



**PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF CHAPEL HILL  
AT THE HORACE WILLIAMS HOUSE  
610 East Rosemary Street / Chapel Hill, NC 27514**

March 28, 2012

Dear Town Council,

On behalf of the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, I am writing to you in order to update you on our current preservation projects and ask for your support in funding the restoration of an important historic home that would greatly benefit an underserved portion of our community.

Starting in 2011, the Preservation Society began working with St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association, and Habitat for Humanity of Orange County in order to try and save the Hogan-Rogers House, an impressive 1845 Greek Revival structure.

Included in this packet is a synopsis of the project, information about the proposed restoration of the house, and a few ideas on how to use this historic structure to better serve the surrounding community.

We hope the Chapel Hill Town Council will see the significance of this structure and its story, and we hope you will give this project your full support in the coming months and years.

For more information on our project, please visit the Preservation Society's website at [www.chapelhillpreservation.com](http://www.chapelhillpreservation.com).

Thank you for your support,

Ernest Dollar  
Executive Director  
The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill

## ***Synopsis of Project***

Preservation and restoration of the Hogan-Rogers House is an important endeavor that will develop the site into a community cornerstone to solidify community identity, provide valuable neighborhood support services, and play an important role in economic development. The restoration of this house will also be the foundation for future projects, including an African American heritage trail system that will develop tourism by linking to and promoting this community as part of North Carolina's Scenic Byway Program.

St. Paul A.M.E. Church purchased the property in 2006 and is now planning to build a new church complex on the site. The Preservation Society became involved in saving the house in 2011. Working with Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA), St. Paul, and Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, a relocation site has been identified adjacent to the structure's current location. Habitat has graciously donated two lots on the corner of Purefoy Drive and Edward Street for the new location of the house. The new site is perfect for maintaining a sense of place through the historical connection between the house and the original property. This historic home, built around 1845, would be adaptively reused as a clubhouse for RENA, a 501c3 non-profit that provides educational services for this predominantly African American community, as well as a food bank for local low-income residents. Responsibility for the move and restoration will rest with RENA.

Preservation Society member Yvonne Ng has developed floor plans for the restored house and created a series of architectural renderings showing the exciting potential for a restored Hogan-Rogers House. The restored house would serve as a community center with a recognizable connection to the area's past. Furthermore, this house would be part of a wider project to link significant historic sites together and develop an African American cultural corridor. These sites would provide an additional ability for economic sustainability while educating the community about the experiences of rural African Americans in Orange County. The trail, called ***Freedom Road: The African-American Heritage Trail (AAHT)***, links historic sites that tell the story of African Americans from 1740 to the present and focuses on the transition from slavery to freedom. Valuable partnerships would be formed by *Freedom Road* by linking students at Morris Grove Elementary to their own school's history and community through programs such as St. Paul's museum or RENA's educational classes.

## ***Historical Significance***

The Hogan-Rogers House embodies much of the identity and collective memory of the community. The home was most likely built by Thomas Lloyd Hogan, a descendant of Thomas Lloyd, one of Orange County's first settlers and a Revolutionary War veteran, legislator, judge, and planter. The site was home to several generations of Hogan family and their enslaved African American laborers. Sam Rogers, a descendent of slaves on this farm, owned the house before losing it during the Great Depression.

