



# City of Charleston Historic Resources Surveys

African American Historic  
Resources Survey

And

Update to the City of  
Charleston's Historic Districts



406. Street Venders, Charleston, S. C.



# New South Associates

## Who we are:

- Cultural Resources Management Firm established in 1988
- Women-owned business
- Headquartered in Stone Mountain, Georgia
- Offices in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia

## What we do:

- Architectural history
- Historic contexts
- Oral histories
- Archaeology
- Geophysical studies



NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES

ARCHAEOLOGISTS • HISTORIANS

a women-owned small business



# What is a Historic Resources Survey?

As per the *Survey Manual for South Carolina Statewide Survey of Historic Properties*, a historic resources survey is:

"the process of systematically identifying historic properties within the boundaries of a specific geographical area, documenting their location and physical characteristics, and evaluating their importance within an appropriate historical context."

"...a multi-part process that consists of designing the survey's goals and parameters, conducting research about the survey area, completing fieldwork, data entry and organization, and reporting the findings of the survey."

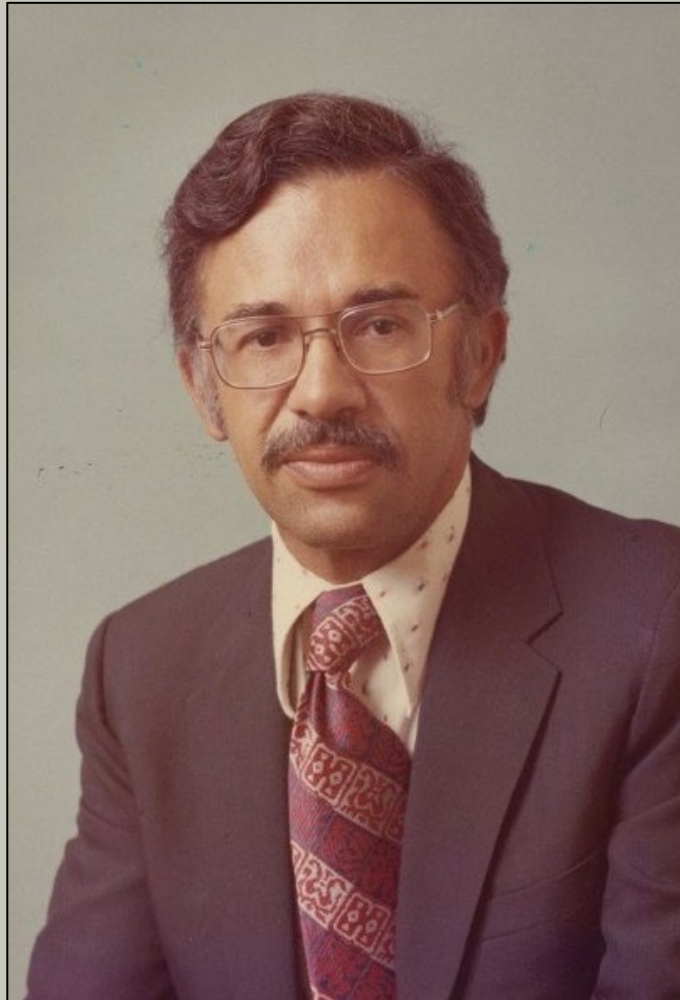
# Why Complete a Historic Resources Survey?

- Identify resources to list in the National Register of Historic Places
- Provide recommendations for existing National Register listings and districts
- Support local designations of buildings and districts
- Assist in preservation and planning efforts by local governments
- Compliance review by government agencies
- Increase awareness of, and interest in, a community's historic resources





# Historic Preservation Matters



“The biggest and most profound realization for me was that Herbert A. DeCosta, Jr.’s work was not just about constructing buildings but about preserving African American history and creating communities. His projects included sites of historical significance to the Black experience, such as St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, the Heritage Park Community, Burke High School, and Avery Research Center. Architecture often goes unnoticed in discussions about African American history, yet it plays a vital role in preserving our heritage and stories.”

