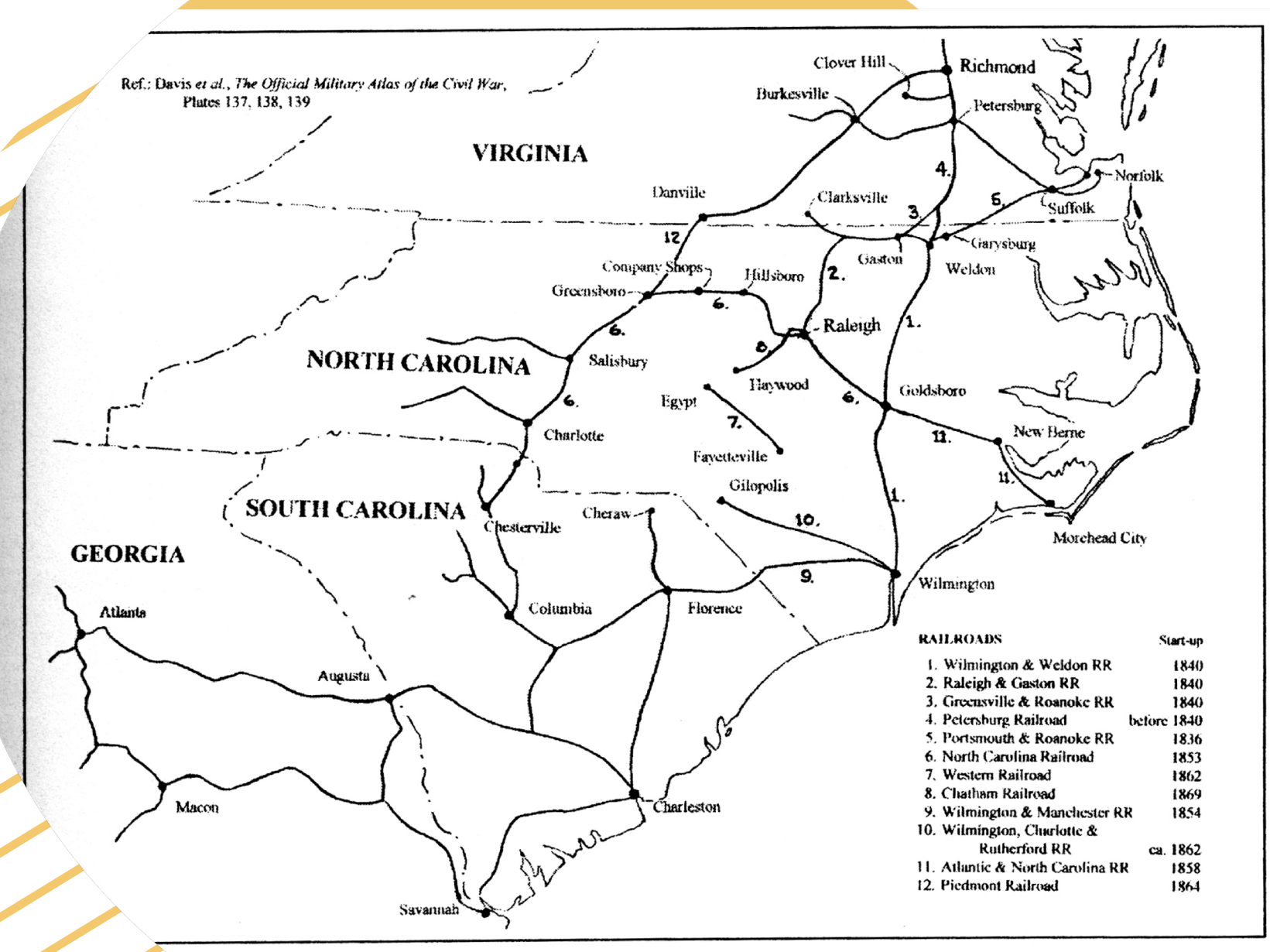


# Town of Apex Economic History



## COMPLETION OF CHATHAM RAILROAD

In 1869, the Chatham Railroad was completed, and included a 30-mile track running from Haywood / Haw River to Raleigh. The railcars frequently transported turpentine, timber, farm products, and minerals to the capital city and beyond. During this time, the first Apex Depot was built to enhance commerce in Apex. This economic boost brought more people to Apex and kick-started the path to incorporation in 1873.

## APEX GROWS INTO TOBACCO DISTRIBUTION HUB

From 1905 to 1907, three tobacco distribution warehouses opened in Apex - the Golden Leaf Tobacco Warehouse, Apex Planter's Warehouse, and Apex Farmer's Consolidated Tobacco Company. These three warehouses made Apex the standout leader for tobacco sales in Wake County.



## COMPLETION OF DURHAM & SOUTHERN RAILROADS

1906 brought the completion of the Durham and Southern railroad, which spanned 50-miles from Dunn to Durham. This rail line often transported lumber, cotton, tobacco, and other raw materials to city markets. In Apex, the first Depot had burned in a fire and was replaced with a second Union Railroad Depot in 1914. With a new depot station and additional rail connections, Apex became the freight delivery hub of western Wake County and saw tremendous economic growth.

## THE GREAT FIRE IN DOWNTOWN APEX

On June 12, 1911, an extensive late-night fire destroyed most of the wooden downtown buildings in Apex. But the Apex community quickly resolved to build again - this time with brick! The fire devastated many businesses and caused tremendous damage, but the labor behind the brick rebuild of downtown paid off, and many of the existing buildings still retain that same brick today.



## APEX FACES ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Around 1922, the Apex tobacco market collapsed when a bacterial disease called Granville Wilt killed tobacco plants across the state. With less supply, farmers began transporting tobacco to more distant but better-paying markets after local attempts failed to create cooperative pricing. This downturn, combined with a statewide recession, caused economic turmoil and a population decline in Apex prior to the start of the Great Depression.



## RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK IS CREATED

In 1959, the Research Triangle Park was established through a nonprofit venture of academic, corporate and political visionaries with the goal to attract high-paying research and technology-based companies to the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area. The name "Triangle" stemmed from the University locations. Shortly after, construction began on the "new" US Highway 1 corridor which paved, literally, the way for manufacturing operations to come to the south side of Apex. The attractive employment opportunities of the area created a large demand for housing, and Apex evolved into an attractive community for personnel to live.



## APEX TOWN COUNCIL VOTES TO INVEST IN APEX INFRASTRUCTURE

The 1990s saw a large population boom for Apex, which led Apex Town Council members to invest heavily in infrastructure improvements. Some of those improvements were the completion of the Cary-Apex water plant at Jordan Lake in 1993, the completion of two large sewer pumping stations in 1995, and the downtown streetscape beautification project in 1996.