## *Marketing Strategies*

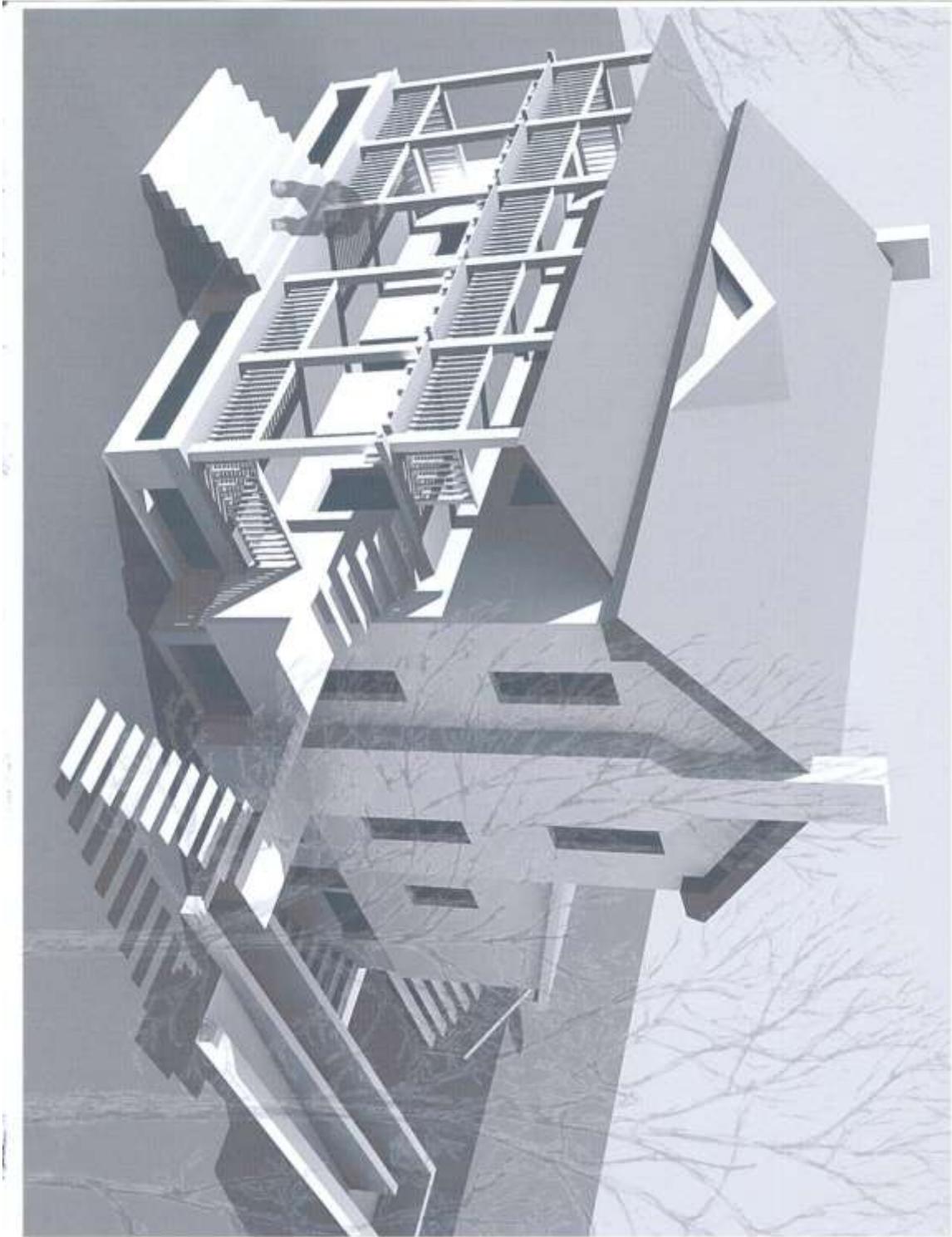
There are a number of opportunities to market the restored Hogan-Rogers House through programs already in place. Tourism is the primary audience for this project, and this project has the potential to draw regional and out-of-state tourists interested in African American heritage, biking and outdoor recreation, educational opportunities for students, and Colonial, Civil War, and early twentieth-century history.

