



SOUTH PARK HERITAGE
WALK PROJECT

educate, preserve, memorialize



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City of Raleigh

This project was the result of a unique partnership among:

South Park East-Raleigh Neighborhood Association (SPERNA)

Raleigh Central Citizens Advisory Council

City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department

City of Raleigh Department of City Planning

Raleigh Urban Design Center

NCSU College of Design

NCSU Linguistics Program

Raleigh / Wake Chapter of NCCU Alumni Association

City of Raleigh Museum

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Mr. Gordon Smith, Business Community

This document and its contents are generated for educational purposes. It should not be used for construction or direct implementations. It is advised that professional services will be received in order to refine the proposed conceptual ideas.

Acknowledgements

NC State University, College of Design is committed to research and scholarship efforts of its faculty and students toward the enhancement of communities in the State of North Carolina. Community Design projects are conceived to empower the communities with the tools necessary to craft a vision and direct their own futures – as well as to develop and maintain a pride of place!

A community exists as a manifestation of its cultural, social, economic and physical attributes. Conceptual design projects and visioning processes assist a community in orchestrating the specific interests and activities of groups or individuals in the community within a shared vision of the community’s character, present, and future conditions.

Protecting history, creating new economic opportunities, and enhancing the visual character of the built environment are the main focal points of this project. The project aims to help the South Park - East Raleigh Neighborhood Association (SPERNA) and overall community engage in organized and proactive discussions about the future of their neighborhood.

We would like to thank Ms. Lonnette Williams, SPERNA committee members, Raleigh Central Citizens Advisory Council, Raleigh City Council, City departments, Raleigh / Wake Chapter of NCCU Alumni Association, Raleigh City Museum, Richard B. Harrison Library, Shaw University, Mr. Gordon Smith, the residents of South Park, Dr. Robin Dodsworth, Dr. Walt Wolfram, and Kermit Bailey for their continuing support and input throughout the project. This project is a reflection of the dreams and aspirations of many people who are devoted to improve their community and its assets.

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John P. “Top” Greene Community Center
Shaw University

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Introduction

South Park - East Raleigh Neighborhood Association (SPERNA), in partnership with North Carolina State University's College of Design and Linguistics Program, led a multi-year workshop-based effort in order to develop strategies to identify, document, and preserve historic assets and locations within the South Park neighborhood. These efforts together with oral history narratives led to the development of "Heritage Walk Plan" and related concepts that aim to enhance and promote those historic assets in the neighborhood that are important to its community members. The project itself promotes and increases the public awareness of the area's history and its ongoing importance to downtown Raleigh's evolution.

As a result of the grant provided by the Raleigh City Council, SPERNA worked in collaboration with the Raleigh's Central Citizens Advisory Council, City of Raleigh Park and Recreation Department, Raleigh/Wake Chapter of NCCU Alumni Association, City of Raleigh Museum, Richard B. Harrison Library, Shaw University, as well as private stakeholders. NC State University's College of Design facilitated the documentation of the historic assets of the neighborhood which then led into the development of a vision plan process, connecting the issues raised by stakeholders with best practices in community design and sustainability.

The South Park neighborhood has always been dedicated to enriching the life of its residents and families by fostering educational, cultural, and wellness activities. Community concerns with the conditions of housing in the area, especially on East Street, motivated groups to organize and think about how to stabilize and revitalize South Park East Raleigh. Additionally, the neighborhood has been suffering rapid decay due to its run-down and vacated buildings and open spaces over time. Increasing development pressures in downtown Raleigh have led SPERNA to craft a vision; rethink the future development opportunities in the area; and consider options that will sustain economic and educational viability, while preserving the natural and historic character of the neighborhood. The project was a community-driven, participatory design and planning process that explored scenarios for the creation of a future "Heritage Walk Plan" located in the South Park neighborhood. Accordingly, the proposed vision plan also represents different ideas on how best to use and improve various sites that can catalyze and provide key services to the community. This collaborative effort focused mainly on restoring the neighborhood in a way as to benefit the community holistically that proposes guiding principles to improve the current conditions through applying sustainable design strategies, while preserving and promoting the unique history of the area.

PRESERVE

THE RICH HISTORIC CHARACTER AND CULTURE



ENHANCE

PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

PROMOTE

THE AREA AS A PLACE TO LIVE, LEARN, AND INVEST



EXPLORE

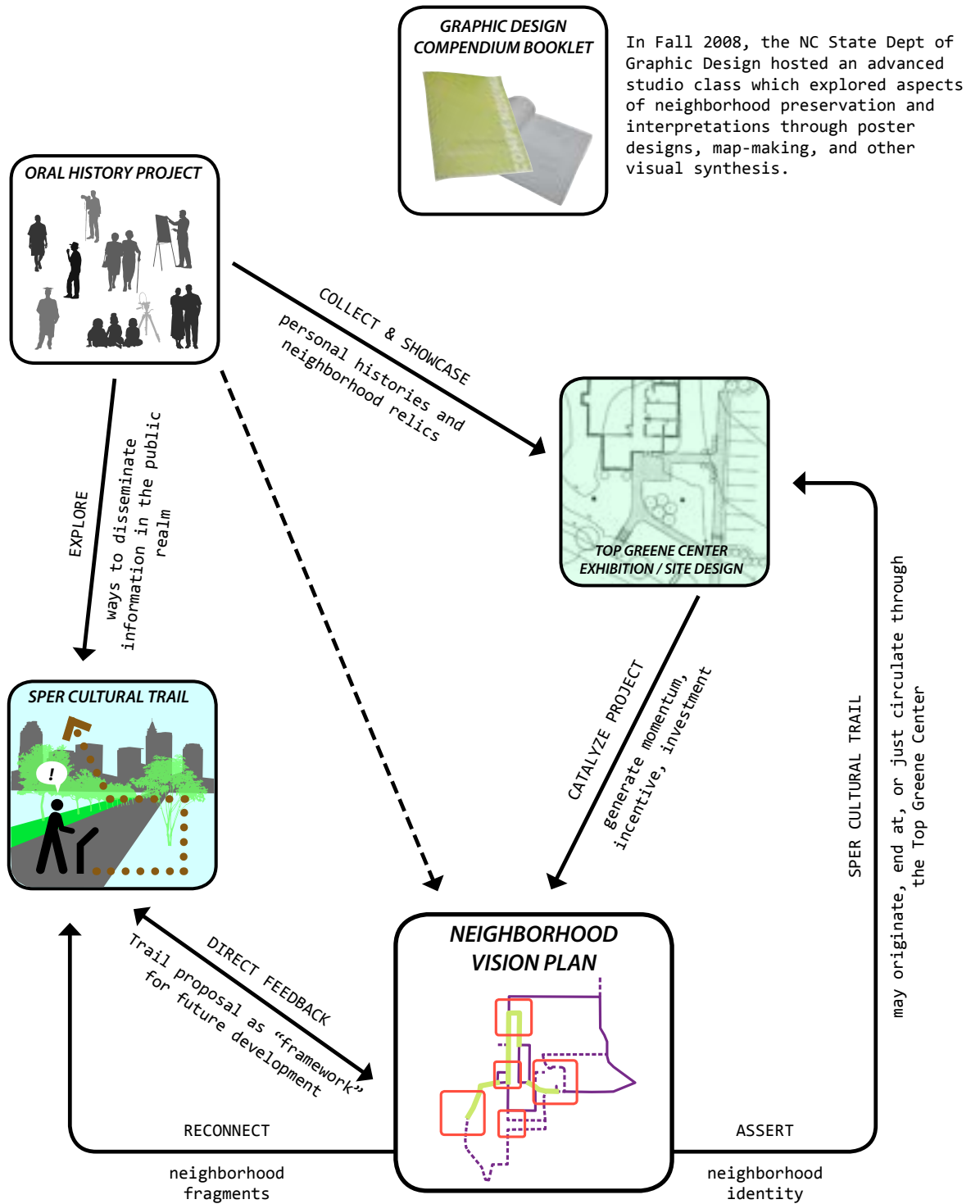
DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The visioning design process consisted of two main phases. The first phase was for the community and SPERNA to identify cultural, social, economic and physical attributes of the neighborhood valued from the past; document the present conditions; and describe a desired future. This was achieved through a series of public meetings, small focus-group meetings and individual interviews that were coordinated, assisted, and guided by students and faculty from NC State University's College of Design and Linguistics Program. The first phase helped create a vision that documented and reflected the legacy of the South Park neighborhood from the past at the same time crafted opportunities to be positioned in the neighborhood, which will be directly beneficial to the community.

The second phase included the development of a Heritage Walk plan through which the College of Design team took the communal vision and, utilizing the basic principles of sustainable design, turned it into conceptual guiding design ideas. It consisted of visual representations of the design ideas developed throughout the second phase. Students and faculty developed and coordinated specific plans, as well as alternatives to achieve the desired future. The

developed ideas were reviewed by SPERNA, the public, and stakeholders. Based on the feedback received from all of the stakeholders the conceptual guiding design ideas were refined. This document overall presents those conceptual design ideas generated by the College of Design team in coordination with those groups who directly participated in the process. While preserving the South Park neighborhood's historic legacy, the project capitalizes on ideas that seamlessly weave together green concepts in landscaping, water treatment, and site development with an emphasis on using the built environment as a model and teaching tool for applied sustainability.

This project overall provided a learning experience for the College of Design students, who participated, and aided them in their transition into their profession. Second, the project aimed to help SPERNA members and the overall community members engaged in organized and proactive discussions about the future of the South Park neighborhood. The result of this process is hoped to provide a vision, which can also take advantage of available services and programs and help increase educational and cultural activities within the neighborhood and overall downtown area.



In Fall 2008, the NC State Dept of Graphic Design hosted an advanced studio class which explored aspects of neighborhood preservation and interpretations through poster designs, map-making, and other visual synthesis.

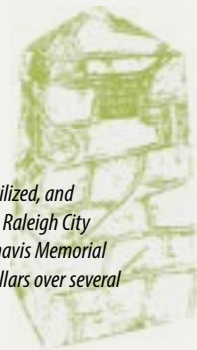
Project Scope Diagram

SPERNA: Preservation and History Education Program

The South Park-East Raleigh Neighborhood Association History and Education Program (SPERNA) is a component of the Central Citizens Advisory Council. Its mission is to promote the awareness, education, and preservation of the African American heritage in the historic South park and East Raleigh neighborhoods. While the heritage and cultural awareness of these areas are major issues to SPERNA, the initiative also aims to educate new residents and the public of the historical achievements and foster the future developments of these historic neighborhoods.

DID YOU KNOW

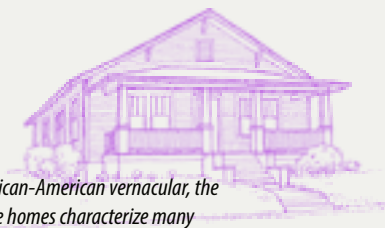
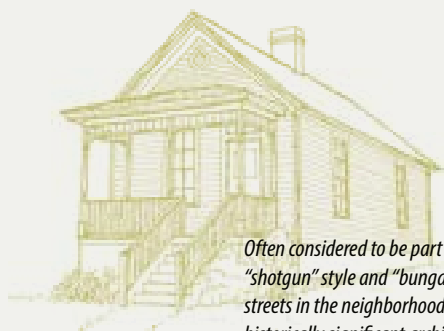
Chavis Way is an often forgotten, underutilized, and beautiful city greenway that connects the Raleigh City Cemetery to the north entrance of John Chavis Memorial Park. It is punctuated by flanking stone pillars over several blocks.



Once the commercial hub of Raleigh's black community, East Hargett Street features Hamlin Drugs, one of the oldest and continuously operating small businesses in the area. It opened its doors to the black community in 1907.



Often considered to be part of the African-American vernacular, the "shotgun" style and "bungalow" style homes characterize many streets in the neighborhood. Many of these were identified as historically significant architecture and helped designate the "East Raleigh - South Park National Historic District" in 1991.



The historic Raleigh city street car used to run through the South Park neighborhood along Blount Street, carrying people back and forth from residences to the city hubbub.



Historic Context

Antebellum Period

As one of the first planned cities in the United States, the City of Raleigh was established in 1792 and introduced once-rural inhabitants to life in an emerging southern capital. Laid out in a traditional grid pattern, the original city limits incorporated an area of roughly one square mile, bounded by East Street, West Street, North Street, and South Street. Although the majority of the development during this period was confined within this grid, large estates, typically employing slaves, characterized the outskirts. By 1860, Raleigh’s population grew to around 4800, of which almost half were African American. One of the most historically prominent free figures during this early period in



John Chavis portrait, unknown artist reproduced in Joel A Rogers, *Africa’s Gift to America* (New York, 1961)

Raleigh was John Chavis, who was an African American educator and minister. In 1808, he founded a school in Raleigh where he taught white children during the day and black children at night. Considered one of the best schools in the area, many prominent white families, including several future leaders of this state, sent their children to the school where John Chavis taught. Unfortunately, his school was forced to close after the Nat Turner Rebellion in 1831 that led to laws that forbade African Americans to teach.

Post Civil War Reconstruction

The “modern” development and formation of the South Park-East Raleigh neighborhoods may be traced back to the period immediately following the end of the Civil War, when a considerable number of “freedmen” arrived in Raleigh and the surrounding areas. Many found themselves poor, destitute, and often homeless. This rather sudden influx not only created a need for housing and basic commercial activities, but also opportunities for major cultural and social institutions to emerge.

When Rev. Henry M. Tupper arrived from Massachusetts to begin a quarter century of philanthropic work in the African American communities of Raleigh, he began by organizing an African American congregation, the



Bird's eye view of Raleigh, 1872

Second Baptist Church (now known as Tupper Memorial Baptist Church) at the corner of South Blount and East Cabarrus Streets in 1866. In addition to a church, Rev. Tupper also established a school, the Raleigh Institute, in 1865. After raising enough funds to purchase an estate property several blocks to the south of his church, he relocated the school and renamed it Shaw Collegiate Institute, which is now known as Shaw University.

In 1881, Shaw University opened Leonard Medical School, the first four-year medical school in the state. Shaw University, the first African American university in North Carolina, would prove to be one of the largest influences in the emergence of an African American culture in Raleigh, producing various community leaders in the fields of education, human welfare, missions, and politics among others, and some of the earliest members of the professional "elite" in African American communities at the time. By the end of the century, Raleigh became one of the few cities in the state with practicing lawyers and physicians who were African American.



Mary Watson (honored for completing 40 consecutive years of teaching first grade at Crosby-Garfield School.)



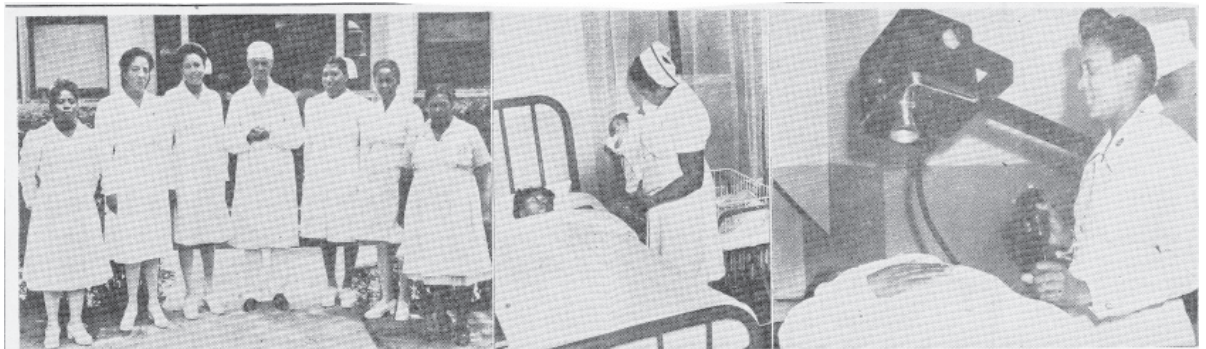
Crosby-Garfield School



Leonard Medical School graduating class, 1889.

Other significant African American educational institutions opened their doors during this period. St. Augustine's College was established in 1867 in East Raleigh by the Episcopal Freedman's Commission first as a teacher-training school, and expanded to a larger campus the following year. In 1896, St. Augustine's founded St. Agnes hospital, the first African American teaching hospital in the area. Another notable institution was the School for Deaf, Blind, and Dumb which opened in 1874 on Bloodworth Street. This school was the first of its kind in the nation devoted to the education of African Americans with disabilities. In order to accommodate young children, The Garfield School, opened in 1881 at the corner of Hargett and Person Streets, and the Crosby School opened in 1897 on East Lenoir Street. In 1920, these schools were consolidated as the Crosby-Garfield School in a new building that was also located on East Lenoir Street.

McCauley Private Hospital



PRIDE OF RALEIGH—Shown above in the extreme left panel are Dr. L. E. McCauley (center) of Raleigh, N.C., and the staff of McCauley Private Hospital which he founded 24 years ago. His assistants in operating the 10-bed hospital, which is a member of the American Hospital Association, are: Mrs. B. B. Smith, R.N., head nurse; Mrs. G. I. Johnson, R.N., assistant head nurse; Mrs. Everlie York, night supervisor; Mrs. Asker Green, receptionist; Mrs. Daisy Carr, nursing assistant, and Mrs. Fannie Williams, dietary assistant. Nurse Smith is pictured again in the center panel with one of the patients at the hospital, which has served persons from all sections of North Carolina as well as other States. It boasts a modern laboratory, equipped with up-to-date appliances, including the X-ray machine which Nurse Smith is operating in the panel at the right.

The emergence of a cohesive black community in Raleigh after the Civil War may be attributed in part to the rise of prominent social and educational institutions, but the availability of cheap land also helped spur its development. With many of the larger estates in Raleigh becoming unprofitable after Emancipation, cash-poor white owners needed to divide and sell off their land. During the 1880's, E. A. Johnson, a Shaw University graduate, community leader and investor, saw an opportunity and purchased 48 plots of land in south and east portions of Raleigh to develop and provide the first opportunities for home ownership for many African Americans. It is also important to note that, while South Park - East Raleigh would eventually become the largest historic neighborhood in Raleigh, other notable African American communities, such as Method (west Raleigh), Oberlin (Northwest Raleigh), and Fourth Ward (Southwest Raleigh) were emerging in a similar fashion.

Jim Crow Era

Anchored by the educational landmarks of Shaw University and St. Augustine's College (these institutions would later be known as the "bookends" of the South Park-East Raleigh community) and with speculative land development on the rise, South Park and East Raleigh emerged as hubs for black businesses and a vibrant center of cultural, educational and recreational activity in the early 20th century. In the first decade, Raleigh Real Estate and Trust Co. officially established South Park as a Raleigh suburb centered at Smithfield Street. Although initially planned as another white "suburb" of Raleigh along the lines of Glenwood, Boylan Heights, and Cameron Park, which were being developed at the time, the hardening lines of segregation brought investors together to conceive South Park as a black suburb. Its proximity to Shaw University, established churches, downtown Raleigh, as well as access to convenient city services made South Park a fashionable place for African Americans to live and raise families.

For example, the access to streetcar service was an asset to this "new resident suburb of Raleigh, NC", as advertised in 1907 in the News and Observer. Once the streetcar service was fully expanded, routes went down Cabarrus, turned at Bloodworth and ended up at Smithfield Street; another was along South Street to take people to the Fourth Ward; another route came down Martin Street, turned at Pettigrew and stopped at St. Agnes Hospital. In 1920, water and sewer lines were extended into South Park and surrounding communities making these areas even more attractive to new residents of Raleigh.

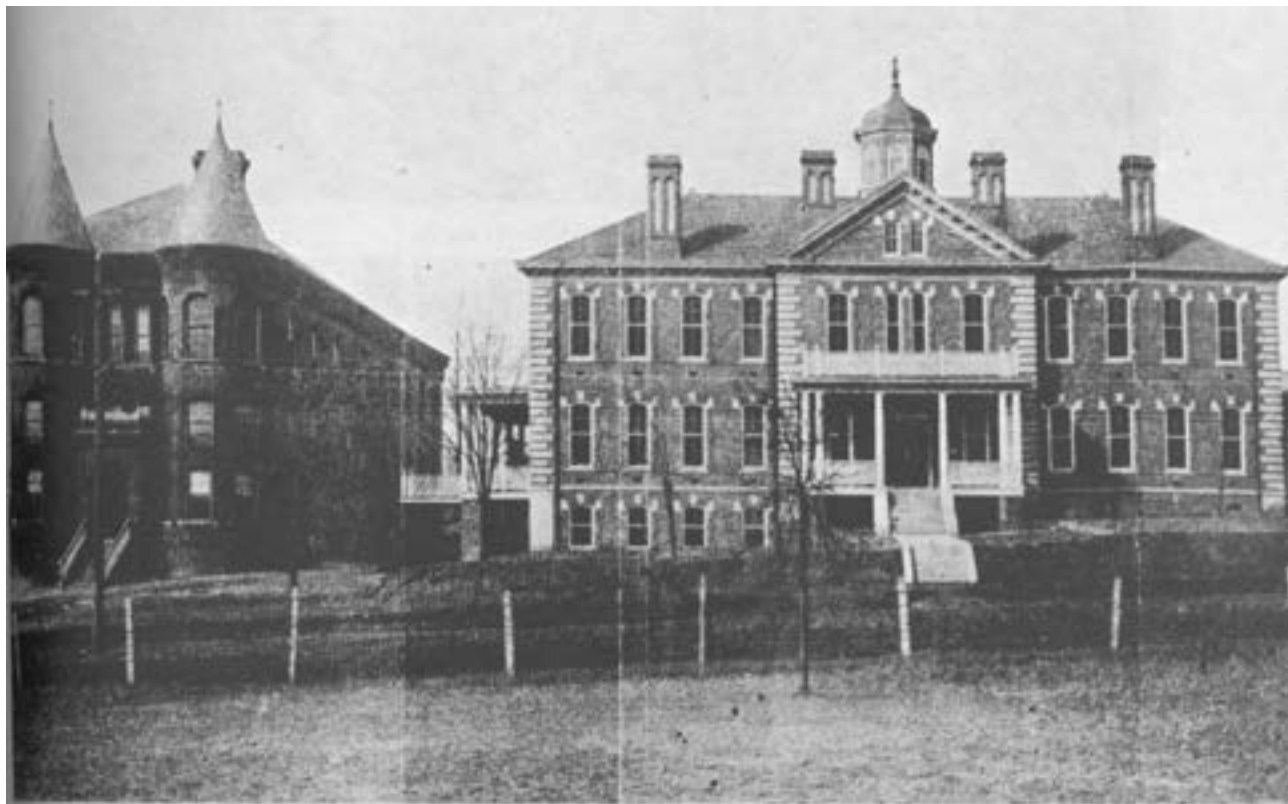
The early 20th century also saw the development of a distinctive commercial and entertainment district catering to the rise of an African American middle class settling in the South Park-East Raleigh neighborhoods. Several blocks of Hargett Street from Salisbury Street to Moore Square began to emerge as the black "main street" of Raleigh. Handsome two- and three-story brick



Hamlin Drugs stationary logo

buildings dominated a streetscape that housed the offices of African American physicians, pharmacists and lawyers, as well as the shops of barbers, grocers and other retailers. Some of these establishments included Hamlin Drugs (1907), The Royal Theater (also known as the “Rat Box”), Lightner Arcade (1921), the Lightner Building, and the original Richard B. Harrison Library (1935). A few establishments were also located on the mostly white populated Fayetteville Street. The Arcade Hotel and the Deluxe Hotel became the main accommodations for many of the African American entertainers who performed in Raleigh, including Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

Although segregation was essentially mandated by law during this period, it is worth noting that there still remained an important “common” ground that brought white and African American citizens together in public life. Prior to the development of Hargett Street, City Market, which opened in 1914, was the primary venue for various African American vendors and shopkeepers to sell and exchange their goods. Although Hargett Street and its surrounding blocks eventually provided larger and more formal venues for commercial and professional activities, City Market remained an active and important public realm for vendors and shoppers of both races to conduct a variety of small commercial activities. Shopping trips to City Market were often combined with a picnic or a Sunday stroll through adjoining Moore Square, colloquially known



Shaw University Divinity School (left) and the Leonard Medical School (right), now Leonard Hall. The medical school operated from 1882 - 1918.

then as “The Grove,” and became a common weekend ritual for many African American families residing in the area.

