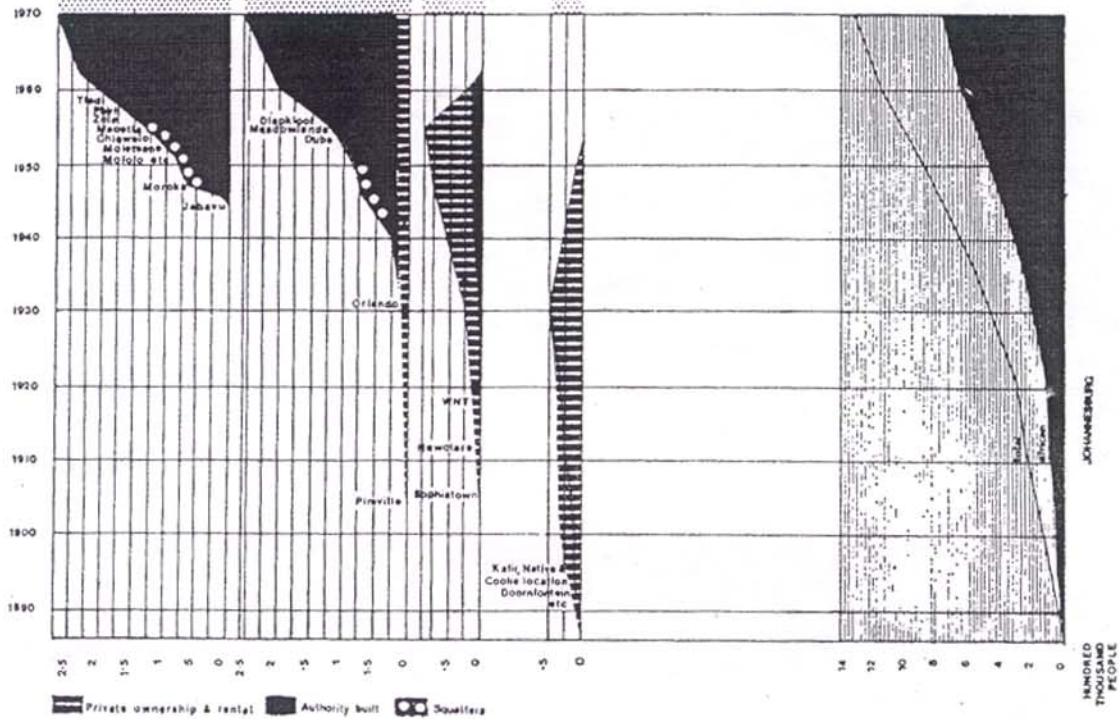
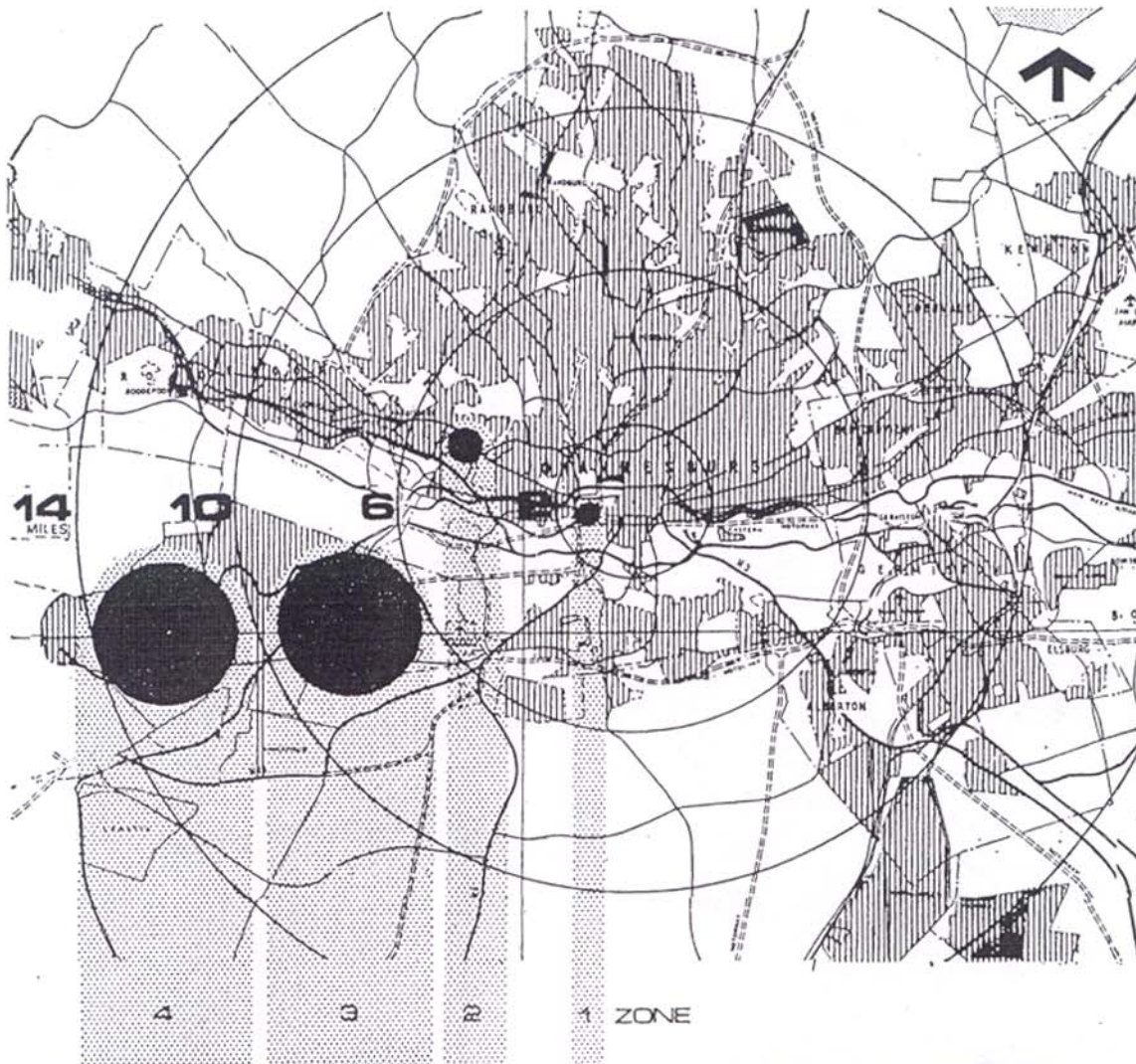


