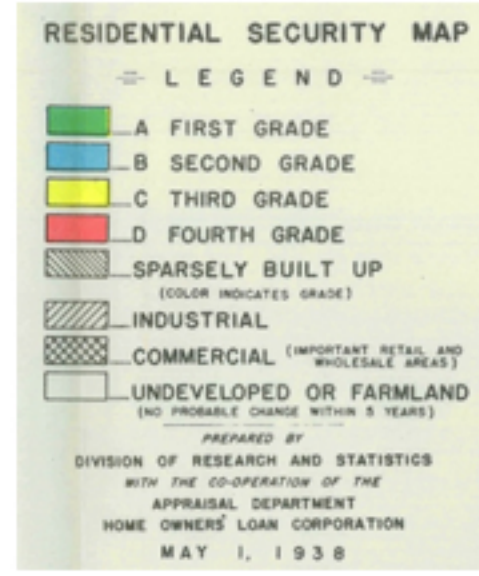


“St. Louisans voted on a ‘reform’ ordinance that would prevent anyone from buying a home in a neighborhood more than 75 percent occupied by another race. It became the first referendum in the US to “impose racial segregation on housing”, passing by a two-thirds.

1916



Homeowners Loan Corporation is founded.

1933

By this time the Mill Creek Valley has “decayed into 100 blocks of hopeless, rat-infested, residential slums”.

1940

President Truman signs the United States Housing Act, designed to “bring hope and help to cities and bring private enterprise into the redevelopment process”; this act federally funds clearance of entire urban neighborhoods for the first time.

1949

Urban Redevelopment Corporation of St. Louis forms to implement to Plaza Square Apartments urban renewal project east of Mill Creek Valley.

1951

Mayor Raymond R. Tucker announced plans to “demolish commercial buildings and 5,600 dwelling units across 465 acres of the Mill Creek Valley, running west from Union Station to St. Louis University.”

1954

The city “acquires nearly 93% of the land and structures...remaining 7% left for rehabilitation”.

1958

Work begins on University Heights Village apartments, at this time only 20 original families still lived in Mill Creek Valley.

1961

The LaCleve Town apartments open and become somewhat of a “bohemian” haven.

1964

“The National Register for Historic Places puts the area surrounding Lafayette Park, a portion through which the [North-South] Distributor was to pass, under historic designation.”

1971

LaCleve Town apartments are later demolished, marking the end of a hope in the original vision of successful slum clearance and urban renewal coming to fruition. Harris-Stowe State University and SLU claimed some of the land.

