

Preservation Month Reading and Resource List

You will notice that many of the resources we recommend are available at Richland Library in either digital or hard-copy formats—sometimes both! If you don't already have a library card, visit one of their locations for a permanent card or sign up for a temporary card on their website.

Non-Fiction and Reference

How to Read Buildings: A Crash Course in Architectural Style by Carol Davidson Cragoe

- This work is a great beginner's reference that covers architecture from ancient through modern times. While not as comprehensive as McAlester's work, Cragoe's book covers styles found in the larger Western world along with a variety of uses.

Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery by John Michael Vlach

- Using more than 200 photographs and drawings from the Historic American Buildings Survey and the recollections of former slaves, Vlach examines the structures and spaces that formed the living and working environment of those held in bondage. In this work, he explores the ways in which slaves resisted by appropriating a landscape that was designed for oppression.

Restoring Women's History Through Historic Preservation by Gail Lee Dubrow

- Did you know that historically, women been the primary promoters of historic preservation in America? In this work, Dubrow explores six case studies in which women's history has been incorporated into the stories of historic sites.

Somerset Homecoming: Recovering a Lost Heritage by Dorothy Spruill Redford (available at Richland Library)

- Inspired by the television show *Roots*, Dorothy Spruill Redford is inspired to trace her family history leading her to Somerset Place, one of North Carolina's largest plantations. Over the course of ten years, she tirelessly tracks down the descendants of the plantation's slaves and owners on her campaign to tell a fuller story of Somerset Place.

The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History by Dolores Hayden

- Using downtown Los Angeles as a case study, Hayden explores a variety of ways that diverse stories can be told through historic preservation and creative place making.

The Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs

- This book revolutionized the planning profession during urban renewal with its emphasis on grass-roots planning that values community rather than top-down planning focused on cars and infrastructure. It continues to be a resource for planners today.

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein (Richland Library e-book)

- In this work, Rothstein explores how policies, such as red lining and exclusionary covenants, were used to divide American neighborhoods and were promoted by the Federal government to enforce segregation.
 - Suggested Companion Reading—*A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry: This 1959 play explores the story of a black family in Chicago moving into an all-white neighborhood, and the discrimination they face. (book available at Richland Library)

A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia Savage McAlester

- If there's one book that you will find in every one of our offices, it would be this one. McAlester's reference guide has become known as the definitive guide to American house styles. While many examples are the highest styles of architecture, she breaks down each style, identifying elements that will help you categorize almost any residential building you come across. This is a must have for any preservation lover's bookshelf!

Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America by William J. Murtagh

- Murtagh's work is often assigned in introductory preservation courses and gives a great overview of historic preservation in the United States.

The Economics of Historic Preservation: A Community Leader's Guide by Donovan Rypkema

- Donovan Rypkema has become a larger than life figure in the preservation community, but it all started with this book. Rypkema argues that the best way for preservationists to make their argument is by showing the economics. If you can, get the updated edition which brings in new examples and revised economic data.

Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums by Patricia West

- Patricia West explores the political and cultural history of historic preservation in America using the preservation of Mount Vernon, Orchard House, Monticello, and the Booker T. Washington Birthplace as case studies. In particular, she focuses on the changing role of women in the preservation movement.

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad by Eric Foner
(available at Richland Library)

- This work explores the history of the underground railroad in New York City—and the ways in which slavery lived on in the City even after it had been outlaw—through documents left behind by Sydney Howard Gay and the activities of New York's abolitionists.

The Warm of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson
(available at Richland Library)

- Through the lives of three different people—Ida Mae Gladney, George Starling, and Robert Foster—Wilkerson tells the story of the migration of African Americans from the rural south to northern and western cities between 1915 and 1970 in search of better lives and opportunity.
 - Suggested companion reading: *Black Boy* by Richard Wright (available at Richland Library)
This memoir traces Wright's life from the south during Jim Crow to his migration to Chicago. Although critics have questioned the accuracy of the details, this work gives life to the experiences that drove African Americans from the south in the early 20th century and the opportunities—and challenges—that met them in their new northern homes.

