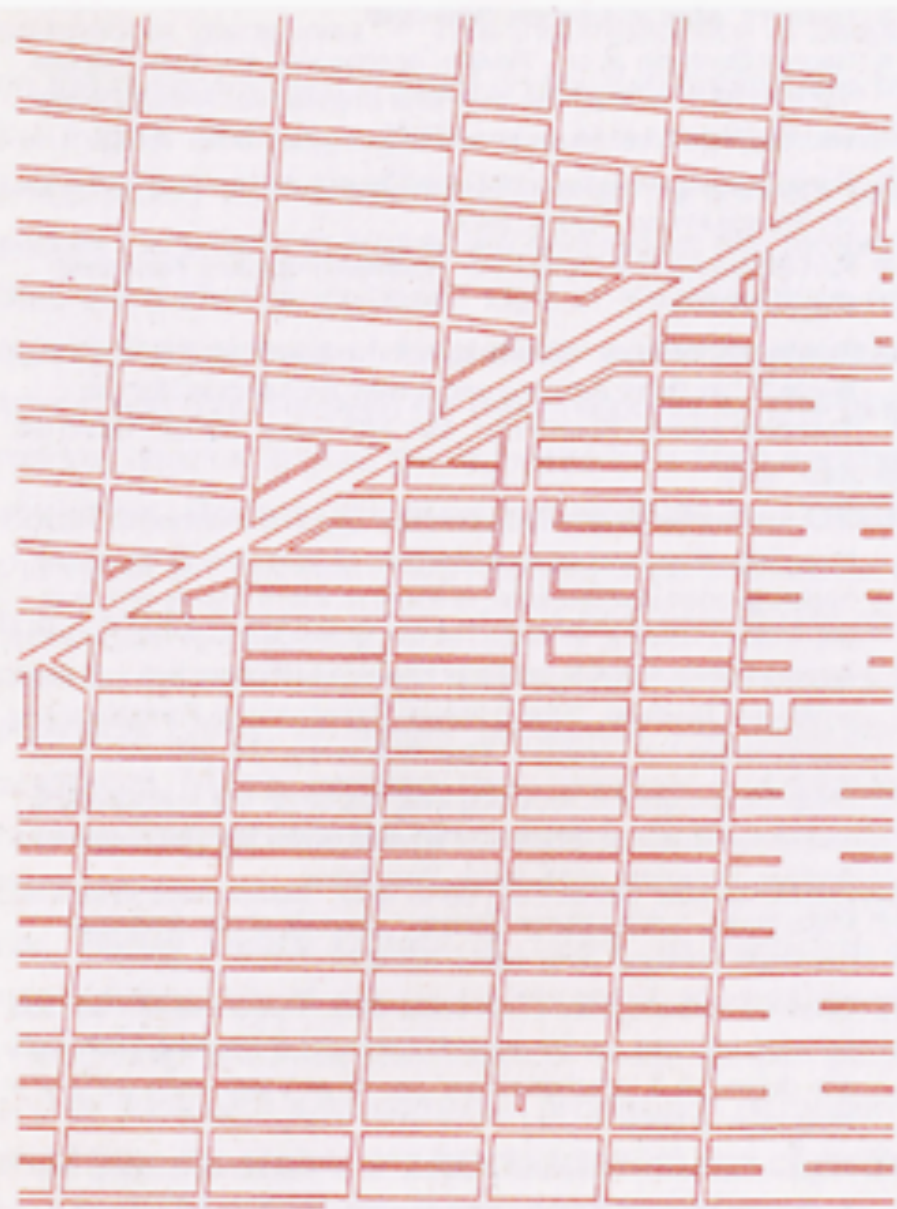


Lafayette Park, Detroit



Existing Black Bottom street grid, c. 1949



New Lafayette Park street grid, as built, c. 1963

Black Bottom

