



See for yourself why...

*“The Crisis” magazine, the official organ of the NAACP, uttered this profound statement describing the Natchez Movement’s response to the attempted assassination of NAACP President George Metcalfe.*

*“The attempted assassination triggered demonstrations and a selective buying campaign which resulted in the most meaningful economic, political, and social settlement ever achieved by the Negro community in any other southern state.”*



George Metcalfe, pictured above, was the president of the Natchez Branch of the NAACP. The bombing of his car – and his near death – spurred the movement led by Mississippi Field Secretary Charles Evers and the local NAACP.



For more information, contact:

NAPAC Director • 301 Main St., Natchez, MS 39120  
601-445-0728 • visitnapac@gmail.com • www.visitnapac.net

This Map of Civil Rights Sites in Natchez, Mississippi, is published by the Natchez Civil Rights Trail Committee with editorial assistance provided by Visit Natchez, Historic Natchez Foundation, Natchez National Historical Park, City of Natchez, Natchez Museum of African American History and Culture, and Mississippi Department of Archives and History. This publication was made possible by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council.



© 2024 Historic Natchez Foundation. All rights reserved.

# MAP OF CIVIL RIGHTS SITES in Natchez, Mississippi

Explore The Natchez Movement!



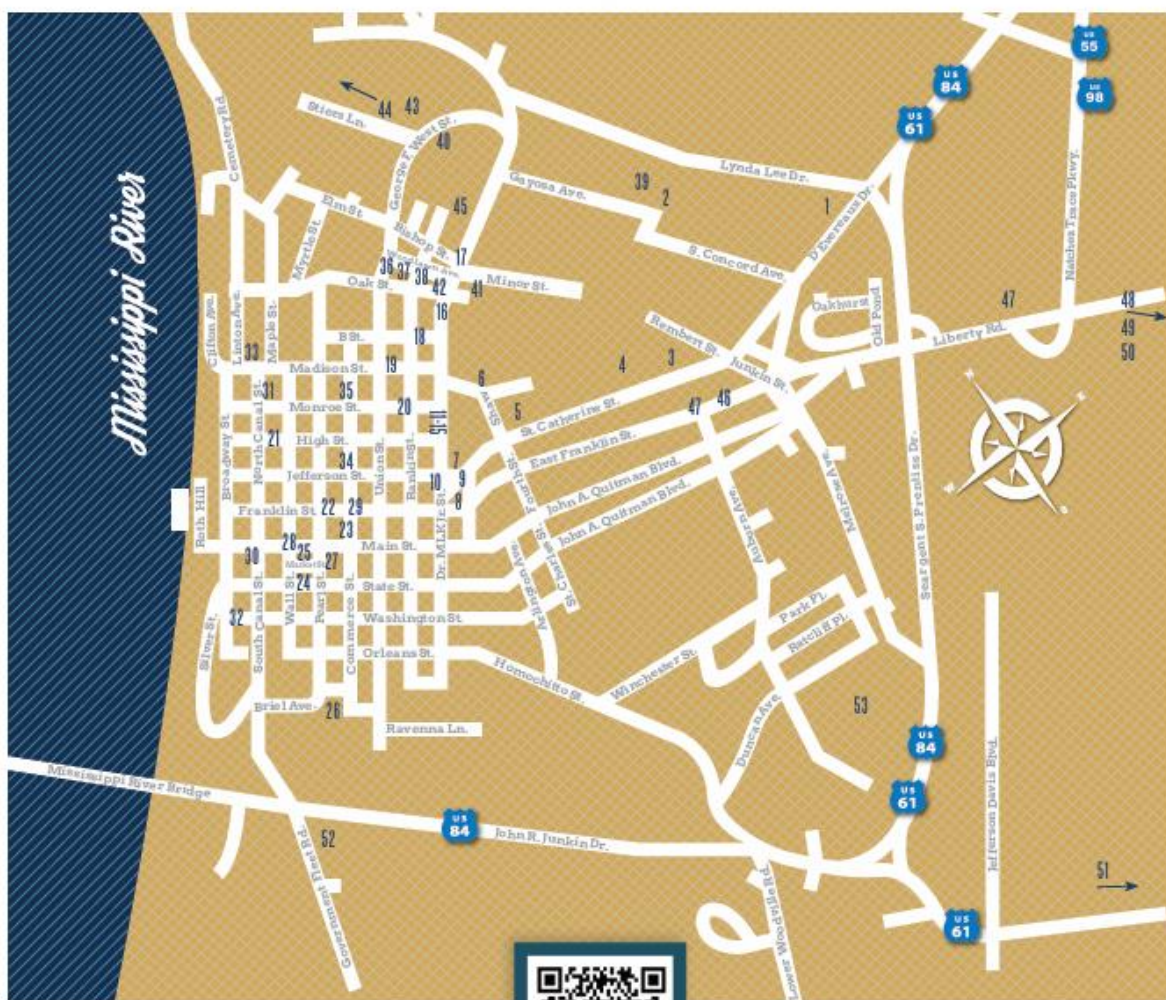
## LEARN WHAT HAPPENED FIRSTHAND.

