Raleigh’s Black History: Biltmore Hills Study
Wednesday, May 11 | 6:30 p.m.
Thank you

- Part 1- Talk
- Part 2- Listen
Talk

- Scope of Work
- What is a survey
- Why survey
- What survey has been done
- Why an African American survey
- What are the products
An architectural survey update of historic buildings, sites, and neighborhoods important to African American history and heritage. This project will identify and document properties that have not been surveyed previously. Special emphasis will be placed on documenting churches and entertainment venues constructed between 1945 and 1975, properties associated with the Civil Rights Movement, and properties designed/constructed by African American architects and building professionals. The Biltmore Hills neighborhood also will be documented during this project. Raleigh’s 1975 municipal limits define the Study Area, which comprises roughly 33,000 acres.
Historic Preservation Methodology

Document
Evaluate
Treat
• What exists?
• Where is it? (mapping)
• What does it look like? (photos)
• What are the basic facts? (address, age, type of construction, type of resource)
Evaluate (this is why we survey)

- Is this significant?
- Why is it significant?
- What story does it tell?
- Is it more significant than other resources?
- Has it been altered and to what extent?
Treat (this is also why we survey)

- Designate (National Register, Local Landmark)
- Rehabilitate
- Document intensively
- Plan
- Interpret
- Protect (easement, covenant)
- Celebrate
What survey has been done?

- Comprehensive Survey Phases 1 & 2 (1992)
- Comprehensive Survey Phase 3 (1992)
- Selective Survey Update (2017)
There are 4664 records for properties in the city of Raleigh in the state survey database.
Why an African American Survey?
6th. That the premises shall not be occupied by negroes or persons of mixed or negro blood; provided, that this shall not be construed to prevent the living upon the premises of any negro servant, whose time is employed for domestic purposes by the occupants of the dwelling-house.

7th. All covenants binding upon the party of the second part, except con-
A consequence of the establishment and later destruction of Jim Crow laws was the creation of strong African American communities and resources, that were then often undercut and destroyed by integration.
What are the products?

- Fieldwork and Survey
- Conduct up to 10 oral history interviews
- Prepare narratives that incorporate property-specific history gathered from field work, archival research, previous surveys, reports, or other historical documentation completed in the area
- Identify themes or locations related to African American history and heritage where there are gaps in knowledge
- Identify properties for placement on the State’s Study List
Winters built legacy in Raleigh

First black councilman nurtured home ownership

BY CINDY GEORGE
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH – John Wesley Winters Sr., a developer who remade Southeast Raleigh and later became the first black City Council member and one of the first black state senators of the 20th century, died Sunday. He was 84.

Winters had advanced Parkinson’s disease and succumbed at an Atlanta hospital.

His life was an eclectic mix of passion and pure hustle, from his young adult days as an amateur boxer in New York City, to his political career brokering Raleigh’s responses in the pivotal years of the civil rights era.

In the 1950s, Winters worked as a milkman and a scrapyard to support his family while nurturing his dream of building houses in Southeast Raleigh’s black community.

He scrimped and saved his tips from the airport to start his company, paying cash for a doorknob here or a piece of lumber there.

John W. Winters & Co. opened in 1957 on East Martin Street and built more homes every year. He expanded to land development in 1960.

Winters envisioned a wooded area off Garner Road as a neighborhood of affordable homes for middle class blacks. There, he developed Biltmore Hills, naming the streets for famous blacks.
Listen

• General Questions?
• Whom should we interview?
• What places should we record?
• Any suggested places to research?
• Any places that don’t exactly fit the scope that we should note?
Listen

• General Questions?
Listen

• Whom should we interview?
Special emphasis will be placed on documenting churches and entertainment venues constructed between 1945 and 1975, properties associated with the Civil Rights Movement, and properties designed/constructed by African American architects and building professionals.
Listen

• What places should we record?
  Neighborhoods, churches, entertainment venues, Civil Rights landmarks
Are there any important black history sites, places, or events during 1945-1975 that we should research but aren't included in the project's areas of focus?

Please help us identify places by dropping a pin and a comment on the map. If you can't remember the location, post your description of the place and approximate area in the comment box below the map.
Listen

• Any suggested places to research?
Listen

• Any places that don’t exactly fit the scope that we should note?
Thank you again