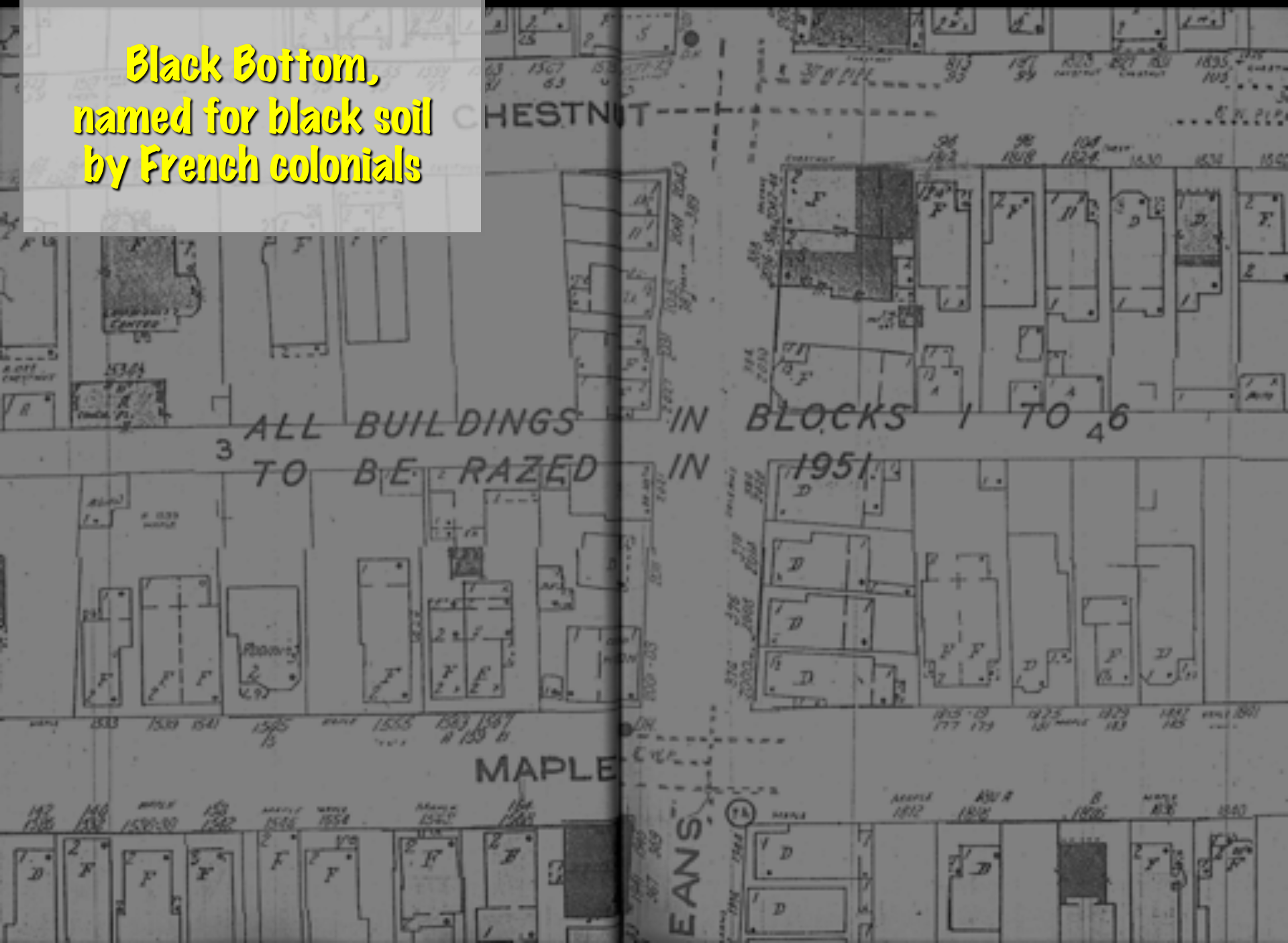
CHESTNUT

ALL BUILDINGS IN BLOCKS 1 TO 46
TO BE RAZED IN 1951

MAPLE

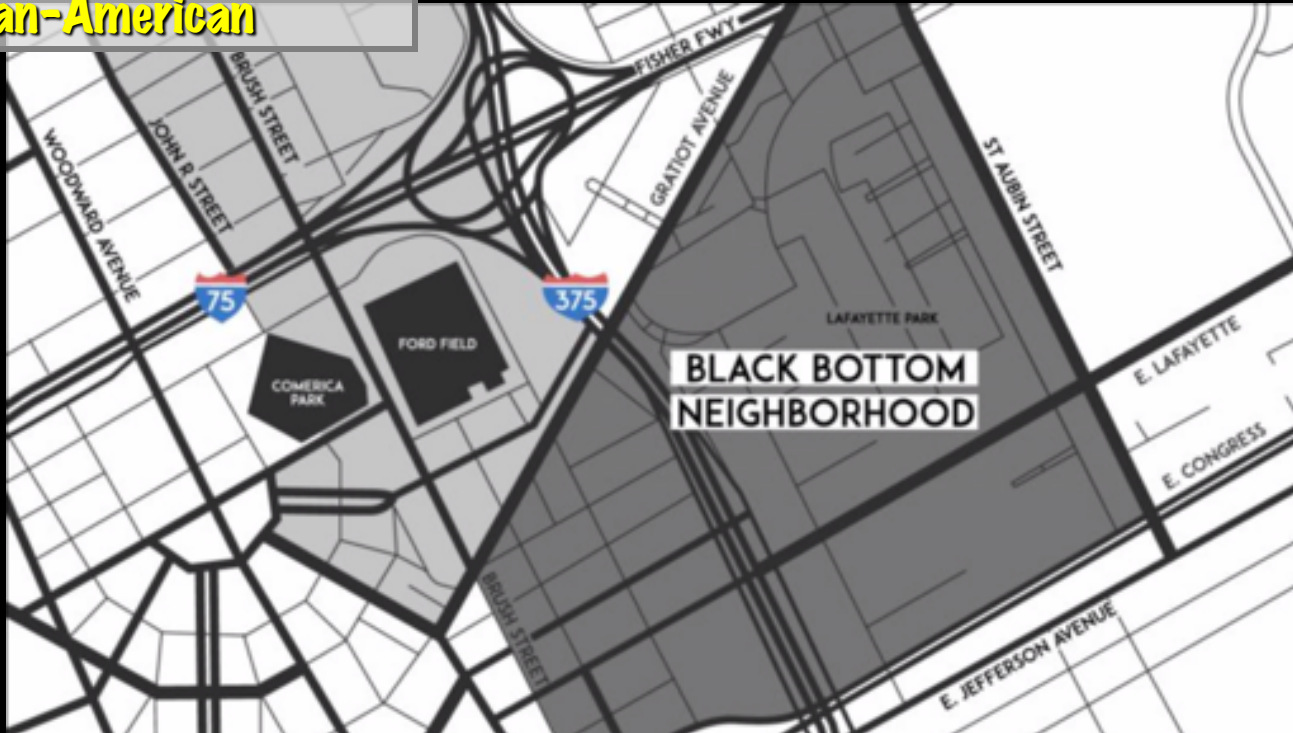
EANS

**Black Bottom,
named for black soil
by French colonials**



Black Bottom

Once a diverse neighborhood
(Italian, German, Jewish, black),
redlining made it exclusively
African-American



