

# Capital Cartography

## A History of Raleigh in Maps





Maps are snapshots of a time and place. Using symbols and images, map makers integrate the physical landscape with the human experience. The information that maps contain, or do not contain, is shaped by the culture and society of their makers.



The following maps represent over 200 years of cartographers' documentation of the changing city of Raleigh. They are historical documents that offer a look into Raleigh's past, present, and future.

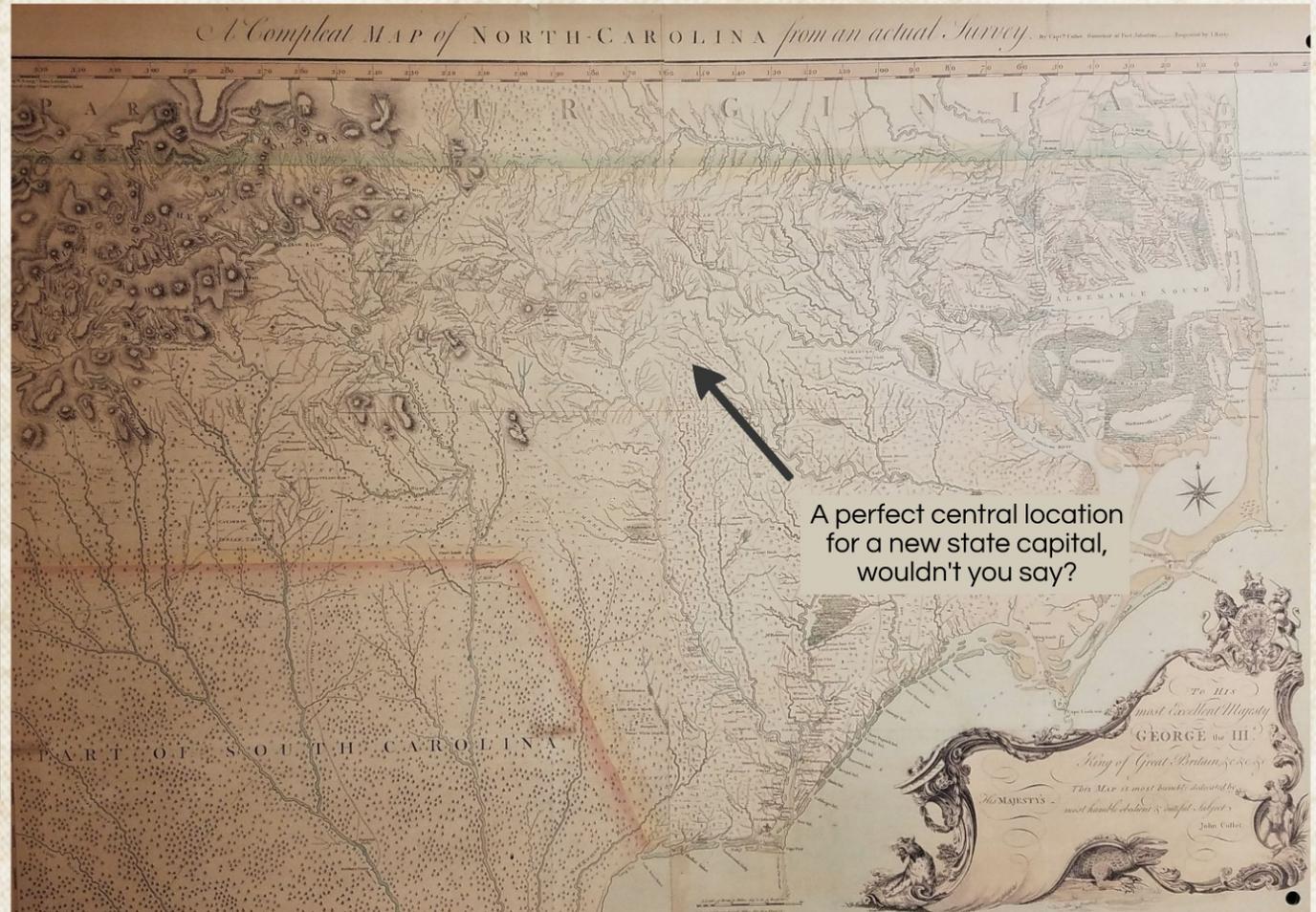
1770

## A Compleat Map of North Carolina

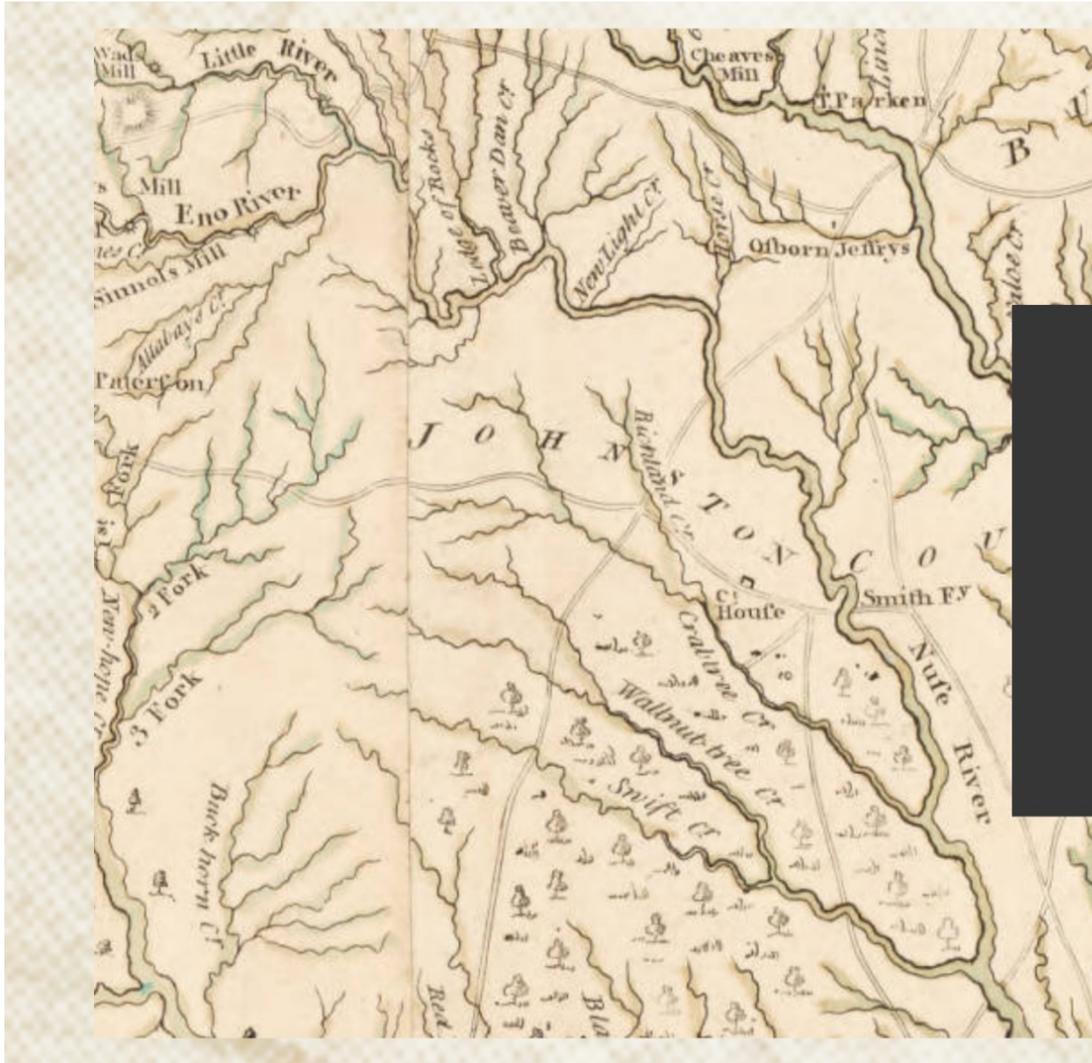
