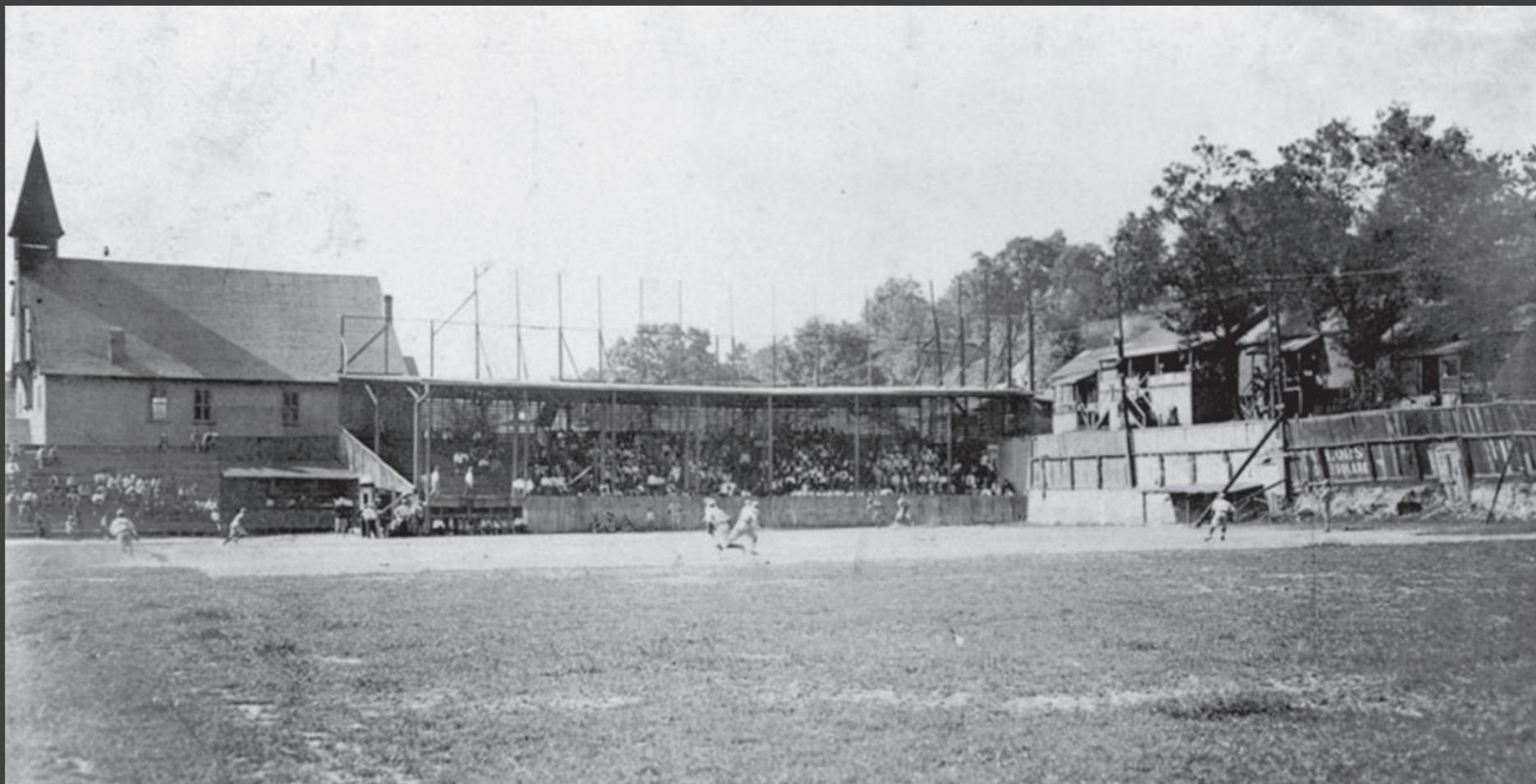


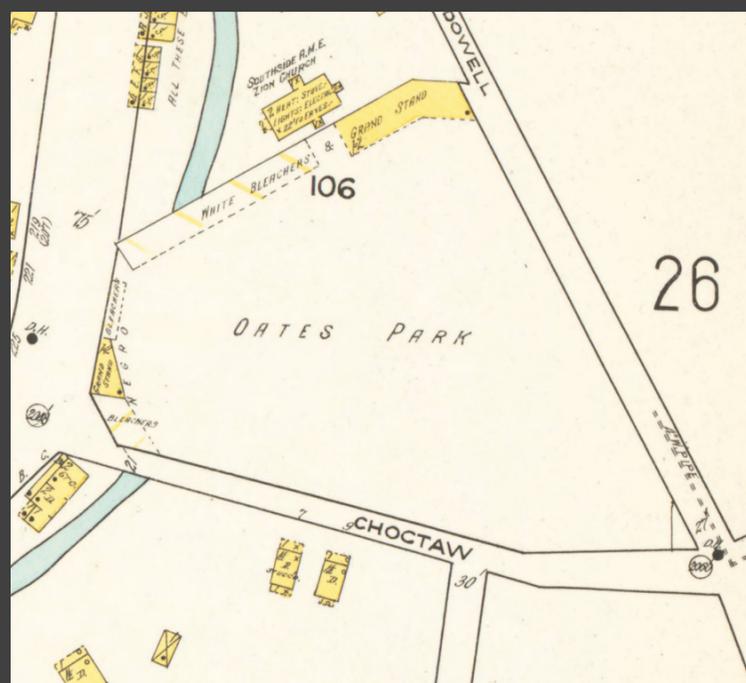
Oates Park



The Royal Giants playing Atlanta at Oates Park on Southside Avenue, 1918. (AME Zion Church is at the left rear.)



