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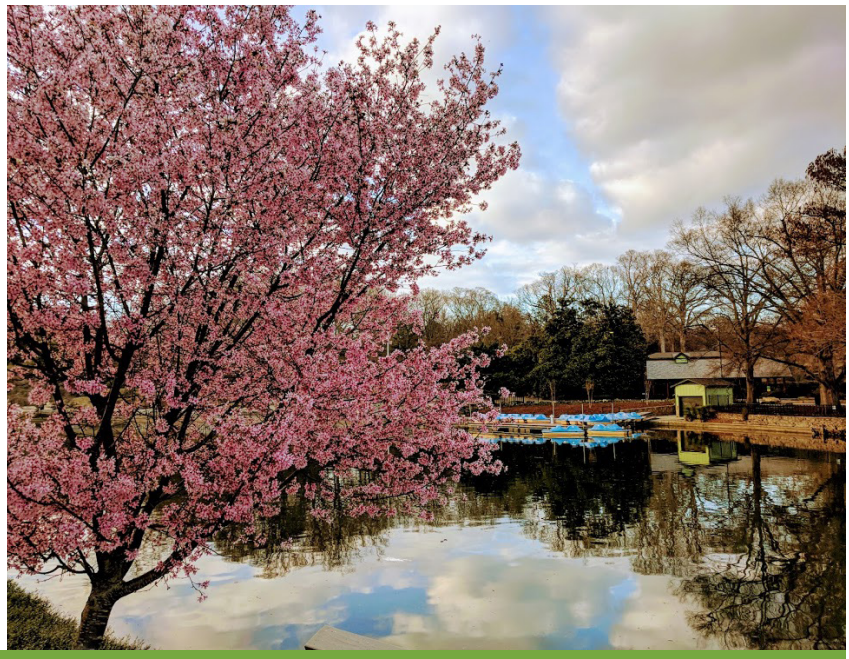
Raleigh Register

Official Newsletter of the Historic Resources and Museum Program



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Administrator's Letter

Greetings! As we move into springtime please enjoy reading about all the wonderful programs, exhibits, and events taking place throughout the Historic Resources and Museums Program.

Hopefully many of you saw the recent survey asking for feedback for the HRM Program. The survey was part of a broader effort to create a Raleigh Historic Resources and Museum Plan (HRM Plan). The HRM Plan will be a ten-year strategic document that will help guide decisions we make in the HRM Program.

Raleigh City Council identified "Arts and Culture" as one of Raleigh's top priorities and the HRM Plan will identify the role of history, museums, and culture in supporting Raleigh's vision for arts and culture.

Please feel free to contact us with questions or comments about the HRM Plan or any other initiatives throughout the HRM Program.

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Follow Us

Check our social media for the newest additions of upcoming events at all of our sites!

@RaleighHistory

RaleighHistoryandMuseums

Chair's Letter

The Historic Resources and Museum Advisory Board (HRMAB) was created by the Raleigh City Council on September 20, 2012 to advise Council and City staff about the assets that tell Raleigh's story. The HRMAB is made-up of 12 citizens who are appointed by Council and volunteer their time. The Board acts as a sounding board for ideas, and also represents the interest of all Raleigh residents served by the Museums, Historic Sites and Historic Attractions that make up the HRM program.

The HRMAB has an annual work plan. The sub-committees of the HRMAB Advisory Board spent a good bit of their time in the fall of 2017 working on the work plan for 2018. The work plan includes the board's mission to promote, coordinate, and strengthen the advocacy and advancement of the public programs within the HRM Program to further the cultural development of the City. The HRMAB does most of its work through three ad-hoc and two standing committees. The Collections Committee advises on decisions involving the accessioning and deaccessioning of objects in the program's collections. The Program and Exhibit Committee works to review, promote, and sustain public programs. The Community Engagement Committee helps increase awareness of the HRM Program and establishes liaisons with other boards and commissions with common goals. The two standing committees are Nominations Committee and Executive Committee. The Nominations Committee seeks qualified citizens to recommend to Council for vacancies on the HRMAB. The Executive Committee focuses on board development and supports staff in strategic planning. The Executive Committee also helps identify program challenges and opportunities, and sets the agenda for monthly board meetings.

