



African American Heritage in Arlington VA **Hike/Bike/Pray: Hall's Hill and High View Park**

(Drive to Calloway Church @ 5000 Lee Hwy. There is a small parking lot behind the church with a driveway access from Lee Hwy. between the church and the cemetery, but the easiest access is to turn south from Lee Hwy. onto Cameron St., then right onto 22nd Street, then right into the church parking lot. There is also street parking on 22nd Street behind the Church)

Introduction

The area is named for Bazil Hall, a plantation owner who bought the land (327 acres) in 1850. The Hall's purchased several slaves whom they treated very cruelly. Mrs. Hall, who was particularly brutal and mean, had a slave named Jenny who took revenge after being beaten, and severely burned Mrs. Hall to death. Jenny was convicted and executed.

Mr. Hall's plantation did well by using seven slaves until the Civil War. In 1861, Hall fled when Confederates attacked and burned the plantation. Later, the Union army set up camp on a hill near Falls Church which became known as Hall's Hill. The soldiers had used up all the trees on the land and it was worth little. He continued to work land and eventually sold it off.

Calloway UMC (5000 Lee Highway)

The original church was built two miles from this, but this building was constructed in 1904. The Calloway Cemetery is maintained by the church and is the oldest remaining African American burial ground in the community. The first recorded burial dates to 1891. One of those buried is Hezekiah Dorsey, a slave who served in the Union Army in the 31st Regiment, US Colored Infantry.

(Pray for all the families of slaves that served here and were tortured.)

(On the east side of the Church is a Park)

HHHVP

The Hall's Hill High View Park and statues. This area was created in 1866 on the corner of Lee Hwy and Cameron. You will see the large metal letters (HHHVP) and around it a brick walkway. As you walk around the brick area, you will see "memory bricks" which were part of an art project by the County of Arlington. Each brick was created by a student. There is a sign that explains the work.

(Cross Cameron St. You will see a statue of three people in a circle)

The statue is a depiction of an African American family. The skirt of the woman is written in braille. There is a sign that explains the statue.

(Continue across Lee Hwy to the Fire station on the corner)

Fire Station # 8 (2209 N. Culpeper St.)

In 1918, members of the community started a volunteer fire department. This was the first County owned black-operated fire station. They bought (with their own money....no help from the County) a 60-gallon tank that had to be carried along muddy and unpaved

roads to fight fires. By 1926, they had organized and built up a fleet of vehicles. It was not only a fire station but a community center and had a pay phone. It thrived even though it was not given the same funding as other Arlington fire stations. It did not have its first County paid positions until 1951. Recently, the County proposed closing down this station to consolidate it with another one on Lee Hwy. The Hall's Hill residents (and others) protested the move since they had paid for the station and felt it was of historic significance.

(Pray for firefighters everywhere and how they put their lives at risk each time they go fight a fire.)

(Cross back over Lee Highway to Langston School on the corner)

Langston School (2121 Culpeper St.)

In 1924 Arlington County constructed John M. Langston School, named for the first African American Congressman in Virginia. It was built by an African American contractor named Noble N. Thomas and originally had only four classrooms. It served as an elementary school for Black students. In 1971, it closed due to the end of segregated schools and all 320 students were sent to surrounding schools. It was used as a day care center for many years and is now an alternative High school and Community Center.

(Pray for students and teachers in Arlington, and especially those who have limited resources for learning.)

(Continue south down Culpeper St. away from Lee Hwy.)

Mount Salvation Baptist Church and Cemetery (1961 Culpeper St.)

Mount Salvation Church was established in 1872 by Moses Pelham at another site. By 1884, the church had grown and they purchased the

current site from Bazil Hall for \$80. They upgraded and finally demolished the original building in 1974 and built the one we see today.

The Cemetery dates back to 1888. There are at least 80 graves, many with shells and tiles to decorate the stones, which was typical of African American cemeteries.

(Pray for preachers, Sunday school teachers, music leaders in all churches.)

(Continue walking down Culpeper St. to the bottom of the hill, to the corner of 17th Rd. and Culpeper St. Cross 17th Rd. and you will see the short brick wall and Historical sign to your right.)

Segregation Wall (N. Culpeper St. and 17th Rd.)

In the 1930's the development of a white-owned residential neighborhood adjacent to the South of Hall's Hill/High View Park led residents to build a wall separating the two neighborhoods. It ran from Glebe Rd. to Edison St. It was built of various materials...wood, brick, etc. In 1966, African American parents, school teachers and church women requested a street be opened for students to walk to their new school (after integration) which was Woodlawn Elementary. Otherwise, the children would have had to walk an extra 14-15 blocks to get to school.

(Pray for all people everywhere to recognize the value and worth of every living person and dismantle racism in our country.)

(From the wall, continue to walk up 17th Rd which curves around until it dead ends at Cameron St. Turn right and walk up towards Lee Hwy. Past 19th St., you will see High View Park on the left. Cross through the park to Dinwiddie St. NOTE: there are restrooms, picnic tables, playground equipment, etc. in the park.)

(Continue up Dinwiddie St. and it will take you to the parking lot of Calloway UMC.)

(Total walking time: 33 Minutes; 1.6 miles)