

1. Greenwood Rising Black Wall St. History Center



In 2016, a group of federal, state, and local leaders formed the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission. Their mission was to “leverage the rich history surrounding the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre by facilitating actions, activities, and events that commemorate and educate all citizens.”

In service of that mission, the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission engaged our firm to develop and execute an experience design for the history center located at the heart of Tulsa’s Greenwood District.

Beginning with a series of onsite workshops and interviews in Tulsa in July 2019, the team worked in close collaboration with the Greenwood Rising project team, the

architects, and key community stakeholders to develop an experience that would remember and honor the victims and survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, and create an environment conducive to fostering entrepreneurship, heritage tourism, and dialogue.

2. Greenwood Cultural Center



The Greenwood Cultural Center is the flame-keeper not only for Tulsa Race Massacre history but also for the Greenwood District's prosperous pre-massacre Black Wall Street era as well as its remarkable resurgence in the months and years following the tragedy.

The nonprofit organization's mission is to promote, preserve and celebrate African American culture and heritage through exhibitions, events and educational programming.

3. John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Center



Dedicated as a Literary Landmark in 2018, the park honors John Hope Franklin, a historian, civil rights advocate, Oklahoma Cultural Treasure and Medal of Freedom recipient who died in 2009.

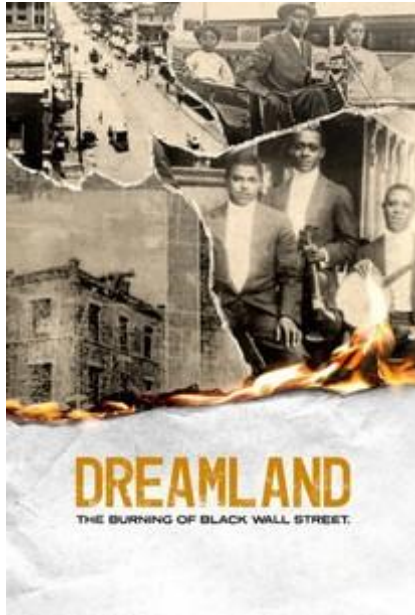
The park memorializes the Tulsa Race Massacre with two large-scale works by renowned Denver sculptor Ed Dwight. At the park's entry, "Hope Plaza" is a 16-foot granite structure that encapsulates three larger-than-life bronze sculptures representing actual pictures from the massacre: "Hostility," a white man armed for assault; "Humiliation," a Black man with his hands raised in surrender; and "Hope," the white American Red Cross director holding a Black baby.

4. Boston Avenue Methodist Church



The Boston Avenue Methodist Church was hailed as the country's first church designed in a strictly American style of architecture. Strikingly handsome when completed in 1929, it remains a remarkably effective blending of traditional church design and modern "skyscraper" techniques.

5. Dreamland: The Burning of Black Wall Street



In the early 20th century, African Americans built something extraordinary in the Greenwood section of Tulsa, Oklahoma: a thriving community of Black-owned businesses that prospered to such a degree it came to be known as Black Wall Street.

But then, in May 1921 it came to a smoldering end when a mob of white residents—supported by an aerial attack—demolished Greenwood, killing as many as 300 or more African-American citizens.

6. Mt. Vernon AME Church



Founded in 1905, the Vernon AME Church is the only standing Black-owned structure on Greenwood Avenue from the Black Wall Street era and one of the few edifices to survive the race massacre.

The historic landmark has been undergoing renovations, which include restoring the refuge room in the church basement where Black citizens sought safe harbor during the massacre and building a Prayer Wall For Racial Healing using the exterior wall of the basement.

7. Mabel B. Little Heritage House



Located on the grounds of the Greenwood Cultural Center, the Mabel B. Little Heritage House is the only home built in the Greenwood District in the early 1920s that is still standing. It was originally built and owned by Tulsa Race Massacre survivors Sam and Lucy Mackey a few years after their previous home was destroyed in the tragedy.

In 1986, the Mackey House was relocated and renamed in honor of Little, a race massacre survivor and local entrepreneur, author and icon.

The house now is a museum as well as the location for one of two Greenwood District benches that are part of the Toni Morrison Society's Bench by the Road Project, a memorial history and community outreach initiative. Taken from a 1989 interview with the author, who died in 2019, the program seeks to establish historical markers across the United States and around the world to help remember the lives of Africans who were enslaved. The other bench in the district is at Greenwood Avenue and Archer Street.