Other developments occurred during this period that solidified South Park as a self-sustaining community and one of the most prominent African American neighborhoods in Raleigh. In 1923, Washington High School opened in the Fourth Ward neighborhood, adjacent to Mt. Hope Cemetery, which is Raleigh’s African American cemetery established in 1872. This was the first public high school for African Americans in Raleigh. Washington High School attracted students from the surrounding area and was an easy commute from South Park by streetcar. Before 1923, black students attended high school at Shaw or St. Augustine’s, or away at boarding schools. John Chavis Memorial Park, which opened in 1938, became the premier park for outdoor and recreational activities for African Americans in the segregated state capital and beyond. The popularity of John Chavis Memorial Park was immense, eventually becoming a destination for people from all over the state, as well as for regional travelers looking for a safe and enjoyable place to stay and rest. The park quickly became a major landmark in the community and was the site of summer activities, swim lessons, the popular Shaw football games, dances and music performances.



Shopping at City Market, which was one of the few places in Raleigh during the Jim Crow era where black and white citizens mingled to shop and sell goods.

HISTORIC CONTEXT



Traditional "Shotgun" homes on South Bloodworth Street.

Corner candy stores, grocers, and other small business were staples in South Park and East Raleigh neighborhood landscape in the 1st half of the 20th century.



Washington High School (now Washington Elementary Magnet) opens in the Fourth Ward neighborhood for all Raleigh African Americans in 1923 and was a close street car ride from South Park.





Intersection of East Hargett and Wilmington Streets, the edge of Raleigh's "black" main street c. 1940.



Young residents gather around the John Chavis Memorial Park Carousel, one of the most popular entertainment features in the park.

Post World War II and Civil Rights

There are many factors that spurred an era of change in the South Park – East Raleigh community over time. Although the strengths of these establishments and neighborhoods slowly provided the necessary social and economic capital for the creation of a self-reliant African American cultural fabric in Raleigh, they were not immune from the damaging effects of the Depression, when many Raleigh residents in general were losing their homes. In addition, World War II brought a significant population increase to the area and a serious housing shortage ensued.

Prior to World War II, the emerging housing shortage had forced the federal government to intervene by developing Chavis Heights, a large housing project next to John Chavis Memorial Park. While Chavis Heights addressed the shortage of housing, its development was not particularly mindful of the context of its surrounding including the older residential areas. As a result, it compromised the integrity of the intimate neighborhood structure that provided the backbone for these communities to thrive. Following World War II, the physical features of the neighborhood began to change even more. The zoning laws of the city were not so stringently upheld as they were in other neighborhoods. Landowners began subdividing plots and built smaller rental houses, often of inferior quality, slowly altering the vernacular architectural qualities of the neighborhood.



Chavis Heights residences around 1940

As automobiles and buses became more popular, Raleigh decided to decommission its streetcar system. "Streetcar suburbs," including South Park, lost their convenient transit connection to the downtown area. The growing popularity of cars and the bus system also forced the city to re-engineer and widen many of their streets. Smithfield Street, once the heart of the South Park community, was widened into a five-lane arterial road to facilitate automobile traffic and became known as Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. This was also a time when many of the wood structures original to the South Park community burned down or were torn down due to decay. St. Agnes Hospital, The Lightner Arcade, and the Taylor Building are just a few of these lost examples of the early remarkable architecture in the community.



The Lightner Hotel and Arcade on East Hargett Street.

BUY A LOT IN

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Suburb of Raleigh, N. C.**

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Raleigh Real Estate & Trust Co.

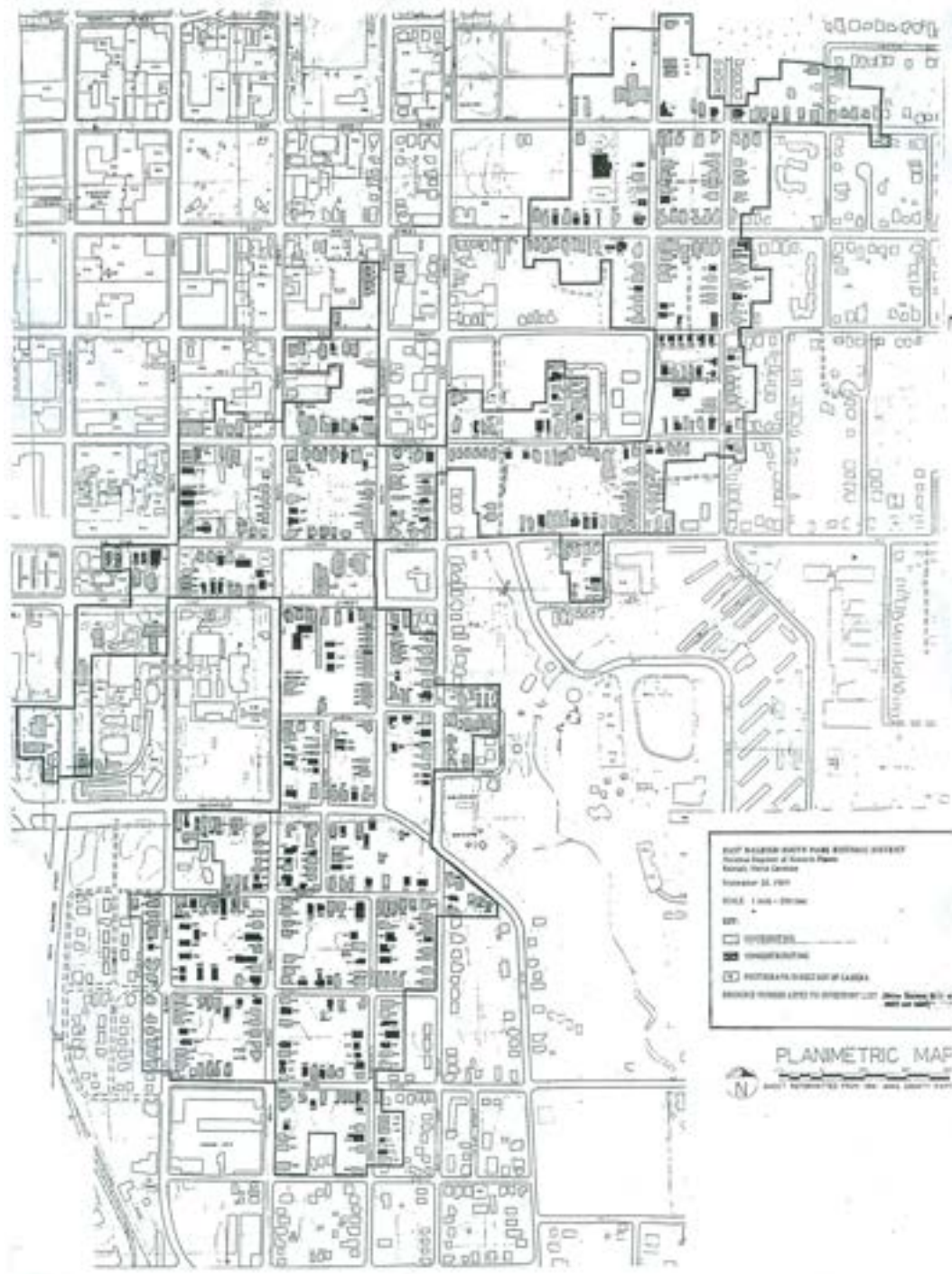
No. 100 FAYETTEVILLE STREET, RALEIGH, N. C.

An advertisement in the *Raleigh News & Observer*, June 6, 1907

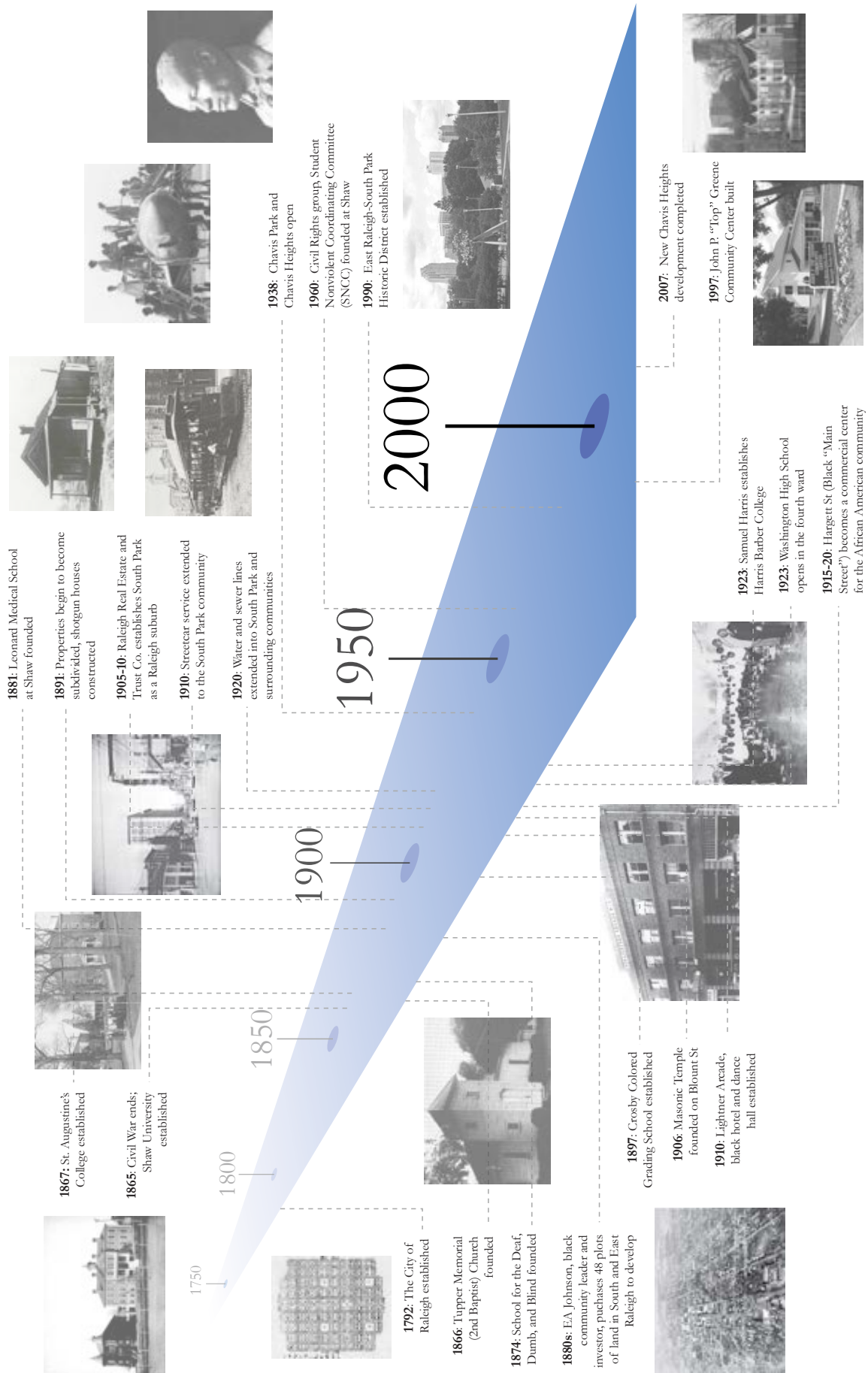
These dramatic development shifts that began to reorganize the physical and functional characteristics of the South Park neighborhood also coincided in part with the Civil Rights Movement, which had just as much of an effect on Raleigh as it did on most southern cities. As noted, the presence of Shaw University proved to be a stimulus for action and change. After the famous sit-ins at the Woolworth's in Greensboro, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) emerged out of Shaw University as a nationally influential civil rights group in 1960, following student meetings led by Ella Baker. Similar non-violent protests continued in the following years in the Raleigh Woolworth's and other segregated businesses in town. The far-reaching influences of the SNCC across many southern areas, and the other actions of student-organized efforts in Raleigh undoubtedly played a significant role in the establishment of mandated integration of all public facilities by the national Civil Rights Act of 1964.



HISTORIC CONTEXT



Map created in 1989 as part of the East Raleigh-South Park historic district designation application. It outlines the boundaries of the district and marks structures that are both contributing and non-contributing to the historic designation.



A Timeline of Significant Events prepared for *Community Input Summary Report, July 2009*

Community Input Summary

South Park Today: Recent Developments

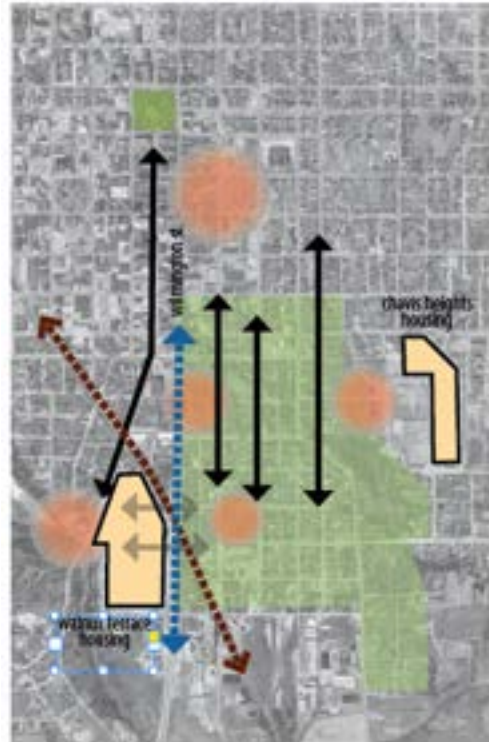
Most long-time residents of South Park can agree that they have seen better days in their neighborhood. At least two major city thoroughfares (Wilmington Street and MLK Boulevard) have been developed through the traditional neighborhood area over the past several decades, bisecting and fragmenting the once vibrant and self-sustaining South Park neighborhood. Today, we see a South Park with two distinct sides. The northern half, closer to the city core, enjoys a relatively stable presence, while the southern half contains more dilapidated, vacant structures and overgrown, defunct open spaces. The latter area is also troubled with more crime and safety issues that are demoralizing neighborhood residents. Furthermore, an ever-expanding city core, represented by newcomers with economic means and motives, threatens the integrity and historic character of



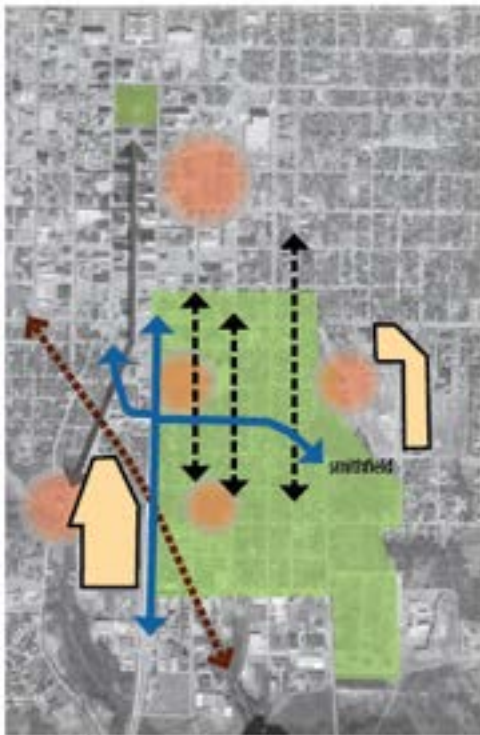
Current neighborhood boundaries. Lying directly southeast of the downtown Raleigh core, the South Park neighborhood is roughly bounded by Cabarrus Street (north), John Chavis Memorial Park, Holmes Street, & Carnegie Street (east), Peterson Street and Hoke Street (south), and Wilmington Street (west). The 263 acre area is part of a much larger predominantly African-American residential area which includes the southeast quadrant of the original city limits.



c. 1939



c. 1950



c. 1971



today

Using aerial photographs of the neighborhood area from 1939, 1950, 1971, and today, some of the important developments outlined in the historical narrative can be traced over time to highlight basic spatial development patterns in South Park. The pattern of a well connected neighborhood with easy access to services and various institutions disintegrates over time with large-scale development of housing and infrastructure. Also marked are significant institutional areas established through the community input process.

the neighborhood, diminishing its presence and creating a volatile and agitated zone of interaction.

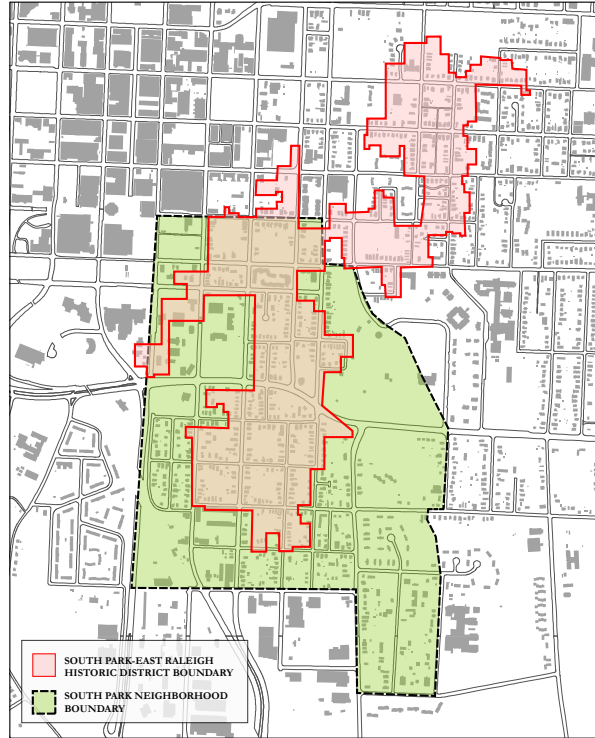
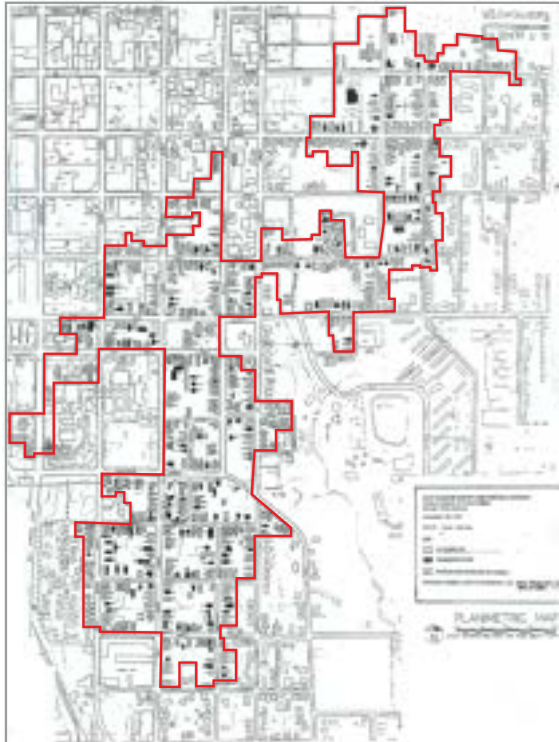
In October 1991, portions of the original South Park and East Raleigh neighborhoods were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The listing represented a tremendous civic milestone for the African American communities in Raleigh and affirmed that the traditionally African American portions of the city had both the visual and historical integrity essential to the overall development of the city's identity. Historically, the oldest section includes the northern part of South Street and west of East Street, inside Raleigh's original city limits.

During the application process, it was determined that out of the 708 buildings, which existed at the time, 532 buildings were considered to have historic merit. Some of these buildings are institutional in nature, but many are residential and represent the popular vernacular housing styles, such as the shotgun and cottages with various applied details, originating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries during the initial formation of the neighborhoods.

In 1997, the John P. "Top" Greene Community Center was built on the corner of South East and MLK Jr. Boulevard and adjacent to John Chavis Memorial Park, and quickly became a much needed hub of civic activity for the neighborhood. Centrally located in the neighborhood, many informal community events, in addition to Central Citizens Advisory Council and other city-related meetings, currently take place at the John P. Top Greene Center. As the headquarters of SPERNA's Preservation and History Education program, the center also maintains an archives room where various South Park memorabilia, historical documents, and artefacts are stored and displayed.



