



To: J. Russell Allen

From: Mitchell Silver, AICP
Elizabeth Alley
Dhanya Sandeep

Date: 3.9.2012

Re: **Creation of Raleigh's first two Cultural Districts**

Background

Raleigh's 2030 Comprehensive Plan *Policy AC 5.3 Cultural Districts* states "Promote the creation of Cultural Districts and/or Heritage Trails to highlight the rich cultural identity of Raleigh." As the result of recent community initiatives, extensive research, and planning efforts, staff is pleased to recommend the creation of the first two Cultural Districts in the City of Raleigh: **the South Park-East Raleigh Cultural District and the New Bern Avenue-Edenton Street Cultural District**. See attached maps for district boundaries. The creation of the two cultural districts will implement *Action AC 5.1 South Park and Olde East Cultural Districts* of the Comprehensive Plan and *Objective CL.5* of the recently completed New Bern Corridor study.

The two districts have been evaluated and boundaries defined appropriately to include unique assets, established programs, and/or features that contribute to their historical and cultural significance in Raleigh's urban fabric. The two cultural districts are distinct in that each reflects the community's unique geographic area, environment, history, land use, growth and cultural development during different eras of Raleigh's evolution as a city. These district proposals have evolved from the dedicated collaboration amongst the City, the community and, in the case of the South Park-East Raleigh Cultural District, the NCSU College of Design professors and students. Both the New Bern-Edenton Corridor Study and the South Park-East Raleigh initiatives created maps and brochures that highlight these unique cultural and historic resources.

The creation of a Cultural District allows the city to formally recognize the cultural contributions a neighborhood or a district plays in shaping the City's cultural identity. It is an honorary title, and does not carry with it any additional regulations on the design or development of properties within the district. It will however, enable the city and community to better recognize and promote the cultural assets that make Raleigh unique to our citizens, as well as with our partners in the tourism and economic development industries. In the future the cultural district designation may be used to guide new projects and initiatives through partnerships between city departments and the community to highlight the cultural aspects of these districts such as interpretive signage and streetscape improvements. The creation of these districts will enhance cultural tourism for the City, and they will be promoted in partnership with the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau, Visitors' Centers, websites, and other venues such as the Raleigh City Museum.

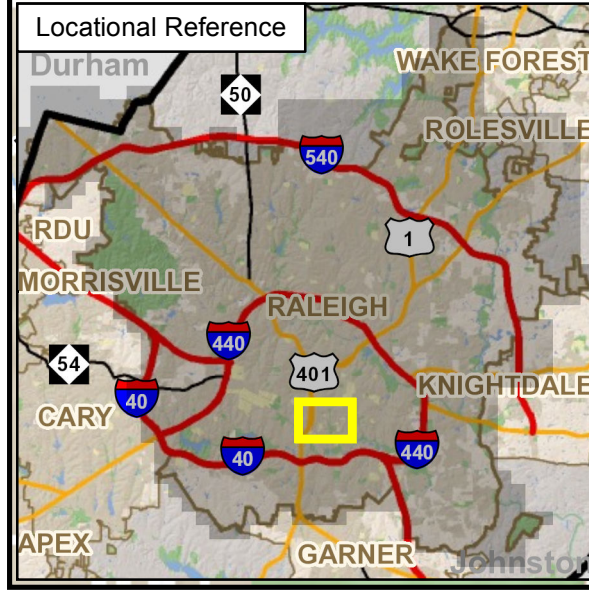
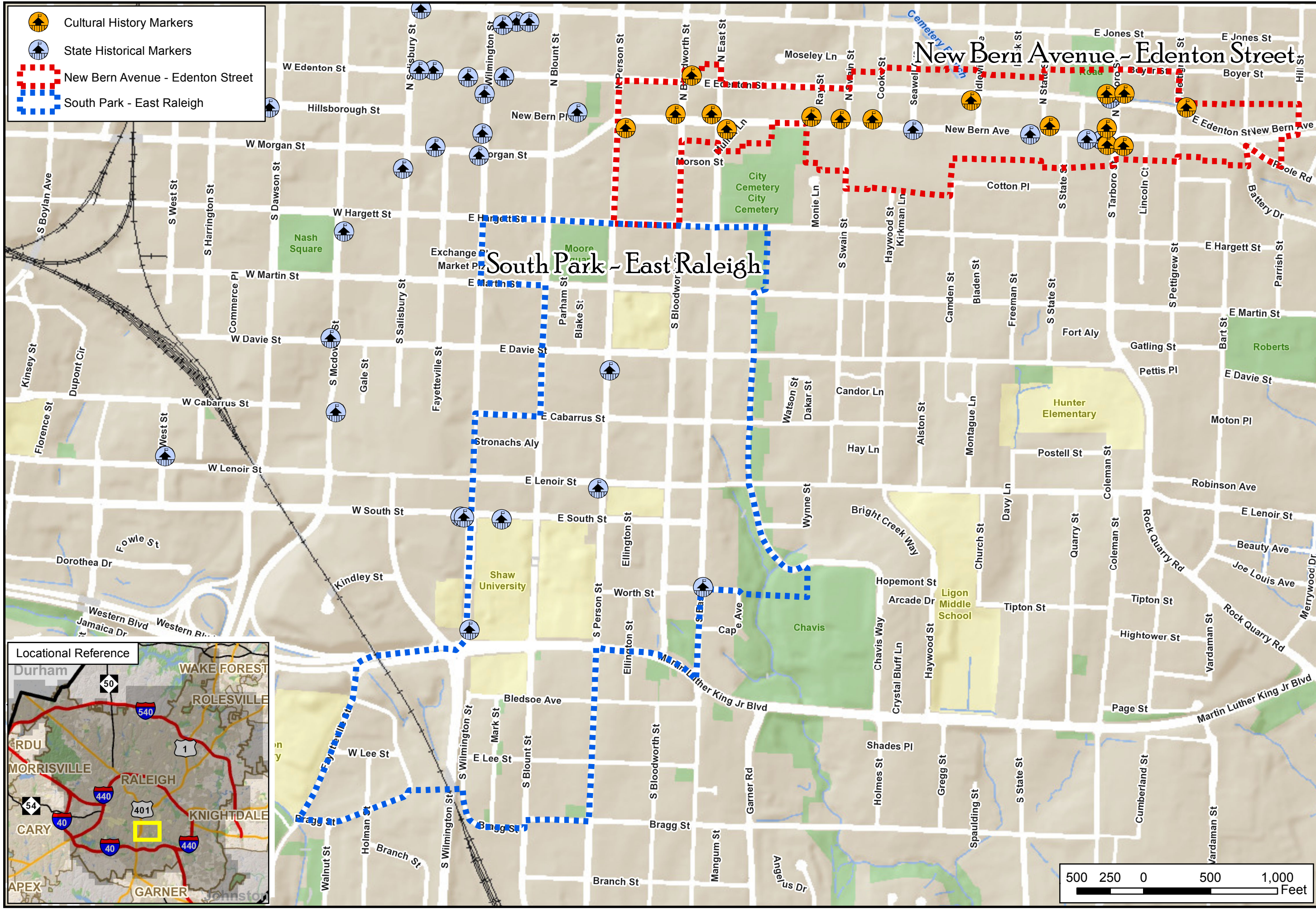
Action Request

