

WHY WEST GREENVILLE

The question was asked, Why West Greenville.
I ask.. WHY NOT WEST GREENVILLE



West Greenville has played a vital role in this city's growth

- West Greenville was the home of two of the greatest providers of basic education in the world. The two institutions mentioned below was the hub of black education in Greenville. Regardless of what section of town you resided, you had to attend one of the two intuitions of learning based in West Greenville.



GREENVILLE INDUSTRIAL HIGH SCHOOL

This school became Fleming Street Elementary School after the Death of Professor C. M. Eppes. It was later demolished to build Sadie I. Sautler Elementary School

These schools had outstanding educators, stern discipline, love, and compassion.

Students were taught the three Rs but above all we were instilled with Pride, Self Esteem, character, Loyalty, Respect for ourselves and others.

When I first heard the term “No kid left behind”. I said my they are late getting to this. We practiced this idea on a daily basis in our segregated schools. We believed in one for all and all for one.

Why West Greenville? A community that was segregated by Jim Crow Laws, only to be blessed to have all Black recourses within walking distance of each other. Our Teachers; We had folk to help with home work, Mentors to set the example and lead our children; Our Pastors for religious guidance: our storekeepers; Our Lawyers, Our Doctors, Dentist. Each others parents , and most of all, our friends.



CHARLES MONTGOMERY EPPES HIGH SCHOOL

This school was built in 1926 as the Fifth Street School. In the early 1940s it was named in honor of professor Eppes. **Willis Haynie Davenport** was named principal and remained until his death in the mid 60's.







West Greenville was the home o “Black Owned establishments such as pool rooms, teenage clubs, restaurants , and auto repair shops. There were restaurants that sold stew for fifteen cents and gave you credit until Friday. No one went hungry.

When tobacco was king, many homes in West Greenville provided rooming facilities for migrant black tobacco factory workers.

When minstrel shows , circus, fairs and the like came to town and “Jim crow” was alive , black folk stayed in rooms provided by black families in west Greenville.

The rejuvenation of the community brought a lots of good but way too much negativity, residents got the feeling that because a few dollars were spent to make living conditions better, the highlight of crimes etc. took on a new look. Events happened that were not in west Greenville, but was reported as such. Folk committed acts and they were not residents of West Greenville, but West Greenville was given the blame.

But, in all of the decline and negative perception, the community continues to move forward

WEST GREENVILLE BUSINESSES

PITT STREET BONNERS LANE

- Caersar Corbett
- Pitt Street Taxi
- Hopkins Floral & Beauty Shop
- Darden Soda Shop
- Jerry Barnes
- Bill Jones Barber
- Tom White Barber
- The Elks Lodge
- Laura Bush
- Atlantic Avenue Cafe

THE BLOCK

- Bell's Plantation Inn
- Wet Wilson's Paradise Café
- City Cab Company
- The Plaza Theater
- The Roxy
- The Rocking Palace
- The Red Rose Club
- Johnny Jenkins Café
- DD Garrett Insurance & Realty
- Skippers

BLACK BUSINESSES

WEST FIFTH STREET

- Flanagan's Funeral Home
- Harris Grocery
- Groans
- Miss Arie
- Jones & Barrett Soda Shop
- West End Tea room
- Charlie Allens
- Bartletts
- The Casino
- The Virgo Lounge
- Mr, C's
- Moore's Peanuts
- Ennits Doughnuts

