

Cities, Schools, and Highways

Social Science History Research at Amherst College

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Collaborators:

Hilary Moss (History and Black Studies)

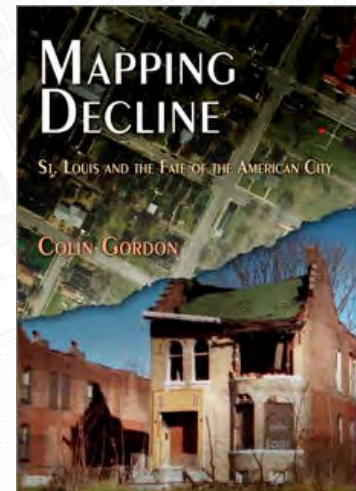
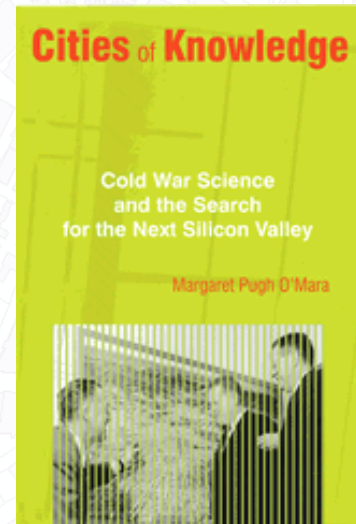
Yinan Zhang '12 (World Bank)

Josie Fisher '12 (Harvard Medical School)



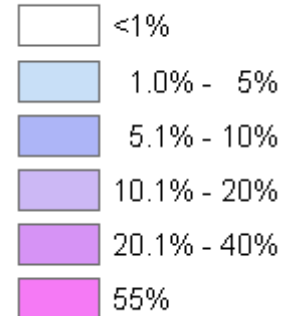
Course: *Cities, Schools, and Space*

- Urban history and educational studies:
 - School districting
 - Local and federal housing policies
 - Urban renewal
 - Highway construction
 - Universities and Cold War research
- Exposing students to a range of research methodologies, including:
 - Archival analysis
 - Oral interviews
 - Geographic information systems (GIS)

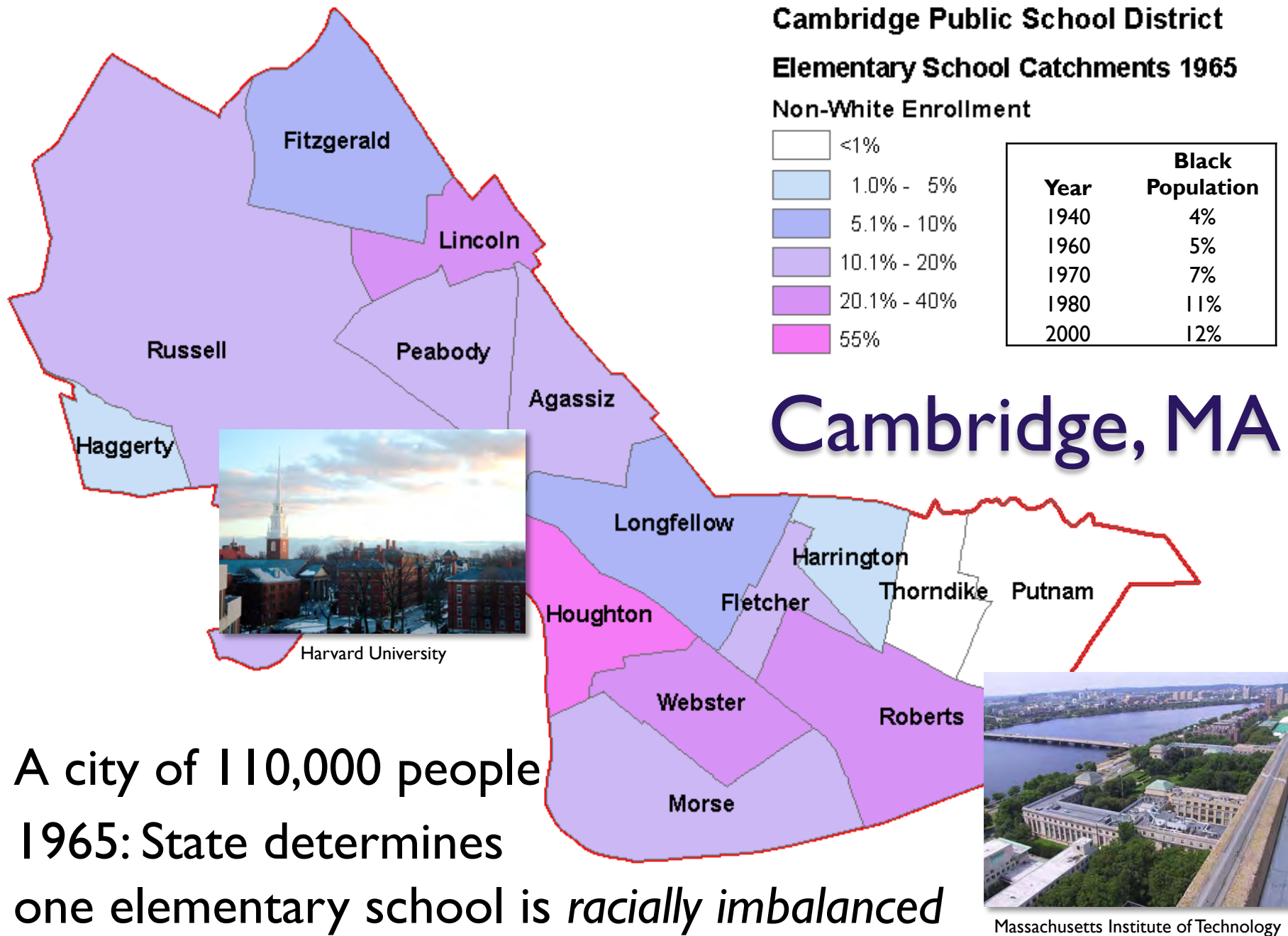


Cambridge Public School District Elementary School Catchments 1965

Non-White Enrollment



Year	Black Population
1940	4%
1960	5%
1970	7%
1980	11%
2000	12%



- A city of 110,000 people
- 1965: State determines one elementary school is *racially imbalanced*

Elementary School Construction in Cambridge, 1960-1979



- Josie Fisher '12, Yinan Zhang '12, Andy Anderson, and Hilary Moss
- Presentation at the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Boston, 2011
- What was the role of space, race, and class in school assignment decisions?



