

Raleigh's Newest Historic Overlay District!

On April 3, 2012, Raleigh City Council designated a new historic overlay district (HOD), the first in twenty years. The temporarily dubbed South Person/South Blount Street HOD represents both Raleigh's first African American and first mixed-use historic district. Located south-east of the Capitol within the city's original boundaries, it encompasses about four city blocks and includes a number of late 19th- and early 20th-century residences as well as commercial and institutional buildings dating from the first half of the 20th century.

Historically, the African American community has lived, worked, socialized, and worshiped in the area since Reconstruction, as the establishment of Shaw University in 1865 attracted newly-freed slaves and other blacks. One of the district's oldest residences, the ca. 1855 Greek Revival/Italianate Rogers-Bagley-Daniels-Pegues House (a Raleigh Historic Landmark) was purchased in 1919 by Dr. Albert Pegues, Shaw University's Dean of Theology. Other styles of residential architecture include modest Queen Anne and Triple-A shotguns, larger Queen Anne models, Craftsman and Craftsman/Colonial Revival hybrids, and Neoclassical Revival and Minimal Traditional houses.

Residences were joined by civic buildings, churches, and businesses, especially along South Blount Street, as the area grew over the decades. Notable examples include the 1907 Italianate Prince Hall Masonic Temple and the 1913 Gothic Revival Tupper Memorial Baptist Church, each Raleigh Historic Landmarks. Smaller masonry commercial buildings dating from the 1940s and later can also be found along South Blount.

Two alleys provide further evidence of the historic mixed-use nature of the district. Bisecting the block bounded by S. Wilmington, E. Cabarrus, S. Blount, and E. Lenoir Streets, Stronach's Alley was once lined with small homes. The block itself was home to a church, hospital, movie theatre, two missions, and a warehouse. Small residences also existed along Regan Alley, stemming off E. Cabarrus Street between South Person and South Blount. Although no longer humming with activity today, the alleys serve as reminders of the district's unique character.

The Certificate of Appropriateness process will ensure that the district recognizes and maintains its special character; all buildings within the district will be subject to a review process should they wish to make exterior



Top: East Cabarrus Streetscape
Bottom: Tupper Memorial Baptist Church
Far bottom left: Prince Hall Masonic Temple

changes. South Person/South Blount joins Oakwood, Blount Street, Boylan Heights, Moore Square, and Capitol Square as Raleigh's newest locally-designated and regulated district. For more information, visit www.rhdc.org.



Help name this historic district—details inside!

HELP NAME RALEIGH'S NEWEST HISTORIC DISTRICT!

In April, residents of the new local historic district convened for an information fair; a hot topic was the selection of a historically-appropriate name to recommend to City Council for adoption. Out of this meeting came three suggestions: Prince Hall, Stronach's Alley, and the Deluxe.

The new district, which is located partially within the East Raleigh-South Park National Register Historic District as well as within the new South Park-East Raleigh Cultural District, requires a name that is in harmony with the aforementioned designations but refers specifically to its unique place within. Here are brief histories of the three names considered at the community event:

Prince Hall: Called the 'most stylish' building in the district, the Prince Hall Masonic Temple Building at 427 South Blount Street was erected in 1907. The three-story Italianate building was constructed from brick likely salvaged from a demolished Masonic Temple Building for whites. The first story features a cast iron bracketed cornice and a cutaway corner entrance supported by a cast iron column, while the upper floors contain segmental arch windows accented with hoodmolds.

The first lodge built by Raleigh's earliest black fraternal orders, the Widow's Son Lodge No. 4 and the Excelsior Lodge No. 21, Prince Hall served as a meeting place for benevolent societies and rented its lower floors to vari-



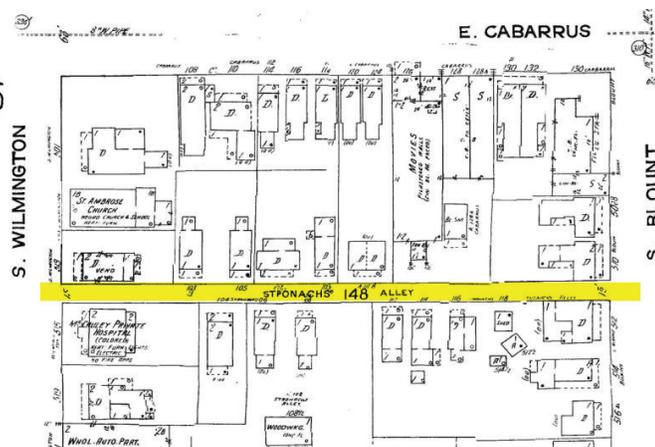
The entrance to the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, 427 South Blount Street.

