Online Appendix: Blockbusting and the Challenges Faced by Black Families in Building Wealth through Housing in the Postwar United States

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December 16, 2022

Abstract

This online appendix outlines the data collection procedure for determining whether and in which neighborhoods and decades blockbusting occurred in the 60 most populous cities in the United States as of 1950.

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Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago or the Federal Reserve System. Acknowledgements: We thank Kate Bennett and Kelley Sarussi for outstanding research assistance.
A1: Blockbusting Data Collection Procedure

Our process for identifying blockbusting activity within a city consisted of four steps.

1) We began with a simple Google search for “Blockbusting in [city]”. We carefully examined the first three pages of results. This yielded many of the most well-known instances of blockbusting, as reviewed in academic journals, books, newspaper articles, urban history websites, dissertations, and other sources.

2) As a second step, we expanded the Google search to include alternative terms, including “panic peddling,” “panic selling,” and “white flight.” Note that these terms are distinct from blockbusting, but discussions of those subjects often bring up sources that also discuss blockbusting.

3) The third step was to search for “Blockbusting in [city]” and alternative terms in Google Books. Again, we carefully examined the first three pages of results.

4) Finally, we searched for “Blockbusting in [city]” and alternative terms on Google Scholar, and examined the first three pages of results.

When we identified a potential textual source, we looked for evidence of blockbusting, the specific neighborhoods where it occurred, and the years in which it occurred. Blockbusting can be identified either by name or through the description of blockbusting tactics. It is difficult to verify these reports of blockbusting, but given that the practice was legal until 1968, we take most plausible accounts at face value, with the only exceptions being instances of conflicting accounts, which garnered closer examination. Reference to racial turnover within a neighborhood alone was not treated as a sufficient indicator for us to conclude that blockbusting activity had occurred.

A2: Blockbusting Occurrence Sources by City and Neighborhood

Atlanta

- Cascade Heights

- Center Hill

- East Atlanta
o Reed, Leslie Williams and Robert M. Adelman. “The Double-edged Sword of 

- East Lake
  o Reed and Adelman, “The Double-edged Sword”.

- Grove Park

- Kirkwood
  o Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Historic Preservation Division. Fall 
  o National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. *Kirkwood Historic 
  District*. Atlanta: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 
  August 11, 2009, 44, 51.
  o Reed and Adelman, “The Double-edged Sword”.

- Peyton Forest

**Baltimore**

- Alameda
  Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2014, 94.

- Arlington
  o Orser, *Blockbusting in Baltimore*, 94.

- Ashburton
  o Goldsten, Eric L. and Deborah R. Weiner. *On Middle Ground: A History of the 
  and the Golden Age of the American Newspaper*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 
  2016, 74-75.
  o Orser, *Blockbusting in Baltimore*, 94.
  o *Proceedings and Debates of the 91st Congress First Session*. 91st Cong., 1st sess., 
  *Congressional Record* 115, pt.6: 6921-8378, 7874.

- Auchentoroly Terrace
  o Hill and Broening, *The Life of Kings*, 74-75.

- Edmondson Village
  o Orser, *Blockbusting in Baltimore*.
  o Pietella, Antero. *Not In My Neighborhood: How Bigotry Shaped a Great 

- Forest Park
• Goldstein and Weiner, *On Middle Ground*, 257.
  • Orser, *Blockbusting in Baltimore*, 94.

- Howard Park
  • Hill and Broening, *The Life of Kings*, 74-75.
- Lake Montebello
  • Orser, *Blockbusting in Baltimore*, 94.
- Liberty Heights
  • Orser, *Blockbusting in Baltimore*, 94.
- Lower Park Heights
  • Goldstein and Weiner, *On Middle Ground*, 257.
- Mondawmin
  • Hill and Broening, *The Life of Kings*, 74-75.
- Reisterstown
  • Orser, *Blockbusting in Baltimore*, 94.
- Windsor Hills
  • Orser, *Blockbusting in Baltimore*, 94.

**Boston**

- Dorchester
  • Miller, Yawu. "*Boston blacks made exodus to Roxbury.*” *The Bay State Banner*, February 9, 2018.
- Mattapan
  • Miller, “*Boston blacks made exodus to Roxbury.*”

**Buffalo**

- Elicott District
- Fruit Belt
  • Preservation Studios. *Intensive Level Survey of the Fruit Belt, Buffalo, New York*. Buffalo: Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, September 2018, 42.
- Kensington-Leroy
• Masten District

**Chicago**

• Austin

• Auburn Gresham

• Beverly

• Calumet Heights

• Chatham

• Englewood/West Englewood
  o Leachman and Maly, “Rogers Park, Edgewater.” 148.

• Garfield Park

• Hyde Park

**Lawndale**

**South Shore**
- Leachman and Maly, “Rogers Park, Edgewater.” 133.

**Washington Heights**

**Roseland**

**Cincinnati**

**Avondale**

**Bond Hill**

**College Hill**
- Evanston
- Mount Auburn

### Cleveland

- Corelett
- East Cleveland
  - Eddings, “*Divided by Design*.”
  - Hannan, Sheehan. “*There Goes the Neighborhood*.” *Cleveland Magazine*, April 1, 2017.
- Glenville
  - Eddings, “*Divided by Design*.”
  - Souther, Mark. “*Grant Deming’s Forest Hill Historic District*.” *Heights Observer*, 2012.
- Hough
  - Kusmer, “*African Americans*.”
- Lee-Harvard
  - Eddings, “*Divided by Design*.”
  - Grabowski and Martin, *Cleveland Jews*.
  - Michney, Todd. “*What the History of One Cleveland Neighborhood Can Teach Us About Race and Housing Inequality*.” *Cleveland Scene*, August 2, 2017.
- Mount Pleasant
  - Grabowski and Martin, *Cleveland Jews*.

