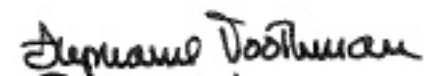


THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
BAYOU PAUL COLORED SCHOOL  
WAS ENTERED INTO THE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966

26TH DAY OF JANUARY 2016

  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR





KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

## The fruit of a Good Tree

We the children of the late Royal Jackson, Sr. and Mrs. Cleola Oliver Jackson of Sunshine, Louisiana wish to acknowledge the support, dedication and inspiration provided by the late Mrs. Amanda Grace in our lives. As our teacher Mrs. Grace reinforced the educational goals, spiritual beliefs and moral values of our parents. Her greatest work in our lives was not just that of a classroom instructor but someone who believed that there were no limits to what we could achieve. She helped to build a foundation that made us not only good students but good citizens. The teacher in her did not end when the school bell rung. Mrs. Grace used every encounter to teach and every environment was a classroom. Our father was determined to receive his high school diploma before his youngest child; Mrs. Grace sacrificed her evenings to ensure that he along with other adults in the community reached their goal. Her decorum as a lady at school, church and within this community was something all young ladies could model. Mrs. Grace watered, fed and pruned her students helping to shape generations. She corrected with a loving hand, guided with a gentle heart, encouraged with a smile, celebrated our accomplishments with words of encouragement and celebrated our successes by teaching us humility. There's a saying we paraphrase from Matthew 12:33 that states we shall know the tree by the fruit it bears. Our lives bear witness that the fruit from the tree of her life in "The One Room Colored School" and Sunshine High was good. We honor her memory and thank God for providing us with an inspirational teacher during the developmental stages of our lives.

Student	The Citizen	The Fruit
Royal Jr.	Richmond, TX	Teacher, LaMarque ISD
Alma	San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County Social Worker (Ret.)
Walter	Fresno, CA	Alameda County Assistant District Attorney (Ret.)
Gerald	Zachary, LA	Chemical Operator, Georgia Pacific
Charles	Marvel, TX	VP & Site Leader/ Global Business Operations Director, Dow Chemical Corporation
Joyce	Friendswood, TX	Software Development Manager, IBM Corporation (Ret.)

*Joyce J. Riley*

July 27, 2016

Mr. Reginald Grace, Sr.  
Post Office Box 287  
St. Gabriel, LA 70776

On February 16, 2016, **The Bayou Paul Colored School** in St. Gabriel, Louisiana was officially added to The National Register of Historic Places.

To commemorate this honor, there will be a Celebratory Program on August 21, 2016 at 5 O'clock PM at the Amanda A. Grace Park, located at 915 Bayou Paul Lane in St. Gabriel, Louisiana.

By means of this communication, we are inviting teachers, area churches, citizens of Iberville Parish and especially former students of the school to join us for this program. The program will be held under the outside pavilion, so please dress comfortably.

We look forward with great anticipation to having you join us!

Please feel free to contact Jessie Thomas at 225-319-1487, 225-921-0538 or [thomasjsr42@live.com](mailto:thomasjsr42@live.com) or Reginald Grace, Sr. at 225-235-7537 or 225-642-5104 should you need more information.

Sincerely,  
The Bayou Paul Colored School Program Committee

**PARISH of IBERVILLE  
STATE of LOUISIANA  
PROCLAMATION**

**To Dedicate and Proclaim "The Bayou Paul Colored School House and Community Park"  
in St Gabriel, Louisiana in honor of Amanda Anderson-Grace**

**Whereas,** The Bayou Paul Colored School was built on January 27, 1920 by the United Sons and Daughters Benevolent Society to provide elementary education for the African American children in the Bayou Paul community; and

**Whereas,** The Bayou Paul Colored School is an important part of the history of black education in rural Louisiana ; and

**Whereas,** Amanda Anderson-Grace demonstrated exemplary skills as a teacher, mentor, and principal for 19 years at the Bayou Paul Colored School; and

**Whereas,** Mrs. Grace used her skills to educate others by means of telling, explaining, demonstrating and inspiring them to become best that they could be; and

**Whereas,** With dedication and service to her students, Mrs. Grace utilized the one room school house to teach reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, geography, history and music; and

**Whereas,** Amanda Anderson-Grace laid the foundation for many educators, doctors, engineers, politicians, nurses, attorneys and other various professions across Louisiana and the Unites States; and

**Whereas,** in celebration of the life of Amanda Anderson-Grace and the tremendous importance of the Bayou Paul Colored School to the State of Louisiana, \_\_\_\_\_ proclaims this day \_\_\_\_\_

**NOW, THERE. BE IT PROCLAIMED** \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Amanda Grace  
Teacher, Counselor, Community Leader

Mrs. Amanda Grace, a unique teacher of her time, marched through the educational system in the small community of Iberville, La. (the community commonly referred to as Bayou Paul). She towered over her classroom with a great command as teacher and counselor. She always demonstrated an unprecedented talent for inspiring her students to do their best. A student's attention to learning was one of her highest expectations; poor behavior was never, ever tolerated in Mrs. Grace's classroom.