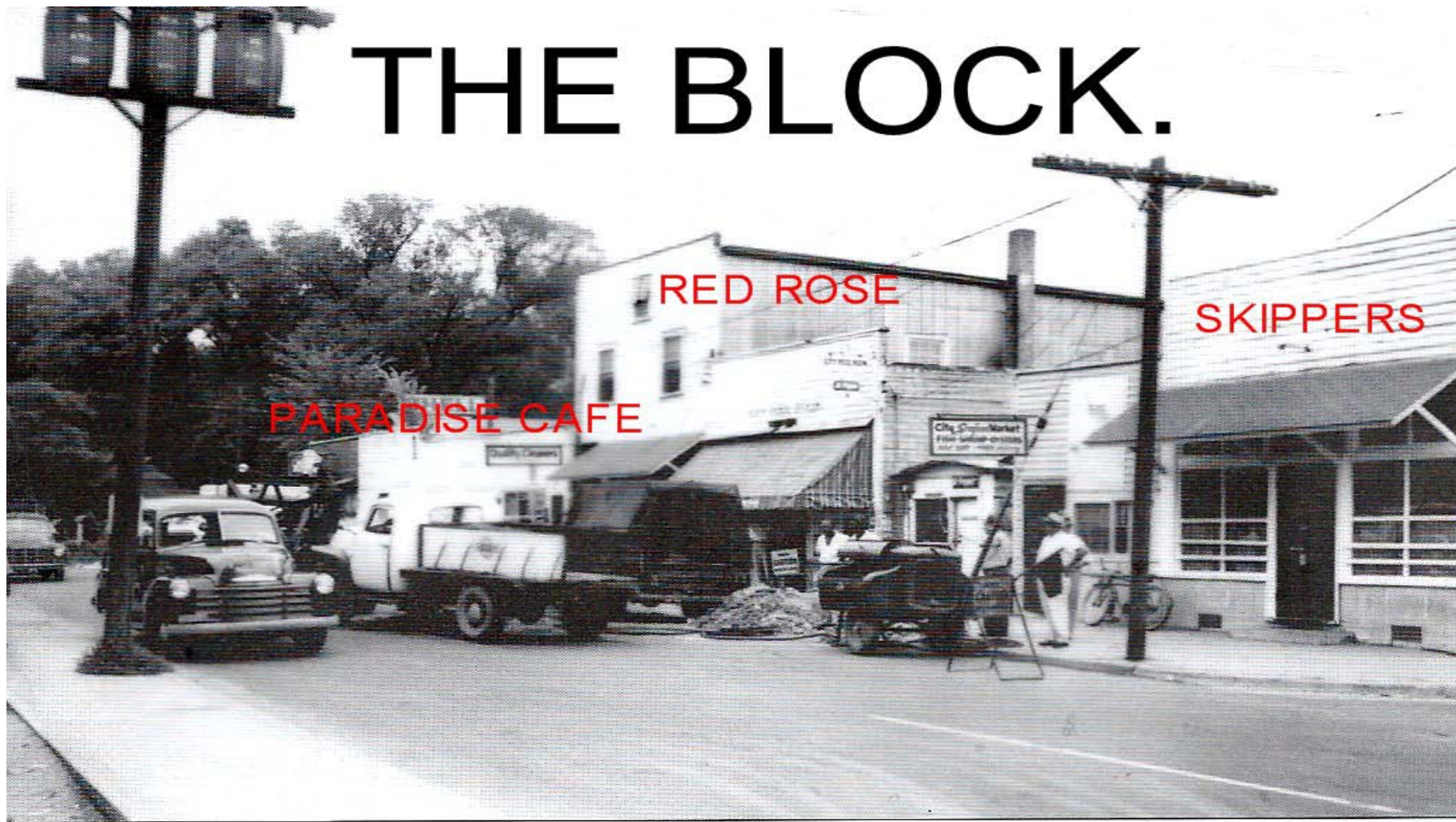
FLEMING STREET & VICINITY

- Cowards Barber shop
- Brooks Barnhill
- Batts
- Ann Langleys
- Sharper Forbes
- Phillips Funeral Home



