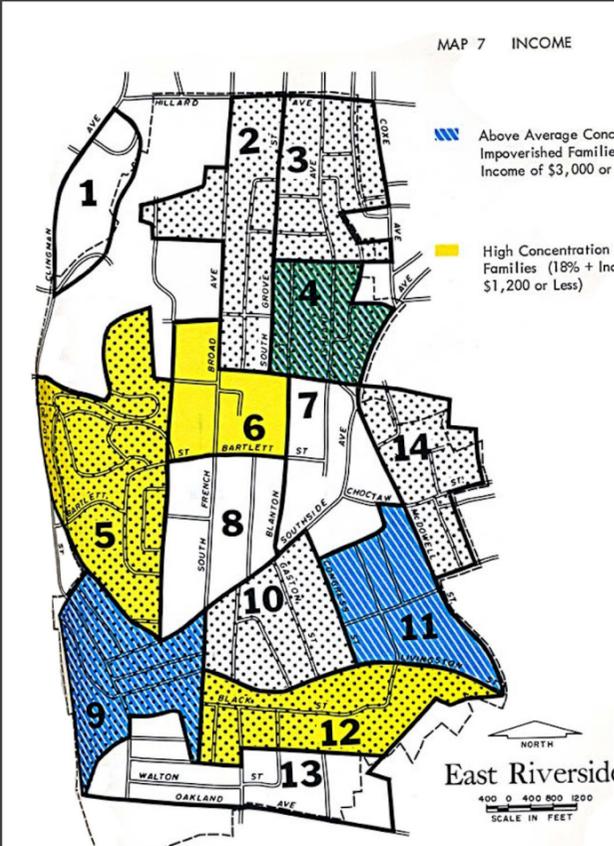


East Riverside Redevelopment



...tured here is a shack on the fam-
 ...infamous - Death Alley (the in-
 ...s prefer to call it "Elk's Alley").
 ...milies share the same toilet in the
 ...n on the back porch. Some units
 ...eight by ten cubicles with an old
 ...intage electric or coal stove, and
 ...ue refrigerator. Needless to say,
 ...e is dangerously close to the bed.
 ...ore, to greatly increase the fire
 ...the refrigerator is quite apt to be
 ...into a frayed drop cord. This house
 ...directly over "Nasty Branch", in
 ...ne finds broken bottles, old tires,
 ...frame of an old sofa. The water
 ...ream is always cloudy. The house
 ...removed and the creek cleaned up.



By the time of urban renewal, Southside was the city's premier black business district, surrounded by a large residential neighborhood. At over four hundred acres, the urban renewal project here was the largest in the southeastern United States. The scale of the devastation here was unmatched.

"In the East Riverside area," said the [late] Reverend Wesley Grant, "we have lost more than 1,100 homes, six beauty parlors, five barber shops, five filling stations, fourteen grocery stores, three laundromats, eight apartment houses, seven churches, three shoe shops, two cabinet shops, two auto body shops, one hotel, five funeral homes, one hospital, and three doctor's offices." The Reverend Grant's church still stands on Choctaw Street.

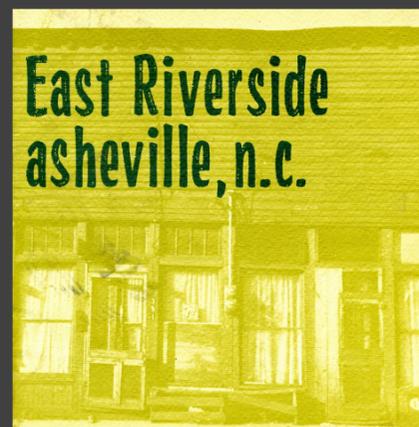
Multiple perspectives, lack of knowledge, much confusion, and discouraged and bitter individuals are all entwined as spiders in a web: any way you touch it, it trembles.

One perspective on this transformation sees families uprooted, relocated, and scattered; a community destroyed; a vibrant entrepreneurial business world shut down; and history fragmented, altered, and lost.

Priscilla Ndiaye, Former Resident and Researcher of Southside Neighborhood

A very different perspective sees economic benefits for the whole city and better living conditions for neighborhood residents.

Asheville's formal history was being made while Asheville's African American history was lost — in the name of progress.