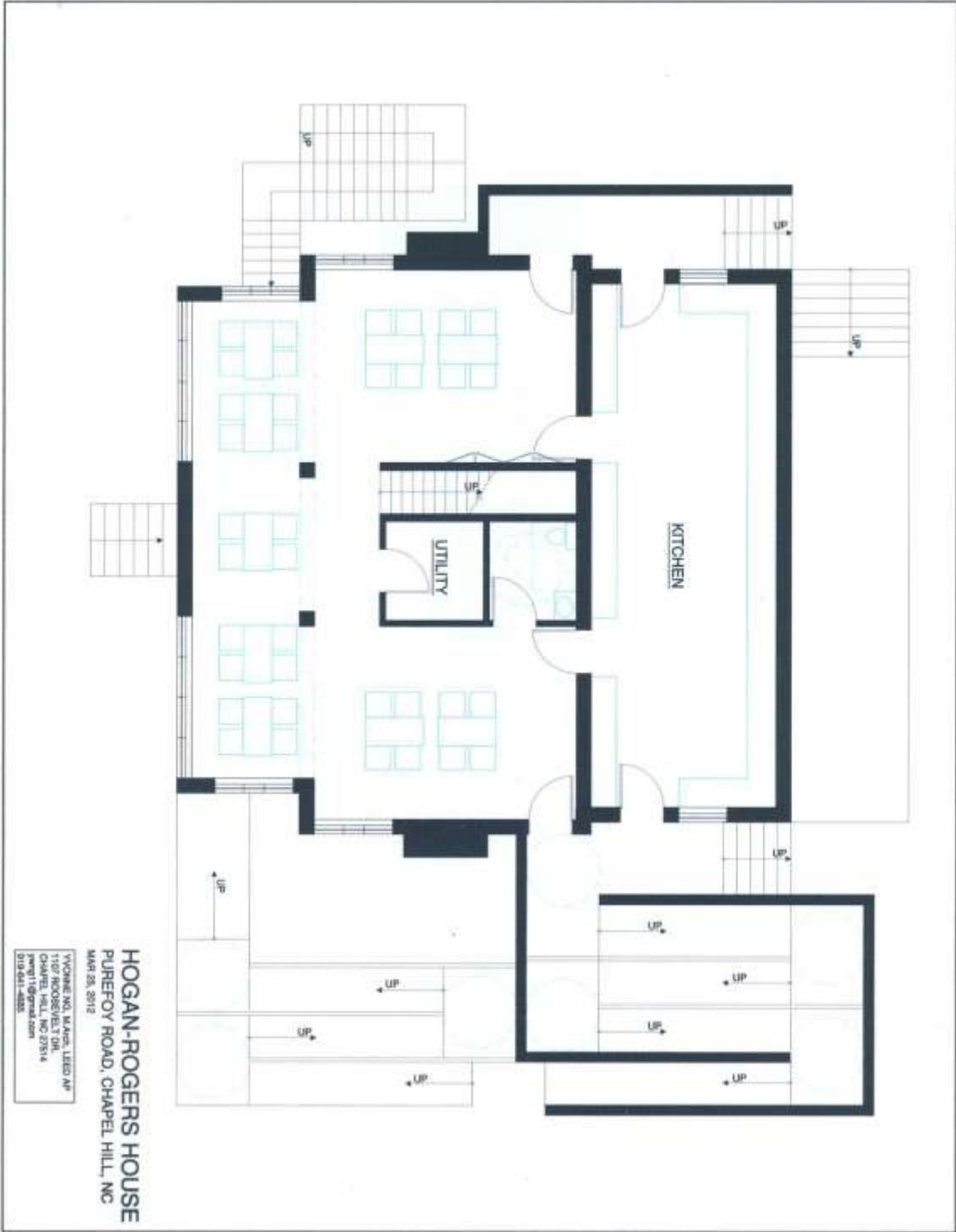
Potential African American Heritage Trail (AAHT) sites along Eubanks Road could be part of the North Carolina Highway 86 Scenic Byway, of which the Hogan family story is a large part. <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/occlerks/0408176a.pdf>

The Colonial Heritage Scenic Byway begins in Hillsborough and passes by the North Carolina Highway 86 Scenic Byway. This trail could be modified to include an extension or alternate route featuring the Hogan-Rogers House and other AAHT sites.

[http://www.ncdot.gov/download/travel/scenic\\_byways.pdf](http://www.ncdot.gov/download/travel/scenic_byways.pdf)

