



Nina Simone Childhood Home

Community Engagement Results
August, 2021

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Landscape Architects



National Trust for Historic Preservation
African American
Cultural Heritage Action Fund

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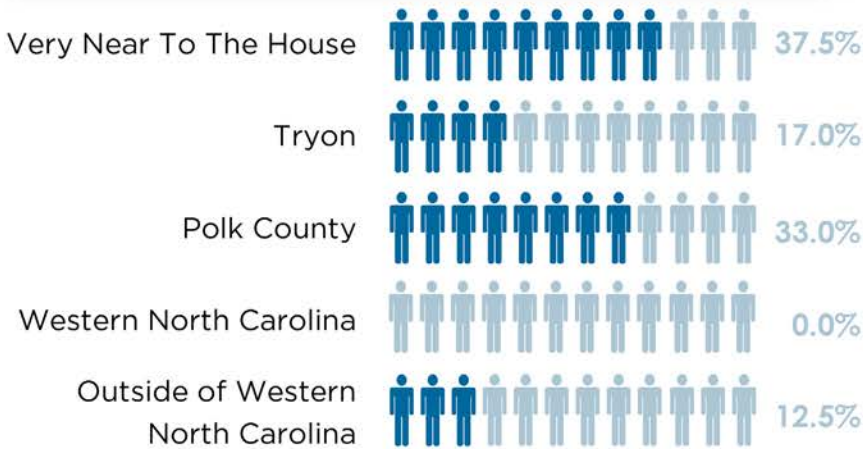
ENGAGING THE PUBLIC: What We Heard from the Community



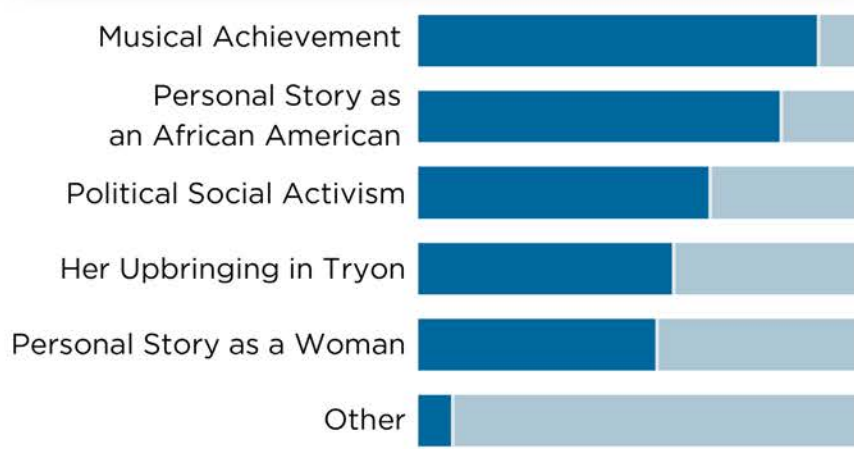
In February 2020, a community engagement meeting was hosted by the National Trust and held at the Roseland Center in Tryon's eastside neighborhood. Participant data, from over 75 members of the community, was captured. Building on an earlier electronic survey that had explored interest in four potential uses including (1) a museum/interpreted space, (2) residential use, (3) an event space or (4) an artist retreat and learning facility, this meeting offered an opportunity to meet directly with members of the local community to learn more about how neighbors and other community members felt about potential uses that were being explored for the house and to identify any concerns that should be addressed up front.

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC: What We Heard from the Community

Where do you live in relation to the Nina Simone Childhood Home?



What aspect of Nina Simone’s life are most interesting or important to you?

