



Castle Street Collective

A registered 501(c)(3) organization

Tax ID: 93-4317054

P.O. Box 386, Wilmington, NC 28402

ENTERPRISE ON

CASTLE:

BLACK BUSINESS HERITAGE ON CASTLE STREET

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



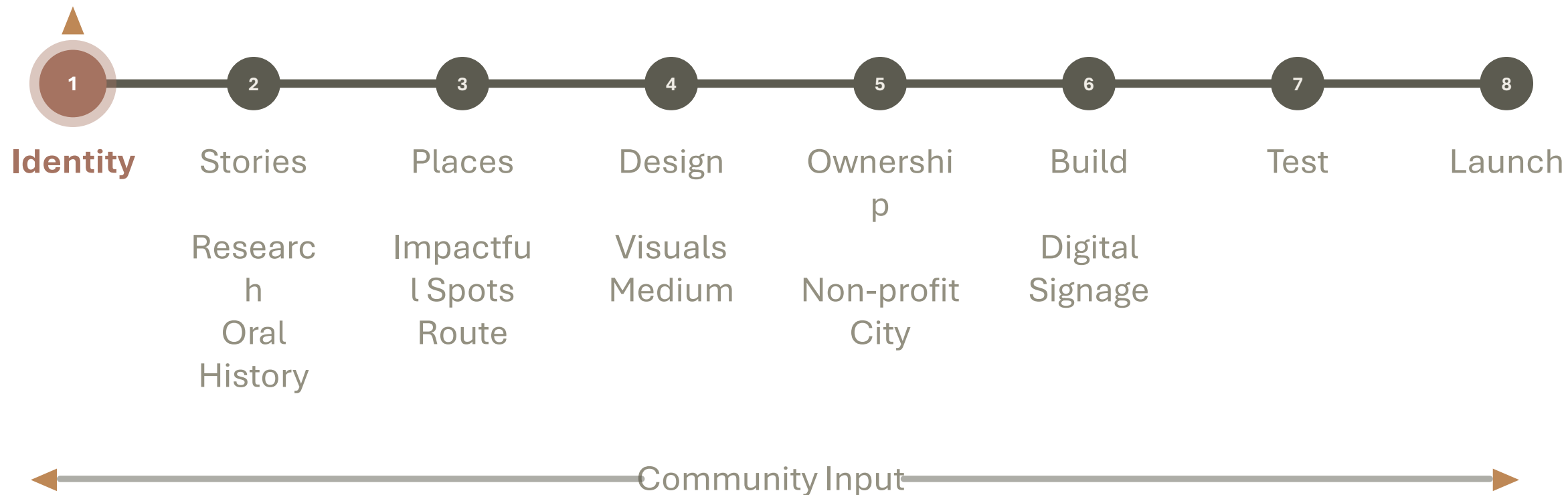
INTRODUCTION

Tell the stories of black individuals between Emancipation and the 1898 Wilmington Coup through the home-based enterprise businesses along Castle Street.

PATH

Enterprise on Castle: Black Business Heritage on Castle Street

**WE ARE
HERE**



COMMUNITY INPUT DATES

Enterprise on Castle: Black Business Heritage on Castle Street

#1

Tuesday, June 2 @ 5:00 pm
Friday, June 5 @ Noon

#2

Monday, June 8 @ 5:00 pm
Thursday, June 12 @ Noon

#3

Tuesday, June 16 @ 5:00 pm
Friday, June 19 @ Noon

#4

Monday, June 22 @ 5:00 pm
Thursday, June 25 @ Noon

#5

Tuesday, July 14 @ 5:00 pm
Friday, July 17 @ Noon

#6

Tuesday, July 14 @ 5:00 pm
Friday, July 17 @ Noon

#7

Tuesday, July 28 @ 5:00 pm
Friday, July 31 @ Noon

#8

Monday, August 3 @ 5:00 pm
Thursday, August 6 @ Noon

#9

Tuesday, August 11 @ 5:00 pm
Friday, August 14 @ Noon

#10

Monday, August 17 @ 5:00 pm
Thursday, August 20 @ Noon

5:00 pm time meetings will be at Glimmers Recreational Therapy
Noon time meetings will be at The Roasted Bookery



The history of castle street's black home-enterprise corridor is missing today not because it was insignificant, but because it was **systematically erased**.