For two decades, William Churton mapped out North Carolina. Churton died in 1767 and his work was handed off to John Collett, who completed the survey and published it in 1770.

While the location of present day Raleigh was once ordinary farm land, this map shows why Joel Lane's property was not just a random choice for the new state capital in 1792.

Explore this map more:  
<https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/467>

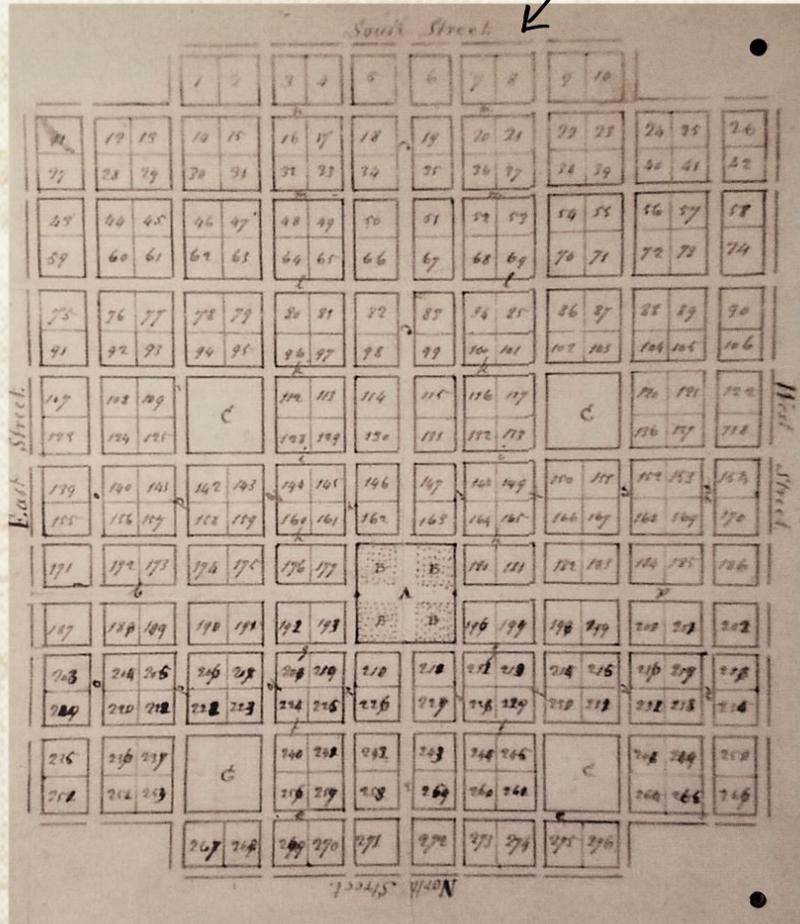


A perfect central location for a new state capital, wouldn't you say?