-- Kanyisile Barrett, Great-granddaughter of Herbert A. DeCosta, Jr. on her internship at the Avery Institute



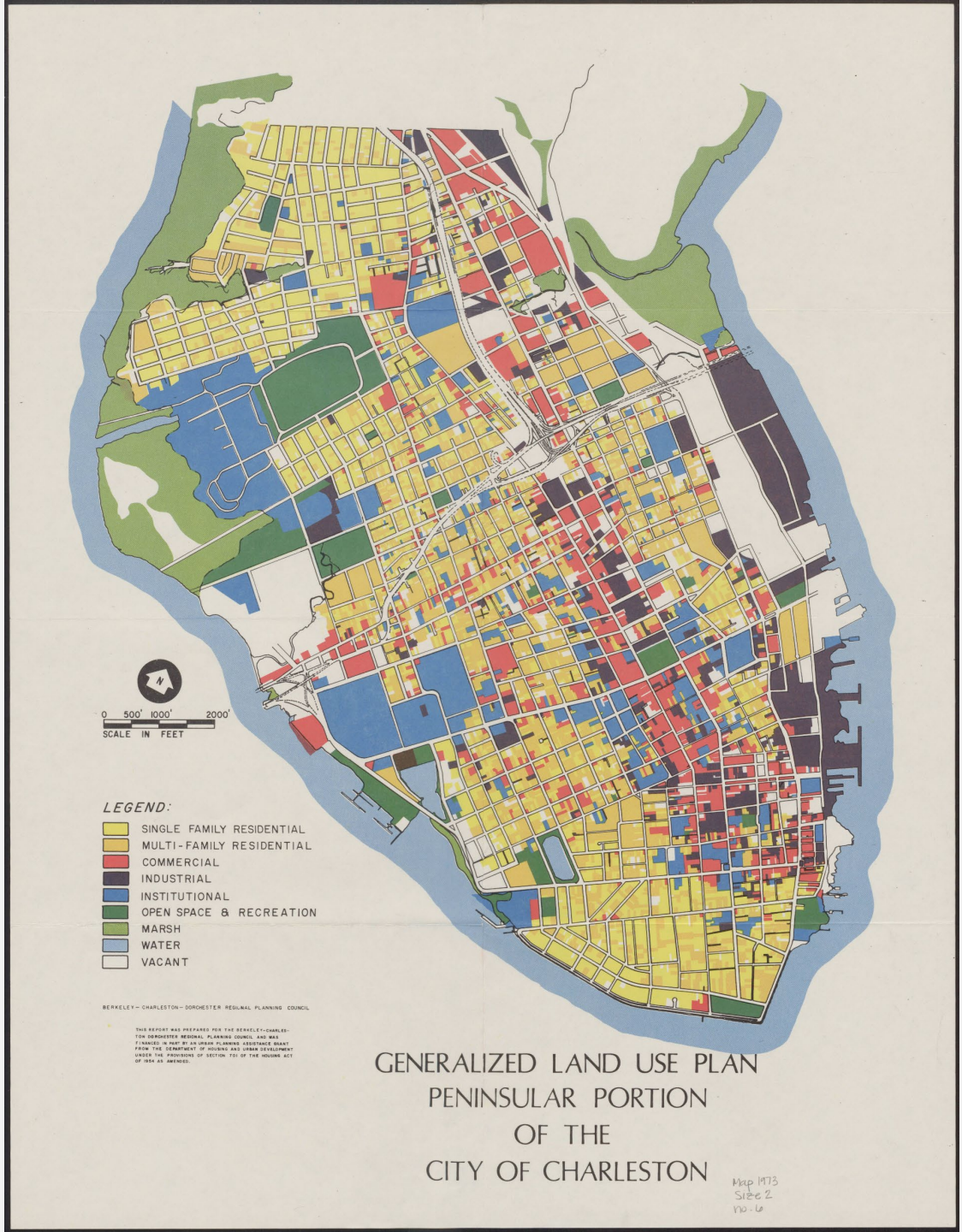


# Historic Resources Survey Process



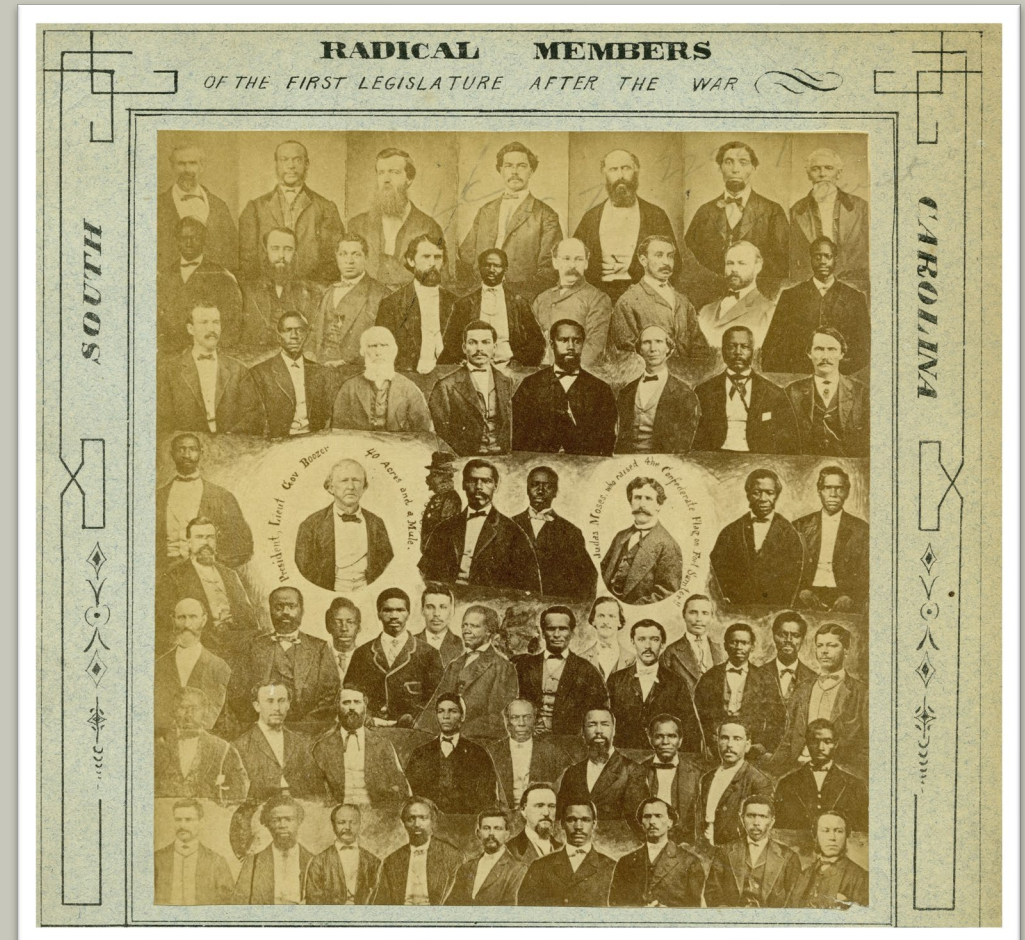
# South Carolina Historic Resources Surveys

- Project in two parts:
  - Historic Context
    - Guides the field survey
    - What is important and where are we likely to find it.
  - Identification and documentation of historic architectural resources
    - Guides later research, projects, and planning