Endorse the creation of the two proposed Cultural Districts.

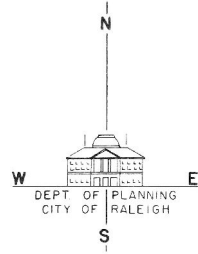
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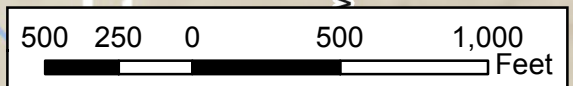
-  Cultural History Markers
-  State Historical Markers
-  New Bern Avenue - Edenton Street
-  South Park - East Raleigh

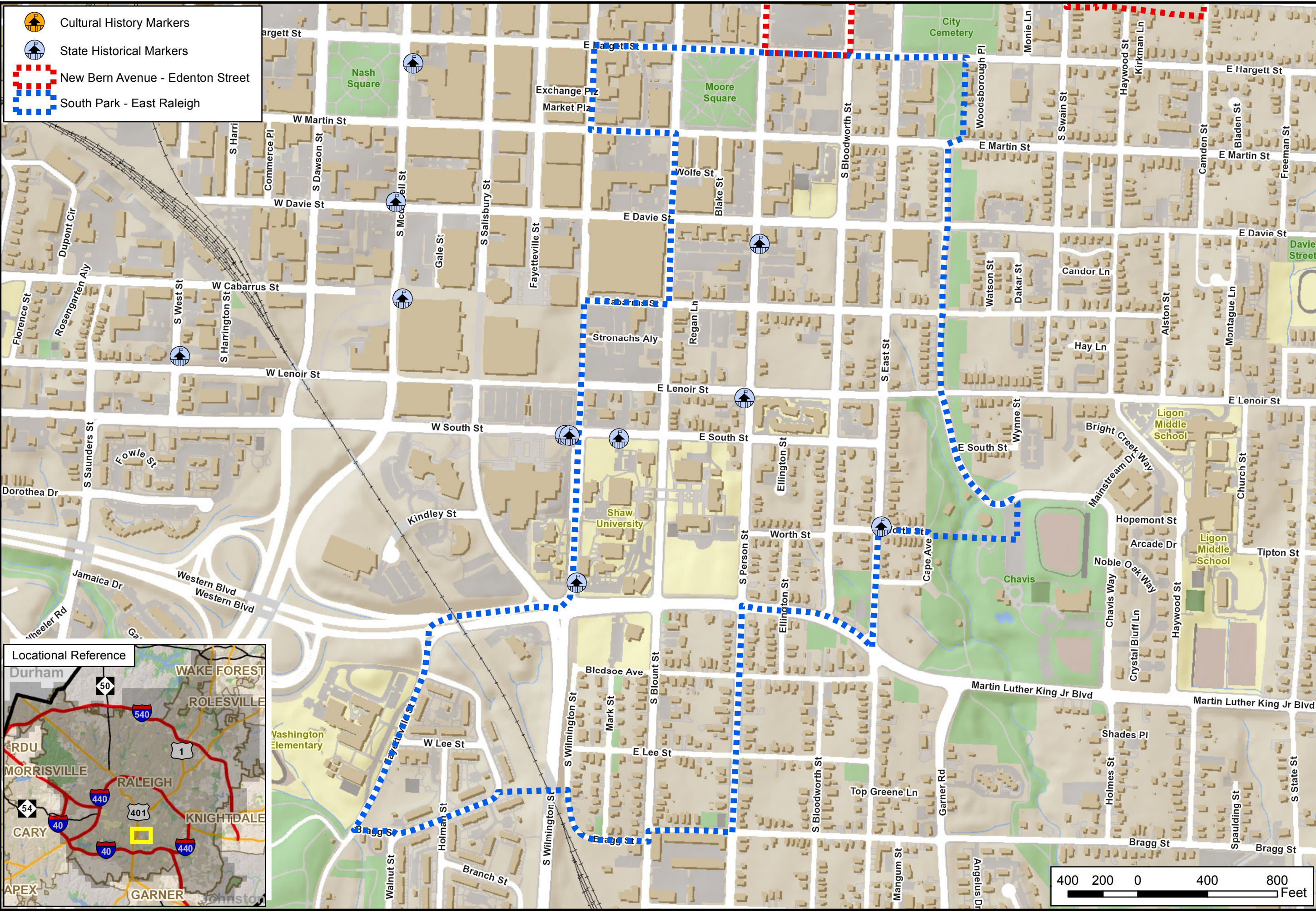






Proposed Cultural Districts



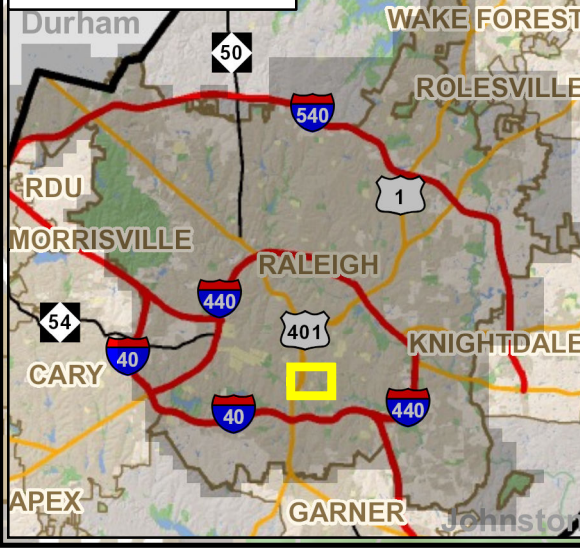
Map by Ray Aull
6 March 2012





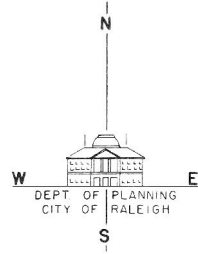
-  Cultural History Markers
-  State Historical Markers
-  New Bern Avenue - Edenton Street
-  South Park - East Raleigh

