

## ERECTED IN MEMORY OF MRS. JOHNNIE MAE CHAPPELL

This marker stands as a solemn tribute to Mrs. Johnnie Mae Chappell, whose life was tragically taken on the evening of March 23, 1964, amid a period of racial violence in Jacksonville. While searching for her lost wallet at this location, Mrs. Chappell was targeted by four men in a passing vehicle. One of the men, motivated by racial hatred, fatally shot Mrs. Chappell simply because of the color of her skin. Despite the heinous nature of the crime, the case remained unsolved for several months. When it was finally prosecuted, the perpetrator was convicted of manslaughter and served only three years of a ten-year sentence. Mrs. Johnnie Mae Chappell was more than just a victim of violence; she was a devoted wife to Mr. Willie Chappelle Sr., a dedicated mother of ten children, a hardworking domestic/midwife, and a proud resident of Jacksonville's Pickettville neighborhood. This marker honors Mrs. Johnnie Mae Chappell, whose children became wards of the state, forced to grow up in a system without their mother, and whose life was cut short by a racist who, not even knowing her name, aimed his gun and pulled the trigger. May this marker preserve Mrs. Chappell's legacy, remind us of this tragic incident in Jacksonville's history, and inspire a future dedicated to peace, equality, and justice for all residents of our City.