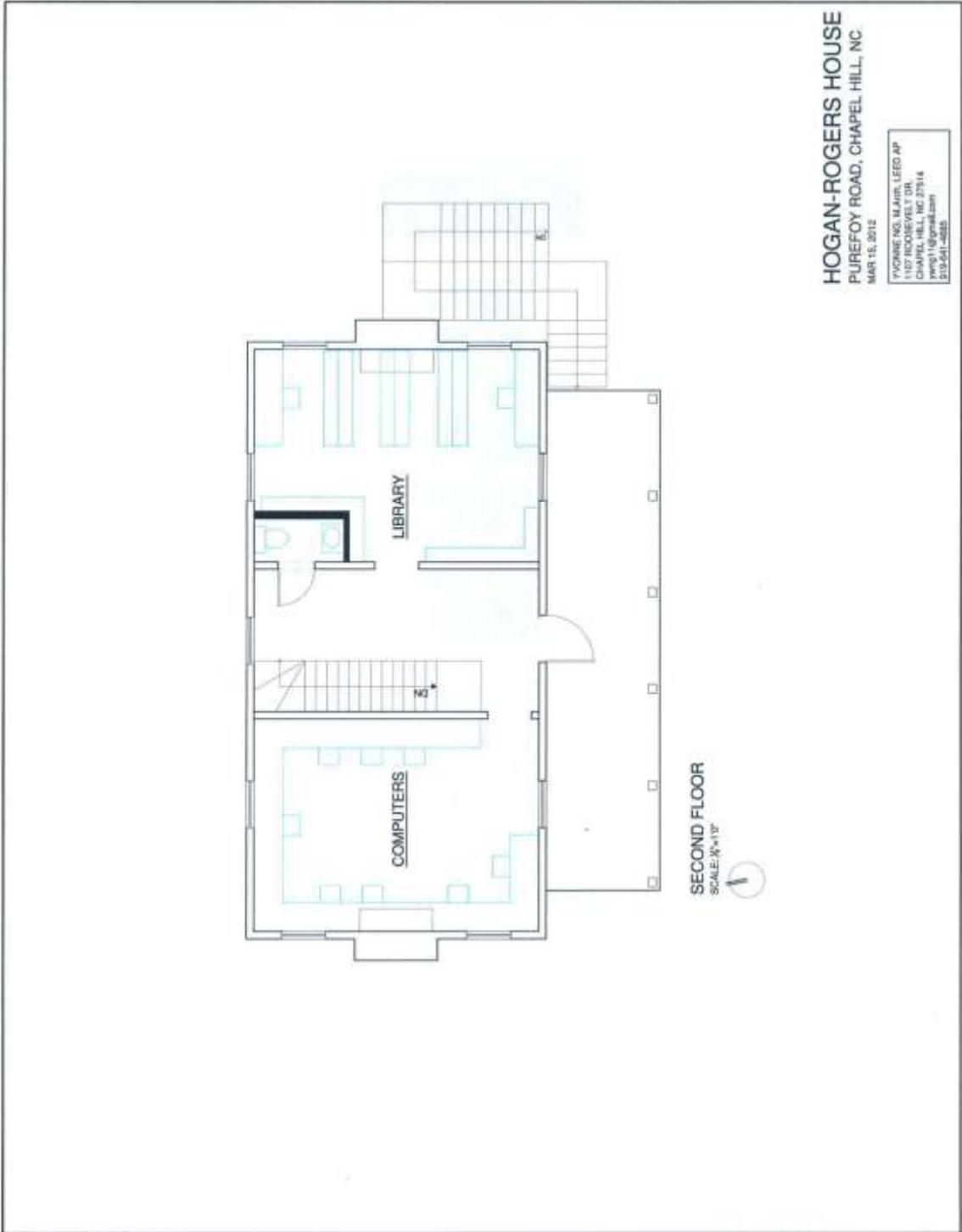
Extending the AAHT through Orange County and into Durham County would create a partnership opportunity with neighboring chambers of commerce and visitors bureaus. The eastern end of the trail could be anchored at Stagville Historic Site, which is currently joining another trail, the Underground Experience Trail, established by the National Park Service. Another strategy would be to link this trail into a Hillsborough to Chapel Hill trail.





**HOGAN-ROGERS HOUSE**  
 PUREFOY ROAD, CHAPEL HILL, NC  
 MARCH 28, 2012

WYNNE MC KEAG, LEAD AP  
 1107 ROOSEVELT DR  
 CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514  
 pmw11@prad.com  
 919.641.4833



**HOGAN-ROGERS HOUSE**  
 PUREFOY ROAD, CHAPEL HILL, NC

MAR 18, 2012

RYONING NG, MAJUR, LEED AP  
 1107 ROOSEVELT DR.  
 CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514  
 jwng11@gmail.com  
 919-941-4885

