

The following neighborhood maps show some of the hundreds of institutions that sustained community and were a source of pride and identity for over 100 years before urban renewal. Inspired by the communities their elders knew, neighborhood associations are now focusing on the three E's — Economy, Environment, and Equity — as they lead the way to an economically and environmentally sustainable future for communities, including the safe and affordable housing that once had been promised and now must become a reality.

EAST END



CHURCHES

1. Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church — 47 Eagle St.
2. Sycamore Temple Church of God in Christ
3. Tried Stone Baptist Church — 2 Sorrell St.
4. St. Matthias Episcopal Church — 6 Dundee St.
5. Cappadocia Holiness Church — 58 Max St.
6. Calvary Presbyterian Church — 44 Circle St.
7. Nazareth First Baptist Church — 60 Hazzard St.
8. St. James CME Church — 44 Hildebrand St.
9. Hopkins Chapel AME Church — 321 College St.
10. Berry Temple UMC — 334 College St.

SCHOOLS

11. Southeastern Business School — 93-99 Valley St.
12. Stephens-Lee High School/Catholic Hill High School — 31 Gibbons St.
13. Mountain St./Lucy Herring School — 36 Clemmons St.
14. Allen High School — 331 College St.

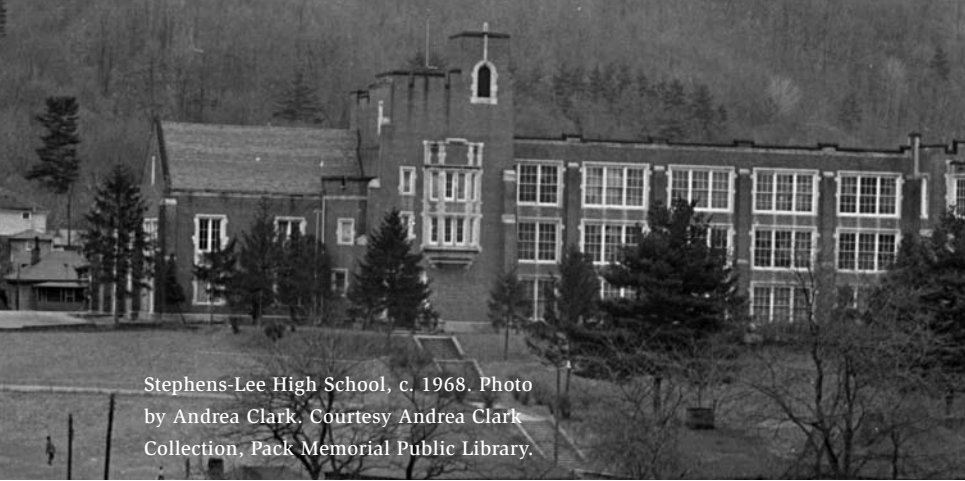
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

15. YMI Cultural Center/Soda Shop/Drugstore — 37 S. Market St.
16. Market Street Branch Library — YMI Building
17. Phyllis Wheatley YWCA — 356-360 College St.

BUSINESSES

18. Savoy Hotel and Café — 33-35 S Market St.
19. Roland's Jewelry — 29 S. Market St.
20. Club Del Cardo — 38 S. Market St.
21. Ritz Restaurant — 42 S. Market St.
22. James Macon Barber Shop — 89 Eagle St.
23. Carolina Tobacco Corp., Warehouse (music) — Beaumont & Valley Streets
24. Self-Serve Laundromat — 138 Valley St.
25. Mr. Bud Walker's Store — Bottom of Mountain St.
26. Good Value Store — Pine & Clemmons Streets
27. Porter's Store — 58 Pine St.
28. Eagle Street Theater — 51 Eagle St.

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



Stephens-Lee High School, c. 1968. Photo by Andrea Clark. Courtesy Andrea Clark Collection, Pack Memorial Public Library.

Stephens-Lee High School & the Stephens-Lee Alumni Association

Pat Griffin, Past President, Stephens-Lee Alumni Association

TO BLACKS OF EAST END and throughout Buncombe County, Stephens-Lee High School, 1924–1964, symbolized Black education, achievement, independence, and culture. As the only high school to accommodate African American students in Buncombe County and surrounding counties, it was known for its classical music programs, drama productions, and beginning in the late 1930s, its marching band. Character, intelligence, fidelity, endurance, and fortitude were instilled in us daily as we learned and built lasting friendships within the hallowed walls of the “Castle on the Hill.”

During the integration crisis of 1962–1972 the decision was made to close the school. After the demolition of the building, an idea was born for an alumni association which would work to retain the rich heritage that emerged from the school. A group of former students and teachers started the movement. The first alumni reunion was held in 1991; 1,000 alumni attended! Today the association meets monthly and collaborates with other programs to emphasize to youth the ideals of dignity and self-help, the heart of the Stephens-Lee legacy.

The East Is Rising!

Sarah Williams, East End Neighborhood Association

ON JANUARY 21, 2010, after five years of inactivity, residents of the East End came together for the good of the neighborhood. Those early meetings led to the East End Future Quest, which are visioning sessions that push community members to think about how they could foster self-improvement. Discussion topics included:

- Our shared vision of the community in five to ten years
- Challenges to make our vision a reality
- Strategies to meet these challenges
- An action plan

Future goals include capturing the neighborhood’s history through discussions with elderly residents; working to improve neighborhood parks; working with the city on land use issues and future plans; developing a newsletter; and organizing volunteers.

LIFE IN EAST END, ASHEVILLE, c. 1950–70

You know, we were very close. It’s like, they talk about the village, it takes a village to raise a child. Well, that’s what we had. That was one of the things that was so joyful.

~Bennie Lake

East End was a community, a neighborhood, self-contained....It had hair-dressers. There were grocery stores, funeral parlors, cab stands. Eagle Street had doctors’ and lawyers’ offices, dentists’ offices, churches. You had theaters. We had swimming pools. You had barbershops and the Dew Drop Inn. Miss McQueen’s restaurant was across from YMI. Roland’s Jewelry and Chisholm’s sold everything.

~Ralph Bowen

There was a time when every black person who wanted to make a living could make a living. There were eateries all up and down Eagle Street, up on the mountain. There were clubs everywhere.

~Talven “Sugarbody” Thompson

During the 1950s, East End was a place where everybody knew everybody and every child was reared, mentored, disciplined, protected, and taught — not only by their parents but by neighbors as well. Children attended Sunday School and an afternoon training class, often accompanied by their parents. There was a partnership between the local church and the home.

~Dr. Charles Moseley, Pastor, Nazareth First Baptist Church

My mom told me, “Let me tell you something. If somebody comes to you, they need a place to stay, bring them in. They need food, feed them. If they need clothes, put clothes on their back. Don’t deny it.”

~Jene Blake