The Problem of the Color Line: Atlanta Landmarks and Civil Rights History
National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture
Workshops for School Teachers

July 19-24, 2015 or July 26-31, 2015
Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

Section Four: Daily Schedule

Content and Design

The workshop will use sites in Atlanta to tell the powerful and provocative stories of the imposition and demolition of the Color Line. The Summer Scholars will explore the Fox Theater, where the physical barriers of a segregated facility are still visible. They will walk the streets of the two principal historic districts that trace the history of the color line, the Martin Luther King National Historic Site and the Atlanta University National Register District. They will visit sites throughout the city where civil rights history is memorialized. The summer scholars will have background readings and primary historic documents, access to historic site documentation on the websites of the Library of Congress (American Memory), the National Park Service; and the Landmark sites themselves in their study of the color line. They will hear lectures in their meeting places and at the sites they visit. Summer Scholars will receive resource packets with primary and secondary source materials for principal historical figures and the landmark sites with which they are associated in Atlanta. Summer Scholars will be encouraged to explore the needs of their local, state and national initiatives as they develop techniques and plans to engage students in the Civil Rights standards they address in the classroom. Technology innovations and applications will also be explored as scholars consider the powerful use of media to portray the Civil Rights story.

Sunday Summer Scholars will assemble for an opening dinner on Sunday evening for a workshop overview and selection of smaller working groups for the week. In the second workshop Tomika Brown-Nagin will deliver a keynote lecture on the long history of the civil rights movement in Atlanta. (For the first workshop this lecture will be given on Friday.) After dinner, Summer Scholars will work in their smaller working groups, and be given the opportunity to learn a little more about the teaching backgrounds of their colleagues and to review the schedule of the week.

Oakland Cemetery Entrance Today
Confederate Memorial Oakland Cemetery, 1874
**Monday**  The presentations by Professors Wendy Venet and Glenn Eskew will examine how slavery ended only to be replaced decades later by a rigid color line. Professor Venet will use her study of Atlanta during the Civil War to dramatize the termination of slavery with the arrival of Union General William T. Sherman's army in September 1864 and of the views of Atlanta diarist S. P. Richards to describe evolving race relations in the city in the aftermath of the war and Reconstruction. Picking up the story after Reconstruction, Professor Eskew will trace the hardening of the color line in the city, state, and region in the last decade of the 19th and first decade of the 20th centuries. Professor Akinyele Umoja will follow with an overview of “Booker T. Washington’s Atlanta Compromise” speech delivered at the Cotton States and International Exposition at Piedmont Park (1895) and the response of W. E. B. Du Bois. Lunch at a restaurant with southern cuisine will be devoted to the working groups and discussion of the resources available for their lesson plans on an Atlanta landmark and how they can design them to fit into units on 20th-century American history. Professors Venet, Umoja and Eskew will conduct site visits and lectures at *Oakland Cemetery*, *Piedmont Park*, and *Joel Chandler Harris’s home, the Wrens Nest*. Summer Scholars will gather in midafternoon to work on lesson plans under the direction of Dr. Eskew and Ms. Battle.

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**Tuesday**
Dr. Akinyele Umoja will lead a lecture tour of Stone Hall (1882) of Atlanta University Center, the landmark where W.E. B. Du Bois wrote the *Souls of Black Folk*. Summer Scholars will see the Herndon Home, the mansion of Atlanta’s black millionaire. Lonnie King, a student leader of the 1960 Atlanta Sit-ins will speak of this campaign on the Atlanta University quad where he addressed students before marches and sit-ins over a
half century ago. A site visit to the Atlanta University Center colleges will follow. After lunch in a Soul Food restaurant, Professor Crimmins will lead a lecture tour of the Fox Theater (1928), where Summer Scholars will examine the colored divisions of what was built as a segregated facility: separate entrance, stairs, seating, and rest rooms. On the return to the university, the bus will drive by the Margaret Mitchell house where Margaret Mitchell wrote *Gone with the Wind* and the Suburban Station where vestiges of the colored and white facilities can still be seen.
**Wednesday** Tim Crimmins will lead Summer Scholars on a walking lecture tour by the **First Congregational Church**, office towers where the headquarters of the **Ku Klux Klan** were located, **Alonzo Herndon’s Barber Shop**. On route, he will trace the contours of the **1906 Race Riot**, which will end at the site of the **Henry Grady Monument**, where several bodies of African Americans killed by white rioters were dumped. The lecture tour will continue to the old **Rich’s Department Store**, where Martin Luther King was arrested in one of the student sit-ins in 1960. Summer scholars will continue to the **State Capitol** (1889), built before Jim Crow, but which became the site where Jim Crow laws were passed, where segregation was enforced, and where monuments remain from an era of white supremacy. Dr. Gwen Middlebrooks will meet the Summer Scholars at the site of the Capitol cafeteria and detail her arrest there at the 1960 student sit-in. After lunch at The Varsity, an Atlanta fast-food original, summer scholars will examine the exhibits at the Center for Civil and Human Rights. After returning to the residence hall, Dr. Umoja will discuss with the scholars Martin Luther King’s Drum Major speech in preparation for the Thursday program. Over a light supper, Connie Curry, a white veteran of the student movement will describe her experiences crossing the color line in the late 1950s and assisting with the sit-ins in the 1960s.
Thursday Summer Scholars will take a walking lecture tour of Auburn Avenue, the heart of the African American business district, which emerged after the 1906 Race Riot. They will visit Big Bethel AME Church, where Bishop Henry McNeal Turner preached; the Odd Fellows Building, which housed African American retail businesses, a theater, and offices for black professionals; the Prince Hall Masons Building, where Martin Luther
King Jr. headquartered the SCLC when he returned to Atlanta in 1960; **Ebenezer Baptist Church**, where Dr. King was pastor; and the **King birth home and grave site**. They will also see the residential and business neighborhoods that supported the city’s black middle class and spawned opposition to the color line in the 1940s and 1950s that came to fruition in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Summer Scholars will hear a presentation by Professor Akinyele Umoja on the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, with an emphasis on his life in Atlanta. Dr. Beverly Guy Sheftall will lecture on “Women in the Civil Rights Movement” with an emphasis on the student movement that originated on the Atlanta University Center campuses in the 1960s. The afternoon will be devoted to working group lesson plans.
Friday Dr. Glenn Eskew will lecture about "Memorializing the Civil Rights Movement in Atlanta and the South." For the first week program, Tomika Brown-Nagin will deliver a keynote lecture on the long history of the civil rights movement in Atlanta. The final session of the workshop will be devoted to presentations by Summer Scholars of their lesson plans and related projects that will show how they can use what they learned from their study of civil rights history and Atlanta landmarks to mark the rise and fall of the color line in 20th-century American history. The session will conclude by 3:30, at which time buses will take Summer Scholars to the airport.