

Black Heritage Tour includes McDonald's Cafeteria, JCSU

By **STEPHANIE ERICKSON**
Special Correspondent

Seven major and 24 minor sites are part of Charlotte's Black Heritage Tour, sponsored by Trend magazine and operated by EsJay Enterprises. Collectively, the tour's sites represent 515 years of black history in Charlotte, the sponsors say.

"It highlights contributions made by African-Americans of Charlotte's past and present," said Sylvia Grier, tour coordinator.

Organizers began research for the tour in April 1993, she said.

The 2 1/2-hour bus tour covers 16.2 miles and includes buildings, neighborhoods, streets and monuments.

The major sites include McDonald's Cafeteria, Johnson C. Smith University, Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church. The Charlotte Post newspaper, Good Samaritan Hospital, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. statue and the Afro-American Cultural Center.

McDonald's Cafeteria is one of Charlotte's oldest black-owned businesses.

Known as one of the oldest African-American churches in Charlotte, Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church was founded in 1865. Johnson C. Smith is one of the



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On the tour: Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church is among the sites on the 16.2-mile Black Heritage Tour, a bus tour of Charlotte.

nation's oldest black colleges.

The Charlotte Post is Charlotte's only black-owned newspaper and the Good Samaritan Hospital was Charlotte's first black hospital.

The Afro-American Cultural Center, founded in 1974, is in the old Little Rock AME Zion Church building. It features paintings and sculptures by nationally known and emerging black artists.

The tour is available to groups only, and reservations must be

made. The tour van leaves from the Afro-American Cultural Center at 401 N. Myers St.

Want to go?

Interested groups (of 15 or more) should reserve their tour three weeks in advance. For reservations, call 391-7446. Cost is \$20 per person, plus \$2.50 for tours not scheduled three weeks in advance. There is a \$5 discount for those 12 and younger and 65 and older.