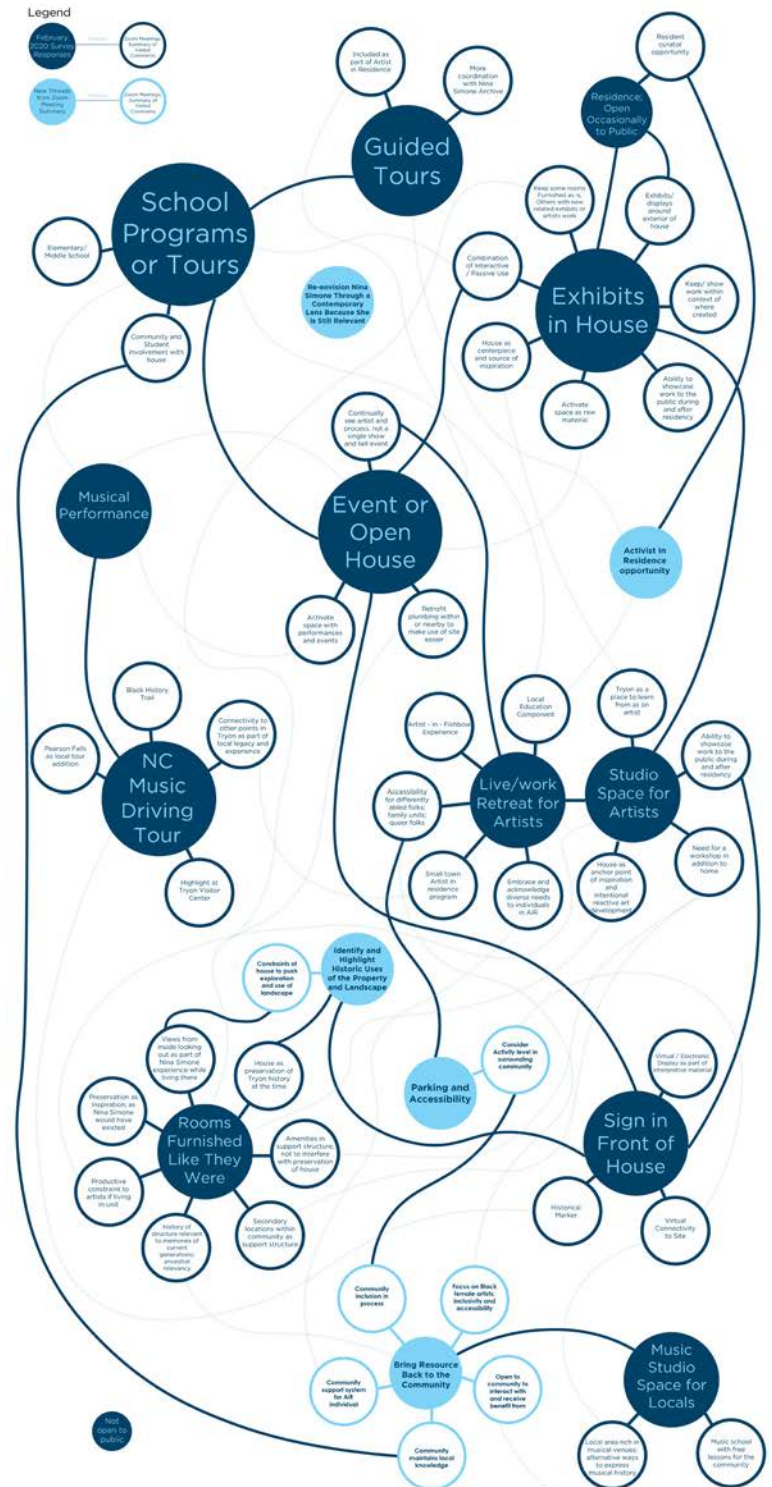
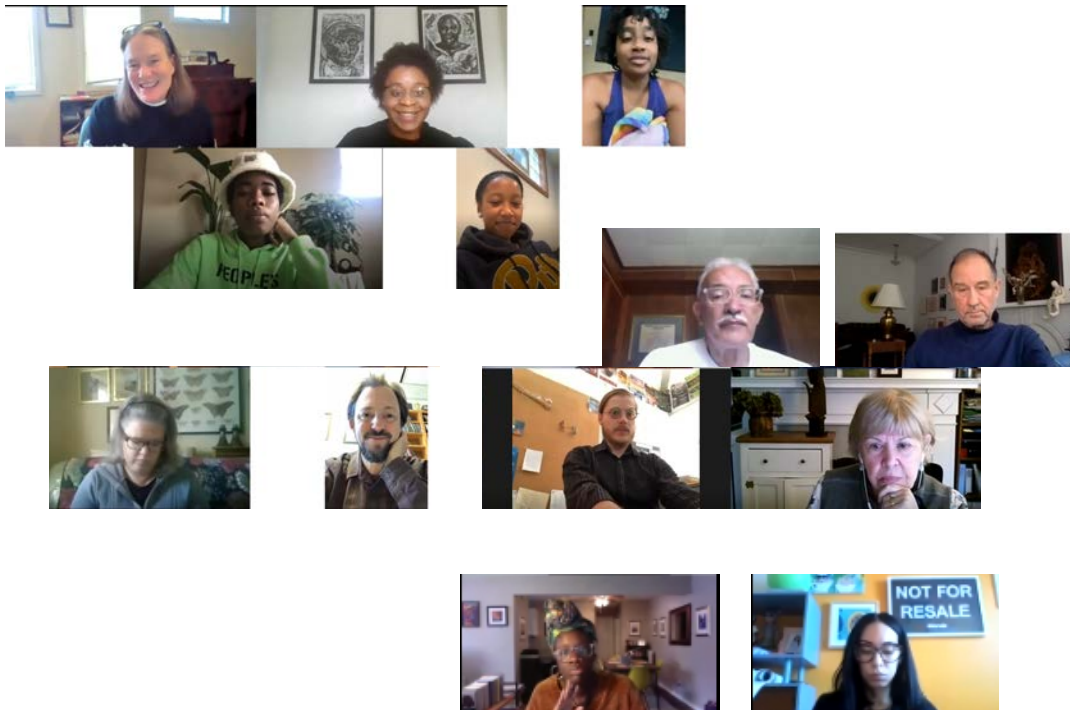


Participant data collected, as shown in the info graphic, include place of residence in relation to the Nina Simone Childhood Home, key aspects of interest and an opportunity for open response.

