



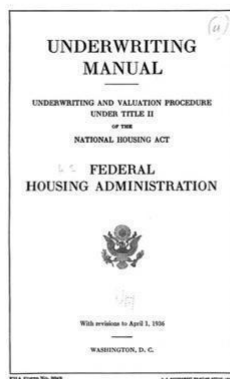
Jigsaw Reading 1: Racial Restrictive Covenants

Directions: Circle and underline important words or parts of the maps and pictures as you read these sources. Answer the questions after the sources and the Final Questions.

Historical Context

During the Great Depression, many families in the United States were unable to get or keep a mortgage to buy a home. As part of his New Deal, President Roosevelt passed the National Housing Act which created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).

Across the United States, restrictions were put in place on house deeds to limit where people could or could not live. These restrictions are called racial covenants. Racial covenants were racist agreements in property deeds that gave white people the power to prevent Black and Brown people as well as Italian people, Asian people, Polish people, and Jewish people, from living on and owning a piece of land.



Source A:

Federal Housing Administration (FHA), “Underwriting Manual”, a guide for bankers and real estate agents, 1939.

“To be most effective, deed restrictions should be imposed upon all land in the immediate environment of the subject location . . . Recommended restrictions should include provisions for the following... Prohibition of the occupancy of properties except by the race for which they are intended.”

What is the government’s recommendation in this source?

Which level of government (Local, State, or Federal) issued this recommendation?

Source B:

Racial Covenants in Rochester, NY

- (1) **Deed created by County Manager Clarence Smith, 1939-1940.** Deed created by County Manager Clarence Smith, 1939-1940. The first covenant was created by the Monroe County Legislature and County Manager Clarence A. Smith. The Monroe County Legislature is part of the local legislative branch. The County Manager is part of the local executive branch.

5. The dwelling shall be occupied by persons of the Caucasian race only.

- (2) **Deed on the home of Walter Wegman (co-founder of Wegmans), 1924.** The second covenant was on the home of Wegmans Food Market's cofounder Walter Wegman as well as hundreds of other homes built by Grafton Johnson in Northwest Irondequoit. The source reads,

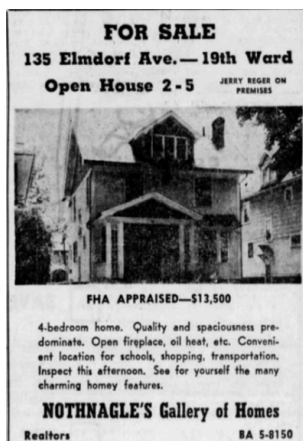
"7. This land is sold on the express covenant that it shall never be occupied by a colored person, nor for the purpose of doing a liquor business thereon."

7. This land is sold on the express covenant that it shall never be occupied by a colored person, nor for the purpose of doing a liquor business thereon.

 What can you learn about these neighborhoods from the racial covenants?

 Were these sources surprising to you? Please explain your response.

Source C:



Judge Reuben Davis, interview accessed in the Rochester Library, 1980.

Reuben Davis was born in Columbus, Mississippi. After attending school and serving in the US Army, Judge Davis came to Rochester in 1955 to practice law with Rochester's only Black lawyer at the time, Roy Hurst. While in Rochester, Davis became involved in local civil rights organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

