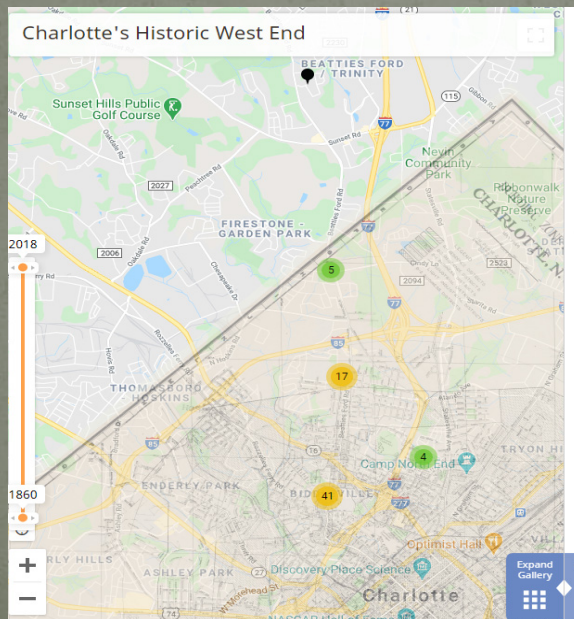




MAP OF THE WEST END

Explore the Historic West End of Charlotte, North Carolina



This seminar explores how digital mapping informed by community engagement can be used to understand local African American history and settlement, and the impact that generations of social change have had on Charlotte.

JCSU received funding from the National Endowment of the Humanities in 2017 to create a digital interactive map that presents location-based content including historical photographs, documents, newspaper articles, and oral histories recorded with community members.

The project wrapped in 2019, and the final product can be viewed here:

<https://www.westendcharlotte.org/>



The project documents the Historic West End, a vibrant and historic African American community that surrounds JCSU and is currently faced with rising concerns of gentrification and displacement as the city and its transit system grows.

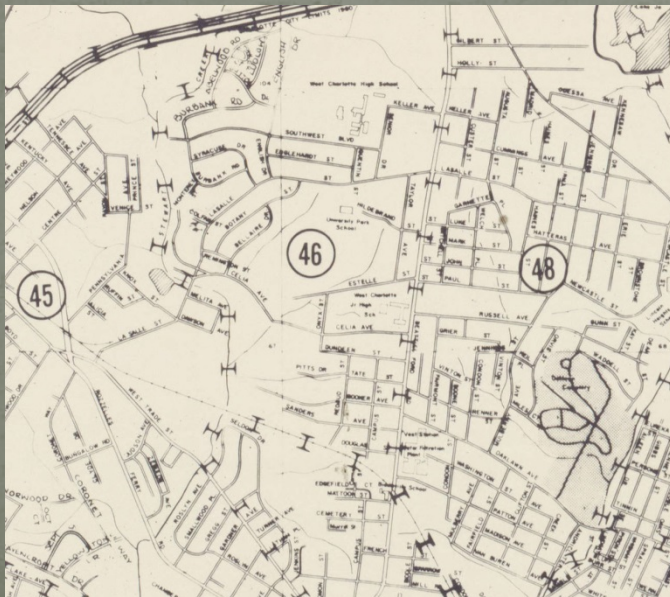


During a time when black citizens were fighting for their civil rights, the West End provided a haven for middle-class black professional families. As urban renewal policies destroyed other black neighborhoods in the city, as a nationally focused battle to desegregate schools was occurring, and as interstate highways carved up and divided families and presaged decades of crime and poverty, the West End survived.



This seminar explores how and why this project was created, and how institutions, students, and communities in Charlotte and across the country can work together to understand the divisions of the past and to come to new solutions for the future.

It will discuss how technology and oral history can be used to bring the past to life, and it will help identify the next steps to move that process forward as Virtual Reality becomes popular.



It will ultimately provide educators a way to use the lessons of history to help communities and populations currently under threat. It will allow them to use technology and digital storytelling to understand the roots of institutional racism



I believe this project can raise awareness of the machinery of racism and the politics of progress, and Charlotte can be seen as an example of how this process played out across the United States.



I think the earlier students know about these issues, the sooner they can be part of the solution and not the problem. I believe the seminar can be adapted for all grade levels, and many subjects can be touched on: History, Civics, Geography, Science and Technology, Mathematics, and Art/Music.

The creativity that students could tap into to bring the stories of these people and the narratives of these areas to life is powerful.



Depending on the interest of the cohort, I could focus on a number of things that you think students may be interested in:

- History of Race and Housing in Charlotte
- History of Johnson C. Smith University and the Historic West End
- National narratives of institutional racism through housing, settlement, redlining, highways, etc.
- How to do digital mapping and digital storytelling
- How to conduct and use oral histories
- How to use census and housing data
- How the future of digital storytelling will include virtual reality.



New 2016 Data Now Available!