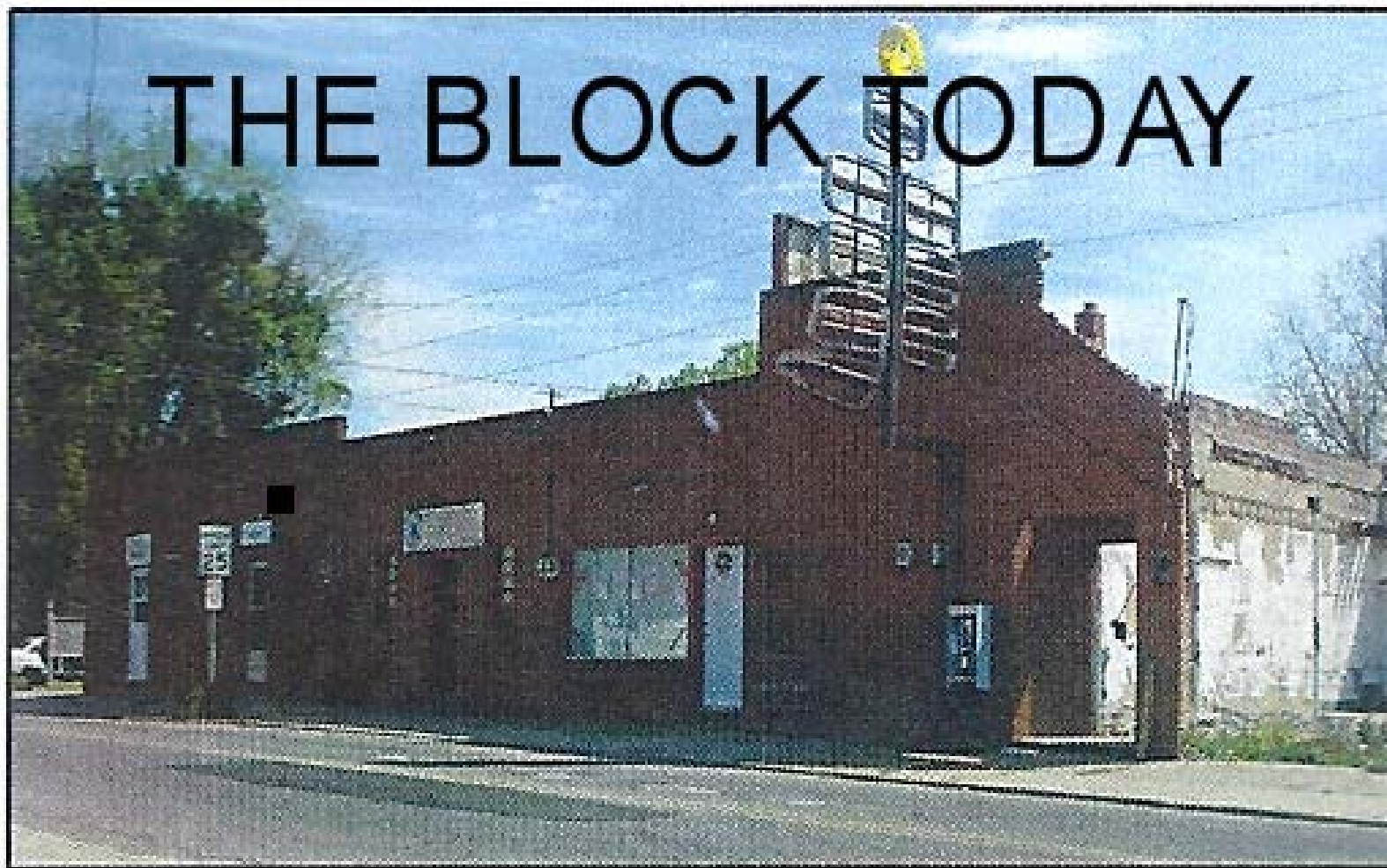
CITY TAXI ON THE CORNER OF ALBEMARLE AND WEST FIFTH STREETS, GREENVILLE, 1949. Once Hemby drove the cab. This image was taken by John Warner on 35-mm film, and the photographic print by Patrick Keenan. (Copyright © 2011 by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

THE BLOCK.



The businesses pictured in the 600 block of Albemarle Avenue in 1954 are, from left to right Quality Cleaners, run by Karl B. Dickerson and Thomas L. Hannaford; City Pool Room, run by Sylvester Brown; City Seafood Market, run by Robert Puryear and Thomas H. Adams; and the Red Rose Social Club. (Courtesy of ECMC.)