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC: Virtual Outreach

In response to the COVID pandemic, virtual outreach and engagement sessions began in November 2020.

The purpose of these sessions was to build on the survey findings, and to gather more information about different perspectives on ways to reactivate the Nina Simone Childhood Home. This information is demonstrated in the web diagram to include the ranked comments from the February 2020 session as well as new or related commentary pulled from the virtual interviews. These new comments represent a condensed synthesis of similar thoughts and ideas shared throughout all engagement sessions.



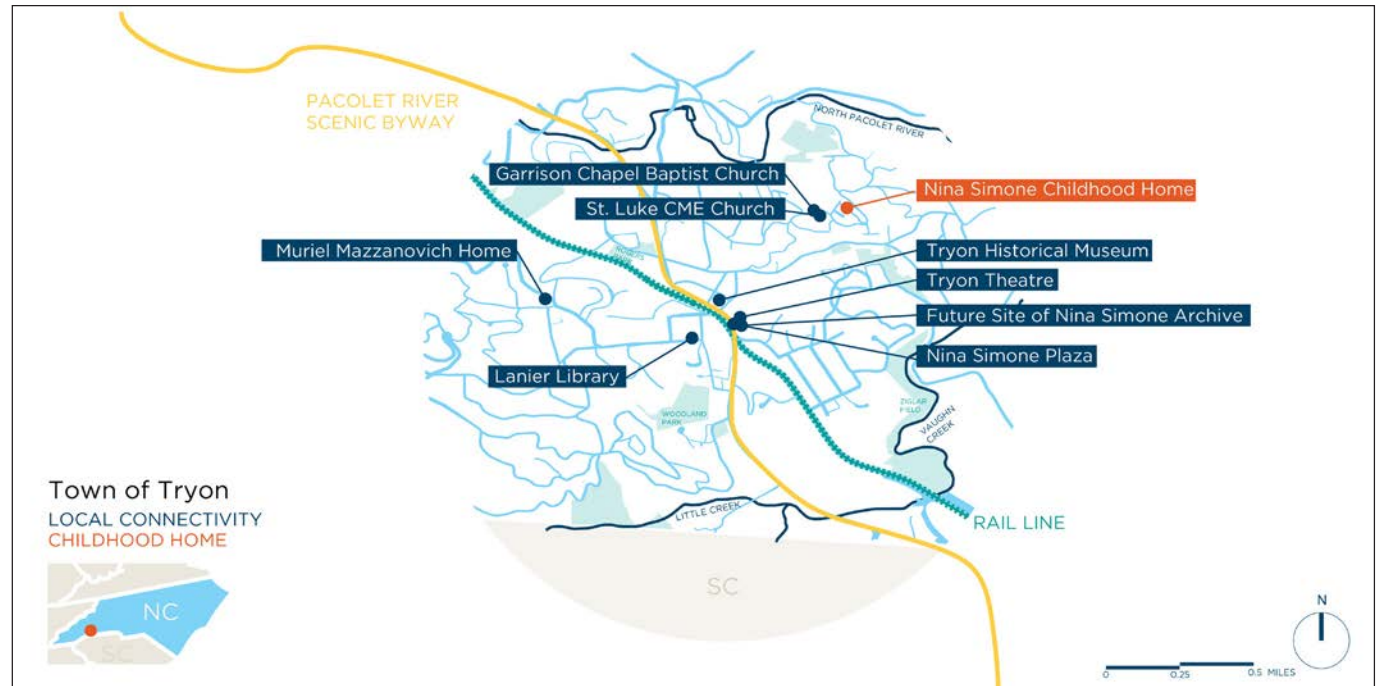
GENERAL CONCEPT: Overview

Nina Simone's Childhood Home will be the "crown jewel" that is one part of a variety of Nina Simone offerings for the local community, travelers and visiting artists in the greater Tryon area. The house would serve as an extension of the Nina Simone visitor experiences available in downtown Tryon, with a regular schedule of small group tours offered at the house throughout the year to meet the demand. Furnishings and exhibits in the house will be kept to a bare minimum to accommodate a variety of different uses throughout the year.

Interpretive signage outside the house will identify the house and begin to tell the story, and an audio tour will be available so visitors who come to the house at times when it is not open to the public can hear Nina Simone's story and her music.