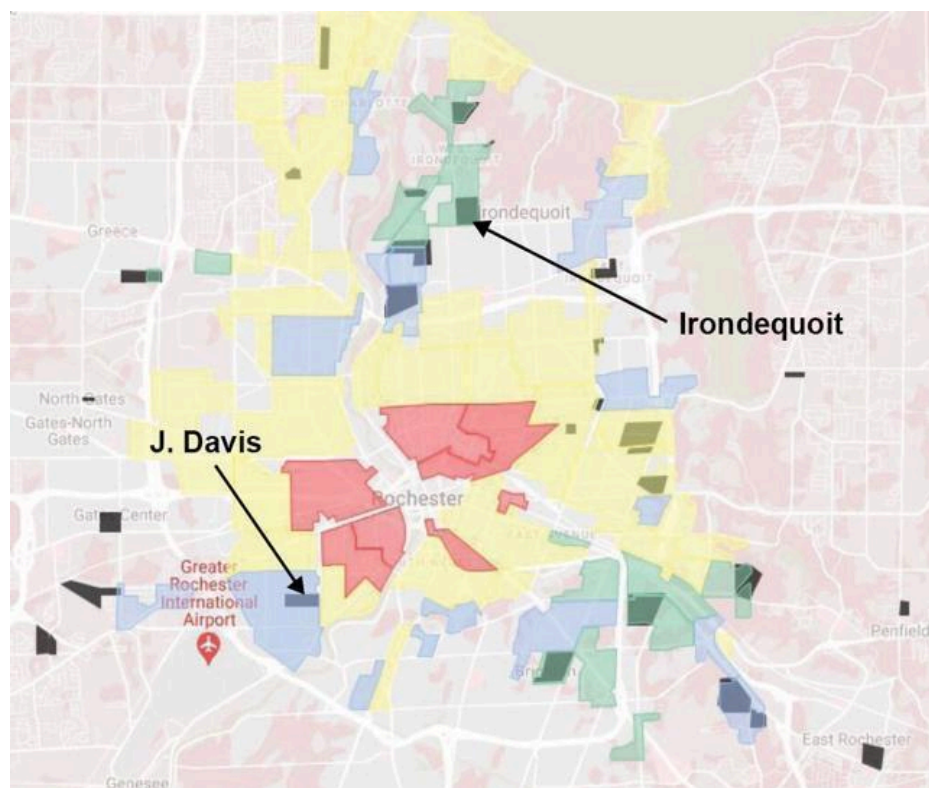
<http://www.rochestervoices.org/historical-media/interview-reuben-davis/>

“My wife and I were looking for a house. This was in 1958. We saw a house we liked on 135 Elmdorf Avenue in Rochester just a block or so west of Genesee Street (see map in Source C). I would say that there were probably four Black families that lived anywhere west of Genesee Street at that time.

The owner refused to sell to us. Because we were Black. There was a restrictive covenant in the deed that these houses when built were not to be sold to the colored and Italians. I was active in the NAACP at that time so a white friend brought the house and transferred it to me. So we had to go through those kinds of devious methods in order to find housing.”

 **What housing problem did Judge Davis face and what action did he take?**

 **Why do you think Judge Davis called his actions “devious”? Would you consider his actions as "devious methods"? Why or why not?**



Source D:


Yale Environmental Protection Clinic Map Racial Covenants in Irondequoit 1920-1968

Monroe County, NY – Each area shaded black on the map represents an area in which a racial covenant was known to exist. [Click here to view the full map at resistancemapping.org](https://resistancemapping.org) and zoom in on specific neighborhoods.

What does this map tell you about Irondequoit?

Open the [map at resistancemapping.org](https://resistancemapping.org) that shows all the racial covenants discovered by researchers so far in Monroe County. What do you notice about your town?

Final Questions

 **Identify a problem described in these 3 sources (use two pieces of evidence to support your claim).**

 **Who is this problem affecting?**

 **How did this problem affect people?**



Jigsaw Reading #2: Dr. Alice Young and the KKK

Directions: Circle and underline important words or parts of the maps and pictures as you read these sources. Answer the questions after the sources and the Final Questions.

Historical Context

Historical Context: Biography of Dr. Alice Young

Dr. Alice Holloway Young was the first Black principal in the Rochester City School District (1962). She helped found Monroe Community College, founded the Urban Suburban School Integration Program, and devoted her life to the Black freedom struggle in Rochester.

Source A:



Democrat and Chronicle article on Dr. Alice Young, February 7, 1986. *Note: Dr. Young is describing events that occurred in 1957*

"Rochester banks would not give her a mortgage at the time, nor would real estate agents show her and her husband houses in the areas they wanted to live. Her only alternative was to give money to a white woman who was a friend to buy a house, a house she was not able to see beforehand.

