

ARABIA MOUNTAIN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

The City is located within the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, consisting of 7,000 acres of natural beauty, walking & hiking trails, fishing, and more!

The area, known primarily for its granite quarries, is rich in natural, cultural, and historic resources. Arabia Mountain and other nearby prominent granite formations have been linked to human settlement and activity for thousands of years, starting over 7,000 years ago with the trading of soapstone. The area contains specific types of granite outcroppings that are very rare and do not occur anywhere outside the Piedmont Region. Granite from this area has been quarried and used around the nation, including in buildings at the military academies at West Point and Annapolis.

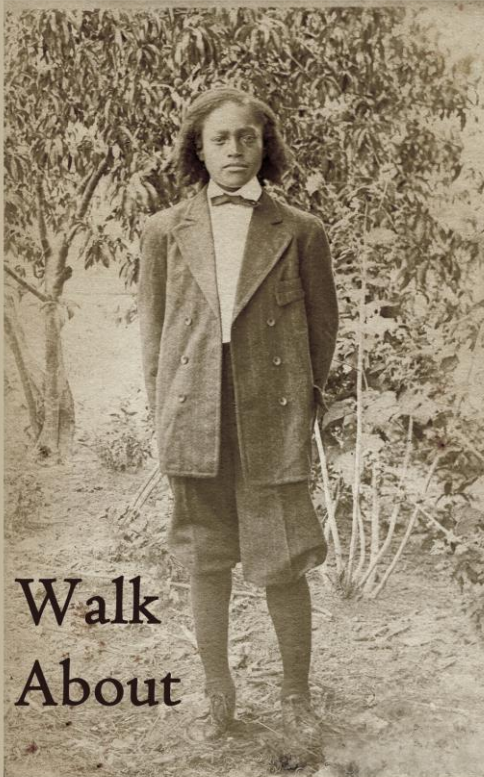


DEKALB LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION FUND, INC.
A 501(c)(3) Organization

Lithonia Journey Project Sponsors: Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, Georgia Humanities Council, the City of Lithonia and the DeKalb Lawyers Association Community and Education Fund

Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier, Visual Mythologist, is the director of the Journey Projects and designed this brochure.

Historic Lithonia



Walk About

From the first public school for African Americans in DeKalb County, to the first public library in DeKalb County, Lithonia has a rich history.

City of Lithonia
6920 Main Street
Lithonia, GA 30058
(770) 482-8136

Nominated to National Register of Historic Places in 2014

BACKGROUND

The City of Lithonia traces its beginnings to an area called Cross Roads in the early 1840s. There were 100 residents at the intersection of two roads connecting Decatur and Augusta, and Lawrenceville and McDonough. In 1856, the City of Lithonia was established. By 1861, the city had approximately 250 residents. The original city limits extended one-half mile in all directions around the Georgia Railroad Depot located in the center of town.

The city is surrounded by granite and its name is credited to a teacher of Greek, combining *lithos* (stone) and *onia* (place). The first quarry began operations in 1879 due to the evolution of technology.



NOTES OF INTEREST

- In 1848, the Lithonia First Baptist Church was formed. The church had several structures and was located on Main Street. The church property was sold to the City in 1964 and demolished.
- In 1869, the Antioch Lithonia Baptist Church was the first African American Baptist Church in DeKalb County.
- In 1907 the first public library in DeKalb County opened in the home of Lithonia resident Lula Almand.
- In 1938, the Bruce Street School, the first public school for African American children in DeKalb County was built. Earlier, several African American churches provided space for educational instruction.
- Many of the homes and businesses in the City of Lithonia exhibit the important role of the granite industry in the city's development.

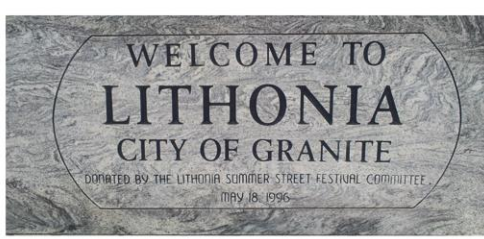
After you enjoy the sites and shopping in Lithonia, head to the PATH trail for a unique experience. From Johnson Street follow the trail to the Mall at Stonecrest and Arabia Mountain.



WALK

RUN

9



BIKE



- 1 & 2. Lithonia City Hall and Smooth Ashlar Masonic Lodge
- 3. F & AM Masonic Lodge #84
- 4. Union Missionary Baptist Church
- 5. DeKalb Police Academy and Lithonia Community Center (This building replaced the original Bruce Street School)
- 6. African American Cemetery and Lithonia City Park &
- 7. Bruce Street School Ruin (across the street from the African American Cemetery)
- 8. Alstock Lodge #502

- 9. City of Lithonia Cemetery
This gravesite dates back to 1860, with many graves marked by locally mined stone.
- 10. Lithonia City Park and Amphitheater
- 11. Lithonia First United Methodist Church
- 12. Antioch-Lithonia Baptist Church (original location)
- 13. Lithonia Woman's Club
- 14. Entrance to PATH trail. This trail leads to the Mall at Stonecrest and Arabia Mountain.
- 15. First St. Paul AME Church

Watch your step. It's rocky!

PLACES OF INTEREST

- *Lithonia Woman's Club* (c. 1928) 2564 Wiggins Street holds the bookcase from the home of Ms. Lula Almand that was the first library in DeKalb County. Once segregated by race, class and gender, the Clubhouse, as it was called, is now home to events and activities shared by all.
- *Bruce Street School* remains (formally the *Lithonia Colored School*) and *African American Cemetery*, are located near the DeKalb County East Police Precinct, 2484 Bruce Street.
- The African American Cemetery dates back to 1850.
- The *Academy Professional Building* (c. 1883), 6886 Main Street, formally known as the "Seminary", is listed on the National Historic Register. It later became the *Auto Rest Hotel* and housed stonecutters from the local quarries.



- Union Missionary Baptist Church (c. 1894), 2470 Bruce Street, (next to DeKalb East Police Precinct).
- First St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church (c. 1887), 2687 Klondike Road.

THE MASONIC LODGES

With brick and granite come brick masons and the Masonic Order. These organizations have been a part of the Lithonia community since 1854.

F & AM Masonic Lodge #84 (c. early 1900s), 7282 Conyers Street.

Alstock Lodge #502 originated in 1920. The building at 7087 Stone Street was dedicated in 1956. The building also served as a funeral home and provided space for the Bruce Street School.

MW Smooth Ashlar Grand Lodge (Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons Prince Hall Origin) (c. early 1900s) 6958 Main Street, became the state headquarters for the Lodge in 2009. The building was initially used by Cofer Bro's. as a general merchandise store.

HISTORIC CHURCHES

- Lithonia First United Methodist Church (c. 1860) known as the "Red Door" Church, 3099 Stone Mountain Street.
- The original Antioch-Lithonia Baptist Church (c. 1869) was located at 2547 Parkway Drive. It was the first African-American Baptist congregation of DeKalb County.