The choice of this location as the future site of Raleigh had not been easy. It would take thirteen years and several heated legislative debates before the final location was chosen. Still, protests to move the capital would be heard for the next forty years.

Notice how this map is upside down...



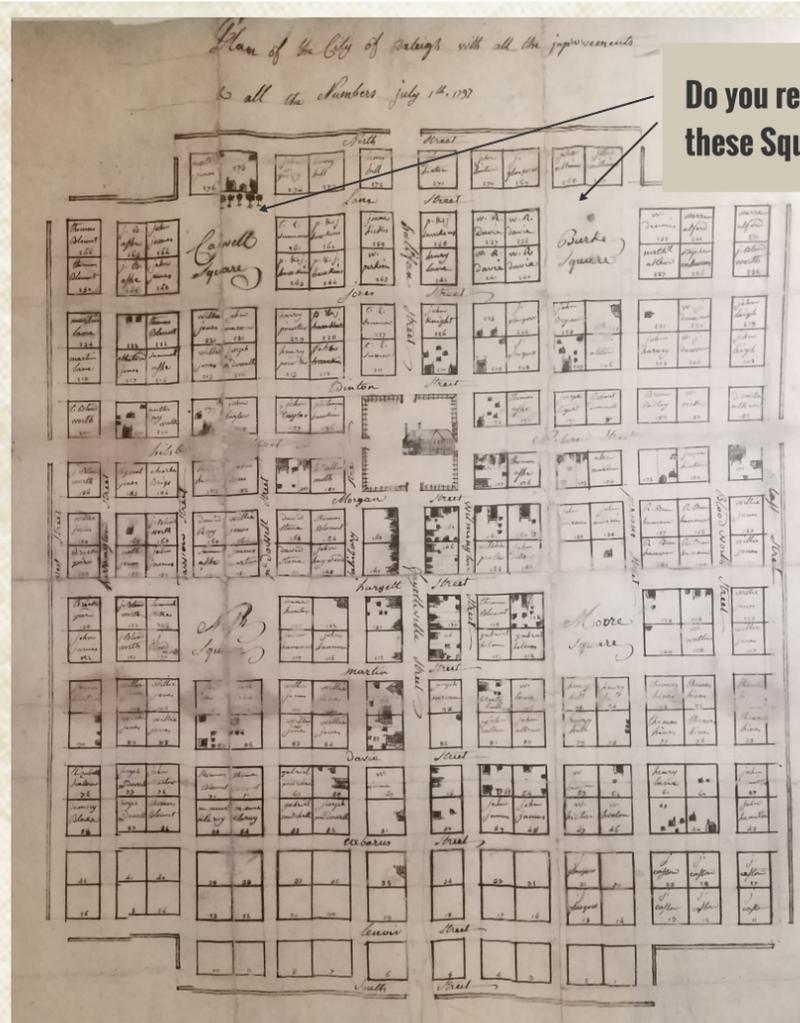
## 1792

In April 1792, surveyor William Christmas divided up the 1,000 acre tract purchased for the new state capital. He based the city on a grid pattern comprised of 254 one acre lots and five large squares.

