

African American Architects in Virginia During the 19th and 20th Centuries

Architect (/builder/engineer)	Firm	Location	Citation	Known Works in Virginia	DHR #s	Additional Information*
Archer Jr., Romulus Cornelius		Washington DC	<i>African American Architects</i> , 12-14	Loyal Street Baptist Church Virginia Baptist Convention School (now Virginia University of Lynchburg)	118-5297	most of his VA buildings now demolished "studied architecture through the International Correspondence School in Scranton, PA.... Final year of formal architecture education" at Columbia in 1913
Dutton, Benson Leroy (engineer)	Moses-Dutton-Russell	Newport News	NR Nomination #121-5072	Whittaker Memorial Hospital	121-5072	
Dykes, Dewitt Sanford		Knoxville, TN	<i>African American Architects</i> , 130-133	Community Methodist Church		"Dykes, before becoming an architect at age fifty-one, served as an ordained minister and administrator in the Methodist church." "Dykes designed 72 Methodist churches and other religious buildings." Registered architect in Tennessee and Virginia.
Farrar Sr., Daniel J.	Farrar and Moore (1887-1900)	Richmond	<i>African American Architects</i> , 139-141	Second St. Bank Smallwood Institute Administration Building True Reformers Meeting Hall Isaac Dammals residence Mechanics Bank Building		apprenticed with his father, a "successful Richmond contractor" and worked as a "journeyman carpenter" from 1880-1887 his firm, Farrar and Moore, had completed 2 contracts with the city of Richmond member of Elks lodge; Scottish Rite Masons and Nobles of the Mystic Shrine secretary and treasurer of the Evergreen Cemetary Association

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Furman, Ethel Madison Bailey		Richmond	<i>African American Architects</i> , 162- 164	Fourth Baptist Church Robert J. Wilder house (demolished) Samuel Snead house Mt. Olive Baptist		"earliest known African American female architect in Virginia" daughter of "the second licensed Black contractor in... Richmond" "reduc[ed] architectural detail to a minimum... to reduce expenses" but never "compromised on the quality of materials or structural details" city park named after her; most of her "200"+ buildings have been demolished and hence the reason she is "recognized as a civic leader" while her work as an architect is largely forgotten

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Johnson Sr., Harvey Nathaniel	Johnson Sr., Harvey Nathaniel	Hampton Roads	<i>African American Architects</i> , 237- 240	Attucks Theater Ebenezer Plaza Apartments Catherine Holland residence Metompkin Baptist Church Mother Church of God in Christ Union Holiness Church (now Twine Memorial Temple)		<p>extremely precocious child; started college at age 15 at what is now Virginia Union University</p> <p>mentored by Charles Thaddeus Russell</p> <p>came from a family of carpenters; joined family business in 1910</p> <p>in 1919, studied architecture at Carnegie Institute of Technology, paying for education through carpentry work</p> <p>often collaborated with Russell</p> <p>"most of [his] clients were African American" as well as several ministers</p> <p>"when his architectural career began to blossom, a deeply religious side of him also blossomed"; became ordained minister in 1924 after studying theology at VUU</p> <p>his "long and multifaceted career illustrates several patterns shared by many African American architects: they came from families that had experience in construction, their mentors were frequently fellow African Americans, they formed collaborations/partnerships with other African American architects, the majority of their clients were African American, and as highly visible professionals they became leaders in their communities."</p>

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Hoban, Sr., Stewart Daniel		Washington DC	<i>African American Architects</i> , 206-209	Arlington View Terrace; Oakwood Manor Apartments		"Hoban's office became a meeting place for Howard University architecture students...Hoban provided students with [employment opportunities]."
Lankford, John Anderson		Washington DC	<i>African American Architects</i> , 253-257	St. John's African American Episcopal Church Parsonage; Lomax African Methodist Episcopal Church	122-0211; 000-1148	"The Commonwealth of Virginia began licensing architects in 1920. The Board of Architects issued Lankford Certificate No. 63 on October 2, 1922... Lankford is credibly the first African American architect licensed in Virginia."
Livas, Henry L.	Henry L. Livas Firm	Norfolk	NR Nomination #121-5066	Smith's Pharmacy	121-5066	"Livas was one of the earliest African-American architects and architectural instructors in Virginia. The Henry L. Livas Firm continues to practice today in Norfolk, Virginia despite Mr. Livas's death in the late 1970s."
Meredith, Amaza Lee		designs mostly in Sag Harbor, NY where she summered; Petersburg area	<i>African American Architects</i> , 280-282 NR Nomination 020-5583	Gillfield Baptist Church Education Building Virginia State University Alumni House (plans only) Dr. James H. Johnson House Azurest South	020-5583	no formal training or apprenticeship with Architect biracial earned BA and MA in art education from Columbia University Teacher's College art teacher at VSU and founder of its Art Department from 1935-1958 designed Azurest South as a home/creative space for herself and her life partner also a gifted still life artist

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Moses, Jr., William Henry	Moses-Dutton-Russell	Newport News	NR Nomination #121-5072 <i>African American Architects</i> , 295-296	Whittaker Memorial Hospital	121-5072	"first formally educated African American architect to join the faculty" at Hampton Institute and "driving force behind the development of a professional curriculum in architecture" (295); chairman of HI architecture program from 1947 to 1965; "versatile designer who was skilled at building design, landscape design and interior design" (296); president of Hampton chapter of NAACP (297)
Robinson, Hilyard Robert		mostly DC	<i>African American Architects</i> , 351-353	Hampton University Harkness Dorm Aberdeen Gardens Virginia Union University Hartshorn Dorm various Howard University buildings in DC		"one of [DC's] most prolific and successful African-American architects" master's from Columbia U. PWA architect; focused on housing for poor, urban African-American communities
Russell, Charles Thaddeus	Moses-Dutton-Russell	Newport News	NR Nomination #121-5072	Whittaker Memorial Hospital	121-5072	
Streat Jr., William Alfred		VA; NC; SC	<i>African American Architects</i> , 381-383	St. Paul's College President's Residence St. Paul's College Saul Bldg.		in 1952, became second African American liscenced architect "certified by Dept. of Defense to design buildings protected against natural and nuclear disasters" professor and chair of Architectural Engineering Dept. at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University from 1949 to 1985

*Citation: Dreck Spurlock Wilson, ed. *African American Architects, a Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945* (New York: Routledge, 2004).