



### **Historic Marker Text**

Founded in 1881, Allen University was the first private African-American school created for and operated by blacks in South Carolina following the Civil War. Named for Richard Allen, who established the A.M.E. Church in the South, Allen University opened four years after the University of South Carolina closed its doors to African Americans. Situated on a four-acre campus within Columbia's Waverly neighborhood the school educated future black religious leaders and also was among the first to offer law degrees to African Americans.

The university first major building was in operation by 1888. The cornerstone of Allen University's oldest remaining structure, Arnett Hall, was laid in 1891. Today, three other buildings Coppin Hall, Chappelle Administration Building, and Flipper Library, make up the historic campus green, whose red brick and white columned architecture is typical of American universities of that era.