

Rosewood descendants tour Wright House

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Photo by Tim Rodriquez

The original Wright House was built in 1901. An addition was added later (seen on right).

Descendants of the eight families from the 1923 Rosewood Massacre were invited Saturday to tour the former home of John Wright, the last structure remaining following the incident.

The group of descendants gathered at Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday morning and were escorted by the Florida Highway Patrol to Rosewood to tour Wright's house and paid homage to those who fought and died protecting their families and property, according to the

Remembering Rosewood press release. It marked the first time members of the eight families were granted access to view the property.



Photo by Tim Rodriquez

Newberry Mayor Jordan Marlowe speaking to the Descendants of Rosewood at the Wright House in Rosewood.

According to the [Remembering Rosewood website](#), on Jan. 1, 1923, a married white woman claimed an unidentified black man attacked her. The woman's husband and a group of white men invaded Rosewood, hoping to find her alleged attacker.

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The mob tortured, lynched, shot, and chased out black women and men living in Rosewood during the time.

Women and children were evacuated to Gainesville with help from Wright. Many Rosewood survivors assumed new identities and never spoke of the incident.

Wright was the white store owner who hid black residents from mobs during the week-long massacre that devastated the Rosewood community of more than 300 black residents. His house is the only structure remaining following the desecration of the Rosewood community.



Photo by Tim Rodriquez

Descendants of Rosewood gather around the only sign depicting the history of the Rosewood Massacre in front of the Wright House in Rosewood.

The house viewing was held in conjunction with the 38th Annual Rosewood Family Reunion in Gainesville. The weekend of activities allowed the eight impacted families to reconnect and honor the sacrifices of their ancestors. The activities included the Ride for Rosewood, a 51-mile solidarity journey that followed the escape route from Cedar Key to Gainesville.

The Descendants of Rosewood Foundation, Inc., also announced plans to add another historic milestone as they work to restore the wealth that was stolen and their family legacies.