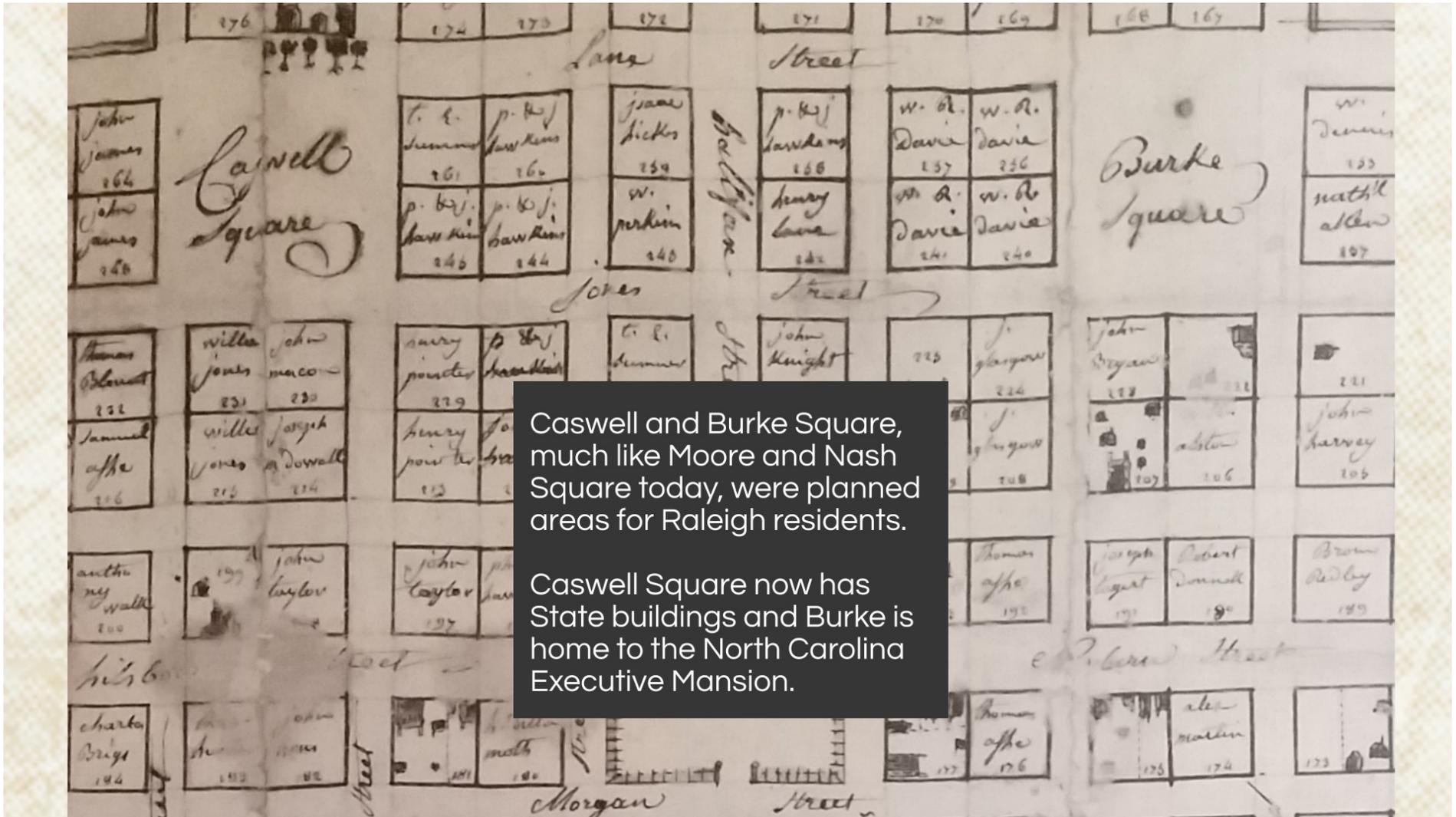
# 1797

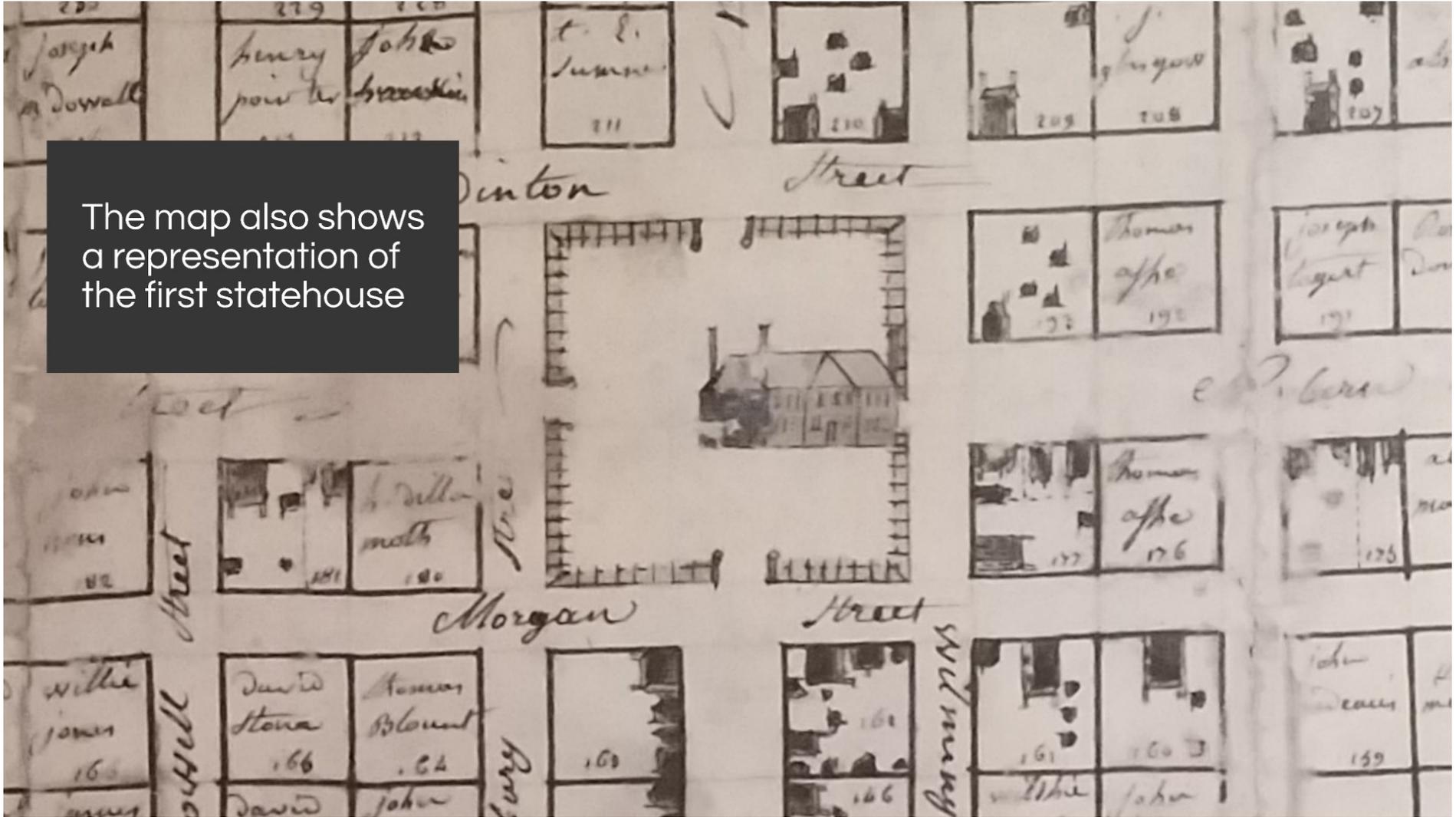
This map shows the city's rapid development in its first five years. Once Raleigh's lots were sold, building appeared almost immediately. The first were "houses of entertainment," which served as a restaurant, tavern, and hotel.