ous enterprises, serving as an incubator for local, black-owned businesses over the decades. It is a Raleigh Historic Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Stronach's Alley: Bisecting the block bounded by South Wilmington, East Cabarrus, South Blount, and East Lenoir streets, Stronach's Alley was once lined with modest residences. It was named after William Carter Stronach, a 19th-century businessman who built Raleigh's first tobacco warehouse and erected a prizery on the southeast corner of Wilmington and Cabarrus streets. African American carpenter Bibb Matthews is said to have selected the name in recognition of his employer; he and his father W.H. Matthews, a bricklayer and plasterer, may have been involved in the construction of some of the district's homes.

Sanborn maps show several dwellings existing in the alley, as well as a "Colored Mission Room" and "Negro Hall," a well, and a woodworking shed. The block itself included additional homes, a church, hospital, movie theatre, automotive parts store, and cotton warehouses over the years. Given its past use, the alley is archeologically sensitive and could yield artifacts that better tell the history of the district.

Deluxe: In 1923, Needham and Hattie Lewis established a hotel at 220 East Cabarrus Street to serve Raleigh's African American visitors during segregation. Originally named the Lewis Hotel, the two-story brick veneer building had a hipped roof and a two-story recessed front



Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1914-1950.

porch. It had 26 guest rooms, a shoeshine parlor, and a cafeteria.

Several notable jazz, big band, and gospel musicians stayed at the hotel while on tour, including Cab Calloway's, Louis Armstrong's, and Nat King Cole's bands, Erskine Hawkins, Louis Jordan, Clara Ward, Mahalia Jackson, and Fats Waller. The hotel was a welcome sight to weary travelers during the Jim Crow era, as it (along with the Lightner Arcade and Hotel) was one of a handful of hotels catering to blacks in the southeast. After Mrs. Lewis's death in 1948, it was renamed the Deluxe Hotel. A fire destroyed the building in 1992.

The RHDC has created an online poll for the community to vote on the choice you feel most accurately represents the new local district. Please visit www.rhdc.org to vote. Or, if you prefer, call 919-832-7238 to cast your vote. The poll will be open until September 30; the commission will present the recommendation to City Council in October.



The Deluxe Hotel (historic post card).

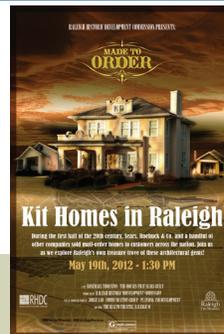
Going once, going twice...RHDC is down to the last remaining copies of the book, *Culture Town: Life in Raleigh's African American Communities* (By Linda Simmons-Henry and Linda Harris Edmisten, hardback, 200 pp., 164 illustrations, published by the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, 1994. Winner of the 1994 History Book Award, NC Society of Historians.) Described by Preservation NC as "A unique combination of oral history and architectural survey, tracing the contributions made by eight African American communities to the cultural development of North Carolina's capital city."

To purchase, please send \$38.50 (includes tax, shipping, and handling), accompanied by your name and physical mailing address, to: RHDC, PO Box 829, Raleigh, NC 27602.

QUIZ (answers below)

- What is Raleigh's oldest designated historic property?
 - Christ Episcopal Church
 - Yates Mill
 - Haywood Hall
 - State Capitol
- What is the mission of RHDC?
 - Identify, preserve, protect, and educate the public about, Raleigh's historic resources
 - Preserve the historical, prehistorical, architectural, archaeological, and cultural heritage of the City of Raleigh.
 - Identify, preserve, protect, and promote Raleigh's historic resources
 - Identify, protect, and preserve Raleigh's historic resources and to educate its citizens about its heritage
- What is Raleigh's youngest designated historic property?
 - Paul and Elsie Stahl House
 - Harwell Hamilton & Jean Bangs Harris House & Office
 - J. S. Dorton Arena
 - Occidental Life Insurance Building
- What is a Minor Work?
 - Certificates of Appropriateness projects that are reviewed by the Commission's COA Committee.
 - Projects for which a Certificate of Appropriateness is not necessary.
 - Projects that involve a change in the appearance of a structure or site, and are more substantial in nature
 - Certificates of Appropriateness projects that are reviewed by the staff.
- Where do I file for a COA?
 - Development Services Customer Service Center; One Exchange Plaza, Suite 400
 - Urban Design Center; 133 Fayetteville Street
 - Department of City Planning; One Exchange Plaza, Suite 300
 - Municipal Building; 222 E Hargett Street

