

1938

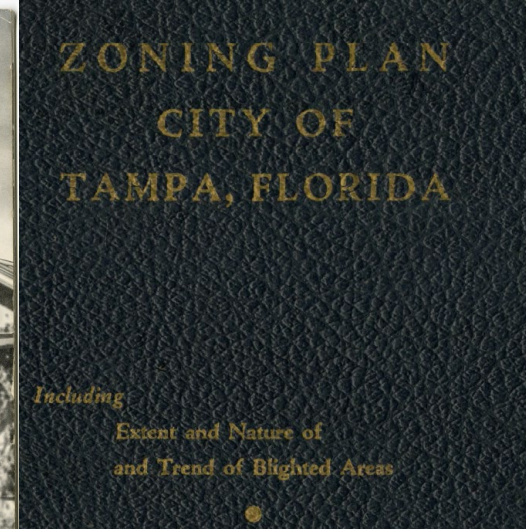
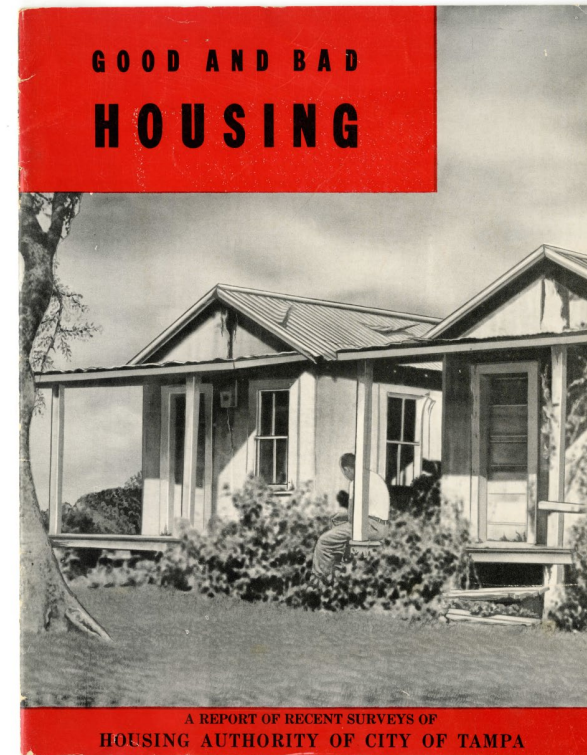
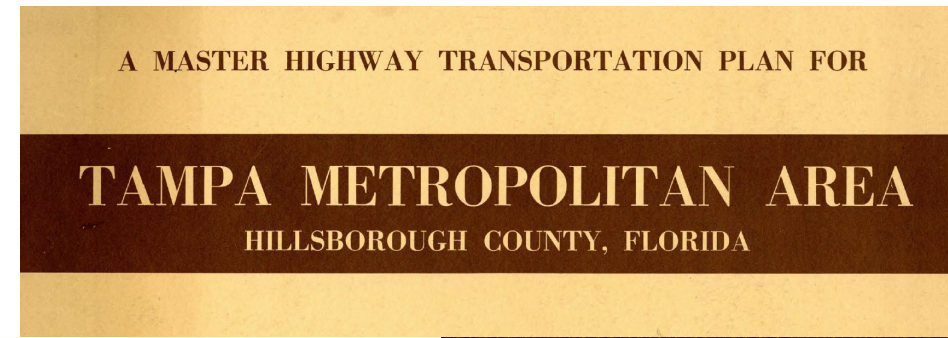
2018

The History of Discriminatory Planning in Hillsborough County

A brief summary of some key political parties, policies, and displacement patterns from 1900 – 1964

How did Planning get us Here? (1900 – 1964)

- Local, State, National Law and Politics
- Public and Private Housing
- Comprehensive Planning and Zoning
- Urban Renewal
- Highway Construction



Disclaimer and Content Warning

- Quotes and images from historical documents use language and depictions which are bigoted, inappropriate, and insensitive by today's standards.



Local, State and National Politics

- End of Reconstruction – 1876
- Florida State Poll Tax – 1889 - 1936
- Establishment of “Separate but equal” – *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896
- Florida State Democratic Party declared only whites could hold party membership – 1902

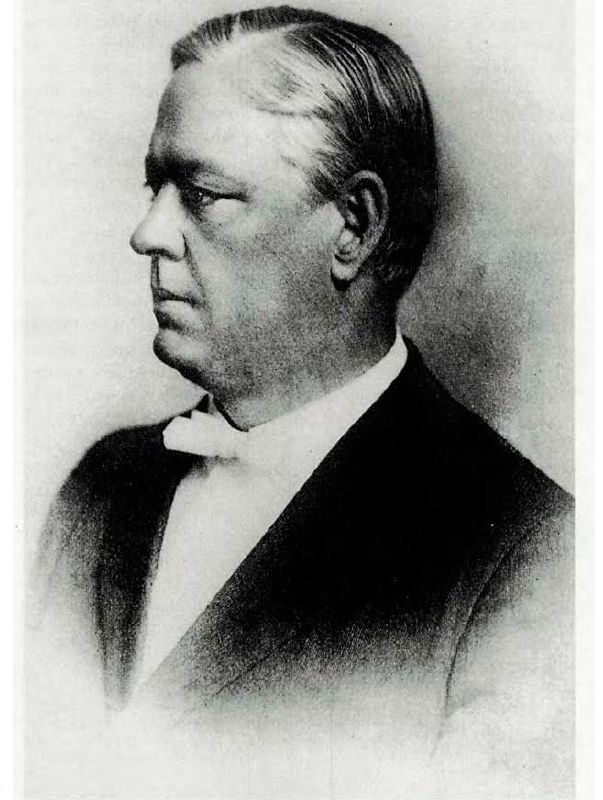


Streetcar Segregation in Tampa (1904)



Tampa's White Municipal Party

- **1908** - Tampa's "White Municipal Party" established
- **1910** - Tampa had a whites-only primaries
- **1931** - whites-only primaries state-wide, and WMP only recognized political party in City of Tampa
- **1910 – 1956** – Every Tampa Mayor was WMP member
 - **Donald B. McKay; Horace C. Gordon; Charles H. Brown; Perry G. Wall; Thomas N. Henderson; Robert E. Lee Chancey; Curtis Hixon**



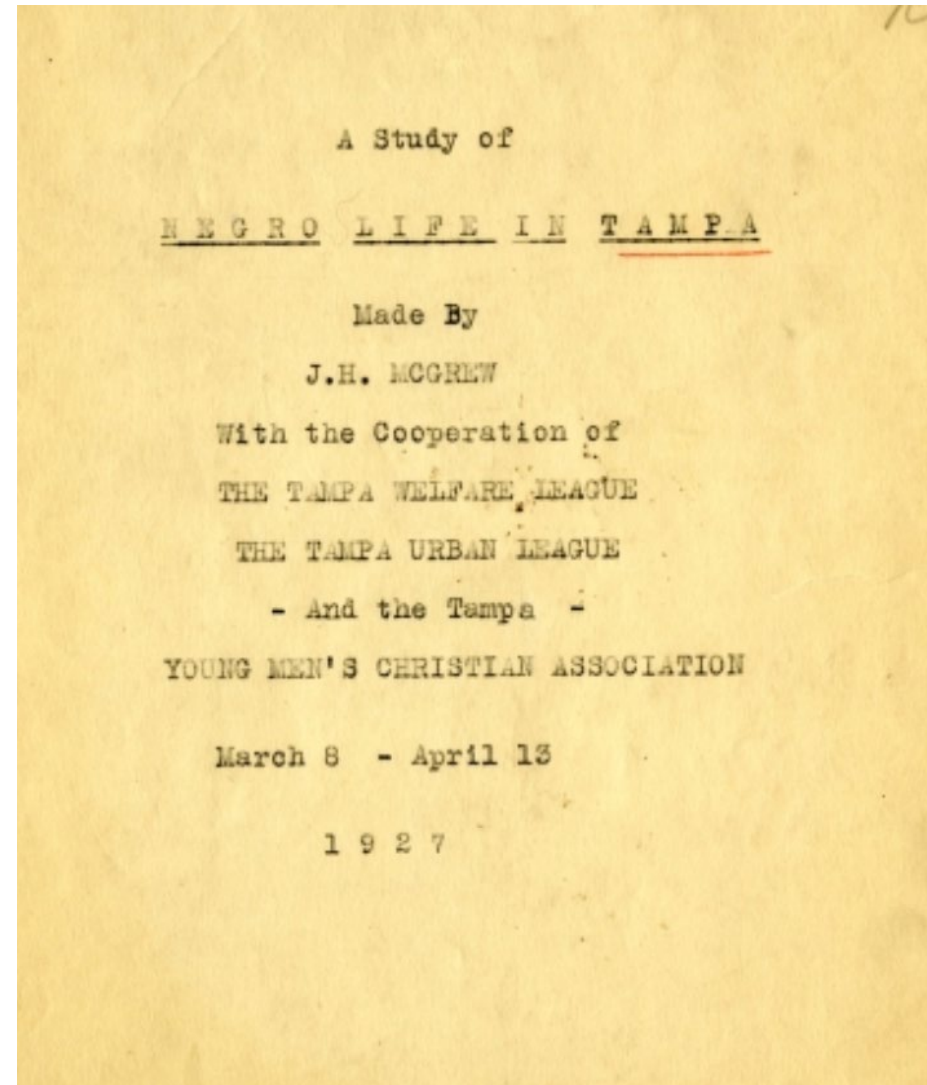
D. B. McKay dominated Tampa politics for the first half of the twentieth century. A key organizer in the formation of the White Municipal Party in 1908, he also became the first mayor elected under the new primary system in 1910. *Courtesy of the Florida State Archives, Tallahassee.*

Party Goal: “...prevent the future operation of the Negro vote as a balance of power in municipal elections.”



