1 - Reese Phifer (The University of Alabama)
In a protest against the enrollment of Atherine Lucy, a mob of white students, community residents, and non-residents gathered on the steps of the former student union and bookstore and adjacent University Boulevard. Their efforts led to her expulsion from The University of Alabama.

2 - Bibb Graves to McClure Library Tunnel (The University of Alabama)
Due to a mob at Smith Hall, Dean Sarah Haley brought Atherine Lucy to the library where she would be trapped inside for 2 ½ hours. She was rescued through the tunnel against the mob seated face down in the rear of the state trooper car. She was taken to Howard and Linton’s Barbershop where she was cleaned up.

3 - President’s Mansion (The University of Alabama)
Built in 1838, both Presidents Manly and Garland employed their own slaves in the Presidents’ Mansion. The four original outbuildings remain. Two outer buildings were originally used as quarters; one as the kitchen, and another contained a well with washroom. According to university lore, Mrs. Garland and several enslaved servants prevented its destruction on April 4, 1865.

4 - Foster Auditorium (The University of Alabama)
On June 11, 1963, Governor George Wallace made his stand at the schoolhouse door in an effort to block the admission of James Hood and Vivian Malone, two black students, from The University of Alabama. His efforts failed. While Hood would leave after a few weeks in August 1963, Malone would become the first African American graduate in 1965 with a bachelor’s degree in business management.

5 - Nott Hall (The University of Alabama)
Constructed in the early 1920s, it is named after Josiah C. Nott, a physician and racial theorist, who founded the Medical School in Mobile. In Types of Mankind (1854), Nott espoused a belief in polygenesis (multiple and separate evolutionary origins) as a justification for slavery, racial subordination, and white supremacy.

6 - Smith Hall (The University of Alabama)
On February 6, 1956, Atherine Lucy attended a geography class in Smith Hall 200 before a mob attacked her outside of the building. She was taken to the McClure Education Library until safe removal was possible. On May 9, 1992, Atherine Lucy Foster received a master’s degree in education along with her daughter who received a bachelor’s degree in finance.

7 - Slave Apology Marker (The University of Alabama)
In 2004, the University and Faculty Senate issued an apology for the use and ownership of enslaved people and placed a commemorative marker. The marker acknowledges Jack Rudolph and William “Boysey” Brown, enslaved individuals who were originally interred within the vicinity of the marker.

8 - Paul R. Jones Art Gallery (2308 6th Street)
After receiving a degree at Howard University, Paul R. Jones applied but was denied on account of race to attend the School of Law at The University of Alabama. In 2008, Jones donated a portion of his collection of African American art to the university. With over 1,700 pieces, the Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art at The University of Alabama is one of the largest collections of African American art in the world.

9 - Alston Building (2400 6th Street)
Tuscaloosa’s first skyscraper functioned as the local headquarters of the United Klans of America with Robert Shelton serving as the Grand Wizard.

10 - Tuscaloosa County Courthouse (714 Greensboro Avenue)
Led by Reverend T. Y. Rogers, activists marched to the newly constructed building on April 23, 1964. They were protesting the city’s continued usage of discriminatory signage. On June 26, a federal judge ordered the removal of the signage.

11 - Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center (620 Greensboro Avenue)
Located in the former Allen & Jemison Warehouse Co., the hub of cultural activity honors Dinah Washington. The “Queen of Blues” was a vocalist and pianist born in Tuscaloosa.

12 - First African Baptist Church and Cemetery (2621 Stillman Boulevard)
Established in 1866, the church functioned as an important site for secular, educational, and religious activities. During the Civil Rights Movement, mass meetings led by Reverend T. Y. Rogers were held at the church. Dr. Martin Luther King, a personal friend, delivered the installation sermon for Rogers, only a few weeks prior to his delivery.
of the “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

On June 9, 1964, police stormed a planning meeting led by Rev. Rogers. Known as Bloody Tuesday, 33 individuals were hospitalized and 94 arrested.

Across the street, many black and white Tuscaloosa residents are interred in the Greenwood Cemetery, including Solomon Perteet, a free person of color prior to the Civil War.

13- Howard and Linton’s Barbershop (1311 T.Y. Rogers Jr. Avenue)
Described as an “enclave of black enterprise,” Rev. Linton’s Barbershop is an important heritage site. As the local contact for Dr. King and Pittsburgh Courier correspondent, Reverend Linton has collected a repository of memorabilia and materials pertaining to the Civil Rights struggle in Tuscaloosa. In addition, the barbershop provided sanctuary for Atherine Lucy during her attempt to desegregate the University of Alabama. During Bloody Tuesday, several individuals were triaged on-site while Linton spearheaded fundraising to provide the bail money for the 94 individuals arrested.

14 - Stillman College (3601 Stillman Boulevard)
Students at this historically black college were active in the bus boycotts. Their efforts began as a protest against the discriminatory practices of the Druid City Transit Company system. In May 1962, several students were beaten, gassed, and arrested on “disorderly conduct” charges for the cause of integrating city buses. Following this attack, the bus boycott spread and led to negotiations. Rather than integrate, the Druid City Transit Company ceased operations and the Tuscaloosa Transit Company began service with an integrated workforce in April 1965.

Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church was originally planned location for the Minister’s Alliance but St. Paul Baptist Church was chosen instead to coordinate civil rights activities. Out of this meeting, the Tuscaloosa Citizens for Action Committee was established.

Stillman students continued to serve as regular foot soldiers in the struggle for Civil Rights in Tuscaloosa. They also provided support for both Vivian Malone and James Hood as they broke the color line at nearby University of Alabama.

In addition, the Emily Estes Snedecor Nurses’ Training School and Hospital provided essential healthcare access to the black community from 1930 to 1946.

Suggested Readings:
Alfred L. Brophy, University, Court, and Slave: Pro-slavery Thought in Southern Colleges and Courts and the Coming of Civil War (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).


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