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



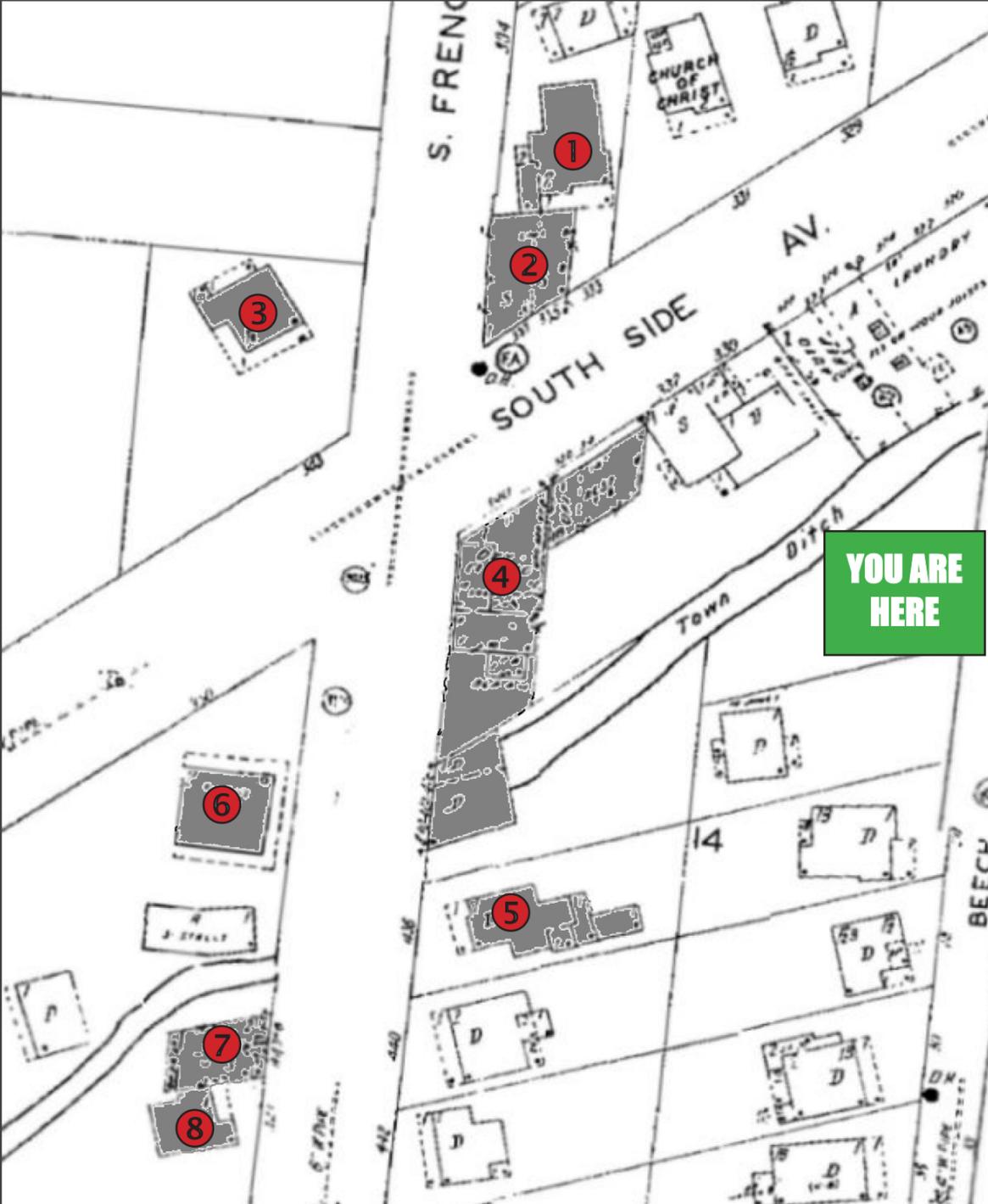
① 333 Southside Avenue



② 333 Southside Avenue storefront



③ 343 Southside Avenue



④ 240 Southside Avenue



⑤ 436 South French Broad Avenue

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



⑥ 350 Southside Avenue
Allen Funeral Home



⑦ 439 South French Broad Avenue



⑧ 441 South French Broad Avenue