

Black Atlanta Neighborhoods: Select Resources

There is a phrase that says that the City of Atlanta is made up of neighborhoods. Over time, these neighborhoods have changed due to a variety of factors, including the building of new structures, natural disasters, demographic restrictions and white flight. This bibliography provides a select list of resources that can serve as a starting point for individuals interested in the history of some neighborhoods that have been at one point in time the home of Atlanta's African American communities. This list also includes a working list of historic African American neighborhoods, including many of the demolished housing projects. Additionally, there are listing for other research institutions that also offers resources on Black Atlanta Neighborhoods.

All of the print resources included in this list are available for use onsite at the Auburn Avenue Research Library (AARL). Each book entry includes the call numbers (Call#), for patrons to easily inquire and obtain resources. Please feel free to contact AARL if assistance is needed in locating additional subject related materials and resources.

Reference and Research Division Research Team

aarl.reference@fultoncountyga.gov

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Audio Visual Collection

Title: Sweet Auburn Neighborhood Project Oral History Interviews

Author: Sweet Auburn Neighborhood Project (Atlanta, Ga.)

Call# Audiobook Cassette 93-002 Archives Division

Books

Title: Abandoned Atlanta: Echoes of A Stories Past

Author: Hagerman, Jeff

Pub Date: 2019

Call#: 975.8231 HAGERMAN

Title: African-American Entertainment in Atlanta

Author: Mason, Herman

Pub Date: 1998

Call#: 780.8996 MASON

Title: Atlanta, A City of Neighborhoods: by Thompson, Joseph F.

Author: Thompson, Joseph F.

Pub Date: 1994

Call#: 975.8231 THOMPSON

Title: Atlanta; Race, Class, and Urban Expansion

Author: Keating, Larry

Pub Date: 2001

Call#: 305.8 KEATING

Title: Black Atlanta in the Roaring Twenties

Author: Mason, Herman

Pub Date: 1997

Call#: 975.8231 MASON

Title: Black Power in Dixie: A Political History of African Americans in Atlanta

Author: Hornsby, Alton

Pub Date: 2009

Call#: 305.896 HORNSBY

Title: The Black Side: A Partial History of the Business, Religious and Educational Side of the Negro in Atlanta, Ga

Author: Carter, Edward R.

Pub Date: 2008

Call#: 975.8231 CARTER

Title: Buttermilk Bottom

Author: Atkerson, H. Victoria Hargro

Pub Date: 2011

Call#: 975.8 ATKERSON

Title: Community Building, the History of Atlanta University Neighborhoods

Author: Warner, Mildred

Pub Date: 1978

Call#: R 917.58 WARNER

Title: The Culture of Property: Race, Class, and Housing Landscapes in Atlanta, 1880-1950

Author: Lands, LeeAnn

Pub Date: 2009

Call#: 307.336 LANDS

Title: Going Against the Wind: A Pictorial History of African-Americans in Atlanta

Author: Mason, Herman

Pub Date: 1992

Call#: 975.800496 GOING

Title: Hidden Treasures: African-American Photographers in Atlanta, 1870-1970

Author: Mason, Herman

Pub Date: 1991

Call#: 779 MASON

Title: Living Atlanta: An Oral History of the City, 1914-1948
Author: Kuhn, Cliff
Call#: 975.8231 KUHN
Pub Date: 1990

Title: The Legend of the Black Mecca: Politics and Class in the Making of Modern Atlanta
Author: Hobson, Maurice J.
Call#: 305.896 HOBSON
Pub Date: 2017

Title: Lest We Forget: Atlanta's Disappearing Black Neighborhoods
Author: Clarke, Athlone G.
Call#: 975.8 CLARKE
Pub Date: 1996

Title: Pittsburgh: A Sense of Community: Historic Reflections of an Atlanta Neighborhood
Author: Kelsey, Richard Moriba
Call#: 975.8231 KELSEY
Pub Date: 2012

Title: Politics, Civil Rights, and Law in Black Atlanta, 1870-1970
Author: Mason, Herman
Call#: 975.8231 MASON
Pub Date: 2000