Artist-in-residency programs hosted at the house will specifically target Black or diverse women artists, and uplift talent that can be inspired by the opportunity to create in this space. To promote community engagement, participating artists will provide a concert, lecture, workshop or donate a completed work of art as part of their residency.

In addition to the vision above, there are several options around how the Nina Simone Childhood Home could be rehabilitated, including the development of additional support facilities.



NINA SIMONE CHILDHOOD HOME COMMUNITY SUPPORTED VISION: “Keep it Authentic”

Restoring the Nina Simone Childhood Home and keeping it without the addition of modern amenities provides an opportunity to preserve the beauty of the home space experienced by Nina and the Waymon family. Nina's early life and experience will be interpreted while also allowing the space to serve as a space for visitor and artists to meditate and gain inspiration to create in separate facilities with necessary amenities. For example, offsite facilities could be located across the street from the house, a short walk away in the neighborhood, or less than a mile away in downtown Tryon.

Preservation Treatment:

For this concept, the historic integrity of the house will be maintained by keeping it as close to its original appearance from when it was occupied by Nina Simone and the Waymon Family. The house will have electricity, but no plumbing, running water, heat, or air conditioning. Original materials and details will be restored or replicated as identified in the exterior and interior rehabilitation plans.

Use and Programming: For this concept, the home will be used primarily as an interpreted historic site and a place of inspiration. The home would be available to artists, as a part of a residency program, to serve as a source for inspiration and artist studio space. However, as the lack of modern amenities is not conducive to all artists process, artists selected for this seasonal artist-in-residency program will be housed near the home and have access to additional spaces in Tryon.

All images are conceptual and not included in final approved plans.



NINA SIMONE CHILDHOOD HOME COMMUNITY SUPPORTED VISION: “Create a “And” instead of a “Either/Or”

Rehabilitation of the Nina Simone Childhood Home to accommodate modern amenities provides an opportunity for the home to serve as a community anchor that will ground both visitors and artists, while allowing the home and site to expand to be inclusive, accessible and meets the requirements of an artist residency. Visitors and guests at the Nina Simone Childhood Home will be comfortable and are able to fully utilize the house and site year-round.

Preservation Treatment: Option A

For this option the home's character defining features and historic materials will be maintained along with the addition of electricity, plumbing, running water, insulation, and HVAC. A modern addition would be constructed attached to the home (south façade) and contain a bathroom and kitchen.. The rehabilitation and new construction would be developed in consultation with Preservation North Carolina and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Preservation Treatment: Option B

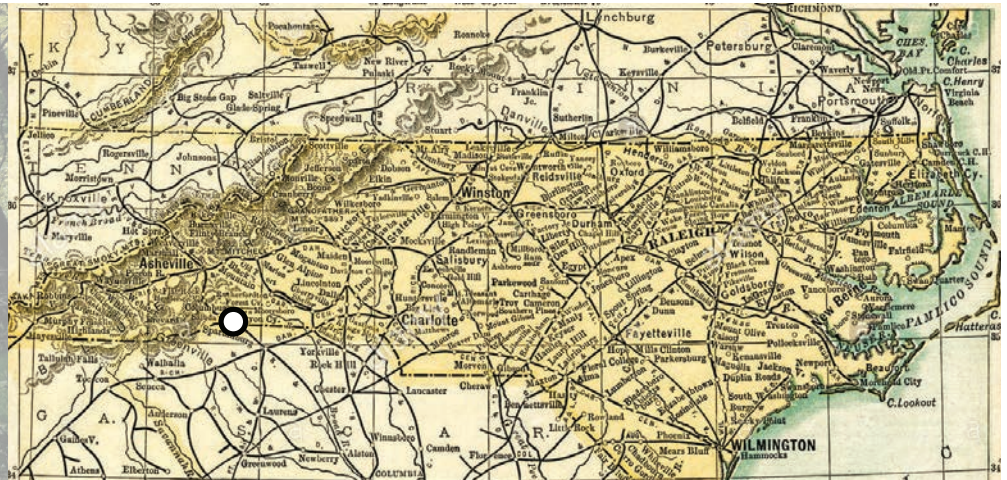
For this option, the home would be treated as outlined in Option A. However, a separate accessory building would be constructed adjacent to the home on the east side of the home's lot to contain bathroom and kitchen facilities, as well as studio space and small living quarters. The rehabilitation and new construction would be developed in consultation with Preservation North Carolina and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Use and Programming: For this concept the home and site will accommodate multiple uses including interpretation, artists residency, individual and group tours, special events (i.e. workshops, music classes, performances) and private events. The uses would be developed and managed with the intent of partnership with existing organizations in Tryon and the larger region, while a master calendar would coordinate the variety of events.

All images are conceptual and not included in final approved plans.



Timeline of Nina Simone in North Carolina



1877-1964 Jim Crow/Segregation Era

1935

Begins to play piano at St. Luke CME Church.