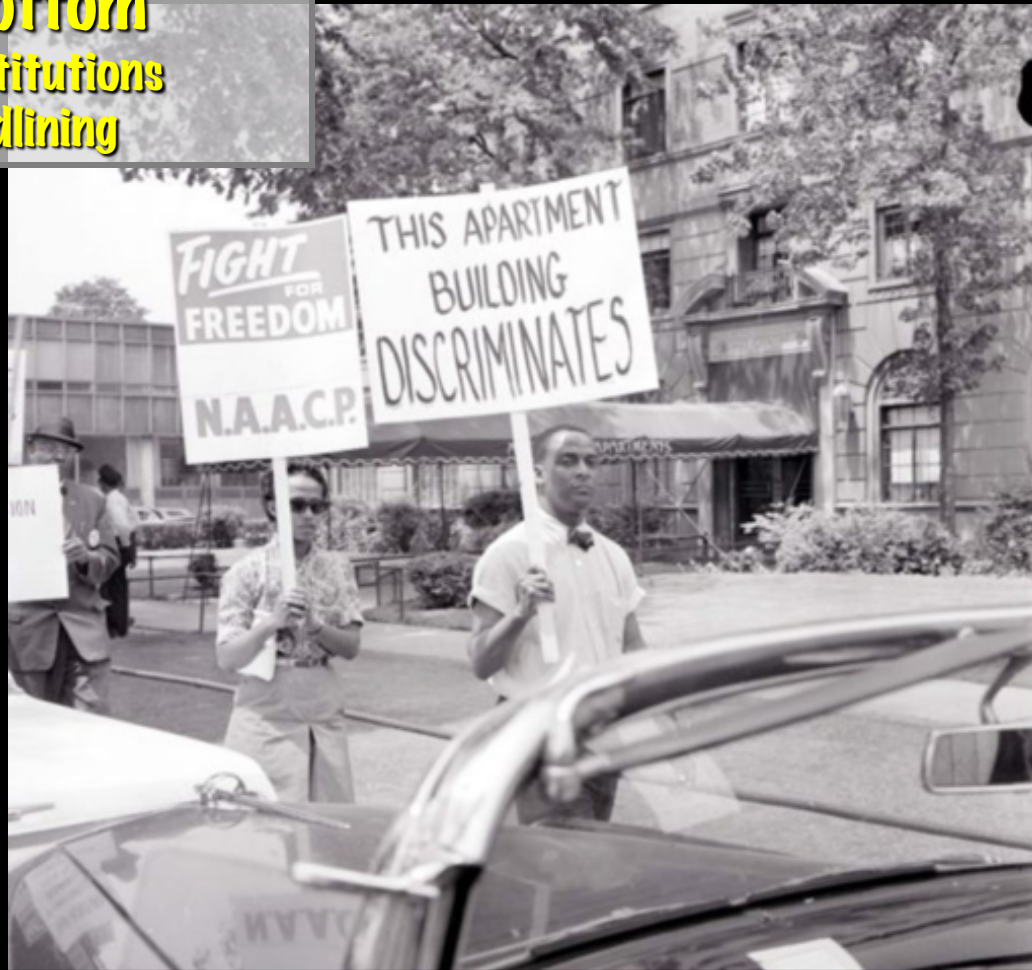
Black Bottom

1943 race riots;
whites upset about blacks
taking their jobs



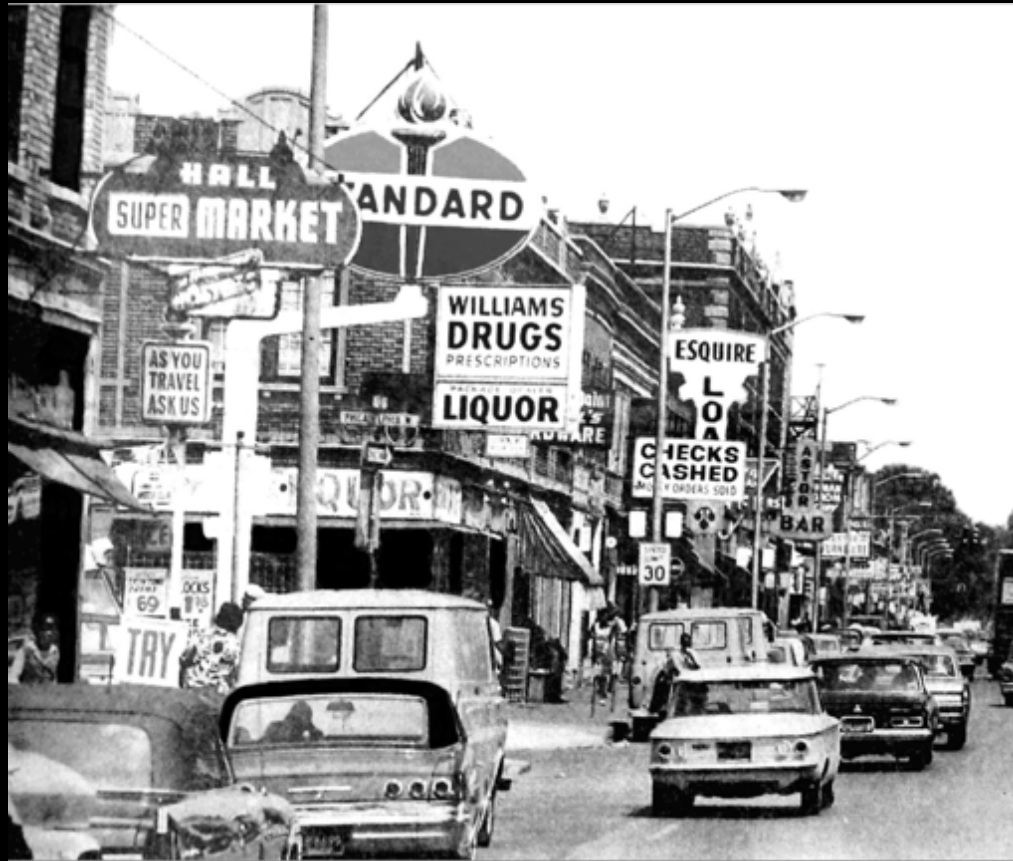
Black Bottom

Lending institutions
began redlining



Black Bottom

Became a totally
black neighborhood



Black Bottom
Often 3-4 families
living in a house



Black Bottom



Black Bottom was razed in the 1950s to make room for Detroit's Lafayette Park. *Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library*

Black Bottom
New Bethel Baptist Church,
with Rev. C.L. Franklin,
father of Aretha Franklin