After buying the house at 99 Millbank Street (1957), she and her husband knew they could not let the mostly white neighbors see them immediately move a lot of furniture inside. But Young and her husband thought that if they moved just the crib and a chair in at night no one would notice. Someone did. The next morning, she found a note in her mailbox saying among other things, 'You n-words have no right to buy this house' signed the Ku Klux Klan of Millbank Street. She and her husband lived in the house for 17 years."

How did Dr. Young challenge and overcome racist housing policies?

How would you feel if you had to ask an ally to purchase your home for you? Explain your feelings or thinking.

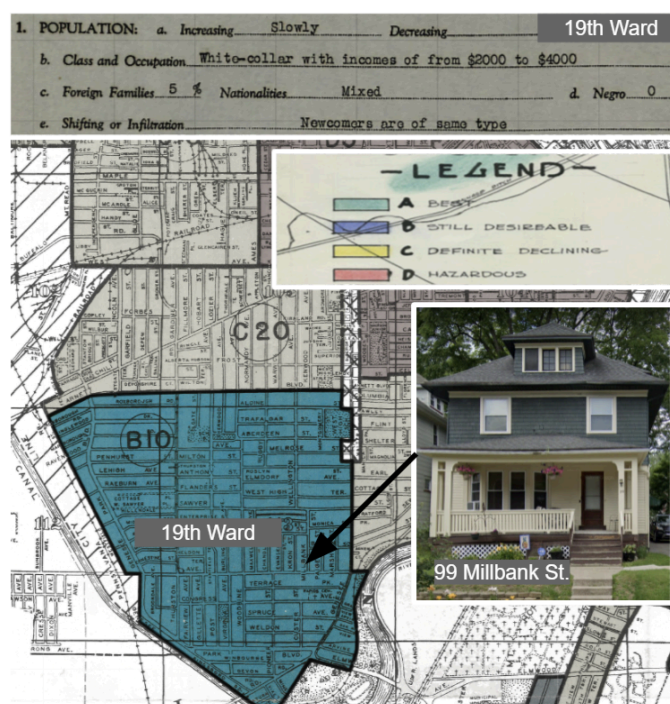
Source B:


Photograph, Dr. Alice Young's home, with the Area Description and location on the redlined map.


January 2020 Interview with Shane Wiegand:

“There was one white family on the street who welcomed our family. The Bush family stood up for us when we were harassed by racist neighbors.”

 What label did the FHA give to the area where the Youngs purchased their home?

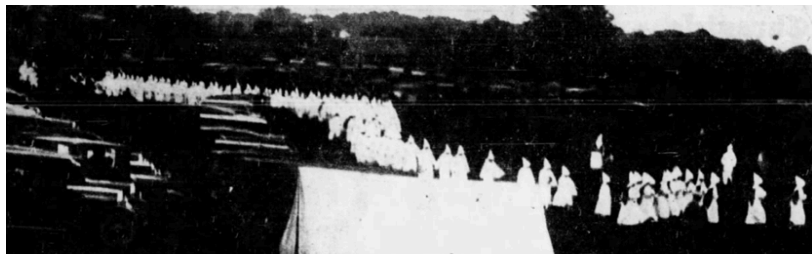


 Why was it significant that the Youngs purchased their home in the 19th Ward at this time?

 In the 2020 interview above, Dr. Young requested that the support from the Bush family be highlighted in her story. Why do you think she would make that request?

Source C:

Democrat and Chronicle newspaper pictures of KKK. September 26th, 1926
East Rochester, NY.



Left: Photograph of KKK gathering in East Rochester. Right: "Konvocation" of the KKK

"Konvocation—Hooded Klansmen of Monroe County march around a field in East Rochester on Sept 26, 1926. Almost 20,000 of the KKK swarmed to the field during the two days of that weekend."


