

Film crew chronicles blues markers



Janus Adams, second from left, of Janus Adams Inc., New York, reads aloud the inscription on the WGRM blues marker at 222 Howard St. Tuesday. Adams, who was accompanied by assistant Camille Holder-Brown, left, and sound technician Michella Rivera, is documenting blues markers for a planned interactive tour. Photo by Bob Darden

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New Yorker Janus Adams was in Greenwood on Tuesday afternoon to help bring the history of the blues to people who live far, far away.

Adams was focusing on the WGRM radio station blues marker on Howard Street, a site on the Mississippi Blues Trail.

The site is historic because blues legend B.B. King came to the radio station in its early days to perform gospel music on Sunday nights.

The WGRM marker is one of 130 markers already in existence. As many as 500 markers are contemplated, said Greenwood businessman Steve LaVere, a blues expert.

"We're part of a group of filmmakers whose job is to document the extend into the new media," said Adams, who runs her own production company Janus Adams Inc.

Adams was in town as part of the National Black Programming Consortium's 2007 New Media Institute, for which 28 filmmakers came to the state to work on blues projects at several sites.

According to Adams, the new media she's advancing includes digitalizing images of each marker for Internet users. She's also working on segments that will be available to portable

Global Positioning System devices.

This means that "people all over the world will be able to hone in - whether they are here, whether they want to come, whatever," Adams said.

Adams was accompanied by assistant Camille Holder-Brown of New York and sound technician Michella Rivera of San Francisco.

The trio had come up from Jackson and interviewed David Lee Durham, a Delta blues guitarist long associated with King.

LaVere, who owns 222 Howard St., the home of the old radio station, said the interactive system is a worthwhile project. Once it is operational, numbers will be assigned for each marker. A person could either dial in on a cell phone or a GPS device and find images, music or historical narrative about the blues, he said.

Adams said she hoped to give people a sense of the links between the blues and gospel and "what it meant to the musicians to come here on a Sunday afternoon."

LaVere said the ultimate goal is to have the interactive component for every blues marker in the state.