1933

Eunice Kathleen Waymon is born in Tryon, NC.



Begins taking piano lessons with Muriel Mazzanovich; she and two sisters form the Waymon Sisters Group and perform in church and at other functions.

1939



1938

Attends the Tryon Colored School; becomes the official pianist of the Methodist Chapel of Tryon.



1940
Uncle Walter by 30 Livingston.



1941
Age 8

NOTICE
To the colored people and our white friends too:
This invitation is to you:
Get the family and come along
And hear the Negro spiritual song.
Sang by the community choir of 20 voices
Oh how it will make your heart rejoice.
You will hear Eunice Waymon play
At St. Luke C. M. E. church on
Mon-day:
April 26, 8:30 p. m. by A. F.
Rev. C. E. White, Pastor.—Adv.

1943

Gives performance at the Garrison Chapel Baptist Church.



1945

Enters the Allen School for Girls in Asheville, NC.

1947

Performs in the St. Luke Junior Choir Grand Recital; enters the Allen School for Girls in Asheville, NC.

1948

Performs in recitals to raise money for tuition.

1949

Recital at the Lanier Library

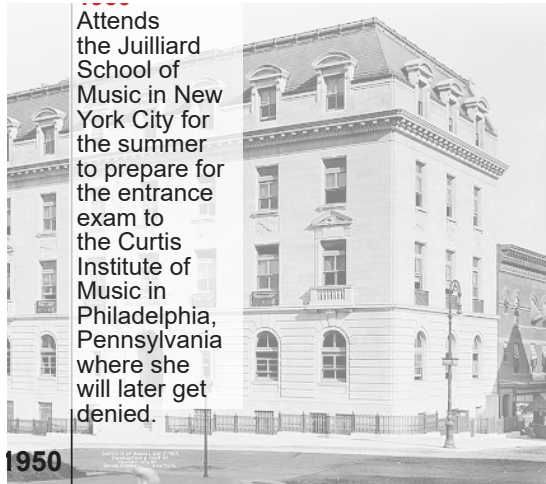


1946

Performs in the Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church Autumn Bazaar.



Nina Simone the Artist



Attends the Juilliard School of Music in New York City for the summer to prepare for the entrance exam to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she will later get denied.

1950

1954
Brown vs. Board of Education

Emmett Till is killed in Money, Mississippi; Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat in Montgomery, Alabama; Civil Rights Movement begins.

1957
Nine African-American students integrate Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

1960
Greensboro Sit-In in Greensboro, North Carolina; Ruby Bridges integrates William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana.

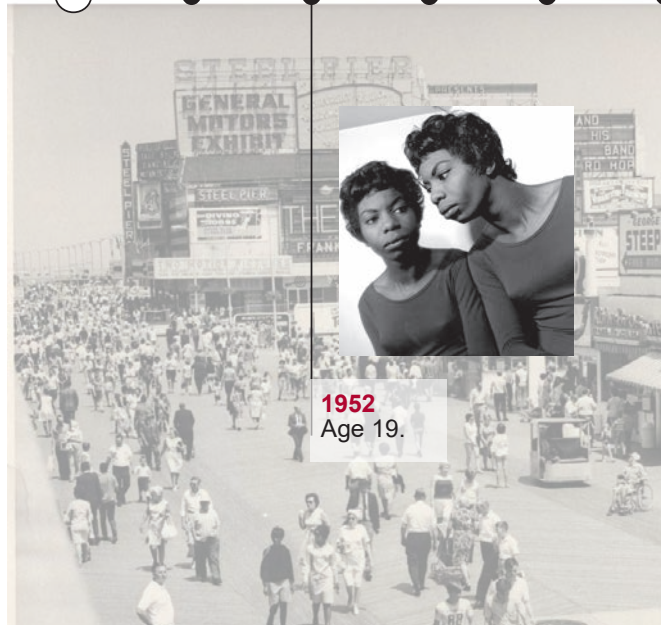


1963
Medgar Evers is assassinated in Jackson, Mississippi; four African-American girls are killed in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama; Dr. Martin Luther King gives 'I Have a Dream' speech.

1964
The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is passed.

1965
The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is passed; Malcolm X is assassinated in New York City; March in Selma, Alabama; Watts Riots.

Police Brutality/Race Riots



1952
Age 19.



1955-1965 Civil Rights Movement

1955
Takes a job as a pianist/singer at the Midtown Bar and Grill in Atlantic City, New Jersey under the stage name Nina Simone.



1957
Records her first album, "Little Girl Blue," a mixture of jazz, blues and classical.



1959
"Little Girl Blue" is released. After the album's success, Nina moves to New York City and signs a contract with Colpix Records and records a number of studio and live albums.

1960
Releases "Nina at Newport."



1961
Releases "Forbidden Fruit" and becomes more vocal about civil rights.

1963
Releases "Mississippi Goddamn" in response to the assassination of Medgar Evers, the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and other racial injustices occurring.



