

The ASCMRC, Inc. is an advocacy organization that is committed to promoting and preserving the legacy of the Americus, Georgia Civil Rights Movement of 1962-1966, and to work for change through advocacy, education and economic development.

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AMERICUS-SUMTER COUNTY MOVEMENT REMEMBERED COMMITTEE, INC.

133 J. R. Campbell Street
P.O. Box 1383
Americus, Georgia 31709

Phone: (229) 380-1309 | (404) 781-5459
www.theamericusmovement.org



THE AMERICUS MOVEMENT

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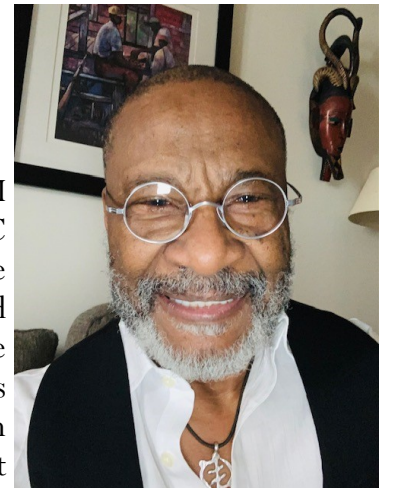
SPRING 2025

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

"Preserving and Honoring Legacy"

Greetings Friends of the Americus Movement:

As Chairman of the Americus-Sumter County Movement Remembered Committee, I am pleased to welcome you once again to the Spring edition of the ASCMRC Newsletter. Its purpose is to periodically provide updates to the community on the progress of the preservation and re-construction of the Historic Americus Colored Hospital building. Our mission is to preserve and honor the legacy of this historic site in the struggle for equitable healthcare and civil rights. The vision for this landmark is to transform the historic building into a vibrant community resource. It will function as a multi-use cultural center that will be part museum, part art gallery, and part community gathering space. To that end, a re-energized business plan outlines a strategic roadmap to restore and operate the landmark in a sustainable manner.



Sam Mahone, ASCMRC Chairman

Despite initial delays due to an unstable foundation, significant progress has been achieved in preserving the 124-year-old structure. Our team of architects, contractors, and volunteers remain dedicated to the meticulous maintenance of every detail as required by our primary funding source, the National Park Service African American Civil Rights Historic Preservation Fund. **That said, these funds can only be used for construction costs only.** It will not cover the costs of furnishings, classroom materials, audio-visual equipment, etc. While we continue to apply for additional funding from various sources, we are calling upon the local community to donate as well, to help cover the costs of these items and to complete construction of the facility. Please visit our website at www.theamericusmovement.org to see how you can become a continuing donor while inviting others to do so as well.

As a re-purposed community resource, the Colored Hospital building will be transformed into a vibrant Civil Rights and Cultural Center for youth and adults alike. The north wing will contain two prominent galleries with one featuring Americus Civil Rights and African American Family History. The other will host Permanent and Traveling Art Collections with a special exhibit that commemorates the history of the Americus Colored Hospital. Local and regional artists of all mediums will be afforded prominent space to exhibit their work during an Annual Art Festival. The east wing will feature a Conference Room with a Community Library that includes a sound booth for recording oral history and tracing family lineage via genealogy resources. The west wing will contain a gift shop, classrooms for art, dance and theater, and an expanded multi-purpose area for conferences, film viewings and community banquets.

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"The ASCMRC again invites you to become part of our mission to provide this important resource to OUR community. We encourage you to join us by donating to YOUR project or volunteering your time to work with our committee."

Chairman’s message continued

In a collaborative initiative between the ASCMRC and the Phoebe-Sumter Medical Center, we have agreed in principle to establish a Community Health Clinic within the east wing of the facility. Its purpose is to make health care more accessible by expanding critical health services to local and surrounding communities. In addition to providing critical health screenings, Phoebe-Sumter will schedule and coordinate Annual Health Fairs at the site and facilitate community forums focused on a holistic approach to health care. These forums will be supplemented with traveling exhibitions that carefully examine the continuing legacy of health care inequities and bias in marginalized communities of color and how they can be examined and addressed. In short, these features in total will not only honor the historical significance of the site but also provide a space for continuing education and community engagement.

The ASCMRC again invites you to become part of our mission to provide this important resource to OUR community. We encourage you to join us by donating to YOUR project or volunteering your time to work with our committee.

Thank you for your support and be well.

Sam Mahone
ASCMRC Chairman

Re-construction Progress

The re-construction phase has begun with fervor. We have successfully secured funding from various grants and donations, allowing us to advance our construction plans. Having completed phase one of re-construction, the project now enters Phase two work that includes the re-installation of original hardwood flooring, a completely new roof and a front porch and entrance restored to its original condition.

Community Involvement

The community's support has been overwhelming and heartwarming. We have organized several events to engage with local residents and gather their input and stories, which are invaluable to our project. The oral history initiative has brought forth many personal accounts that will be preserved as part of the hospital's legacy.

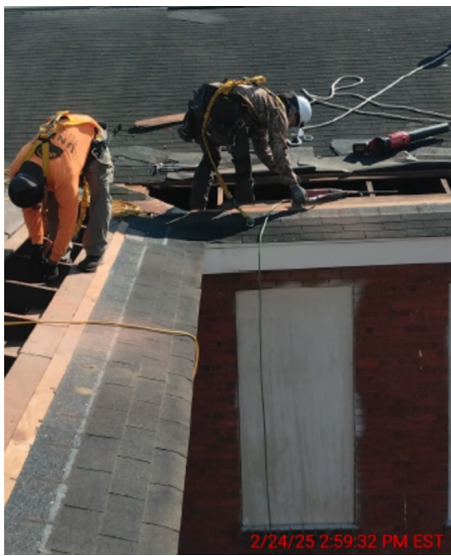
Future Plans

As we look towards the future, plans are to re-purpose the building into a vibrant Center that honors the historical significance of the site while providing a communal space for education and engagement. To access much needed additional funding, the ASCMRC will soon launch a capital campaign targeting local, regional and national donors.

Get Involved

We invite you to join us in our mission by participating in our upcoming events, donating to our cause, or volunteering your time. Together, we can ensure that the Americus Colored Hospital stands as a beacon of hope and history for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. We look forward to sharing more updates with you in our next Newsletter.



Additionally, ASCMRC is very excited about the partnership with Phoebe Sumter, and Phoebe is anxious to increase their outreach and better serve the community.



Summary of Progress at the Historic
Americus Colored Hospital
*from Green Rock Partners: Historic Restoration
Landscape Architecture Planning*

Over the past several months, we have repaired the structural issues that plagued the hospital and made important upgrades to accommodate the planned uses including:

- Installed helical piers and concrete grade beams to support the walls since the building was built without any footings so support the foundation
- Installed structural elements at the top corners to halt twisting that had occurred due to settlement
- Installed connections between the roof trusses and the wall structure to stabilize the building as a whole
- Installed new beams and supports to allow the building to host larger groups of visitors
- Installed new joists to replace those damaged by fire or rot and to strengthen where needed
- Installed new subflooring to replace that which was damaged

With the structural work complete, we have now begun the re-building process to get ready for once again occupying the building. This work includes:

- Installing new columns to mimic the original wood columns on the front porch
- Stripping paint of the front porch, rebuilding steps and replacing front doors with historically appropriate doors
- Re-installing wood flooring throughout the hospital
- Installing electrical and plumbing
- Installing and finishing new ceilings and walls
- Installing new restrooms and HVAC systems