The HRMAB's goal is to provide guidance and assistance to the HRM Program's professional staff. As chair, please join me in offering thanks to all who have served or currently serve on the HRMAB.

Ed Morris
Chair, HRM Advisory Board

Mordecai's Favorite Toilet

by Joshua Ingersoll, Historic Sites Director

For those of you intrepid enough to snoop around the Mordecai House, you may have noticed a locked door about a foot off the ground on the back of the house. And if you got close enough to peek through the small hole in the door, you might have found what could be the oldest toilet in Raleigh. This toilet, believed to be installed in the 1910s, served as an outdoor toilet for the family, and it has remained in its small closet ever since.

The toilet itself is a Vogel Frost-free toilet, and is a rather impressive piece of technology. It was designed as an exterior toilet to withstand frosty temperature. As a rather ingenious method to avoid standing water, sitting on the toilet seat activated a pressure valve that would fill the above basin. Once your business was complete, you would stand, releasing the water to be pulled by gravity from the above reservoir and flushing everything away. Sadly, the toilet would eventually fall out of favor as concerns about sewage backflow became an issue. There was a small pipe connecting the sewage pipe to the fresh water pipe, potentially contaminating city water supplies. Still, this little treasure remains our #1 favorite toilet in the city, or at least #2.

Sister Cities' Collaborations: Highlighting Nairobi

By Marjorie Salzman

Raleigh Sister Cities (RSC) promotes global ideas and experiences in education, culture, sports, commerce and arts through exchanges between cities and their citizens.

Nairobi became Raleigh's fifth Sister City in 2012 thanks to the efforts of the Triangle area's more than 7,000 Kenyans. RSC's Nairobi committee has supported student exchanges, celebrated Kenyan holidays, hosted the Kenyan Ambassador, presented the annual "Proud of My Culture" event, and worked with community groups on humanitarian projects. One group, Myles of Great Hopes, helps raise funds for education and environmental projects.

For the past several years, Broughton High School has worked with RSC to present "Proud of My Culture," and fundraise for clean water projects in rural Kenya. In February, local students teleconferenced with Nairobi students sharing aspects of their cultures, health, environmental issues, arts, social life and interests.

In March, the NC Museum of Natural Sciences partnered with RSC to present Tribe versus Pride, a documentary that features the Masai tribe of Kenya and its ritual of lion hunting, in old and current times.

On April 17-19, staff from the National Museums of Kenya plan to visit Raleigh to meet with their peers at Raleigh museums to discuss future collaborations.

RSC Travel Contests

• Scholarship to attend the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit in Aurora Colorado, August 2-4. Rising high school juniors and seniors are eligible. Submission deadline: May 1

• Couples married in Raleigh on June 24 are invited to Rostock Germany to renew their vows as part of the City's 800th birthday. The lucky Raleigh couple selected will receive free lodging (at a seaside resort), food and local transportation (June 22-25). Highlights include sailing on a Historic tall ship, concerts, a parade and festival, and after party.

Visit: raleighsistercities.org for more details

Ask A Historian

by Douglas Porter, HRM Cultural Resources Director

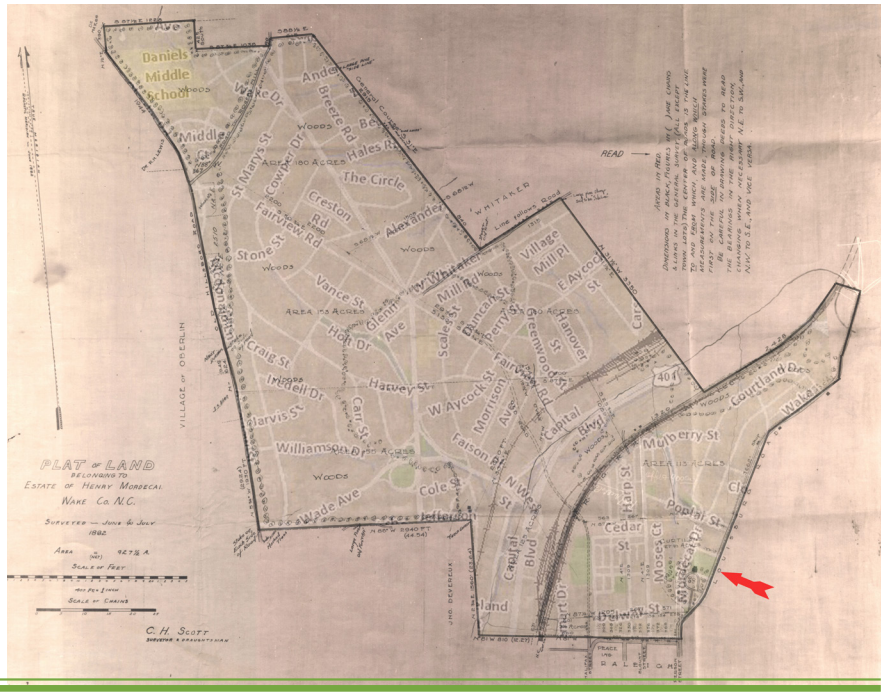
Q I know that the area surrounding Mordecai Historic Park used to be part of the Mordecai plantation. Can you explain the breadth of the plantation using modern landmarks?