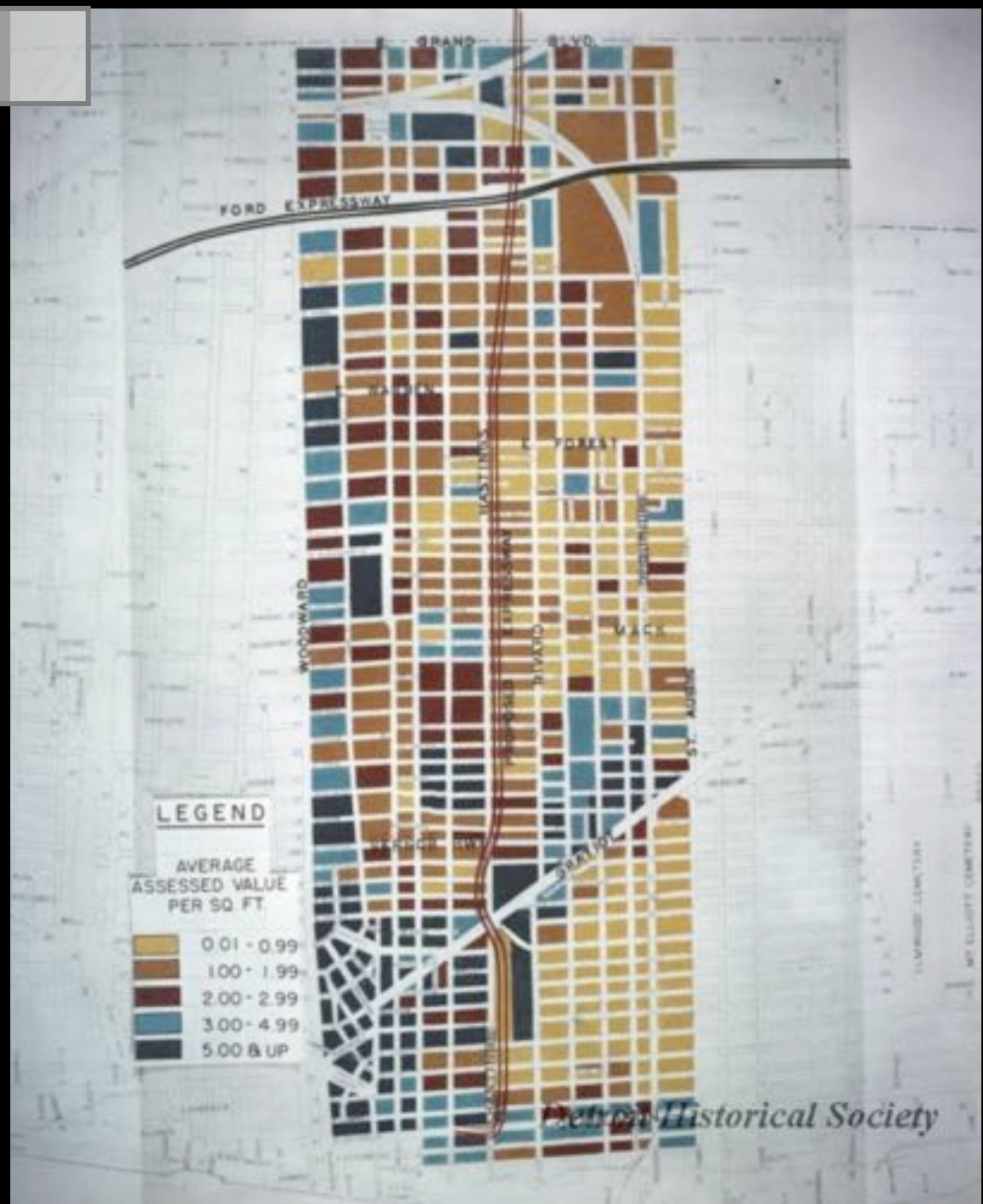
**Black Bottom.
a place for jazz,
blues, and big band.**

**Billie Holiday
and
Louis Armstrong**



Left: Jazz ensemble, the Ted Buckner Band performs onstage at Paradise Valley's club Three Sixes. Right: Paradise Valley drew crowds of African-American concert-goers to its array of nightclubs and venues for live entertainment.

Black Bottom



Black Bottom **Highway Act of 1956**

**Neighborhood demolished in
1960s to make way for I-375**



Mies Van der Rohe

“Less is more.”



Mies Van Der Rohe: Farnsworth House



Mies Van Der Rohe: Seagram Building



**Mies Van Der Rohe:
Lake Shore Drive Apts.**



Mies Van Der Rohe: Crown Hall



Lafayette Park

Mies:

“The city is an entity subject to a principle of order, without which it can't exist.”

“Order is the disposition of equal and unequal things, attributing to each its place.”

Mies viewed everyday life as chaos.

“With order, the chaos in which we live would give way and the world would again become meaningful and beautiful.”