***Democrat and Chronicle* article reads:**

"The Kluxers' most open and spectacular demonstration hereabouts was held on Sept. 25–26, 1926, in East Rochester, a hotbed of the movement.

Some 19,000 Klansmen and their women from 10 counties flocked in full regalia to a big field at Washington and Ivy Streets for the "Konvocation of the Seventh Province."

Tents were set up and robed members guarded the field. Only those who gave the password were admitted. A scheduled night parade was rained out. That was fortunate for there had been threats of trouble during the march.


The next day the Klansmen paraded around the field and listened to fiery speeches. After dark they burned three fiery crosses, one of the 50 feet high."

 **Why might KKK members need a password to attend this meeting and hoods to hide their identities?**

 **How could this gathering harm or intimidate people of color?**

 **Using Source A, how did the KKK try to intimidate the Young family?**

Final Questions

 **Identify a problem described in these 3 sources (use two pieces of evidence to support your claim).**

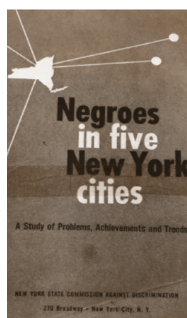
 **Who is this problem affecting?**

 **How did this problem affect people?**



Jigsaw Reading #3: NYS Commission Against Discrimination

Directions: Circle and underline important words or parts of the maps and pictures as you read these sources. Answer the questions after the sources and the Final Questions.



Historical Context

Black activists in NY pushed the state government to do something about racist housing laws. The state decided to hire university professors to study the housing problems that black people in Rochester faced.

(Left) Cover of the NYS Commission on Discrimination Report, 1958.



Source A:

Democrat and Chronicle photograph, October 10, 1954.

Photograph of poor housing conditions in Rochester's redlined neighborhoods.

 What do you notice about the neighborhood where this child is playing? Make an inference about what could have caused these housing conditions.

Source B:

NYS Commission on Discrimination Report, 1958 & Team photo of the Rochester Royals, NBA team (now the Sacramento Kings)

“There are two "ghetto" areas in Rochester — the Baden-Ormond area and the Clarissa Street area (see [Redlining Map in Source C](#)) — comprising six census tracts which hold 80 percent of Rochester's Negroes. 27.5 percent of all dwelling units are with no running water. [In these two neighborhoods] only 5 new housing units have been built since 1920. No case was reported of a Negro purchaser in a new suburban sales development with FHA or VA financing. Negroes looking for rental housing in Rochester have not fared well. A local basketball star [Dick Ricketts], nationally honored, hunted for 16 months for an apartment which he considered presentable enough to entertain visiting friends.”

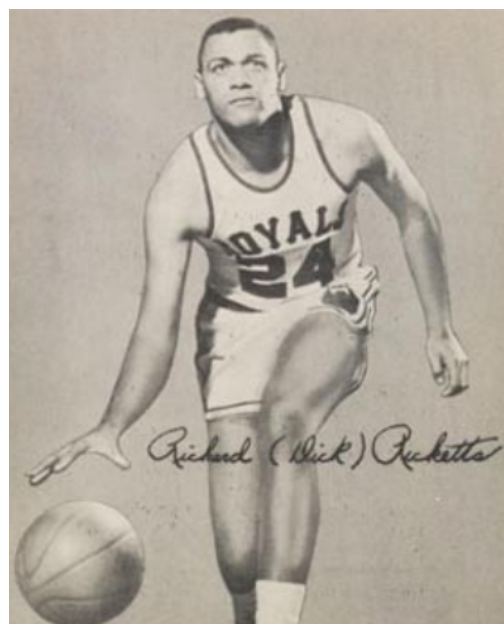


Team photo of the Rochester Royals, NBA team (now the Sacramento Kings)

Describe housing conditions in Rochester based on the NYS Commission on Discrimination Report.

How would you feel if you were forced to live in a place that didn't have running water?