8. Black Wall Street Memorial



Dedicated during commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the race massacre, the Black Wall Street Memorial has carved in gleaming black stone the names of the hundreds of Black-owned businesses once nestled in Greenwood. Another slab details the millions in unpaid financial claims from the massacre.

On the grounds of the Greenwood Cultural Center, the memorial stands as a symbol of Black excellence and entrepreneurship.

9. Tulsa Race Massacre Memorial Tree



An American Elm that has been growing in Greenwood for nearly 100 years was officially designated the Tulsa Race Massacre Memorial Tree in an April outdoor ceremony as part of the centennial commemoration.

The elegantly twisted tree outside Carver Middle School is meant to be a "living monument" to the resilience of the community.

10. Ellis Walker Woods Memorial



An outdoor memorial at the intersection of Greenwood Avenue and John Hope Franklin Boulevard on the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa campus, it honors the first principal of Tulsa's Booker T. Washington High School.

A labor of love developed over more than 30 years, the memorial includes a bust of Woods, an eternal flame and granite columns engraved with names and images of notable Booker T. Washington alumni. A committee of the school's graduates and supporters guided the design, fundraising and construction of the memorial.

Also located at OSU-Tulsa is a historical marker commemorating the original location of Booker T. Washington, the separate school for Black students in Tulsa from 1913 to 1950. One of the few structures to survive the race massacre, the school was used as a Red Cross disaster relief site after the tragedy.

11. Mt. Zion Baptist Church



At the time of the Tulsa Race Massacre, Mount Zion Baptist Church was the newest building in Greenwood, having been dedicated on April 4, 1921, after five years of construction. Falsely identified as a warehouse for arms during the massacre, it was burned and mostly destroyed.

The congregation was determined to rebuild in Greenwood, and after paying off its debt, raising the funds and four years of construction, the new three-story late Gothic Revival building was dedicated on Oct. 21, 1952.

Part of the original 1921 brick church remains at the ground level, and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

12. Holy Family Cathedral



The Cathedral of the Holy Family is a cathedral of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. It is the mother church of the Diocese of Tulsa and is the seat of the bishop. It is located at 810 South Boulder Avenue in the city of Tulsa in the state of Oklahoma. The parish chose architect J.P. Curtin of the Tulsa firm Curtin, Winkler, and Macdonald to design the church. Curtin was chosen over architect William P. Ginther of Akron, Ohio, who built many Roman Catholic churches throughout the Midwest. Ginther designed an alternate plan for the church trustees who had concerns about Curtin's design. All that remains of Ginther's work is a set of blueprints.

Construction on the current structure began May 23, 1912 and Mass dedicating the church was on April 1, 1914. It was the tallest building in Tulsa until the Mayo Hotel was built in 1923. The cathedral is also the site of the Holy Family Cathedral School, an educational institution for students from preschool to twelfth grade.

The Diocese of Tulsa was established in 1973. Buildings at this site were listed on the National Register of Historic Places February 11, 1982. The NRIS number is 82003704.

13. Center of the Universe



The "Center of the Universe" is a little-known mysterious acoustic phenomenon. If you stand in the middle of the circle and make a noise, the sound is echoed back several times louder than it was made. It's your own private amplified echo chamber.

As the legend goes, a foghorn could be going off in the center of the circle and those on the outside wouldn't hear it. This may be an exaggeration, but your voice does sound extremely distorted when heard from outside the circle. It's an incredible effect.

13. Prince Hall Grand Lodge



Black Freemasonry began when Prince Hall and fourteen other free black men were initiated by members of Lodge No. 441, Irish Constitution, attached to one of General Gage's regiments—the 38th Regiment of Foot, British Army garrisoned at Castle Williams Island (now Fort Independence), Boston Harbor on March 6, 1775. The Master of Lodge No. 441 was Sergeant John Batt. Along with Prince Hall, the others were Peter Freeman, Benjamin Tiber, Duff Bufform, Thomas Sanderson, Prince Payden, Cato Speain, Boston Smith, Peter Best, John Canton, Prince Rees, Cyrus Johnbus, Bueston Slinger, Fortin Howard and Richard Tilley. There is some variance in the spelling of the names, depending on the source. When the British Army left Boston, Lodge No. 441 granted Prince Hall and his brethren authority to meet as a Lodge and to go in procession on St. John's Day. They were also given authority to bury their dead. However, they could not confer degrees or perform any other Masonic "work."