1995

1913

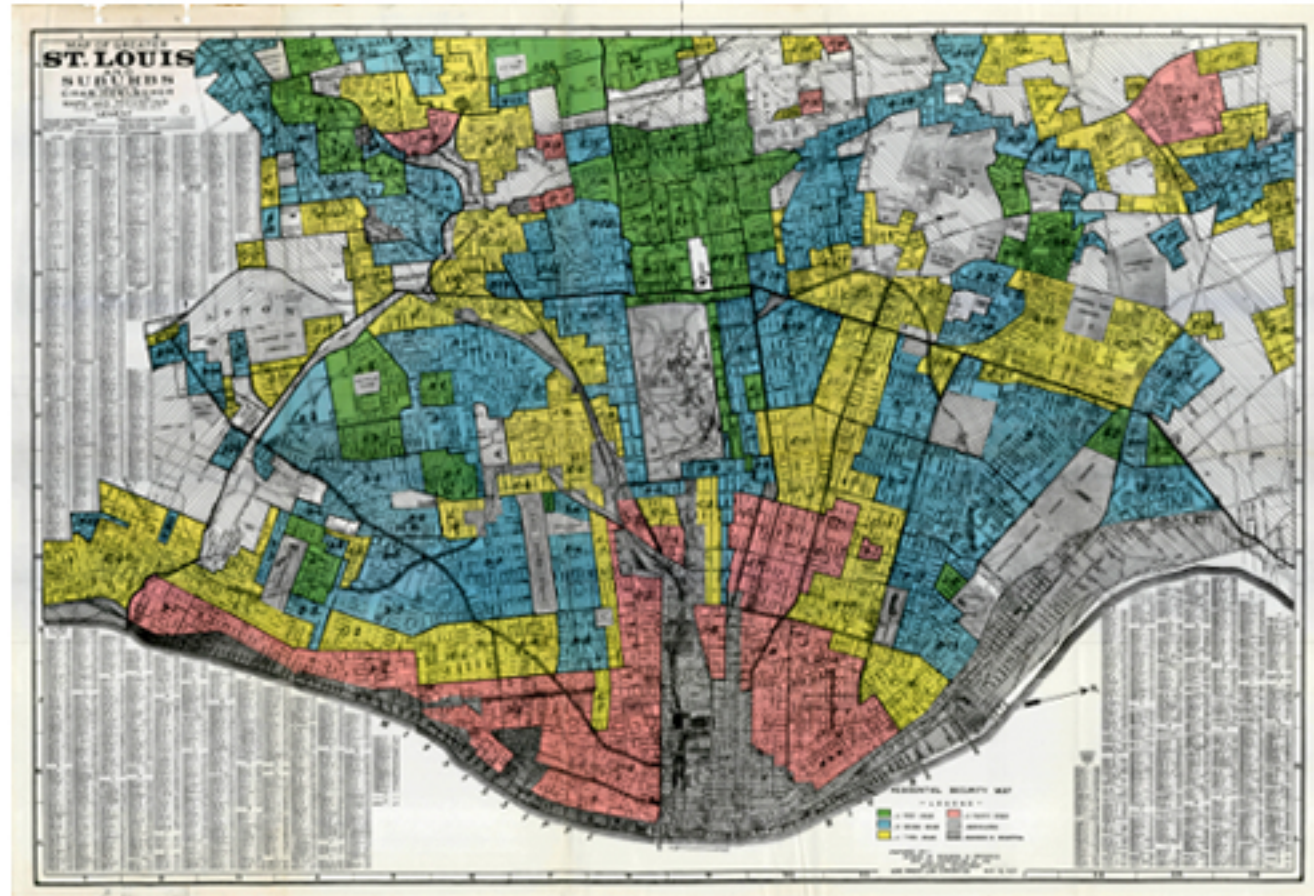
A committee of white St. Louisans calls for “Legal Segregation of Negroes in St. Louis.”

1917

The US Supreme Court rules in Buchanan v. Warley that racially restrictive zoning is unconstitutional, striking down St. Louis' ordinance. Private real estate covenants begin to effect the same outcome using contracts.

1934

The new Federal Housing Administration begins insuring private mortgages using HOLC residential security maps that rate black neighborhoods lowest, ensuring no insurance of mortgage there. This is the inception of “redlining” in the US.



1948

Shelley v. Kraemer (Supreme Court case based in St. Louis) ends racial covenants nationwide.

1950

Plaza Urban Renewal project announced: “dilapidated slum area within a few blocks from City Hall, the Civil Courts Building, the Central Library, and the Rail Station”.

Over the next two decades, 60,000 African-Americans will leave the city.

1953

By this year a “startling 53% of the city's housing supply was in various stages of deterioration”.

1955

St. Louisans widely approve a \$10 million bond issue for demolition, endorsed by the local NAACP as well, after the federal government promises it will reimburse the city.

1959

Demolition begins at 3518 Laclede Avenue.



1963

Protests outside Jefferson Bank urge the bank to hire black professionals.



1969

Agreement is made between City and State Highway Commission to create the North-South distributor highway through part of the former Mill Creek Valley.

1980

North-South Distributor Highway plans dropped; road later partially built as Truman Parkway, which divides Lafayette Square from the public housing communities to the east.



2016

Proposal to build MLS soccer stadium in the Mill Creek Valley area.

Proposal fails the following year.