



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



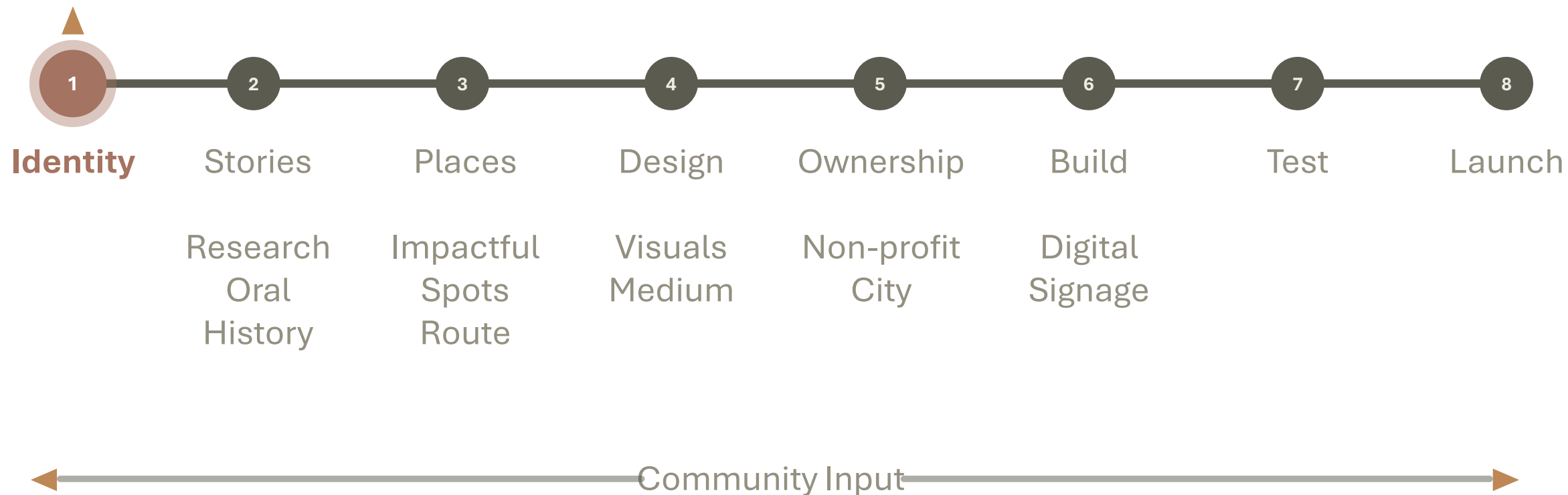
# INTRODUCTION

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

Refer to EVENTS for locations.



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

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

# 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

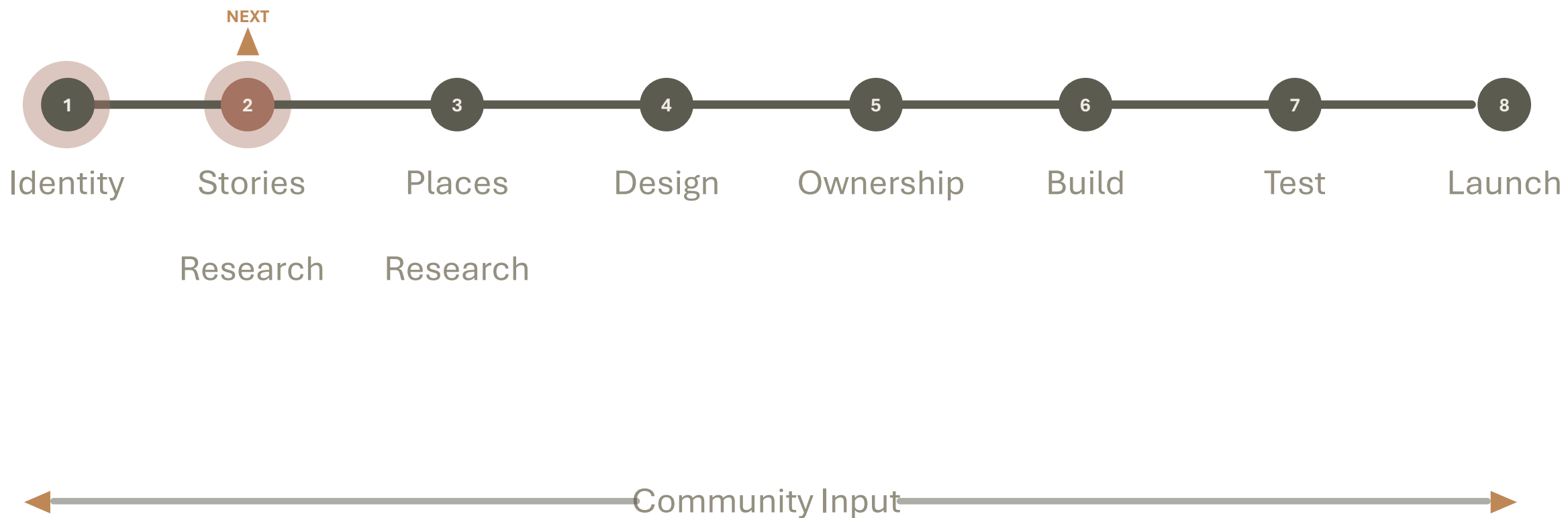
- Subtle vs bold presence

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



# NEXT

Black History On Castle Project





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# Q & A

[ADMIN@CASTLESTREET.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@CASTLESTREET.ORG)