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The Old Eighth: Gateway to the Capitol - With Biography of Gwendolyn Bennett

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Digital Harrisburg

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Look Up, Look Out
STORIES FROM THE OLD EIGHTH WARD

Travel in Harrisburg a century ago: horse-drawn carriage, early automobile, and trolley tracks
View down Fourth St. from Walnut St.
Now the green space north of Strawberry Square
(photo, c. 1911, courtesy of Pennsylvania State Archives)

THE OLD EIGHTH: GATEWAY TO THE CAPITOL

“Harrisburg today is one of the great railroad centers of the Union....From its commodious passenger stations rolls in a ceaseless tide of passenger travel that aggregate more than 13,000,000 souls annually. On the myriad tracks, there is daily freight surpassing the trade of our nation’s greatest seaport in 1831.”

—J. Howard Wert, commenting on the rapid growth of Harrisburg as a transportation hub, Harrisburg Telegraph, May 20, 1911

Gwendolyn Bennett
Writer and artist during the Harlem Renaissance and one-time Harrisburg resident

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