

HISTORIC
AUGUSTA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robyn Macey
706-724-0436
Macey@historicaugusta.org

HISTORIC CT WALKER HOUSE SEEKS PRESERVATION MINDED BUYER

Augusta, GA February 5, 2021 – Today is the birthday of Charles Thomas Walker (1858-1921). A year ago today, a dedication of a historical marker took place in his honor.

Pearl's Painting has begun the exterior painting of Rev. C. T. Walker House, 1011 Laney-Walker Boulevard, thanks to funding from **Rex Property & Land** and the **Knox Foundation**. This step in preserving the home of the founder of Tabernacle Baptist Church will give it much curb appeal. Previous work to stabilize the structure included replacing the roof, rebuilding the front porch, and restoring the siding.

Rev. Charles T. Walker was born into slavery near Hephzibah and later moved to Augusta to study divinity. Walker received his ordination at Franklin Covenant Baptist Church and established Augusta's Tabernacle Baptist Church in 1885. He relocated to Mount Olive Church in New York and established the first African-American YMCA in Harlem. Upon his return to Augusta, he hosted John. D. Rockefeller and William Howard Taft at Tabernacle and Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver at the Walker Baptist Institute. Walker lived at 1101 Gwinnett Street until his death in 1921.

The Walker House was acquired by Historic Augusta as part of its Revolving Fund program in late 2015, with the goal of stabilizing the badly deteriorated house and eventually selling it to a preservation minded buyer for a new use. The goal is to ensure the preservation of the home of Reverend Walker, the namesake of the street, neighborhood and school, and to potentially catalyze other preservation activity in the Laney-Walker Historic District.

For more information, please call Historic Augusta, Inc. at 706-724-0436.

#####