The Asheville Royal Giants baseball team, taken in Oates Park, Southside Ave, during a game against Greenville SC. The Royal Giants were Asheville's first black baseball team.



In 1916, Asheville Black business owner and developer Edward W. Pearson, Sr. founded the first African American baseball team in Asheville, the Royal Giants. Pearson always sought ways to foster prosperity in the African American communities, and developed businesses and venues to showcase talents. He developed Oates Park (built in 1914), and Pearson Park (located in the Southside district of Asheville). Oates Park was the primary home field of the Asheville Royals Giants during the mid-1910s and 1920s.

(from Asheville Celebrates Connections with Negro Baseball League, by C. Brandon Chapman in *The Urban News*, arch 14, 2008)



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



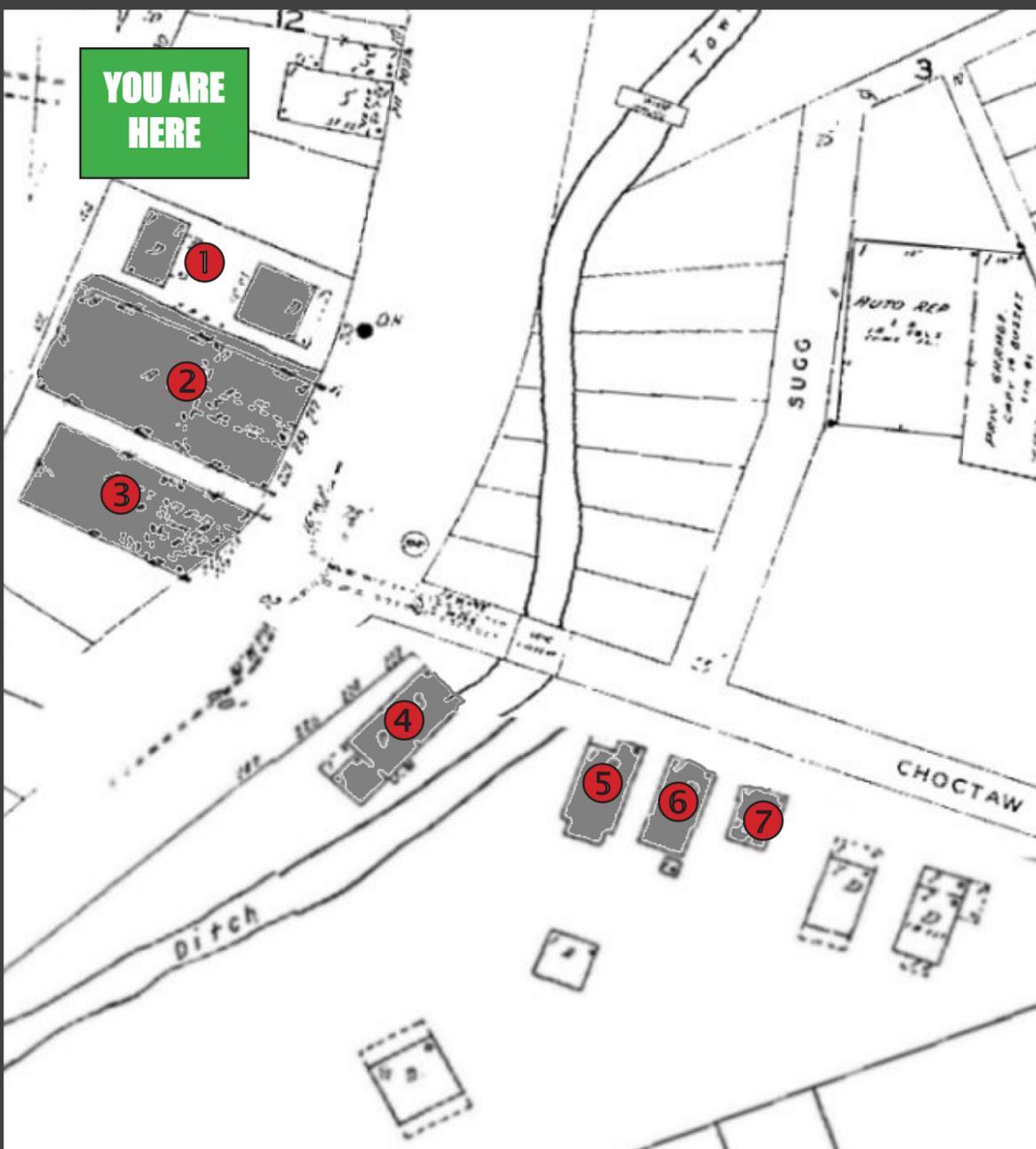
1 215 Southside Avenue



2 217 Southside Avenue
Southside Apartments



3 223 Southside Avenue
Smith Apartments



4 222 Southside Avenue
Cox Cash Grocery



5 103 Choctaw Street

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



7 99 1/2 Choctaw Street
The front of this building incorporated an old streetcar.



6 101 Choctaw Street