

Luciana Spracher

From: Rita Fuller-Yates <rita@savannahblackhistorytours.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Squares
Cc: MayorJohnsonSAV@gmail.com
Subject: [Caution - External Email] Square re-naming Petition.

Square Re-naming submission

Rita Fuller-Yates
Author & Historian
Savannah Black History
Rita@SavannahBlackHistoryTours.com
Rita@RitaFuller-Yates.com
(614) 804-6683
Savannah Black History | Savannah GA | Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/SavannahBlackHistory>

Proposed Name:

Deveaux Square (Jane A. Deveaux Square)

Statement of Significance for proposed name:

Jane A. Deveaux was born September 6, 1810. She was a Black mulatto teacher and abolitionist From Savannah, GA. She was the daughter of John Benjamin Deveaux (born into slavery) and Catherine Deveaux (a free woman from Antigua). Her father was the Choir Director at Second African Baptist Church, and Later First Bryan Baptist Church. He would also go on to pastored the Third African Baptist Church in Savannah.

Jane, and her mother secretly taught enslaved and free people on 231 Price Street, beginning in the 1830s.

Though it was illegal to educate slaves in 19th century America, there were several secret schools in Savannah during the antebellum era, and many were raided and shut down. Deveaux's lasted the longest. Black children would hide their books in buckets or paper bags and pretend they would learn a trade.

The punishment for blacks teaching or learning was a hefty fine and a public lashing. Deveaux and her mother ran her school for 30 years. Jane Deveaux died on June 12, 1885. She was much admired and respected in the African American community and is well deserving of this honor.

Deveaux is buried in Laural Grove South, **Section OLD, Lot 875**

[Jane Deveaux, Teacher, and Abolitionist born - African American Registry \(aaregistry.org\)](#)
[Jane A. Deveaux \(1810-1885\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)
[Jane Deveaux – Laurel Grove South](#)
[A look at Savannah's Black history: Recognizing Jane Deveaux \(wjcl.com\)](#)



The Honorable Van Johnson, Mayor of Savannah has offered to support this petition for consideration. (CC: Mayor Van Johnson)

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Fuller-Yates
Author & Historian
Savannah Black History

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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Office of the Mayor Savannah, Georgia

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor

April 18, 2023

City Hall
2 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Re: Naming Request Endorsement for Consideration- 'Jane A. DeVeaux Square'

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Mayor Van Johnson, officially endorse the naming request for consideration to name the public square located on Abercorn and East Wayne Streets, to 'Jane A. DeVeaux Square' in accordance with City Ordinance and the process outlined within 'Article E. Naming of Public Property, Facilities, and Streets'.

I look forward to this application advancing within the process as required by City Code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Van R. Johnson, II". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor