

PeriphRACTic Space: Mapping Racial Construction in North American Urban Landscapes

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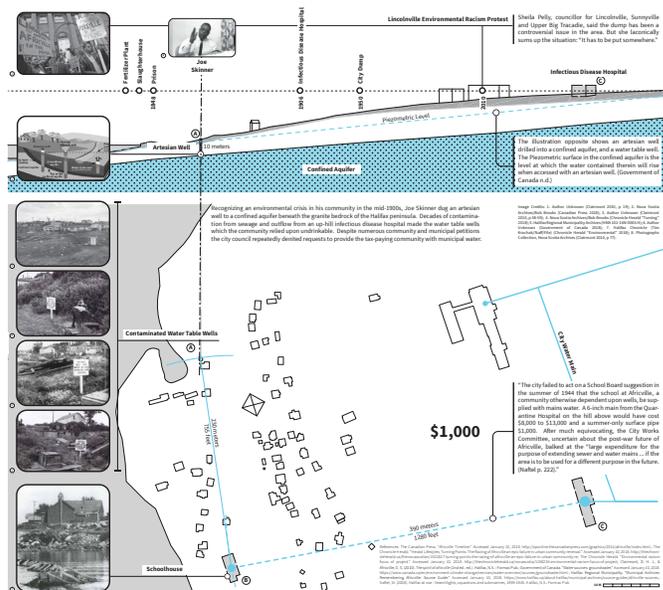
In *Razing Africville* Jennifer Nelson (2008) describes actions taken by the City of Halifax, Nova Scotia to isolate the community of Africville – African-Nova Scotians forcibly relocated in the late 1960s. The city encircled Africville with land purchases used for an infectious disease hospital and city dump among other noxious services, creating a targeted space of neglect. This common activity in North American cities constructs ideas of race by penning-in communities. It geographically restricts their movement and access to services and isolates them in the civic imagination: a condition identified by Theo Goldberg in *Racist Culture* (1993) as periphRACTic space. Rather than separating populations, however, this circumference of isolation actually facilitates activities of transgression, defilement, and return by dominant groups: a pattern of asymmetric exchange. As communities and their borders evolve over time the response of insurgent groups for greater social and political incorporation challenges and weakens the constrictions of the periphRACTic boundary.

Through a method of mapping which incorporates social and technical instruments like timelines, oral histories, city reports, archived surveys, and GPS data this paper traces the penning-in of African-Nova Scotian owned properties and the ensuing tug of war for land ownership between the dominant and insurgent populations of Halifax. This process synthesizes fragmented sources, visualizing the progression of this particular urban geography and enabling us to empirically test Goldberg's thesis of periphRACTic exclusion and uncover patterns of activity which resist it. The outcomes of the research support the design of an interpretive landscape program, the Africville Walk, undertaken in partnership with the Africville Museum.

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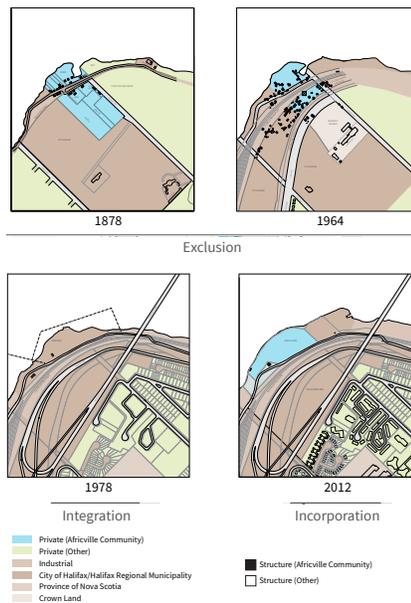


Skinner's Well



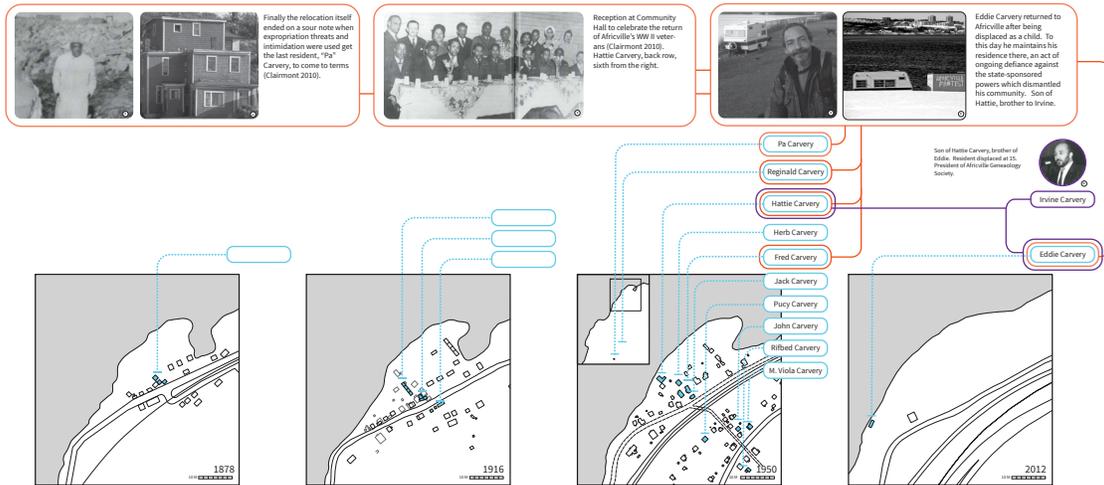
Skinner's Well traces a gruesome act of environmental racism and the incorporative resistance to this act by a resident of the community. Contaminating the ground water with runoff from an infectious disease hospital, the City of Halifax refused municipal water service to the community, even at the low price of \$1,000. Joe Skinner dug an artesian well which became the community's only means of fresh water supply.

Periphractic Timeline



Periphractic Timeline conducts an empirical study of land ownership patterns in and around Africville to illustrate the geographic operation of periphractic exclusion in North American cities. The patterns demonstrate Goldberg's thesis of Exclusion (the isolation of communities), Integration (their forced dispersal by a dominant class), and Incorporation (the shift in values, culture, and ownership as communities demand civic presentation).

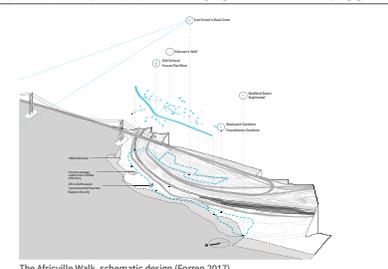
Carvery Map



Kinship ties have been a crucial identifier for the Africville community, and people still introduce themselves by their family connections. Carvery Map traces the ties of the Carvery family, a central house whose members include the last relocated resident, Pa Carvery, a former resident squatting in protest for the last twenty five years, Eddie, and the president of the Africville Genealogical Society, Irvine, Eddie's younger brother. The map is a prototype for other significant families such as the Howes and the Browns, showing the significance of these ties through space and time and the damage wrought by their rupture through "Integration." Blank spaces mark homes yet to be identified through conversations with former community members, whereby the map operates as an ongoing instrument of community engagement.

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and political incorporation challenges and weakens the constrictions of the periphractic boundary. Through a method of mapping which incorporates social and technical instruments like timelines, oral histories, city reports, archived surveys, and GPS data this paper traces the penning-in of African-Nova Scotian owned properties and the ensuing tug of war for land ownership between the dominant and insurgent populations of Halifax. This process synthesizes fragmented sources, visualizing the progression of this particular urban geography and enabling us to empirically test Goldberg's thesis of periphractic exclusion and uncover patterns of activity which resist it. The outcomes of the research support the design of an interpretive landscape program, the Africville Walk, undertaken in partnership with the Africville Museum (Forren 2017).



The Africville Walk, schematic design (Forren 2017).

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