Current archives room in John P. Top Greene Community Center

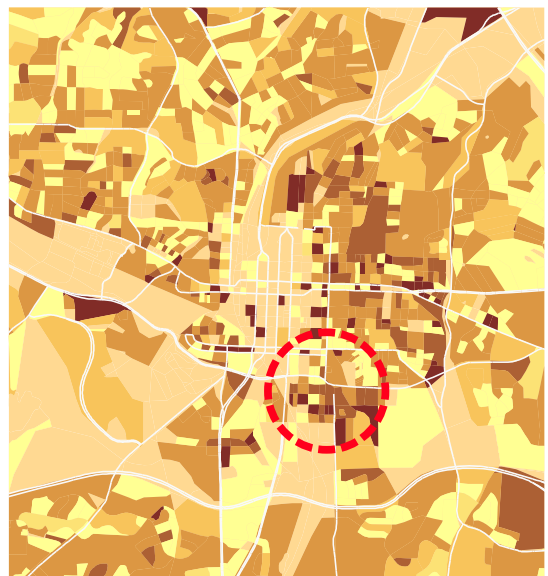
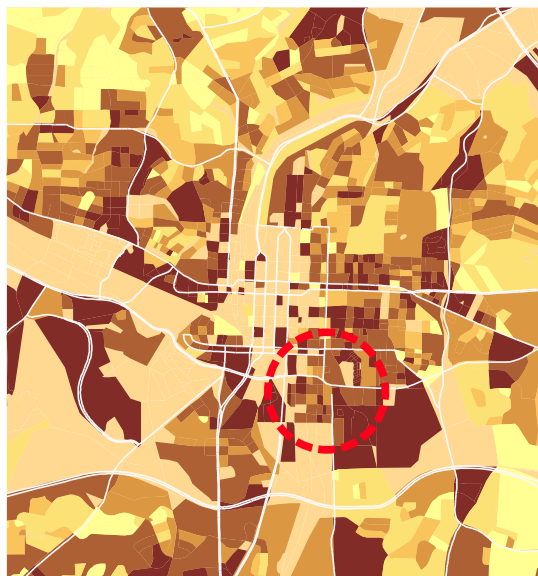
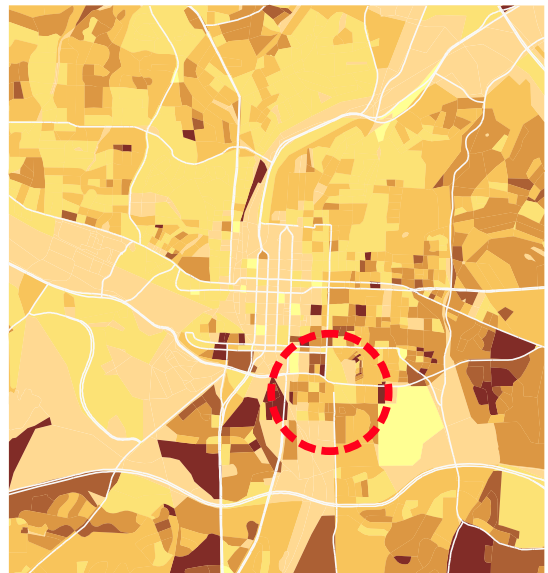
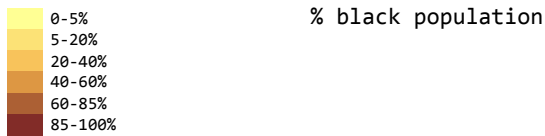
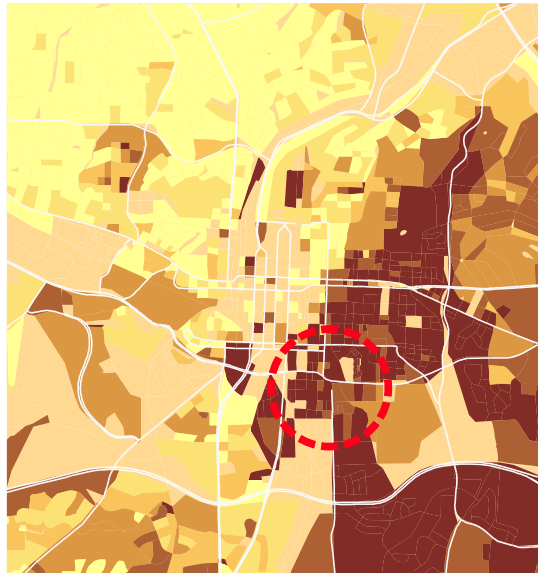


1989 map showing boundaries and contributing structures of the East Raleigh - South Park District (left). The South Park neighborhood boundaries overlap with the historic district boundaries (right).



John P. Top Greene Community Center

COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY



Demographic Review

As part of the some of the initial research conducted by the design team, some basic demographic information was mapped in relation to the surrounding context to gain a sense of some socio-economic conditions that characterize the South Park neighborhood today. The south and eastern portions of Raleigh remain overwhelmingly African American. The lack of home ownership and the proliferation of vacant and unmaintained properties are just some tangible triggers that are negatively affecting the quality of life in South Park. The land value per acre map draws a direct comparison between South Park and other larger neighborhoods in Raleigh and is particularly revealing in situating the overall lower socio-economic status of South Park. The analysis was conducted using US Census data from 2000 and before 2012 census data was available. Significant downtown Raleigh reinvestment, including housing in South Park East Raleigh suggest that property values may have increased since 2000.

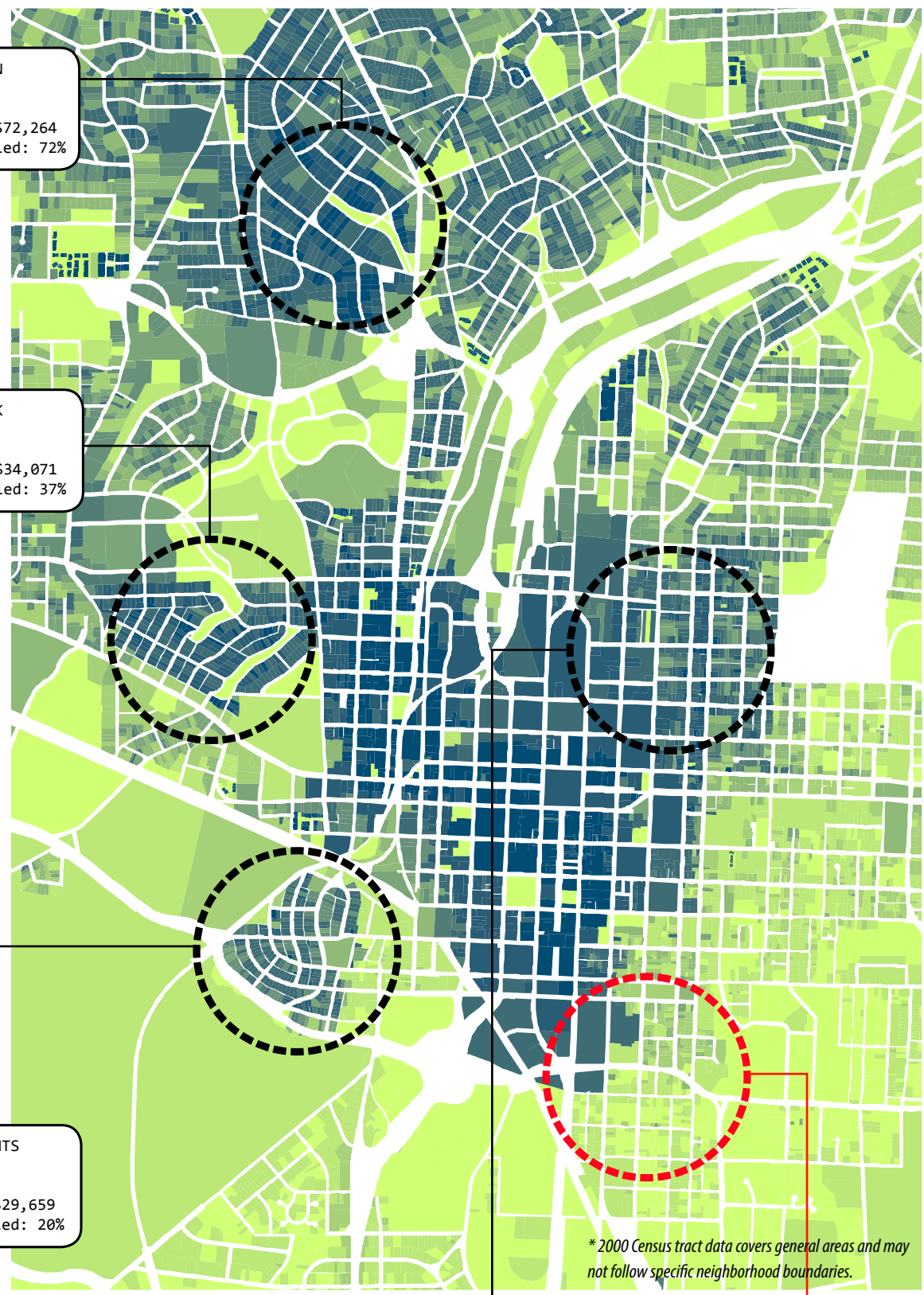
HAYES-BARTON
 tract:516
 HH income: \$72,264
 owner-occupied: 72%

CAMERON PARK
 tract:512
 HH income: \$34,071
 owner-occupied: 37%

BOYLAN HEIGHTS
 tract:510
 HH income: \$29,659
 owner-occupied: 20%

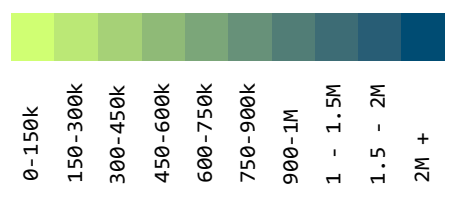
OAKWOOD/ST. AUGUSTINE
 tract:505
 HH income: \$35,941
 owner-occupied: 55%

SOUTH PARK
 tract:509
 HH income: \$11,308
 owner-occupied: 16%



** 2000 Census tract data covers general areas and may not follow specific neighborhood boundaries.*

**DOWNTOWN RALEIGH NEIGHBORHOODS
 LAND VALUE / ACRE**



Community Workshops

During the late spring and early summer of 2009, the design team from College of Design organized, facilitated, and conducted a series of community workshops at the John P. Top Greene Center. These workshops engaged the South Park residents in informal discussions and a variety of mapping activities. These activities were focused on allowing both long-time neighborhood residents and some newcomers to come together to begin a dialogue, identify both problems and opportunities that exist currently, and envision potential new futures for their neighborhood.

Each of the workshops had a specific theme and usually began with a small presentation of some educational materials and the results and discussions from the previous sessions. They were also sequential in their approach of building on the content and results of the previous session. Many valuable insights were gained and the various stories and ideas shared during these sessions provided a solid foundation for the design team to develop and explore multiple conceptual planning ideas that helped steer the participants towards a common vision.



College of Design project team reviewing the presentation materials prior to the workshop (top left). Workshop facilitators getting ready for group exercises (top right). Design team facilitating group discussions and mapping exercises (bottom left and right).

Kick-off and Initial Visioning

During the first workshop, the design team initiated a broad discussion with the participants focusing on neighborhood values, threats and challenges, opportunities and assets, vision, and priorities. The team also conducted a mapping exercise that began to identify specific locations and places of various significance. The places were not necessarily limited to their historic merit and included places that represented certain future opportunities, as well as challenges. The following is a brief summary of the issues highlighted during the workshop:

VALUES

- Location of South Park neighborhood and its proximity to downtown Raleigh;
- Creating a cohesive neighborhood and preserving community pride;
- Existence of educational institutions providing historical significance for neighborhood;
- Existence of historically important public spaces, such as John Chavis Memorial Park and Moore Square.

THREATS and CHALLENGES

- Expansion of downtown core bringing uncertain change to the neighborhood;
- Safety issues in terms of crime, gangs, and vandalism occurring in the neighborhood;
- Existence of vacant buildings in the neighborhood (boarded up homes and absentee landlords).

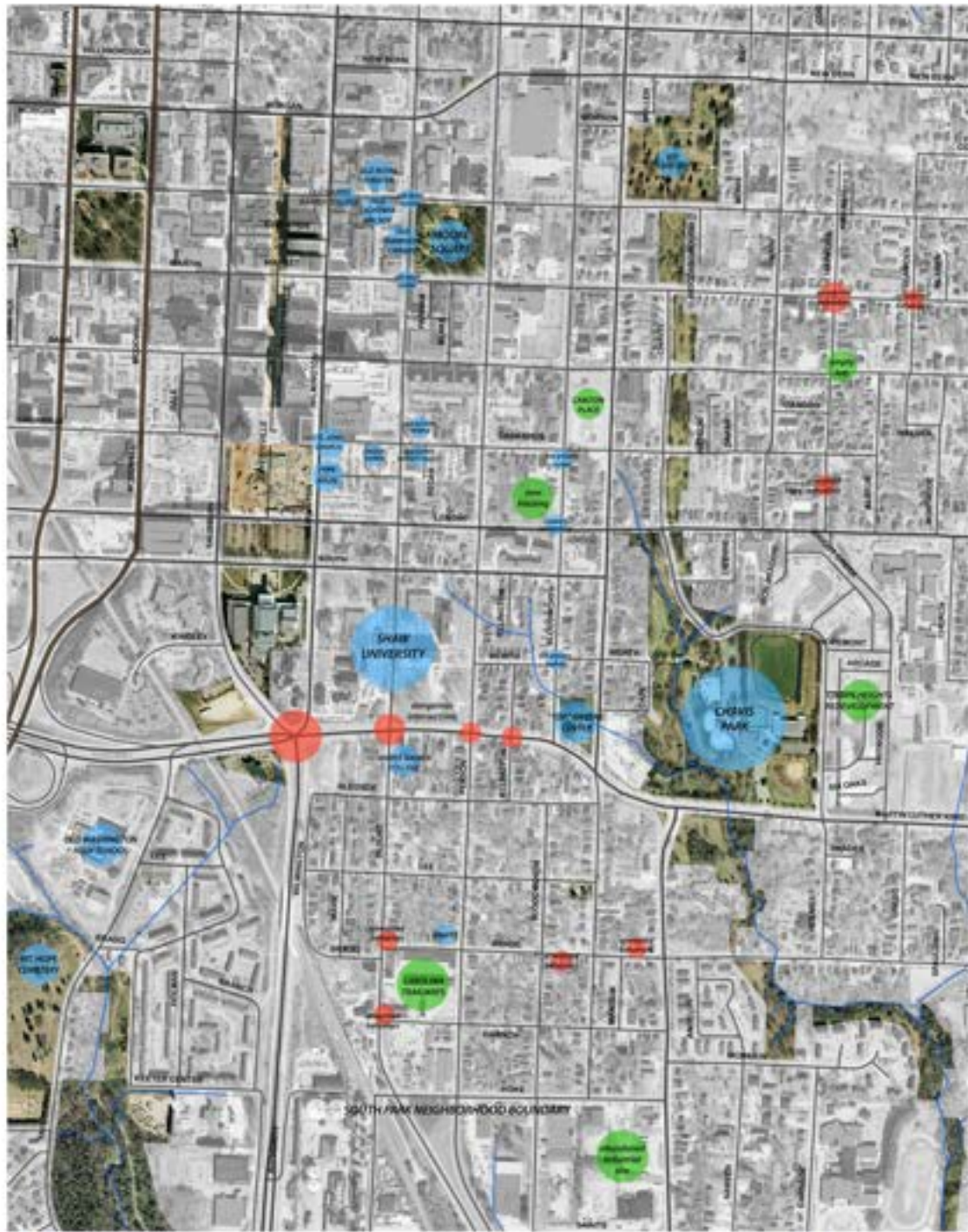
OPPORTUNITIES and ASSETS

- Expansion of John P. "Top" Greene Center to provide more services;
- Encouraging a better use of community and recreation facilities;
- Providing more opportunities for mixed-income and affordable housing;
- Valuing the return of South Park -East Raleigh natives;
- Developing more relationships with neighboring schools;
- Creating learning and preservation opportunities out of historic landmarks.

PRIORITIES leading to VISION

- Providing opportunities for more basic retail, services, and small businesses in the neighborhood;
- Providing more funding and resources to maintain and restore John Chavis Memorial Park;
- Providing more opportunities for home ownership;
- Establishing a technical job skills center;
- Creating a safe and walkable neighborhood.

COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY



- Locations of cultural significance
- Locations of new development or potential new development
- Locations posing infrastructural and/or safety challenges



After compiling and reviewing notes from the first workshop, the design team generated a place-based map categorizing the most significant “places” mentioned or described during the discussions. The relative sizes of the “circles” roughly indicate the frequency in which these places were pointed out. The larger the circle, the more they were mentioned.

Street Perceptions and Mapping Potential Walking Tour Routes

The initial workshop and discussions were followed by two additional mapping exercises. These exercises allowed an opportunity to form further discussions surrounding the characteristics and qualities of the South Park neighborhood streets and provided some understanding of how its residents perceive and experience them. Several generic and opposing categories, in terms of safe/unsafe, walkable/unwalkable, and interesting/uninteresting (i.e. aesthetically pleasing or not) were used to frame the exercise to gain some basic insights. Two separate participant groups performed this exercise and the overall results were transposed onto a map of the neighborhood.

Building on the “place mapping” and the “street perceptions” exercises, the design team then worked with the participants mapping out the potential walking tour routes in which they would prioritize the important places. They were also asked to consider how they would take visitors and show them the significant places in the neighborhood through streets that are currently considered walkable, safe, and perhaps interesting. Three different participant groups performed this exercise and three separate walking routes emerged and were mapped accordingly.



Sample icon set used for the mapping exercise.

The walk routes were later reviewed and overlaid on a single map discerning some patterns and themes. The design team attempted to find some common aspects among those group maps and began to delineate sections of the proposed routes, which were common to all three, as well as significant areas of interest that many of the participants wished to highlight.

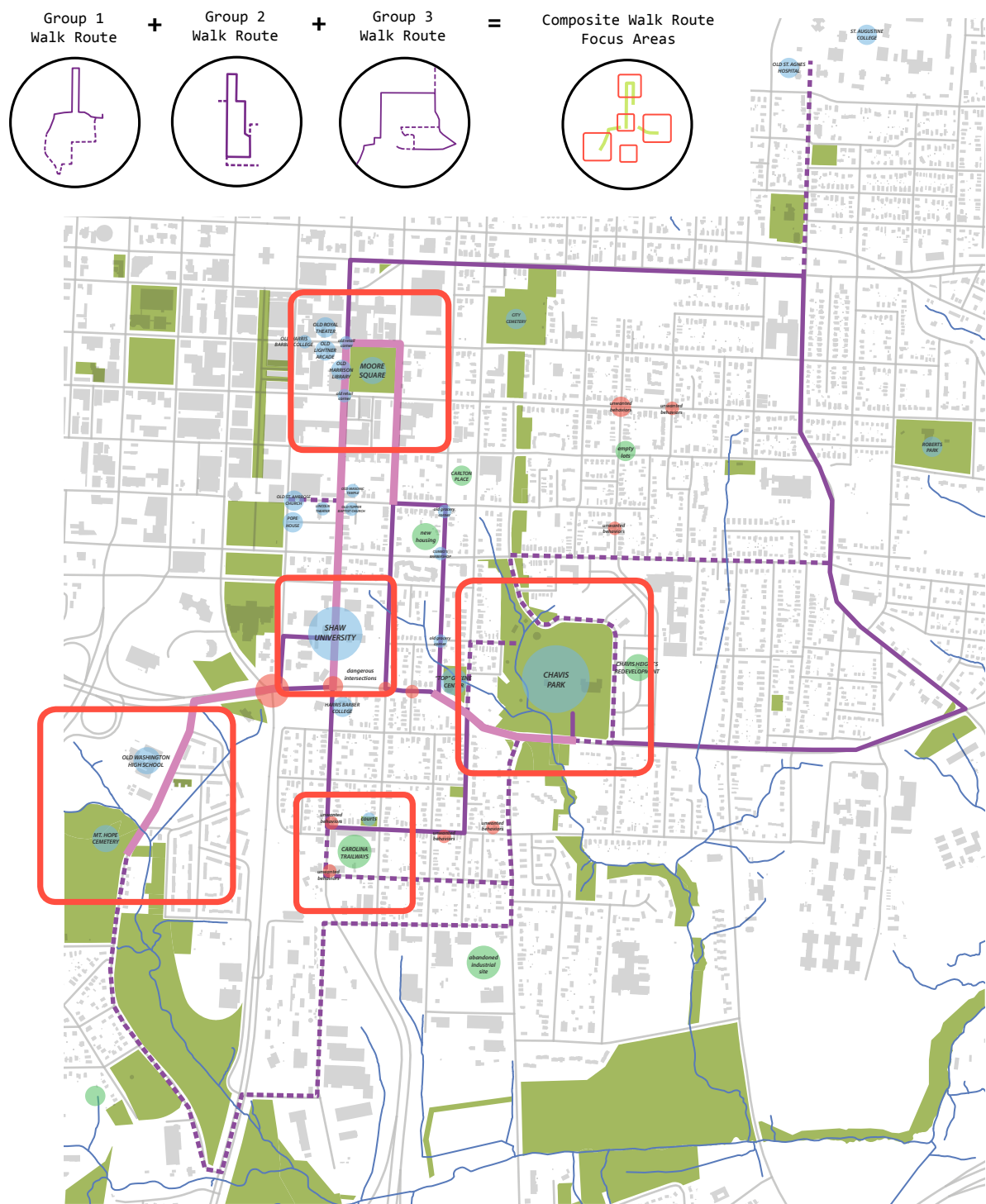
Overall, these exercises helped the project team establish a basic foundation to determine a possible route for a potential “Heritage Walk” in the South Park neighborhood. This resulted in the following guiding principles which helped determine the key characteristics for the proposed Heritage Walk plan by the residents:

- 1) The walkability of the route should be practical. It should be not only “safe”, but also reasonable in length and flexible in its accessibility. The design team began to think of the walk route as a potential “loop” or “circuit” without an official beginning and end that would maximize the level of participants, both intentional and unintentional tours.

COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY



Many residents have negative perceptions of numerous streets that are south of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, which occupies the southern half of the South Park neighborhood. Street qualities and perceptions seem to get better as you move closer to core downtown area of the city.



Following the street perceptions exercise, residents were asked to prioritize some of the places that have been identified to map out a potential heritage walk route that can connect all of them together. Three groups mapped out three different routes and common overlaps among the route, as well as certain “anchoring” areas, were identified.