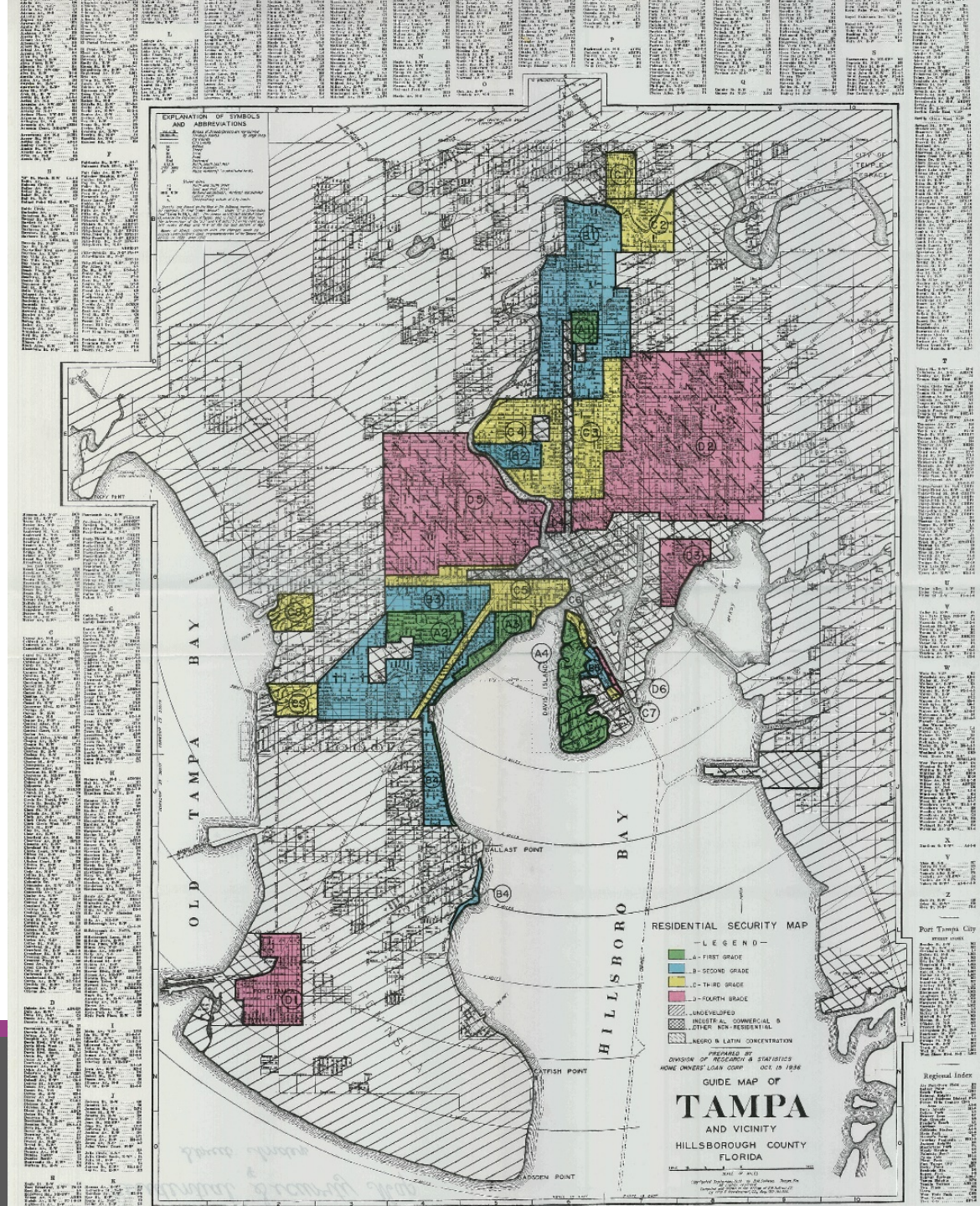
A Study of Negro Life in Tampa (1927)

- *“Except for the area in Ybor City where the Cubans, irrespective of color, live intermixed, there is a general separation of the white and negro races.*
- *“The problem of health is inevitably a part of housing, sanitation, recreation, hospitalization, employment, wages and hours.”*
- *“For a colored population of 23,000, Tampa provides a Branch Library and a salaried playground supervisor. The City of Tampa provides no public park for Negroes: it provides no playgrounds, except unequipped school grounds: it provides no public pool or beach. The private recreation and amusements are of such a nature that the Negro public received no benefit therefrom. The Commercial recreation and amusement is of such a nature and so poorly supervised, that its perchance is more harmful than beneficial.*

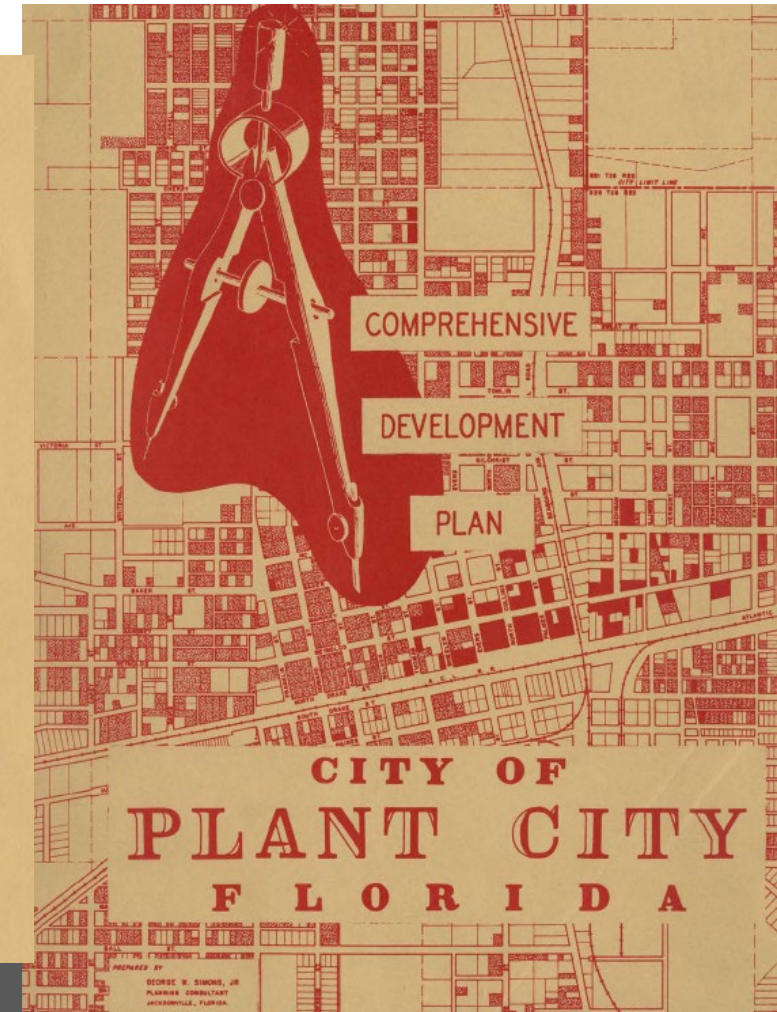
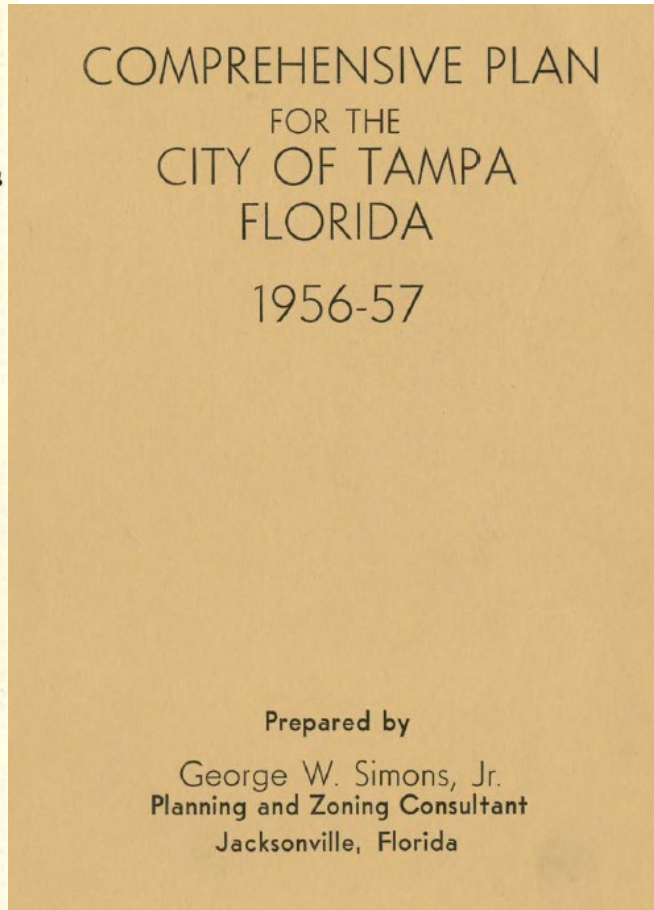
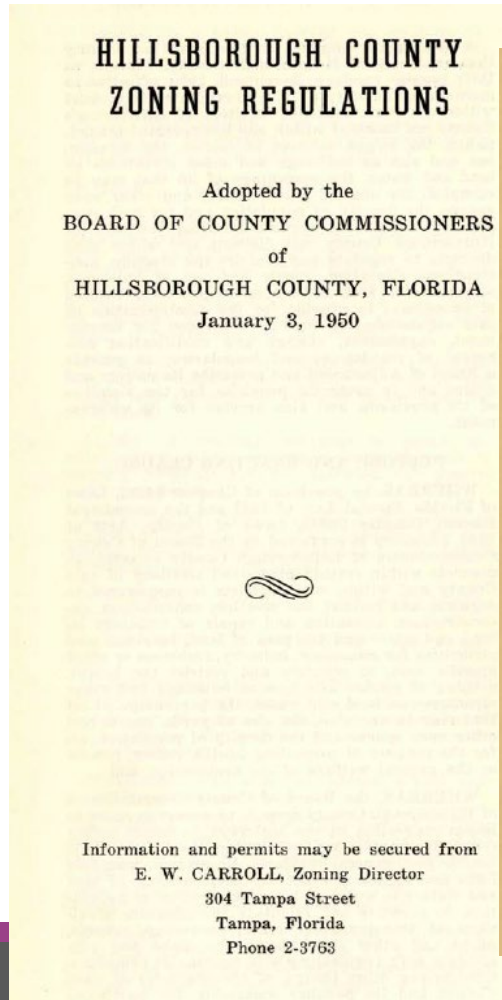
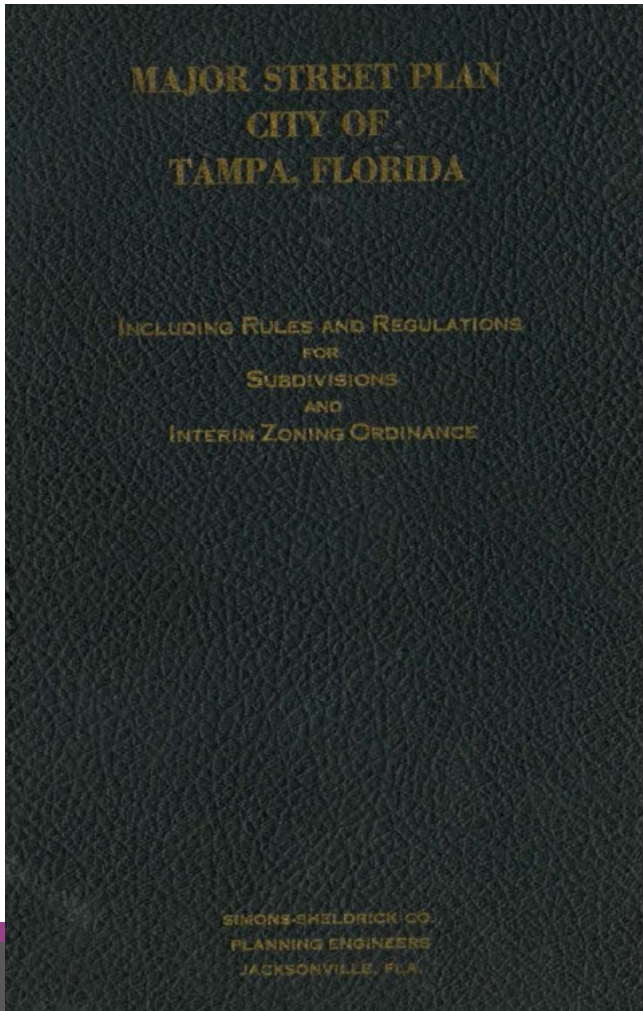


Public and Private Housing

- Deed restrictions
- Public housing projects
- Homeowners Loan Corporation (1933)

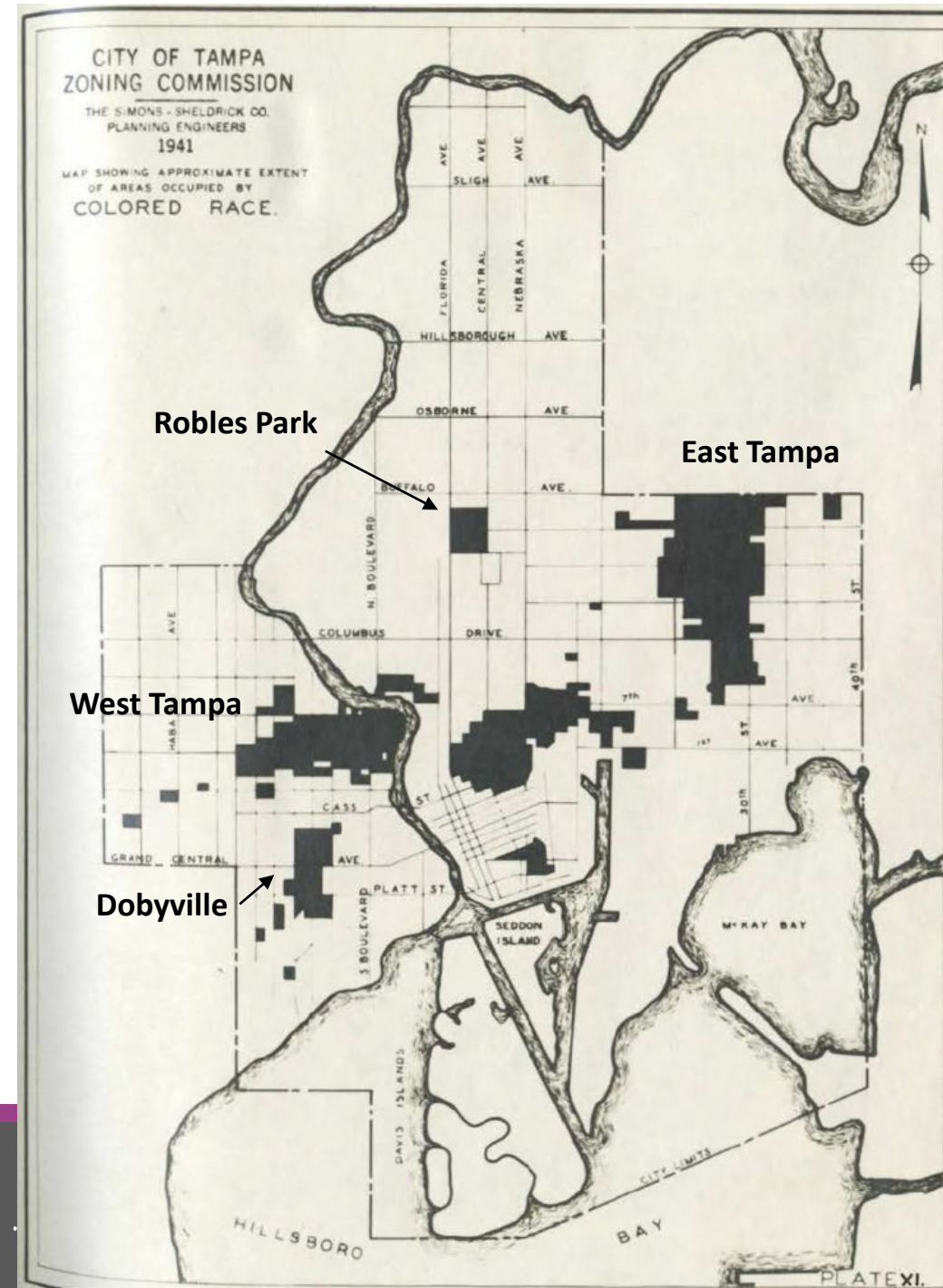


Comprehensive Planning and Zoning



Tampa Major Street Plan (1941)

- Demographics: 29% Latin descent; 21% Black
- *“Within the past two years since the completion of Boulevard Homes – the colored housing project – on Spruce Street in the former West Tampa section – many of the colored population have been migrating thereto. These several colored areas act as directives in considering the growth and development of the city.”*
- First proposed routing of Interstate 275 beside Central Avenue, which states that such a project, *“...would do much towards clearing up a blighted slum north of Cass Street on both sides of Central Ave.”*



Tampa Zoning Plan (1942)

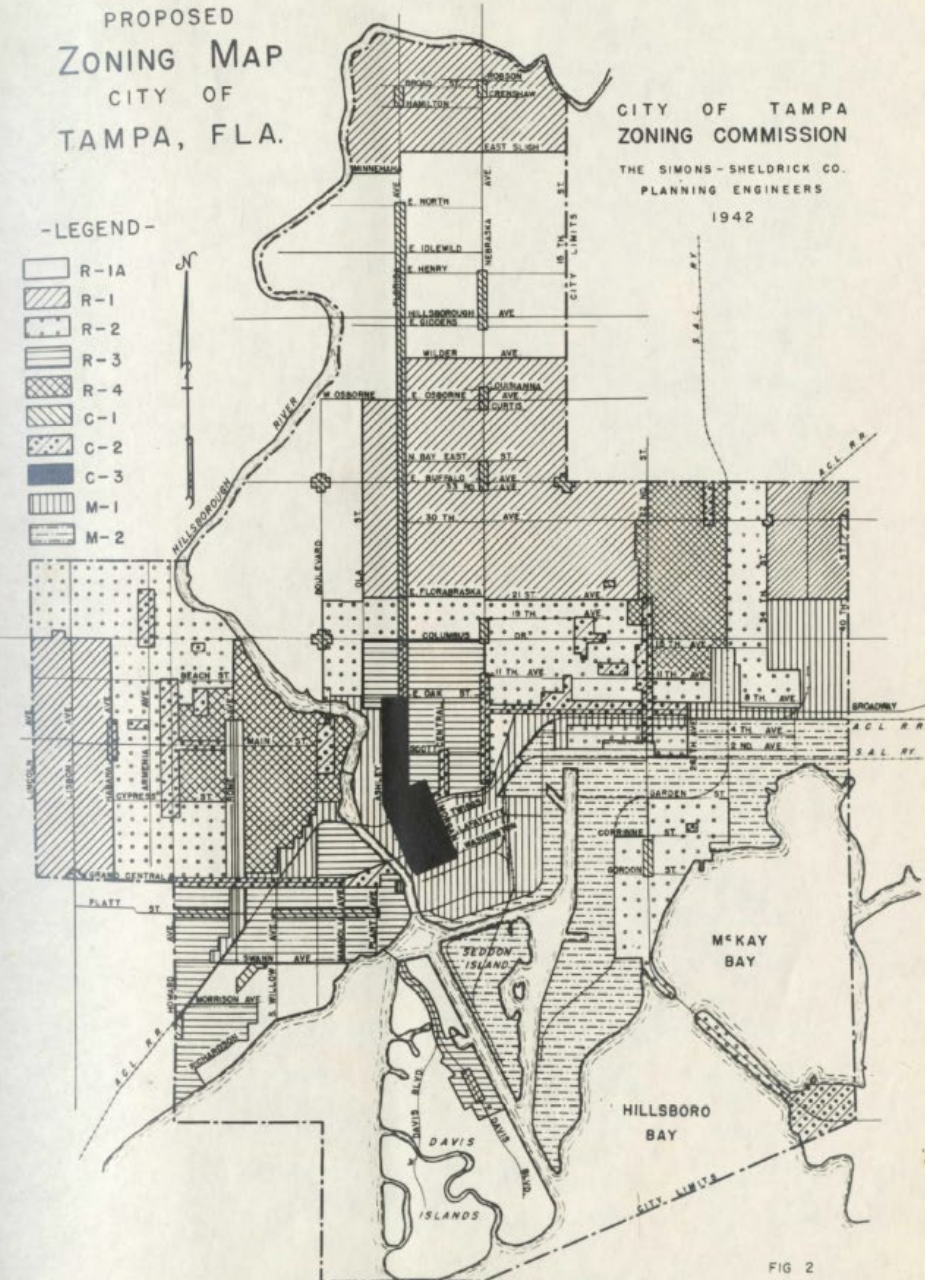
- What is zoning?
- on slums: *"There are several other, but smaller areas, occupied now by colored people that should be eliminated and moved to other areas."*
- *"With the establishment of North Boulevard Homes in West Tampa, a new locality was opened for the colored population. That development should be expanded either by public or private enterprise. Those colored residents now in Hyde Park area should be shifted to the West Tampa site. The whole "Scrub" area should be rehabilitated by the construction of a new housing development there – either publicly or privately financed. Other small areas occupied by colored people should be eliminated and those residents be transferred to other areas."*

PROPOSED ZONING MAP CITY OF TAMPA, FLA.

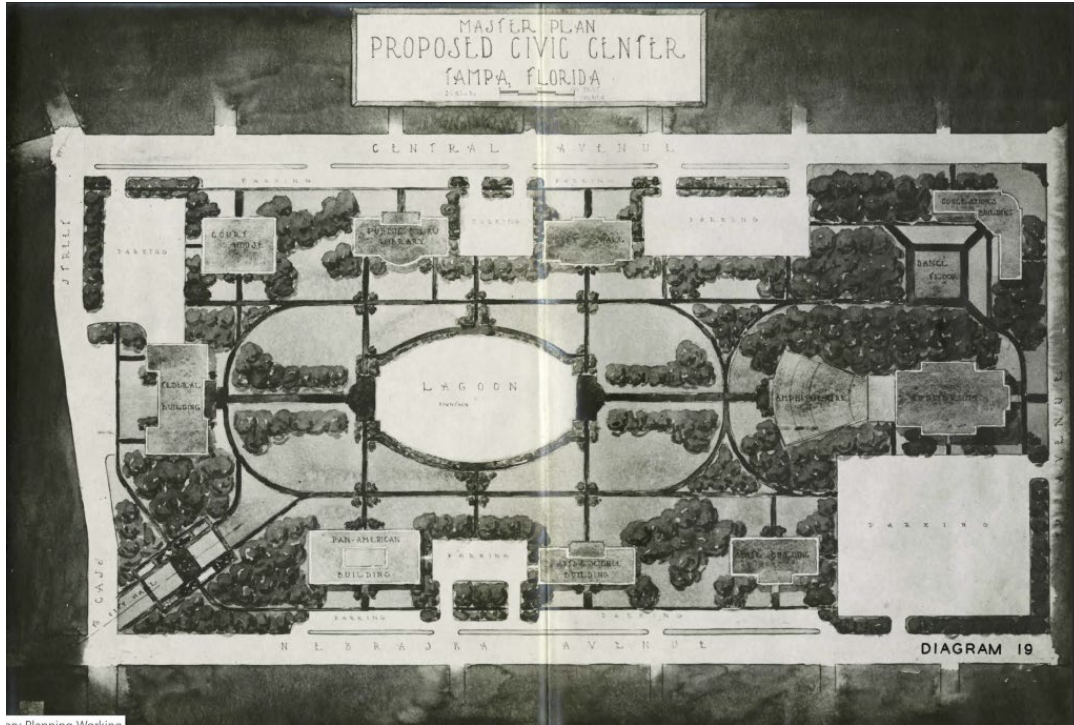
CITY OF TAMPA
ZONING COMMISSION
THE SIMONS-SHELDRIK CO.
PLANNING ENGINEERS
1942

-LEGEND-

[White box]	R-1A
[Diagonal lines /]	R-1
[Diagonal lines \]	R-2
[Horizontal lines]	R-3
[Vertical lines]	R-4
[Cross-hatch]	C-1
[Dotted pattern]	C-2
[Dark blue box]	C-3
[Light blue box]	M-1
[Dark blue box]	M-2



Tampa Comprehensive Plan (1945)

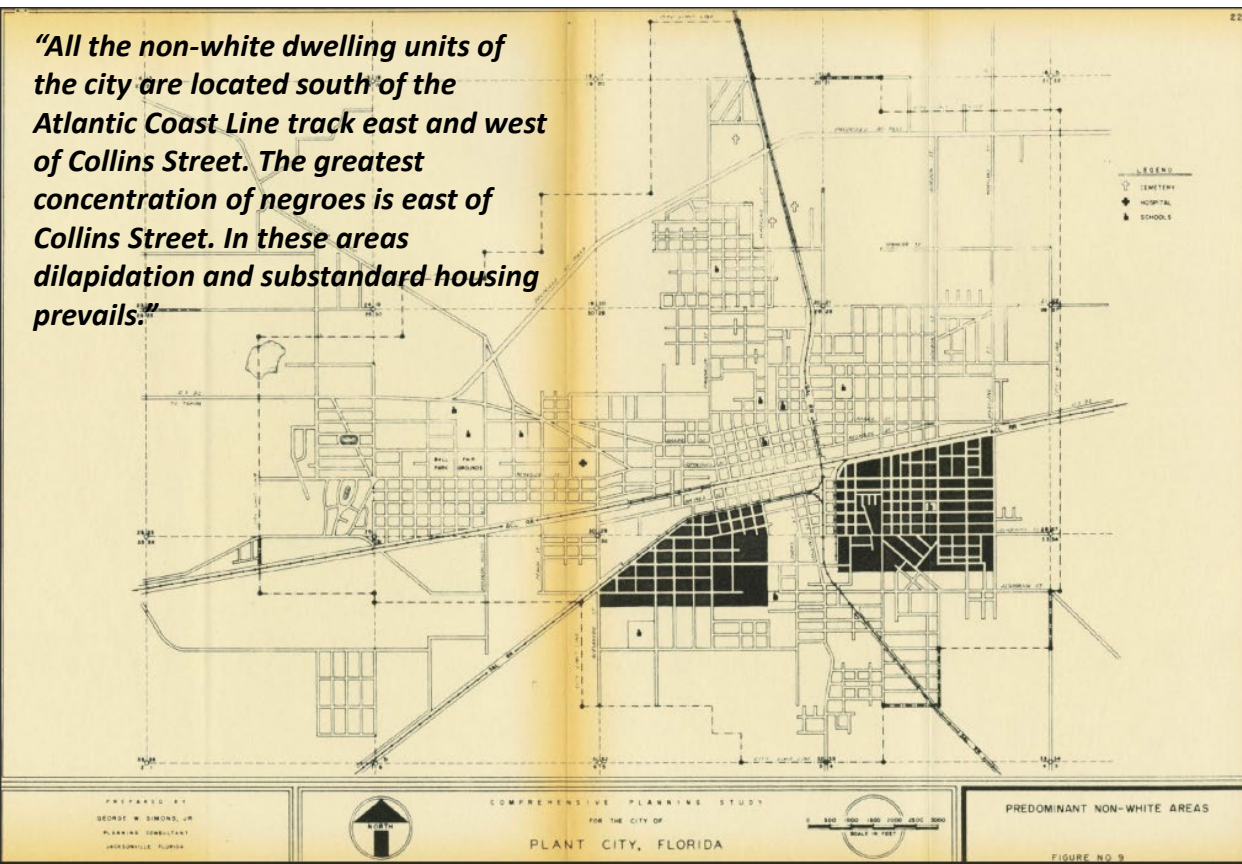


- Parks and Recreation – reflects segregation
- On the Scrub, “..an economic barrier to the most healthful, wholesome development of the city...the “Scrub” is a cancerous infection ripe for a major operation to transform it into something economically sound and worthwhile from a civic standpoint.”
- “As a source of crimes, immorality, delinquency and other evil influences the “Scrub” is an unnecessary and excess burden of expense to the taxpayers.”

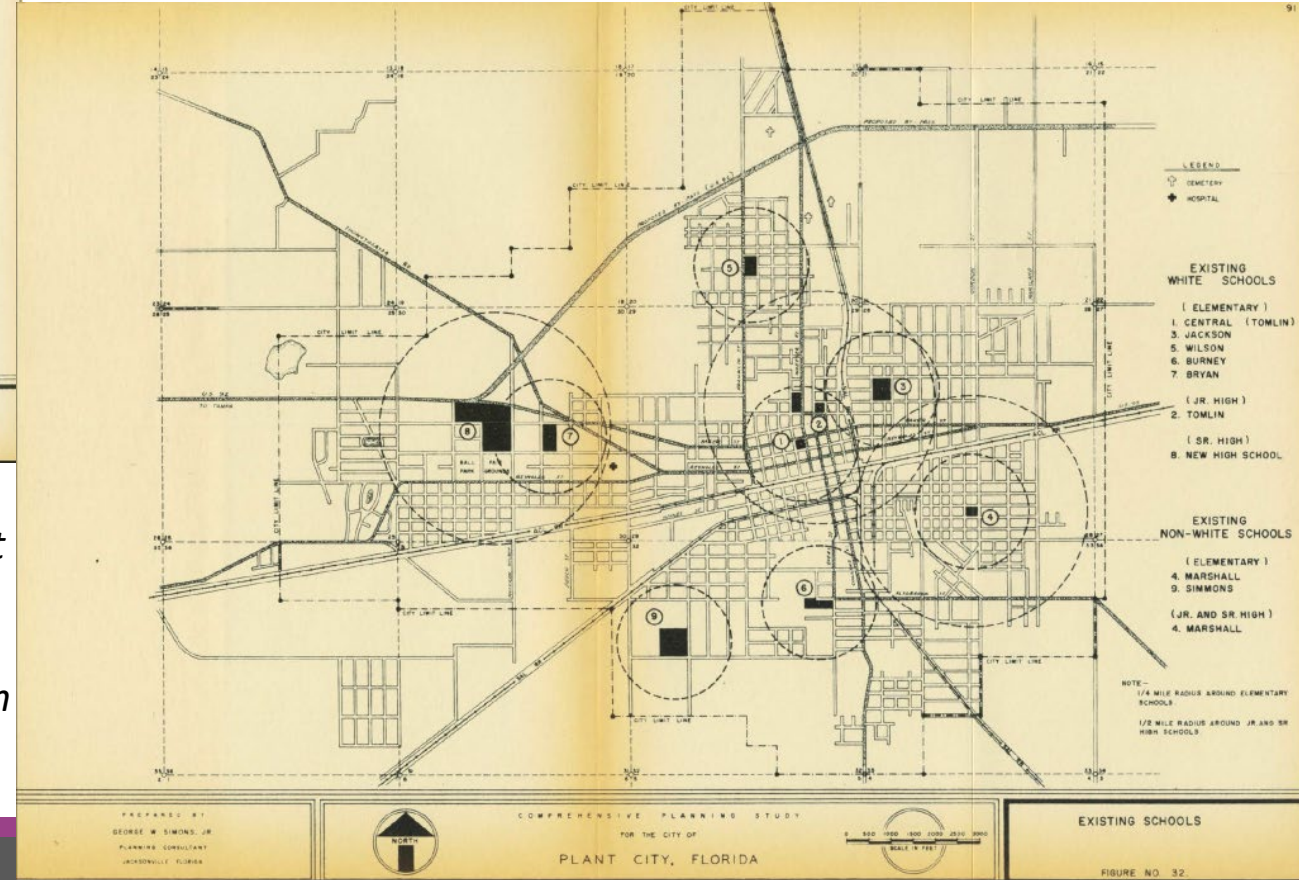


"All the non-white dwelling units of the city are located south of the Atlantic Coast Line track east and west of Collins Street. The greatest concentration of negroes is east of Collins Street. In these areas dilapidation and substandard housing prevails."

Plant City Comprehensive Plan (1956)

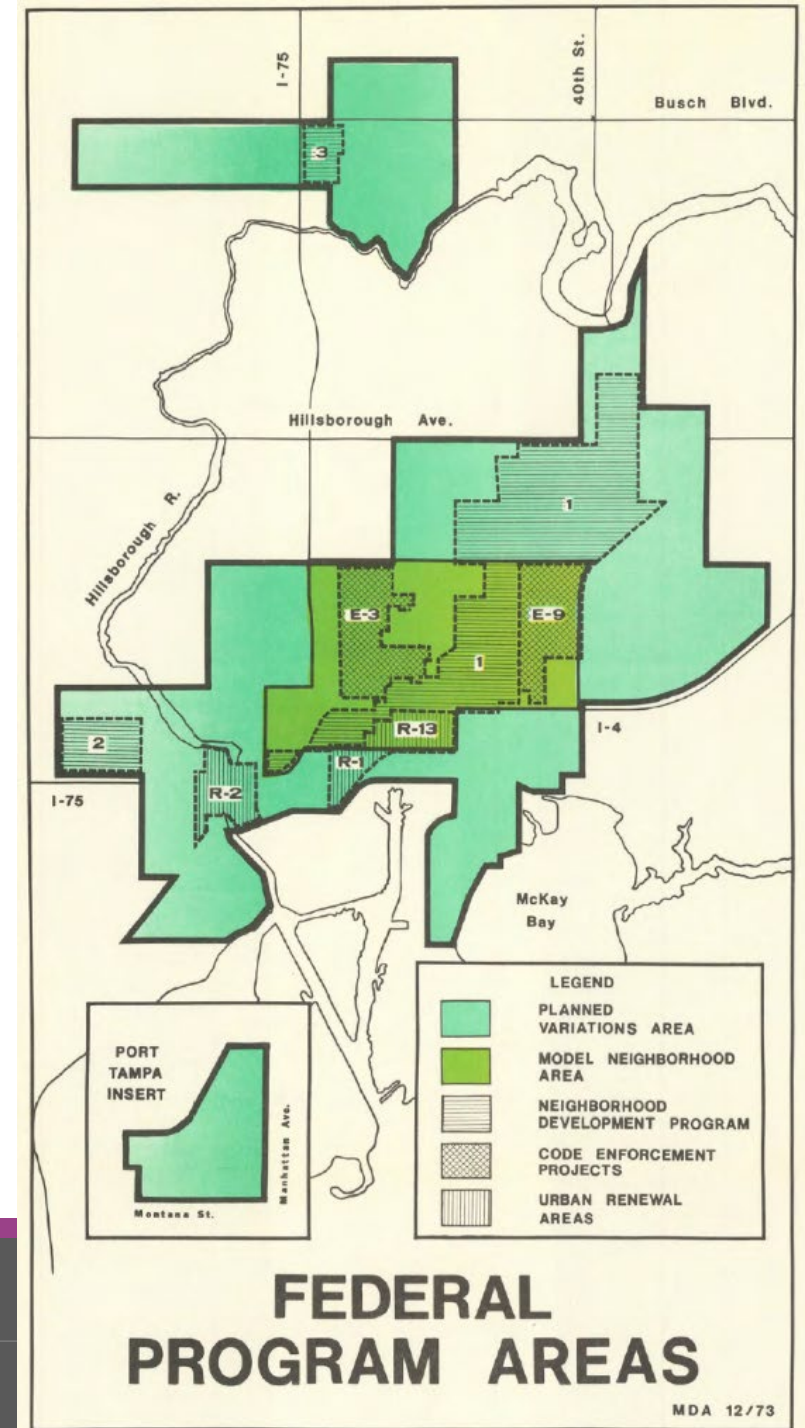


"Altho some constructive thought has been given to park and recreation facilities for negroes nothing constructive has yet been accomplished."



Urban Renewal

- 1949 Federal Housing Act funded “slum” clearance throughout country
 - Federal loans used to purchase, condemn, and clear “blighted” areas – land was sold to developers to pay off the loan.
 - Expectation of public subsidized housing
- Four Urban Renewal projects in Hillsborough County:
 - The Scrub/Maryland Avenue (Tampa)
 - Riverfront (Tampa)
 - Ybor City (Tampa)
 - Plant City



The Scrub/Maryland Avenue (1962)

- 60 acres with 376 families
- NAACP and Robert Saunders statement,

“it is clear that the development of a program of improvement for this City has not been done for minority groups and not with Negroes. It is clear that if this program continues as it is now progressing, Negroes in Tampa will be relegated to a continuous pattern of racially segregated housing for the next fifty to one hundred years.”

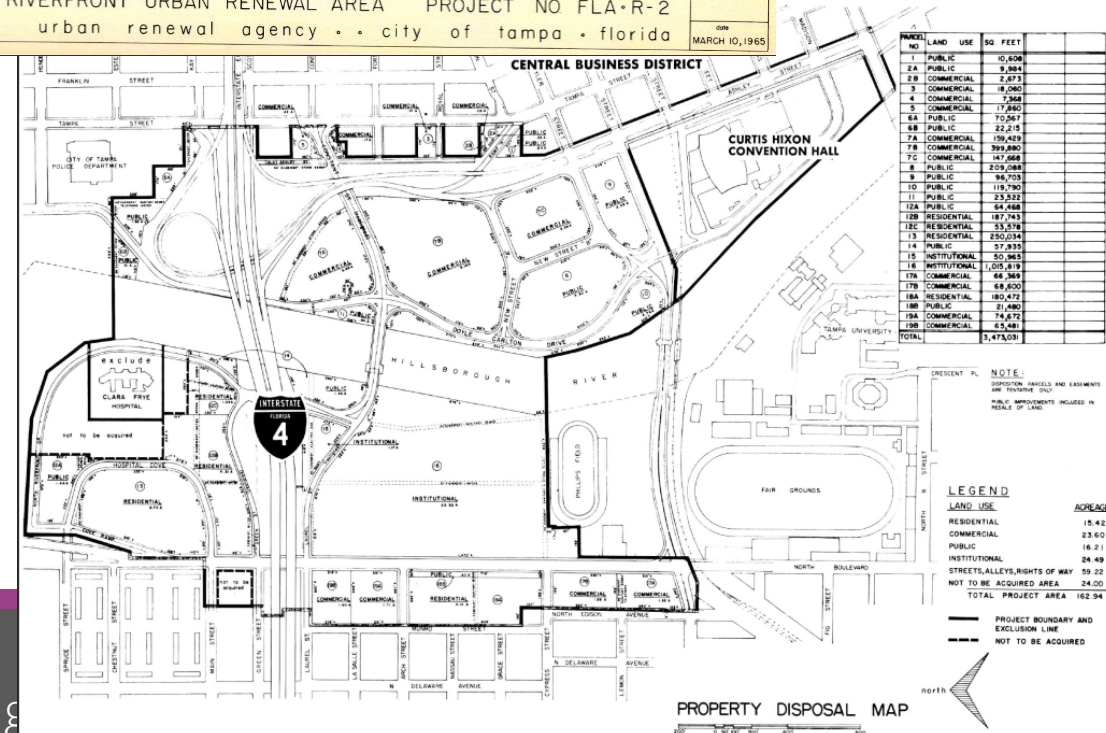
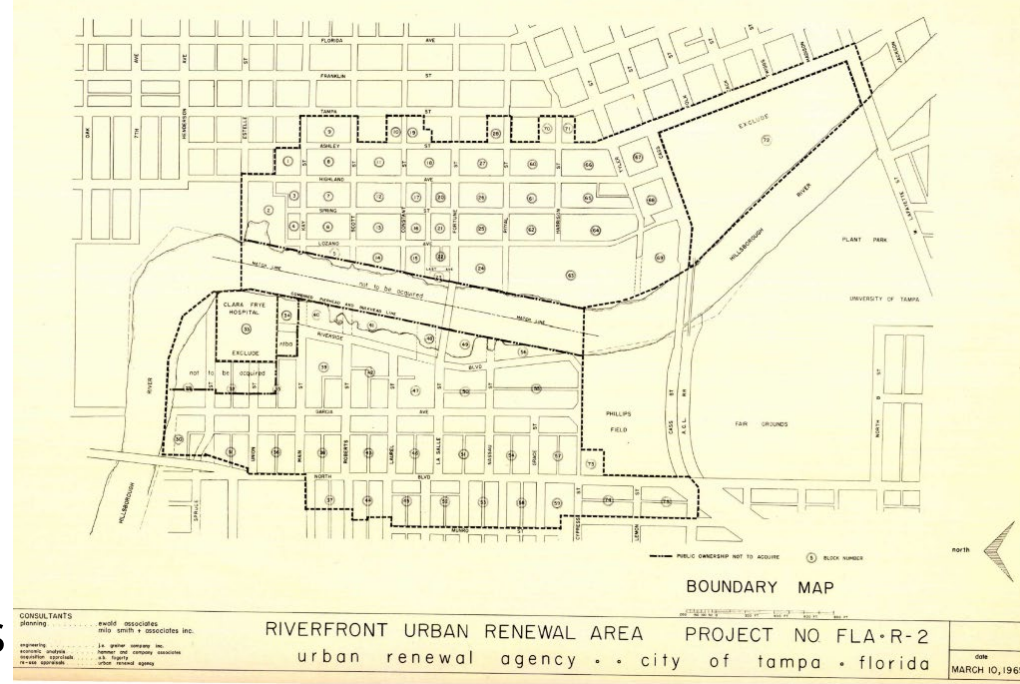


Source: Good and Bad Housing – Tampa Housing Authority (1951)



Riverfront (1963)

- 1961 Survey:
 - 10 white families
 - 670 Black families (97 owner occupied)
 - 176 businesses and 6 institutions
- Land sold to:
 - University of Tampa
 - City of Tampa
 - Private developers
- City assurances to Federal Government on subsidized public housing