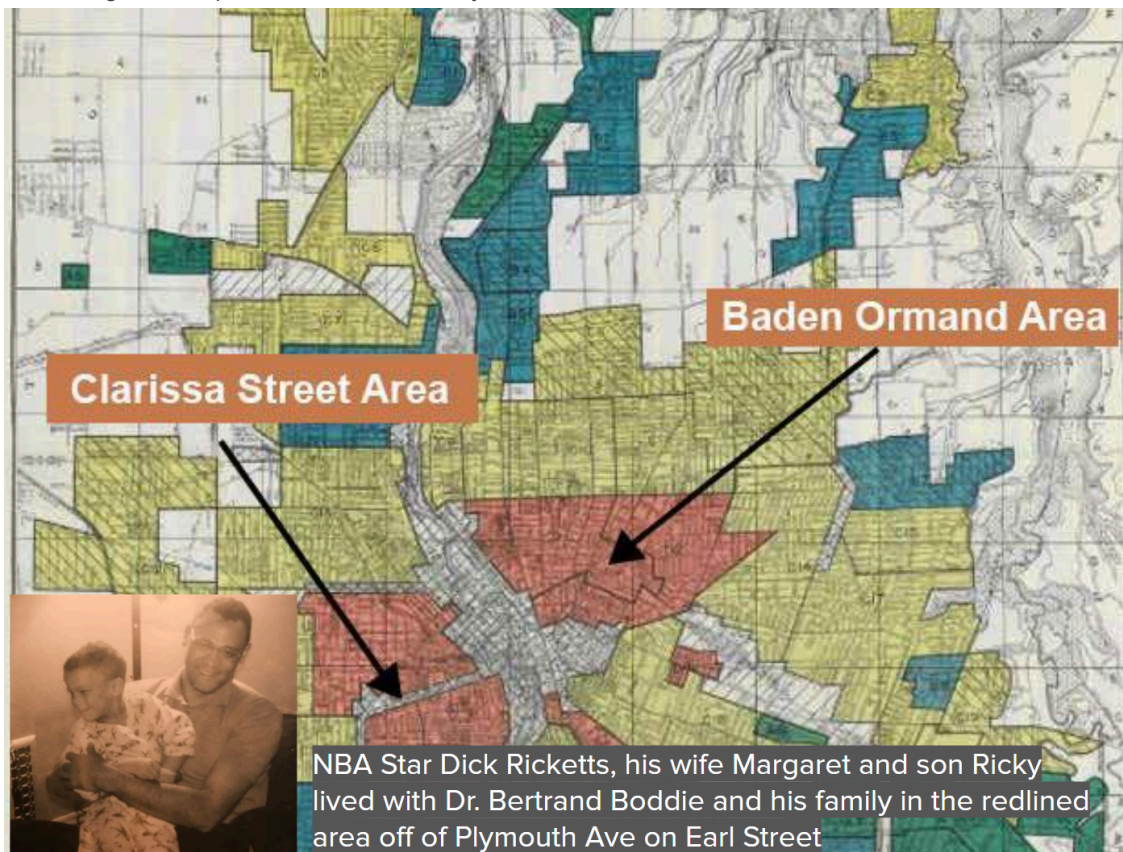
What do we learn about housing in Rochester when a black NBA star could not find a place to live?



Source C:


Rochester Redlining Map. 1934. The two neighborhoods mentioned in Source B are located on this map. Learn more about Clarissa Street at clarissauprooted.org.

Note: The Boddie family remembers Margaret Rickett's describing an ugly phone call to a possible landlord near the ballpark in Rochester- "Do you rent to ballplayers?" "Oh yes, of course-" "Do you rent to black ball players?" Oh, no, this is a residential area." The Boddie's welcomed the Rickett's into their home to live. Eventually they found a house 2 streets away and maintained a lifelong friendship with Dr. Boddie's family.



 How does this NYS Report from 1958 (Source B) connect to Redlining?