2) These “places” of significance can be broadly categorized into singular “points,” such as specific buildings, existing markers, and larger “areas” having a broader historical significance due to their institutional nature, as well as their substantial value (economic, recreational, educational, etc.) for the neighborhood and beyond.

3) Given the diversity of physical characteristics that exist in the areas under consideration, the walk route has the ability to provide its participants with a variety of different urban experiences in the form of parks, greenways, commercial downtown and neighborhood streets in very close proximity to the downtown center of Raleigh.

Anchor Areas along the Route

The potential ability for the South Park Heritage Walk as a tool to re-engage and re-connect some of the historically significant institutions became a major theme. From the previous exercises, several large areas became candidates to become “focus” or more aptly “anchor” areas along the proposed walk route. These areas include:

- Shaw University;
- The historic eastern edge of John Chavis Memorial Park bordering the neighborhood;
- The Carolina Trailways site, a vacant old commercial bus facility;
- The Mt. Hope Cemetery/old Washington High School area;
- Moore Square and "old black main street" area.

Continuing workshop series with community members helped elaborate on the nature of these areas through a series of questions addressing their current significance to the community and neighborhood history, their roles in the future of the neighborhood and the city (as catalyst sites), and their potential to be re-developed or improved. The following sections highlight the community input about the current conditions of the designated anchor areas.

Moore Square

Despite its historical association, many participants felt that Moore Square is not part of the South Park neighborhood and not very accessible and friendly. Many of them do not utilize the park for any particular reason on a regular basis - often just passing through or driving by during their daily businesses. Some felt that managing the homeless population and loitering issues within and around the Moore Square is a priority. The area in general is considered not affordable and not particularly attractive to South Park residents for any reason.

Some suggestions for improvements included diversifying businesses in the area; creating more affordable housing and business options; creating more opportunities for different activities, incorporating iconic sculptures and landmarks, and providing more amenities, such as park lighting, and benches.

John Chavis Memorial Park

As a community and a “downtown” park, John Chavis Memorial Park maintains a high level of interest among community members and becomes a center of sometimes contentious debate regarding its future. Many participants from the neighborhood feel passionate about various issues related to John Chavis Memorial Park. Most participants would like to see the eastern portion of John Chavis Memorial Park, which includes the historical edge that was associated with South Park during the segregation era, maintain its integrity and historical legacy. Many also would like to see some of the old features and activities, such as the children’s train, the old baseball field, the olympic sized swimming pool, and the dance hall, return.

Some feel that the current park amenities mostly caters to children and that it should offer more activities in order to attract a more diverse set of user groups, such as the elderly and the neighboring Chavis Heights residents. Although actual crime and the perception of crime is a barrier, many would like to see John Chavis Memorial Park establishing a regional identity (like it did in the past) similar to Pullen Park in west Raleigh. Its proximity to downtown, overall accessibility, and a strong neighborhood context are all seen as significant assets.

Some specific suggestions for improvement include creating a more defined park entrance to the South Park side; providing features and pathways that are more accessible to the elderly; and providing effective wayfinding signage. For example, many residents were unaware that the city greenway system is interconnected with the park.

Since the completion of this study, The Chavis Community Conversation resulted in a new master plan for John Chavis Memorial Park. The master plan process resulted in an approved conceptual master plan that incorporates many of the suggestions presented in this study.

Carolina Trailways Site

This particular site is located in the southern portion of South Park and it is an old and vacant commercial bus facility (formerly owned by the Carolina Coach Company). The site is primarily considered as a potential location for economic development opportunities. It was originally intended as a site for a community center until it was discovered to be a brownfield.

Residents feel that there are some challenges for a successful development of this area. Bragg Street has a reputation of being a dangerous street with a lot of crime. The other neighboring streets are Blount and Person, which both have a significant fast-moving traffic volume with few stoplights as they are major thoroughfares in and out of downtown Raleigh. Some suggestions for development of the site include a group of small shops and boutiques, retail stores, and an educational facility that will train youth to become future entrepreneurs. Many agreed that having a grocery store at that location would also be a huge asset for the neighborhood.

Mt. Hope Cemetery

The area around and north of Mt. Hope Cemetery, Raleigh's African American cemetery, and old Washington High School was once known as the Fourth Ward, another African American neighborhood with similar characteristics to South Park. Few of the workshop participants attended the high school and have some relatives buried at the cemetery.

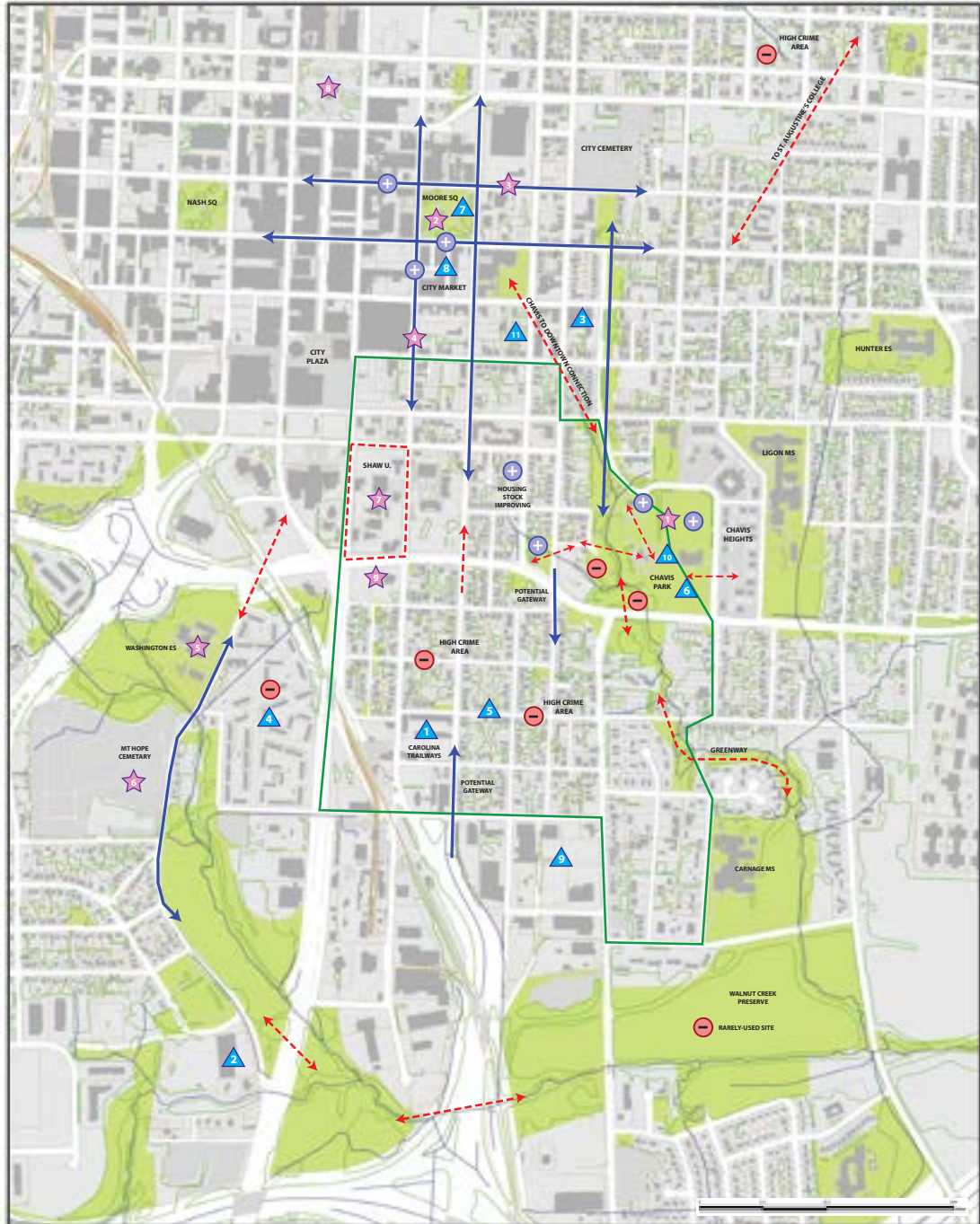
Residents felt that the railroad tracks, as well as Walnut Terrace, an insulated housing community to the east of the cemetery, created barriers that made this area difficult to access directly from South Park. Pedestrian overpasses across the tracks, as well as Wilmington Street, were suggested to improve access to this area. Residents also expressed the need for more signage and maintenance for the greenway trails located in the area. Some felt that this area would be appropriate for various development opportunities such as retail, various, businesses, and even a corporate park.

Shaw University

Shaw University can be considered as one of the foundations upon which South Park was built. Once a pillar of the community, Shaw University, while still being a prominent and historic African American university, has lost some of its ties to the community in recent years. Residents feel that this disconnect originates from a frequent change in the university leadership and a growing number of the student body coming from outside areas. They note that there is very little exchange of information between the university and the community. Many consider a more active service learning program for the benefit of community youth and elderly can help re-establish stronger ties between the community and the university.

In particular, many feel that the campus was used to be more accessible in the past, however the current fences around the university grounds represents an unwelcoming campus. Some feel that certain facilities, such as the gymnasium, should be open to public during certain hours. There could be opportunities to establish structured partnerships with both John P. Top Greene and Chavis community centers. Also, some residents would like to see Shaw University play their football games more locally as a way to entice and develop a relationship with the community. Currently Shaw plays their football games in Durham.

COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY



LEGEND

- ⊕ AREA WITH POSITIVE PERCEPTION
- ⊖ AREA WITH NEGATIVE PERCEPTION
- ▲ SITES FOR POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ★ HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT SITE
- STRONG CONNECTION
- - - LACK OF CONNECTION

SITE REFERENCES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ SITES FOR POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT 1. CAROLINA TRAILWAYS - POTENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER(BROWNFIELD SITE) 2. THE BAIN PROJECT (FUTURE MIXED-USE SITE) 3. BROWNFIELD SITE (CORNER OF DAVIE AND EAST ST) 4. WALNUT TERRACE APARTMENT COMPLEX 5. BRAGG STREET (NEEDS STREETSCAPE/INFRASTRUCTURE/SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS) 6. CHAVIS PARK BASEBALL FIELD (NEEDS TO BE RETURNED TO REGULATION SIZE) 7. MOORE SQUARE (NEEDS AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATE MORE TO ITS HISTORY) 8. CITY MARKET (NEEDS PERMANENT FARMER'S MARKET OR GROCERY STORE) 9. FORMER INDUSTRIAL SITE (POTENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT) 10. CHAVIS PARK POOL (NEEDS TO RETURN TO ITS ORIGINAL SIZE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES 1. CHAVIS PARK 2. MOORE SQUARE 3. HARGETT STREET 4. WILMINGTON STREET ("BLACK MAIN STREET") 5. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL (NOW WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY) 6. MOUNT HOPE CEMETARY 7. SHAW UNIVERSITY 8. NORTH CAROLINA CAPITOL BUILDING 9. HARRIS BARBER COLLEGE
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For the third workshop, we asked residents to reflect on certain anchor areas identified from the previous workshop materials with a series of questions addressing the past, current trends, and possible future opportunities. This input map represents a synthesis of feedback from earlier workshops, elaborating on neighborhood perceptions, connectivity issues, and significant places.

The Vision Plan: Heritage Walk

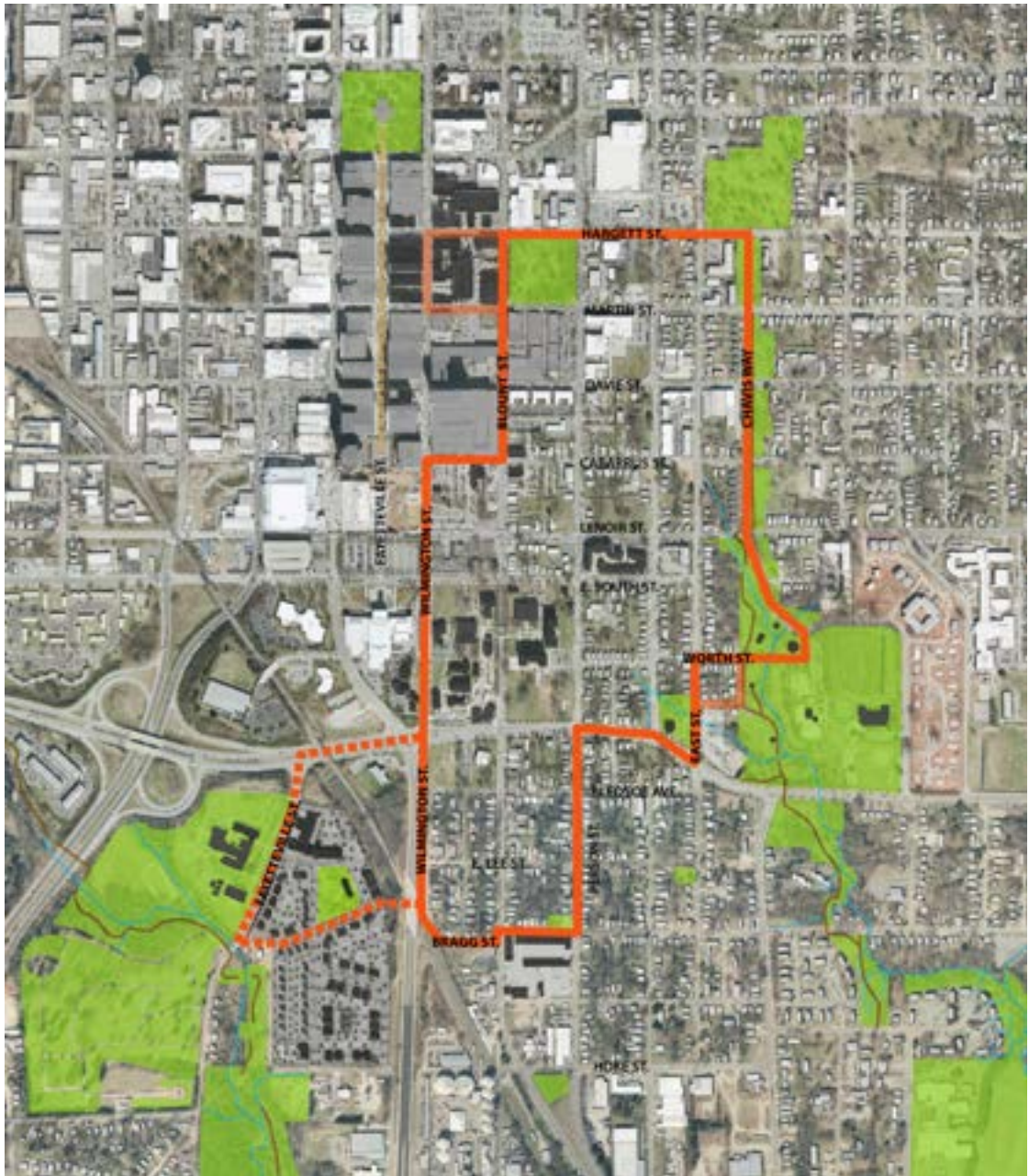
The South Park East Raleigh Vision Plan offers a wide range of strategic reinvestment opportunities, linked by a dynamic Heritage Walk. The 2.6 mile Walk travels Hargett Street on the north, Chavis Way and Person Street on the east, Bragg Street on the south, and Wilmington Street on the west (with a loop extending to Mt. Hope Cemetery and Washington School on Fayetteville Street. Additionally, a loop near Blount and Martin Streets connects people to the African American business district adjacent to Moore Square.

While many cities have established countless heritage trails and walks, they can often become token pieces of city “history” without a well-defined purpose. They typically consist of a series of significant “places” and “buildings” marked by signs and associated narratives. They are often self-guided tours (sometimes guided) that are accompanied by a brochure picked up at one of the downtown offices. While culturally significant and inherently educational, they simply recount, retell, and recycle the same information, and do not critically engage the imagination of the city and its constituents in a meaningful way. This project posits a heritage walk that can have a value-added function in the urban fabric and explores how the heritage walk can allow the South Park neighborhood to interact more sustainably with the city and how this walk rearticulate the historic character and identity of this neighborhood.

Privileging diversity, equity, growth, and sustainability, this project, in part, searches for a model of the just city that provides the urban landscape with a broader context to serve neighborhoods and generate vitality. Sharing such a view, the project aims to demonstrate how a heritage walk concept can not only provide the city with diverse urban landscapes and rich experiences, but also help a community diffuse their established boundaries and reveal the invisible histories and unheard stories of this community in the public realm, through both traditional means and interactive cross-media based technologies.

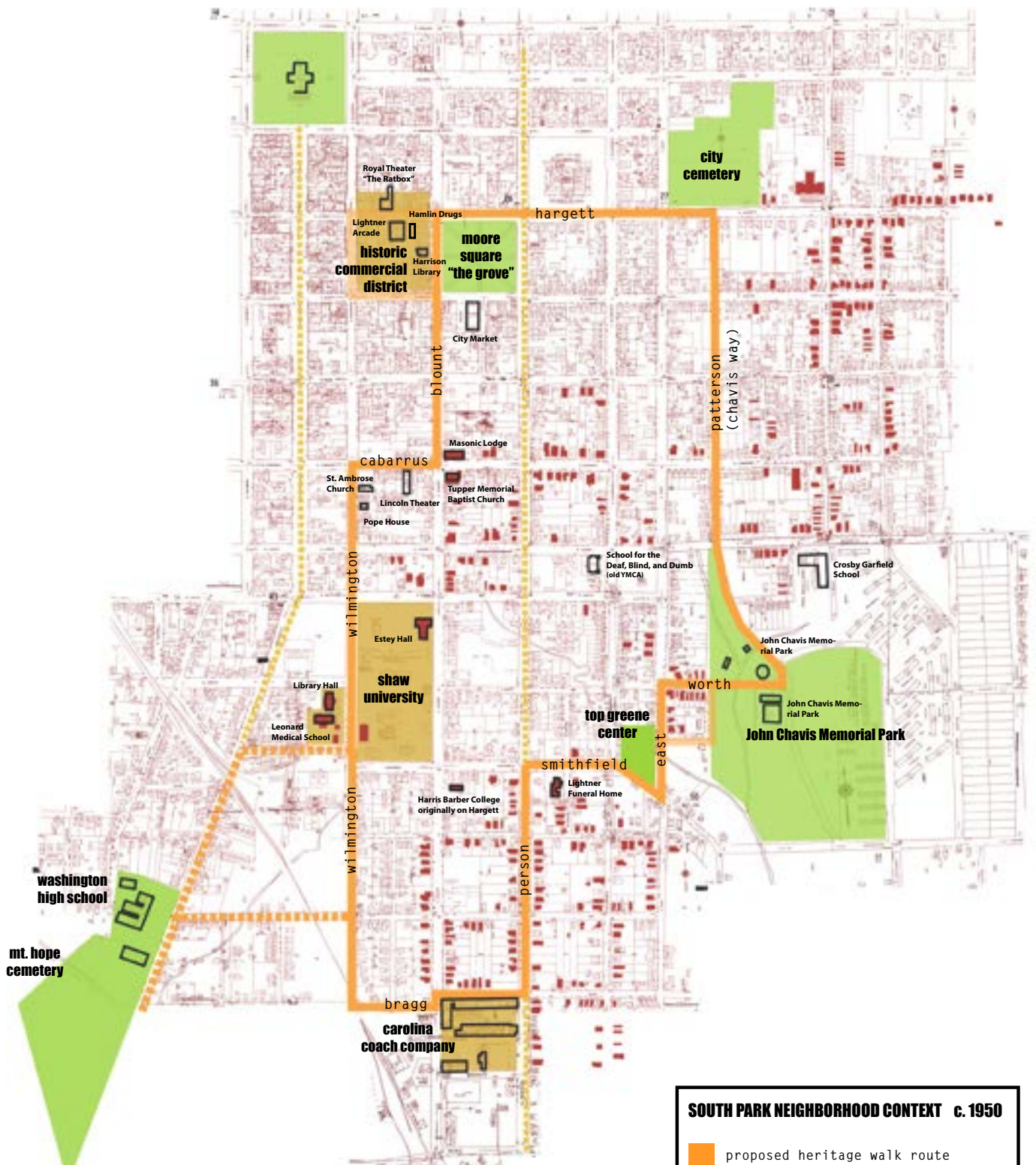
The project also ambitiously moves beyond the narrative aspect and investigates potentials of how the heritage walk can serve as a catalytic framework and blueprint for future reinvestments in the area. The reinvestment opportunities include public spaces, facility retrofits, adaptive reuse of important structures, pedestrian enhancements and traffic calming. All of the opportunities combine addressing current community needs with interpretation of cultural heritage. The Heritage Walk uses streetscape improvements, wayfinding, and interpretive elements to tell the area’s history from the perspectives of its residents. Combined, the reinvestment locations and the walk highlight the importance of culturally significant places as well as their influence on people’s lives.

Given the substantial long-term work produced by diverse partners identifying targeted and broader redevelopment goals, this report is designed to compliment these previous efforts. The vision plan does not focus on the implementation of specific private market strategies (housing, commercial, etc.). Instead, the report illustrates the values, images, and opportunities articulated by the community of how they view themselves, and visualizes approaches to interpreting them in the public realm. The public realm; consisting of streets, parks, plazas, and other civic spaces have the ability to preserve, interpret, and expand the stories of the community, to retain the public memory of the South Park East Raleigh Neighborhood.



The Proposed Walk Route

The main proposed route in red is a 2.6 mile loop through parts of downtown Raleigh, the city greenway and park system, and a residential portion of the South Park neighborhood. The dotted portion indicates a potential expansion area in the future if and when infrastructural improvements to cross the tracks at Wilmington Street can be made. The route is transposed onto a composite Sanborn map from around 1950, stitched together to show the area in its entirety (see map on the following pages).

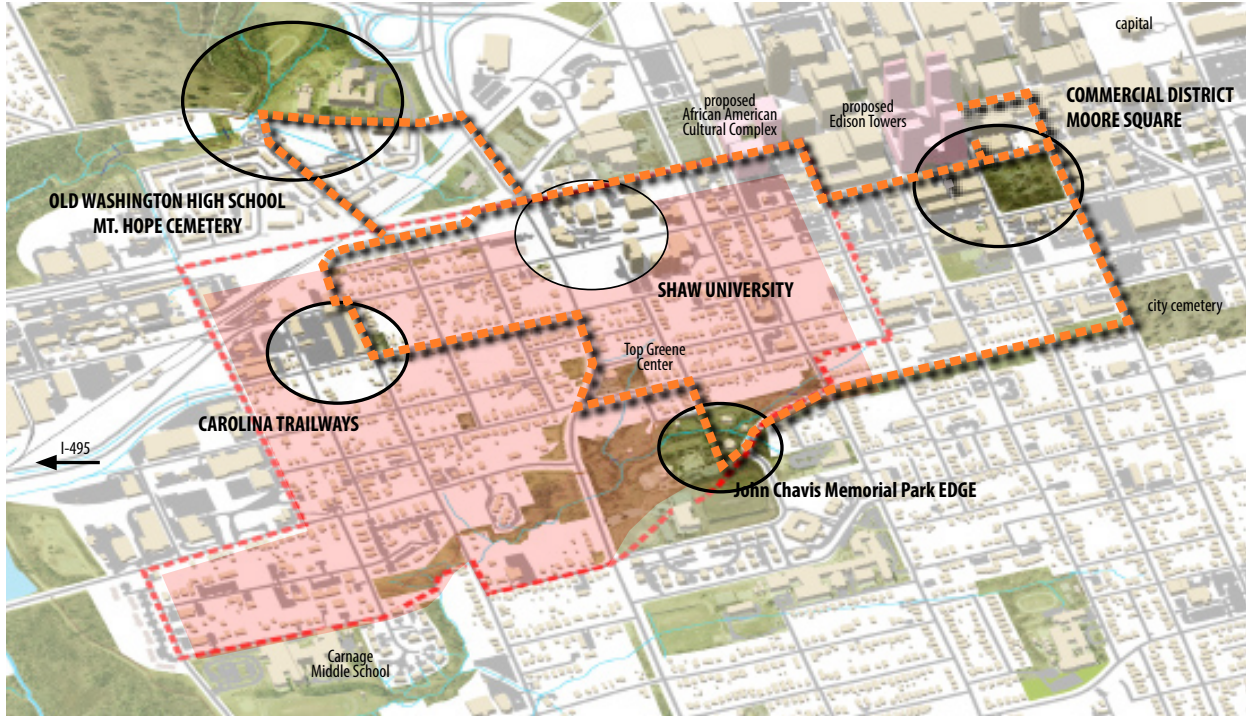


Many of the places discussed during the community workshops and oral history narratives appear on the Sanborn map composite. In addition, all the contributing structures from the 1989 historic register are mapped. The two views of the heritage walk route, one overlaid onto the current condition and one onto the past, help illustrate its historic integrity.

SOUTH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT c. 1950




- proposed heritage walk route
- historic open space
- historic commercial/institutional
- contributing structures to 1989 historic registry
- structures identified during workshops

HERITAGE WALK VISION PLAN



WALK SCALE

main walk route length 2.6 miles
future expansion route length 0.6 miles

-  average walk **50 minutes**
-  average jog **30 minutes**
-  average bike **20 minutes**

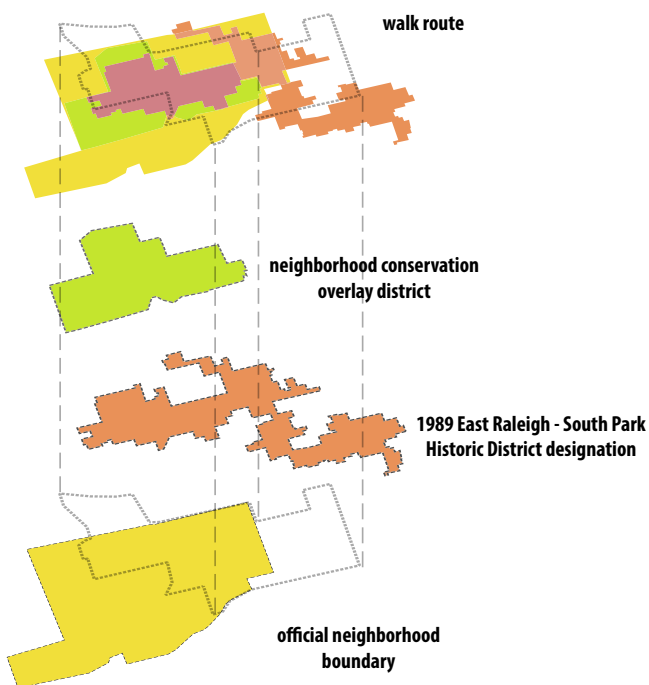
An axonometric view of the walk route (above) shows the 5 “anchor” areas, as well as its overlap with the official South Park neighborhood boundary. It also hugs around the premises of the Top Greene Center, where the planned historical exhibit will be housed.

The entire walk route sits within a 1 mile radius of the State Capitol building. Its proximity to downtown Raleigh is an important factor which can make it very accessible for anyone working in, living in, or just visiting the downtown area.

The overall scale of the walk route is calibrated to be appropriate for its context and potential uses in the future. The 2.6 mile route is a comfortable distance, taking roughly 50 minutes to stroll for an educational tour, 30 minutes to jog for exercise, and 20 minutes to bike for a recreational ride.

Existing Boundaries as Planning Tools

There are certain regulatory conditions, historical area designations, and conservation boundaries running through both halves of the neighborhood to help manage growth and preservation. However, they seem to merely create a situation that can be described as “border paralysis,” and make any planned actions difficult to implement, due to a confusing overlapping political boundaries that can promote a stalemate. Instead the heritage walk focuses on some alternative strategies outside traditional means and measures.

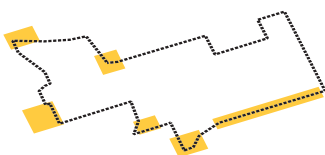
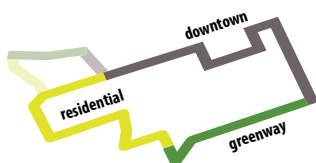
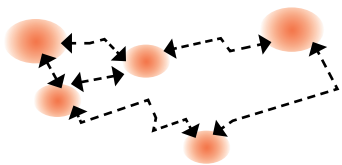


Heritage Walk Strategies

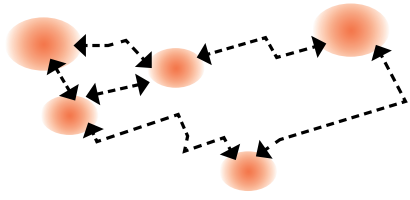
1. Reconnect major institutions and open spaces that were once vital components to the historic neighborhood fabric with a continuous, safe, enjoyable, and walkable routes.

2. Develop a narrative framework for “storytelling” using the diverse characteristics of the physical environment as the context and setting.

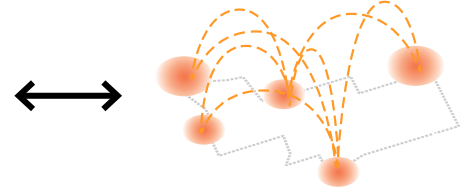
3. Identify and target certain key areas along the walk for public realm and infrastructure improvements, and initiate public /private partnerships to facilitate funding for identified improvement projects.



STRATEGY 1 Reconnect major institutions and open spaces that were once vital components to the historic neighborhood fabric with a reasonably-scaled, continuous, safe, enjoyable, and walkable routes.



“NETWORKED” PUBLIC SPACES



CONNECT PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ACTIVITIES

SNAPSHOTS: HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS, NARRATIVES, EVENTS (PAST AND PRESENT)

In addition to physically linking these major historical institutions through the walk, this strategy also encourages and explores the use of contemporary media and mobile communications technology to create a series of “networked” public spaces that can encourage a virtual connection between people, places, and activities.

Traditional historical markers may indicate directions of the heritage walk at critical turning points. It can also provide a phone number to call in to obtain more information regarding a specific place on your mobile device. These may include downloadable historical maps, photographs, descriptions, and information on events, as well as actual footage of various oral history interviews.



Hmm ... I wonder what this place was about ... let me call



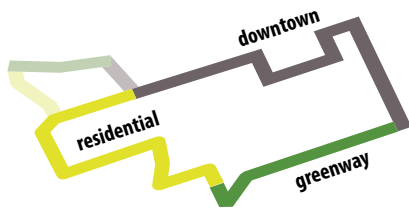
LISTEN: ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

The major thing we went to the park for most of the time was for athletic events. The professional negro baseball leagues played in John Chavis Memorial Park. It was a really wonderful place for families to go and to have activities of all ages. It was intergenerational at that point.

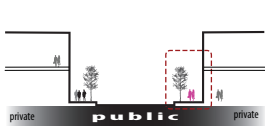
LOCATE: GPS ENABLED HERITAGE WALK MAP



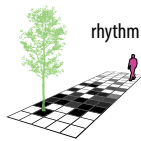
STRATEGY 2 Develop a framework for “storytelling” using the diverse characteristics of the physical environment as the context and setting. This can be done effectively by organizing the walk route into segments with similar physical characteristics and relating them to narrative themes.



STORYTELLING BASED ON HERITAGE WALK ROUTE SEGMENTS



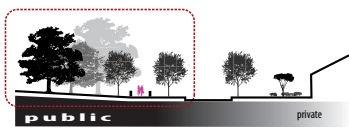
downtown segment
Wilmington, Blount, Hargett Streets



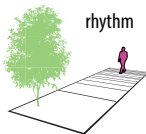
THEMES

Downtown core areas can highlight stories relating to:

- work and professional life; owning and operating a business; markets; shopping; theater and performances; entertainment; church and worship; being a college student and education

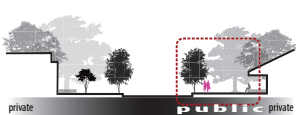


greenway segment
Chavis Way, John Chavis Memorial Park Edge, Fayetteville Street

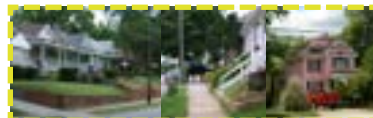
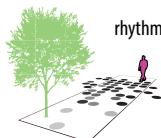


Greenway areas can highlight stories relating to:

- recreation; sports and exercise; playing; the neighborhood park; carousel; swimming pool; egg hunts; teenage frolick; negro league baseball



residential segment
MLK Blvd., East, Person, Bragg Streets



Residential areas can highlight stories relating to:

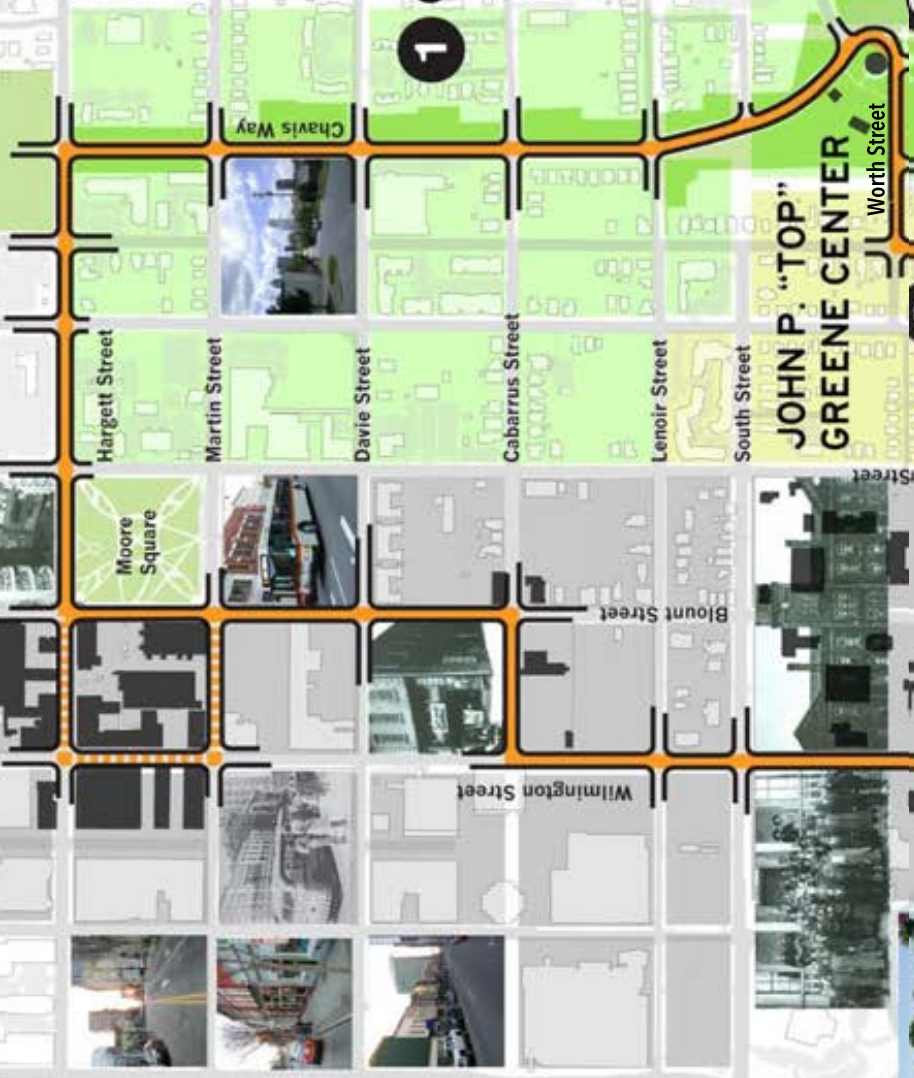
- family and traditions; growing up in the neighborhood; being parents and grandparents; cooking and food; holidays; walking to school; owning properties; building a house

SOUTH PARK PAGE WALK PLAN

CONCEPT



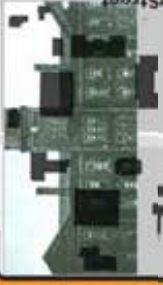
South Park-East Raleigh is not only a neighborhood – it is a family-oriented community. The historic South Park-East Raleigh neighborhood, where everybody knew everybody, was established as freedmen bought their own land, built homes, mastered trades or crafts, received education, and became business owners, doctors, educators, and elected officials. These early pioneers paved the way for future generations of community leaders who sought to advocate for the needs of the citizens and made impact on creating resources that promoted education, safety, and health for the residents of South Park. Their stories of empowerment and self-reliance taught the children of South Park to be independent and responsible not only for themselves, but for their community. A collaboration between the community and supported by volunteers, the South Park-East Raleigh Preservation and History Program was created to honor the contributions of the individuals who shaped the South Park-East Raleigh neighborhood. The proposed "South Park-East Raleigh Heritage Walk" concept brings to life the area's history from the perspectives of its residents, highlighting the importance of places and their influence on people's lives indicative of the independent spirit of this vibrant community.



1 CHAVIS WAY

JOHN P. "TOP" GREENE CENTER

Worth Street





SOUTH PARK HERITAGE WALK

PARTNERS: Several organizations have agreed to work together to make this vision a reality. They include:

- South Park - East Raleigh Neighborhood Association (SPERNA)
- Central Citizens Advisory Council
- City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department
- NCSU College of Design, Downtown Design Studio
- NCSU Linguistics Program
- Raleigh / Wake Chapter of NCCU Alumni Association
- Raleigh City Museum
- Richard B. Harrison Library
- Shaw University
- Gordon Smith, Business Community

VISION PLAN

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT AREAS:

1. Chavis Park
2. Chavis Park edge
3. John P. "Top" Greene Community Center
4. Person Street
5. Carolina Trailways
6. MLK / Wilmington intersection
7. Mt. Hope Cemetery edge

TORY PEOPLE PLACES EVENTS

Sometimes on Saturday my mother would take us or allow the older ones to go to the Theater to the Royal and the Lincoln. She liked the Lincoln. If she had money she would let us go to the movies occasionally.

Hargett Street was the "Little Harlem" I guess you could call it. Most of the businesses on Hargett Street were owned by blacks. Drugstores, barber shops, funeral directors and doctors. Everything you could think of was on Hargett Street. It was packed on Saturdays. After we got out of Washington School in the afternoon we would go straight to Hargett Street.

Teachers, doctors, lawyers ... South Park was a mecca for these kinds of people. Our pastor lived right around the corner. In this neighborhood according to the statistics that some of us got together. We had a high percentage of young people at my time that finished high school and finished college in South Park.

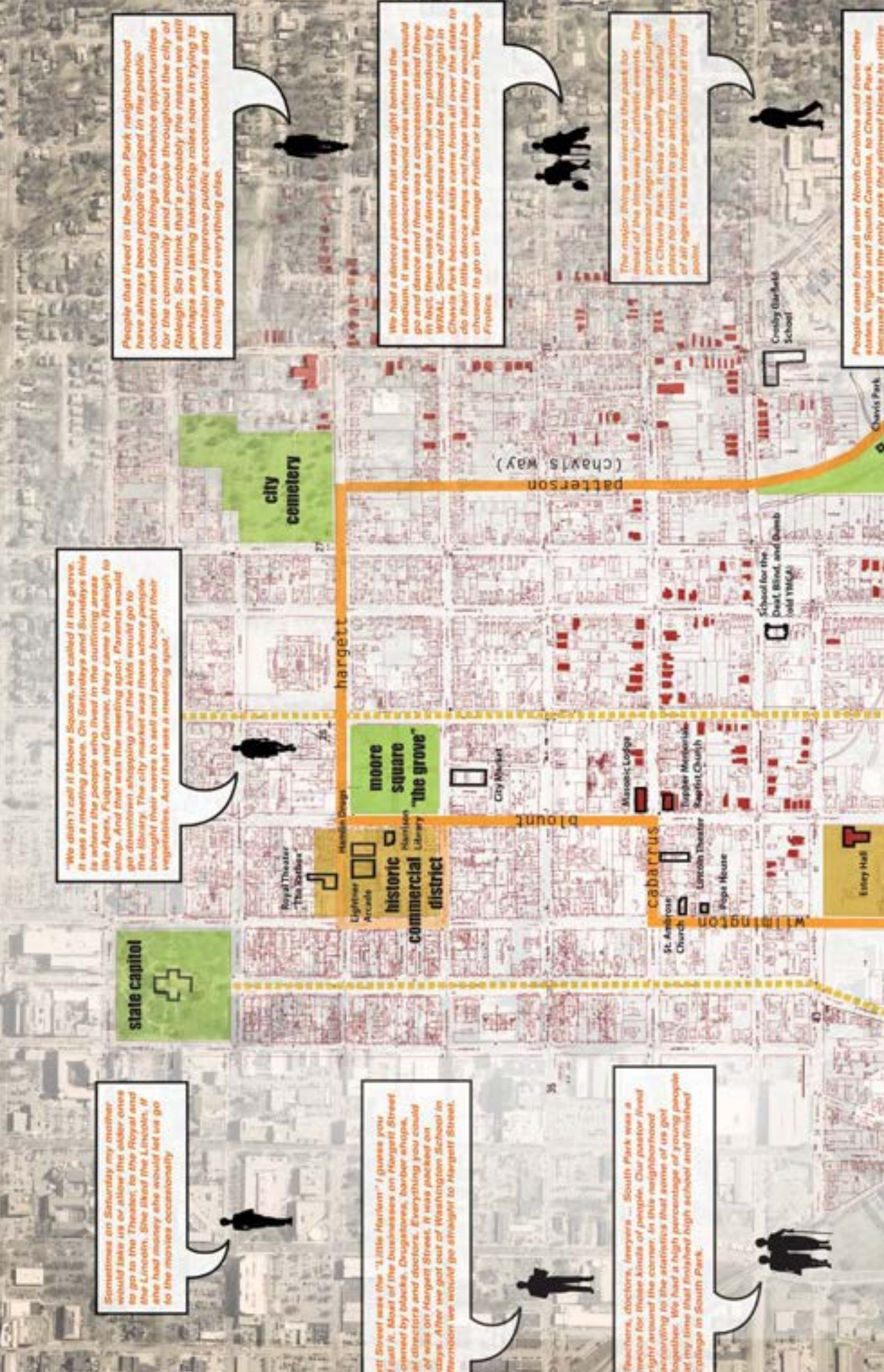
We didn't call it Moore Square, we called it the grove. It was a meeting place. On Saturdays and Sundays this is where the people who lived in the surrounding areas like Alpers, Fuquay and Garrison, they came to Hargett to shop. And that was the meeting spot. Parents would go downtown shopping and the kids would go to the library. The city market was there where people brought their wares to sell and people bought their vegetables. And that was a meeting spot.