After the 1898 coup, Wilmington's white leadership reshaped the city's public memory, legal systems, and built environment in ways that obscured or eliminated black presence involvement

EXPUNGED



- Suppression of Black Narratives
- Loss of Black Property Owners
- Lack of Photographs and Documentation
- Generational Displacement
- Urban Change and Redevelopment

MECHANISMS OF DISPOSSESSION AFTER 1898



- Forced Flight and Abandonment
- Trustee Sales and Forced Auctions
- Tax Foreclosures
- Nominal-Value Transfers
- Building & Loan Associations
- Legal Manipulation and Court Control
- Intimidation and Social Pressure

HOME ENTERPRISES



- Castle Street was home to black home-enterprises from Emancipation through the 1898 Wilmington Coup.
- Professions included seamstresses, carpenters, shoemakers, etc. along Castle Street from the 500 – 900 block.

PEOPLE

Enterprise on Castle: Black Business Heritage on Castle Street

| NAME | OCCUPATION | EVIDENCE STRENGTH | STREET NUMBER |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Henry Sampson | Carpenter / Shed Builder | High | 501 |
| Elijah Corbett | Fisherman / Oyster Shucker | High | 505 |
| William H. Howe | Barber | High | 509 |
| Thomas Bryant | Porter / Warehouse Delivery | High | 509 1/2 |
| George Howe | Shoemaker | High | 511 |
| Henry Sampson | Carpenter | High | 513 |
| Elijah Burnett | Carpenter / Stair Builder | High | 513 1/2 |
| Edward Howe | Carpenter | High | 515 |
| John Corbett | Drayman | High | 517 |
| Joseph Corbett | Shrimp Seller | High | 517 1/2 |
| Thomas Sampson | Carpenter | High | 521 |
| Elijah Howe | Carpenter / Roofing | High | 521 1/2 |

PROJECT RATIONALE

Enterprise on Castle: Black Business Heritage on Castle Street

1 Historical Need

Castle Street's black history is undocumented and at risk of permanent loss.

2 COMMUNITY NEED

Descendants and residents deserve recognition and truth-telling.

3 CULTURAL NEED

Wilmington's public history is incomplete without Castle Street.

4 REDEVELOPMENT NEED

As Castle Street redevelops, its future must be grounded in its authentic past.

PROJECT GOALS

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1898 COUP INCIDENT MAP

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Enterprise on Castle: Black Business Heritage on Castle Street

- 1 Local Collaboration
- 2 Research & Documentation
- 3 Interpretation & Design
- 4 Fabrication & Installation & Launch
- 5 Community feedback
- 6 Descendant engagement

SUCCESS

Enterprise on Castle: Black Business Heritage on Castle Street

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INVOLVEMENT



YOU

Descendent families

Local churches

Schools

Cultural organizations

Neighborhood organizations

Non-profits

Libraries

Historians

City / County

LETS
BEGIN

HOW DO PEOPLE WANT TO BE INVOLVED?



- Do you want to help shape this, or just attend it?
- Story sharing
- Advisory roles
- Leadership roles
- One-time vs ongoing involvement

WHAT IS CASTLE STREET TO YOU?

- How people describe the street today
- What memories or associations people have
- What people feel has been lost or changed
- Whether the street feels:
 - Owned
 - Disconnected
 - In transition



WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS PROJECT TO DO FOR THE COMMUNITY?



- Should this project:
 - Educate?
 - Heal?
 - Attract visitors?
 - Support businesses?
 - Preserve memory?
- What would success look like in 5–10 years?