Learning Number Concepts in Grade I



Peabody and Agassiz: Many Harvard-associated families

Academically Talented, Grade 6, Peabody School

AT Classes & School Facilities

School	AT Students (1967)	Condition of School Facilities (1967)	Year Opened or Expanded
Agassiz	58%	School freshly painted; rooms light and cheerful. Very pleasant school atmosphere.	1915
Peabody	45%	New, very beautiful building, Library, science room, boys' and girls' gymnasiums, showers, locker rooms, cafeteria, audiovisual room. Auditorium. Heath and dental suites.	1960
Haggerty	24%	Assembly hall, but no gym. Very well kept.	1914
Russell	13%	Assembly hall and gymnasium combined. Home economics and woodworking facilities.	1897, 1924
Longfellow	12%	Light, cheerful classrooms. Assembly Hall converts into gymnasium. Library being set up. Newly installed science room.	1931
Fitzgerald	10%	Attractive building with all facilities such as gymnasiums, cafeteria, home economics and woodworking facilities.	1957
Thorndike	10%	Combination assembly hall and gym. Home economics and woodworking facilities. Though building is fairly old, atmosphere of school is cheerful	1911
Morse	9%	New and very beautiful school. Bright rooms. Ceramic murals. Gymnasiums for boys and girls, cafeteria, excellent facilities for woodworking, sewing and cooking classes. Auditorium; health and dental suites.	1955
Harrington	7%	New, very attractive, and with all facilities, such as gymnasiums, auditorium, and science room.	1959
Fletcher	5%	Assembly hall. No gym, library, or science room. No home economics or woodworking facilities.	1903
Webster	5%	Assembly hall; no gym, library, or science room.	1852, 1885, 1909, 1929
Putnam	4%	Over 100 years old. Lacks all special facilities.	1887
Roberts	4%	Combination of assembly hall and gym.	1929
Houghton	4%	Assembly hall. No gym (physical education held in large room).	1904, 1923



Archival Find: Block-level Census Data

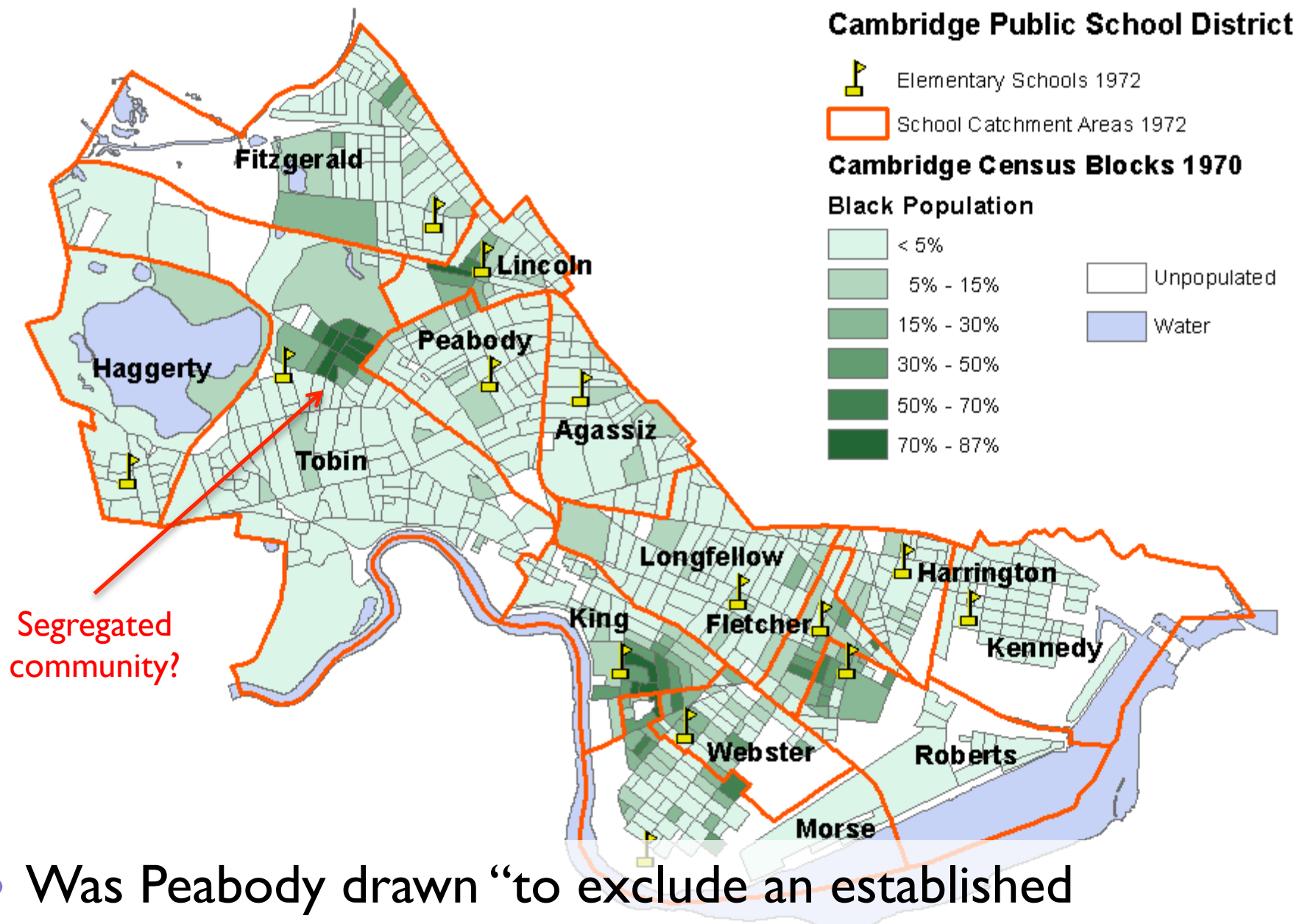
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City Block Characteristics

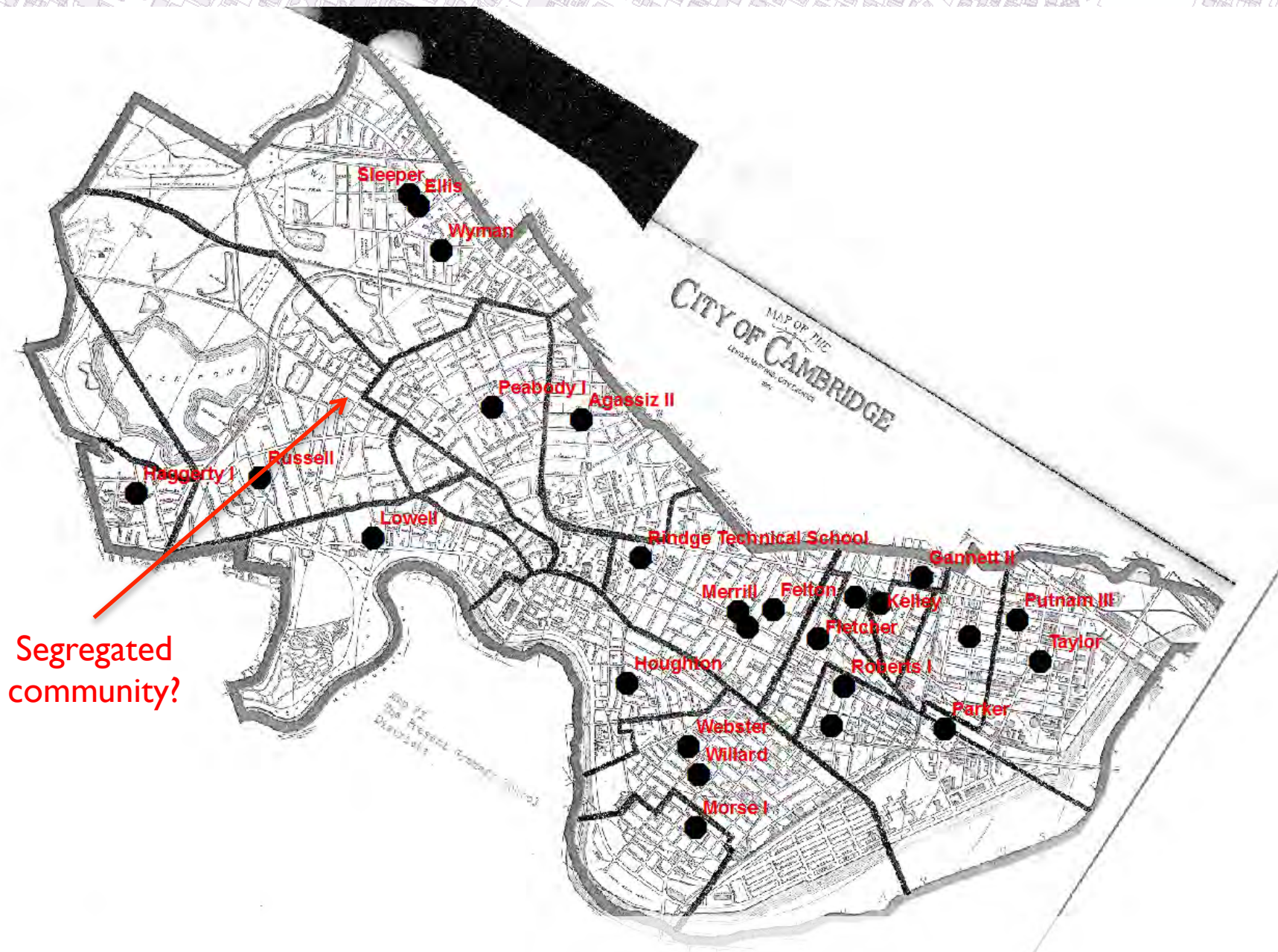
Table 2.—CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSING UNITS, BY BLOCKS: 1960—Con.

["Total population" contains no persons in group quarters unless preceded by asterisk; one asterisk (*) denotes less than 10 percent; two asterisks (**), 10 percent or more]

Blocks within census tracts	Total population	All housing units by condition and plumbing									Occupied housing units							
		Total	Sound			Deteriorating				Dilapidated	Owner occupied			Renter occupied			Occupied by non-white	1.01 or more persons per room
			Total	With all plumbing facilities	Lacking some or all facilities	Total	With all plumbing facilities	Lacking some or all facilities			Total	Average value (dollars)	Average number of rooms	Total	Average contract rent (dollars)	Average number of rooms		
								With flush toilet	No flush toilet									
MC-12...	*3200	1086	649	610	39	331	244	85	2	106	249	10500	5.8	780	54	4.4	90	105
2...	142	56	18	17	1	22	17	5	...	16	14	6500	5.8	37	49	4.2	4	4
3...	16	7	5	5	...	1	...	1	...	1	3	...	...	4	...	...	...	...
4...	270	116	9	8	1	72	32	40	...	35	12	...	5.5	98	41	3.2	17	14
7...	122	52	22	18	4	25	19	6	...	5	13	...	5.1	32	40	3.8	8	3
8...	122	40	19	17	2	20	9	11	...	1	9	...	5.2	30	49	4.3	...	6
15...	29	8	4	3	1	3	2	1	...	1	3	...	...	5	39	4.8	...	2
17...	104	30	16	14	2	14	14	...	...	...	4	...	...	25	39	4.8	16	5
18...	325	113	49	48	1	63	51	10	2	1	21	8500	5.1	77	50	4.7	21	13
19...	102	33	24	24	...	9	9	...	...	...	18	10000	5.9	13	45	4.7	2	...
20...	28	11	4	4	...	4	4	...	...	3	2	...	...	7	50	5.0	1	...
21...	76	30	29	29	...	1	1	...	...	...	9	13000	5.1	21	44	4.6	...	1
22...	217	70	54	54	...	16	14	2	...	...	19	11000	6.1	49	44	4.8	2	8
23...	160	45	24	23	1	19	19	...	...	2	11	12000	6.2	31	48	5.1	2	5
24...	162	45	39	38	1	6	6	...	...	...	7	...	5.6	38	66	4.7	...	7
25...	153	41	29	29	...	6	5	1	...	6	7	...	5.9	33	44	5.1	6	5
26...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27...	26	6	...	...	...	4	...	4	...	2	...	...	...	6	29	4.8	...	3
29...	51	16	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	...	...	9	36	5.7	6	2
30...	192	63	56	55	1	7	7	...	...	...	14	...	6.3	47	76	4.5	1	7
31...	123	39	33	25	8	...	...	...	...	6	13	...	6.4	24	49	4.1	...	1
32...	171	59	41	32	9	16	16	...	...	2	10	...	5.8	48	83	3.8	...	7
33...	141	57	45	40	5	10	10	...	...	2	16	10500	5.6	41	65	4.0	1	3
34...	129	38	33	33	...	5	3	2	...	...	17	...	6.1	20	58	4.7	1	1
35...	133	43	40	40	...	3	3	...	...	...	14	...	6.6	29	82	4.3	...	2
37...	*159	54	49	47	2	5	3	2	...	...	10	...	5.9	43	64	4.4	...	3
41...	46	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	12	40	5.8	2	3



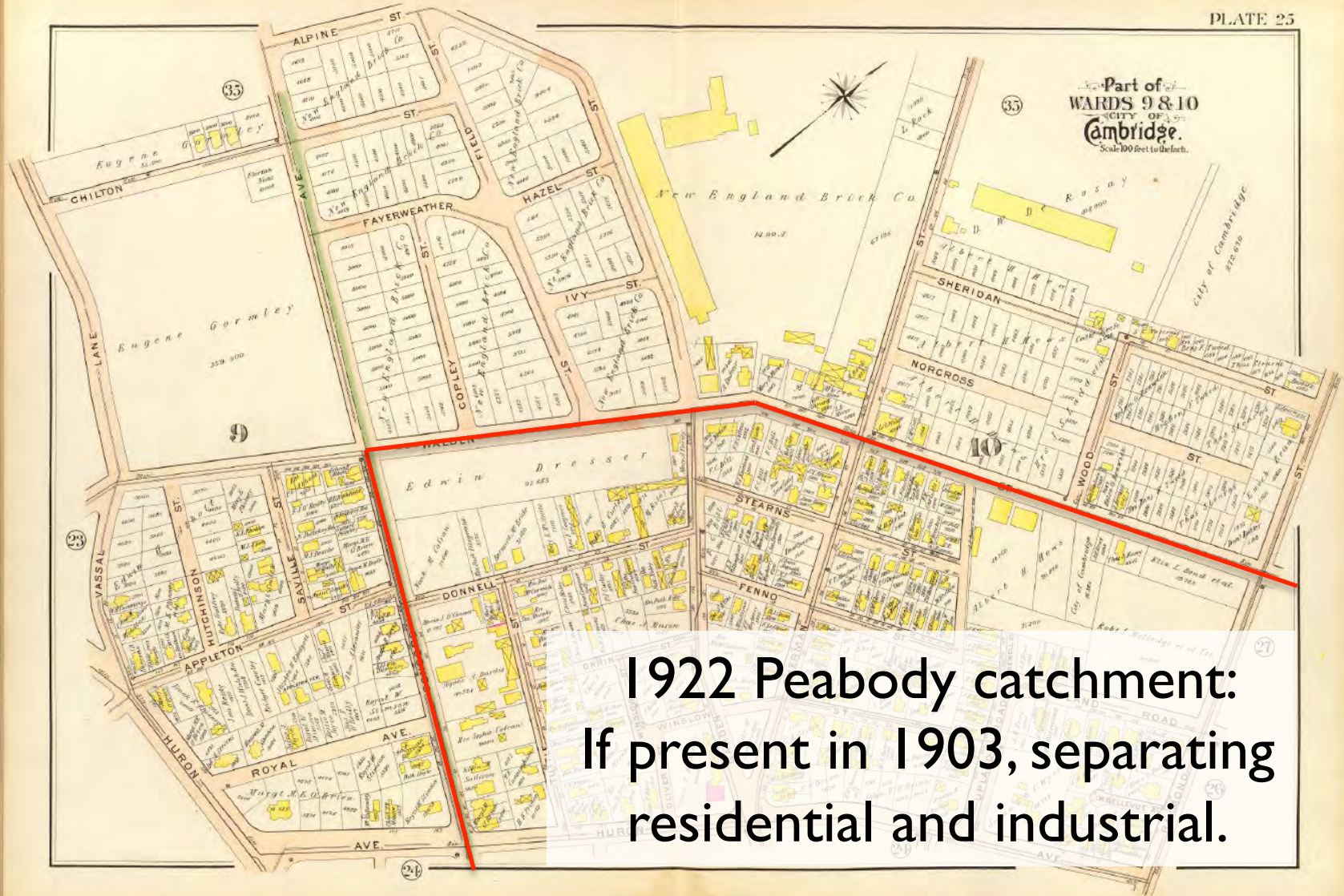
- Was Peabody drawn “to exclude an established community of blacks in the Concord Avenue area”?



Segregated
community?

Russell-Peabody boundary in place since ≤ 1922 .

1903: Modest Homes for Brickmakers?



Assessing the Impact of the Inner Belt: MIT, Highways, and Housing in Cambridge, Massachusetts



- Hilary Moss, Yinan Zhang '12, and Andy Anderson
- [Journal of Urban History](#)
November 2014
vol. 40 no. 6 1054-1078
- From the 1950s to the early 1970s, eastern Cambridge was threatened by a bisecting highway...what role did MIT play in its route?



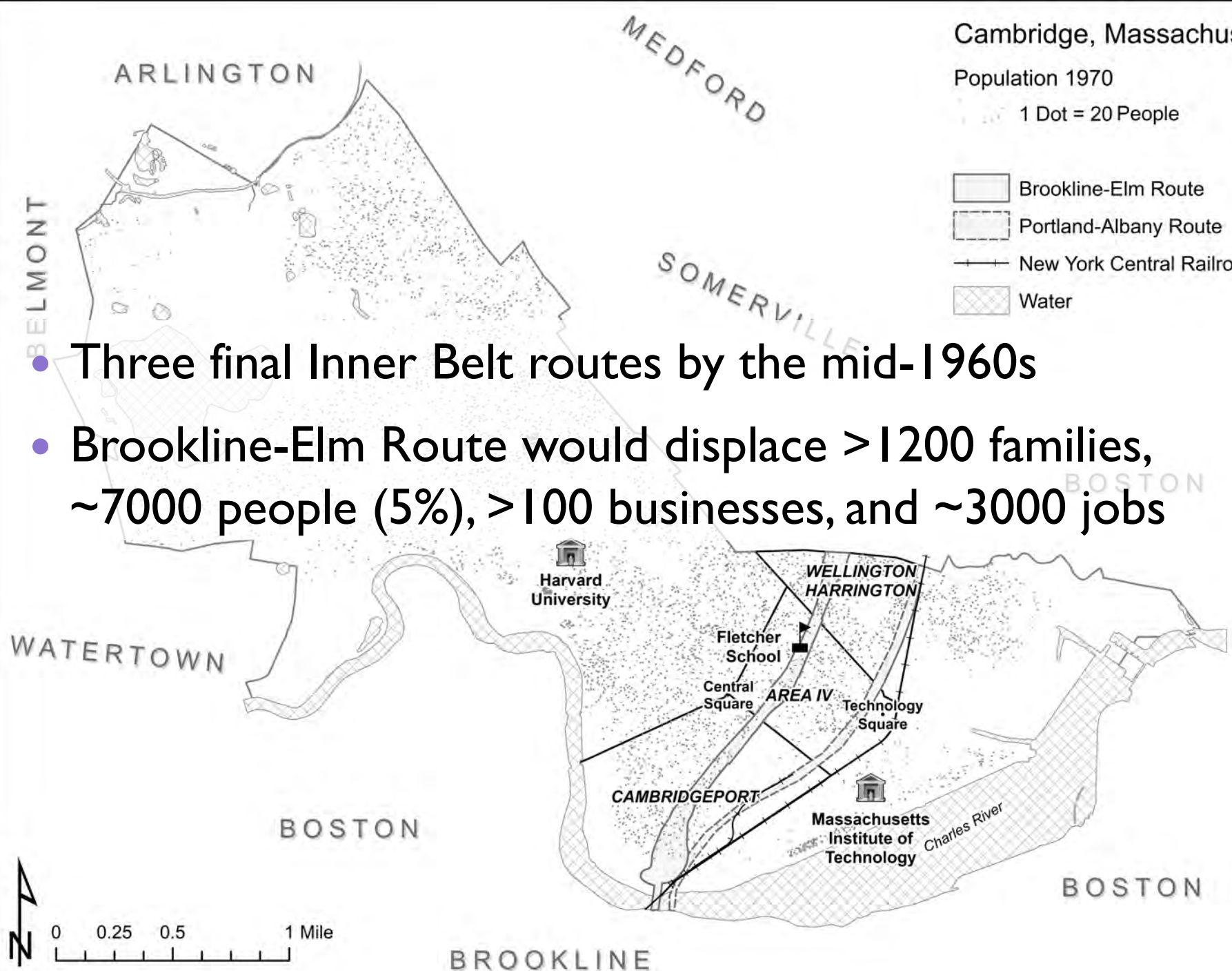
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Population 1970

1 Dot = 20 People

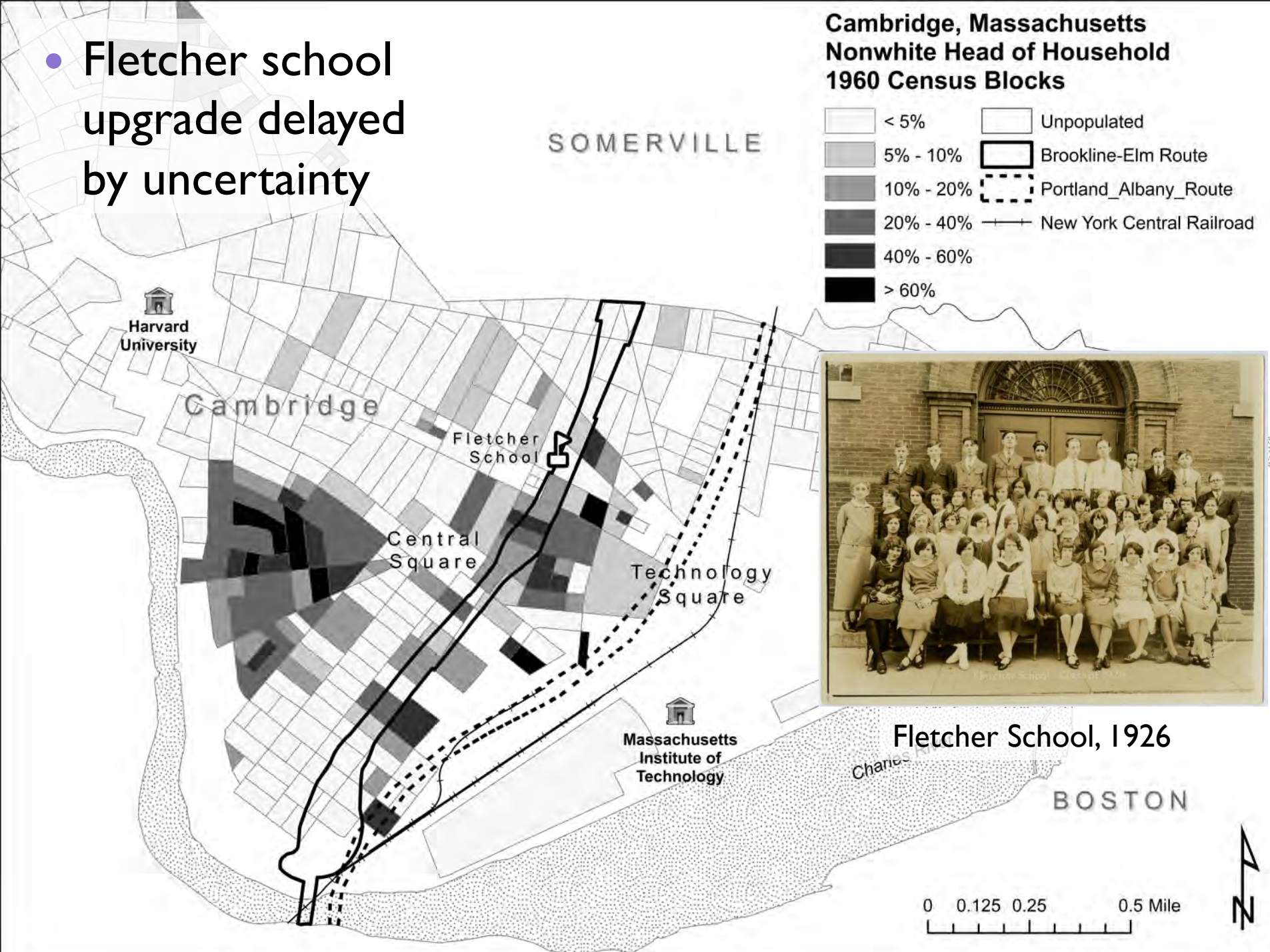
- Brookline-Elm Route
- Portland-Albany Route
- New York Central Railroad
- Water

- Three final Inner Belt routes by the mid-1960s
- Brookline-Elm Route would displace >1200 families, ~7000 people (5%), >100 businesses, and ~3000 jobs



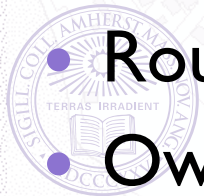
- Fletcher school upgrade delayed by uncertainty

Cambridge, Massachusetts Nonwhite Head of Household 1960 Census Blocks



Brookline-Elm Route, near Central Sq.

- 1967 properties map
- Georeferenced
- Route extracted
- Owners detailed



Parcel	Owner	Census_Name	Address	Home	Relation	Sex	ColorRace	Age	Birthplace	FatherBP	MotherBP	Language
89-65	Opella Dumas											
89-66	Thomas J. Cardullo & Alice A. Cardullo	Thomas Cardullo	216 Washington St R		Head	M	W	35	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italian
89-67	Teodore K. Johnson, Lillian A. Johnson, Walter K. Johnson, & Helen M. Clark											
89-7	Anupras Nemeikstis & Eva Nemeikstis	Anupras Nemeikates	330 Columbia Street O		Head	M	W	37	Lithuania	Lithuania	Lithuania	Lithuanian
89-8	John S. Moseley, James A. Betts, and Athelston I.O. Moseley	James A. Betts	63 Magee Street R		Son	M	N	14	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	English
89-16	John S. Moseley, Florence G. Moseley, and Athelston I.O. Moseley	John S. Moseley	235 Western Avenue R		Head	M	N	37	Barbados	Barbados	Barbados	English
89-17	John S. Moseley, Florence G. Moseley, and Athelston I.O. Moseley											
89-18	John S. Moseley, Florence G. Moseley, and Athelston I.O. Moseley											
89-19	Clyde A. Henry & Theresa T. Henry											
89-82	Alphonso Walcott & Elmira B. Walcott	Alphonso Walcott	15 Douglass Street R		Head	M	N	42	West Indies	West Indies	West Indies	English
89-81	Joseph Nunziato, Trustee of Margaret Nunziato Trust	Joseph Nunziato	50 Howard Street R		Son	M	W	10	Massachusetts	Italy	Italy	Italian
89-21	John E. Scott & Edna A. Scott	John E. Scott	91 Inman Street R		Brother-in-law	M	N	25	British West Indies	British West Indies	British West Indies	English
89-22	Donna K. Key											
89-23	Angela E. C. Harris											
89-24	Caroline E. C. Harris											
89-25	Minna Yogel											
89-31	Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston Corp. Sole											
89-32	Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston Corp. Sole											
89-33	Joseph N. Merchant & Alfred D. Merchant	Samuel Merchant	11 Worcester Street O		Son	M	N	19	Massachusetts	Virginia	Canada-English	English
89-34	Samuel L. Merchant & Alfred D. Merchant	Samuel Merchant	11 Worcester Street O		Son	M	N	5	Massachusetts	Barbados	Barbados	English
89-35	Alfred S. Mahon	Alfred Mahon	275 River Street R		Son	M	N					
89-36	Abraham C. German											
89-37	Rudolf B. German											
89-38	Sarah L. Brown											
89-39	Della L. Brown											
89-40	Della Louise Brown											
89-41	James F. Driscoll & Lillian B. Driscoll	Mildred Driscoll	3 Suffolk Street O		Daughter	F	W	20	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	English
89-42	Benjamin Chaifen											
89-43	Charles J. Fanning & Mary C. Fanning											
89-44	Charles J. Fanning & Mary C. Fanning											
89-45	Richard J. Fanning & Mary C. Fanning											
89-46	Antonio Crenedone											
89-47	Walter & Mary A.											
89-48	Lester A. Randall & Beatrice C. Randall											
89-49	Josephina B. Randall											
89-50	Joseph B. Randall											
89-51	Roman Coffin											
89-52	Edith H.E. Pedro, Helen J. O'Brien, & Rose C. Maraca											
89-53	Anna M. Hunt, Winifred Godfrey, Sarah J. Murphy, M. Lorraine Clifford, & Claire J. Murphy											
89-54	Iva W. Nelson & Elizabeth C. Nelson											
89-55A	Murray L. Yogel											
89-56	Murray L. Yogel											
89-57	Murray L. Yogel											
89-58	Fernando J. Monteiro											
89-59	Clara Finstein	Clara Finstein	131 Columbia Street R		daughter	F	W	33	Massachusetts	Austria	Austria	Yiddish
89-60	Willie Jane Hall & Willie Jane Hall, Trustee for Anthony Wyche & Anthony Wyche	Paul A. Revalson	9 Worcester Street R		Great nephew	M	N	12	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	Massachusetts	English
89-61	Suzanne R. Greene & Paul A. Revalson	Samuel Merchant	11 Worcester Street O		Son	M	N	19	Massachusetts	Virginia	Canada-English	English
89-62	Muriel G. Raynor & Samuel L. Merchant											
89-63	Ora H. Jackson & Florence H. Agard											
89-64	Berardino M. Santeusano & Antoinette Santeusano											
89-65	Rose Cohen											
89-66	Mary O. DeGuglielmo	Mary O. DeGuglielmo	793 Cambridge Street O		Wife	F	W	44	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italian
89-67	Mary O. DeGuglielmo	Mary O. DeGuglielmo	793 Cambridge Street O		Wife	F	W	44	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italian
89-68	John E. Aufiero & Gilda C. Aufiero											
89-69	Anthony Colosimo, Elizabeth Colosimo, & Bruno Colosimo	Anthony Colosimo	21 Park Avenue O		Head	M	W	38	Italy	Italy	Italy	Italian

Compare to the 1930 and 1940 census!

Of current owners N = 326:

● 83% person- or family-trust-owned properties N = 270

Of the above, we identified ~42%:

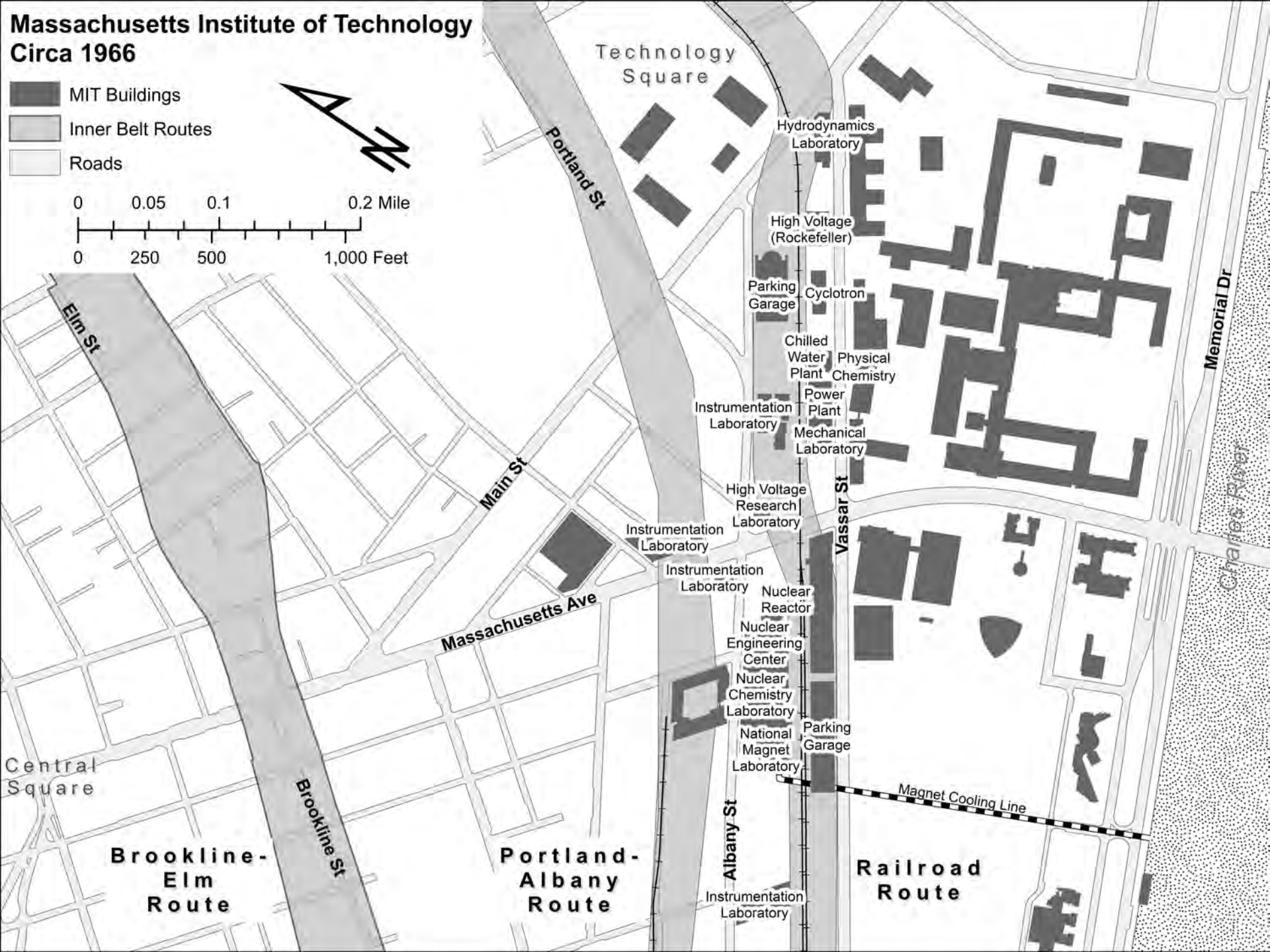
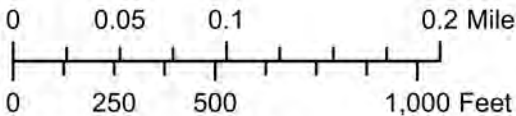
● 64% renters (now owners) N = 108

● 18% black (6% city-wide) N = 116

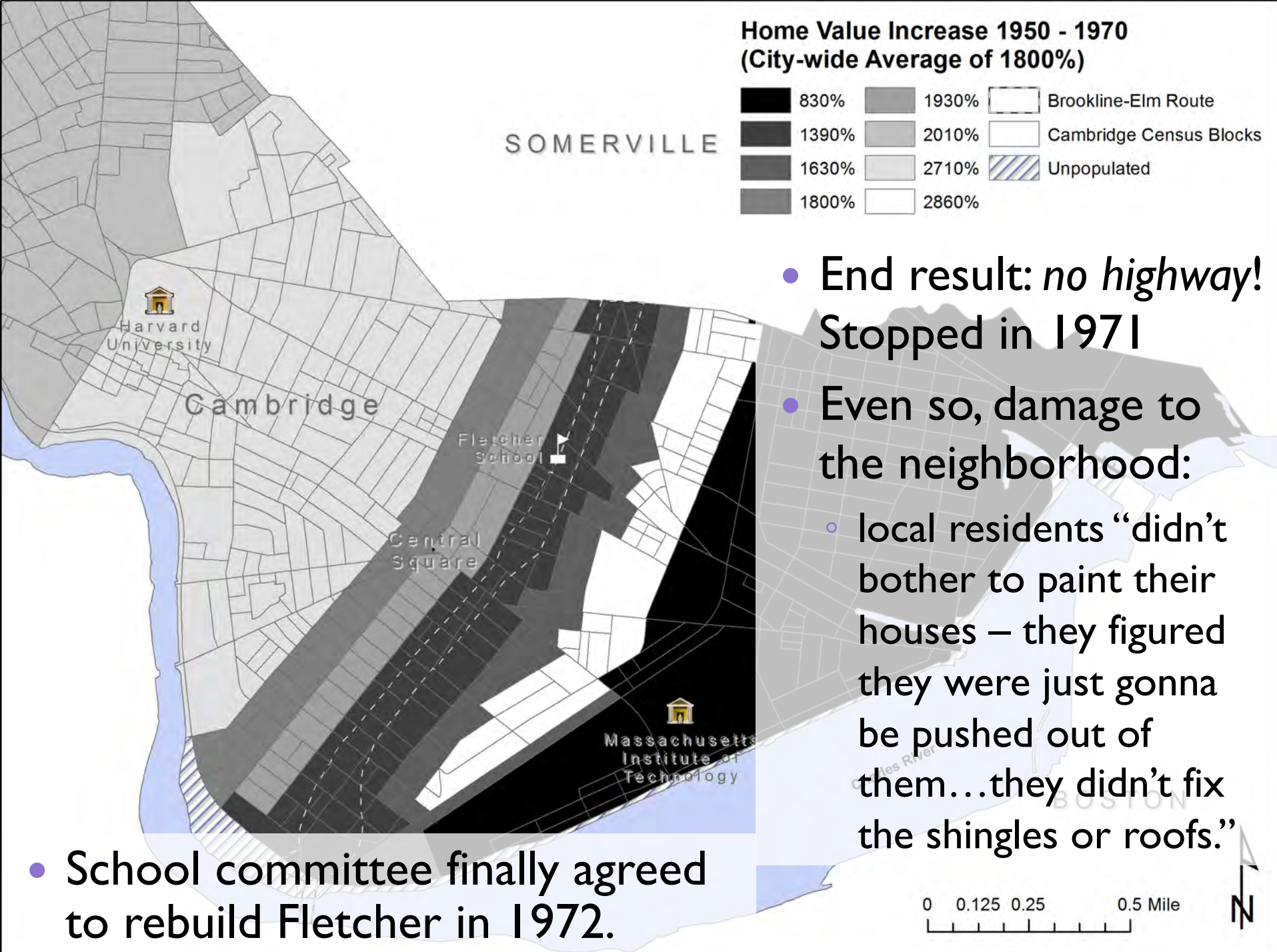
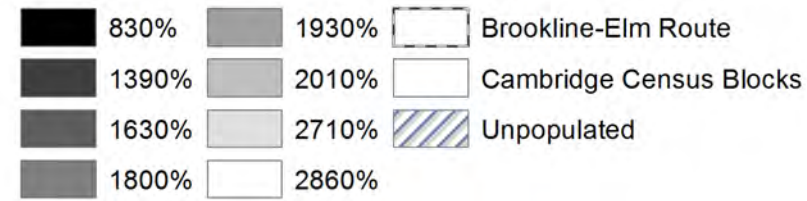
● 55% foreign-born (9% West Indies) N = 119

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Circa 1966**

- MIT Buildings
- Inner Belt Routes
- Roads



**Home Value Increase 1950 - 1970
(City-wide Average of 1800%)**



- End result: *no highway!*
Stopped in 1971
- Even so, damage to the neighborhood:
 - local residents “didn’t bother to paint their houses – they figured they were just gonna be pushed out of them...they didn’t fix the shingles or roofs.”
- School committee finally agreed to rebuild Fletcher in 1972.



- Cambridge GIS! Jeff Amero, et al.
- Cambridge Assessor
- Cambridge Historical Society
- MIT Archives
- National Historical GIS @ U. Minnesota
- Mellon Foundation
- Our students!

Thanks!

