

stories about both well-known and not-so-well-known individuals and places.

A significant black landmark is not too far away from wherever one might go. Because of the wide variety of places it covers, *Historic Black Landmarks* is an excellent book to put in the glove compartment of your automobile or in your suitcase and take along as you travel to different parts of the country. It will provide wonderful side trips when one has a little free time and is interested in experiencing a palpable piece of African-American history.

African American Historic Places, edited by Beth L. Savage. Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1994. 623 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, indexes. \$25.95 paper.

In Their Footsteps: The American Visions Guide to African-American Heritage Sites, by Henry Chase. New York: Henry Holt, 1994. xxiv, 584 pp. Chronology, illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$16.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY SHIRLEY J. PORTWOOD, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT EDWARDSVILLE

These guides are important additions to the literature on African-American landmarks. *In Their Footsteps*, by Henry Chase, includes nearly one thousand sites from forty-six states, the District of Columbia, Nova Scotia, and Ontario. *African American Historic Places*, edited by Beth L. Savage, covers about eight hundred sites in forty-two states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. *Historic Places* includes three pages on Iowa; *Footsteps* has nine. Both address the Midwest in some detail. The guides offer a balance between sites with national significance and those of local or regional importance. Each features places associated with notables such as Ida B. Wells-Barnett and George Washington Carver. The lives of lesser-known African Americans are also featured in places such as Buxton, a predominantly black town in Iowa that is included in both guides.

Both *Historic Places* and *Footsteps* address a broad audience. Vivid narratives and excellent photographs depict the lives of African Americans and set them in the context of two hundred years of historical development in business, education, politics, and other fields. Institutional history is featured prominently. Churches, historically the center of public life for many blacks, are numerous. Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) in Philadelphia and Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, are included in both guides. Others are discussed in only one: *Historic*

Places includes Bethel AME in Davenport, Iowa, while *In Their Footsteps* features the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, Maine, where James Augustine Healy was consecrated as the first black Catholic bishop. The books also note many schools, such as the Penn School on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, and Goffe Street Special School for Colored Children in New Haven, Connecticut.

Historic Places begins with eight essays that place the sites in their social and historic milieu. James O. Horton offers an excellent discussion of issues and developments relating to African-American social history, while A. Lynn Bolles provides an informative essay on black music and art. Joan Maynard shows the crucial role that community action can play in historic restoration.

Footsteps has five sections, each introduced with an essay by a noted writer—Gloria Naylor and Amiri Baraka, among others. Although moderately entertaining, these pieces add little to the reader's knowledge or appreciation of historic places. The space might have been better used to provide criteria for the inclusion of sites in this volume and to cover others in the four states omitted. Excluding states suggests that they have no relevant places. *Historic Places* also should have covered all states, or at least given rationale for the omissions.

Footsteps, although generally historically accurate, is weakened by a number of factual errors. For example, one entry in the chronology indicates that in 1830 "the first free black national convention is held in Philadelphia" (xviii); the correct date is 1816. A notation for 1850 claims that "Congress passes . . . the Missouri Compromise" (xix); the Compromise of 1850 was passed in that year; the Missouri Compromise was passed in 1820.

The nearly two thousand entries in these two volumes clearly show the richness of African-American culture and history, as well as the strength and diversity of the black community from the colonial to the modern era.

Olmsted's America: An "Unpractical" Man and His Vision of Civilization, by Lee Hall. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1995. A Bulfinch Press Book. ix, 270 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$40.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY REBECCA CONARD, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Frederick Law Olmsted's stature in the history of landscape architecture and environmental design increases another measure with the publication of Lee Hall's *Olmsted's America: An "Unpractical" Man and His Vision of Civilization*. Given all that has been published about Olmsted, one might wonder if we need another biography of him.

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