

W. E. N. D.

West End Neighborhood Development, Inc.

P. O. Box 115422
Atlanta, GA 30310

RE: ONE WEST ENDERS' VISION...A thesis on my Neighborhood/
Community's Development Plan...(Historic District's
Designation and beyond)

In 1894, a black statesman/educator/orator, Booker T. Washington, during his presentation at Piedmont Park's Cotton States Exposition, demanded of black artisans "... to cast down their buckets where they are.....the South is your home." Two years earlier in 1892, residents of the old White Hall Tavern area in West End cast down their buckets with the City of Atlanta. The City annexed Atlanta's first "definable neighborhood"....The WEST END.

During the early 1970s, urban homesteaders "cast down their buckets" in West End. Although many started the journey, only a few of the pioneering neighbors persevered. Throughout the 1980s, these West Enders unified under the banner of the WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT (WEND), INC. Now in 1990, the West Enders are in leadership positions to focus attention to revitalize their neighborhood. This revitalization lead to the nomination and DESIGNATION OF THE WEST END HISTORIC DISTRICT. An immediate celebration will occur upon completion of the designation process; an even larger celebration will occur with the District's Centennial Anniversary in 1994.

To this group of WEND catalysts, it is important for The West End to gain a sense of economic presence and demographic balance. We recognize that an active and continuous interest in the land use designation and management is paramount to our quality of life. Certain "elements" continue to need improvement in our neighborhood, some are a result of public policy (or the lack of public policy). We are resolving these issues through our energies on economic development (led by WEND and the Merchants' Commercial Development Association, the Design Assistance Team and the NPU) and the impacts and public/private obligations of the Historic District Designation Process.



A Neighborhood of People Making Change...

The Process allows us to place more emphasis on the predictability, permanence and aesthetics (design) elements of land use as tools to improve the quality of life for all West Enders.

During a different period in Atlanta's history and before the intrusion of I-20, West End Avenue was the northern boundary of West End and buffered West End from the black colleges of the Atlanta University Center (AUC). However, over the last twenty-five years, the student community became an integral parts in The West End. Because of the unique and historic nature of the AUC, the formation of the AUC Special Use District is of paramount importance to preserving their rich architectural and cultural heritage. Much of the architecture of the AUC neighborhood is of a similar quality and period of the architecture of The West End Historic District. Predictability, permanence and aesthetics (design) in land use adds value and attracts tourist to the AUC neighborhood and The West End Community.

With the formation of The West End Historic District, there is much to celebrate in the neighborhood of The White Hall Tavern. The West End has long been a cultural haven, home to numerous world renown writers, painters, artists and arts patrons. Now, West Hunter Baptist Church, St. Anthony Catholic Church, The Shrine of the Black Madonna Black Christian Nationalist Church, The City and Private Schools, The Fulton County Library, The Wren's Nest, Hammonds House Galleries and Resource Center of African American Art, et al., supported by the educational/cultural incubator of the AUC, forms a special, yet distinct district to attract artists, cultural activities, educators and tourists. The West End Community (West End/AUC) deserves a Visual and Cultural Arts/Theater/Tourism District.

The reuse of the J.E. Brown High School facility, if closed as scheduled in 1992, offers an anchor for such a Cultural Arts/ Theater District. The Bureau of Cultural Affairs, Fulton County Arts Council, The National Black Arts Festival along with the performing arts clubs of the AUC and professional performing groups should be headquartered in the old J.E. Brown HS. This facility becomes "our Center Stage". The West End is the cultural haven and tourist attraction of South Central Business District...!

Members of the larger West End Community are recognizing there is strength in a unified proactive vision. Friendship Baptist Church, Providence Missionary Baptist Church, The Herndon Home, Fountain Hall, University Homes and B.T.Washington HS all recognized for their legacy on Atlanta's African-American Community are now recognizing the value of their historical structures and are calling The West Endtheir cultural home.

THE WEST END HISTORIC DISTRICT is a foundation brick of Mayor Jackson's Southtown wall.

With the few persistent neighborhood catalysts, the educational and cultural arts community, conscientious land developers and retail marketers, an expanded community base, and historic designation activists all are calling The West End Atlanta's new renaissance community. The West End is sort of....a Georgetown of the South. The Historic District and the Special Purpose Districts, are catalysts for the economic development of the Marta property, the Chandler Warehouses, the White Street Warehouses and....Southtown. All these elements represents our chance to do something "unifying, special and significant" in the South CBD, The West End and Southwest Atlanta. The West End Neighborhood is the "Gateway to Southtown"; one of the new main streets of Southtown will be The West End Avenue/Boulevard. The West End Avenue/Boulevard, a name change for old Gordon and Glenn Streets, will be our new main street and identifies our commercial main street. The West End Avenue/Boulevard runs from Georgia Avenue and Stewart Avenue to Cascade Road and adds a new perception for our neighborhood and commercial strip.

The adaptive reuse of Chandler Warehouses, a potential joint-venture between Georgia Tech and the Atlanta University Center Schools, offers the opportunity to develop "an intown Technology Park". This equation provides numerous education and employment opportunities for The West End and the Northside Drive/Steward Avenue Corridor.

Therefore, the purpose of these thoughts are to declare my vision, a thesis on neighborhood and community development of The West End.

If you have any questions or comments, please advise. My phone numbers are 676-6035 (o) and 758-4891 (h).

Karl Webster Barnes,
President of WEND
9 February, 1991

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT (WEND), INC

WHAT: WEND MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

WHO: KARL WEBSTER BARNES, PRESIDING OFFICER

WHEN: 1ST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 7:30 TO 9:00 PM
(UNLESS NOTED)

WHERE: FULTON COUNTY TRAINING CENTER

425 LANGHORN STREET, S.W.

ATLANTA, GA. 30310

MS. ELLEN DISS, DIRECTOR

DATES: 8 JAN. 1991 9 JUL. 1991

5 FEB. 1991 6 AUG. 1991

5 MAR. 1991 3 SEP. 1991

2 APR. 1991 2 OCT. 1991

7 MAY. 1991 5 NOV. 1991

4 JUN. 1991 3 DEC. 1991

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PRESIDENT

KARL WEBSTER BARNES AT 676 6035 OR 758 4501

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT INC.

Dear Resident.

West End Neighborhood Development Inc., commonly called WEND is an organization of West End residents that live in an area shown on the official map of the city of Atlanta, lying mainly within the boundaries as follows:

on the north-----I 20 west
on the west & south-----Louisville & Nashville Railway
on the east-----Central of Georgia Railway

WEND is currently seeking new members that will assist in enhancing the quality of life in West End.

The meetings are held at the Fulton County Training Center located at 425 Langhorn From 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month. The dates for 1991 are as follows:

Jan 8	Feb. 5	Mar 5	Apr 2
May 7	June 4	Jul 2	Aug 6
Sep 3	Oct 1	Nov 5	Dec 3

Dues are \$12.00 per year. Senior Citizens dues are waived.

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ No. of people in household _____

Phone-Home _____ Phone-work _____ Pager _____

Occupation _____

Occupation _____

Hobbies & Interests _____

Dues Paid _____ yes _____ no _____ date paid _____

I am a senior citizen _____ yes _____ no _____

I am unable to attend meetings but would like to be a member or just informed, I will be happy to assist where I can . _____ Yes _____ No.

I would like to see the following issues addressed:

