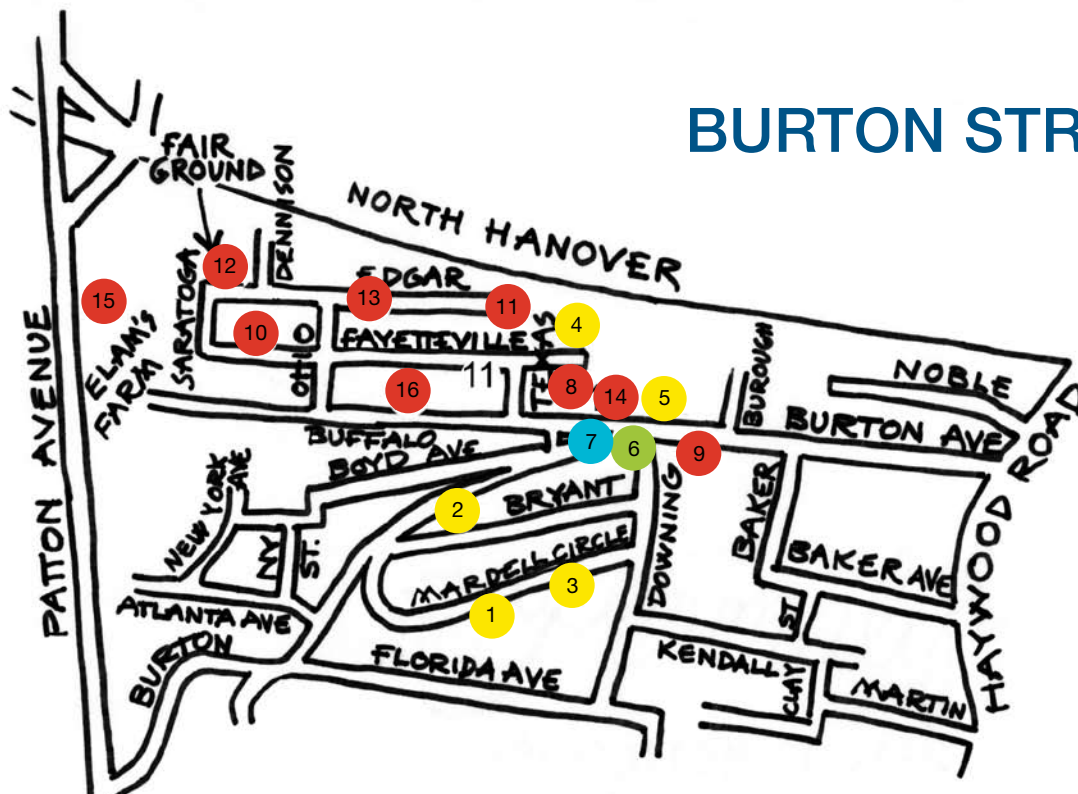


BURTON STREET



CHURCHES

1. New Hope Mt. Carmel Baptist Church — 26 Mardell Circle
2. Antioch Church of God in Christ — 176 Burton Ave.
3. Moss Temple AME Zion Church — 2 Mardell Circle
4. St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church — 170 Fayetteville St.
5. Wilson's Chapel Methodist Episcopal — 103 Burton Ave.

SCHOOLS

6. Burton Street School — 134 Burton Ave.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

7. Burton Street Community Center — 3 Buffalo St., 134 Burton Ave.

BUSINESSES

8. E. W. Pearson Grocery and Blue Note Club — 3 Buffalo St.
9. Dudley Coal and Ice — Burton Ave.
10. Herbert Friday Barber Shop — 212 Fayetteville St.
11. T. Friday Barber Shop — 173 Fayetteville St.
12. Jerolene Rice Beauty Parlor — Edgar St.
13. Emma Mickins Beauty Parlor — Edgar St.
14. Lola Byers Beauty Parlor — 3 ½ Buffalo St.
15. Elam's Farm — End of Buffalo St.
16. Elam's Grocery — 57 Buffalo St.

Map by Betsy Murray, Archivist, Pack Memorial Public Library. Based on a 1950 map of Asheville. Locations are approximate.



Historic Agricultural Fair Founded

In Western North Carolina in the early 20th century, African Americans could not participate in county agricultural fairs. Burton Street community leader E.W. Pearson changed all that in 1914 when he organized the first Buncombe County and District Colored Agricultural Fair, held at Pearson's Park in the Burton Street neighborhood. The fair attracted thousands yearly, black and white, and ran annually through 1947.

E.W. Pearson collecting eggs at his home on Buffalo St. Courtesy North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Public Library.



Asheville's Burton Street community lost streets and homes in 1965 when I-240 was built. The neighborhood has recently been threatened by an I-26 Connector Alternative known as Alternative 3. This alternative would destroy a federal Weed and Seed neighborhood. A concerted effort by Asheville residents prompted the NCDOT to look for ways to reduce the impact of the connector on the neighborhood. Residents still await a final decision.

Burton Street: Behind the Crack Curtain — Creating a Vision

DeWayne Barton, Co-founder of Asheville Green Opportunity Corps



DeWayne Barton, co-founder of Asheville Green Opportunity Corps, is one young leader in the Burton Street neighborhood trying to address recent problems, such as drugs and violence, that have emerged with community decline resulting from urban renewal. Seeing the history of urban renewal from a new generation's

point of view, he writes of transforming the present by listening to the stories of his elders. Barton is standing with Safi Mahaba, both are Burton Street residents. Photo by Dan Leroy.

THE THREATS: Eager NASCAR drivers looking for dope boys with the checkered flag. And race walkers, picturing their favorite drug medal around their neck — leaving behind small, clear plastic bags, empty lighters, and forty-ounce bottles. The ice cream truck of violence rolls through slowly, daily bell sounds of twenty-twos and forty-fives. I've seen this self-destructive pattern before in DC and Virginia — drugs, bulldozers, developers — not knowing the I-26 expansion was behind Burton Street's crack curtain.

THE RESPONSE: Listening to the warning cries of ancestors from elders who remember land-grabs of the past. We are helping to bring together a team and creating a vision of the future we want, sweating,

praying, and dreaming again, maintaining our consistency, saying good-bye to comfort zones.

The stimulus begins with us. In our attempt to restore a community that supports sustainability, we will need to include everyone. Low wealth communities will sit at the table as equals with all other citizens of the city. By creating our own sustainable plan for the neighborhood, we're protecting our community from the double-edged sword of development. We're creating community programming for seniors and youth. We're creating greenspace and backyard gardens. We envision a community business incubator and a community school, encouraging neighbors to join in.

Historic Burton Street Agricultural Fair Revived

In another effort to restore community, Burton Street resident Mrs. Vivian Conley is leading an attempt to revive Mr. Pearson's Agricultural Fair. "I saw our history and the old ways and the sense of community slipping away," she says. Focusing on the fair's emphasis on community and sustainable living, residents held a one-day mini-fair on September 25, 2009, building toward a centennial celebration in a few years.

A New Vision Held by Many

Sasha Vrtunski, ACIP, Project Manager, Asheville Downtown Master Plan

THE TWILIGHT PROJECT brought much-needed attention to painful memories and experiences that had been left out of our common history. It cannot be coincidence that now we have a lot of energy — multiple groups and individuals — working towards improving the East End neighborhood area.

There now seems to be a new vision held by many of strengthening the bonds of neighborhood residents, stemming the tide of gentrification, and re-connecting East End with downtown through beneficial new development along the Charlotte/Valley St. corridor.

Recovery comes through reclaiming history, restoring esteem, and redefining one's participation in weaving the future. East End residents are becoming players in the creation of the new Asheville Downtown Master Plan. They are making manifest the community's dream of a renewed and vital neighborhood true to its historic promise.



Rendering from Asheville Downtown Master Plan by Goody Clancy. Courtesy City of Asheville, North Carolina.