# Historic Context

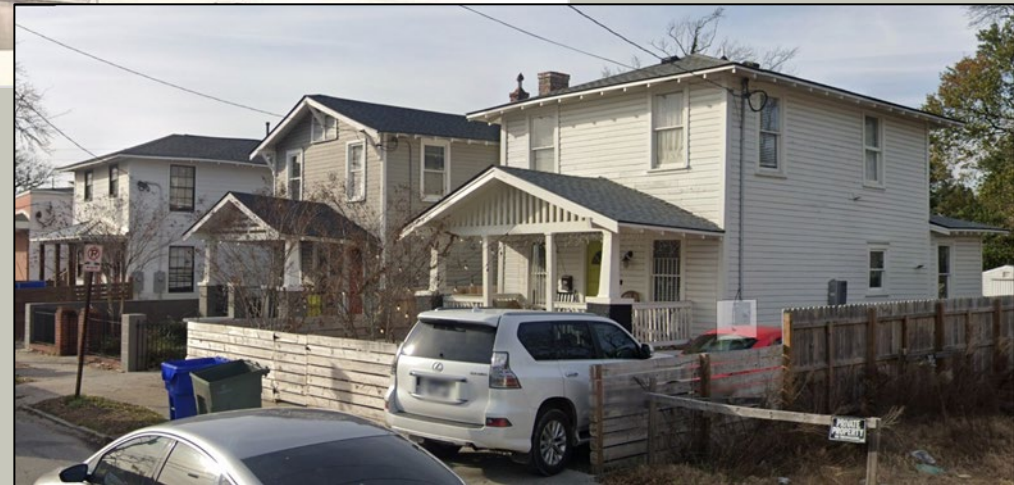
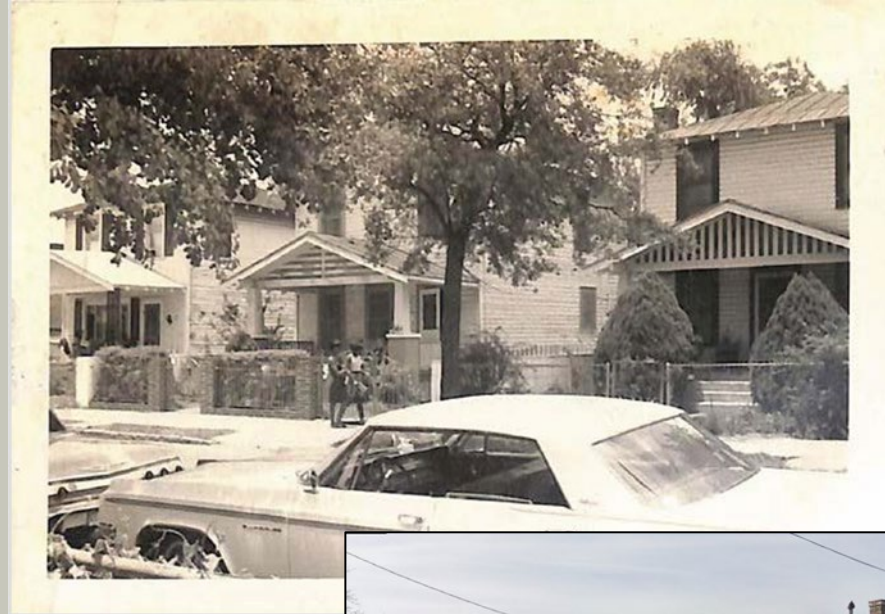
- Archival Research
  - Local and Statewide
- Primary Materials
  - Maps and Plats
  - Newspapers/Journal Articles
  - Diaries/Correspondence
  - Photographs
- Secondary Sources
  - Books
  - Scholarly Material
  - Existing NRHP Nominations



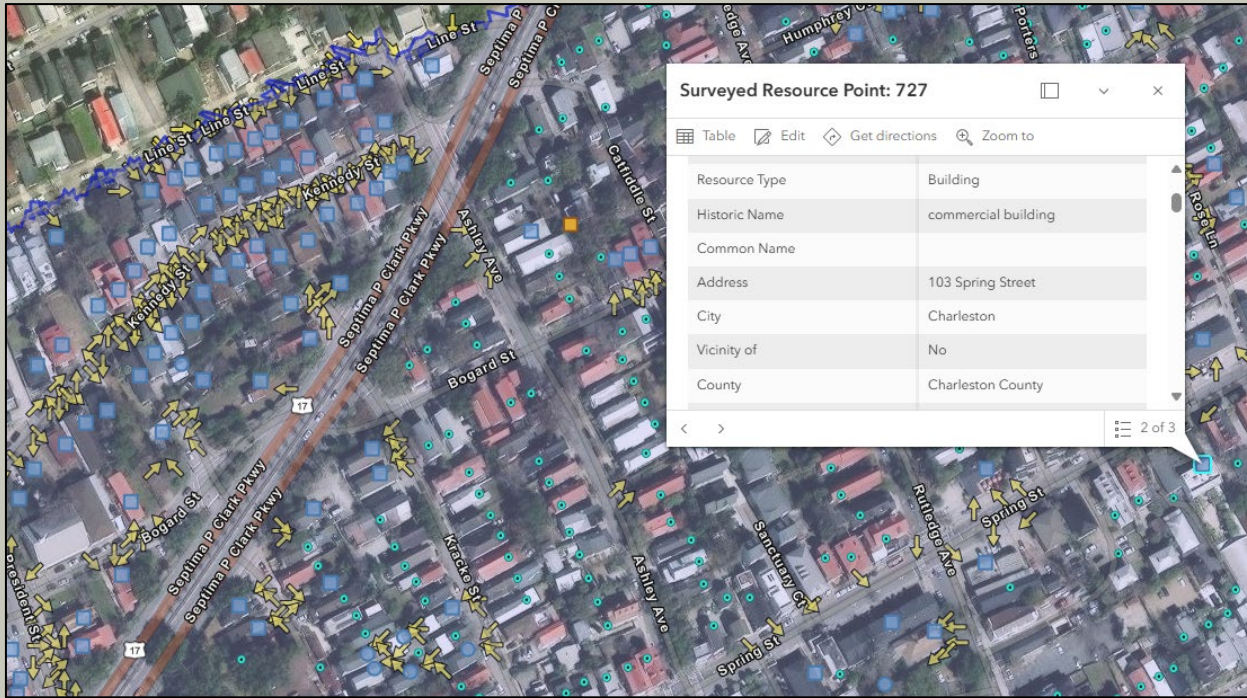


# Historic Resources Survey

- Survey Preparation
  - Create Field Maps from Parcel Data
  - Import Previously Recorded Historic Resources Survey Data
- Document Resources
  - ArcGIS-based database on Google Pixel Phones
  - Record architectural details, locational data, and take photographs



# Survey Methods



- ArcGIS-based survey database
- Fields in the survey database correspond to the fields in the South Carolina Statewide Survey Form
- Field data and photographs associated with the GIS data point
- Information gathered in the field to be used to create maps and survey forms
- Data to be used by the City of Charleston to aid in preservation planning

