1800 – The Block is a Village with 38 white settlers, 13 African-American slaves

Pre Civil War – Eagle Hotel Built near Biltmore Ave, using African Americans who lived nearby in The Block

Homes were built on the former Velvet Street for slaves working on the construction of the “Henrietta” Estate located along Biltmore Avenue

1880 - Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is founded on Eagle Street
1886 - Isaac Dickson, an African-American business man and educator, purchased slave homes used for the construction of the “Henrietta” Estate and rented them to local community members

1891 - Edward S. Stephens approaches George W. Vanderbilt with a business proposal for creating a community space in the model of the YMCA

1893 - George Vanderbilt invests $32,000.00 for the creation of the Young Men’s Institute (YMI). This offers retail and educational spaces for the growing community. The YMI becomes the cornerstone of culture and self-sufficiency. This time up to the Great Depression was a growing period for The Block

1919 - Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is constructed on Eagle Street

1929 - The Great Depression affects The Block particularly hard due to its economic base in the service industry

1930 - 1950 - The Block was somewhat blighted from the Great Depression, however the community began to thrive once again as a sense of self-sufficiency dominated the community. This time brought a strong sense of community spirit and a lively scene to the neighborhood. Local nightclubs were popular in the neighborhood and offered a rich array of talent acts.

1960 - Urban Renewal removed “blight” and largely destroyed The Block and East End Community. Once connected, South Charlotte Street replaced Valley Street and cut the neighborhoods in half. In addition, Velvet Street was removed and no longer was an integral internal connection.

1970 - The 1970's signaled hard times for downtown Asheville. Many merchants and businesses left downtown for surrounding areas. This also spread through The Block where more buildings were boarded up and vacated.

1980’s - The YMI takes on the role as a Cultural Center and begins the process of major renovations

1993, 1996 – South Pack Square Redevelopment Plan created to address needs of The Block and surrounding neighborhood

2009 - Asheville adopts the Downtown Master Plan to develop the cultural, historical and creative character of downtown

2010 - The Block is being re-energized with development activities from YMI Cultural Center, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Eagle Market Street Development Corporation, the Asheville Art Museum, the City of Asheville and other local business leaders.