

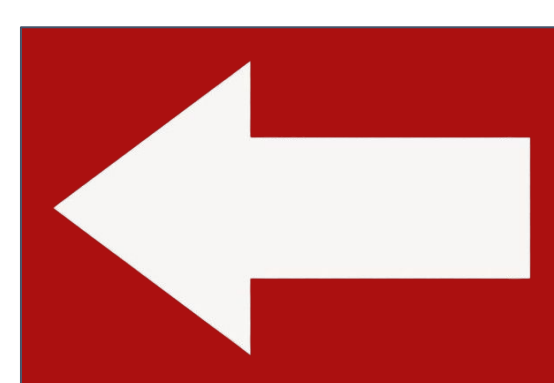
The Source Project: Mapping American
Prejudice

Background

- During the mid to late 1950s in Binghamton, highway construction was underway.
- There was much pushback from residents living in the places where construction occurred.
- A housing crisis in Binghamton made it much more difficult for displaced residents to find new housing.
- The construction of the North Shore Drive displaced over 400 families in the former Seventh Ward.
- Many African Americans and Italian Americans resided in the Seventh Ward.
- African Americans in Binghamton had an especially hard time finding housing.

Research Question

- How did the construction of the North Shore Drive affect African American and Italian American individuals?
- How did this affect the sense of community amongst these groups during and after the construction?



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The Legacy of Highway Displacement in Binghamton: The Construction of the North Shore Drive in the Seventh Ward

The Impact on African and Italian
American Residents



Beccye Fawcett

A staff member of
the Binghamton
Public Library. Mrs.
Fawcett spoke
openly and raised
awareness about the
racism that many
African American
residents faced.

Vincent P. Capozzi

An Italian American
Binghamton City
Council member, he
ardently served the
Seventh Ward and
strongly opposed the
displacement that
came with the
construction of the
North Shore Drive.



Presenter:

ALICE LIU

Methodology

- This research was mainly conducted through local Binghamton newspapers, most notably the *Binghamton Press and Sun-Bulletin*
- This research was also conducted by mapping residents, specifically African American and Italian American residents using U.S. Census records in the former Seventh Ward.
- This research is also done through oral interviews conducted by the *Broome County Oral History Project*.

Conclusions

- Many residents, particularly African Americans, found it increasingly difficult to find housing in Binghamton after the construction of the North Shore Drive.
 - Many African American residents were turned away due to housing discrimination practices on top of already scarce housing available in Binghamton.
- A sense of community greatly deteriorated as many African American residents were no longer able to congregate in the Seventh Ward as much of it was demolished.
- Many Italian Americans who resided in the Seventh Ward experienced a similar sense of decline in community as many Italian Americans were displaced.