

EJI COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE COALITION - CHATHAM

The Equal Justice Initiative's Community Remembrance Project, known in Chatham County as the EJI Community Remembrance Coalition - Chatham, is partnered with the [Legacy Museum](#) in Montgomery, AL, which promotes and guides in each participating county a [Community Remembrance process](#) to memorialize the lives of victims of lynchings in the United States, and mostly in the South, from 1877 to 1950. EJI has issued a [report on the history of these lynchings](#) and has compiled a [list of lynchings in each state by county](#).

In North Carolina, New Hanover County (Wilmington) had 21 lynchings, Chatham and two other counties had the next highest number of lynchings in the state—six in each county. Across the country, there are 300 counties which are carrying out Community Remembrance Projects. In central North Carolina, Wake, Orange, Durham and Rowan Counties also have projects underway.

The mission on the Community Remembrance Coalition in Chatham County is fourfold:

- to tell the full complete history of the African-American community here, including these events, so that we understand the truth about our past;
- to recognize the courage and achievements of the black community in the county in the continuing push for equal rights;
- to acknowledge the progress made by local government officials, white leaders and citizens of the county to encourage full exercise of civil rights by all residents; and
- to use this collective history to encourage acceptance and respect for democratic rights for every citizen.

The EJI Community Remembrance Project consists of three steps: (1) retrieval of soil from each of the lynching sites in the county, (2) placement of a historical marker to present to the community the history of racial injustice, and (3) for each county to claim a stone monument for that county now in the Legacy Museum for installation in the county.

If you would like to join the work of the Community Remembrance Coalition – Chatham, please contact Bob Pearson at wrobertpearson@gmail.com or the leadership of the two NAACP branches in Chatham County. Additional information on the history of lynching in Chatham county can be obtained by contacting CCHA at history@chathamhistory.org.