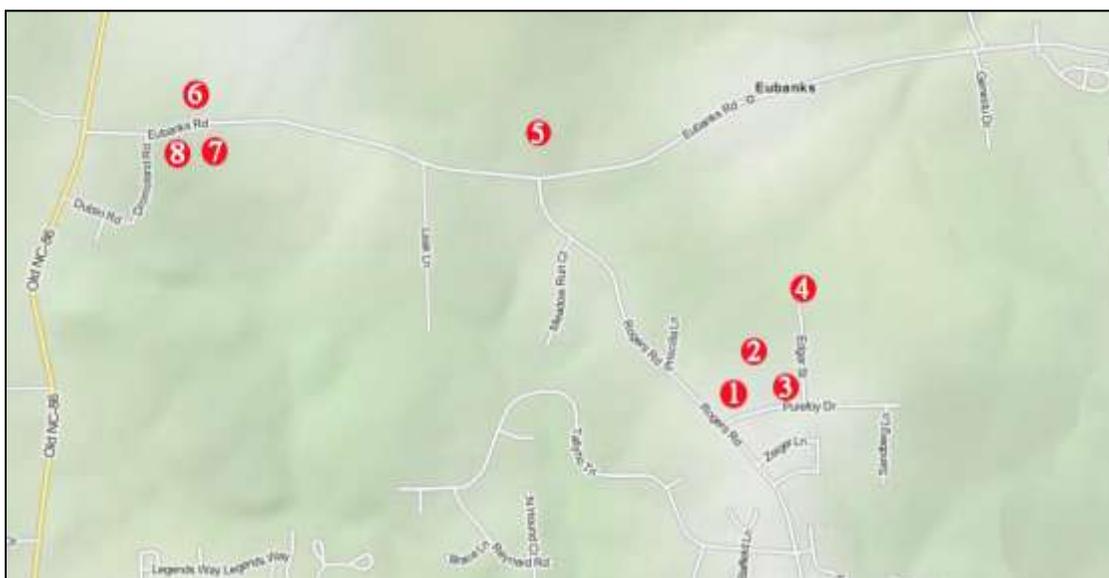
**SECOND FLOOR**

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



## *Potential African American Heritage Trail Sites*

1. **St. Paul A.M.E. Church Museum** – Purefoy Road. This 1,700 sq. ft. museum will feature an exhibit on the history of the community, house a community archive, and host art exhibitions. The museum’s design will incorporate the original brick basement of the former Hogan-Rogers House where the enslaved African American laborers lived and worked.
2. **Hogan–Rogers House** – Purefoy Road. Home of Thomas Lloyd Hogan who held at least eighteen slaves in 1850.
3. **Rogers-Jones Cabin** – Edgar Street. After losing ownership of the Hogan–Rogers House, Sam Rogers built this log cabin in the early 1930s.
4. **Alexander Hogan Plantation Site** - Duke Forrest off Eubanks Road. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this site features the remains of the plantation home of Alexander Hogan and a small cemetery.
5. **Nunn Chapel Site** – Eubanks Road. Ruins of the two-story church built by Reverend Mathew Nunn in 1946. The church was destroyed by fire in 1967, but the foundation and massive three-sided front steps remain.
6. **Morris Hogan School** – 402 Eubanks Road. School founded by former slave, Morris Hogan, in the 1870s. The two-room schoolhouse was finally closed in the 1920s.
7. **Morris Grove Elementary School** - 215 Eubanks Road. New elementary school named in honor of former slave and educator Morris Hogan.



## *St. Paul A.M.E. Church Museum and Heritage Center*



St. Paul A.M.E. Church Museum – This 1,700 sq. ft. museum will feature exhibits that tell the story of the Rogers–Eubanks Road community from its founding to the present. The facility will also house a collection of archival material for researchers and display artifacts from the area. In addition, the space will exhibit artwork by local and regional African American artists. A unique feature of the museum will be the incorporation of the brick basement from the Hogan-Rogers House, which will preserve this important architectural feature once the house is relocated. The basement was the site where the Hogan family slaves lived and worked in the 1840s to the 1860s.

Parking, facilities, and staffing make the St. Paul’s museum a perfect access point for visitors to the African American Heritage Trail. The church complex will include dedicated meeting spaces for large audiences, which could be utilized to host large concerts, lectures, or other historical programs that would attract visitors to the area.

## ***1. St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church***



Founded in the mid-1860s, St. Paul A.M.E. is the oldest African American congregation. The current church building was built in 1892 and is scheduled to be moved from its original location in Chapel Hill to the new church complex on Rogers Road. During the move, the brick veneer would be removed to restore the building to its original 1890s appearance.

## *2. Hogan-Rogers House*



Built around 1845 by Thomas Lloyd Hogan, the Hogan-Rogers House is a perfect example of the Greek Revival architecture that was prevalent in Orange County. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sam Rogers, a son of former slaves, purchased the home. Rogers lived in the house until the Great Depression in the 1930s when he could no longer afford it. The home has had few modifications and retains much of its original interior.

The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County and Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA), is working to relocate this house to another piece of the original Hogan plantation and restore it for use as a community center. Once restored, volunteers from RENA would use the home as classroom space, storage space for their food bank program, and as a meeting space for neighborhood events.

