Facsimiles of Historic Block Maps from the New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Blocks 217-219, 232-233, 245-247, 260-262)

Original images by

Ethan Byrd, Tyler Lucas, and Heather O’Neal

Edited by

Shoshana Weinstock-Herman

Spring, 2013
Facsimiles of Historic Block Maps  
From the New Hanover County Register of Deeds  
(Blocks 217-219, 232-233, 245-247, 260-262)  
In the City of Wilmington, North Carolina

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Cape Fear Community College
Cover Photo: (left to right) Nicholas Spiker, Heather O’Neal, Dr. James C. Burke, and Shoshana Weinstock-Herman at New Hanover County Register of Deeds archives. Photographed by Tyler Lucas.
Preface

This set of facsimiles of historic block maps for the Wilmington, North Carolina downtown shows parcel ownership in the area now occupied by the Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus. When used in conjunction with the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and listings from the Wilmington city directories, the combined resources provide a glimpse into history of prior land ownership and land usage in this historic section of the urban landscape. Among the notable landowners whose house once stood on a parcel now part of the CFCC Downtown Campus Library was George Davis, a lawyer and statesman whose statue is located at Third and Market streets. Large sections of whole blocks were owned by the Wilmington & Raleigh Rail Road Company (later renamed the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad). It was eventually become part of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad system. Front Street Methodist Church once occupied the parcel where the present-day site of the CFCC business office now stands. After its destruction by fire in 1886, the congregation moved the site of their church to the corner of Fourth and Grace, and assumed the new name of Grace Methodist Church.

We extend our thanks to the New Hanover County Register of Deeds and Tammy Beasley, Register of Deeds for allowing us to use the resources in the department’s archives. The project proceeded under the direction of Dr. James C. Burke.
BLOCK BOOK I
Figure 1. Block Book I contains the earliest maps. Block 216 presently contains Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus Building W. Photograph by Heather O’Neal. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 2. Block 217 presently contains Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus Buildings N, A, and S. Photograph by Heather O’Neal. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 3. The most notable feature of Block 218 is the parcel owned by the First Methodist Church (also called Front Street Methodist Church. However, George Davis, lawyer and statesman, owned a parcel in Lot 3. Today, Block 218 contains Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus Buildings L and G. Photograph by Heather O'Neal. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 4. The parcel on Block 230, once owned by the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Company and turpentine distiller Henry Nutt, now contain the buildings of the Coastline Convention Center. Photograph by Ethan Byrd. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 5. Like Block 230, the parcels of Block 231 were once owned by the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad and Henry Nutt. Today, the Cape Fear Community College Nutt Street Parking Deck occupies a large portion of Block 230. Photograph by Ethan Byrd. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 6. Most of Block 232, the present-day site of Cape Fear Community College’s Union Station Building, was owned by Henry Nutt. On the north side of the block, the inclined plane of the railroad allowed trains access to the wharfs. Photograph by Ethan Byrd. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 7. Block 233, located between Second and Third streets on Red Cross Street, is within the environs of Cape Fear Community College. The college, however, does not own any parcels in this block. Photograph by Ethan Byrd. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 8. This is the survey of the Campbell Lands by Alexander MacRae found on page 250 of Deed Book BB. Nearly half of the Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus is situated on this large tract dating back to the early years of Wilmington. Photograph by Heather O’Neal. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 9. Block 246, bounded by Front, Second, Campbell, and Hanover streets, was entirely owned by the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad. It was become the site of the passenger platforms and roundhouse of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in the twentieth century. Today, Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus Buildings R and F are located in this block. Photograph by Heather O'Neal. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 10. In the early years of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, the company did not own Block 247 entirely. Various individuals own the parcels facing Hanover Street. Cape Fear Community College’s Hanover Street Parking Deck occupies most of this block today. Photograph by Heather O’Neal. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 11. Block 248 extends beyond the present-day Third Street Bridge. The cut made by the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad continues through this block. Photograph by Heather O'Neal. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 12. Lot 5 of Block 259 was also owned by the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Company. Photograph by Heather O'Neal. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 13. Block Book 1910-1922, PGS. 214-300, contains maps that illustrate how landownership had changed in the blocks included in the environs of Cape Fear Community College by the twentieth century. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 14. The Champion Compress Warehouse Company occupied Block 216. James Sprunt owned the company. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 15. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, the successor to the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, owned most of Block 217. It is the present-day site of Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus Buildings N, A, and S. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 16. Block 218 changed considerably by the beginning of the twentieth century. The Methodist Church, destroyed by fire in 1886, moved to Grace Street (Mulberry Street). The block contained mostly commercial structures. Today, Block 218 contains Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus Buildings L and G. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 17. This is the Grantor/Grantee list for Block 217. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 18. By the twentieth century, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad owned the Block 230 entirely. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 19. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad “Building B” offices and an array of tracks in the cut occupied most of Block 231. The Cape Fear Community College’s Nutt Street Parking Deck now occupies the block. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 20. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Union Station was built in Block 232 in the 1910s. The Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus Union Station Building, modeled on the old depot, was constructed on the site of the former structure. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 21. The Grantor/Grantee list for Block 232 shows the other owners of parcel on the block. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 22. No Cape Fear Community College buildings exist in Block 233. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad owned a parcel in this block, and the Cape Fear Packing Company had its facilities near the railroad track. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusche Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 23. The Grantor/Grantee list for Block 233 shows the other owners of parcel on the block. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 24. While the railroad cut occupies the same parcels in Block 248 as in Block Book I, the owners of parcels have changed. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 25. Block 261 is bounded by Front, Second, Brunswick, and Hanover streets. At present, it is the site of the Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus Student Parking Lot #2. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 26. The Grantor/Grantee list for Block 261 shows the other owners of parcels on the block. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 27. Block 262 is the future site of the new Cape Fear Community College Humanities & Fine Arts Center on the Downtown Campus. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)
Figure 28. The Grantor/Grantee list for Block 262 shows the other owners of parcel on the block. Photograph by Tyler Lucas. Courtesy, New Hanover County Register of Deeds (Tammy Theusch Beasley, Register of Deeds)