

## Living in a Rocket's Shadow: Bringing Huntsville's History to Light

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### Introduction

We researched, visited, and photographed all of the public memory sites in Madison County to analyze how it relates to local narratives and public memory. We visited local museums and met with key community members that shared unique stories and oral histories passed down from previous generations.



(The Church Street historical marker, located off Church Street and Holmes Avenue)

### Key Findings/Results

By the end of our research, we concluded that the nickname "Rocket City" is limiting to what Huntsville has to offer for its citizens and visitors. There are numerous stories, artifacts, and historical significances hiding in the shadow of Saturn V. While we acknowledge the preeminence of Huntsville's role in space exploration, we have much more to discuss and be recognized over.

### Acknowledgements

All RCEU projects were sponsored in part by the Alabama Space Grant Consortium, the UAH Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, the College of Science, the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and the College of Education. Thank you to the Lowry House, Huntsville Revisited, the US Space & Rocket Center, Harrison Brothers Hardware, Early Works Children's Museum, Constitution Hall Park, Huntsville Museum of Art, Veterans Memorial Museum, Burrit on the Mountain, and the Howard Weeden Home for working with us to bring their stories to light.

### What's in the shadows?

1. There is an Underground Railroad location off of Kildare Street.
2. In 1963, the first reverse integrated school in the state of Alabama took place at St. Joseph's Mission School.
3. Cruella De Vil was inspired by Huntsville native Tallulah Bankhead.
4. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited and spoke at the Church Street Community, an all Black community once located downtown.
5. Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman spoke here during the suffrage movement.
6. William Quick designed an airplane in New Market years before the Wright brothers flew in North Carolina.
7. The first manufactured Jeep is located in a local museum.
8. Big Spring Park is the origin of how Huntsville became a city.



**Conclusion: We are committing to working beyond our RCEU project to help Madison County to better promote all of its history through cooperation of local organizations and several news outlets.**