### *3. Rogers-Jones Cabin*



Evicted from the Hogan-Rogers House, Sam Rogers erected a log cabin near the site of the former slave quarters for the Hogan Plantation. The story-and-a-half structure was built in the early 1930s. Several generations of local families have lived in the house over its eighty-year history. The home is made of simple pine logs and features a well in the rear of the house. Homes of this type are very typical of those built by share cropping families in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



*Sam Rogers and his grandsons Alfred "Dave" Barbee, Norman Barbee, and Robert Walker in front of their cabin*

#### *4. Alexander Hogan Plantation Site*



The Alexander Hogan Plantation Site, which was inhabited between 1838 and 1890, consists of four stone outbuilding foundations, a chimney fall, and a cemetery. It was listed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1996. Nannerl O. Keohane, President of the Duke University Board of Trustees, said in 1996, “[The Hogan] “site’s importance as a research and educational resource makes it far too valuable to be destroyed by a trash dump.”

## 5. *Nunn Chapel*



The Nunn Chapel congregation was organized October 30, 1938. In December 1944, Matthew and Julia Nunn donated 2.36 acres for the construction of a church to be known as the First Baptist Church of the New Hope Association. In May 1945, the name was changed to Nunn Chapel of the New Hope Association. The building was apparently erected in 1946. It was destroyed by fire sometime before 1967, but the foundation and the large concrete front steps remain. The graves of Reverend Nunn and his wife are about 120 feet behind the northwest corner of the foundation on the east side of a huge boulder. Reverend Nunn apparently selected this picturesque site for his wife's grave in 1956 and was later buried beside her following his accidental death at age 79.

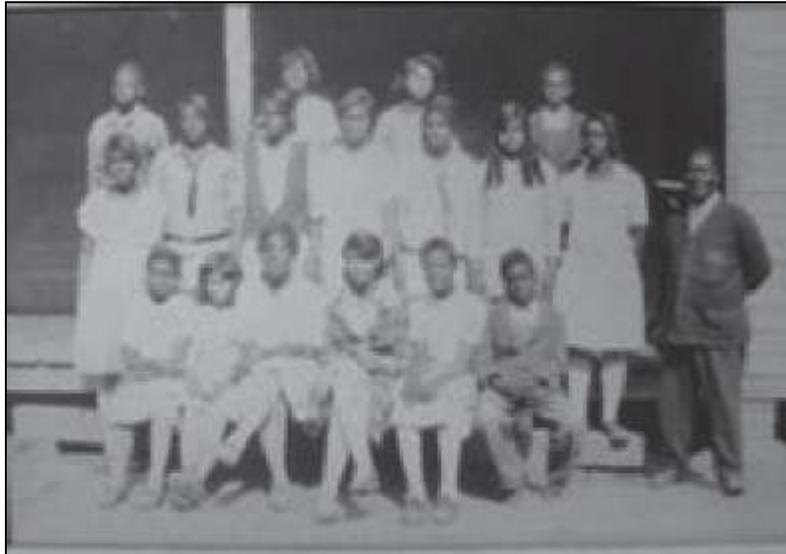


## ***6. Morris Hogan School***

Morris Hogan had a long-standing passion for education as a passport to a better life for his own children as well as other African American children. Yet in the late 1800s, the Orange County school board had few funds for school construction and operation. To fill the void, the board sanctioned the opening of many simple, usually one-room, segregated schools that were built and operated by local individuals or groups.

Morris won permission to create the Morris Grove Elementary School using his own land and funds at what is now 402 Eubanks Road. Here, six grades were taught by one teacher from the 1880s to the 1920s when tax-based public schools became prevalent. All of the Hogan children and some of the Hogan grandchildren attended this school. "We walked through the woods on a muddy wagon path to get there," remembered Samuel Rogers, 65, who went to the school through third grade. "Didn't have no shoes most of the time. Once I got there, I had to hold my feet up to the sun to get them warm."

The school was a wooden, one-room, simple frame structure with only pump water, outdoor toilets, and wood stove heating. The original wooden doors have been covered by brick and a cement porch was added. The house is now owned by Mazie Hogan Cradle, a former Morris Grove student.



*Morris Grove Elementary School*



The Morris Grove Elementary School was built in 2009 and named after former slave and educator Morris Hogan. The best way to incorporate the school into the trail would be with an interpretive sign about their namesake and the history of the property and through partnerships between the school and local heritage organizations.