Explore this map more:  
<https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/3442>

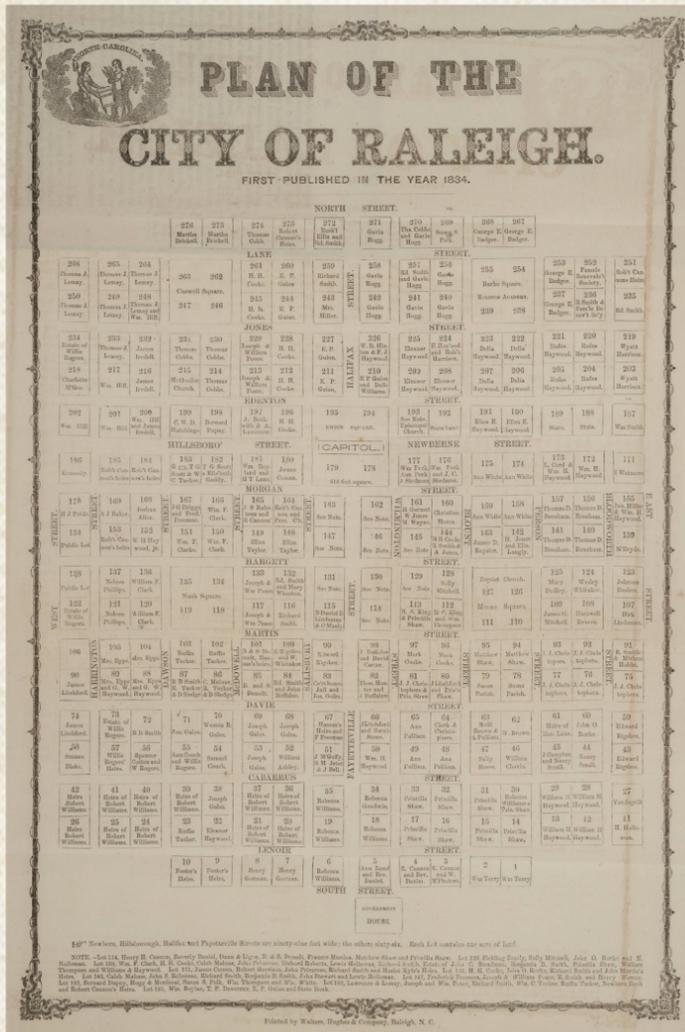


Do you recognize these Squares?





The map also shows a representation of the first statehouse



# 1834

Raleigh Turns 42!

This map shows landholders on Raleigh's fortieth birthday.

During this era, westward migration contributed to a dramatic decrease in population across North Carolina.

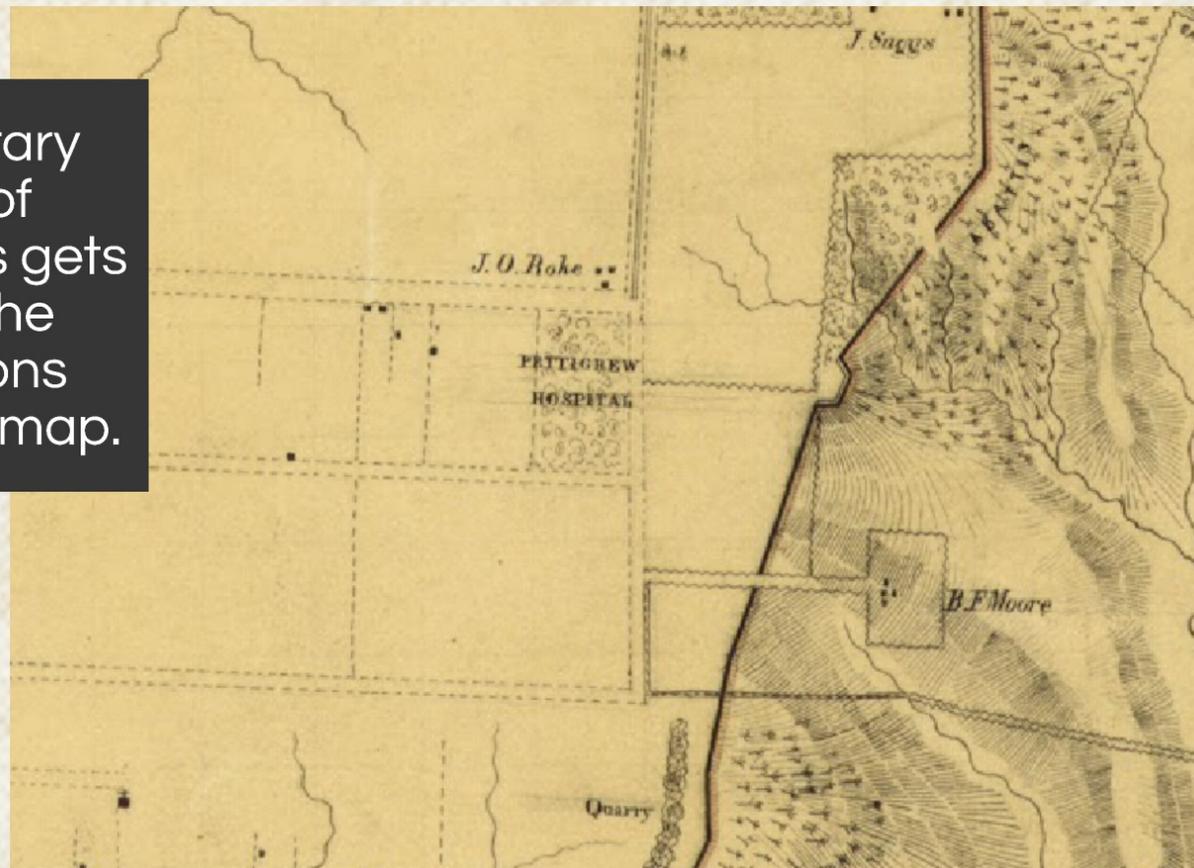
Fire ravaged Raleigh in the early 19th century. Several city blocks along Fayetteville Street were destroyed along with the Capitol in the 1831 fire.