*The 20th-century civil rights movement in Natchez was extraordinary. It is a story of sacrifice, determination, and many hard-fought gains.*

Despite its challenges, which included racial segregation, beatings, police brutality, and bombings by the Ku Klux Klan, the Natchez struggle became one of the most successful movements in Mississippi. This trail tells that story and honors the memory of those who fought courageously for basic social, civic, and economic justice.

Natchez African American leaders implemented boycotts, picketing, and marches that brought the city’s downtown area to its knees. Lance Hill, author of *The Deacons for Defense: Armed Resistance and the Civil Rights Movement* (2004), noted:

*“Whereas virtually every other local campaign had ended in failure during the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi, the Natchez project had mobilized an entire community and exacted sweeping concessions from the white establishment—without federal intervention. The Natchez campaign was the single greatest community victory for the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi.”*



**YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS HERE!**

Navigate the site tour using the map above or Scan the QR Code for driving directions & more information.

See the site descriptions in the center spread.





**1. Holiday Inn • 271 D'Evereux Dr.**

FBI agents operated from this whites-only motel until Sept. 1964, when they opened a downtown office. Agents continued to move in & out of the motel & were successful in quelling Klan activity in southwest Mississippi.

**2. Armstrong Tire & Rubber Company • 89 Kelly Ave.**

Now closed, this racially segregated plant was infiltrated by the KKK whose members targeted black workers active in the NAACP. Violence included the bombing of George Metcalfe's car in the plant parking lot. He was seriously injured but survived.

**3. Shiloh Baptist Church • 12 Perrault St.**

This church served as a meeting place for the NAACP, & many of its members participated in the Natchez movement. For safety reasons, NAACP meetings moved from church to church.

**4. China Grove Baptist Church • 105 St. Catherine St.**

This church served as a meeting place for the NAACP, & many of its members participated in the Natchez movement.

**5. Theodore Johnson's Community Mart site • 37 St. Catherine St.**

Theodore Johnson helped develop The Community Mart, also called "The People's Store," to provide a black-owned grocery store during the boycott of white merchants in 1965.

**6. Home of James Stokes • 17 Old D'Evereux St.**

The Rev. James Stokes was a member of the Natchez Deacons for Defense & Justice. He also served as the spokesman for the organization.

**7. NAACP Headquarters (Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum) • 9 St. Catherine St.**

The home of Natchez's first black doctor served as headquarters of the NAACP in 1965 & as a boarding house where NAACP President George Metcalfe resided. Members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) briefly stayed there & referred to it as the "Metcalfe Boarding House."

**8. Holy Family Catholic Church • 8 Orange Ave.**

This black church housed the first office of the NAACP & was the site of multiple meetings in the 1950s & 60s. Father William Morrissey of Holy Family was Mississippi's first white officer in the NAACP.

**9. George F. West Jr., Law Office • 26 St. Catherine St.**

In 1967, Attorney George F. West Jr. was the first black school board member since Reconstruction & became the chairman of the board.