1965
Performs at the "Stars of Freedom" rally in Montgomery, Alabama; she releases, "Let It All Out," "I Put a Spell on You," "Pastel Blues," and "Young, Gifted and Black."

Nina Simone the Activist

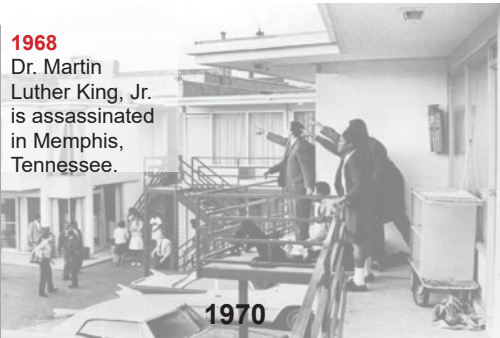
1966

The Black Panther Party is founded.



1968

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.



1970

"I was always a politician from the day the civil rights people chose me as their protest singer"

- Nina Simone



1980

1960-1989 Black Power Movement

1968

Nina releases "Nuff Said!"

1967

Nina releases "High Priestess of Soul," "Nina Simone Sings the Blues," and "Silk & Soul."

1966

Nina releases "Wild Is the Wind."

1971

Nina releases "Here Comes the Sun," Nina moves to Barbados.

1969

Nina releases "Black Gold" and performs 'Revolution' at the Harlem Cultural Festival.



1970

Nina releases "Gifted & Black."

1978

Nina releases "Baltimore."



Nina Simone the Icon



1990

2000

2010

1990

After Paris, Nina moves to Trinidad in 1984; moves to Holland in 1985, Amsterdam 1986; and back to Holland in 1988 before moving to France.

1993

Nina releases her final album, "A Single Woman."

1995

Nina moves to Los Angeles

2000

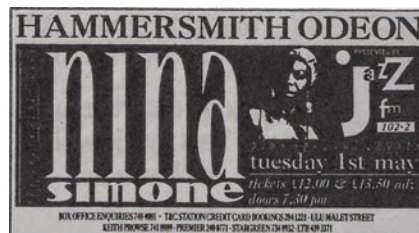
Nina moves back to France.

2003

The Curtis Institute of Music gives awards Nina with an honorary degree in music and humanities just days before she dies in Carry-le-Rouet, France.

2018

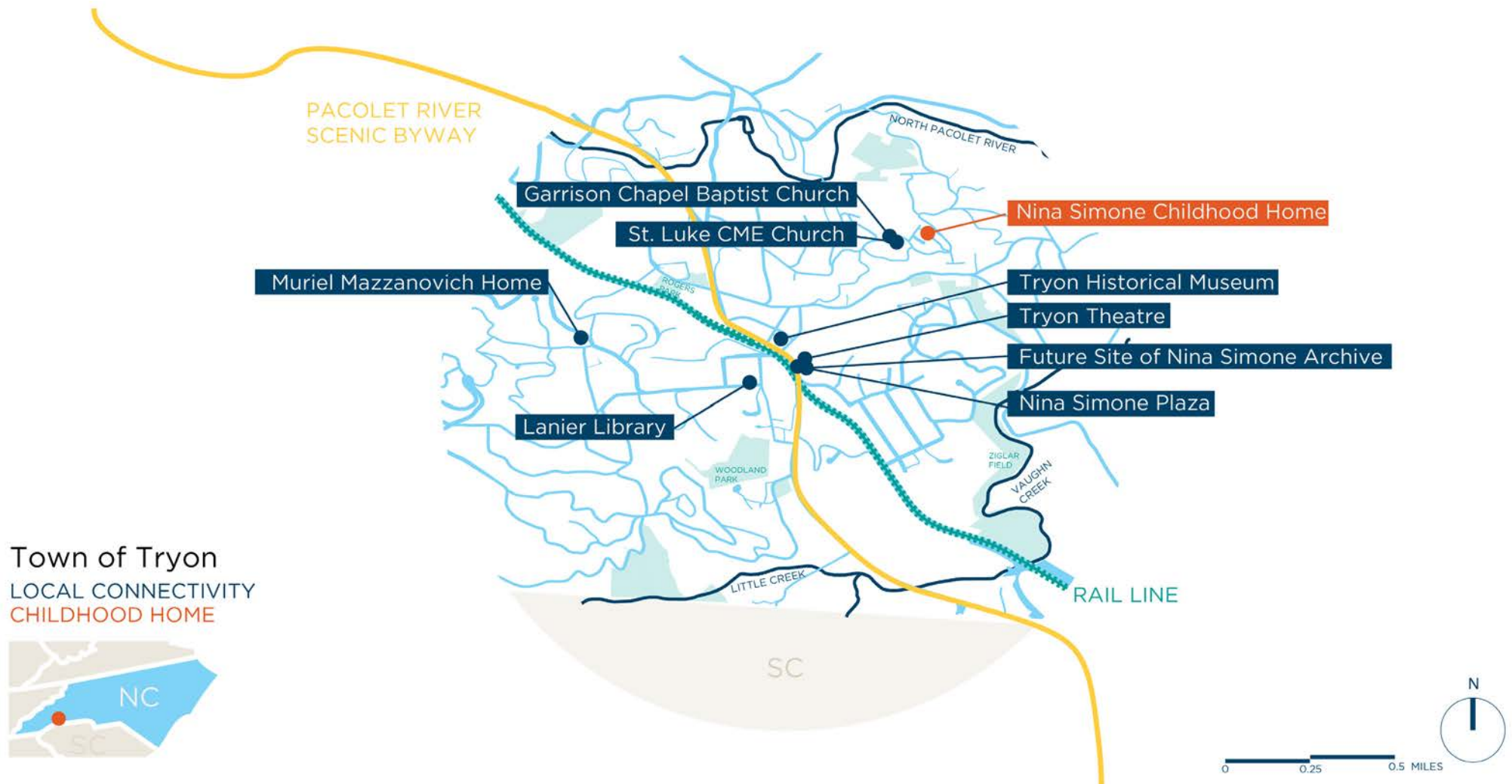
Nina's childhood home in Tryon, North Carolina is designated a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Nina Simonestraat