WHO IS THIS FOR— AND WHO IS IT NOT FOR?



- Who should tell the stories?
- Locals vs visitors
- Youth vs elders
- Schools vs tourists

HOW SHOULD THIS FEEL?



- Should the experience feel:
 - Reflective?
 - Empowering?
 - Educational?
 - Heavy / honest / difficult?
- How should 1898 be handled emotionally?
 - Should the focus be:
 - Loss
 - Resilience
 - Pride

WHAT ARE PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT?



- What would make this project feel wrong or harmful?
- Gentrification concerns
- Tourism vs community benefit
- Stories being misrepresented
- Who controls the narrative

HOW SHOULD THIS HELP PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE?



- Jobs (tour guides, youth involvement)
- Visibility for local businesses
- Educational opportunities
- Cultural pride

WHO NEEDS TO BE VISIBLE IN THIS?



- Whose stories are usually overlooked here?
- Women's labor
- Families vs individuals
- Working people vs well-known figures

HOW SHOULD THIS SHOW UP IN THE WORLD?



- Visual recreations

vs

- Signage

vs

- Art

vs

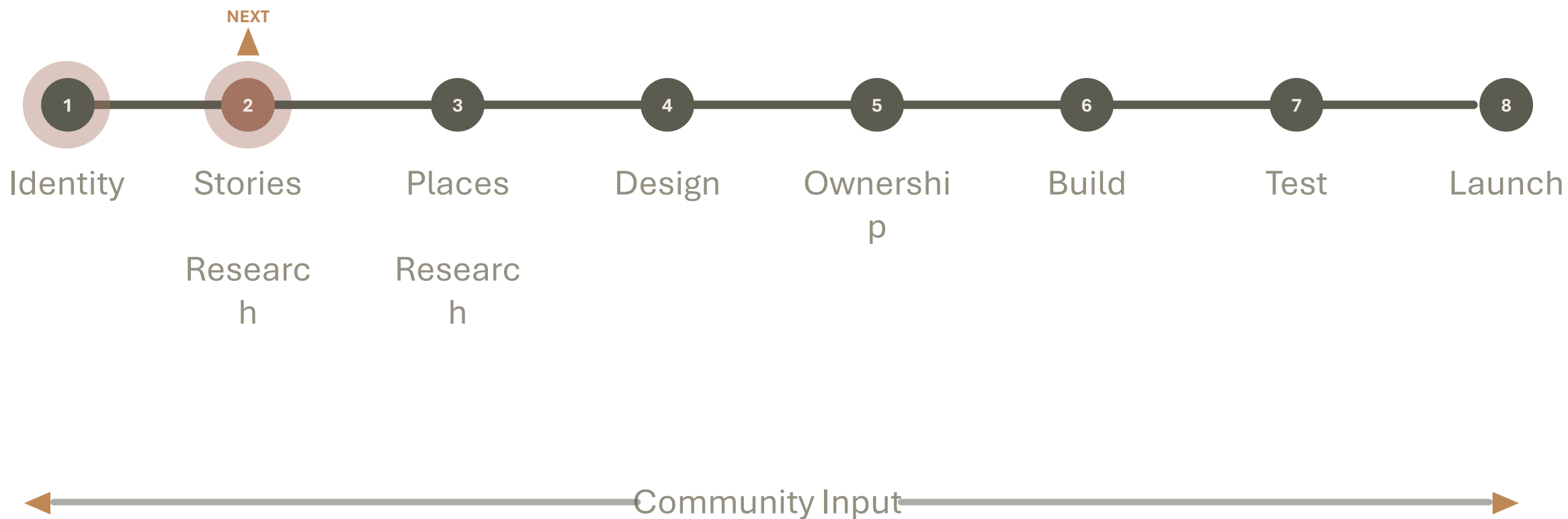
- Audio

- Subtle vs bold presence

- Permanent vs evolving Digital layers (QR, stories, etc.)

NEXT

Black History On Castle Project





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Q & A

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