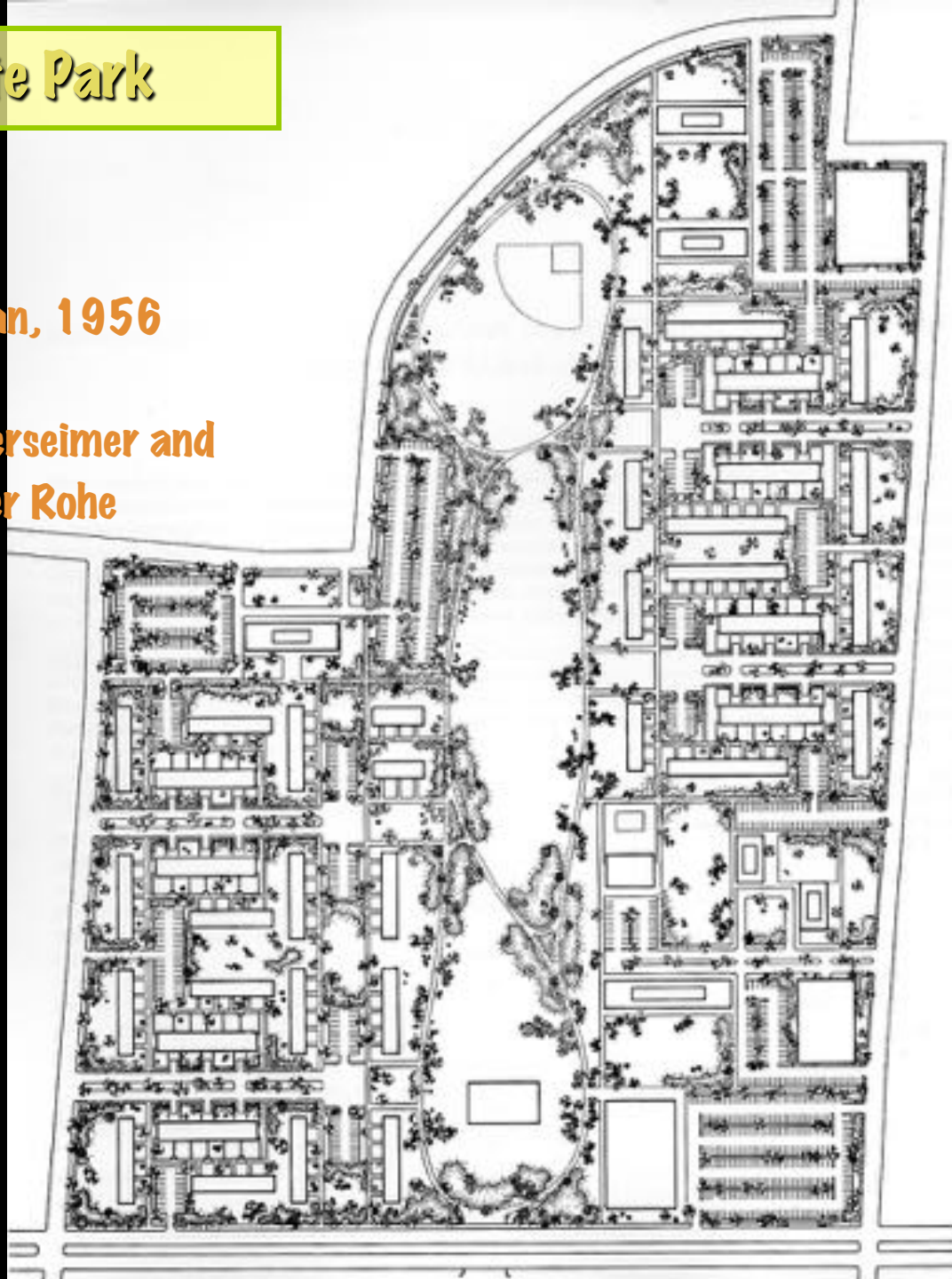
Lafayette Park

A superbblock plan.