The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin (available at Richland Library)

- Considered by some critics to be the most important book about race relations in the 1960s, this collection of essays focuses on racial injustice and the black community, expressing the passionate fervor of the Civil Rights Movement. Though written as an essay, this is a primary source relating the writer's experience in segregated America and it explores historical events through the lens of the 1960s.
 - Suggested follow up reading: *The Fire This Time* edited by Jesmyn Ward (available at Richland Library)
This 2016 collection of essays and poems about race was conceived by Jesmyn Ward as a response to Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* with writers today reflecting on the past, present, and future of race and racism in America.

Representations of Slavery: Race and Ideology in Southern Plantation Museums by Jennifer L. Eichstedt and Stephen Small

- Through site visits to plantation museums in Louisiana, Georgia, and Virginia, Eichstedt and Small examine how slavery is discussed—or ignored—by tour guides, historical interpreters, and museum displays. The work links their findings from these historic sites to larger discourse surrounding race in the United States.

Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo" by Zora Neale Hurston (available at Richland Library)

- Though she is best known for her poetry and fiction, Zora Neale Hurston was also an anthropologist who studied the African diaspora. Through grant funding, Hurston spent three months in Plateau, Alabama in 1931 interviewing Cudjo Lewis—born Oluale Kossola—who was among the last slaves to be illegally transported to the United States in the days before the Civil War. Hurston chose to convey Kossola's words in dialect he spoke and through Kossola, she challenges the way that many westerners view African and the transatlantic slave trade. Unable to find a publisher for the book in the 1930s, the manuscript was held at Howard University's Mooreland-Spingarn Research Center and was finally published in 2018.

Biographies

To Tell the Truth Freely: The Life of Ida B. Wells by Mia Bay (available at Richland Library)

- Born as slavery was coming to an end in Mississippi, journalist and newspaper editor Ida B. Wells-Barnett spent her life fighting for racial and gender equality and justice. A founding member of the NAACP, she led one of the United States' first anti-lynching campaigns. *To Tell the Truth Freely* explores her life, advocacy, and achievements.

Black Titan: A.G. Gaston and the Making of a Black American Millionaire by Carol Jenkins and Elizabeth Gardner Hines

- We've all heard of the A.G. Gaston Motel, the Birmingham hotel where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. staged Civil Rights activities in the city; this work explores the life of A.G. Gaston, the man behind the business empire that constructed the building. From his early life to his philanthropic works and financial support of civil rights, this work explores Gaston's remarkable story.

Matthew J. Perry: The Man, His Times, and His Legacy edited by W. Lewis Burke and Belinda F. Gergel

- This collection of essays explores the life of the man raised in Waverly who was at the forefront of desegregation in both South Carolina and the nation. The essays, authored by a wide range of scholars and activist, create a multifaceted view of Perry and his life's work.

Angelina Grimké: Voice of an Abolitionist by Ellen Todras (available at Richland Library)

- As one of the South's only white abolitionists, Angelina Grimké made waves as an outspoken woman in the 19th century and a slaveholder's daughter in opposition to slavery. Covering her life from early childhood in Charleston, South Carolina through her death, this work explores the work and beliefs of this remarkable woman.

Local History

Columbia, South Carolina by Vennie Deas-Moore (available at Richland Library)

- A part of the Black America Series, this work explores the African American history of Columbia through photographs. While some may be familiar, other photographs provide a deeper look into the families and communities that make up our city.

[The Green Book of South Carolina](#)

- If you have yet to see Victor Green's original work, check out the New York Public Library's scans of the books [here](#). The Green Book of South Carolina website includes not only sites included in Green's work, but also sites related to African American history across the state.

[African American Historic Places in South Carolina](#)

- This document published in 2015 details some of the historic sites associated with African American history throughout the state. Broken out by county, each site has a short description.

[Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938](#), Library of Congress

- Under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Federal Writers Project collected more than 2,300 first person accounts of slavery. Collected throughout the 1930s, this link will take you to recollections formerly enslaved South Carolinians. Earlier slave narratives are available through [DocSouth](#) the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's digital primary source archive.

["The Architecture of Racial Segregation: The Challenges of Preserving the Problematic Past"](#), Robert Weyeneth

- This article defines and examines the physical manifestations of segregation in architecture during the Jim Crow Era. Weyeneth also asks the question of whether or not we should preserve spaces associated with segregation and how these spaces may provide opportunities for present day Americans.