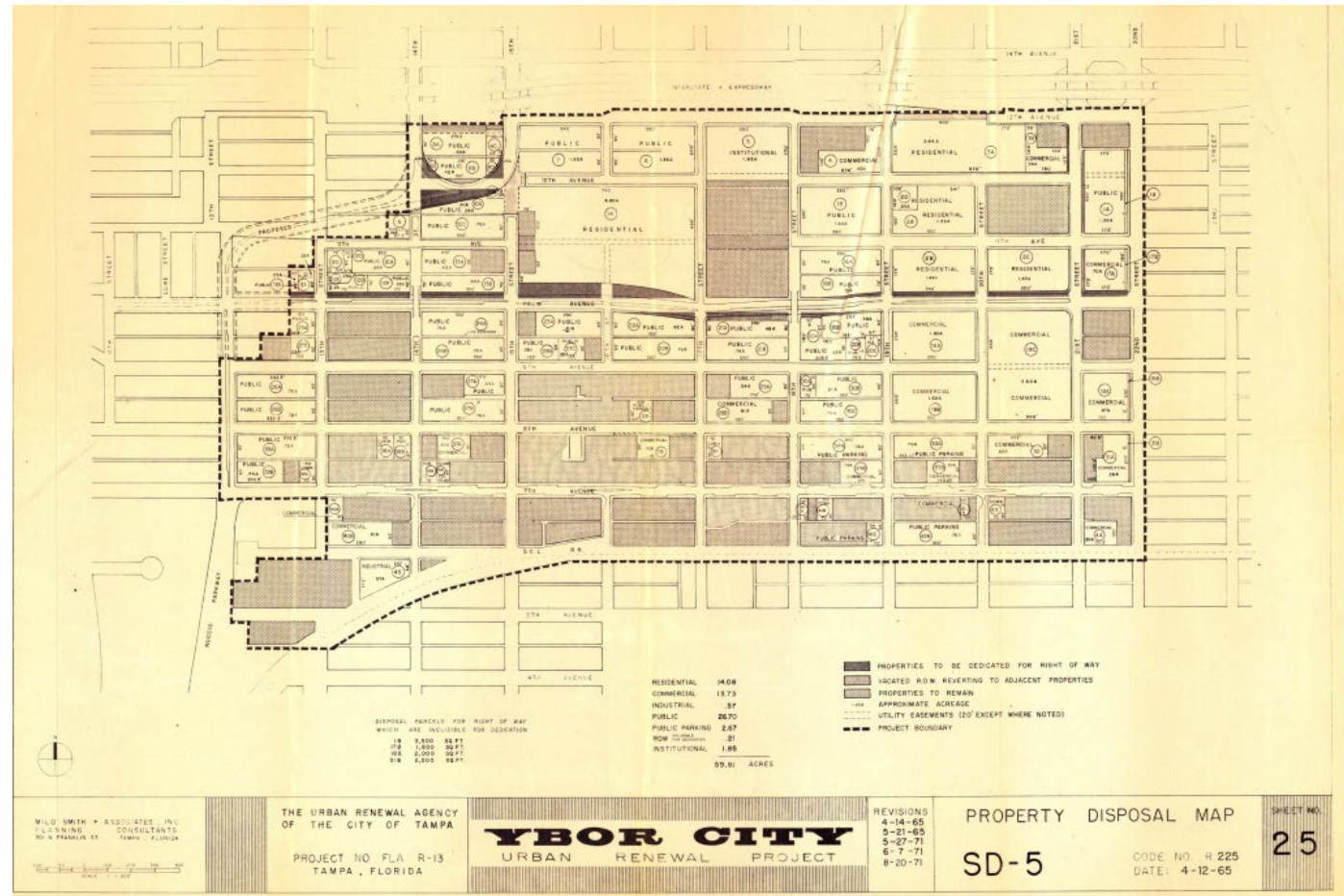


TAMPA'S RIVERFRONT URBAN RENEWAL AREA



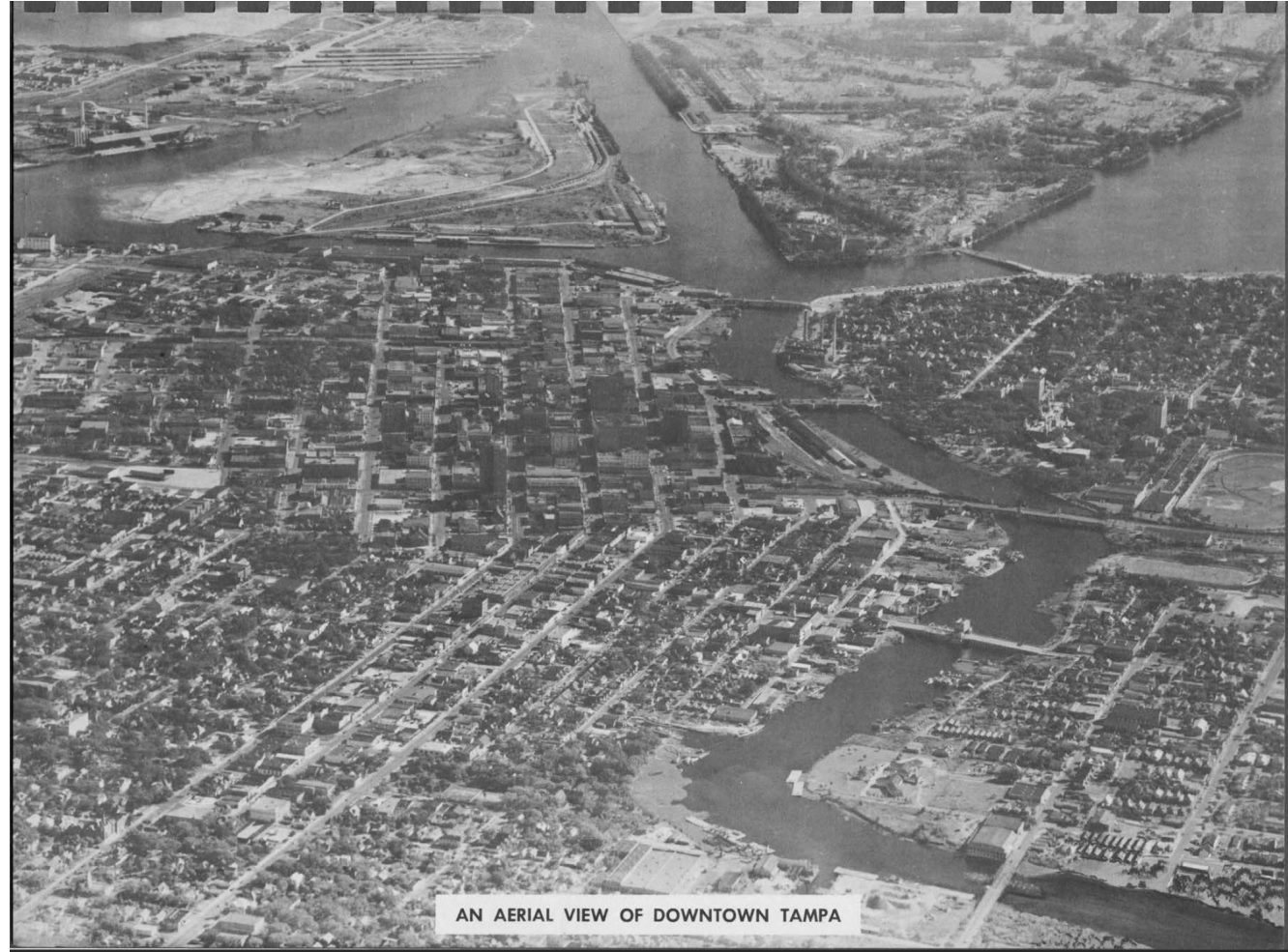
Ybor City (1964)

- ~900 buildings identified - 708 demolished and 193 rehabilitated
- Redevelopment expectations never materialized
 - Hillsborough Community College (50+ acres)
 - County Sheriff's Operation Center
- Major loss of residents, coupled with displacement from I-4 construction

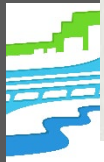
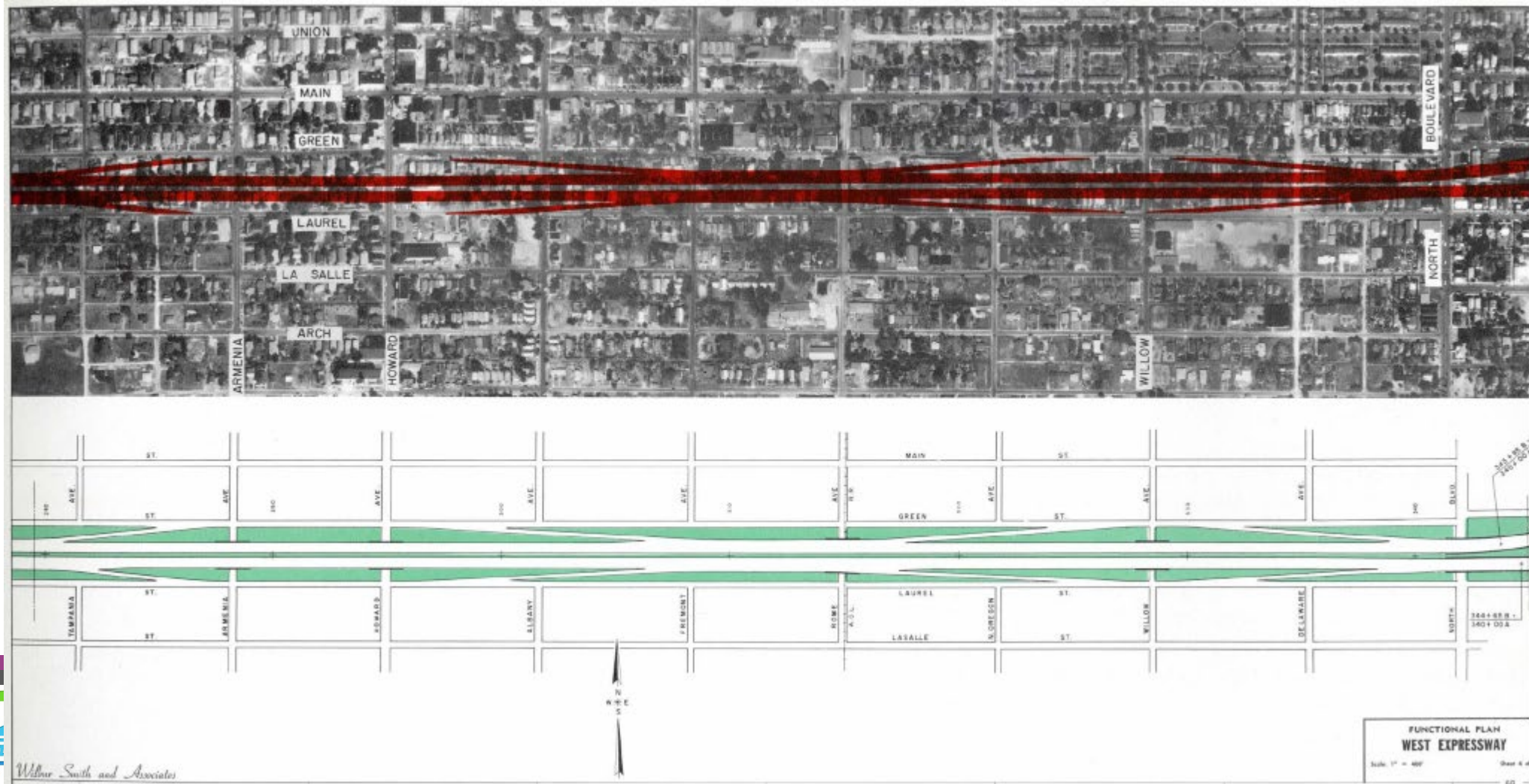


