

Tribute by Shirley Satterfield
Delivered at Mr. Albert Edward Hinds' Memorial Service
Mt. Pigsah AME Church, Princeton, NJ
September 2006

Shirley Satterfield is a sixth generation Princetonian of the Van Zandt-Moore/May family. She attended the Witherspoon School for Colored Children (kindergarten through second grade), Nassau Street Elementary School, Witherspoon Junior High School, and graduated from Princeton High School. She developed the Albert E. Hinds Memorial Walking Tour, a tour of the historic Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood in Princeton.

In 1996, the Historical Society of Princeton researched and exhibited the history of the African American Community in Princeton. Albert Hinds was a member of the advisory committee and he gave the information about our early history. From that exhibit I started the walking tour and slide presentation of our community and that is what started the 10-year partnership of Hinds and Satterfield! Every time I was asked to present our history, I would call Mr. Hinds and he was always ready to speak for a Princeton future meeting, at the YMCA, for the senior citizen's club, the children at Princeton Young Achievers, students at Princeton High School and Princeton University, or the many organizations that wanted to know about our history. I never had to remind him of a date or time, he always remembered – and he didn't have a date book!

Whether being interviewed by one person or talking to hundreds of people, Mr. Hinds, kept you captive with his stories and remembrances of his life and times in Princeton. Many times he would start his talk by stating that his early life encompassed one block of the Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood. His home was on the north corner of Witherspoon and Quarry streets. He attended Mt. Pisgah AME church on the corner of Witherspoon and Maclean streets and his first school; Witherspoon School for Colored Children, was on the other side of Witherspoon and Maclean streets. Children were amazed when he would talk about having to put ice in an icebox to keep the food cold or when he was just a youngster and Nassau Street was just a dirt road; he helped to pave the section of the road between Witherspoon Street and Washington Road.

He was an energetic and hardworking youngster who saw the creativity in what, today, would be called menial jobs! A day's work would earn him a nickel! Before there was any sign of a hospital on Witherspoon Street and Franklin Avenue there was a big farm. Mr. Hinds delivered milk from that farm to many families in Princeton. Then there was the paper route – he delivered newspapers and stationery for Sinclair Stationery Store that was located where Hinkson's was on Nassau Street.

When he was old enough to drive, he drove a hack, that's a horse and buggy taxi! He transported many people around Princeton and drove them from the train station at Princeton Junction. From that hack to his 1988, 4 door beige mercury, Mr. Hinds' years of driving span more years than the age of the oldest person here! His car should be another milestone at the Smithsonian!

Bainbridge House, the location of the historical society of Princeton, used to be the Princeton Public Library. Mr. Hinds was responsible for taking care of the furnace so those who came to the library could stay warm in the winter. He also assisted his

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grandfather, who was the sexton of Mt. Pisgah Church, with the upkeep of the furnace in this church.

There are two pests that none of us wish to see in our homes –carpenter ants and roaches! For 17 years, Mr. Hinds was an exterminator and his expert work saved many landmarks in Princeton. When the lumber arrived from North Carolina for the construction of the buildings at Palmer Square they were infested with carpenter ants. Mr. Hinds to the rescue! He and his friend, Charles Sperling, were responsible for saving the lumber that holds the structure of the stores and apartments on Palmer Square! What about the roaches! They crawled around Albert Einstein's house and, yep, you guessed it, Mr. Hinds got rid of them!

We could go on for another hour about the accomplishments and services of Mr. Albert Hinds, and deservedly so. This is just a fraction of what he has contributed to our town. Whether shining shoes, serving as President of community organizations or teaching senior citizens how to play bridge he did it all with pride and dignity! Mr. Hinds was a trail blazer for us all.

Mr. Albert Edward Hinds was a friend and mentor to us all. Let us all keep the legacy of Mr. Hinds alive in this town. Mr. Hinds **was** Princeton and we owe it to him to always remember and respect his life and contributions.

Shirley A. Satterfield
September, 2006