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Oakland Cemetery - Atlanta

Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery, with 70,000 graves dating to 1850, shows that segregation was meant to last eternally in the Jim Crow South, and operators don't shy away from its history.

The city-owned cemetery was divided by race for generations until the City Council ended the practice in 1963. Today, some Black people are buried in previously all-white sections, including Atlanta's first Black mayor, Maynard Jackson, who died in 2003 and lies in an ivy-covered grave.

Explaining this segregated past is part of the educational mission at Oakland, said executive director David Moore. A brochure, guided tours and audio exhibits explain the cemetery's Black section, which holds about 12,000 graves, and signs denote the Black section, a Jewish section and a mixed-race "Potter's Field" for indigent burials.

A recent visitor complained that the story of slave burials and segregation was "sad" and shouldn't be discussed. Moore disagrees.

"Cemeteries provide a great place for people to look and try to figure out what happened before," he said.

Montpelier Train Depot - Orange, Virginia

Built in 1910 when laws prevented whites and blacks from mingling in many public spaces across the South, the Montpelier Train Depot at Orange, Virginia, was constructed with separate waiting rooms for whites and blacks. Preservationists at President James Madison's Montpelier estate, where the white-and-yellow depot is located, decided to keep the rooms as they were during a 2010 renovation.

The depot remains an active U.S. Post Office, and some favored taking down the "WHITE" and "COLORED" signs that hang over the waiting room entrances. Instead, the depot has been equipped with exhibits that explain the legal history of "separate but equal" laws and their effects on Black residents during the Jim Crow era.

Jones County Courthouse - Ellisville, Mississippi

The metal plaques attached to two concrete water fountains outside the Jones County Courthouse in Ellisville, Mis-

issippi, hide an ugly truth: one fountain was exclusively for Whites and the other for Blacks.

The National Association of Colored People sought the removal of the dual fountains in 1989, calling them a painful reminder of segregation, but the White-controlled board of supervisors refused. Instead, officials plastered over the "COLORED" and "WHITE" inscriptions, which reappeared once rain washed away the plaster.

County leaders then decided to cover the old racial inscriptions with plaques denoting the year the courthouse was built, 1908. Today, the twin water fountains still flank the courthouse stairs. Nearby on the lawn stands a monument to Confederate veterans.

Butler Beach - St. Augustine, Florida

There's little to let visitors know that Frank B. Butler County Park was once a thriving resort for blacks located just south of segregated St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

The park's website tells the story of Butler, a Black businessman who saw the opportunity for a Black beach in the South during the first half of the 1900s. The Atlantic Coast resort grew to include bathhouses, a casino, pavilions, a motel and other amenities for Blacks who weren't allowed at White-only beaches in the South.

Those structures disappeared generations ago, and black historian Bernadette Reeves laments the lack of markers at the site on scenic A1A to ex-

plain its significance.

"Can you imagine that the whole Atlantic Ocean wasn't big enough for Whites and Blacks to swim together?" she said.

Rosenwald Schools - Regionwide

Philanthropist Julius Rosenwald spurred the construction of more than 5,300 schools for blacks across the South over a two-decade period ending in 1932. Efforts to save the buildings are spotty.

Rosenwald built the schools at the urging of Black leader and educator Booker T. Washing-

ton, who founded Tuskegee University in east Alabama and had a firsthand view of the inherent inequality of "separate but equal" schools for Blacks and Whites. Rosenwald's schools bridged a gap that White-controlled governments wouldn't fill.

Today, some communities and groups have embraced the preservation of these schools, typically wood-frame structures built along rural roads. The National Trust for Historic Preservation estimates that fewer than 450 survive today.



AP PHOTO/BRYNN ANDERSON

In this Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016 photo, Birmingham, Ala., Mayor William Bell, looks up at the stairs of the Historic Colored Entrance at the Lyric Theatre during renovations, in Birmingham, Ala. Bell says he remembers running up and down the stairs as a child.

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