic churches. In 1960 it moved to its present sanctuary, the former Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Church. NR, SR.

Saint James AME Church
High and Court Streets

0714-BS-8
E

This congregation was organized in 1842; in 1908 it occupied a church at 86-90 Union Street. For the last few decades it has occupied this grand, Gothic-revival edifice. Bibl: 124 NR, Sr.

Saint Philip's Episcopal Church

L?

Organized in 1848, this is one of Newark's oldest black congregations, and among the first black Episcopal congregations in the state.

The Third Ward or "Hill" district

0714-BS-9

High Street to Irving Turner Boulevard and Jelliff Avenue;
Orange Avenue to Avon Avenue

E/X

This section of Newark, the former Third Ward, was a dilapidated, mostly-white, residential and industrial neighborhood when blacks began to arrive here in 1916 during the great migration from the south. During the three following decades, the Hill District, as it was called, emerged as Newark's dominant black residential area. In 1940 blacks comprised nearly two-thirds of the ward's population. Accordingly it became the center of black social life in Newark, and earned the nickname, the "Roaring Third." At the same time, however, health and housing conditions were so awful that the district ranked among the worst urban neighborhoods in the nation. Public housing efforts began with the Douglass Harrison Apartments, built by the Prudential Insurance Company in 1932, and have gradually encompassed most of the ward. A substantial amount of land in the ward remains vacant, following demolition campaigns in the 1950s and '60s. The Newark riot of 1967 was centered along Springfield Avenue in this ward (see Bethany Baptist Church; Community Hospital; Douglass Harrison Apartments). Bibl: 9, 99, 160

ORANGE:**Oakwood YMCA Branch of the Oranges
148 Central Place**

X

Organized in 1890, this was the first branch YMCA for black men and boys established in New Jersey. About 1900, The Oakwood Branch built for its headquarters the three-story frame house that stood here, but moved to larger quarters at 84 Oakwood Avenue in the 1920s. In 1938 this building was used as a restaurant. In the 1950s the site was redeveloped for public housing. Bibl: 160

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