Highway Construction

- 1956 Federal Aid Highway Act
 - I-275 (formerly I-75)
 - I-4
- South Crosstown Expressway



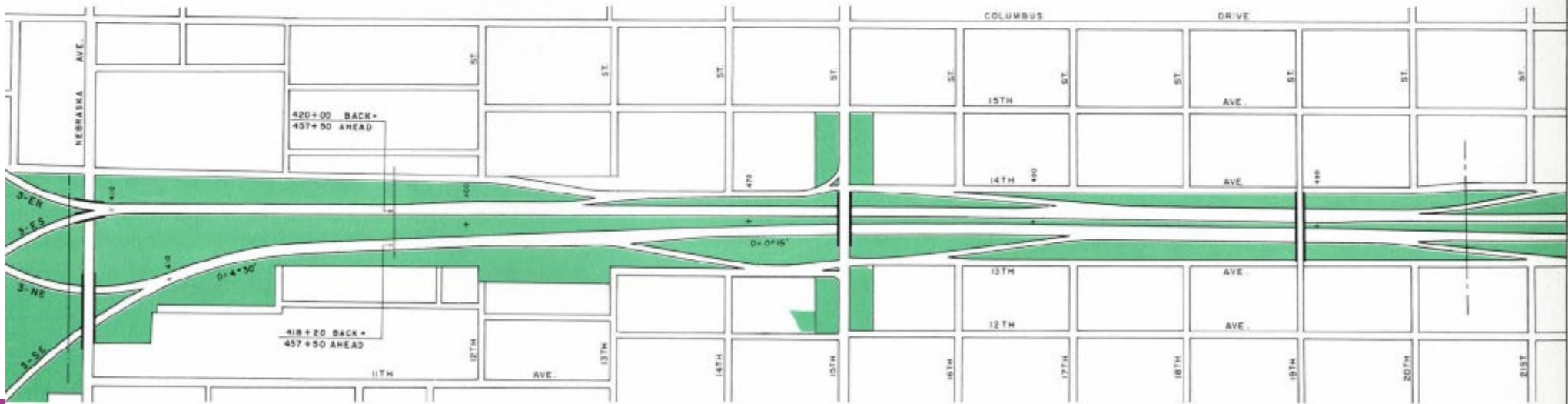
Master Highway Transportation Plan (1957)



Wilbur Smith and Associates

FUNCTIONAL PLAN
WEST EXPRESSWAY
Scale: 1" = 400' Sheet 4 of 4



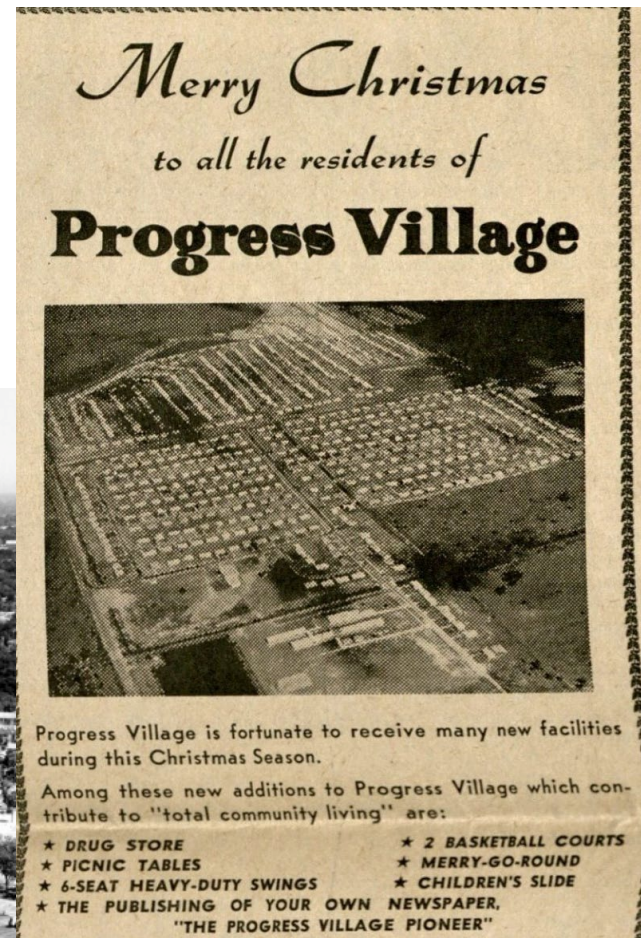
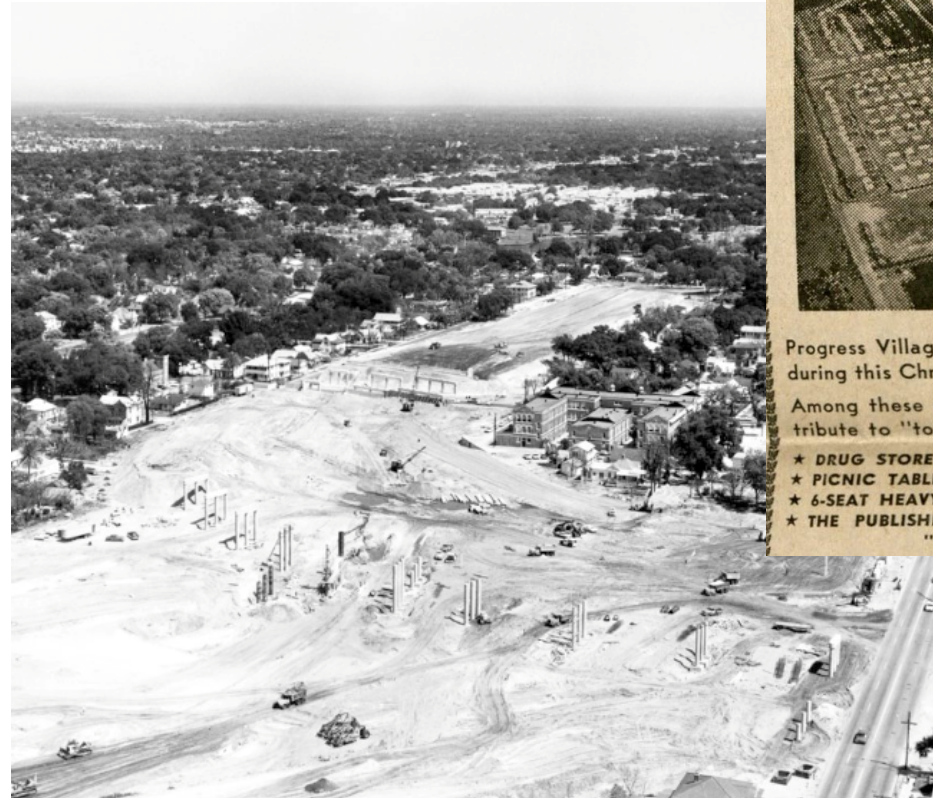


Wilbur Smith and Associates
60

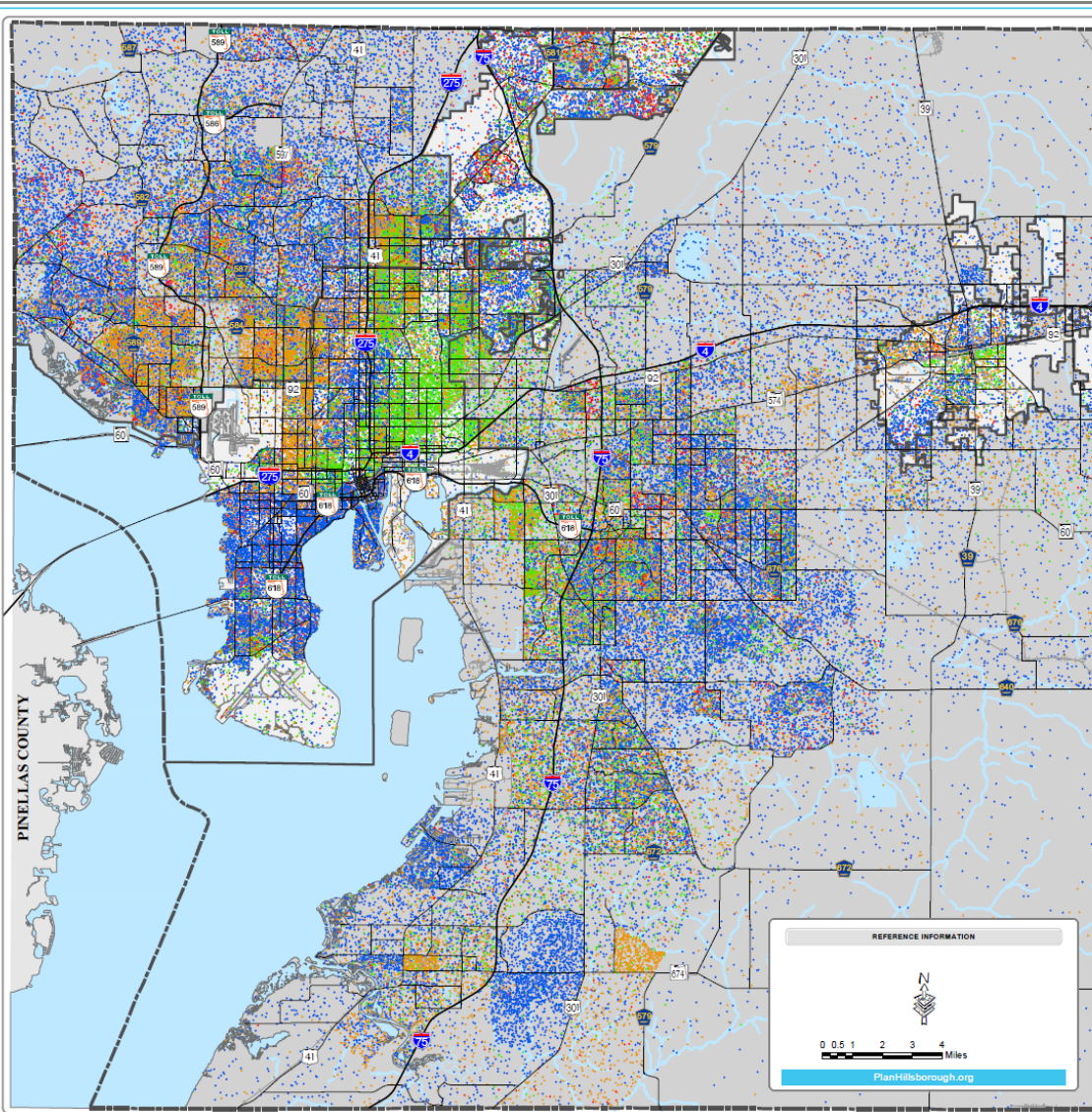


Outcomes by late 1960s

- Destruction of major Black and Latin neighborhoods
 - Dobyville
 - Roberts City
 - The Scrub
 - Ybor City
- Displacement for economic development and highway construction
- Further segregated neighborhoods
 - East Tampa
 - North Boulevard and West Tampa
 - Progress Village
- Exclusion from housing market and wealth generation
- Exclusion from political office and planning efforts