Final Questions

 Identify a problem described in these 3 sources (use two pieces of evidence to support your claim).

 Who is this problem affecting?

 How did this problem affect people?

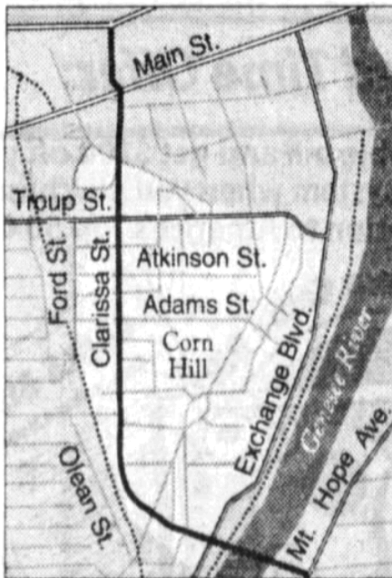


Jigsaw Reading #4: Urban Renewal/Clarissa Street

Directions: Circle and underline important words or parts of the maps and pictures as you read these sources. Answer the questions after the sources and the Final Questions.

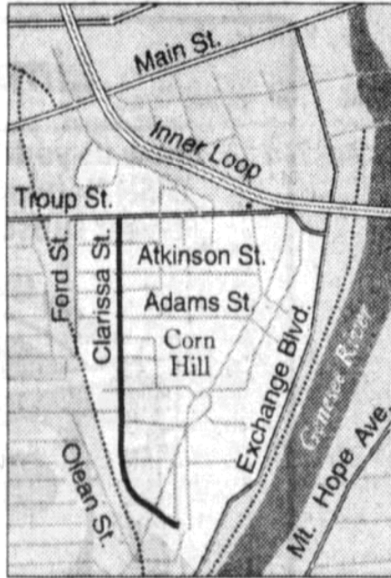
[Learn more about Clarissa Street with this short youth created documentary "Clarissa Street Uprooted" at clarissauprooted.org](http://clarissauprooted.org)

Clarissa Street circa 1960



Staff graphic


Clarissa Street today



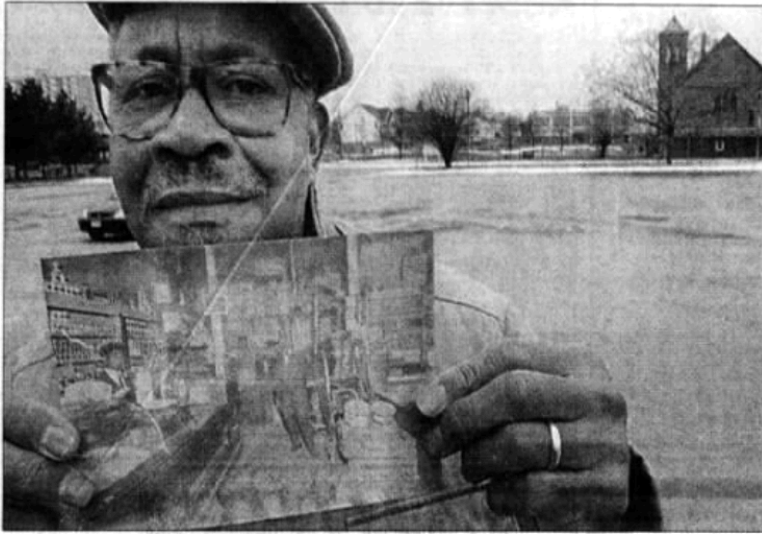
Staff graphic

Source A:

Democrat and Chronicle,
February 12, 1997

 Compare and contrast the two maps above. Identify three differences between the 1960 Clarissa Street map and the 1997 Clarissa Street map in the city of Rochester.

Clarissa St. : A paradise lost



Times gone by Charlie Price holds up a photo of his grandfather, Jesse Stevens, taken in the grocery store Stevens owned on Spring Street in the early 1900s. Price is standing in the Third Ward where the store once stood, which is now a parking lot.