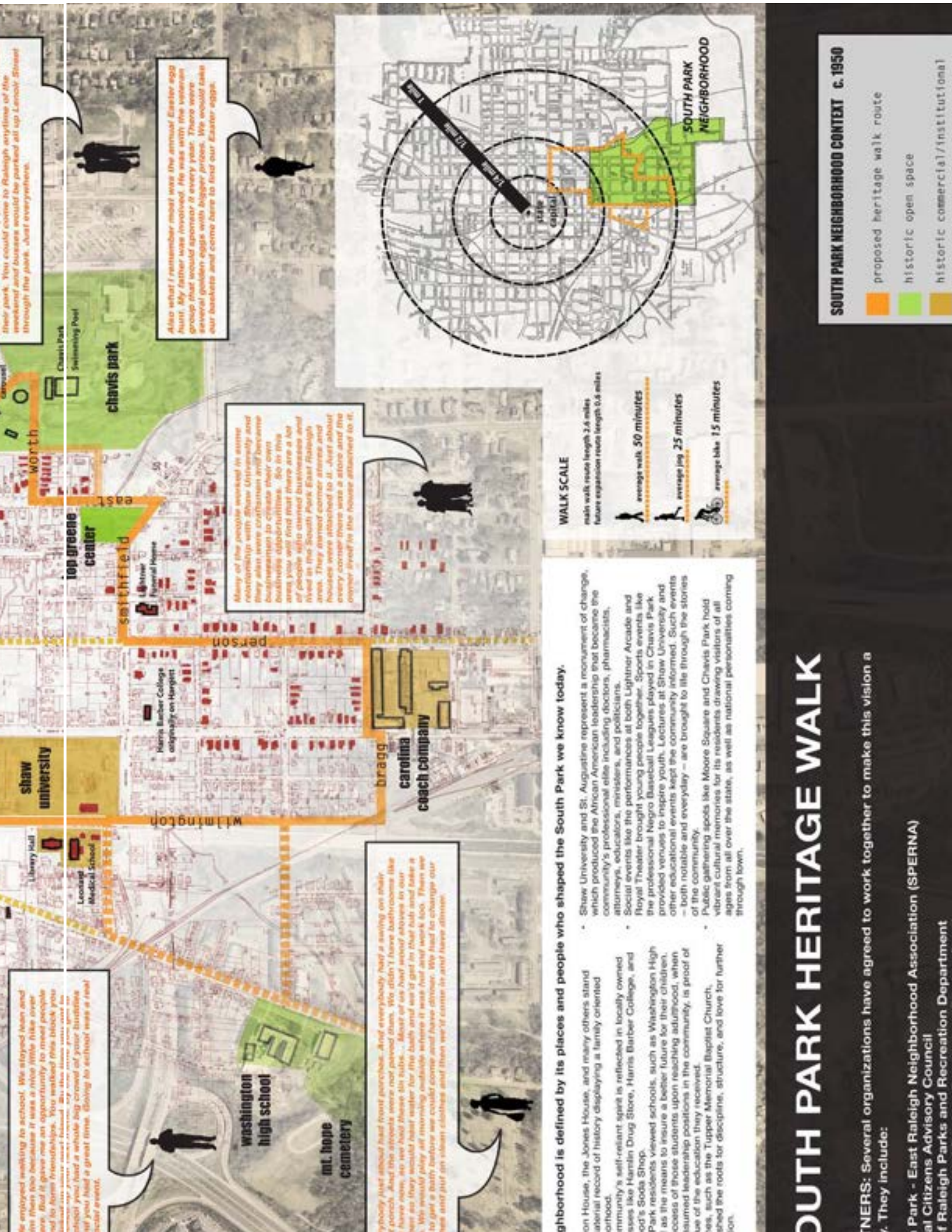
People that lived in the South Park neighborhood have always been people engaged in the public concern and doing things to enhance opportunities for the community and people throughout the city of Raleigh. So I think that's probably the reason we still perhaps are taking leadership roles now in trying to maintain and improve public accommodations and housing and everything else.

We had a dance pavilion that was right behind the stadium. It was a concrete round area where we would go and dance and there was a concession stand there. In fact, there was a dance show that was produced by WPTV. Some of those shows would be filmed right in Chavis Park because kids came from all over the state to do their little dance steps and hope that they would be chosen to go on Teenage Frolics or be seen on Teenage Frolics.

The major thing we went to the park for most of the time was for athletic events. The professional negro baseball league played in Chavis Park. It was a really wonderful place for families to go and to have activities of all ages. It was intergenerational at that point.

People came from all over North Carolina and from other states, Virginia and South Carolina, to Chavis Park, because it was the only place that allowed blacks to utilize





I enjoyed walking to school. We stayed near and in the two because it was a nice little hike over the hill. But it gave me an opportunity to meet people and to form friendships. You walked this block to school every day. I remember the first time you saw a school you had a whole big crowd of your buddies and you had a great time. Going to school was a real social event.



washington high school
m.l. hope cemetery

anybody just about had front porches. And everybody had a swing on their porch. And the streets were not paved then. We didn't have bathrooms like we have now, so we had these tin tubs. Most of us had relief valves in our yards so they would relief water for the bath and we'd get in that tub and take a bath. We would play all morning outside where it was hot and work too. There was to get a bath before we could come and have dinner. We had to change our clothes and put on clean clothes and then we'd come in and have dinner.



neighborhood is defined by its places and people who shaped the South Park we know today.

- Shaw University and St. Augustine represent a monument of change, which produced the African American leadership that became the community's professional elite including doctors, pharmacists, attorneys, educators, ministers, and politicians.
- Social events like the performances at both Lightner Arcade and Royal Theater brought young people together. Sports events like the professional Negro Baseball Leaguers played in Chavis Park provided venues to inspire youth. Lectures at Shaw University and other educational events kept the community informed. Such events – both notable and everyday – are brought to life through the stories of the community.
- Public gathering spots like Moore Square and Chavis Park hold vibrant cultural memories for its residents drawing visitors of all ages from all over the state, as well as national personalities coming through town.

SOUTH PARK HERITAGE WALK

SPERNA: Several organizations have agreed to work together to make this vision a reality. They include:

- East Raleigh Neighborhood Association (SPERNA)
- Raleigh Citizens Advisory Council
- Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department

their parents could come to Raleigh anytime of the weekend and business would be parked all up Lenox Street through the park. And everywhere.



chavis park

Also what I remember most was the annual Easter egg hunt. My father was involved. He was with the women group that would sponsor it every year. There were several golden eggs with bigger prizes. We would take our baskets and come here to find our Easter eggs.

Many of the people worked in some relationship with Shaw University and they also were craftsmen and became businessmen to create their own business opportunities. So in this area you will find that there are a lot of people who started businesses and lived in the South Park East Raleigh area. They started corner stores and houses were attached to it. Just about every corner there was a store and the owner lived in the house attached to it.



WALK SCALE

main walk route length 2.6 miles
future expansion route length 6.8 miles

average walk 50 minutes

average jog 25 minutes

average bike 15 minutes



SOUTH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT c. 1950

- proposed heritage walk route
- historic open space
- historic commercial/institutional



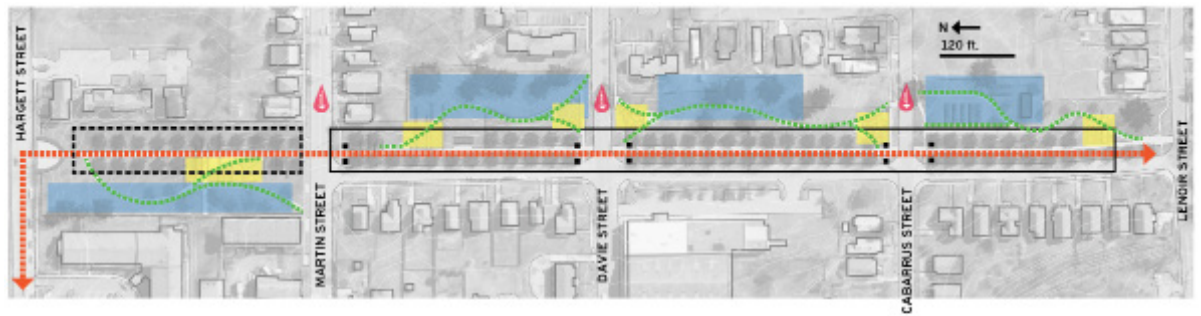
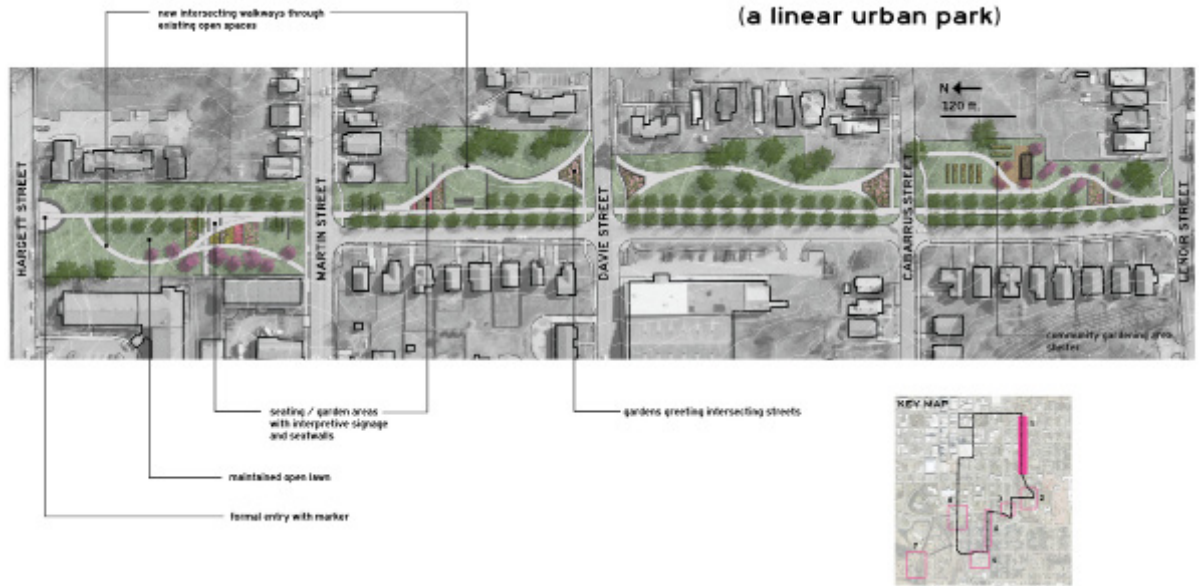
Chavis Way (above) present some of the contrasting physical characteristics currently found in the South Park East Raleigh neighborhood. On one hand, there are many beautiful, green, open spaces that have been preserved, but parts of the neighborhood have suffered from infrastructural development accommodating city growth over the years, fragmenting and isolating them along the way.

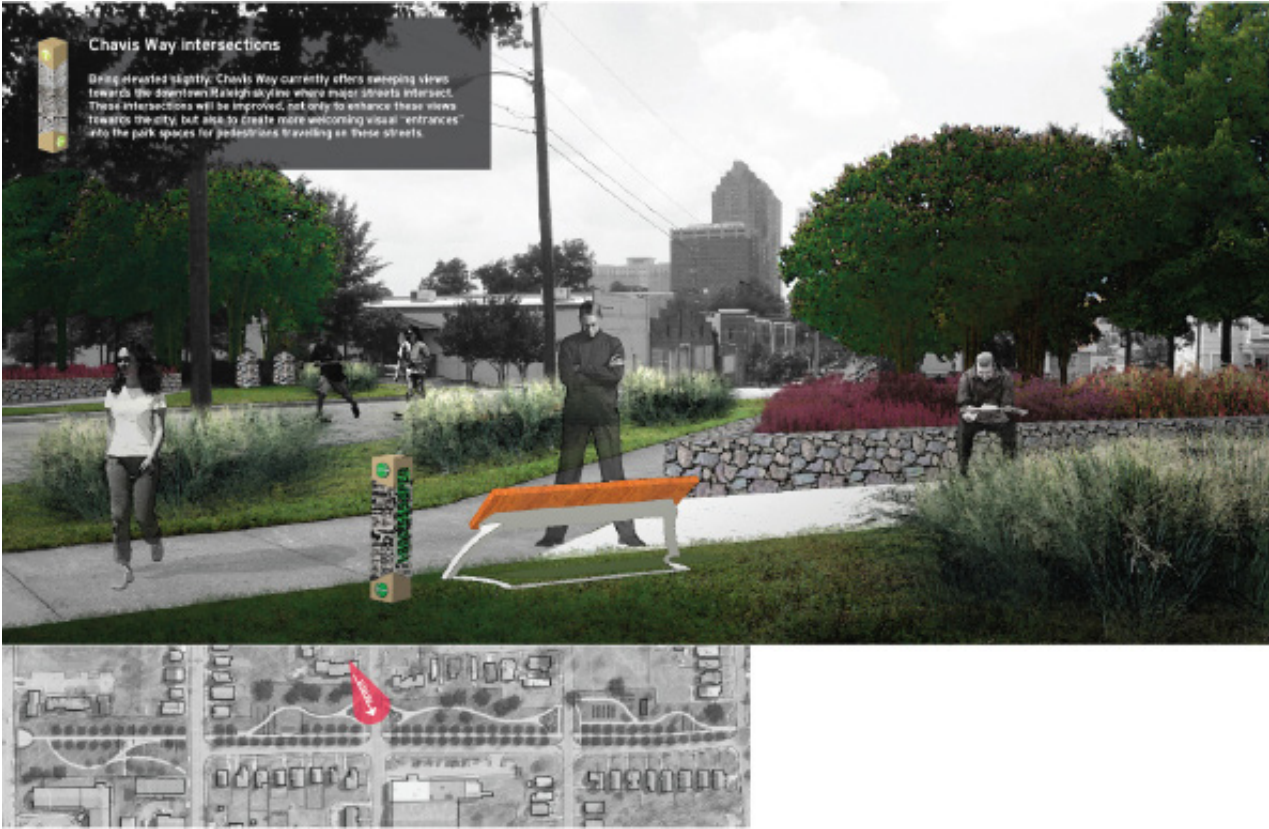
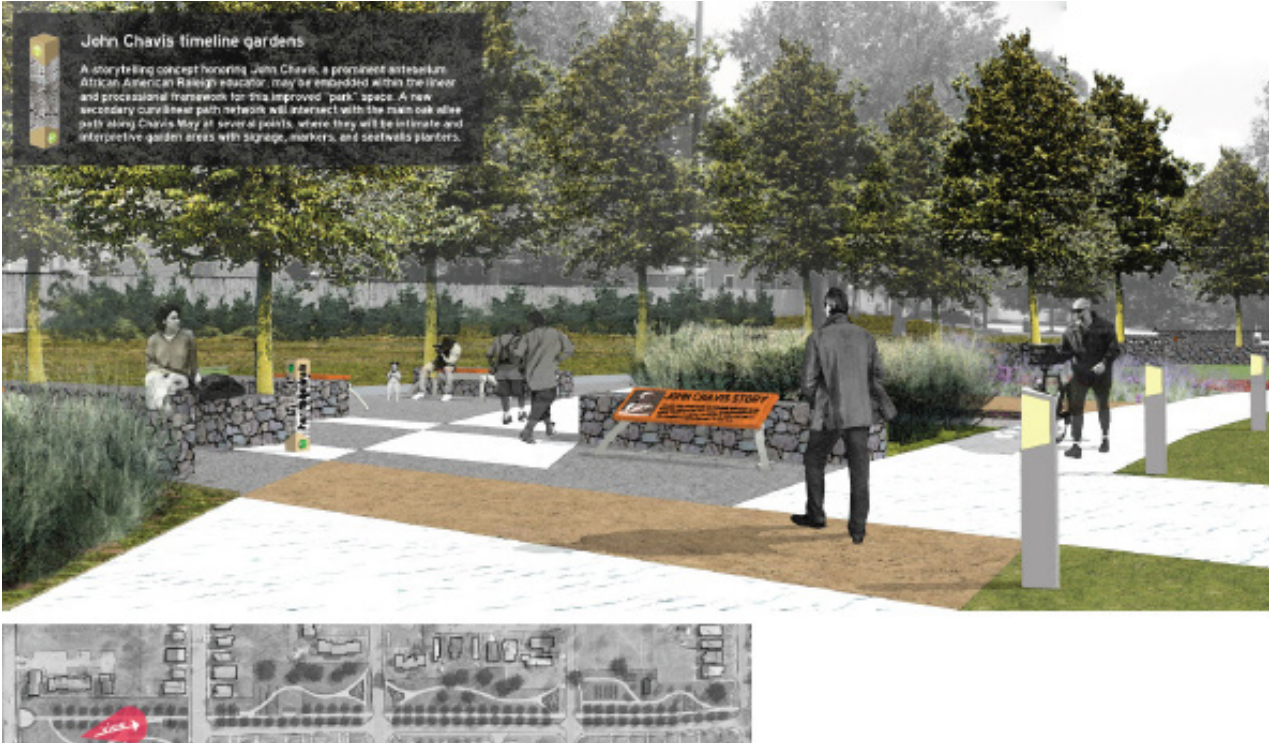
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT AREAS

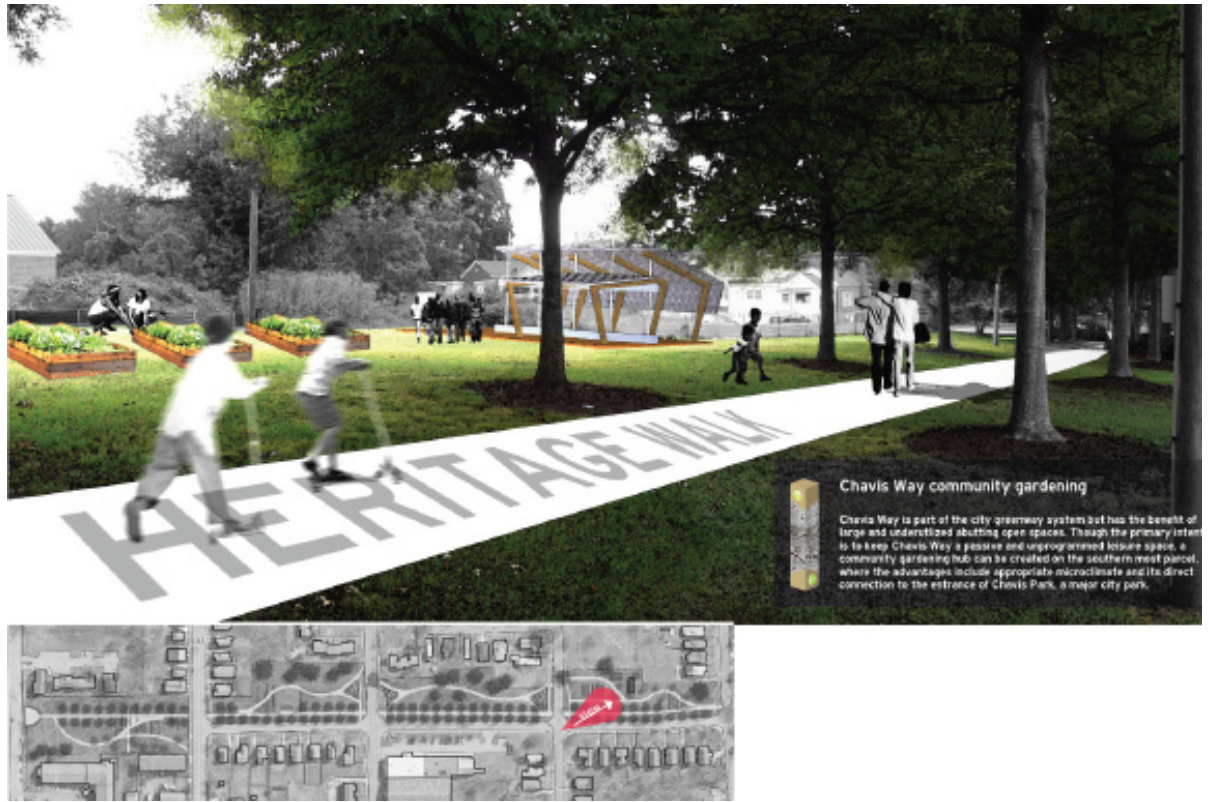
Chavis Way

Chavis Way is proposed to not only become a more significant gateway into John Chavis Memorial Park, but also a better utilized series of public spaces extending to City Cemetery. Currently, this linear open space consists of a memorial walk, formal tree plantings, and bollards referencing the “New Deal” Era stonework represented in John Chavis Memorial Park’s structures. The proposed condition includes secondary paths facilitating community circulation, gathering and seating spaces that complement the formal walk with informal social spaces. The Chavis Way pattern is proposed to extend through a current rearyard between The City Cemetery and the current Chavis Way, and anchoring that space with a memorial to John Chavis. This “missing link” would greatly enhance the connectivity, visibility, and perception of this significant linear open space.

1. CHAVIS WAY CONCEPTS (a linear urban park)







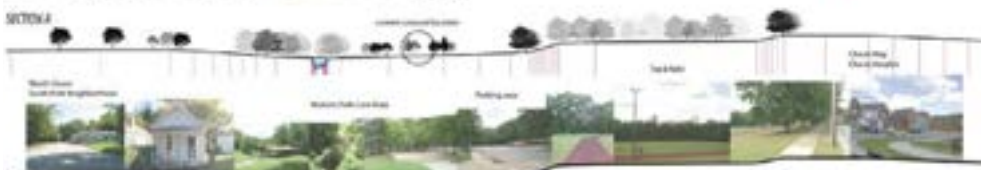
John Chavis Memorial Park Edge

John Chavis Memorial Park is the open space heart of the South Park East Raleigh community and its current condition is a point of great concern by residents. Their impression is that the historical and cultural stories which gave the park so much meaning to them are largely invisible to current park goers. The park itself is undergoing a master plan update. However, this vision plan makes recommendations to enhance the community edges, and the park’s role as a cultural landscape.

The edges of John Chavis Memorial Park are proposed to become more community-oriented, visible, and flexible public spaces that enhance recreation and leisure opportunities. Currently, John Chavis Memorial Park’s main access comes from the north via Chavis Way, and from the south via Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Through community engagement, the Worth Street entry (currently a pedestrian only entry) was the historic entry of the park, leading to a critical mass of cultural facilities. These included the No.2, Special Three Allan Herschell Alorcast Carousel (relocated in 2013), the Olympic-size pool (demolished), the miniature train (relocated), and “the piccolo” (demolished); a community jukebox and dance area. The vision plan proposes clarifying the Worth Street entry, and an additional entry at Cape Avenue to enhance access. At the Worth Street entry, interpretive elements commemorating the former “Heart of the Park” provide a gateway to visitors entering from the West. Additionally, retention and adaptive re-use of the original Carousel structure provide a sheltered setting for gatherings and other community activities.

Realignments of the current Capital Area Greenway moving through the park, as well as expansion of the underpass crossing MLK Boulevard, better integrate the greenway into the park and increase its perceived safety and potential use by community members. An enhanced definition of the park edge, using elements from “The New Deal” structures present in the park, will clarify the transition between community and park, highlight formal park entries, and enhance perceived boundaries defining the park.

The Park edge is defined by Little Rock Creek, an urban stream that was the place many South Park East Raleigh residents got their first experiences engaging nature. Currently, the creek edges have been transformed by NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources riparian buffer guidelines and a State of North Carolina conservation easement designed to improve water quality. The 50' buffer on each side of the stream, allowing ad hoc vegetation has negatively impacted the perception and use of park spaces along its edges. The vision plan proposes using stream buffers as a design opportunity to balance improved water quality with park perception and use. Borrowing a concept known as "cues to care", a more place-appropriate vegetation maintenance regime that can improve the perception and acceptance of naturalized areas, the vision plan proposes the use of specific plantings, mowing, and manicured landscape edges to better define park from stream uses, and minimize misperceptions of creek quality.