Title: Purging the Poorest; Public Housing and the Design Politics of Twice-cleared Communities
Author: Vale, Lawrence J.
Call#: 363.585 VALE
Pub Date: 2013

Title: Rage in the Gate City: the Story of the 1906 Atlanta race riot
Author: Burns, Rebecca
Call#: 305.896073 BURNS
Pub Date: 2009

Title: A Short History of Black Atlanta, 1847-1990
Author: Hornsby, Alton
Call#: 975.8231 HORNSBY
Pub Date: 2006

Title: Sweet Auburn: Street of Pride: A Pictorial History
Author: Moore, Dan
Call#: 975.8231 MOORE
Pub Date: 2011

Title: Sweet Auburn: The Many Faces of Atlanta's Most Historic Avenue
Author: Mitchell, George
Call#: 779 MITCHELL
Pub Date: 1996

Title: Sweet Auburn: The Thriving Hub of Black Atlanta 1900-1960
Author: Henderson, Alexa Benson
Call#: 975.8231 HENDERSON
Pub Date: 1983

Title: To Build Our Lives Together: Community Formation in Black Atlanta, 1875-1906
Author: Dorsey, Allison
Call#: 975.87 DORSEY
Pub Date: 2004

Title: Virginia-Highland
Author: Hobson-Pape, Karri
Call#: 975.8231 HOBSON-PAGE
Pub Date: 2011

Archival Collections

These materials are available in the Archives Division of the Auburn Avenue Research Library (AARL). In order to access these materials, you will need to make an appointment 24 hours in advance. You can contact the Archives Division via email – aarl.archives@fultoncountyga.gov.

Collection Name: Archives Map Collection

Collection Identifier: aarl.AMC-105-2010

Collection Finding Aid – <https://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/repositories/2/resources/116>

Collection Name: General Mills-Kroger Oral History collection for the Friends of the Auburn Avenue Research Library

Collection Identifier: aarl94-004

Collection Finding Aid – <https://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/repositories/2/resources/65>

Collection Name: Janice White Sikes collection on Southern culture

Collection Identifier: aarl96-003

Collection Finding Aid – <https://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/repositories/2/resources/135>

Collection Name: Lucille V. Hill papers

Collection Identifier: aarl95-019

Collection Finding Aid – <https://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/repositories/2/resources/4>

Collection Name: Oral history interviews of the Atlanta 1950-1979 Oral History Project

Collection Identifier: aarlatlanta

Collection Finding Aid – <https://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/repositories/2/resources/19>

Collection Name: Summerhill Community Oral History Interviews

Collection Identifier: aarl97-007

Collection Finding Aid – <https://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/repositories/2/resources/26>

Collection Name: Sweet Auburn Neighborhood Project Oral History Interviews

Collection Identifier: aarl93-002

Collection Finding Aid – <https://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/repositories/2/resources/66>

Collection Name: Thomasville Heights Neighborhood Project Collection

Collection Identifier: aarl96-004

Collection Finding Aid – <https://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/repositories/2/resources/35>

Vertical File Collections

This is a collection of newspaper clippings and other ephemeral materials that have been collected and organized by subject headings for more than 30 years. The older clippings are on microfilm. The current files are available by request at the Reference Desk. Below are a few folders that include materials on Black Neighborhoods.

Adams Park	Mechanicsville
Bankhead Courts	Mosley Park
Bedford Pines	Old Fourth Ward
Buckhead	Peoplestown
Cabbagetown	Pittsburgh
Carver Homes	Reynoldstown
Collier Heights	Rockdale Park
East Lake	South Atlanta
English Avenue	Southwest Atlanta
Ezra Church Community	Summer Hill
Grant Park	Sweet Auburn
Inman Park	Techwood Homes
Johnsontown	Thomasville Heights
Kirkwood	University Homes
Lincoln Homes	Vine City
Lynwood Park	Washington Park
The Mays	West End
MLK Jr./Ashby Street – Historic Westside Village	Westside Village

Databases to Use:

Digital Library of Georgia

Georgia history and culture through digitized books, primary sources, photos, and video

JSTOR

JSTOR's mission is to help the scholarly community take advantage of advances in information technologies.

