BROOKLYN VILLAGE
Remembering Charlotte’s Brooklyn
Dr. Tom Hanchett    www.HistorySouth.org
J.T. Williams: US Consul to Sierra Leone

Brevard Street:
J.T. Williams House, Grace AME Zion, MIC Building

Courtesy of Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library
Brevard Street: Grace AME Zion, MIC Building

Courtesy of Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library
Second Street just prior to “Urban Renewal”
Queen City Drug Store & Afro-American Mutual Building

Courtesy of Charlotte Observer
Sickness is Sure to Come: Death Follows.

If you were taken Suddenly Sick to-night and die, WHAT THEN?

From five cents, 5c., to twenty-five cents, 25c., per week when you are well, brings you from one dollar, $1, to five dollars, $5, per week during sickness and from fifteen dollars, $15, to seventy-five dollars, $75, at death.

Who in your family will need it first?

An Afro-American policy, by an Afro-American agent, made by Afro-American clerks, on an Afro-American husband and Afro-American wife, or an Afro-American child, makes an Afro-American home independent in the homes of sickness or death.

Colored Charlotte booklet, 1915

Courtesy of Carolina Room
Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library
Brevard Street Branch:
First black public library in North Carolina

Courtesy of Carolina Room
Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library
Board members 1916

AME Zion Publishing House

Courtesy of Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library
Myers Street School
First Charlotte school built for African American children
Stood near present site of Aquatic Center

Courtesy of Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library
Vermelle Diamond, Queen, 1947

Courtesy of Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library
St. Paul Baptist Church
St. Paul Ladies Usher Board

Courtesy of Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library
Brooklyn Presbyterian Church & Manse

Ebenezer Baptist on Second Street

United House of Prayer for All People on McDowell

Brooklyn Presbyterian Church & Manse
Brooklyn included middle-class homes and rental homes for working families.
Brooklyn included substandard rental housing
Federal “red lining” 1938

From www.HistorySouth.org, courtesy of National Archives
Federally funded
Urban Renewal
1950s – 1960s
Applying the principles of renewal

The entire concept of urban renewal has “come of age” and, in Charlotte, it has reached full maturity. Much of the blight that nearly overwhelmed the inner city a few years back is now being removed. In the Brooklyn project we have gone beyond the stages of demolition and clearing and are well into fulfillment of the development plans which were so carefully formulated years ago.

But our obligation is to Charlotte’s citizens and to their environment. “Decay and renewal” are natural and perpetual. We must meet decay with adequate curative and preventive planning so that the environment—housing, neighborhoods, communities, the city—may never be allowed to deteriorate again. Today we are paying for and doing the work of renewal necessitated by the false economy and lack of foresight of previous generations. We cannot pass these same follies to future generations.
Brooklyn land after “Urban Renewal”

1970s postcard shows:

Tryon Street towers at top

Walton Plaza on Stonewall at left / Ed Center and 1st Baptist Church at right-center

McDowell Street at bottom
TEAM: BK PARTNERS LLC

- Peebles Corporation
- Conformity Corporation
- Stantec
Honor the heritage…the “essence and the spirit” of Brooklyn
Your thoughts

- What are the most important elements of Brooklyn’s History and Culture? (be as specific as possible)

- How do we include these elements in the new neighborhood?

- What other design elements and features should we consider as we complete our design work?
History
Culture
Rooted in the Second Ward’s historic vitality
Connecting to Center City’s dynamic energy
Inviting Charlotte’s innovative future
Past Plans: 2003 to today
Brooklyn Village South

**BLOCK I**
PHASE 1
- 111,300 GSF HOTEL (150 KEYS)
- 16,500 GSF RETAIL
- 46,000 GSF PARKING (146 SPACES)
- PARKING ABOVE GRADE

**BLOCK H**
PHASE 3
- 355,100 GSF RESIDENTIAL (395 UNITS)
- 14,300 GSF RETAIL
- 131,400 GSF PARKING (417 SPACES)
- PARKING BOTH ABOVE & BELOW GRADE

**BLOCK G**
PHASE 3
- 506,600 GSF OFFICE
- 76,000 GSF RETAIL
- 116,000 GSF PARKING (368 SPACES)
- PARKING BELOW GRADE
Diverse mix of uses
John Belk Freeway/ I-277 Gateway
A walk along Stonewall
A walk along Second Street
A walk along Second Street
A walk in the park
Culture...and telling the Brooklyn Story
CAPTIVATE the user by pulling them into the site using lighting, color, and art.

ACTIVATE Myer's Passage through paving patterns and architectural features.

INVIGORATE existing Stonewall Street with unique pedestrian crossings.
Connecting to Midtown
Your thoughts

- What are the most important elements of Brooklyn’s History and Culture? (be as specific as possible)
- How do we include these elements in the new neighborhood?
- What other design elements and features should we consider as we complete our design work?
Our Next Steps – public sessions

- **Brooklyn Village History and Cultural Programming & Other Design Elements**
  - Monday, August 15th 6:00 pm & Tuesday, August 16th 11:30 am
  - **Location:** Beatties Ford Road Public Library

- **MWSBE Participation & Outreach**
  - Monday, August 29th 6:00 pm & Tuesday, August 30th 11:30 am
  - **Location:** LUESA (Mon pm), Belmont Community Center (Tues am)

- **Affordable Housing and Public Open Space**
  - Monday, September 12th 6:00 pm & Tuesday, September 13th 11:30 am
  - **Location:** Little Rock AME Zion Church

- **Economic Opportunity and Approach to Retail**
  - Monday, September 26th 6:00 pm & Tuesday, September 27th 11:30 am
  - **Location:** LUESA, 2145 Suttle Avenue

**Final Town Hall Meeting**
- **Thursday, October 13th 6:00 pm,** Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Find us on...

- Facebook: brooklynvillageclt
- Twitter: @brooklynvlgclt
- Web: brooklynvillage-clt.com OR charmecck.org/mecklenburg/county/BMC2U/Pages/Brooklyn-Village-Redevelopment.aspx