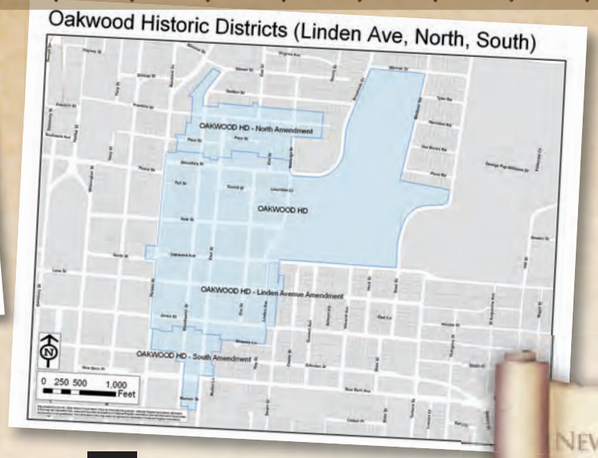
New Bern Avenue & Edenton Street
History Marker Tour

1 New Bern Avenue & Person Street, SE Corner (Highway Marker)

Shaw University: Historic African –American college located seven blocks southwest, at 118 E. South Street. Oldest building, Estey 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 side of Edenton 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 plan, drawn by surveyor 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 1798 as a four acre plot and later designated with two acre plots for citizens, one for "strangers" and one for blacks, mainly slaves.

6 New Bern Avenue & Ray Street, NW Corner

Henry Porter House: Built before 1850 at 555 New Bern Avenue. The two-story Greek Revival style house was built for Henry Porter, a prominent 19th 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 1900's.

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

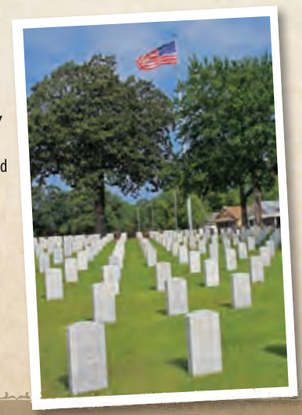
Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church once stood on the northeast corner of North State Street and New Bern Avenue. It was relocated to this site from the Moore Square area in the 1850's. In the 1990's it moved again and the site redeveloped.

12 New Bern Avenue & Tarboro Road, NW Corner

Stone Quarry: The site of the state stone quarry is four blocks south between Advise Street and Rock Quarry Road where the Lucile Hunter School was built in the 1920's.

13 New Bern Avenue & Tarboro Road, SE Corner

The city baseball field stood here from the 1930's to the 1940's. National Cemetery: Four blocks south are the seven landscaped acres of the National Cemetery, authorized by Congress on February 23, 1867.



14 Edenton Street & Tarboro Road, NW Corner (Highway Marker)

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.

15 Edenton Street & Tarboro Road, NE Corner

O'Rourke Cemetery: Located on the 500 block of Tarboro Road. Land for this cemetery was donated by prominent Raleigh Catholic John O'Rourke, whose house stood nearby in 1858.

16 Edenton Street & Pettigrew Street, NE 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 1920's neighborhood took its name from St. Augustine's College and was one of the early areas of African-American home ownership.

11 New Bern Avenue & Tarboro Road, SW Corner (Highway Marker)

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 & Edenton Street History Marker Tour

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.

The North Central CAC
Presents

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Acknowledgements

Brochure Design By:

City of Raleigh - Planning and Development
Communications Group

Brochure Printing Sponsored By:

North Central CAC

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