

**ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
HISTORICAL MARKER APPLICATION**

1. Suggested title: The Hon. Rufus A. Lewis (1906-1999)

2. Significance of landmark or event to be marked: See Narrative

3. Historical information including important dates associated with the landmark or event:

See Narrative

4. Sources of information: (give exact name of publications, authors, dates, volumes, and page numbers or enclose photocopy of original data):

Special Collections, Trenholm State Technical College Archives

U. S. NEWS REPORT, October 8, 1995

5. Proposed marker narrative: The Hon. Rufus A. Lewis
1906-1999

Lewis began an earnest Voting Rights Drive in the early 1940s. Credited with registering 4 generations of Montgomery voters, he established Citizenship Schools that tutored prospective Black voters to fill out the literacy test, a barrier before the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Lewis was a graduate of Fisk University and served as football coach at Alabama State University. He was a widower (Mrs. Jule Clayton Lewis-d. 1958) with 1 daughter, Mrs. Eleanor Lewis Dawkins. Lewis opened (1952) the "Citizens' Club," a night club for African Americans who were registered voters and who helped others to become voters. In 1958, he became a partner in the Ross-Clayton Funeral Home business. Lewis was one of the founders and first Montgomery Chapter President for the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), the oldest Black political organization in the state. Lewis was elected to the Alabama State Legislature, but resigned in 1976, when U.S. President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve as an U. S. Marshal, the first Black marshal for the Middle District in Alabama.

6. Give exact location of proposed marker site including sketch map showing roads, streets, or other identifiable landmarks in the area.

A. Exact location: 801 Bolivar Street

B. Sketch map of proposed marker site:

In front yard of the Lewis Home

7. Approval of site owner:

It is the responsibility of the group requesting the marker to secure approval of the property owner, whether it is privately owned or on a city, county, state, or federal right-of-way. Site owner or designated official's signature must appear below.

8. Sponsoring organization: Trenholm State Technical College Archives

9. Billing. Marker must be paid for by the requesting group before being manufactured. Give name and address of person to be billed by manufacturer.

Name: Trenholm State Technical College Archives

Address: 1225 Air Base Blvd.

Mtg'y., AL 36108

10. Shipping Address. Markers are shipped by common carriers to a commercial (not residential) address:

Ship to attention of: Dr. Gwen Patton, Archivist

Address: Same as above

11. Signatures: We request that the Alabama Historical Commission approve a historical marker for the landmark or event herein described in this application:

Trenholm State Tech College Archives

Sponsoring Organization

Official of Sponsoring Organization

Owner of Site or authorized officer

Date

11-22-2000

Date November 22, 2000