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APPENDIX: Nina Simone Historic Sites in Tryon



The Nina Simone Childhood Home is part of a larger network of sites within the town of Tryon in Western North Carolina. Other notable sites include the Nina Simone Plaza, the Lanier Library where Nina had one of her first performances, as well as the future site of the Nina Simone Archive.

APPENDIX: Nina Simone and Heritage Tourism in Western North Carolina



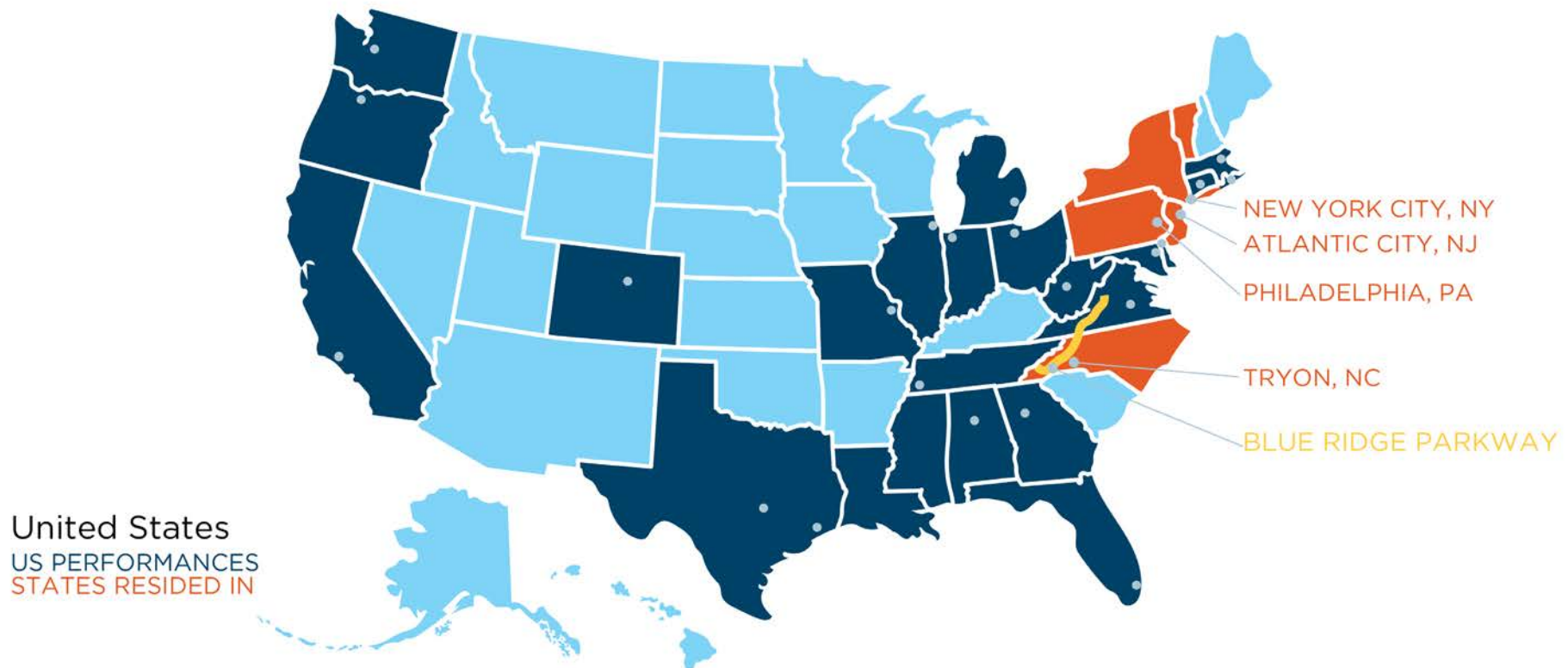
The Nina Simone Childhood Home is in close proximity to other tourist destinations, such as the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the Pacolet River Scenic Byway.