Locational Reference

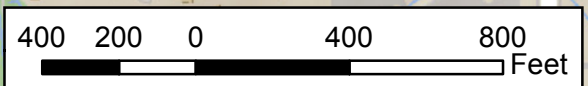



Proposed Cultural District

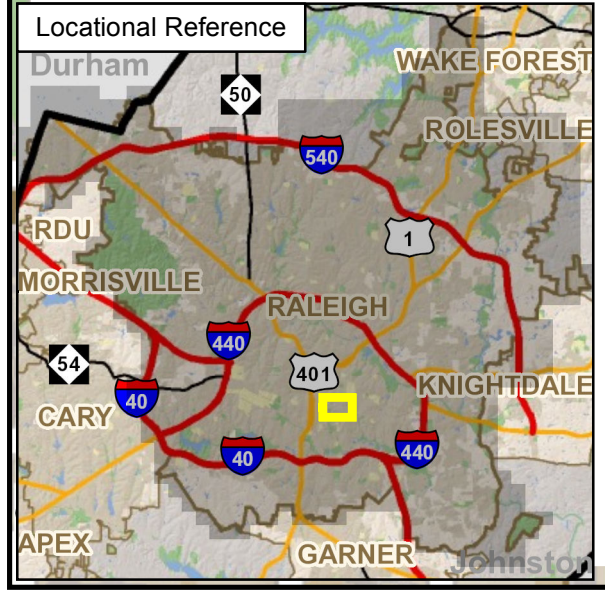
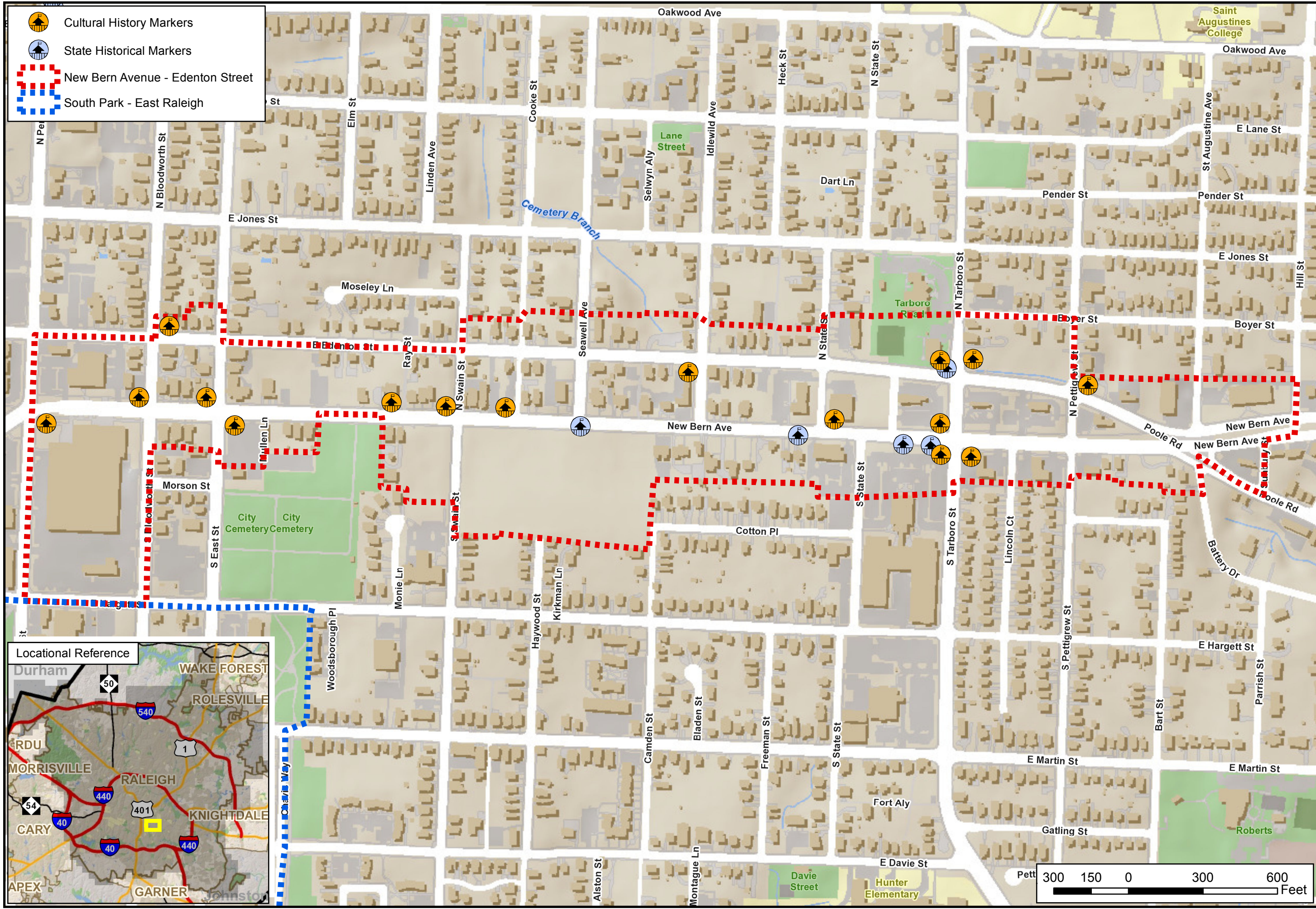
South Park ~ East Raleigh



Map by Ray Aull
6 March 2012

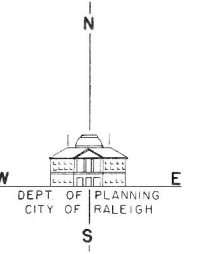


-  Cultural History Markers
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Proposed Cultural District

New Bern Avenue ~ Edenton Street



DEPT. OF PLANNING
CITY OF RALEIGH

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