Roger Pryor Campbell House, VA

October 27 - December 10, 2017

PROJECT PARTNERS: First Baptist Church of Petersburg, VA and The Cameron Foundation

PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY:

A notable African-American history site, the six-room Roger Pryor Campbell house was constructed in 1860 and occupied by the Campbell family beginning in the early 20th century. Mr. Campbell was a successful African-American barber and property owner. Architecturally, the house is also the only example standing of Carpenter/Gothic revival architecture in Petersburg. It is also a contributing resource to the Poplar Lawn National Register Historic District.
In 2000, the adjacent First Baptist Church of Petersburg purchased the property and in recent years interest in the site has grown as an integral anchor to the neighborhood revitalization efforts underway in the Poplar Lawn Historic District. The church was organized in 1774, and the place of worship was constructed in 1870 in the Italinate style. The First Baptist Church is the oldest continually operating Black church in Virginia and is one of the first in the country. It was also home to the first high school for African-Americans in Petersburg, operating from 1870-1874, when Peabody Public Schools for Blacks was built. The congregation was quite active during the 20th century civil rights movement, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. himself visited and preached at the First Baptist a number of times.

HistoriCorps will rehabilitate the historic residence for office occupancy and historic interpretation.

**WHAT:** Volunteers worked with field staff to learn these preservation techniques necessary to save the Roger Pryor Campbell house:

- Repointing and reconstruction of brick piers
- Sealing the roof to prevent water penetration
- Removal and replacement of damaged or deteriorated woodwork

**WHERE:** This historic building is located at 223 Harrison Street, Petersburg, VA. Volunteers and students will be camping at Knox Spring Farm (map), 5.5 miles from the project site.

- Project Site Coordinates: 37.2234254,-77.4040565
- Here is a Google map to the house.

*The First Baptist Church of Petersburg*