SHAWN DOWD staff photographer

Source B:

Democrat and Chronicle

article, "Clarissa Street: A Paradise Lost", February 12, 1997.

Charlie Price holds up a photo of his grandfather, Jesse Stevens, taken in the grocery store Stevens owned on Spring Street in the early 1900s. Price is standing in the Third Ward where the store once stood, which is now a parking lot.



📎 What did you learn about Charlie Price's grandfather from the caption and photo? Why is this important?

Source C:

Democrat and Chronicle April 19th, 1985 Interview with poet Bobby Johnson about his book The Clarissa Street Project

At 159 Troup Street there was a place of music, community, and joy in the face of discrimination. Where famous jazz musicians came from all over to perform. From 1943-1953 it was called The Knights of Pythias Social club and then from 1953-1973 it was called The Pythodd Club. As a result of Rochester's Urban Renewal Program the club was forced to close and is now a parking lot.



A Saturday night at the Pythodd Club is captured in Paul Hoeffler's 1959 photo. (c)Paul Hoeffler/Estate Of Paul Hoeffler. spiritofthepythodd.digitalscholar.rochester.edu/



The Pythodd Club on Clarissa Street

“Clarissa Street was the main stem, the place where it all happened. If you went to another city and they asked where you were from, you wouldn’t say Rochester. You’d say Clarissa Street.”

-Bobby Johnson

Rochester Poet and former Clarissa Street Resident

 **What do the photos and quote from Bobby Johnson tell you about how people felt about the Pythodd Club?**

Source D:

Blake McKelvey, Rochester Historian, “Housing and Urban Renewal.” [Rochester History](#), October 1965.



Note: The picture below shows the neighborhood where Charlie Price’s grandfather (Source B) used to have a store in the early 1900s. This neighborhood was demolished to build a new expressway (the Inner Loop).

📌 What do you notice and wonder about the effect of the bulldozers and decisions on Clarissa Street?

📌 Why might some see the Third Ward Urban Renewal Project as “removal” and not “renewal”?

Source E:

James Memmott, “Clarissa Street: A Paradise Lost”, *Democrat and Chronicle* article, February 12, 1997.

📌 Why was Clarissa Street referred to as the “heartbeat of the African American community” in the early 1960s?

📌 How might the Clarissa Street Urban Renewal Project be seen as a racist local

City’s black community still mourns its neighborhood

The plan reflected the logic of the times: They would level the neighborhood to save the neighborhood. And so, after a due course of debate and deliberation in the 1960s, the bulldozers came in and shaved away Clarissa Street, the heartbeat of the African-American community in Rochester. Down went houses, down went stores, down went restaurants, down went a culture and a community in the city’s Third Ward that had been more than 100 years in the making. For example, at the corner of Troup and Clarissa was the Pythod Room, a nightclub where once and future jazz legends played. “What was lost was the loss of history for the African Americans who were born and raised here,” says Constance Mitchell, Third Ward supervisor in the early 1960s. “And there was a loss for those of us who loved Clarissa Street for the neighborly feeling.” ... The creation of that lively community began in the 19th and early 20th centuries, when African Americans found housing in what we now think of as Corn Hill. Theirs were the smaller homes on the fringe of the ward, along what is now Clarissa Street. ... As the African American community grew in the early part of this century, more and more black-owned businesses sprang up on or near Clarissa Street.


But the urban planners of the 1960s in Rochester began to see the Clarissa Street dream as a nightmare: too many people crowded into too few buildings. Indeed, the African-American population of Rochester had grown from a little more than 3,000 in the 1940 census to 23,586 in the 1960 census.

Renewal or removal?

As proposed, the Third Ward Urban Renewal Project was a

Rochester government solution to a racist local Rochester government problem (redlining)?

Final Questions

 **Identify a problem described in these 3 sources (use two pieces of evidence to support your claim).**

 **Who is this problem affecting?**

 **How did this problem affect people?**

