

## 7. Jones Drug Store, 218 N. Main



### Police Arrest Negro Leader

Special to The News  
MONROE — Robert F. Williams, deposed Union County NAACP leader, was arrested here yesterday for trespassing during a lunch-counter demonstration. The controversial Negro figure led a group of about 10 persons to two drug store counters in Monroe yesterday.

Williams described the other demonstrators as students. Police Chief Al Mooney said "the others left right away" and were not arrested.

This is the first arrest made in Monroe in connection with lunch counter protests.

Robert Williams & a group of young boys conducted several 'sit-in's' in March of 1960. They 'hit' the Jones Drug Store at least three times. Williams would be arrested, a first sit-in arrest for Monroe, & later, possibly the first case of that kind to go to the N.C. State Supreme Court. *Clipping from The Heritage Room. More in library files, UCVF: Williams, Robert*

## 8. Historic Courthouse – Steps, Main St., 1961

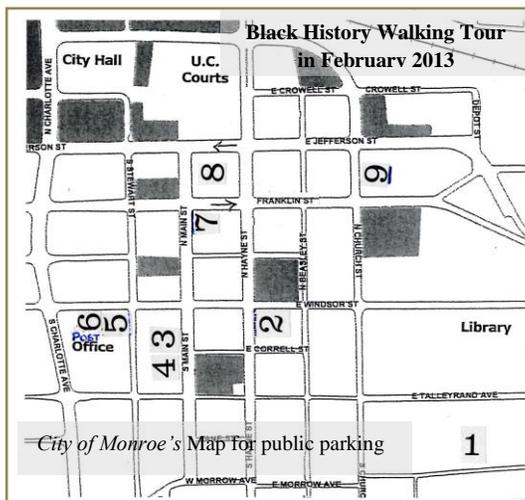


The view (above) was taken by a Charlotte Observer photographer from the top of the historic courthouse steps a few days after the brief riot of 8-27-1961; the same view that Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker would have had before he was hurled from the top step (twice!) by an angry white man. He landed at the base of the Confederate Monument. Walker was one of Rev. Martin Luther King's right-hand men. He had come to assess the situation in Monroe, NC. (Charlotte Observer, 8-30-61, p1, "White man jailed in new violence")

## 9. F. A. (Ace) Crowell Funeral Parlor



Frederick Acious "Ace" Crowell was a black mortician and business-owner for many years in Monroe. The photo above from Rev. Frederick Drane's photo collection at the library shows Ace in front of his funeral parlor at 309 N. Church St. (1<sup>st</sup> floor of large rock building known as the "I. F. Plyler Building") This building has been replaced with a one-story red-brick strip. Learn more about Ace in the library file, *UCVF: Crowell, F. A.*



Above is map used in 2013

Union County Public Library  
Dickerson Genealogy & Local History Room

316 E. Windsor St. Monroe, NC 28112  
[www.union.lib.nc.us](http://www.union.lib.nc.us) (go to "Genealogy Researchers" & explore)  
Phone: 704-283-8184 x224

1922-23 Monroe City Directory can be found at:  
<http://archive.org/details/monroenorthcarol00mill>  
1882 Gray's Map at:  
<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/1003>

Note: All 2013 photos by P. Poland

## Monroe, N.C. - Black History Walk



Dickerson Room



Mt. Calvary is traditionally considered the first black organized church of Monroe (year 1867). This brick structure was located on Morrow Ave. (aka "Church Ave") The church is located at 800 LaSalle St. today.

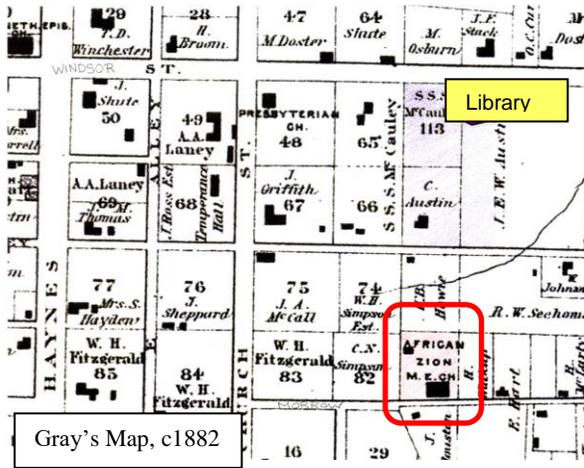


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FEBRUARY  
2013

Revised 2017

# 1. Mt. Calvary AME Zion



Red-box area shows Mt. Calvary around 1882. The lot was acquired in 1877. In 1941, the church was chosen as a site for a “Colored Library” for the black soldiers participating in the 1941 U. S. Army maneuvers known as the “Carolina Maneuvers”. (this lot is empty today) Yellow area? Today’s public library location.