ProQuest Historical Black Newspapers

Database has the archives of 9 Historic Black Newspapers, including the Baltimore Afro-American, Chicago Defender, Los Angeles Sentinel and more!

- **[Atlanta Daily World \(1931-2003\)](#)** The Atlanta Daily World had the first black White House correspondent and was the first black daily in the nation in the 20th century.

Select Online Resources

“AH History.” Atlanta Housing Authority. <https://www.atlantahousing.org/about-us/ah-history/>. Date accessed: September 8, 2025.

Atlanta Public Schools – Forgotten Treasures: Neighborhoods – <https://apsforgotten.wordpress.com/neighborhoods/>. Date accessed: September 8, 2025.

“Atlanta Housing Projects: Gone But Never Forgotten – The Story of the Atlanta Housing Projects 1936 – 2011.” *Atlanta's Past Revisited*. <https://atlantaspastrevisited.com/2017/04/28/atlanta-housing-projects-gone-but-never-forgotten-the-story-of-the-atlanta-housing-projects-1936-2011/>. Date accessed: September 8, 2025.

Dana F. White papers. Rose Library, Emory University. <https://archives.libraries.emory.edu/repositories/7/resources/2196>. Date accessed: September 11, 2025.

“History of University Homes.” Choice Atlanta. <https://cnatlanta.org/history/>. Date accessed: September 9, 2025

Jack, Mervyn. “List of ALL the HOUSING PROJECTS in metro Atlanta by city.” Skip Mason's Vanishing Black Atlanta History. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/skipmasonblackatlantahistory/posts/1925486044245279/>. Date accessed: September 8, 2025.

“Once Upon a Time in Atlanta.” digATL | The Digital Atlanta Portal. <https://digatl.library.gsu.edu/resource/once-upon-a-time-in-atlanta/>. Date accessed: September 8, 2025.

Porter, Michael Leroy. *Black Atlanta: An Interdisciplinary Study of Blacks on The East Side of Atlanta, 1890-1930*. Emory University ProQuest Dissertations & Theses, 1974. 7511135. <https://www.proquest.com/openview/ac0384e0a9c0bdd93c13455bf05cc2f1/1?cbl=18750&diss=y&pq-origsite=gscholar>. Date accessed: September 10, 2025.

Reflections, a publication of the Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network (GAAHPN). (Links will automatically download the issue of the Reflections Newsletter). Here's the link to the **Reflections** archives page – <https://dca.georgia.gov/african-american-reflection-articles>.

Collier Heights, Atlanta, Fulton County – [December 2009](#)

Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Fulton County – [November 2008](#)

Reynoldstown, Atlanta, Fulton County – [July 2005](#)

Washington Park, Atlanta, Fulton County – [December 2000](#)

West End, Atlanta, Fulton County – [September 2002](#), [November 2002](#)

Shelton, Taylor. “Mapping Atlanta.” digATL | The Digital Atlanta Portal. <https://digatl.library.gsu.edu/resource/new-mapping-atlanta/>. Date accessed: September 8, 2025.

Research Institutions

This is list research institutions that offer additional resources related to Atlanta's Black Historic Neighborhoods.

Robert Woodruff Library – Atlanta University Center

111 James P. Brawley Drive SW, Atlanta, GA 30314

404.978.2000

askref@auctr.edu

<https://www.auctr.edu/>

The physical collection includes archival files on various neighborhoods and organizations such as the Neighborhood Union. Additionally, their digital repository, RADAR, offers access to digitized theses and dissertations that discuss at length various neighborhoods in Atlanta. There are also two neighborhood related online exhibits. Links for both are provided below.

RADAR – <https://radar.auctr.edu/>

Exhibit – Black Neighborhoods and the Creation of Black Atlanta.

https://digitalexhibits.auctr.edu/exhibits/show/black_neighborhoods/overview.

Date accessed: September 8, 2025.

Exhibit - "Thy Neighbor as Thyself:" The Neighborhood Union Collection.

<https://digitalexhibits.auctr.edu/exhibits/show/womenwhochangedatlanta/neighborhoodunion>. Date accessed: September 8, 2025.