A It's really amazing to put the Mordecai plantation into a contemporary context, geographically speaking. Actually, Mordecai Historic Park—which is approximately 3 acres—represents only a small portion of what was once the Mordecai plantation.

At its height, the Mordecai property covered approximately 1200 acres just north of downtown Raleigh. In the 1880s the family began selling off significant sections of land. Within a few decades developers transformed the former plantation landscape into Raleigh's first suburbs. Interestingly, much of what we now consider "old Raleigh" is on land that was once part of the Mordecai plantation.

So what exactly were the plantation's boundaries? If we were using a modern map, the Mordecai plantation would have stretched east to west from Oberlin Road to Oakwood Cemetery. The north to south course traveled at an angle, but generally speaking the Mordecais owned the land between Peace Street and the intersection of Glenwood Avenue and St. Mary's Street.

As a whole, this area includes a number of long-established neighborhoods including Oakwood, Hayes Barton, and Five Points, as well as the Mordecai neighborhood adjacent to Mordecai Historic Park. It also includes Pilot Mill, which became a bustling company village in the early twentieth century complete with textile factories, employee housing, and other amenities for mill families. In addition to these neighborhoods, a variety of in-town restaurants and shops, as well as churches and schools now operate within the area of what used to be the Mordecai plantation. This includes Hayes Barton Baptist Church and Daniels Middle School which, at the intersection of modern-day Glenwood and Oberlin Avenues, sits at the very northwestern tip of the former Mordecai property.



1882 map of the "Estate of Henry Mordecai" with an overlay showing modern streets. Note that the easternmost section of the original plantation—the area of modern day Oakwood—had already been sold by the time of this survey.

Your question regarding the history of Raleigh could be answered in the next edition of the Raleigh Register.
Send to: kathryn.neuhart@raleighnc.gov

Friends of COR Museum

by Dan Howe

Gearing up for "Raleigh CityLAB"

This spring COR Museum consultants, Haizlip Studio, will present a plan for a major exhibit, tentatively entitled Raleigh CityLAB. Raleigh CityLAB will be an interactive exhibit where visitors can consider big moments and decisions THEN that helped create Raleigh, the structures that support the City NOW, and challenges we face today that may shape the NEXT City – the city of the future. An extraordinary event took place in March, when six of the City's most prominent leaders engaged in a round-table discussion of Big Decisions That Shaped a City – the important fulcrum points that spun our city off onto the trajectory that has resulted in the city we experience today. Mayor Nancy McFarlane, former Mayors Charles Meeker and Smedes York, former Wake Schools Superintendent Bill McNeal, developer John Kane and Wake Commissioner James West discussed such important issues as the merger of the City and County schools, the Fayetteville Street renaissance, the creation of Cameron Village, Crabtree Valley and North Hills, and the master planning of Dix Park.

Mayor Nancy McFarlane, Friends of COR Museum President Douglas Noreen, and COR Museum Director Ernest Dollar

Time Warp time-travels back to the 70s

Break out those disco balls, bell bottoms and tie-dye t-shirts. We will be rocking and rolling back to the 70s at Time Warp, the Friends of the COR Museum's annual fundraising gala. This year a major art show featuring prominent local artists will accompany the usual amazing food and drink, and great auction items. There will be a costume contest and a dance contest. Be sure to visit the Museum web site (www.cityofraleighmuseum.org) to buy your tickets, and get your funk on. Friends members earn a discount on ticket prices!