- Answers:
1. Yates Mill (c.1756; 1820; 1854) Designated May 1, 1990
 2. Identify, preserve, protect, and promote Raleigh's historic resources
 3. Harwell Hamilton & Jean Bangs Harris House & Office (1968-1977) Designated September 7, 2010
 4. Certificates of Appropriateness projects that are reviewed by the staff
 5. Development Services Customer Service Center; One Exchange Plaza, Suite 400



Did you miss May's "Made to Order: Kit Homes in Raleigh" event?

Not to worry! The Made to Order exhibit will be on display at the Raleigh City Museum for a period of 4 months, and the lecture is available in streaming video at www.rhdc.org.

Raleigh Historic Development Commission
 One Exchange Plaza, 3rd floor
 PO Box 829
 Raleigh, NC 27602
 email: rhdc@rhdc.org

RHDC MEETINGS

RHDC Business Meetings:

8/21, 9/18, 10/16, 11/20. 7:30 AM,
 Rm. 305, Avery C. Upchurch Gov't. Complex.

Certificate of Appropriateness Comm.:

(Application deadline & meeting date)
 8/20 for 9/4, 9/17 for 10/1; 10/22 for 11/5. 4:00 PM,
 Rm. 305, Avery C. Upchurch Gov't. Complex.

Community Awareness Committee:

8/7, 9/10, 10/2; 11/6. 4:00 PM, Rm. 213, One Exchange Plaza.

Research Committee:

8/9, 9/6, 10/4; 11/1. 7:30 AM, Rm. 213, One Exchange Plaza.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Fred Belledin (Chair), Miranda Downer (Vice-Chair),
 Michael Story (Sec'y/Treas.), Will Alphin, Elizabeth Caliendo,
 Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, Sarah David, Kiernan McGorty,
 Rachel Rumsey, Scott Shackleton, Flora Hately Wadelington,
 Barbara Wishy.

COA TALLY

Major work
 (comm. review):

	April	May	June	July
Approved as submitted			1	3
Approved w/ conditions		1	1	1
Approved in part/ denied in part				
Denied				
Deferred	1	3	1	1
Minor work (staff approved):	11	10	5	12

EVENTS

THIS PLACE MATTERS! ART CONTEST

This fall, the Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) is partnering with Arts Together and Marbles Kids Museum to sponsor the This Place Matters! Art Contest. We hope to encourage area youth to creatively consider the question "What is your favorite old building in Raleigh?" In this contest, no matter the medium, youth of all ages are invited to submit their artistic interpretations of Raleigh's historic buildings. Categories include: preschool (ages 3-5), elementary school, middle school, high school, and people's choice.

Entries will be accepted on October 27th at Marbles Kids Museum from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., followed by a people's choice judging from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. For those who would like a jumpstart in applying their ideas to paper or canvas (size 12" X 18"), participants are invited to two "Create Together: Open Studio" sessions at Arts Together on Saturday, September 29th and Sunday, October 7th, where supplies and facilitators will be on hand. Winners will be revealed at RHDC's 50th Anniversary Bash during First Friday, November 2nd, where winning art will be displayed at the museum! For more information, visit www.rhdc.org.

CONTACTS

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 Martha Lauer 919/516-2649
 Tania Tully 919/516-2674
 Historic Oakwood: www.historicoakwood.org
 Historic Boylan Heights: www.boyلانheights.org
 Downtown Raleigh Alliance: www.godowntownraleigh.com
 NC SHPO: www.hpo.ncdcr.gov

Staff support for the RHDC is provided by the Raleigh Department of City Planning, www.raleighnc.gov.



This July in Norfolk, Virginia, the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions established the Daniel L. Becker Award for Professionalism, and presented the first award to Dan Becker, former Executive Director of RHDC (1986-2011).