### Columbus
• South Linden

Dallas

Dayton

Denver
  • Cole/Clayton Park/Skyland/City Park
  • Park Hill
  • Whittier
    o Rigolon and Nemeth, What Shapes Uneven Access, 8-9.

Des Moines
Detroit
- Bagley
  - Headapohl, Jackie. “Out-migration to suburbs started in the 1950s, but now some are returning to the urban core.” The Detroit Jewish News, January 25, 2017.
- Blackstone Park
- Dexter-Davison
- Detroit
  - Galster, Driving Detroit, 156.
- Fitzgerald
  - Headapohl, “Out-migration to suburbs.”
  - Jacobs, “Reflections on growing up in Detroit.”
- Green Acres
  - Headapohl, “Out-migration to suburbs.”
- Greenwich
  - United States Department of the Interior, Birwood Wall.
  - Van Dusen, Detroit’s Birwood Wall, 59.
- McDowell
  - Van Dusen, Detroit’s Birwood Wall, 59.
- Ravendale

Flint
- Civic Park
- Evergreen Valley

- Flint Park

- Forest Park

- Lapeer Park

- Manley Village

- North End

**Grand Rapids**

- Ottawa Hills

**Hartford**

- Bloomfield
  - Putterman, Alex. “West Hartford is mostly white, while Bloomfield is largely Black; how that came to be tells the story of racism and segregation in American suburbs.” *Hartford Courant*, February 19, 2021.

**Houston**

- Riverside Terrace

- Third Ward

- Washington Terrace

**Indianapolis**

- Butler-Tarkington
Kansas City

- Blue Hills

- Southeast Kansas City

Long Beach

- Central Long Beach

- North Long Beach

Los Angeles

- Compton

- Crenshaw

Louisville

- Shawnee

- West End
Memphis

- Frayser
- Glenview
- Hickory Hill
  - Bradley, “Seeing Red I.”

Miami

- Brownsville

Milwaukee

- Sherman Park

Minneapolis

- Homewood
- Near North
  - Gringauz, “Policies of Division.”

Nashville

**New Haven**

- City Point

**New York City**

- Bedford-Stuyvesant

- Brownsville
  - Rieder, Canarsie, 21.

- Bushwick
  - Rieder, Canarsie, 21.

- Cambria Heights

- Crown Heights
  - Rieder, Canarsie, 21.

- East Flatbush

- East New York
  - Rieder, Canarsie, 21.

- Elmhurst

- Hollis

- Park Slope
• South Jamaica
• Williamsburg

**Newark**

• Central Ward
• Clinton Hill

**Norfolk**

• Ballentine Place
• Colonial Place
  o King, Lauren. “Norfolk’s Colonial Place has endured much change.” *The Virginian-Pilot*, March 9, 2015.
• Newport News

**Oakland**

• East Oakland (Brookfield)
• West Oakland

**Oklahoma City**

• Wildewood Hills-Heights

**Omaha**

• Kountze Place
• North Omaha

**Philadelphia**

• Germantown
• Nicetown-Tioga
• Strawberry Mansion
• Wynnefield

**Pittsburgh**

• Charles Street
• Homewood
  o Krauss, Margaret J. “Pittsburgh Neighborhoods And Schools Remain Segregated, But How Did It Start?” *90.5 WESA*, October 18, 2018.
• Perry-North
• Perry Hilltop
  o Krauss, “Pittsburgh Neighborhoods And Schools Remain Segregated.”
• Wilkinsburg
  o Krauss, “Pittsburgh Neighborhoods And Schools Remain Segregated.”

**Portland**

• Albina

**Richmond**

• Barton Heights
- Williams, Michael Paul. “*Williams: Richmond’s segregation is by design.*” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, April 20, 2015.

- **Byrd Park**
  - Williams, “*Richmond’s segregation is by design.*”

- **Highland Park**
  - Williams, “*Richmond’s segregation is by design.*”

**Rochester**

- **19th Ward**
  - Gupta, Sujata. “*Bridging the racial divide.*” *Rochester City Newspaper*, November 15, 2006.
  - Murphy, Justin. “*How Rochester’s growing city and suburbs excluded black residents.*” *Democrat and Chronicle*, February 5, 2020.
  - “*Block-Busting Type Action Hit.*” *Democrat and Chronicle*, May 10, 1969, 16.

- **Frost Avenue**
  - Murphy, “*How Rochester’s growing city and suburbs excluded black residents.*”

- **Woodbine**
  - Murphy, “*How Rochester’s growing city and suburbs excluded black residents.*”

**San Francisco**

- **Hunters Point (Bayview)**

- **Marin City**

- **Vallejo**

**St. Louis**

- **Jeff VanderLou**

- **Parkview**

- **West End**

**Toledo**

- **Old West End**

Washington D.C.
- Shepherd Park

Wichita
- Fairmount

Youngstown
- Brier Hill