IMPROVEMENT AREAS



CHAVIS HEIGHTS, CHAVIS PARK c. 1940



- historic park core
- heritage walk routes

2. CHAVIS PARK EDGE IMPROVEMENTS



realigned greenway configuration to avoid fragmentation of open space (define edge + closer to stream)

"cues to care" stream edge naturalization

repositioned Chavis Park canopy structure (seater activity focus) + area enhancements

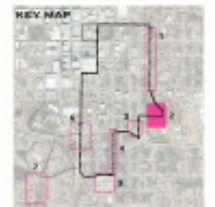
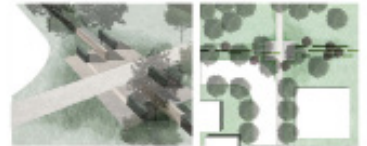
existing playground

new outdoor performance area at historic pool site

"cues to care" stream edge naturalization

existing poolhouse and pool

enhanced entry areas and defined neighborhood edge





Chavis Park Carousel

The old carousel in Chavis Park was the social and recreational heart of the old South Park neighborhood, stirring many memories among residents and is still a great source of pride today. Though there are plans to relocate the carousel within the park, this concept calls for keeping the original site of the carousel building and converting it to an activity center for seniors, as well as overall area landscape improvements with a heritage walk, info kiosk.



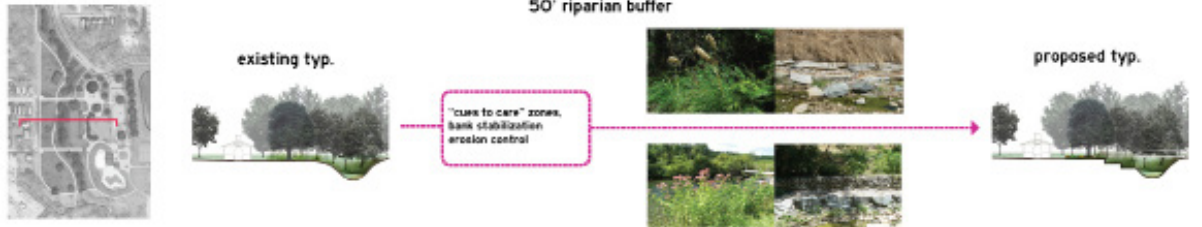
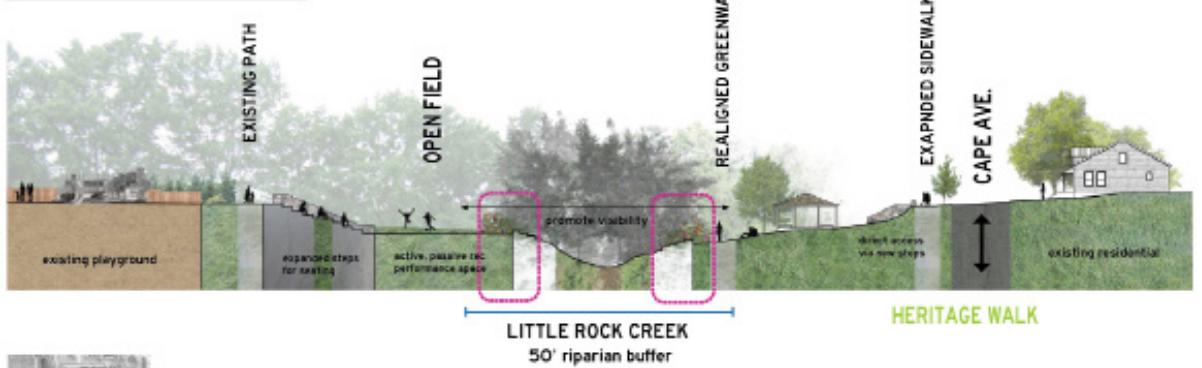
Chavis Park edge (Cape Avenue)

While there are existing park signs, the park lacks a tie to Cape Ave, which borders the neighborhood. Creating visual separation between park and neighborhood with areas with improved sightlines into the park will help strengthen the identity of Chavis Park as a historical open space.

CHAVIS PARK EDGE SECTION

30 ft.

Little Rock Creek modification
 After a successful restoration project in the 1990s, Little Rock Creek, which runs through Chavis Park, is an ecological asset for the park and the surrounding community. The new riparian area construction provides crucial flooding safety after several instances of flooding have occurred in the park. The "Creek to Care" pilot study will improve visibility and overall riparian bank stabilization and erosion control with a maintenance plan to promote a "maintain" and "unobscured" appearance of the edge.

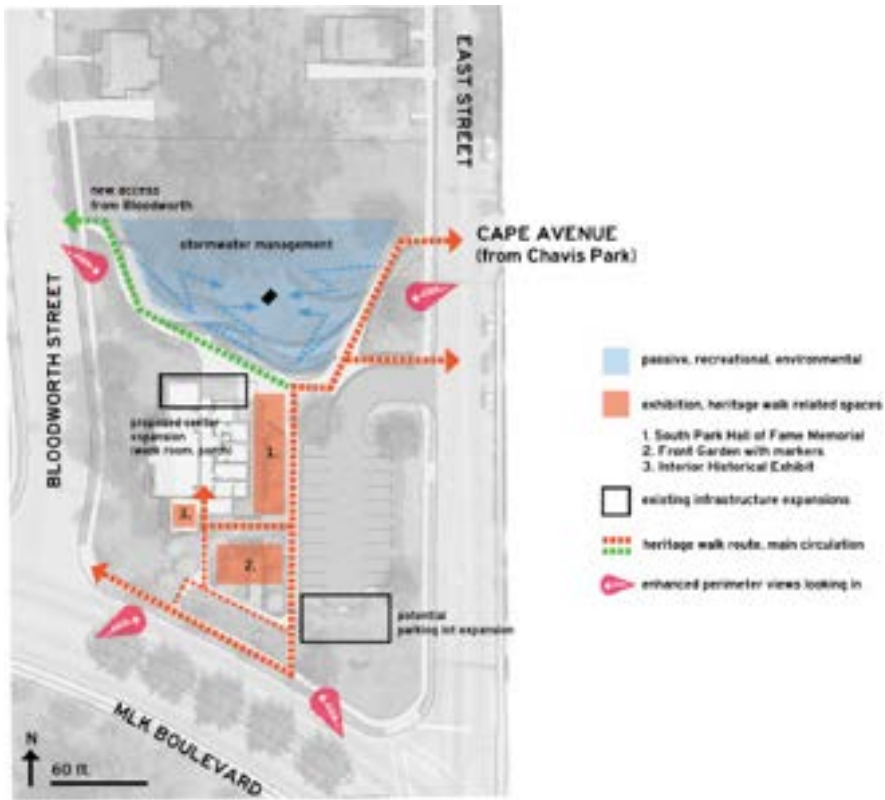


John "Top" Greene Community Center

The vision plan proposes adaptive reuse of the Top Greene Community Center including architectural and landscape enhancements. Currently, the landscape focuses on moving people from adjacent streets and off-street parking to the front door of the facility. The vision plan proposes defining gathering, interpretive, and educational spaces within the existing landscape. This includes the introduction of a community porch; a transition area that encourages gathering and highlights the entry to the

3. TOP GREENE CENTER CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





facility. Incorporation of historic artifacts including maps and markers can enhance the gathering area. The existing steep slopes on the facility's north side are recommended to serve as seating for educational activities as well as a storm-water management area.



Existing view of the John P. Top Greene Center site.



View of the proposed East Street entry to the John P. Top Greene Center site.

EAST STREET ENTRY (by CAPE AVENUE)
 view towards back of Top Greene Center
 entry garden walk
 terraced native wet gardens (stormwater BMP)

IMPROVEMENT AREAS

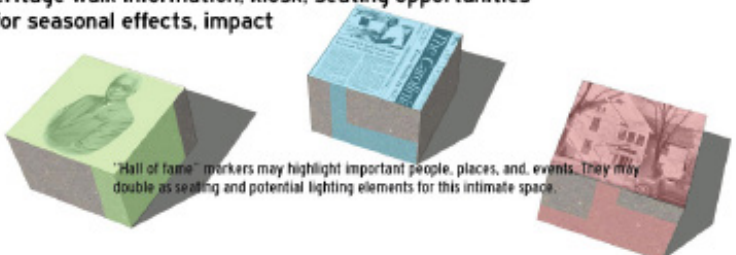


South Park "Hall of Fame" Memorial
 An underutilized area next to the community center building will be dedicated to a modest outdoor "memorial" highlighting notable people, places, and events of South Park on simple markers that may double as potential seating and lighting elements for this space. It is also designed as an outdoor "resting" area/gathering area along the heritage walk with informational, a potential kiosk, and other seating opportunities.



SOUTH PARK "HALL OF FAME" MEMORIAL

allows service access (deliveries, catering to back of building)
 semi - open area for heritage walk information, kiosk, seating opportunities
 small flowering trees for seasonal effects, impact



"Hall of fame" markers may highlight important people, places, and events. They may double as seating and potential lighting elements for this intimate space.



Enhanced Building Entry
 The front entry of the community center will receive a fresh, new public historical and interpretive marker. New designations will be introduced to differentiate this area from the rest of the site and will "welcome" the presence of an indoor exhibit from all directions. Reconstructed and new decorative markers will be placed strategically to guide people into the community center.



ENHANCED BUILDING ENTRY

new prominent signage and John Chavis Marker
 creation of a front garden
 vehicular arrival (adjacent to parking lot)
 continued presence of flowering trees



The old John Chavis Marker is reconstructed and reworked to create a focal point of the front garden for all to see.



View of the existing archives room located in John P. Top Greene Center.



View of the proposed exhibit display for the existing archives room.

Person Street

The vision plan proposes enhancing the streetscape of Person street and integrating a wide range of environmental and cultural elements. Stormwater Best Management Practices from the city’s “Green Streets” program improve water quality and enhance pedestrian crossings at intersections. In those areas, signage and other interpretive elements enhance the image of this important corridor in South

**4. PERSON STREET
STREETScape CONCEPT**

- curb extensions and plantings at intersections
- enhance walkability area pedestrian crossings traffic calms
- neighborhood and city green streets pilot
- consistent street tree plantings
- “front yard” grant program
- gateway street to downtown
- historical residential architecture
- NCDOT regulations (state road)
- traffic one-way north

HERITAGE WALK ROUTE

Maple Green Street

Though a busy city thoroughfare with heavy vehicular traffic, Person Street presents an open canvas for historical interpretation. Modern American residential architecture which inspired early 20th-century South Park. East Raleigh on the southern heritage region. Vegetated curb extensions of historic blocks with historic traffic calms measure with increased pedestrian friendliness. A consistent street tree planting strategy and consistent “front yard” grant program will help transform this “gateway” street into a main green street for the neighborhood and the city.

Park East Raleigh. Finally, restoration of the tree canopy provides shade and character to the area.

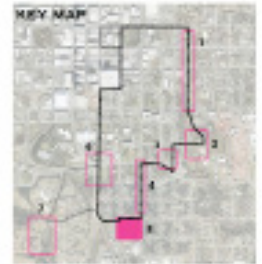
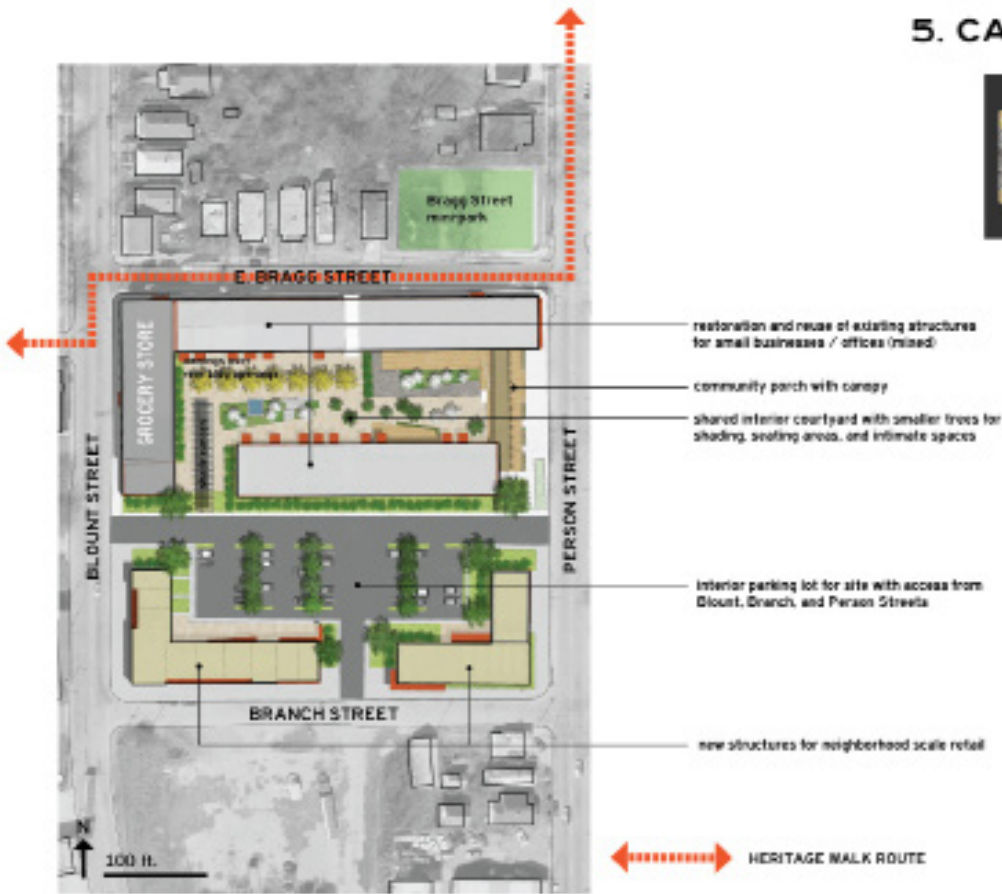
Carolina Trailways

Carolina Trailways is a vacant industrial/commercial facility at the southern end of the vision plan. The plan proposes adaptive reuse and new development to support the site as a community scaled mixed use center. South Park East Raleigh residents strongly advocate its transformation into a catalyst to spark broader area redevelopment for a small grocery and complimentary uses. The site is situated to accommodate this including off-street parking and loading requirements. Activating this site, and infusing it with interpretive elements is a significant proposal of the vision plan.

5. CAROLINA TRAILWAYS

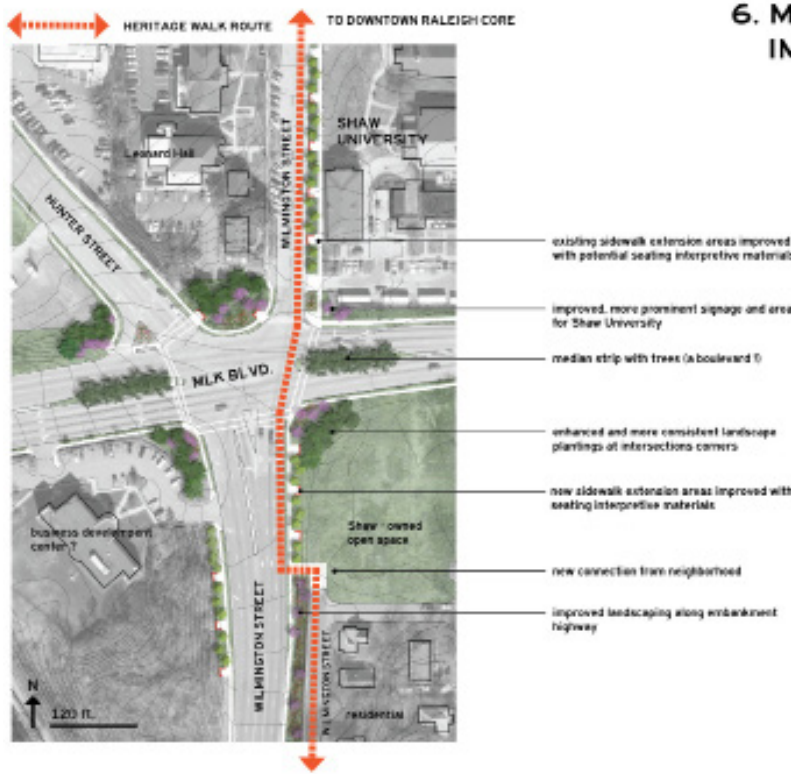
Neighborhood economic catalyst

Currently vacant, this "brownfield" site of the former Carolina Coach Co. can be transformed into a vibrant, historically inspired neighborhood mixed-use center, with a major grocery store as well as other needed neighborhood amenities. New buildings and renovated existing buildings will house the retail. The streets and parking will be situated in the interior. A shared courtyard with a demand "green" interior at Person Street will provide a great site atmosphere for transition for shoppers, workers, and even just pedestrians who visit the site.



MLK/Wilmington intersection

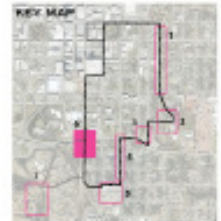
The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Wilmington street intersection is recognized by the community as a confusing intersection for drivers, and a hazardous one for pedestrians. In addition to being a critical link in the Heritage Walk, the intersection serves as a major southern gateway to Shaw University and downtown Raleigh. The vision plan proposes a combination of pedestrian safety features as well as better definition of the intersection through landscape elements. Incorporating recommendations from a concurrent study of MLK Blvd. the plan proposes combining vehicular efficiency, pedestrian comfort, and interpretive opportunities.



6. MLK BLVD. INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Walking through a city gateway

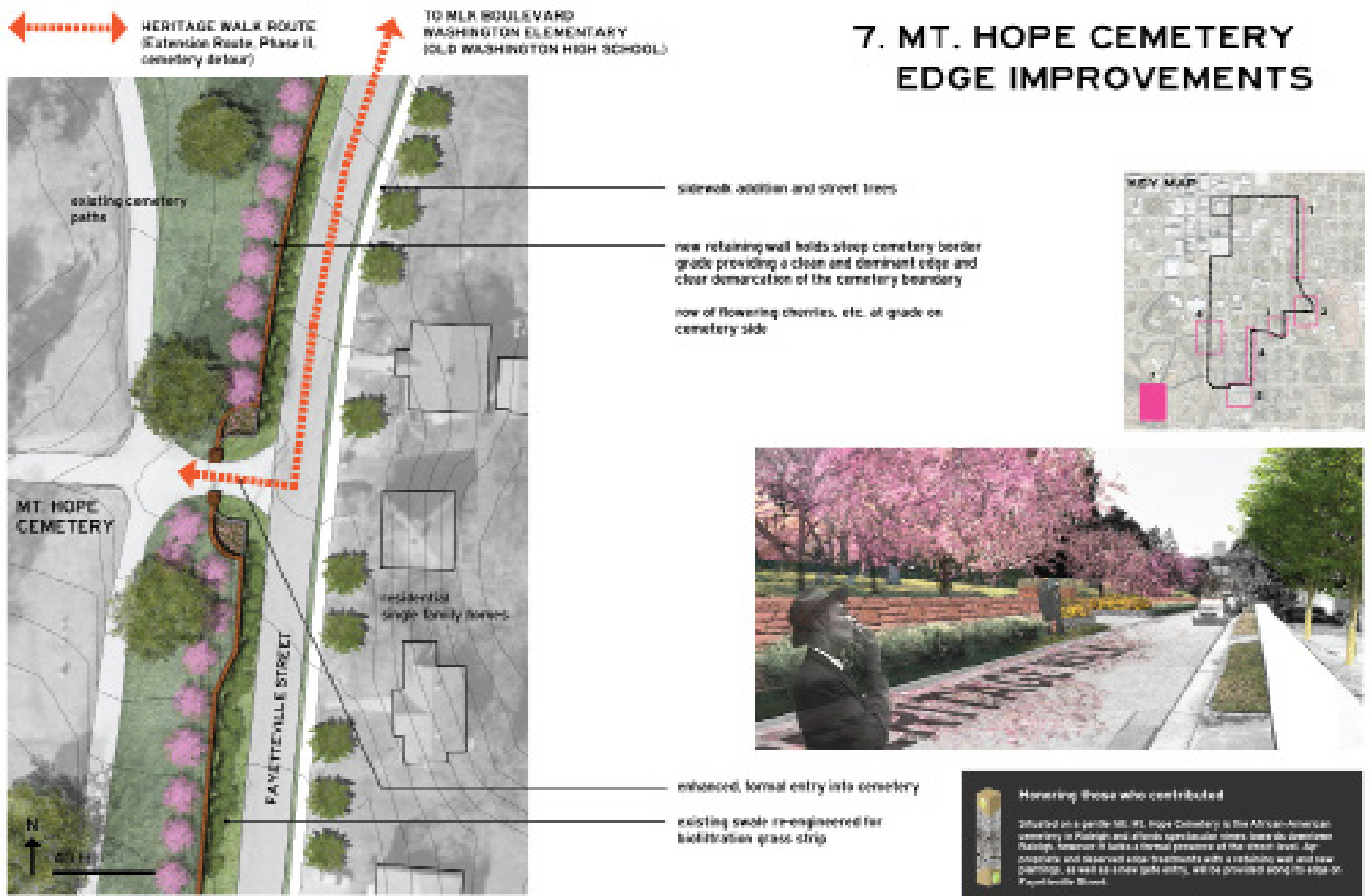
MLK Blvd poses a challenge to pedestrians who want to walk in this area and experience safety and safety of this intersection as a priority. As an "open" engineering project, MLK can offer to have a more protected median strip to drive through the neighborhood. In addition, intersection edges will be more consistent, landscaping treatments that provide a sense of "arrival" and "departure" to and from the design team through site. Concrete columns, located on the north side and the intersection on the south side and its area with seating elements. A new connection to the sidewalk will be provided at the Wilmington Dr. rest, which connects to a road end.



Mt. Hope Cemetery Edge

Mt. Hope Cemetery is a historically African American cemetery and a significant public space in the city. Currently, the landscape is degraded, having lost many canopy trees in tornado related damage. The Capital Area Greenway moves through the cemetery but is hidden from casual observation and lacks interpretive amenities. The vision plan proposes design strategies to more appropriately mark the edge of this important space. These strategies include using the materials associated with other community places like John Chavis Memorial Park to create visual continuity. Trees and other landscape elements are proposed to mark cemetery entries as well as define the edge between cemetery and city. Interpretive elements explaining the role of the place in the heritage walk are included.