Kenan Research Center – Atlanta History Center

130 W Paces Ferry Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30305

<https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/buildings-and-grounds/kenan-research-center/>

Their physical collection includes archival files on various neighborhoods and the Neighborhood Planning Units. Access to the Kenan Research Center is by appointment only. Visit their website to learn more information.

The Kenan Research Center also offers online resources that provide information about Black Neighborhoods.

Homes & Neighborhoods Page – <https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/homes-neighborhoods/>

Atlanta History: A Journal of Atlanta and the South (the full run of this publication, including those published under variant titles can be found here) - https://album.atlantahistorycenter.com/digital/collection/AHBull?_gl=1*12t5oyv*_gcl_au*MzYxMDkwMDg5LjE3NTczNTgzNDc.

Atlanta's Historic Black Neighborhoods

This list of Atlanta's historic Black neighborhoods is a work in progress and will be updated as more neighborhoods are identified. Though not a definitive list, it does include the names of the housing projects and other communities that may not be identified as a full fledge neighborhood. If there is a neighborhood you think should be included on this list, please send that information to the AARL Reference team at aarl.reference@fultoncountyga.gov.

Adamsville
Ashley Heights
Bagley Park
Bankhead
Beaver Slide
Bedford Pine
Bolton Hills
Brownsville
Buckhead
Buttermilk Bottom
Carey Park
Cascade Heights
Castleberry
Center Hill
College Park
Collier Heights
Darktown
Dixie Hills
East Point
English Avenue
Grove Park
High Point Apartments
Hunter Hill
Jenningstown
Johnsontown
Jonesville
Just Us
Lightning
Lincoln Homes
Macedonia Park
Magnolia Street Area
Mechanicsville
Mosley Park
Old Fourth Ward
Peoplestown
Piney Grove
Pittsburgh
Plunkettown/Plunkytown
Reynoldstown
Rockdale Park

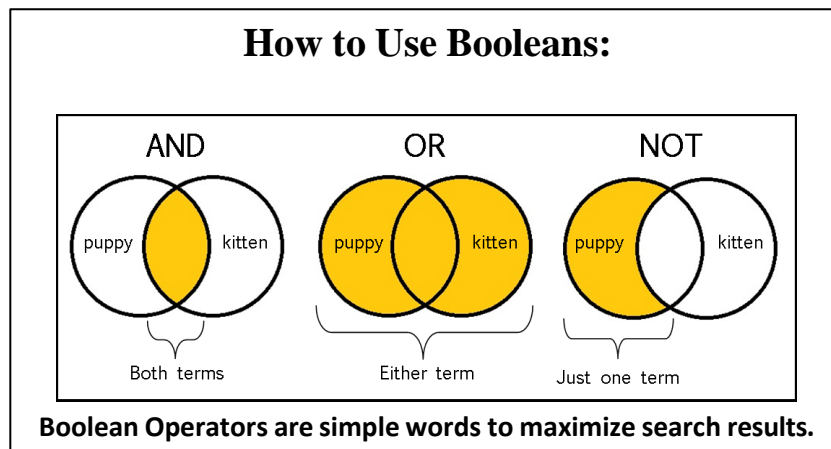
Rose Hill
Savagetown
Scott's Crossing
Shermantown
South Atlanta
Summer Hill
Sweet Auburn
Tanyard Bottom
Vine City
Washington Park
West End
Westside Village
Willistown

Demolished Housing Developments in Atlanta

Bankhead Courts
Bowen Homes
Capitol Homes
Carver Homes
Eagan Homes
East Lake Meadows
Englewood Manor
Gilbert Gardens
Henry Grady Homes
Herndon Homes
Hollywood Courts
John Hope Homes
Jonesboro North
Jonesboro South
Leila Valley
McDaniel-Glenn
Perry Homes
Techwood Homes
Thomasville Heights
University Homes

Suggested Search Terms and Keywords:

- African American Neighborhoods
- Black Atlanta Neighborhoods
- Neighborhoods by name
- Historic Districts AND Georgia AND Atlanta



Auburn Avenue Research Library
on African American Culture and History
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404-613-4001

<https://www.fulcolibrary.org/aarl/>