**10. Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church • 228 N. Dr. M.L. King St.**

At a NAACP meeting held at Zion Chapel in the autumn of 1965, activist Bill Ware called for a Christmas boycott against white merchants. This boycott & demonstrations in the fall of 1965 led to "The Natchez Agreement," approved by city officials & the NAACP on Dec. 3.

**11. Mackel & Sons Funeral Home • 300 N. Dr. M.L. King St.**

Family member & dentist, Dr. Audley Mackel, resurrected a Natchez chapter of the NAACP in 1940. In 1955, he participated in the submission of a petition to the school board to integrate the public schools. Many signers removed their names to ensure the safety of their families & the security of their jobs. Dr. Mackel fled Natchez for the safety of Chicago.

**12. Donnan's Barber Shop • 319 N. Dr. M.L. King St.**

This black barber shop was the command post for the Natchez Deacons for Defense & Justice. Barber James "Big Jack" Jackson served as the founding president.

**13. St. John Methodist Church • 323 N. Dr. M.L. King St.**

Members of this church participated in the rallies, marches, & boycotts held in the struggle for civil rights.

**14. Home of Alderman Theodore West • 403 N. Dr. M.L. King St.**

Theodore "Bubber" West served as an alderman from 1992 until his death in 2011 & managed the family funeral home next door after the 1982 death of his activist father, George F. West.

**15. West Funeral Home • 409 N. Dr. M.L. King St.**

George & Artimese West founded this funeral home in 1951. As a self-employed businessman, West refused to remove his signature from the 1955 petition to integrate the public schools. He was in the forefront of the Natchez movement &, in 1972, became the first black alderman since Reconstruction.

**16. Dumas/West House • 729 N. Dr. M.L. King St.**

Built for the family of Dr. Albert Woods Dumas, who served as president of the National Medical Association, this house became home to the family of George & Artimese West in the mid-20th century. Dr. Dumas was an early voice for civil rights, & George West played an important role as a negotiator for the NAACP.

**17. Giant Discount Center Variety Store Site • 1003 N. Dr. M.L. King St.**

A store owned & operated by Mayor John Nossor once stood on this site. In retaliation to "The Natchez Agreement" negotiated by the city & the NAACP, the KKK bombed the store late on New Year's Eve in 1965. The next day it was a smoldering ruin.

**18. Beulah Missionary Baptist Church • 710 Beulah St.**

In October 1965, NAACP meetings at this church launched protests that resulted in the arrests of several hundred protesters, some of whom were bused to Parchman Penitentiary & subjected to cruelty.

**19. Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church • 607 ½ Madison St.**

This church was the site of a meeting of civil rights activists on Nov. 11, 1965, with black law enforcement officers in attendance. Its pastor, Dr. Jonathan Rucker, was an early leader in the Natchez movement.

**20. Home of Nellie Jackson (Known as Nellie's) • 416 N. Rankin St.**

Nellie Jackson, a black madam, openly operated a brothel in her home. In the mid-1960s, she was an FBI informant & provided information about KKK members gleaned from her employees who serviced Klan members. Jackson's story is told in the documentary film, *Mississippi Madam* (2017).

**21. Natchez City Auditorium • 207 Jefferson St.**

This city facility became a temporary detention center for protesters in October 1965. About 150 of those arrested were bused to Parchman Penitentiary in the Mississippi Delta, where they were subjected to cruelty. This incident became known as "The Parchman Ordeal."

**22. City Bank & Trust Company • 409 Franklin St.**

In Sept. 1964, the FBI opened its first official Natchez office in two rooms on an upper floor of the bank building.

**23. Ritz Theatre & Jewelry Store • 127-129 N. Commerce St.**

This building was owned by a white man, Jerry Oberlin, whose support of the African American community made him a KKK target. On Nov. 19, 1966, Jack Seale threw a grenade at the retail portion of the building, which sustained damage.

