

Media Contact: Jeff Dingler, Communications Manager  
Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance  
p: 678-699-2768 | e: jeff@arabiaalliance.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Arabia Mountain NHA To Unveil Sign At Horace King Memorial Bridge On 3/12

*Located on the PATH, the new sign will tell the incredible story of Black master bridge builder and architect Horace King.*

**Stonecrest, GA** – Horace King led quite the life. Soon visitors to the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area 20 minutes outside Atlanta will be able to learn more about his fascinating life with a new sign about King's life and achievements being unveiled on March 12 from 3-4:30pm. The new sign will be in front of the Horace King Memorial Bridge, inspired by King's signature bridge design, roughly a half-mile down from Murphey Candler Elementary along the Arabia Mountain PATH.

"Despite his significance in Georgia history, Horace King remains largely unknown to many," said Evonne Blythers, a former park ranger and Horace King enthusiast. "Signage about the King family often omits their African American background or there's a lack of signage altogether, which is a glaring omission. However, it gives me hope that measures are being taken today to rectify this situation."

Born into enslavement on June 8, 1807, in what is now Chesterfield County, South Carolina, Horace King would go on to defy several odds and become the exception to the rule for what was possible for Black men of the Antebellum, Reconstruction, and early Gilded Age periods. Following the death of his enslaver, he was sold to bridge builder and contractor John Goodwin, who noticed the architectural genius that King possessed and decided to utilize that skill in combination with his own to create new opportunities for the pair. King would buy his freedom from Goodwin, eventually eclipsing him as a master builder. At one point, King bridged most of the major rivers in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. His double cantilevered spiral staircases still stand inside the Alabama state capitol building.

For the sign unveiling on March 12, there will be a welcome and refreshments followed by a leisurely "museum walk" to the bridge (0.5 mi). Along the way, we will stop at intervals to hear about King's life. At the bridge, there will be a short presentation followed by the sign unveiling. Golf cart transportation will be available for those who require it.



*The Horace King Memorial Bridge with the new interpretive sign. (Sasha Johnson)*



*Horace King as a young man.*