The Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum is operated by volunteers who are members of the Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Natchez, MS. It is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and communication of the African American experience through the legacy of Dr. Banks and the Civil Rights Movement.

LOCATION
9 Saint Catherine Street
Natchez, Mississippi 39120

HOURS OF OPERATION
Tours are by appointment

ADMISSION
Adults: $10
Students ages 6-18: $8

PARKING
On-street parking is located in front of the museum on Saint Catherine Street and on the west side of the museum on Abbott Street. A handicap ramp is located in the rear of the museum off Abbott Street.

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE
www.visitnatchez.org/JohnBanks

Our telephone
601-442-5060

Step inside for a moving glimpse of the past.

Become a partner!
Help us share – and preserve – this vital piece of history! Make your donation today!

Please mail to:
The Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum
P. O. Box 501
Natchez, MS 39121

The Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its story is featured on a Natchez Trails marker on St. Catherine Street, across from the museum. The house is also featured in the film, Black Natchez (1967).

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Ms. Jessie Bernard
Photo courtesy of the Historic Natchez Foundation.
Dr. John Bowman Banks (1862-1911) was the first African American doctor in Natchez. He began practicing medicine in Natchez in 1889. Dr. Banks recruited the city’s second African American doctor, Albert Woods Dumas. Together, Dr. Banks and Dr. Dumas founded the Bluff City Savings Bank, the only African American-owned bank in the city. Dr. Banks served as its president. In addition to serving the community as a physician and businessman, Dr. Banks worked as a prominent member of Zion Chapel AME Church in Natchez. The church was once led by Hiram Rhodes Revels (1827-1901), who became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate (1870–1871).

Who Was Dr. John B. Banks?

The Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum, which is also known as The John Banks House, was established in 2020 to offer a perspective of Natchez history and community life during the early 20th century and to depict the civil rights movement during the 1960s.

A View of Local History

The Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum hosts special programs for the community that feature prominent guest speakers. Lectures, readings, workshops, and other public events are held throughout the year. A selected number of programs are featured on holidays, while others are created around notable dates in Black History.

In addition to the general subject of African American history in Natchez, particular emphasis is given to such topics as the medical and business contributions of Dr. Banks and the writings of Booker T. Washington.

One significant topic that is highlighted is the Civil Rights Movement, which holds an important place in Mississippi history. According to historians, the movement in Natchez was one of the most successful in Mississippi, and the Banks House played a major role in this success. Lance Hill, author of The Deacons of Defense (2004), has noted: “The Natchez campaign was the single greatest community victory for the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi.”

The Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum is like no other place in Mississippi. It provides you with a unique and authentic piece of history about people of color in the beautiful city of Natchez. It is a place where the late 1800s, with all of its nostalgia, converge with the 1960s, and culminates in a moving experience that is wonderfully immersive and memorable.

In addition to being a critical source of history, the museum also has available space for special events, such as weddings. Please call for details.

Special Events

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