

Where Did They Go?: 35W and the Minneapolis Southside

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Collaborators: Mapping Prejudice

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One in twenty Minneapolis city residents was displaced by freeway construction between 1960 and 1968. They were disproportionately African American. Historians and policy makers now widely agree that Black neighborhoods were targeted for interstate highway construction, while White communities reaped the benefits. What remained largely unknown, until now, is where people went when displaced and how their experiences were shaped by racism and privilege. When I-35W was built, there were no local, state, or federal laws against racial discrimination in the buying or renting of a home. A painstaking analysis of 209 households whose homes were demolished for I-35W shows that, in the aftermath of displacement, White, Asian, and unidentified residents spread throughout the city and expanding suburbs. White households moved to census tracts that were almost exclusively white, in contrast to the integrated Southside where they had previously been living. The mobility of displaced Black residents was constrained by racial discrimination. With only two exceptions that could be identified, Black residents relocated to neighborhoods on the east side of the freeway, within a mile of their previous homes, to neighborhoods that were already integrated. Interstate 35W fortified what had historically been a racial dividing line in South Minneapolis.

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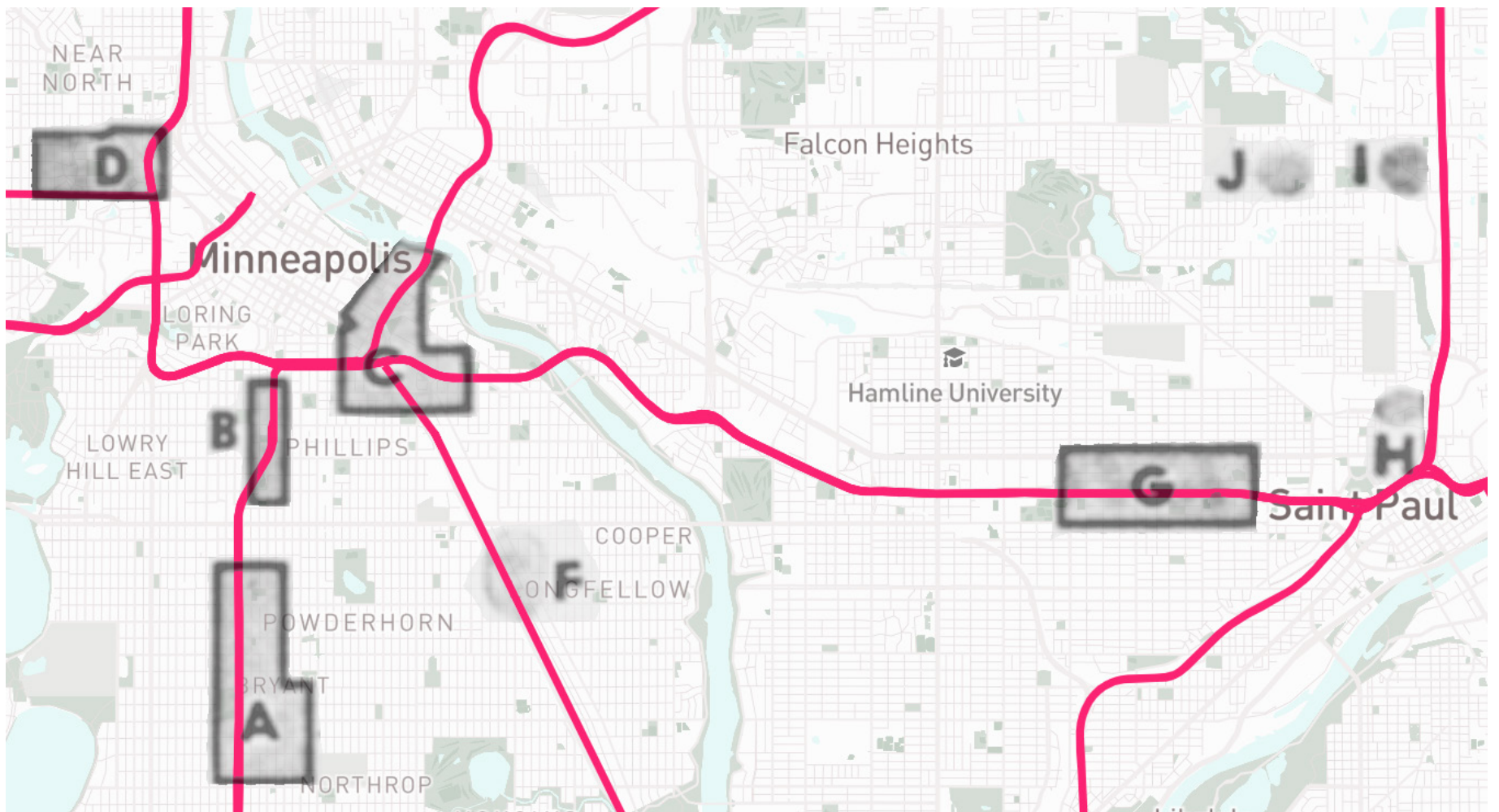


Image 1. Freeways were built through or along the edge of every African-American neighborhood in the Twin Cities. Map of African-American population based on 1960 census data by Denise Pike.



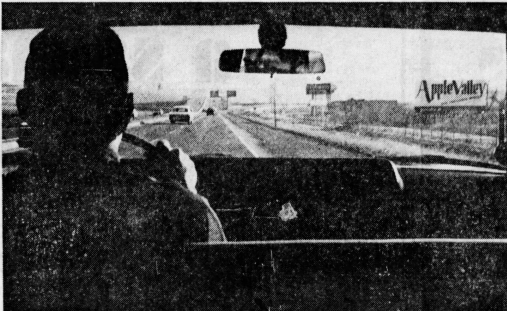
Image 2. Construction of I-35W required clearance of 50 city blocks of roughly 900 mostly residential properties in South Minneapolis.



Image 3. An estimated 24,000 people lost their homes, and an unknown number of businesses were affected, as result of freeway construction in Minneapolis. Photo of I-35W under construction circa 1963, courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.

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 IS 9 MINUTES
 CLOSER TO
 DOWNTOWN

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 Apple Valley is easier than ever to come home to.




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HOMES FROM \$18,000 TO \$25,000. Nothing down GI, minimum down FHA, 6% mortgages available. Monthly payments from \$135.00, including principal, interest, taxes and insurance. City water, city sewer, city gas, storm sewer, blacktopped streets, concrete curbs, sidewalks—in and paid. No future assessments. Frigidaire built-ins (Tappan gas if you prefer).


7 DECORATED MODEL HOMES



Model 55 Center Hall Rambler
3 bedrooms - 1,220 square feet

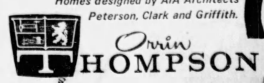



Model 25 Split Eaver
3 bedrooms - 2 to grow to 1,842 square feet



Model 22 Hi-Level
2 bedrooms - 2 to grow to 1,490 square feet

Homes designed by AIA Architects
 Peterson, Clark and Griffith.





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Image 4. White communities reaped the benefits of quick and easy access to the suburbs, which were all but entirely closed to African-American homebuyers and renters.



Image 5. Minnesota legislators debated civil rights legislation to outlaw racial housing discrimination, but it came too late to help African Americans displaced by freeways.