THE BLOCK TODAY





THE ROXY THEATER



West End Tea Room circa 1940
-Courtesy *Images of Greenville*



Products of West Greenville Schools

We have had students that have achieved career goals such as; Doctors, Dentists, School Principals, Deans of Universities, Lawyers, Educators, Politicians; Pastors of Mega Churches, Military Officers, Senior Enlisted Non Commissioned Officers

JAMES HARPER, JR. The president of the Eppes High School Alumni Association. a retired U.S. Army Major is currently the director of procurement for the U. S. Department of Transportation

LINDA DANIELS COLEMAN, Eppes Class of 1967 is currently running for Lt. Governor. She is serving on the Governor's staff and she has been a Representative in Wake County for several years.

EMANNUAL JENKINS, Eppes class of 1952, A retired U. S. Navy Captain, served as Director of Admissions (1972-1992) of the United States Merchant Marine Academy. He Graduated Howard University as a Pharmacist.

DAVID WILLIAMS,, class of 57, retired, LTC, Retired FSU Administrator, CTC retired.

ELWOOD DUPREE, Eppes class of 1951, retired Health Inspector for the City of New York.

JOHNNY A WOOTEN & WILLIAM MYERS Eppes class of 51, Master Musicians

BINNIE STREETER, CHARLES LEE TAYLOR: Writer of Children Book, Story teller, Poet

JAMESENA G. MOORE. Class of 1961, Director of United Way for the state of Nebraska.

BERNADETTE WATTS, PHD, retired professor NC State University

ANN GARRETT ROBINSON: *Professor Emerita*, Gateway Community College, New Haven, CT, (Ret. 1999)

Past National President, Psi Beta 1987-1990

First National Historian, Psi Beta 1990-1991

Psi Beta, The National Honor Society in Psychology

For Community and Junior Colleges, Inc.

Founding Curator, 1997 to present

Little Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum in set aside space, Prince Hall Masonic Temple on Connecticut Freedom Trail, National Register Of Historic Places, 106 Goffe Street, New Haven, CT,

JOHN OUTERBRIDGE: Class of 1951, World Renown artist, Illustrator, Curator

Doctors: Isaac A. Artis, Jr; Frederick Staton, Thomas Harris

Attorneys: Emma Levi, Class of 1958, Robert White, Class of 1968

CPAs:J. B. Taft, Jr. Barbara Henderson

Dentists: Billy Davis, Wiley Hines ,Elwood Streeter

Song Writers: William “Billy Myles Nobles” & David “Sleepy Parker

Retired Military: David Williams, class of 57, retired, LTC, Retired FSU Administrator, CTC retired. LESLIE COX, BILLY R. ANDERSON, retired chief Master Sergeants United States Air Force

County Commissioner: Melvin McLawhorn,

The creation of the Joy Soup Kitchen on Albemarle Avenue which servers the needy on a daily basis. The building also houses a medical clinic, counseling, clothing and financial services.

The Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational community Center on the corner of Ward & White streets provides loads of community services such as, After school student mentoring, Adult GED classes, Drug abuse counseling, Community gardening, Job Training, Quilting, and nurturing.

EAGLE SCOUTS



Willie “Buster” Joyner (on the right) trained more Eagle Scouts than any Scout Master during his life time



Championship baseball team



Professor Davenport



Choral group



Girl Scouts



This was the Negro Teenage Club at Eppes School in 1956. This club was designed to furnish wholesome recreation for African-American teenagers and only met on Friday nights during the school year. Dancing was the major activity. (Courtesy of ECMC.)

WHY NOT WEST GREENVILLE?

West Greenville will continue to be a vital part of our fair city. As improvements, such as better housing, Street Scape continuance, Community pride

The Intergenerational Center involvement in community development, Ged programs, Health & wellness, Community Gardening, Gang Intervention, Drug counseling, Grief Counseling, Meeting Rooms Etc.