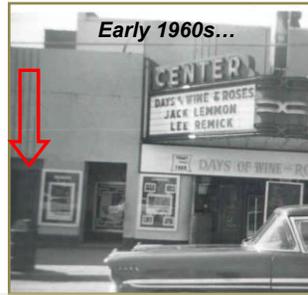
# 2. Mayor Fred Wilson’s dental office



Ed Bromberg, a Freedom Rider from New York, was hit with a pellet from a high-powered air gun on 8-25-1961 while demonstrating here.

In 1961, a group of Freedom Riders came to Monroe to teach local youth how to demonstrate peacefully. Several of the group protested in front of Mayor Wilson’s dental office because they were refused an appointment to speak with the mayor the day before. Wilson retaliated by having the sidewalk torn up in front of the dental office. Page 269, Timothy Tyson, “Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams & the Roots of Black Power”

# 3. Center Theatre



The Center opened in 1940 & quite possibly, it was the first time the black community saw a movie in the same ‘house’ & at the same time, as the white residents (however, the seats for the black movie patrons were in the balcony accessed by a separate entrance with tickets purchased at a separate booth).

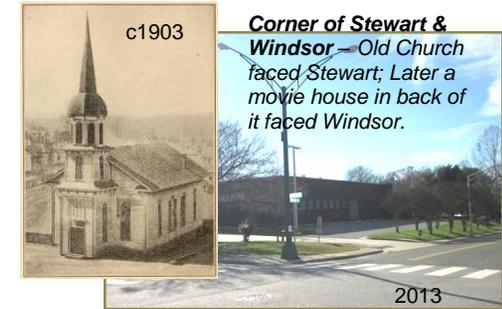
# 4. People’s Drug Store



**Drug Stores 1922-23 City Dir.**  
 English Drug Co, 220 n Main  
 Hastv E T, 219 e Franklin av  
 \*PEOPLES DRUG STORE, 22 s Main  
 UNION DRUG CO (Inc), 1 w Frank-  
 lin av (see bottom lines)

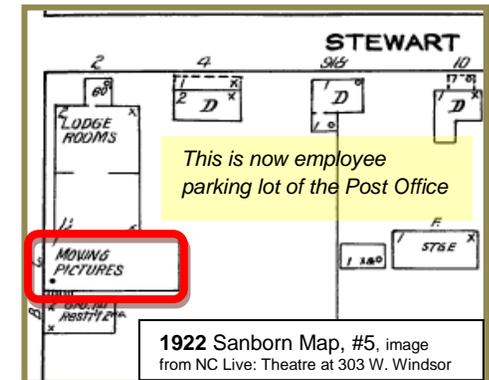
The People’s Drug Store was exclusively for those of color. Believed to be established by Dr. Hubert H. Creft, Sr., who originally trained as a pharmacist & then later a physician, the store moved to 219 E. Franklin St. by 1928 (the Franklin address appears to have been ‘absorbed’ by other buildings) note: Dr. Creft died in 1966.

# 5. Colored Opera House



The old Methodist Church building, after being moved, was used as a “Colored” Opera House (1908); “Repository” (1914); “Lodge Rooms” & “Dance Hall” (1922); “Auto Rep.” (1930)-- with the Dance Hall now in the small building to the rear (see below about this small building). Building would be destroyed by fire in April 1939. Sketch of church from “Historical Sketch and Directory of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church South” by Rev. Ware (1907) & available at <http://www.archive.org/details/historicalskech00ware>

# 6. The Union Theatre



By 1922, a building behind the old church faced Windsor – it was The Union Theatre. Exclusive to black clientele, Chester Creech, a native of Johnston County, NC, was the manager. By 1928, the theatre was out of business. At this time we do not know who owned the theatre, perhaps Earl Shute, owner of The Pastime? Most likely it played “second run” movies.