Collection Corner

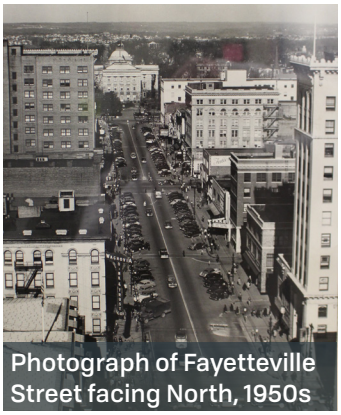
by Ainsley Powell, HRM Curator of Collections

New to Collection

The Collection Committee of the Historic Resources and Museums Advisory Board met to approve/deny the objects presented by the Curator of Collections on November 27, 2017 at City of Raleigh Museum. In total, there were nine donations of various quantities and they were a mixture of photographs, paper documents, and three-dimensional objects. Eight of the donations are slated for the COR Museum and one is intended for Mordecai Historic Park.

Saturday, May 5 // 10am–1pm // Tucker House
History Harvest and Meet the Director

Do you have a piece of Moore Square history? The HRM Program will be collecting object information and stories about Moore Square in preparation for an upcoming exhibit. Due to the expected volume of interest, the staff will not be accepting donations on this day. While you are there, the public will be able to meet the new Director of Moore Square, Jenna Kostka, and see how the project will take shape once complete in 2019. For donations, contact the Curator of Collections Ainsley Powell at ainsley.powell@raleighnc.gov or 919-996-4365.


Photograph of Fayetteville Street facing North, 1950s

The Raleigh Times

Thursday November 30, 1989 25 cents

That's all, folks

The Raleigh Times closes today after 110 years of publication

A letter to readers

Final issue of The Raleigh Times, November 30, 1989

Willie Kay wedding dress, 1950s

Picture of William Nathan Harrell Smith, circa 1850

Upcoming Events

Historic Sites

Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8
6:30pm, 7pm, & 9pm
Mordecai Historic Park
Escape to Freedom

In partnership with MOJOAA Performing Arts Company, Mordecai Historic Park presents a theatrical experience: Escape to Freedom. This one hour guided tour and performance will lead guests through Mordecai Historic Park to experience plantation life through the eyes of an enslaved person. What decisions would you make if you were in their place?
Participants should be comfortable walking for up to an hour. Admission: $15

Saturday, April 28 // 8am
Mordecai Historic Park
Annual Plant Sale

Get your summer garden started at Mordecai Historic Park's Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 28. Heirloom varieties of vegetables, herbs, and flowers, including: tomatoes, peppers, squash, lettuce, eggplant, cucumber, beans, basil, chives, comphrey, oregano, dill, fennel, and parsley. The sale starts at 8am and will continue until all the plants are sold!

Sunday, April 29
Borden Building
Capital City Camera Club Exhibit Opening

The exhibit will run for three months.

Thursday, May 3 // 7pm
Mordecai Historic Park
All in the Family: Diomed, Sir Archie, and Henry, from the 1780 Epsom Derby to the Great Match Race of 1823

In a remarkable forty years, from the close of the American Revolution to an omen of the Civil War, three generations of race horses made a great impact on America. Just in time for the Kentucky Derby, Jim Beckwith tells the story.
For more information contact Joel Lane (919) 833-3431 or joellane@bellsouth.net
General Admission: $16
Members of the Joel Lane Historical Society and students with identification: $11. Advanced purchase is required.

Upcoming Events

COR Museum

Every Saturday // 2pm

Raleigh Walking Tour

The City of Raleigh Museum offers weekly downtown walking tours every Saturday at 2pm. Tours will begin at the museum, travel around downtown viewing historic landmarks and sites, and end back at the museum. The tours will last one hour.

Friday, April 6 // 6pm-9pm

DIY Cartography

The City of Raleigh Museum will be hosting the second annual NC State School of Architecture show during April's First Friday. The DIY Cartography exhibit will feature an innovative approach to presenting history through maps, graphs, & other non-traditional methods.