Troubled Commemoration: The American Civil War Centennial, 1961-1965 by Robert J. Cook (available at Richland Library)

- The creation of the United States Civil War Centennial Commission in 1957 signaled the start of the planning for the anniversary, but the planning quickly evolved into a struggle over the memory of the Civil War and injustices of racism. As the birthplace of secession, South Carolina played a divisive role in the planning and commemoration—often using the history of the war to promote segregation. This work is a view into the social, political, and cultural conflicts that characterized the 1960s and informed the development of the modern South.

Quick Reads—Articles, Essays, and Useful Websites

[DOCOMOMO US](#): DOCOMOMO's site provides an excellent introduction to styles of the modern era. A great quick reference or starting point for those interested in the modern era

[“Historic Districts Are Good for Your Pocket Book: The Impact of Local Historic Districts on House Prices in South Carolina,”](#) South Carolina Department of Archives and History

- Like Rypkema's book, this short document dives into the economic benefits of historic preservation, but with a South Carolina focus!

[Smiling Faces Historic Places: The Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation in South Carolina,](#) Chad Lennox and Jennifer Revels

- Examines the economic benefits of preservation in South Carolina and while the data is getting older, the basics of the economics are very compelling!

[“Manual for Owners of Historic Buildings,”](#) The State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History

- This is a good introduction to owning a historic building, covering topics such as architectural style, building history, and basic maintenance.

[“Older, Smaller, Better: Measuring how the character of buildings and blocks influence urban vitality”](#)

- This report breaks down how preservation in urban areas can benefit your community. The case studies in this report bring life to the data that is shared.

[Technical Preservation Briefs,](#) National Park Service. The technical preservation briefs cover a variety of preservation related topics. They're great references for preservation projects!

[“Twenty-Four Reasons Historic Preservation is Good for Your Community,”](#) PlaceEconomics:

- A recent study of different sized cities and the positive and compelling ways that historic preservation impacts them. The research was conducted by a top private sector firm with over 30 years of experience analyzing historic resources.

Fiction

From Animal House to Our House: A Love Story (Richland Library e-book) by Ron Tanner

- Ron Tanner tells the story of how he and his then girlfriend of six months purchase and restored the house of their dreams—a Victorian row house in downtown Baltimore. Starting with no preservation experience, the two turn this condemned fraternity house into a spectacular home.

And Only to Deceive (Richland Library e-book) by Tasha Alexander

- This page turning mystery novel is set in London in the late 1880s and brings the world of late Victorian England to life through its heroine Lady Emily Ashton, who after a year and a half after of mourning her husband begins to learn about the man she barely knew in life.

Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War by Karen Abbott

- This *New York Times* Bestseller explores the Belle Boyd, Emma Edmonds, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, and Elizabeth Van Lew, women who used their position, charms, and sheer determination to influence the outcome of the American Civil War.

Beloved by Toni Morrison (available at Richland Library)

- This Pulitzer Prize winning novel follows Sethe, a former slave who escaped bondage prior to the Civil War, and Paul D, a former slave from the same plantation. Set in 1873, the novel explores the trauma—both physical and psychological, loss, and the ripple of violence caused by slavery. Since its publication in 1987, the novel has sparked debate, but has also received significant critical acclaim. Please note that this work contains violence which may be disturbing for some readers.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker (available at Richland Library)

- This Pulitzer Prize winning novel tells the story of Celie and her sister Nettie. Underscoring the roles and difficulties faced by African American women in the south in the 20th century, this critically acclaimed work is also among the most frequently banned books for its sexually explicit content and violence.

Poetry

Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water... 'fore I Diiie by Maya Angelou (available at Richland Library)

- This collection of abstract poems explores sexual exploitation the black experience in America. Although Maya Angelou is best known for her autobiographies, her poetry is charged with the same fire.

The Panther and the Lash by Langston Hughes (available at Richland Library)

- As arguably the most influential poet of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes' work covers a breadth of mediums and topics. This collection of poems published just weeks after his death is unique in how direct Hughes was in his exploration of race—and contemporary events—in America.

