Montford's African American Community

African Americans were always part of the Montford neighborhood. Starting in the 1880s they lived on small side streets like Short, Harrison, Ocala and Young in Stumptown. Some of these residents owned their own homes and were ministers, teachers, nurses, midwives and business owners. Others worked in the fields of domestic and personal service for Asheville's wealthy, mostly white families, and for businesses such as hotels, restaurants and saloons.

The 1960s saw the beginning of an influx of African Americans to Montford as urban renewal eliminated the Southside and East Riverside neighborhoods. The moves coincided with an economic renaissance of higher wage jobs in government and the railroad for some families and the construction of Klondyke and Hillcrest city housing for others.