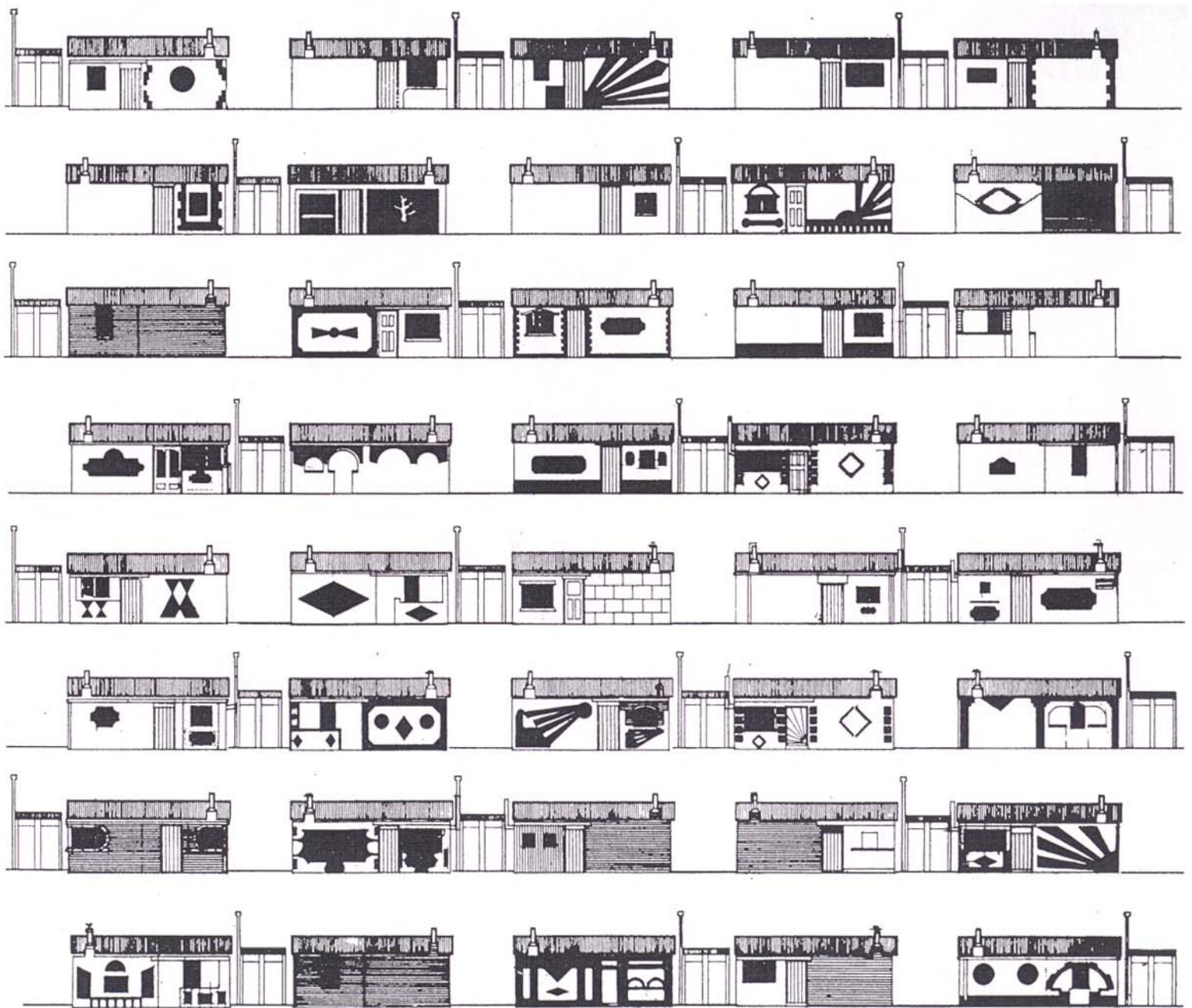
Handout 17:

Black locations and public / private supply of black housing in Johannesburg, 1885-1970.



Handout 17:

Decorated facades on a street in Western Native Township, Johannesburg, 1962.



Handout 17:

Changes to housing, services and communal organization, Western Native Township, 1918-62.

STAGE ONE 1918-1930	STAGE TWO 1930-1940	STAGE THREE 1940-1950	STAGE FOUR 1950-1962
<p>HOUSING Township established but little demand for houses. About 2,000 houses built in five stages: first single rooms, huts and 2-roomed houses, and after 1930 3-roomed houses (See Fig. 2). Houses have no plaster, ceilings, floors or internal doors. Houses built at costs ranging from \$156 to \$226 per unit; house rents from \$3.50 per month upward.</p>	<p>Population pressure builds up (population about 12,000 in 1933) and township crowded. Municipality allows residents to house sub-tenants on application but demolishes outbuildings and shacks built by tenants in back yards. Municipality recognises pressures on space and at end of this stage adds an additional room for tenants who request more space and are willing to pay increased rental.</p>	<p>Municipality considers temporary porch enclosures health hazards and orders them removed after fires. Building of additional rooms by Municipality suspended until after war: tenants may still do so at own expense. Illegal outbuildings still being removed by Municipality. Municipality first adopts resolution to remove W.N.T.</p>	<p>Rents increased: now range from \$2.50 to \$9.00 per month. Municipality acts against permanent porch enclosures but after test court case and in loco inspection allows such construction on approval of plans by superintendent. No more municipally built room additions after 1957. Municipality begins negotiations with tenants about removal but refuses to compensate tenants for any improvements.</p>
<p>Tenants use cowdung on floors, mud on walls, hessian for ceilings and curtains as interior doors. First decorations by people of Bakwena tribe consisting of patterns and animals scratched in mud and dung.</p>	<p>Tenants build shacks in yards and enclose front porches with wood or metal ceiling panels (Mr. Duda the first of these builders' to make more enclosed space). Tenants try painting decoration on brickwork (Ben Ngqaza the first). Tenants complain and rents reduced.</p>	<p>Tenants build porch enclosures (Mr. Stahlo) the first builder, generally for living space but sometimes for shops. First decorations (family Sithole) on permanent porches and front walls. A few tenants make major alterations to houses at own expense.</p>	<p>Demonstrations against rent increases. Decorations on plaster walls become very popular with many variations on limited number of themes. Agitation about removal and especially lack of compensation begins but by 1962 township almost completely removed and 'Coloured' people move in.</p>
<p>SERVICES: People walk, cycle or use horse-drawn public transport. Municipal tram service extended to W.N.T.: fare 3c to town. Houses have no individual water supply; only two communal taps per street and bucket sewerage. Municipality erects fences and plants some trees around township and in three streets.</p>	<p>Street-lighting installed and later electricity also available to tenants at own expense (20 years later only 5% of households had installation). Municipality erects fences around individual house plots. 1937: African newspaper calls W.N.T. "dinghy, dirty, and ill-kept but is impressed by what some of our people are doing to improve their conditions that are anything but conducive to noble living".</p>	<p>Tram fares increased to 4c and after tram boycott, service is withdrawn. Railway extended to Newclare (within walking distance of W.N.T.). Individual water supply and waterborne sewerage installed. Roads improved and stormwater drains installed.</p>	<p>Public Utility Company Bus Service introduced with terminus in centre of W.N.T.: fares now 4c to town.</p>
<p>Women form organisation to prevent women from throwing dirty water into streets.</p>	<p>Tenants plant trees and hedges in front of houses.</p>	<p>Strikes, riots and boycott of trams after fare increase. Space in front of house developed as outdoor living space with decorated gateposts and letter-boxes.</p>	<p>Residents boycott buses because of fares. A few cars appear in township, often derelict, and taxi and car repair service in vacant lots adjoining certain houses.</p>