APPENDIX: Nina Simone and Heritage Tourism in North Carolina



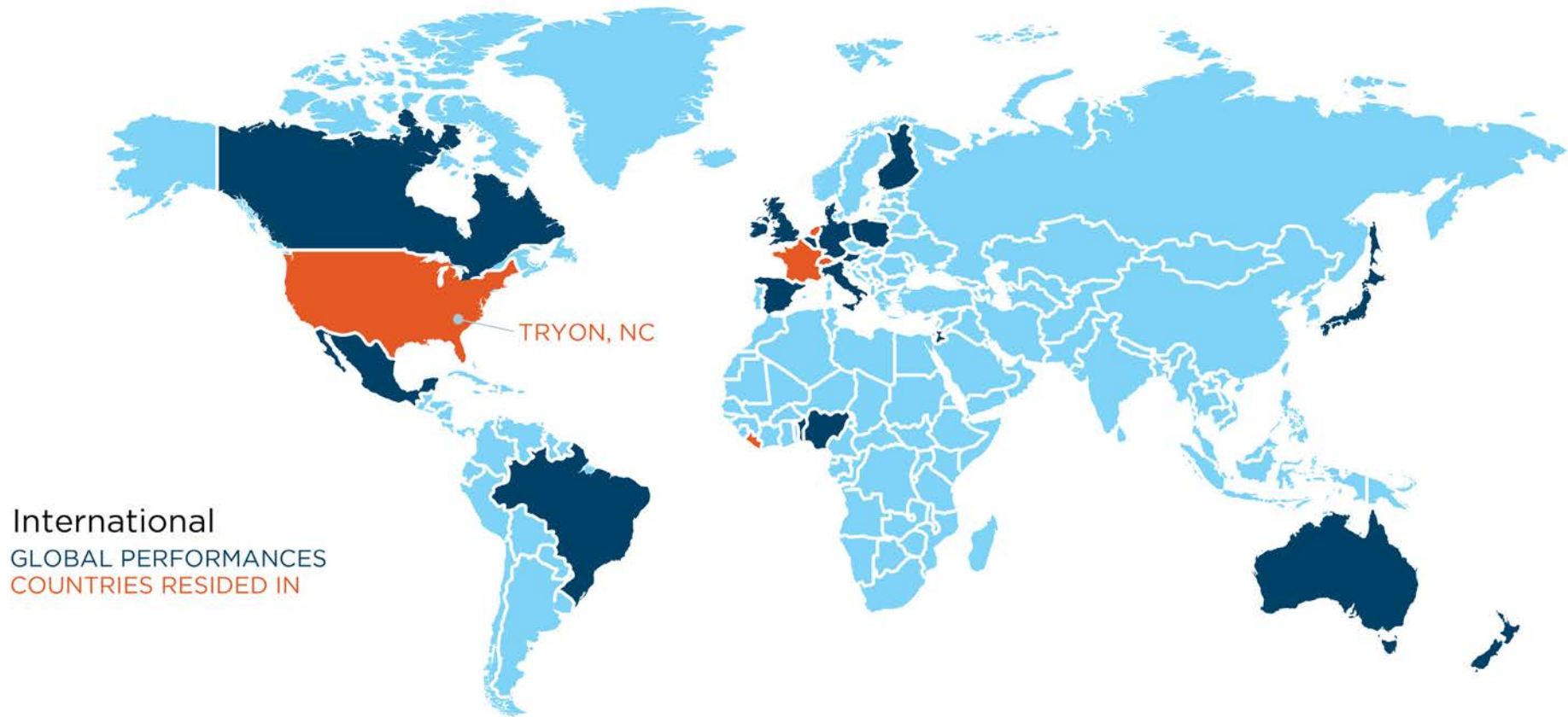
Tryon is in close proximity to several major cities, being only a few hours drive away. Asheville, where Nina attended high school is an hour away and connects visitors to and from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

APPENDIX: Nina Simone's Impact in the United States



There are several locations along the east coast that were significant to Nina Simone's history. After leaving Tryon, NC she attended Julliard in New York City and went on to perform in Atlantic City.

APPENDIX: Nina Simone's International Impact



Nina Simone's impact is felt around the world. She spent much of her later years abroad and has connections to many different countries and cultures.