EDENTON		STREET.	
197 J. Beckwith & A. Lawrence.	196 H. H. Cooke.	195 UNION SQUARE.	194
193 See Note. Episcopal Church.		192 State bank	
180 James Coman.		CAPITOL.	
179		178 516 feet square.	
NEWBERNE		STREET.	
164 Rob't Cannon and Pres. Ch.		163 See Note.	162 See Note.
148 Eliza Taylor.		147 See Note.	146 See Note.
133 Joseph & Wm Peace		132 Ed. Smith and Mary Wheaton.	131 See Note.
117 Joseph & Wm Peace		116 Richard Smith.	115 B Daniel D Lindeman & C Manly
MARTIN		STREET.	
101 B & S Demelt, Has-san's heirs.	100 E Rigsbee and W. Whitaker.	99 Edward Rigsbee.	98 J Buffalo and David Carter.
85 B. and S. Demelt.	84 Rd. Smith and John Buffaloe.	83 Co'r't house Jail and Jos. Gales.	82 Theo. Hunter and J Buffaloe
MCDOWELL		WILMINGTON	
101		161 H Gormat W Jones M Wayne.	
100		160 Christian Hosca.	
99		145 See Note	
98		144 H H Cooke R Smith & A J	
97 Mark Cooke.		129 See Note.	
96		113 B. S. King & Priscilla Shaw.	
95		114 See Note.	
94		97 Mark Cooke.	
93		98 J Buffalo and David Carter.	
92		99 Edward Rigsbee.	
91		100 E Rigsbee and W. Whitaker.	
90		101 B & S Demelt, Has-san's heirs.	
89		102 Ed. Smith and Mary Wheaton.	
88		103 See Note.	
87		104 See Note.	
86		105 See Note.	
85		106 See Note.	
84		107 See Note.	
83		108 See Note.	
82		109 See Note.	
81		110 See Note.	
80		111 See Note.	
79		112 See Note.	
78		113 See Note.	
77		114 See Note.	
76		115 See Note.	
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73		118 See Note.	
72		119 See Note.	
71		120 See Note.	
70		121 See Note.	
69		122 See Note.	
68		123 See Note.	
67		124 See Note.	
66		125 See Note.	
65		126 See Note.	
64		127 See Note.	
DAVIE		STREET.	

After the fire, Raleigh's future as the capital was uncertain. Only with the General Assembly's decision to rebuild the statehouse did investment return to Raleigh.



The contemporary neighborhood of Battery Heights gets its name from the city's fortifications pictured in this map.