<p>COMMUNAL FACILITIES AND SOCIAL ORGANISATION: Municipality builds administrative offices and police station. First schools (American Board Mission and Wesleyan Methodist Mission) opened. First churches (Presbyterian and Congregational) built. Municipal clinic and later first private hospital built (Nokuphila hospital).</p>	<p>Communal Hall built by Municipality. Two more schools (one high school) and six churches erected. 'Talitha House' girls' reformatory opens. Municipal Beer Hall opens after continuous police raids on houses where women brew beer illegally in back yards.</p>	<p>First African library built. Two more schools (second high school) opened. Two more churches built. Old aged home and Y.M.C.A. opened. Playground equipment installed by Municipality as well as additional sports fields. Co-operative society goes bankrupt and replaced by seven privately owned shops including 'Abyssinian Fish & Chips' shop. Municipality offers prize for best gardens at W.N.T.</p>	<p>New creche opened by Native Council of African Women from money raised from residents. At end of this stage, W.N.T. has seven schools, ten churches and ten shops.</p>
<p>First residents arrive either from areas nearer city centre or from country: wide variety of tribes take up residence. Occupation of residents almost all unskilled or domestic workers: average annual household income about \$170. Witch-doctors provide some medical and magical services. Before 1923, control of village in hands of 14 men, 'Iso Lomzi' (Eye of the Village) replaced by Advisory Board and Vigilance Committee, with chairman considered as mayor, to work with Municipality: annual elections with parties choosing colour, e.g., the blue party, to distinguish themselves.</p>	<p>Economic level of residents remains static: average annual household income about \$180. First African co-operative society founded with 166 members and four shops (tearoom, grocer, butcher and baker). Wide variety of social, sporting and entertainment organisations formed: W.N.T. Ladies' Civic Society, Unemployed Young Men's Club, Hungry Lions Benefit Society, Philharmonic Society of W.N.T., W.N.T. Pioneers' Club, Children's Picnic Committee, etc. Sporting Clubs: Transvaal Jumpers Football Club, baseball, tennis, cricket, etc. Jazz and dance bands: Merry Black Birds, Harmony Kings, Jazz Maniacs, Japanese Express Band, etc. 1937: first report of crime at W.N.T. to appear in 'Banty World' newspaper.</p>	<p>War stimulates growth of new industries and average annual income rises to about \$340. 'Rising tide of lawlessness' and hooliganism (tsotsis) reported in African newspapers. Civic guards and later Civic Protection Society (C.P.S.) formed to combat thugs and gangs. Gangs: Corporatives' and 'Young Americans from New Orleans' said to have been formed and stove pipe trousers worn after showing of film 'Orchestra Wives' in local cinema. Shebeens: 'Green House' and 'Shepherds' offer illegal liquor and 'Stokfels' system instituted (rotating parties with hose supplying liquor). Saloons in houses offer illegal gambling particularly 'fah-fee': lady decorates her house with lucky horse symbol. Political parties active: mayor of W.N.T. decorates his house with African National Congress symbol.</p>	<p>Population still almost entirely working class with small percentage of professional and clerical workers: average annual household income now about \$560 but still far below Poverty Datum line (about \$700). Fairly static population with high proportion of widows as female heads of families and pattern of interchange with rural areas less frequent than before. Riots at Municipal Beer Hall because of police raid. Boycott of schools organised by African National Congress and residents open their own school, Mohlomo Community School: Mayor expelled from A.N.C. after having been accused of sabotaging boycott. Gang warfare between W.N.T. 'Corporatives' and Sophiatown 'Berliners'; also clashes between 'Russians' and Civic Guard. Jazz singer Dolly Rathebe stabbed and famous reporter Henry Nxumalo killed by thugs. Witch-doctors ('nyangas') still operating and consternation caused by appearance of 'tokolosh' (magic animal) in W.N.T. After failure of continued representations to Municipality, people accept being moved out: Mayor addresses residents: 'This is the saddest day of this township . . . this is the oldest township of Johannesburg and people of this area in Johannesburg have made the greatest contribution in building Johannesburg'.</p>