In a modest, one-room school building, which stands today as a symbol of its place in history, Mrs. Grace held uncommonly strong standards for her students. Teaching resources in those days were meager and practically non-existent. Every available teaching resource paled in comparison to the sophisticated, high technology buildings and amenities available today for instructional purposes. Nevertheless, Mrs. Grace spent long days encouraging her students to work hard and learn all that they could. She wanted them to explore positive paths in their pursuit of a productive life. Coupled with a strong Christian emphasis and approach, Mrs. Grace did with great success bring out the best of talent in each of the lives she touched.

Today, Mrs. Grace's students, whose stage was that one-room school building, have profited from the lessons she taught us and the positive effects of her early teachings. We all remember that rough road of life that she so emphasized with support and encouragement, always suggesting that each student remain positive and forward looking with our sights on the future.



**AMANDA  
ANDERSON-GRACE**

***Museum &  
Park Dedication  
Ceremony  
Sunday  
June 29, 2008  
5 P.M.***





**Bayou Paul School**



**Bayou Paul School**



# The One-Room Colored School

## Renovated



**Bayou Paul School**



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## THE CULTURAL LIFE

May 2016

Written by Lindsey Sancier

### Bayou Paul Colored School on the National Register of Historic Places

*The legacy of Amanda Grace*



Photo courtesy of Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

Amanda Grace, the only teacher at the Bayou Paul Colored School for nineteen years, was a rangy woman. Standing tall at 6'1", she had a pleasant smile, her son Reginald Grace recalled. "Her former students told me she would get tough when she needed to, though. She was very straightforward and strict about her classroom."

Ms. Grace was a pioneer at the St. Gabriel, La., school. College educated, she was a God-fearing woman who believed in education. She taught kindergarten through eighth grades in the one-room schoolhouse from 1936 until its closing in 1955. Though she passed in 2004, her legacy will forever live on. In January, the school was added to the National Register of Historic Places.



Biologically, Ms. Grace had four children; but to those who stepped foot into her classroom, she had many, many more. She taught more than education. She taught discipline, manners, and life skills. She helped the children cook their lunches (at a cost of 10 cents) and instructed them in how to clean up after themselves. During the winter months, the students would be responsible for feeding the coal-burning stove; and during the summer, Ms. Grace would take part in

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the students' recess games. In the rural agricultural community of St. Gabriel, community and family were one and the same.

"Everybody in the community pitched in," Reginald said. "Some of the kids, they were too young to go to school, but my mom would keep them anyway."

Ms. Grace essentially taught pre-K as well. She'd occupy the younger children before instructing one group of students and moving on to another. Those she taught have gone on to become doctors, teachers, and professionals. "I think it's important to let folks know the struggles that poor African Americans went through to get an education," Reginald said. "In spite of those difficulties, a lot of them went on to be successful. If those people can make it during that time with limited resources, what's the excuse for young folks now?"

The one-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1920 by the United Sons and Daughters Benevolent Society, a private African American organization; the land was purchased for just \$25. Though the schoolhouse was constructed poorly, its original framework, including a tin roof, wooden floors, and wooden walls, still stands today. The structure, now named the Bayou Paul Colored Elementary School Museum, was moved in 2006 to the Amanda Grace Memorial Park, roughly a half mile from its original location.

*Photo: Amanda Grace (right) was the only teacher at the Bayou Paul Colored School for nineteen years, from 1956 until it closed in 1955. Photo courtesy of Reginald Grace.*

## The Unsinkable Ursulines

It took twelve "good gray sisters" to tame colonial New Orleans

## The Mystery of the Wild Mouse

How an infamous Baton Rouge rollercoaster became the subject of an urban legend

## Ardoyne Plantation

The private home of the Shaffer family, this restored Victorian plantation is now open to the public

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Richard Lipsey was a recent LSU graduate when he attended the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy

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**Museum Hopping on a Budget**  
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**The Bird-Voiced Treefrog**  
Revealing Nature



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Noteworthy

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