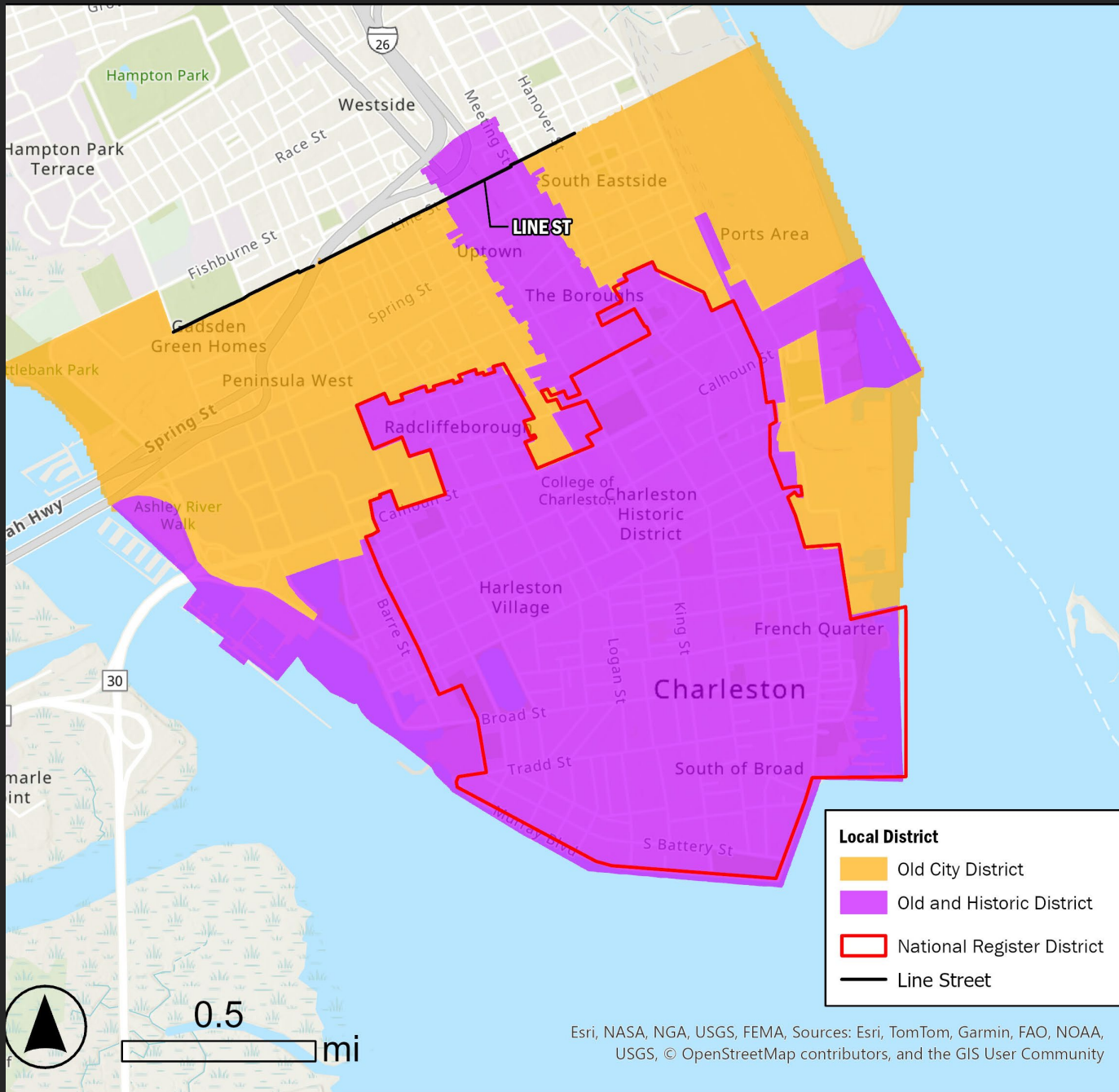




# City of Charleston Historic Resources Surveys

# Update to the City of Charleston's Historic Districts

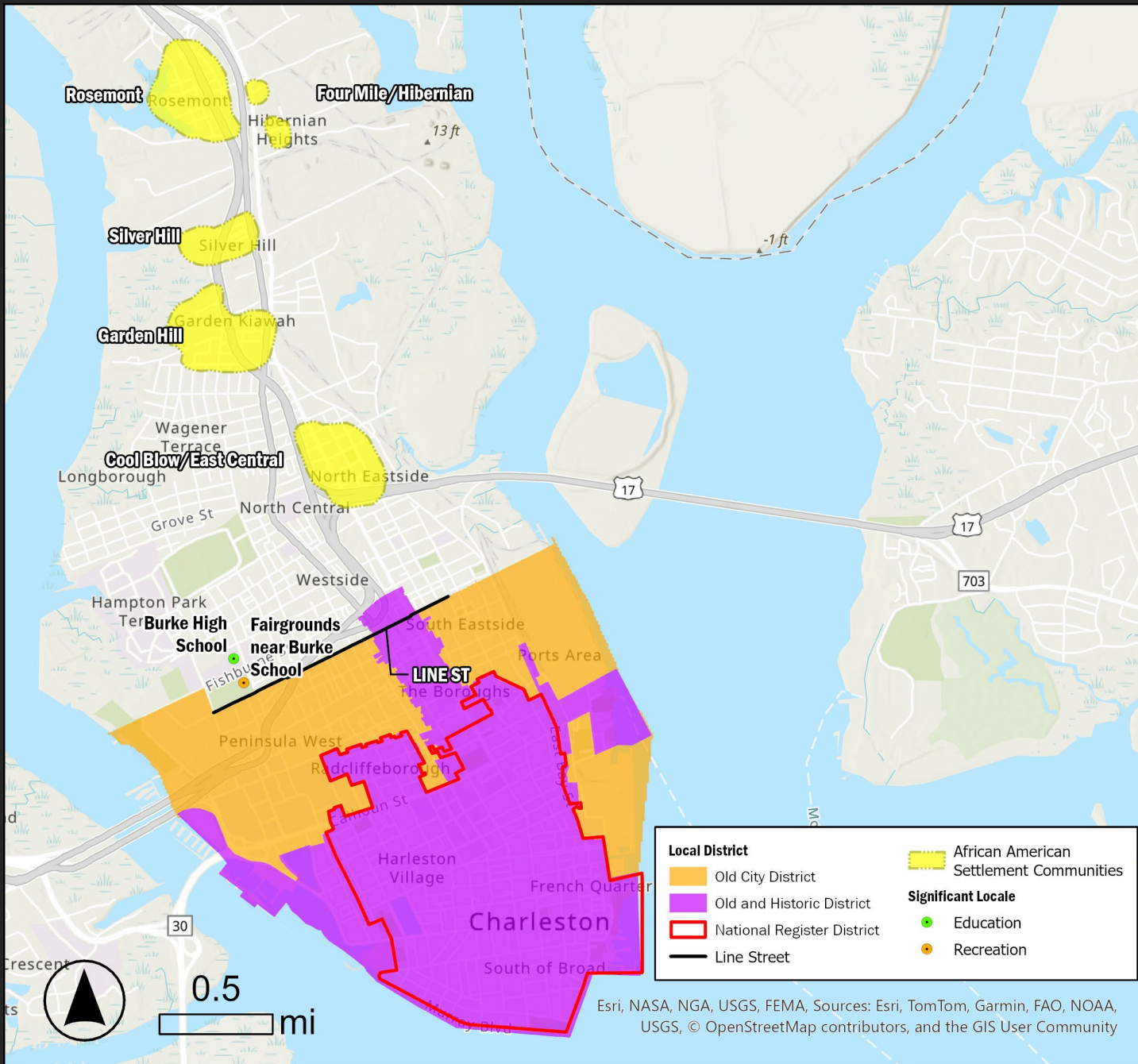
- Old and Historic District and Old City District
- Document buildings and structures 50 years old and older not recorded during the last inventory completed in 1986
- Identify buildings and structures within the districts associated with the city's Black history
- The updated survey information is important to maintain the City's historic districts and is used to "identify structures within the peninsula of Charleston which should be preserved, maintained, and protected in the public interest and to provide guidance for the Board of Architectural Review" (City of Charleston Zoning Ordinance).





# African American Historic Resources Survey

- Grant-funded Survey
- Focus on buildings, structures, and sites associated with the architectural and cultural heritage of Charleston's African American Community
  - Old & Historic District
  - Old City District
  - Neighborhoods north of Line Street
- Resources dating to 1975 and older, with particular attention on the Civil Rights Era.



# Community Outreach

- Outreach and Promotion
  - Community Festivals
  - Flyers
  - Facebook page
  - Individual communication
- Public Meeting
  - Official kick-off/start to the project
  - Introduce the project
  - Learn about noteworthy places, neighborhood histories, etc.





Questions?  
Comments?  
History to Share?

We'd love to talk to you about  
Charleston and its historic  
places.