**24. Natchez City Hall • 124 S. Pearl St.**

This was the site of multiple meetings between city officials, the leadership of the NAACP, & Charles Evers, Mississippi field director of the NAACP. It was the site of the Dec. 3, 1965, meeting that produced, "The Natchez Agreement."

**25. Adams County Courthouse • 115 S. Wall St.**

Protest marches often terminated in rallies on the courthouse lawn. After the 1965 bombing of George Metcalfe's car, the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard held a meeting on the 2nd floor with members of the KKK & the Deacons for Defense & Justice in an effort to keep the peace.

**26. First Freedom House Site • 611 S. Wall St.**

The Natchez Civil Rights Movement first became visible when the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) rented the house on this site. On Aug. 14, 1964, a bomb destroyed an adjacent double house occupied by the Wall Street Grocery & a tavern operated by an interracial couple. COFO was then evicted by its landlord who was fearful of more reprisals.

**27. Fisk Public Library in Memorial Hall (U.S. Courthouse) • 109 S. Pearl St.**

From 1964 & 1965, this whites-only library became the site of protests by local high school students who sought the desegregation of this public institution.

**28. The Eola Hotel • 110 N. Pearl St.**

This whites-only hotel was a meeting place for the KKK. In May 1965, the United Klans of America met at the hotel, where Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton of Alabama narrated the 1915 silent film, *Birth of a Nation*.

**29. S.H. Kress Department Store • Corner of Franklin & N. Commerce Sts.**

In 1964 & 1965, this store became the site of sit-ins by local black high school students active in the Mississippi Student Union. These activists successfully integrated the lunch counter.

**30. United Klans of America • 114 Main St.**

This downtown building housed the second-story office of the United Klans of America & their Grand Dragon, E. L. McDaniel.

**31. Bright Star Baptist Church • 509 Maple St.**

This church hosted NAACP meetings, & its participation in the movement is seen in the film, *Black Natchez* (1967).

**32. YMCA Site • 308-314 S. Canal St.**

The whites-only YMCA was located on this now vacant site in June 1965, when it became the focus of protests.

**33. Home of Mayor John Nossor • 207 Linton Ave.**

John Nossor, a Lebanese immigrant, served as mayor from 1962 to 1968. On the evening of Sept. 25, 1964, KKK members bombed his home while he & his wife watched TV.

**34. Home of Forrest Johnson • 313 N. Commerce St.**

Attorney Forrest A. Johnson was a prominent white supporter of the Natchez movement. He published the *Miss-Lou Observer*, through which he confronted the KKK. He became a target of both the Klan & white racists.

**35. Home of Marjorie Baroni • 503 Monroe St.**

Marjorie Rushing Baroni was a white housewife & newspaper writer who participated openly in the civil rights movement. Her family coped with ostracism & fear of their lives during the height of the Natchez movement.

**36. White House Café & Green's Service Station • 7 E. Woodlawn Ave.**

Moseanna Green, sister of activist Mamie Lee Green Mazique, operated this café, which was a meeting place for of the NAACP.

**37. Home of Mamie Lee Green Mazique • 12 E. Woodlawn Ave.**

Mamie Lee Green Mazique was a "soft-spoken trailblazer" of the Natchez movement & served as assistant secretary of the NAACP in the mid-1960s. Activist Jessie B. Williams called her the "matriarch of the present-day NAACP"

**38. Home of Renza & Jonathan Grennell • 16 E. Woodlawn Ave.**

Jonathan Grennell was a member of a secret civil rights group known as the Black Dot Club, which transported Freedom Riders to & from Natchez to help blacks register to vote. One of the Freedom Riders transported was John Lewis, who later became a U.S. Congressman from Georgia.

**39. Home of Tom & Mary Lee Toles • 200 S. Blue Bird Dr.**

In 1966, Tom Toles became one of the first black deputy sheriffs in Adams County &, in 1968, joined the Natchez Police Department. His wife Mary Lee Toles became an NAACP activist in 1965, served several terms as president, & was the first black female justice court judge in Adams County.