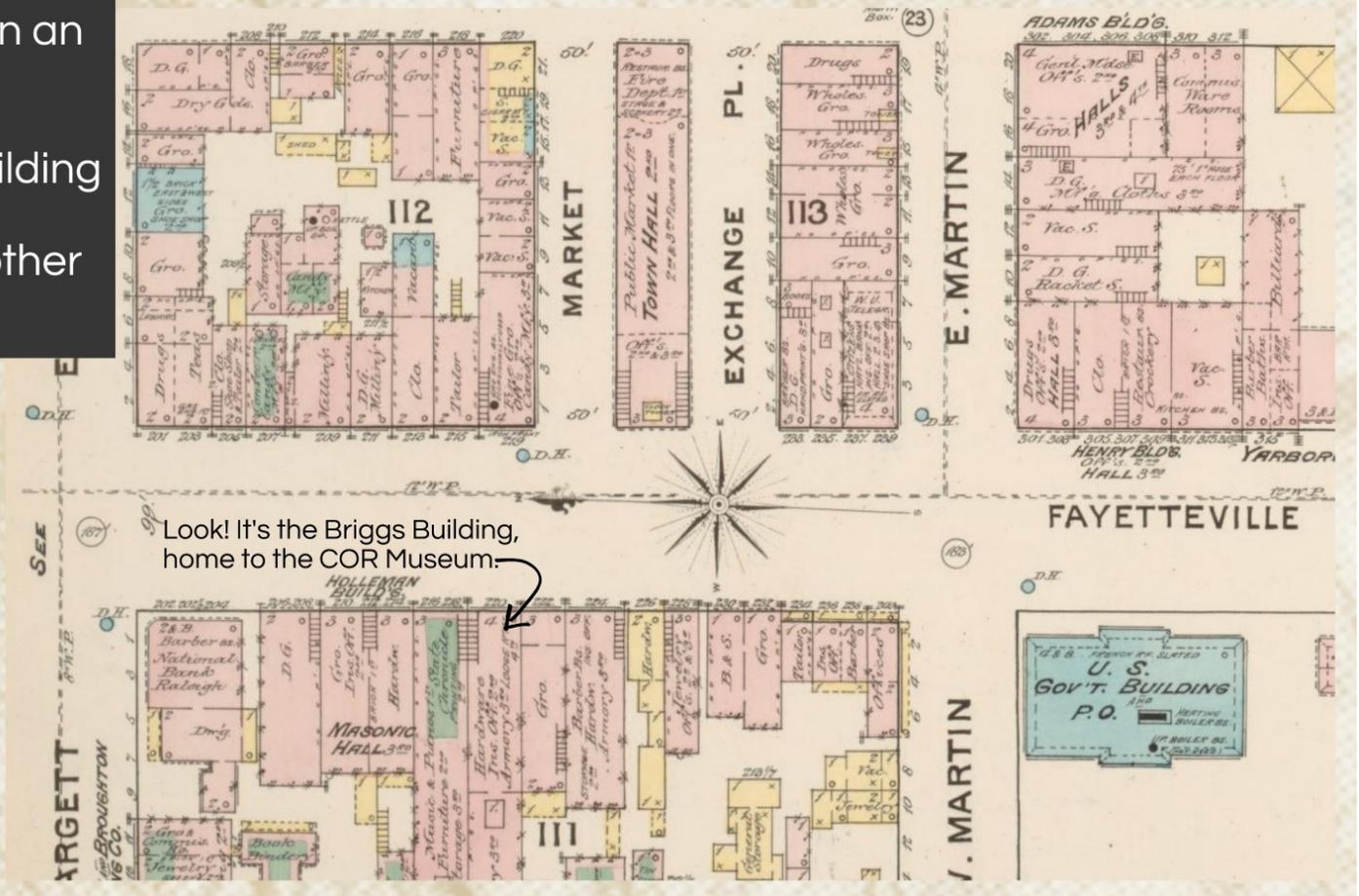
# 1888

## Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

The Sanborn Map Company created maps for assessing fire insurance liability in urbanized areas in the U.S. Mapping for insurance, and specifically fire insurance, had begun in London in the late 18th century. In the decades following the end of the Civil War, fire insurance mapping grew rapidly, mirroring the flourish of growth in the country, the rebuilding of the South and massive westward expansion.

Explore this map and others like it:  
<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/8735>

Sanborn maps contain an incredible amount of information about structures such as building materials, skylights, measurements, and other detailed information!





# 1928

Following World War I, Raleigh grew at an unprecedented rate, changing city limits. This map created by the Public Works Department records Raleigh's growth.

This expansion slowed with the crash of the stock market and start of the Great Depression in 1929.

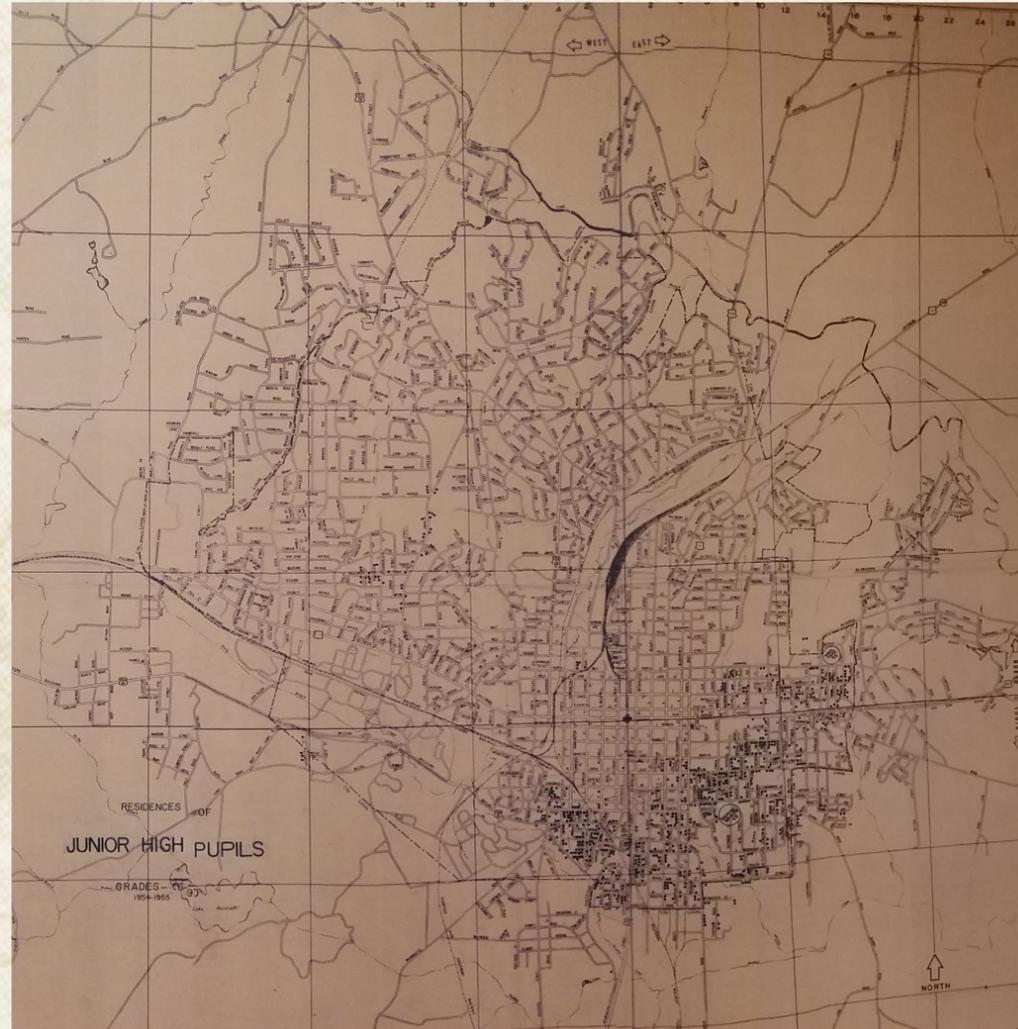
Across North Carolina there was an effort to improve infrastructure in what came to be known as the "Good Roads Movement." The Movement built or improved roads, highways and bridges and greatly improved North Carolina's national reputation.