Lafayette Park

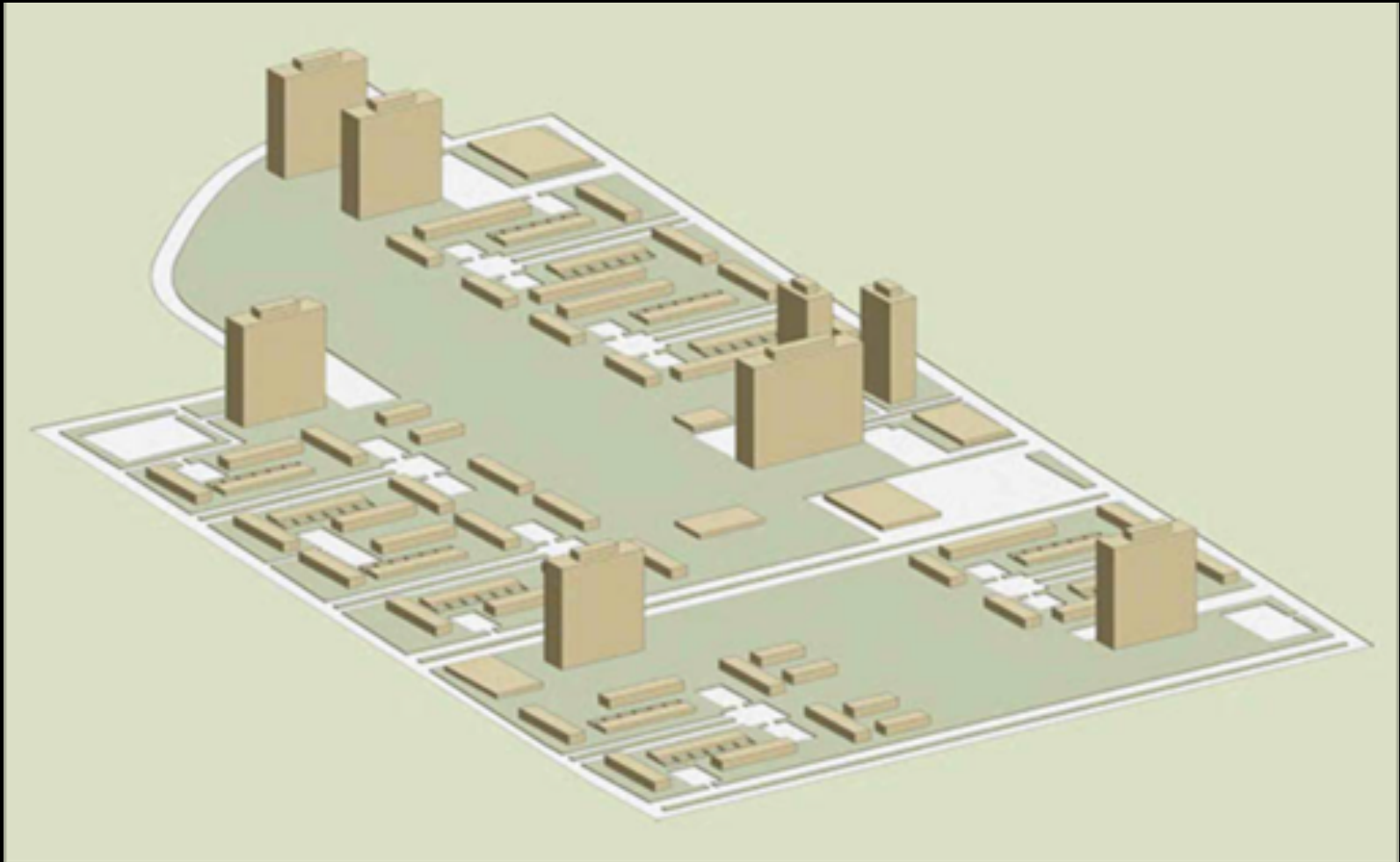
Final site plan, 1956

Ludwig Hilberseimer and
Mies Van Der Rohe



Lafayette Park

**The first urban renewal project
in the country.**



Lafayette Park

Developer came from Chicago in 1955, bringing his own design team:

He said about Detroit:

“The city is damned but by no means doomed. Let’s rebuild it.”

Lafayette Park



Lafayette Park



Lafayette Park

**Modern architecture in a
natural setting-
In the middle of Detroit.**



Lafayette Park

Lafayette Park provides a distinctive counterpoint to the failures of modern design and planning.

Mixed-race, mixed-income community of publicly subsidized housing.



Lafayette Park

Lafayette Park is considered one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Detroit.



Lafayette Park

**It's success is built not around the city,
But around the "absence of city" in the plan.**



Lafayette Park

Lafayette Park is the largest collection of Mies' buildings in the world.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places-

But largely ignored by the City of Detroit.