Saturday, April 14 // 11am-12pm

Civil War Walking Tour

Retreating Confederate soldiers, freed slaves, and an invading Union army all made Raleigh a city balancing on the edge of destruction and salvation in the final days of America's bloody Civil War. Join City of Raleigh Museum Director Ernest Dollar as he uses letters, diaries, and photographs to reveal life in Raleigh during the rapidly changing world of 1865.

Saturday, April 21 // 7pm-10pm

Time Warp 2018

Friday, May 4 // 6pm-9pm

Protect & Serve: Celebrating the History & Service of the Raleigh Police Department

Celebrating over 200 years of service in Raleigh, this National Police Week exhibit will highlight the history and individuals of the Raleigh Police Department as well the development of the equipment and technology they use while serving the community.

Friday, June 1 // 6pm-9pm

The Fabric of Raleigh: Christer Berg Photography

The award-winning local photographer Christer Berg will be featuring his work at the City of Raleigh Museum, opening on June 1. Berg strives to capture and create not only portraits, but the meaningful stories behind the faces and scenes in his photographs.

Saturday, June 2, 9, & 16
3:30pm, 5:30pm, & 7:30pm

A Night at the City of Raleigh Museum

The City of Raleigh Museum will be hosting Seed Art Share for their annual Night at the Museum shows. This year's show will explore some of the most intriguing artifacts displayed through the years. The 90-minute experience includes a scavenger hunt in the museum, crafts, and interactive performance! Shows are suitable for ages 6 & up. Admission: $10

Pullen Park

Friday, April 6, 13, 20, & 27
7pm-10pm

Dinner and a Movie

Join us at Pullen Park for great family activities and a movie! Pullen Place Cafe will offer a delicious dinner menu and fresh popcorn for purchase prior to the feature presentation. Movies start at dark and will be preceded by exciting activities such as trivia, dance parties and more! Lawn chairs and blankets are recommended. Look for hints to the movie titles on Twitter (@RaleighParks) and on the Raleigh PRCR Facebook page. Admission is free.

Saturday, April 28
10am-4pm

Letterland

Pullen Park is transformed into the imaginary place Letterland, home to all the letters of the alphabet. The day includes opportunities to meet characters such as Firefighter Fred and his fire engine, Clever Cat during a ride on the carousel, and Bouncy Ben with his boats. There will be games and activities, photo opportunities, local school groups singing Letterland songs, and more. Event is free–Rides are a nominal fee.

Tuesday, June 19 & 26 and Wednesday, June 27
7pm-9pm
Pullen Park

Summer Concert Series

Sunday, June 3 & 10 // 6-8pm
Fred Fletcher Park

Summer Concert Series

Pullen Park and Fred Fletcher Park will be hosting some of the area's local talent this Summer for your enjoyment. Come on by for familiar classics as well as original music performed by these talented artists. Pullen Place Café will have food available for purchase while food trucks will be present at the Fletcher Park shows. This series will also continue into July. Admission is free.

Raleigh Sister Cities

Saturday, April 7 // 10am

Tour de Sister Cities: Hull

Saturday, May 5 // 10am

Tour de Sister Cities: Xiangyang

Saturday, June 2 // 10am

Tour de Sister Cities: Rostock

Friendly-paced bike ride honoring a sister city and ends with a lunch featuring the cuisine of that city. Begins at Mordecai Historic Park Visitor Center.

Thursday, April 19 and May 17
6:30pm
Mordecai Historic Park

Rostock Film Night

Check raleighsistercities.org for additional upcoming Raleigh Sister Cities events

HISTORIC RESOURCES AND MUSEUM PROGRAM

In July 2012, Raleigh City Council created the Historic Resources and Museum Program, hereinafter the HRM Program, with the express purpose of protecting and programming identified cultural, museum, and historic resources within the City of Raleigh.

The HRM Program manages operations and programs at:

- Borden Building and Stone Circle at Fletcher Park
- Fred Fletcher Amphitheater at Fletcher Park
- City of Raleigh Museum
- John Chavis Memorial Park Historic Attractions
- The Latta House and University Site
- Moore Square
- Mordecai Historic Park
- Pope House Museum
- Pullen Park Historic Attractions
- Raleigh Trolleys
- Tucker House

Additionally, The HRM Program manages an artifact collection consisting of more than 18,000 fine and decorative material culture objects.

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Raleigh Register

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