

# Lacy Haith



*Lacy Thomas Haith, 1909-1994*

Reverend Lacy Haith worked with Asheville City Schools from 1937 to 1972. He earned his masters degree from the University of Michigan and came to Asheville to be the vocational/trades teacher at Stephens-Lee High School. He also operated Haith Furniture House. While he was a teacher he built houses, using them to teach his students the building trades. He bought the land behind his house and developed the Oakland Heights neighborhood off Oakland Road, as well as building other houses throughout Asheville.

Later in his life he was ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He went on to construct a large two-story addition at St. James AME Church on Hildebrand Street, housing the education rooms and church kitchen. Working with only one other man, he built it in five years, moving forward as more money was raised.

*(From Visionaries: Asheville Men of Color, by Helen Moseley-Edington)*

## Community Leader



*Lacy Haith (second from Right) at an event for Black Heritage week in Asheville that was organized by the Equal Employment Opportunity Committee 2/10/1982. Local historian, Johnny Baxter, sits to the left.*

## Teacher



*Stephens-Lee H.S. teacher Lacy T. Haith (left) with student Vincent Walter Christopher (U.S. Navy before the end of WWII) and librarian Mrs. Irene O. Hendrick, with model airplane display at the Market Street Branch Library in the Y.M.I. Building. During WW II, Haith worked on V-24 bombers in Atlanta.*

## Builder



*Haith Drive (above and below), the entrance into the Oakland Forest development, where Haith provided his students with hands-on training in building construction.*



*(Below) The large, two-story addition Lacy Haith built for the St. James AME Church on Hildebrand Street.*



This historic marker is part of the *Southside Heritage Trail* along the *Town Branch Greenway*, made possible by the City of Asheville and the Federal Transit Administration, 2014



# This area in 1968



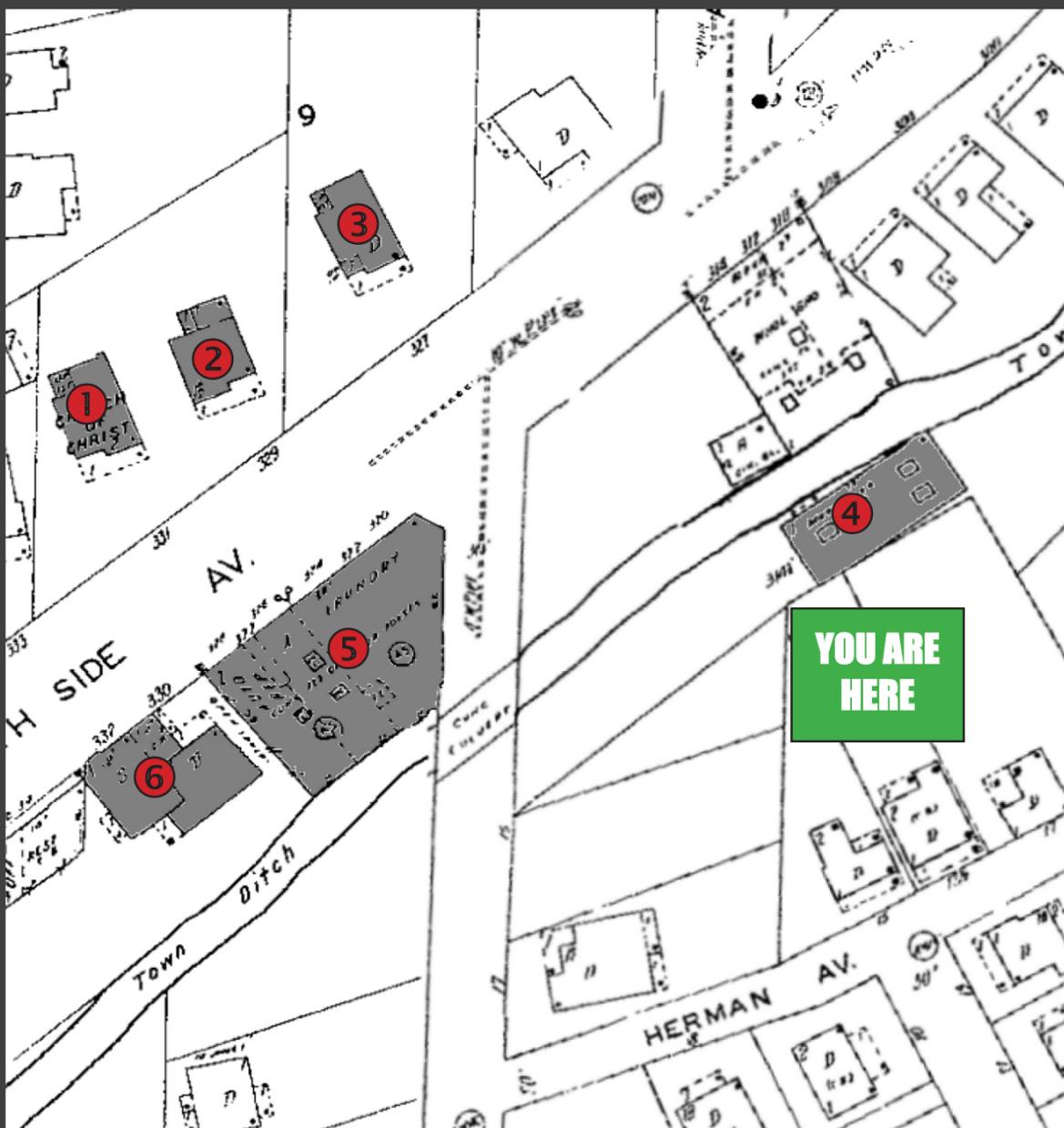
1 331 Southside Avenue



2 329 Southside Avenue



3 327 Southside Avenue



Photos from the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville Archives in the D. H. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC-Asheville



4 312 Southside Avenue, rear Asheville Bedding Company



5 322 Southside Avenue Asheville Diaper Service, Robertson & Fitzgerald Auto Repair, Black's Automotive, Young's Beauty Shop



6 328 Southside Avenue Howell's Cafe



5 322 Southside Avenue