

WHEN CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN  
STARTED SCHOOL AT 19,  
SHE DIDN'T DREAM SHE WOULD END UP  
IN THE HISTORY BOOKS.



Charlotte Hawkins Brown was 19 years old when she opened Palmer Memorial Institute. Her dream was to see that black children in rural areas of the Carolinas got the education they deserved. And because of her commitment and unceasing efforts, that dream came true.

The school began in 1902, providing elementary and high school instruction. In the 1920s, it added an accredited junior college program, and became known throughout the nation as a superb preparatory school.

Charlotte Hawkins Brown served as president of Palmer Memorial Institute for 50 years. It closed in 1971, but reopened in 1987 as a center for the study of black history.

It is now called the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial State Historic Site, in memory of a young black woman who gave virtually all her time and talent to the betterment of others.

Duke Power salutes Charlotte Hawkins Brown, one of the many great contributors to the history of the Carolinas. Hers is a name to be honored during Black History Month. And for all the months and years to come.

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