Our Community Now



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DOT DENSITY BY RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS
 2014-2018 ACS 5 YEAR BLOCK GROUPS

LEGEND

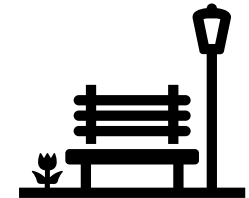
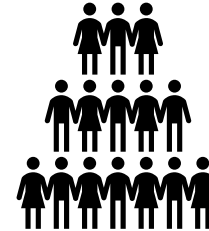
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 DOT = 10 PERSONS ● WHITE ● BLACK ● ASIAN ● HISPANIC ● NATIVE INDIAN & ALASKAN NATIVE ● NATIVE HAWAIIAN & OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER ● SOME OTHER RACE ● TWO OR MORE RACES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — CITY LIMIT - - - COUNTY BOUNDARY — ROADS —+— RAILROADS ■ BAY & WATER BODIES ■ JURISDICTIONAL AREAS
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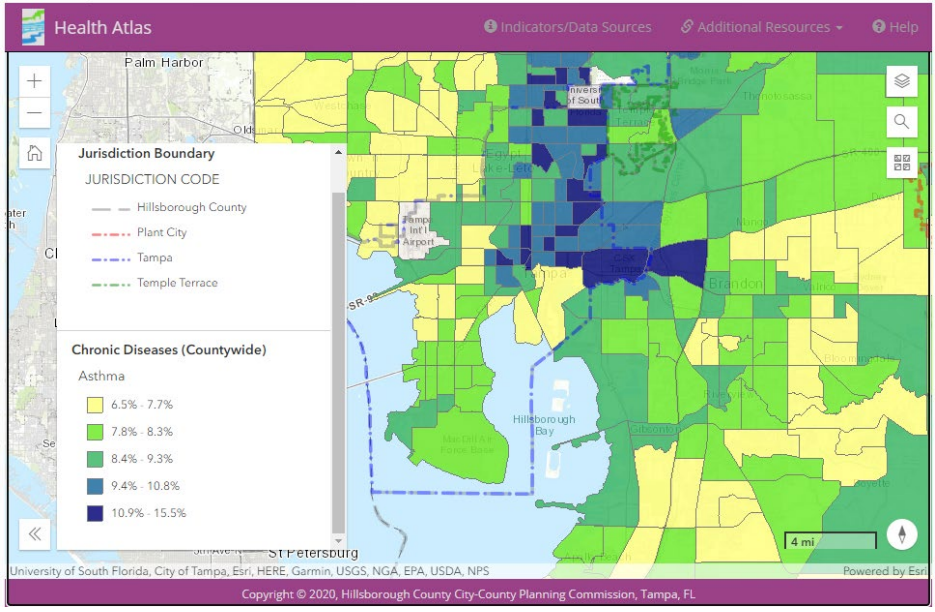
Hillsborough MPO
 Metropolitan Planning
 for Transportation

Hillsborough County
 Florida

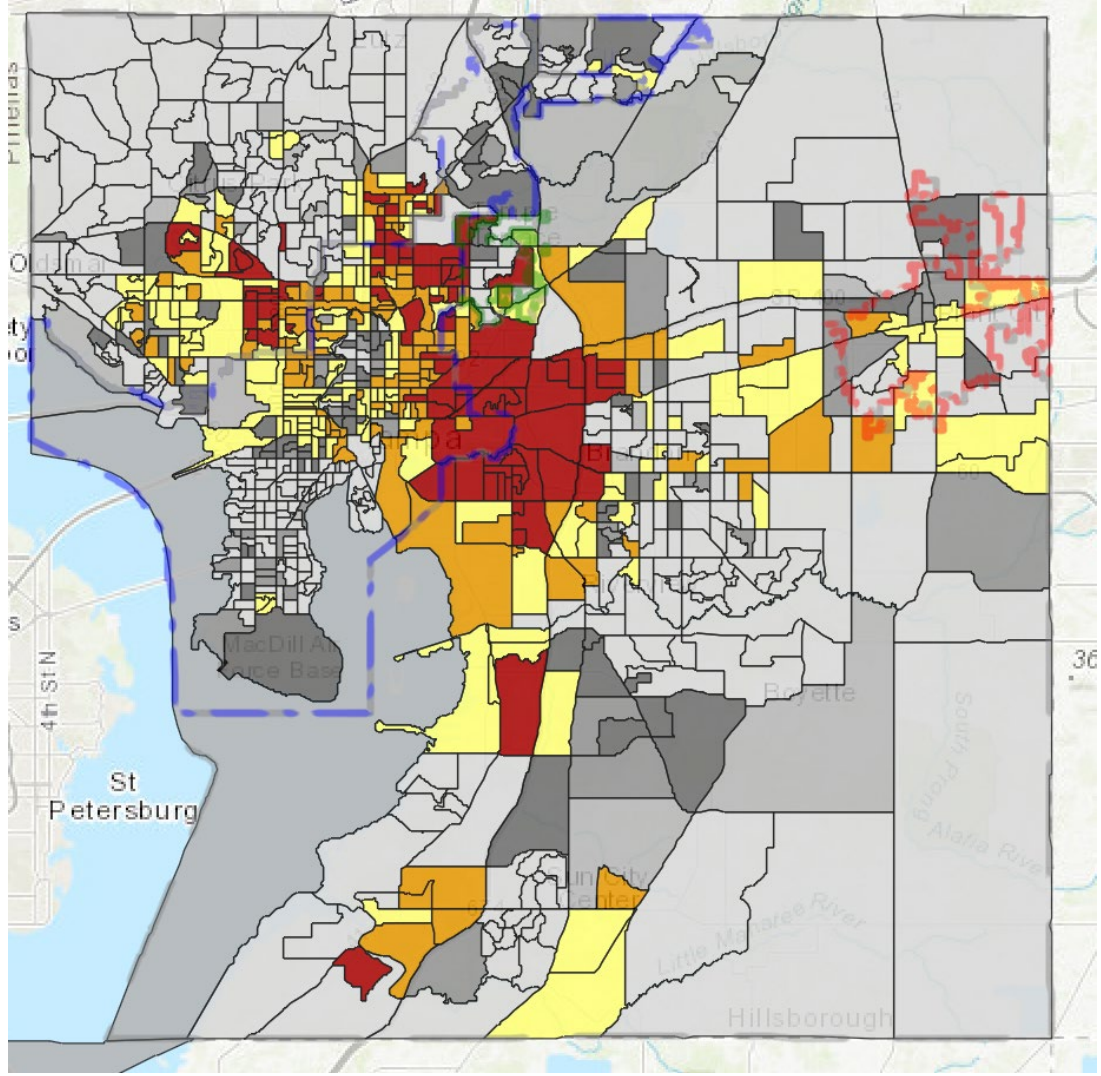
Where are we Today?

- **Home Ownership** - White (73.3%) versus Black (40.8%)
- **Air Quality** - Hillsborough County's adult asthma rate of 9.2% ranks the highest among large counties in Florida. 1/5th of us live within 300m of high-volume roadway, and the proportion is 13% higher if you're a COC resident.
- **Transportation Safety** - If you are in a COC, you are *20% more* likely to be in a severe crash.
- **Neighborhood Safety** - 1 in 5 parents with household income less than \$25,000 report feeling unsafe in their neighborhood compared to less than 1 in 10 parents with household incomes of \$50,000 or over.

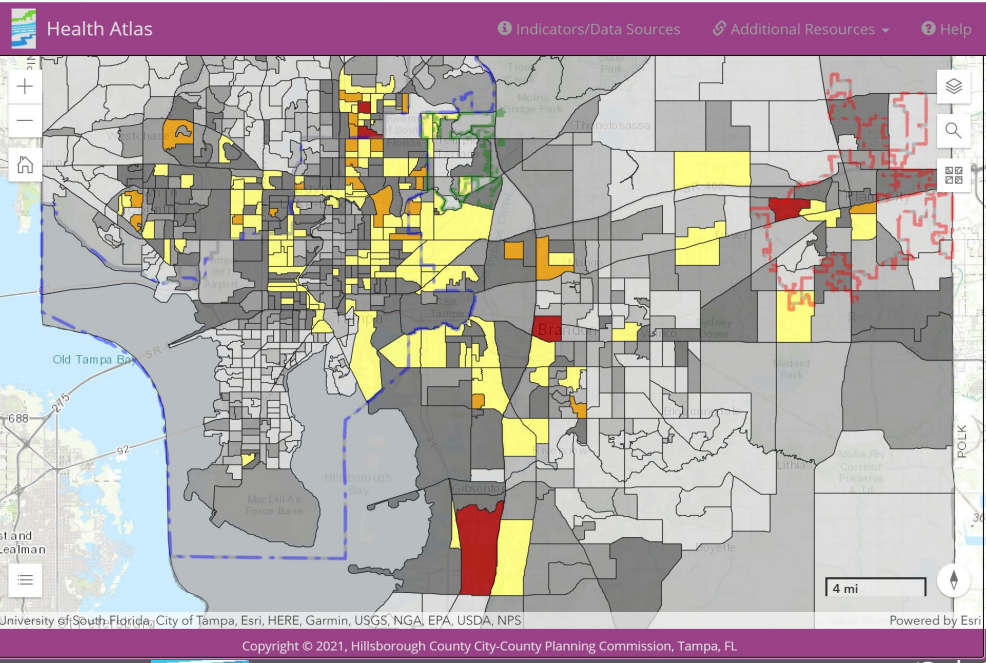




Asthma Rates



Superfund Site Proximity



Particulate Matter

Where do we go Next?

- How do we address:
 - Continued geographic segregation
 - Disparities in wealth, home ownership, access, and community health indicators
 - Underrepresentation in government decision-making processes and authorities

