

Department of Historic Resources

(www.dhr.virginia.gov)

For Immediate Release

September 29, 2015

Contact:

Randy Jones

Department of Historic Resources

540.578-3031 (cell)

Randy.Jones@dhr.virginia.gov.

STATE HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER
"MILLER'S AND EGGLESTON HOTELS"
TO BE DEDICATED THIS WEEK IN RICHMOND

—Marker recalls legendary 20th-century hotel that offered "fine accommodations" to African-American "luminaries, celebrities, tourists, and leaders" during the era of segregation—

—Dedication slated for Friday, Oct. 2—

—The marker's text is reproduced below—

RICHMOND – A state historical marker issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources will be dedicated this week that recalls a now-vanished landmark hotel in Richmond that provided African-Americans first-rate accommodations, a rare offering, during the era of segregation.

Titled "Miller's and Eggleston Hotels," the marker will be dedicated and unveiled during a ceremony this Friday, October 2, beginning at 5 p.m., at the marker's location at the intersection of 2nd and Leigh Streets, in Richmond's Jackson Ward neighborhood, where the hotel once stood.

Speakers during the ceremony will include Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones; Ben Anderson of the National Park Service; Neverett Eggleston Sr., and Julie V. Langan, director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Opened in 1904 and built by William “Buck” Miller, “Miller’s Hotel was one of a handful in Richmond to offer black customers fine accommodations, a rarity in the segregated South,” the marker reads.

The hotel’s success “reflected the entrepreneurial and professional efforts of the residents of Jackson Ward, widely considered ‘The Birthplace of Black Capitalism,’” according to the sign.

Beginning in 1943 under subsequent owner Neverett Eggleston, “the renamed Eggleston Hotel was a hotspot,” hosting Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, and Redd Foxx, among other popular entertainers of the era.

The “Miller’s and Eggleston Hotels” marker was sponsored by Venture Richmond, which paid for the sign’s manufacturing costs. The marker was approved by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources in 2013.

Virginia’s historical highway marker program, which began in 1927 with the installation of the first historical markers along U.S. Route 1, is considered the oldest such program in the nation. Currently there are more than 2,500 official state markers, most maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, as well as by local partners in jurisdictions outside of VDOT’s authority such as Richmond.

Text of the marker:

Miller’s and Eggleston Hotels

Opened in 1904 and demolished in 2009, the hotel that stood here hosted regional and national black luminaries, celebrities, tourists, and leaders including Booker T. Washington. Built by William “Buck” Miller, Miller’s Hotel was one of a handful in Richmond to offer black customers fine accommodations, a rarity in the segregated South. Its success reflected the entrepreneurial and professional efforts of the residents of Jackson Ward, widely considered “The Birthplace of Black Capitalism.” Under subsequent owner Neverett Eggleston, the renamed Eggleston Hotel was a hotspot beginning in 1943, hosting such entertainers as Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, and Redd Foxx.

###