For the Younger Reader

Eloise by Kay Thompson

- Eloise's adventures living in the Plaza Hotel, a New York City landmark, have delighted children for decades. New York City's history comes to life through her eyes.

When Jackie Saved Grand Central by Natash Wing

- This illustrated work focuses on Jack Kennedy's role in saving New York's Grand Central Station. The work makes preservation accessible for your young ones!

March by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell (available at Richland Library)

- This three-volume graphic novel explores the history of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of John Lewis. Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the first volume explores Lewis's early life in Alabama. Volume 2 explores his experience a Freedom Rider with their route passing through Columbia. The final volume addresses the Selma March and the violence on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. These novels can be a great introduction for children and young adults to the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

Ordinary People Change the World Series

- This illustrated book series introduces children of all ages to historical figures and their accomplishments, ranging from Harriet Tubman to Abraham Lincoln to Gandhi. Whether you're reading to your children or teaching them to read, these books are a great foray into history for your little ones.

Counting on Katherine by Helaine Becker (available at Richland Library)

- This illustrated work, targeting grammar school aged children, explores the life of Katherine Johnson, the human computer who was at the center of the 2016 film, *Hidden Figures*. Touching on her remarkable work, and some of the basics of physics, this book tells the story of the woman who got America to the moon.

A Big Day for Baseball, by Mary Pope Osborne (available at Richland Library)

- This short chapter book, geared toward grammar school aged children, explores Jackie Robinson's first game as a Brooklyn Dodger, ending segregation in baseball. This book is one of the Magic Treehouse series, which explores a variety of periods in history.
 - Jackie Robinson started his baseball career on the Kansas City Monarchs, a baseball franchise in the Negro Leagues. You can learn more about the history of the Negro Leagues through the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum [online](#) or visit the museum in person in Kansas City, MO!

Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine (available at Richland Library)

- This illustrated work geared towards grammar school aged children is a retelling of the story of Henry "Box" Brown, a Virginia slave who mailed himself to an abolitionist in Philadelphia to gain his freedom. You can read his slave narrative through DocSouth [here](#).

For more see these lists shared by the National Trust for Historic Preservation

- [10 Fun Historical Fiction Books to Add to Your Reading List](#)

- [14 Essential Preservation Books](#)
- [10 Preservation Books for Children and Teens](#)

Documentaries and Films

Citizen Jane: Battle for the City, Prime Video/Hulu

- A documentary that explores the early years of Jane Jacobs movement in saving Historic New York City during the urban redevelopment years.

The Vote, PBS

- This two-part documentary, available free on the PBS website, explores the history of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. The series focuses primarily on the history of the movement from the late 19th century schism between leaders such as Frederick Douglass and Elizabeth Cady Stanton through the adoption of the 19th Amendment in 1920. The series not only explores the work of women like Alice Paul, but also addresses the racism that plagued the movement for women's suffrage.

Freedom Riders, PBS

- This documentary, free on the PBS website, tells the story of the Freedom Rides, from the those which were first attempted to the later movement that swept the South in 1961. Using interviews with those involved, commentary from historians, and period photographs and film of the events, this documentary tells the story of these historic efforts from the perspective of those who participated.

Freedom Summer, PBS

- *Freedom Summer*, free to watch on the PBS website, focuses on the impact that a group of thousands of students sent by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) had on civil rights activities in the summer of 1964. With testimony and insight from organizers and volunteers, this poignant documentary explores the desire for change, fear, and violence the propelled Mississippi into the national consciousness.

Selma (2014—Available at Richland Library)

- Hollywood's retelling of the events of the summer of 1965 and the struggle to secure voting rights in the south. Culminating in the march from Selma to Montgomery, this compelling story focuses on Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership of the movement, dealings with President Lyndon B. Johnson and the FBI, and the toll that the weight of the decisions King was called to make took on a man who seemed larger than life.

The Rise and Fall of Penn Station, PBS (available through Richland Library)

- Though it focuses largely on the construction of the monumental building, and the associated tunnels that were constructed to bring trains into Manhattan, this documentary underscores why the destruction of Penn Station galvanized the preservation movement on a national scale.