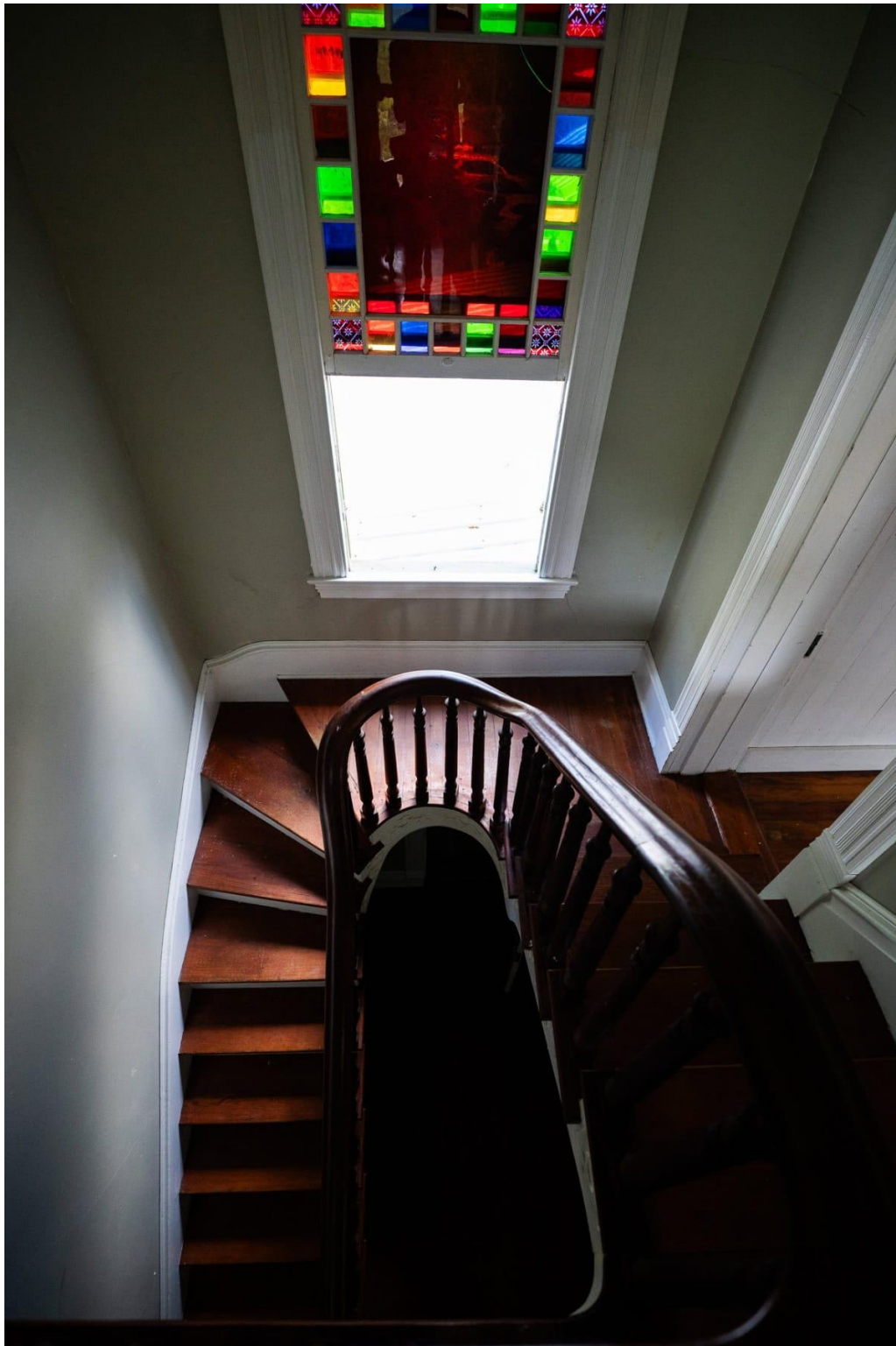


Photo by Tim Rodriquez

The only original window remaining in the Wright House, located above the entry staircase.

The Remembering Rosewood Centennial anniversary started in January and included a wreath laying ceremony on Jan. 8 at the Rosewood Cemetery. The survivors and descendants of Rosewood are the first African Americans to receive reparations from a legislative body in the country.

“We are so thankful for this opportunity,” said Gregory Doctor, the cousin of Arnett Doctor, the descendant who led the fight for the families’ historic reparations settlement, in a press release. “This will be the first time for many of us to view the inside of the Wright house, but more importantly, to experience this critical piece of our collective family history.

“We are grateful to have this experience together as a collective family and document this incredible milestone for the next generation. Our ancestors tried to shield us from the ugly truth of America’s past, but we are determined to keep Rosewood’s rich history and legacy alive and continue to chart a course for the next 100 years.”

According to the press release, “there are eight families whose direct descendants remain to tell the stories of resilience and fortitude that defined the town of Rosewood: the Bradleys, the Carriers, the Colemans, the Edwards, the Evans, the Goins, the Halls, and the Robinsons families.”

For more information about the Descendants of Rosewood, visit the websites RosewoodRemembered.org, rememberingrosewood.com or follow on [social media on Facebook](#), on [Instagram](#), on [Twitter @remember1923](#) and tag us using the hashtag #Rosewood100.



Photo by Tim Rodriguez

The well where fleeing black people may have hid from the violent mob of white people during the massacre in 1923_ (1)

2 COMMENTS

Kelli Wright

1 year ago

It's amazing how that woman could spread such nonsense & lies and cause an uprising with a bunch of hateful uneducated men to go on the hunt for one black man not knowing the real facts that actually occurred that day. It reminds me of the story of To Kill a Mockingbird. How one lie almost caused an innocent man to lose his life. If it had not been for a smart southern Lawyer taking his case for free. People in those days acted before they got all the facts told. Glad to see all the Rosewood Descendants got to visit the Wright house. A chance to see where family were hidden to protect their rightful legacy today.

2

Reply to [Kelli Wright](#)

Gina Easton

11 months ago

So True. This was so hard to watch. I cannot imagine the horror and fear these people went through. I had the feeling at first the sheriff wanted to do the right thing. But he eventually got caught up in everything. There should have been a lot of charges brought up against many of these people. Especially the woman who started it all.