

The Sallie Ellis Davis House



A formal ribbon-cutting to reopen the Sallie Ellis Davis House as an African-American Cultural Center at Georgia College was held on April 10, 2012, just a century after the renowned Milledgeville educator first moved into the home.

The historic home of Sallie Ellis Davis served as her residence from 1912 until her death in 1950. Daughter of an African-American woman and a native Irishman, Sallie Ellis Davis was born in Baldwin County in 1877. She attended Atlanta University and returned to Milledgeville to teach at the Eddy School from the late 1890s until her retirement in 1949, serving as principal for 27 years. After she died, Baldwin County recognized her by naming the Sallie Ellis Davis School in her honor. In 2000, she was inducted into the Georgia Women of Achievement.

Built in 1890, the house at 301 S. Clarke St. was used as a residence until 1989, when the University System of Georgia Board of Regents purchased it.

The transformation of the 123-year-old home into an African-American cultural center began in June 2009 just months after The Georgia Trust listed the educator's home as a "Place in Peril." Former Georgia College President Dorothy Leland and Carolyn Thomas, chair of the Sallie Ellis Davis Foundation, announced a partnership in October 2008 to save the historic house.

A goal of raising nearly \$380,000 to restore and renovate the historic home was set by the Georgia College & State University Foundation and the Sallie Ellis Davis Foundation.

RENOVATIONS

Phase I

This project included a volunteer cleanup day that brought Georgia College and community volunteers together to salvage an estimated 4,500 bricks for reuse in the reconstruction. It also found workers using steel beams and cranes to raise the house off its failing foundation to make way for new support columns.

Phase II

Brick masons mortared the salvaged bricks into foundation supports, fireplaces and chimneys. A new roof was installed and an addition was constructed on the back of the house.

Phase III

Workers completed the interior with wall and ceiling insulation, plastering and painting; replaced flooring, window and door trims; and installed countertops, cupboards and light and bathroom fixtures. Sidewalks and landscaping were completed.

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