Toward Improvement Company subdivided Idlewild in 1891. The early area of African-American home ownership. The Raleigh Land and 19th century merchant. Two-story Greek Revival style house was built for Henry Porter, a prominent Henry Porter House: Built before 1850 at 555 New Bern Avenue. The Experimental Railroad: This is the route of the “experimental railroad” built by Raleigh businessmen in 1832 from the state stone quarry on Rock Quarry Road to Union Square. Old State Fairgrounds: The State Fair with its large racetrack was located two blocks south. It operated from 1853 to 1872. The “Fair Grounds Hospital, “ the first military hospital in North Carolina, was established here in 1861. New Bern Avenue & Tarboro Road, NW Corner Stone Quarry: The site of this state stone quarry is four blocks south between Athome Street and Dick Quay Road where the Lacle Hunter School was built in the 1920s. New Bern Avenue & Tarboro Road, SE Corner The city baseball field stood here from the 1870s to the 1940s. National Cemetery: Four blocks south are seven landscaped acres of the National Cemetery, authorized by Congress on February 23, 1867.

1 New Bern Avenue & Person Street, SE Corner (Highway Marker) Shaw University: Historic African-American college located seven blocks southwest at 111 S. South Street. Oldest building, Elston Hall, built in 1874, is the first building constructed for the higher education of black women in the United States.

2 New Bern Avenue & Bloodworth Street, NE Corner Oakwood Historic District: Developed four blocks north from about 1870 to 1900 as the earliest subdivision outside the original city limits.

3 Edenton Street & Bloodworth Street, NE Corner Raleigh Male Academy, ca. 1884. This important school for boys took up the entire north end of Bloodworth Street between Bloodworth and East Streets.

4 New Bern Avenue & East Street, NW Corner Original eastern boundary of the Raleigh city plan. The original city plat, drawn by surveyors and legislator William Christmas in 1792 contained four hundred acres, with North, South, East, and West Streets as the boundaries.

5 New Bern Avenue & East Street, SE Corner City Cemetery occupies much of the 500 block of New Bern Avenue south to East Hargett Street. Originally established in 1794 as a four acre plot and later designed with four acre plots for whites, one for “strangers” and one for blacks, totally 64.

6 New Bern Avenue & Ray Street, NW Corner Henry Porter House: Built before 1790 at 555 New Bern Avenue. The two-story Greek Revival style house was built for Henry Porter, a prominent 18th-century merchant.

7 New Bern Avenue & Swain Street, NW Corner Hungry Neck: The area to the north between East and Swain Streets was called this name by residents in the early 1900s.

8 New Bern Avenue & Cooke Street, NW Corner Experimental Railroad: This is the route of the “experimental railroad” built by Raleigh businessmen in 1832 from the state stone quarry on Rock Quarry Road to Union Square.

9 Edenton Street & Idlewild Avenue, SW Corner Idlewild Neighborhood: Idlewild Avenue is the center of Idlewild, an early area of African-American home ownership. The Raleigh Land and Improvement Company subdivided Idlewild in 1891.

10 New Bern Avenue & N. State Street, NE Corner Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church once stood on the northeast corner of North State Street and New Bern Avenue. It was relocated to this site from the Moore Square area in the 1850s. In the 1990s it moved again and the site redeveloped.

11 New Bern Avenue & Tarboro Road, SW Corner (Highway Marker) Old State Fairgrounds: The State Fair with its large racetrack was located ten blocks south. It operated from 1853 to 1872. The “Fair Grounds Hospital,” the first military hospital in North Carolina, was established here in 1861.

12 New Bern Avenue & Tarboro Road, NW Corner St. Augustine’s College: A historic African-American college that attracted many Blacks in search of an education to Raleigh in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. St. Monica’s Catholic School operated from ca 1929 to 1960 to serve African-American children.

13 New Bern Avenue & Tarboro Road, SE Corner College Park: This residential neighborhood is bounded by Tarboro Road on the west, Glascock Street on the north and New Bern Avenue on the south. The 1929 neighborhood took its name from St. Augustine’s College and was one of the early areas of African-American home ownership.
These long established street corridors have a rich past, tied closely to Raleigh's early history. The one and one-half mile long History Marker Tour identifies various historic locations and occurrences along the corridors through a series of granite informational markers and historic highway signs. The granite markers are placed on the ground adjacent to the sidewalk at the street intersections noted on the map. The information provided in this brochure identifies the location and the historic event or structure while the actual marker or sign adjacent to the sidewalk provides a more detailed description.

The source for some of the information was through interviews with residents as well as consultation with Dr. Ruth Little and Raleigh historians Elizabeth Reid Murray and Elizabeth Norris.