## 1954-1955

### Residences of Junior High Pupils Air Survey Corporation

Although, it is not specifically noted, this map shows the distribution of only African American Junior High pupils. This map was created as a reaction by the Raleigh City School system to the landmark civil rights ruling by the US Supreme Court, *Brown vs. Board of Education*.



# Present

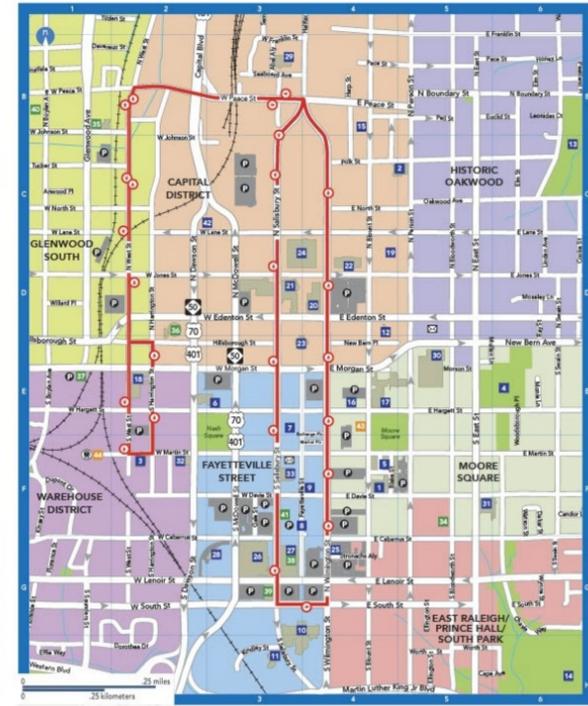
## Map of Downtown

The city of Raleigh has gone through major changes in its 228 year history. This is a current map of the downtown area showing the intricate overlay of transportation systems, businesses, and attractions.

### DOWNTOWN RALEIGH NORTH CAROLINA



- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Park
- Building
- Parking
- Post Office
- U.S. Highway
- Arterial Road
- Minor Road
- Railroad



#### POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Antspace (F4)
- 2 Burning Coal Theatre (C5)
- 3 CAM Raleigh (F2)
- 4 City Cemetery (E6)
- 5 City Market (F4)
- 6 City of Raleigh Municipal Building (E3)
- 7 City of Raleigh Museum (COR Museum) (E3)
- 8 City Plaza (F4)
- 9 Downtown Raleigh Alliance (F4)
- 10 Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts (G3)
- 11 Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce (H3)
- 12 Haywood Hall House and Gardens (D4)
- 13 Historic Oakwood Cemetery (C6)
- 14 John Chavis Memorial Park (H6)
- 15 L.L. Polk House (B4)
- 16 LGBT Center of Raleigh (E4)

- 17 Marbles Kids Museum/Marbles IMAX (E4)
- 18 Morgan Street Food Hall (E2)
- 19 North Carolina Executive Mansion (D4)
- 20 North Carolina Museum of History (D4)
- 21 North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (D3)
- 22 North Carolina State Archives (D4)
- 23 North Carolina State Capitol (E3)
- 24 North Carolina State Legislative Building (D3)
- 25 Pope House Museum (D4)
- 26 Raleigh Convention Center (G3)
- 27 Raleigh, N.C. Visitor Information Center (G3)
- 28 Red Hat Amphitheater (G3)
- 29 Shops at Seaboard Station (B3)
- 30 Terry Sanford Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse (E5)
- 31 Transfer Co. Food Hall (F5)
- 32 VAE (F2)
- 33 Wake County Courthouse (F3)

#### PLACES TO STAY

- 34 Guest House Raleigh (F5)
- 35 Hampton Inn & Suites Raleigh Downtown/Glenwood South (B1)
- 36 Holiday Inn Raleigh Downtown (D2)
- 37 Origin Raleigh (E1)
- 38 Raleigh Marriott City Center (G3)
- 39 Residence Inn Raleigh Downtown (G3)
- 40 Riviton (B1)
- 41 Obvation Raleigh Hotel (F3)
- 42 The Longleaf Hotel (C3)

#### TRANSPORTATION

- 43 GoRaleigh Transit Station (E4)
  - 44 Raleigh Union Station (F1)
- LINE** Red line = downtown Raleigh's FREE bus service; circulate approximately every 15 minutes. Hours: Mon-Frid., 7am-6pm; Sat., 7am-2:15pm; Sun., 1-6pm. stop



City of Raleigh Museum  
220 Fayetteville Street  
Raleigh, NC

9am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday  
1pm-4pm Sunday

[cityofraleighmuseum.org](http://cityofraleighmuseum.org)  
919-996-2220

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