7. MT. HOPE CEMETERY EDGE IMPROVEMENTS



Implementation Strategies

The Heritage Walk is a catalytic framework that preserves and highlights important historical resources, and keeps South Park - East Raleigh as a connected, viable, and influential partner in the future development of downtown Raleigh. The intent of the plan is to enable community sustainability, and economic development in the South Park East Raleigh Neighborhood.

Community Sustainability

The Heritage Walk provides a physical framework to leverage neighborhood partnerships promoting community sustainability. A sustainable community has unique assets that can enable all aspects of a healthy community life. A sustainable community has a sense of place, accommodates a diversity of residents, provides access to services fulfilling daily needs, is environmentally sound, and promotes social equity. And in the context of an existing neighborhood, a sustainable community also includes providing access to tools and resources for existing residents to stay and enjoy their community.

South Park East Raleigh has been designated one of Raleigh's first cultural districts. The proposed Heritage Walk serves as the organizing element defining the cultural district boundary. This will aid in the visibility of the area as a place for people to visit, learn, and join in community life. The Heritage Walk promotes a sense of place by offering a foundation for identifying, protecting, and interpreting cultural and historic landmarks in the community and offers meaningful places that can enhance community identity and communicate shared values. The Walk suggests enhancements to streets and public spaces can increase accessibility, community activity levels, and contribute to improved safety. The Walk identifies strategic places where reinvestment can enhance overall community life.

Economic development

The Heritage Walk identifies key opportunities to use enhancements in the public realm, and capacity building in community stakeholders, to enable complementary economic development. Although economic development is contingent on a range of factors, enhancing public spaces contributes positively to communicating a stable environment for reinvestment. Also, The Carolina Trailways and Top Greene Center sites are two places specifically referenced as targeted reinvestment opportunities.

Proposed Implementation Strategies

The implementation strategies (following) identify opportunities to fold Heritage Walk approaches into an emerging South Park East Raleigh cultural district. Recommended implementation strategies are organized in the following categories:

1. Historic designation and image enhancement
2. Community design
3. Public spaces
4. Connectivity
5. Signage and way finding
6. Marketing and promotion

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Historic Designation	Potential Partners	Potential Capital Costs?
<p>National Historic designation offers a range of revitalization and stimulus tools, including tax credits to spur investment in the area.</p> <p>Continue to identify and document historic places in the community to be included for designation.</p> <p>Concentrate on places adjacent to the Heritage Walk corridor.</p> <p>Increase community access to information, resources, and assistance to encourage resident participation and benefit from historic designation. This could include offering weatherization grants and other opportunities to offset the potential costs of historic place renovations.</p>	<p>The National Register of Historic Places, Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS), Historic American Building Survey (HABS), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), The Cultural Landscape Foundation, City of Raleigh.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
Community Design	Potential Partners	Potential Capital Costs?
<p>The Heritage Walk moves through different scales of communities and can leverage sustainable community design throughout the South Park East Raleigh Neighborhood.</p> <p>Participating in shaping policies which impact the qualities of the neighborhood showcased in the Heritage Walk, and advocating for compatible land use and built form strategies is important to the overall area.</p> <p>Collaborate with partners to increase community access to information about components of sustainable community design including accommodating the needs of diverse residents, working class families, the needs of youth and seniors in the emerging cultural district.</p> <p>Explore incentives to activate underutilized and vacant properties, targeting places along the Heritage Walk corridor. This could include community partnerships to pilot form-based code development strategies in the area.</p>	<p>City Planning, Economic Development, Central Citizens Advisory Council, Raleigh Housing Commission, Local Universities and Institutions, Private development community.</p>	<p>No</p>

Targeted sites for economic development can include:

Carolina Trailways

- Identify a forum to communicate to partners the community vision, environmental constraints, and market factors shaping the future of the site.
- Pursue mixed uses that can address current community needs, and catalyze neighborhood regeneration south of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Top Greene Center

- Identify partners to provide resources for an enhanced reading room and display area inside the current structure.
- Consider public-private partnerships to enable private fundraising to support building improvements.
- Collaborate with Parks and Recreation and Cultural Resources to refine site improvements including Heritage Walk trailhead amenities, and interpretive settings.

Public Spaces	Potential Partners	Potential Capital Costs?
<p>The Heritage Walk is almost entirely within the public realm and is contingent on the ability to transform public spaces. Although there is an adequate quantity of spaces, the enhanced diversity, programming, and integration of these spaces should be pursued.</p> <p>In John Chavis Memorial Park, explore the adaptive reuse and interpretation of the original Carousel pavilion, as well as its integration into the revised master plan for the park. Develop a strategy to create support facilities including bathrooms and small concessions in the north part of the park.</p> <p>Partner with NCDENR to pilot urban stream naturalization guidelines to enhance the image and use of park spaces adjacent to Little Rock Creek. And pursue strategies to insert compatible interpretive elements in the park. A park conservancy approach may be appropriate to John Chavis Memorial Park to enhance city/community collaboration, as well as provide resources to this significant space.</p> <p>In City Cemetery and Mt. Hope Cemetery, support ongoing efforts to restore landscape elements destroyed during recent storms.</p> <p>Incentivize archeological study of unmarked African American grave sites. Consider enhanced community access and interpretation of the cemetery, as well as visitor facilities like seating, signage, etc.</p>	<p>City Planning, Parks and Recreation and Cultural Resources, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Trust for Public Land, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), North Carolina Division of Water Quality and Ecosystem Management</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Connectivity	Potential Partners	Potential Capital Costs?
<p>Walking, biking, and other nonmotorized transportation are the most important modes considered for the Heritage Walk.</p> <p>Analyze the accessibility and quality of the walking and biking experience, target conflict areas and potential enhancement projects, and leverage resources to promote a continuous and comfortable experience for Heritage Walk users. Promote the Heritage Walk as a pilot study for urban greenway enhancement in the upcoming Capital Area Greenway plan update. This could include collaboration with residents in the routing and guidelines for urban greenways throughout the area.</p> <p>Consider additional programming and complementary uses along Chavis Way.</p> <p>Pursue strategies to enhance the Martin Luther King Jr. underpass, and analyze the greenway alignment moving through John Chavis Memorial Park. Advocate for an extension of Chavis Way to the City Cemetery and include a landmark to recognize John Chavis along Chavis Way Route.</p> <p>Pursue State collaboration to implement complete streets approaches to existing streets in the community. Adjusting travel lane widths, traffic speeds, and on-street parking requirements in the interest of pedestrian and bicycle comfort could promote use of the Heritage Walk while enhancing community image and safety.</p> <p>Target key intersections along the Heritage Walk for pilot projects. Consider shared bike use lanes and supporting infrastructure (in coordination with city-wide improvements). Advocate for transit improvements prioritizing linkages to Union Station. Consider bus amenities as Heritage Walk interpretive opportunities, and partner with the city and local artists to enhance transit amenities throughout the area.</p>	<p>North Carolina Department of Transportation, Golden Leaf Foundation, North Carolina Arts Council, Local Universities and Institutions, City of Raleigh</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Signage and Wayfinding	Potential Partners	Potential Capital Costs?
<p>Helping visitors and residents navigate the Heritage Walk is critical to its success.</p> <p>Clarify and refine strategies for an integrated interpretive system including South Park East Raleigh and City-wide standards. Include key Heritage Walk destinations in the City wide signage program.</p> <p>Develop a South Park East Raleigh standard for more site specific interpretation. This includes the potential for web-based and online integration in site wayfinding.</p> <p>Include placemaking principles; using landscape elements, furnishing, public art, and other features to identify destinations and routes along the Heritage Walk.</p> <p>Coordinate with Raleigh's percent-for-art program to implement interpretive public art with City public facility improvements in the area.</p>	<p>North Carolina Department of Transportation, Golden Leaf Foundation, North Carolina Arts Council, City of Raleigh Arts Commission, Local Universities and Institutions, City of Raleigh</p>	<p>Yes</p>
Marketing and Promotion	Potential Partners	Potential Capital Costs?
<p>Communicate the brand, image, and content of the Heritage Walk broadly to the city and tourism communities. Build from the brand and image piloted by the South Park East Raleigh Preservation and History Program.</p> <p>Review and convert Heritage Walk and other history advocacy materials into formats more readily accessible to tourism specialists.</p> <p>Build the capacity of community residents to communicate the history of the area to visitors, and potentially lead their own tours of Heritage Walk elements. Fold the Heritage Walk route into existing City tourism planning and routes.</p> <p>Promote the Heritage Walk to city visitors, especially groups interested in learning about African American culture and history in the City.</p>	<p>City Planning, Economic Development, Central Citizens Advisory Council, Raleigh Housing Commission, Local Universities and Institutions, Private development community.</p>	<p>No</p>

Appendix

Framework for Exhibition Theme and Design

One of the major goals of the SPERNA initiative is to develop the Archives Room in the John P. “Top” Greene Center into an exhibition area that celebrates and affirms the contributions of African Americans to the city’s development by presenting the stories and documents about the significant events, people and places. The entire site from outdoors to indoors is intended to perform as an educational site. Landscaping features will aim to provide an intimate, functional, and experiential space as a focal point in the neighborhood.

The underlying purpose of the indoor exhibition design is to educate the exhibition visitors about South Park - East Raleigh community with the maximum exposure to stories presented by photographs, documents, letters, flyers, posters, quotes, newspaper clips, and similar artifacts that have been donated by community members over time. Its main goals include:

- Honoring and remembering the valuable contributions of African-American citizens of South Park - East Raleigh neighborhood;
- Capturing and recording the memories and recollections of the residents of South Park-East Raleigh neighborhood;
- Educating and inspiring the younger generations through the stories of people who lived and contributed to the community by their remarkable achievements.

The exhibition design took under consideration the room size together with the expected educational goals and visitors experience in the exhibition space. As a result, design concepts were developed that reinforced the exhibit theme and circulation. Key elevations (wall surfaces) will be assigned to key themes including, exhibition introduction, places, people, and events. Interactive exhibit elements including audiovisual pieces and touch screen are also part of the proposed exhibit concept. These broad categories provide an accommodating framework that connects the collective cultural assets of the South Park-East Raleigh neighborhood, and allows them to be displayed on a flexible hanging system that is adaptable according to curricular or programmatic content - e.g. from schools or guided tours.

The current archives room is intended to be used as the future permanent exhibition room in the center. The space is very limited with its size and wall surfaces. The room is also intended to be used as a future meeting space by the SPERNA committee. As a result of the introduced limitations, “salon-style” exhibit concept was proposed where each artifacts will be hung in close proximity to one another at different levels on the walls. This arrangement will allow the exhibit visitors to think more about the pieces on its own, as well as in relation to each other. Three dimensional delicate pieces (e.g. books) will also be exhibited within enclosed pedestals.

APPENDIX: EXHIBIT ROOM

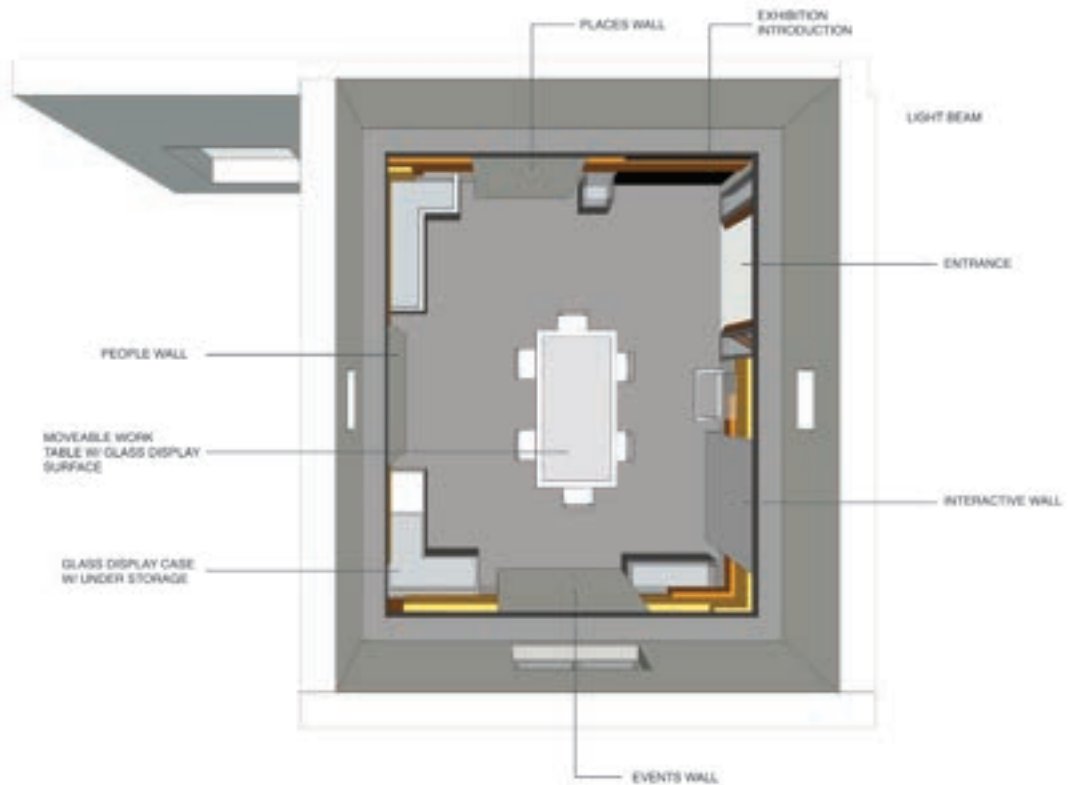


Exhibit Introduction

South Park-East Raleigh is not only a neighborhood – it is a family-oriented community. The historic South Park-East Raleigh neighborhood, where everybody knew everybody, was established as freedmen bought their own land, built homes, mastered trades or crafts, received education, and became business owners, doctors, educators, and elected officials. These early pioneers paved the way for future generations of community leaders who sought to advocate for the needs of the citizens and made impact on creating resources that promoted education, safety, and health for the residents of South Park. Their stories of empowerment and self-reliance taught the children of South Park to be independent and responsible not only for themselves, but for their community.



A collaboration between the community and supported by volunteers, the South Park-East Raleigh Preservation and History Program was created to honor the contributions of the individuals who shaped the South Park-East Raleigh neighborhood. The exhibition design brings to life the area's history from the perspectives of its residents, highlighting the PEOPLE, PLACES and EVENTS indicative of the independent spirit of this vibrant community.

Quotes:

"The people made the neighborhood. People were friendly. They knew each other and it was just a remarkable place to live. Back when I grew up you couldn't live all over Raleigh, you had to live here. We just became a big family. We lived together, we worked together, we prayed together, we cried together. We just were together. I knew everybody in South East Raleigh back in those days. We were just a big family."

"People that lived in the South Park neighborhood have always been people engaged in the public concern

and doing things to enhance opportunities for the community and people throughout the city of Raleigh. So I think that's probably the reason we still perhaps are taking leadership roles now in trying to maintain and improve public accommodations and housing in everything else."
 "Since the 1900s there has been leadership and assertiveness in this neighborhood and it has not changed. Like my pop Top Greene, he was not a politician, he was like me, a community activist. And his primary concern was what is mine now which is preserving South Park and trying to be a support to the neighborhood to make sure that people have a fair opportunity to have a quality of life here."

Places

South Park neighborhood is defined by its places. The Lyon House, the Jones House, and many others stand as a material record of history displaying a family oriented neighborhood. The community's self-reliant spirit is reflected in locally owned businesses like Hamlin Drug Store, Cumbo's Barber Shop, and Haywood's Soda Shop.

South Park residents viewed Lucille Hunter School, John W. Ligon Jr. Sr. High School, St. Monica School, and Washington High School as the means to insure a better future for their children. The success of those students upon reaching adulthood, when they assumed leadership positions in the community, is proof of the value of the education they received.

Churches, such as the Tupper Memorial Baptist Church, established the roots for discipline, structure, and love for further education.

Shaw University and St. Augustine's College represent a monument of change, which produced the African American leadership that became the community's professional elite including doctors, pharmacists, attorneys, educators, ministers, and politicians.

The Raleigh Safety Club was the place to promote health and safety in the neighborhood by offering a variety of training and social services.

Public gathering spots like John Chavis Memorial Park hold vibrant cultural memories for its residents drawing visitors of all ages from all over the state, as well as national personalities coming through town.

Quotes:

"John Chavis Memorial Park had all kinds of activities. The major thing that we went to the park for most of the time was athletic events. The athletic field, stadium, was there. Ligon High School games, Shaw University and St. Augustine's College games were played there. And even as a young kid my daddy would bring me to baseball games over there. The professional Negro Baseball Leagues played in John Chavis Memorial Park. It was really a wonderful place for families to go and to have activities of all ages. It was intergenerational at that point."

"John Chavis Memorial Park provided jobs for a lot of young folks here in the city. There are lots of folks still reminiscing about their time working here, running the train, running the carousel, being lifeguards or running the swimming pool. It created an opportunity for folks in the neighborhood to have jobs and for children at an early age to learn how to be responsible with part time employment when they weren't in school."

"My time growing up I had to walk down the railroad tracks to get to the school that was elementary, middle and high all in one. It was called Washington High, or Washington Everything School. There were many things that we did that left an impression on me such as the atmosphere in that school. Actually as I look back those were some of the best days that we had. I came along when there were better times."

"Hargett Street was the 'Little Harlem' I guess you could call it. Most of the businesses on Hargett Street were owned by blacks: drugstores, barber shops, funeral directors, doctors... Everything you could think

of was on Hargett Street. Saturdays it was packed. After we got out of Washington School in the afternoon we would go straight to Hargett Street.”

“Sometimes on Saturday my mother would take us or allow the older ones to go to the Theater... to the Royal and the Lincoln. She liked the Lincoln. If she had money she would let us go to the movies occasionally.”

“...We didn’t call it Moore Square we called it Grove. The Grove. It was a meeting place. On Saturdays and Sundays this is where the people who lived in the outlining areas like Apex, Fuquay, and Garner, they came to Raleigh to shop. And that was the meeting spot. Parents would go downtown for shopping and whatever and kids would go to the library. The City Market was there where people brought their wares to sell and people brought vegetables. And that was a meeting spot...”

People

The people of South Park-East Raleigh were educators, doctors, dentists, athletes, librarians, lawyers, police officers, and business owners. The efforts of early leaders and community activists such as John Chavis, Henry Tupper, Lawrence Macauga Cheek, Manassa Thomas Pope, John P. “Top” Greene, John Ligon, Anna Julia Cooper, Calvin Lightner, and many others, shaped the South Park we know today. Their diligent work and dedication to their community taught the children of South Park how to be a good citizen.

Quotes:

“Teachers, doctors, lawyers, South Park was a Mecca for those kinds of people. Our pastor lived right around the corner. Five of my teachers lived right around the corner. In this neighborhood... we had a high percentage of young people at my time that finished high school and finished college in South Park.”

“The original Chavis Heights was something that Charles Haywood Senior, we would call him Doll Haywood (the founder of Haywood Funeral Home) was instrumental in developing the first public housing in the city of Raleigh for African Americans. There’s a picture we have in our archives room as well as up in



Haywood Funeral Home that shows him at the ground breaking for the original Chavis Heights.”

“John Baker, who was later Sheriff Police here in Raleigh, used to be the one to collect money and run the merry-go-round. We used to pester him to go in free. Sometimes he let us sometimes he wouldn’t. We used to pester, ‘Big John, let me ride I don’t have a nickel.’ And we would beg him. He looked real mean and rough and then he would say, ‘Go ahead on girls.’ I enjoyed this merry-go-round. I could stay on it all day.”

Events

Political events made history, like when Clarence Lightner ran for office as the first African-American mayor. Social events like the performances at both Lightner Arcade and Royal Theater brought young people together. Sports events like the professional Negro Baseball Leagues played in John Chavis Memorial Park provided venues to inspire youth. Lectures at Shaw University and other educational events kept the community informed. Such events – both notable and everyday – are brought to life through the stories of the community.

Quotes:

“The Pavilion was a dance area with a concession stand. All the teenagers came to dance whether the concrete was hot or not. We came in the evenings so we could dance. We were a little older then. So it was a great thrill. We became the teenagers to dance on this Pavilion. This is where we would meet our friends and then we would walk back home. The walk was probably about a mile but it was not a big deal. We had to get there.”

“This is the Chavis Way entrance from Lenoir Street. Parades would come in from Lenoir Street. It would start at downtown Fayetteville Street all the way back down to here. It would be Ligon High School, the Shriners Parade, and Washington High School. The bands would come through here. They would march all the way along there and people would be lining along the streets. The kids excited about the movement, the music, it was just wonderful. The cars, the beautiful floats, the children and adults, it was a community park.”



"Also what I remember most was the annual Easter egg hunt. My father was involved. He was with the veteran group that would sponsor it every year. There were several golden eggs with bigger prizes. We would take our baskets and come here to find our Easter eggs."

"This is the Chavis Way entrance from Lenoir Street. Parades would come in from Lenoir Street. It would start at downtown Fayetteville Street all the way back down to here. It would be Ligon High School, the Shriners Parade, and Washington High School. The bands would come through here. They would march all the way along there and people would be lining along the streets. The kids excited about the movement, the music, it was just wonderful. The cars, the beautiful floats, the children and adults, it was a community park."

"A big event was graduation.. [at Washington High]. People would come from all over Wake County to see the graduation. That was big."

"Where the stadium was located we played all kinds of sports over there. The Negro Baseball League also played there. I think about when we were having games we would always hear the voice of JD Luis who was the radio announcer who would ride through the city of Raleigh with his mega system announcing, 'Ball game tonight! Ball game tonight!' And he would just call and remind people that there was a ball game. There were always just floods and floods of people here because we didn't have email back then."

Interaction

This wall section will include a video/audio system together with touch screen media that will allow the visitors to further listen to oral history interviews, as well as interact with the virtual South Park-East Raleigh neighborhood map. This system will also inform the visitors about the upcoming events and activities in the area.



Future Recommendations for Expansion

The current archives room provides a limited opportunity for the SPERNA committee to store artifacts donated for the exhibition. Therefore, the committee also wanted to explore the possibility of an expansion to the center that will accommodate a separate workspace and storage area for the committee's purposes. The followings illustrates the expansion at the rear side of the building providing a controlled secondary entry into the building.



EAST STREET ENTRY (by CAPE AVENUE)
view towards back of Top Greene Center WITH ADDITION
entry garden walk
terraced native wet gardens (stormwater BMP)