**40. Home of Wharlest & Exerlena Jackson • 13 Mathews St.**

NAACP Treasurer Wharlest Jackson Sr. was driving home from work on Feb. 27, 1967, when a bomb planted by the KKK in his truck exploded & killed him. He was a husband, father, veteran, civil rights activist, & recently promoted employee of Armstrong Tire & Rubber Company.

**41. Wharlest Jackson Sr.'s Murder Site • 11 Minor St.**

A Mississippi State Historic Marker designates the site on Minor Street where Wharlest Jackson died on Feb. 27, 1967, when the KKK bombed his truck.

**42. King Solomon Baptist Church • 6 Spring St.**

This church hosted NAACP meetings. Many members joined in the Natchez movement including activists Mamie Lee Green Mazique & Mary Lee Toles.

**43. Home of Jessie Bernard Williams • 547 W. Stiers Ln.**

Jessie Bernard Williams was a prominent leader of the Natchez movement. She served as secretary of the Natchez chapter of the NAACP in 1965, the most turbulent year of the movement. She is featured prominently in the film, *Black Natchez* (1967).

**44. Home of Rev. Henry & Alma Russell • 13 Seales Ln.**

Rev. Henry & Alma Russell were leaders in the Natchez movement. Henry owned Russell's Cigo at 907 Dr. M. L. King St. (previously Pine Street), where ministers & civil rights leaders often met. Rev. Russell endured the Parchman Ordeal & his daughter, Patricia McCoy, helped to integrate Natchez High School in 1967.

**45. Home of Sam & Elodie West • 1016 Viener St.**

Sam & Elodie West were parents of Phillip West, who served as the president of the local NAACP & participated in the integration of the Natchez school system. In 2004, he became the town's first African American mayor since Reconstruction. The entire family participated in the Natchez movement.

**46. Second Freedom House Site • 121 E. Franklin St.**

Civil rights activist George Greene purchased Freedom House #2 after COFO was evicted from the first Freedom House on South Wall Street after a bomb destroyed a neighboring building. Freedom House #2 was demolished as part of an urban renewal project in the 1970s & early 80s.

**47. Curtis Funeral Home • 112 E. Franklin St.**

Archie Curtis & his assistant, Willie Jackson, were ambushed & beaten by white men after responding to a false call on Feb. 15, 1964. Curtis felt he was targeted due to his involvement with a voter registration drive.

**48. Liberty Park • Liberty Rd.**

This was the site of two KKK rallies, a small local rally on Aug. 29, 1964, & the largest Klan rally ever held in Mississippi on Oct. 30, 1965. The United Klans of America (UKA) hosted the 1965 rally, which featured an address by Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Attendance was estimated between 2,000 & 4,000.

**49. Mt. Plains Baptist Church Site • 1251 Liberty Rd.**

This church burned to the ground on Sept. 21, 1963, & was the first of two churches pastored by the Rev. Shead Bladwin that were destroyed by fire.

**50. Ben Chester White's murder Site • Pretty Creek Rd. & Bridge**

On June 10, 1966, three white Klansmen murdered 67-year-old Ben Chester White, who never participated in the civil rights movement. Their intention was to kill a black man to attract Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Natchez so they could also kill him. It took 37 years to bring Ernest Avants back to trial for murdering Ben Chester White, & it took a jury only three hours to convict him.

**51. Jerusalem Baptist Church Site • 80 Deerfield Rd.**

This church burned to the ground on July 12, 1964. Its pastor, Rev. Shead Baldwin, was a key figure in the Natchez movement & in the negotiating of *The Natchez Agreement* between the city & NAACP leaders.

**52. Dumas Riverview Motel • 218 John R. Junkin Dr.**

Now the Deluxe Inn, this motel was built for black travelers by pharmacist Michel Dumas, son of Dr. Albert Woods Dumas, Sr. In March 1964, vandals cut down a billboard advertising the motel & shot out the motel's lighted sign. On June 24, 1964, a cross was burned on an adjoining property.

**53. Duncan Park • 57 Duncan Park Rd.**

On Aug. 5, 1965, approximately 200 protesters led by Charles Evers successfully integrated this whites-only public park.