

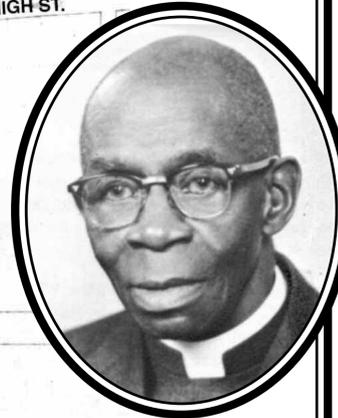
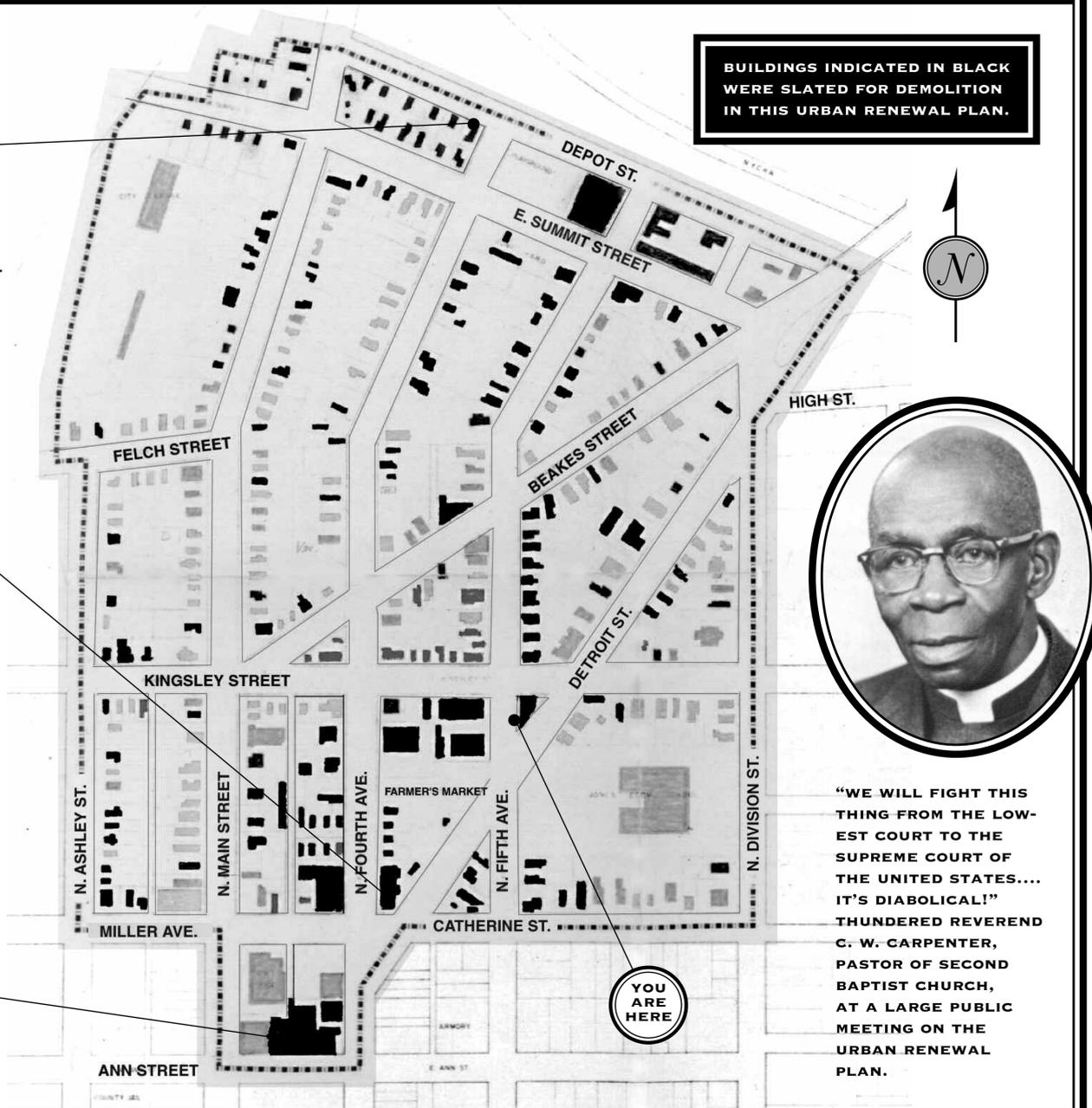
A 1956 URBAN RENEWAL PLAN



ACCORDING TO THIS MAP, URBAN RENEWAL WOULD HAVE CLEARED THE WHOLE BLOCK BETWEEN SUMMIT AND DEPOT STREETS, WEST OF NORTH FOURTH AVENUE.



THE MARKET PLACE BUILDING (ABOVE), THE ANN STREET BLOCK (BELOW), KERRY-TOWN MARKET AND SHOPS, THE TREASURE MART, AND ZINGERMAN'S DELICATESSEN, ARE ALL IN RENOVATED BUILDINGS ONCE MARKED FOR DEMOLITION.



"WE WILL FIGHT THIS THING FROM THE LOWEST COURT TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.... IT'S DIABOLICAL!" THUNDERED REVEREND C. W. CARPENTER, PASTOR OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, AT A LARGE PUBLIC MEETING ON THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN.

A CHANGING NEIGHBORHOOD

In 1956 civic leaders launched a plan, using federal urban renewal funds, to remove "blight" and rebuild this mostly black neighborhood. Many buildings around you were proposed for demolition. Both black and white leaders disagreed among themselves whether the plan would improve the neighborhood or destroy the fabric of the black community. At least 500 residents would have been displaced, 400 of them black. In 1959 City Council narrowly passed the plan, but newly elected Mayor Cecil Creal vetoed it as too disruptive.

Other forces changed the neighborhood. City Council passed a fair housing law in 1963 and a stronger one in 1965. The neighborhood school, Jones Elementary (later Community High), was 75% black in 1965 when it was closed and its students dispersed by bus to other schools in an effort at desegregation. By the 1970s blacks were leaving the neighborhood. The churches moved. In that decade, black and white citizens working together defeated plans for a downtown bypass that would have split the neighborhood.



SLATED FOR DEMOLITION, BRAUN COURT (LEFT), A DOUBLE ROW OF MODEST HOUSES OFF NORTH FOURTH AVENUE, WAS BUILT BY CARPENTER SAMUEL BRAUN IN 1917-18. IT WAS REMODELED IN THE 1980S INTO RESTAURANTS, BARS, AND SHOPS.

THE STOFFLET BLOCK (RIGHT), AT EAST KINGSLEY AND DETROIT STREETS, WAS OCCUPIED BY BLACK TENANTS BEFORE ITS EIGHT RENTAL FLATS WERE EXPANDED INTO BI-LEVEL CONDOMINIUMS IN THE 1980S.



SPONSORED BY THE ANN ARBOR BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)

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