

Of Locker Rooms and Silos:
What if We Had Digital Archives
in Places No One Expects Them?

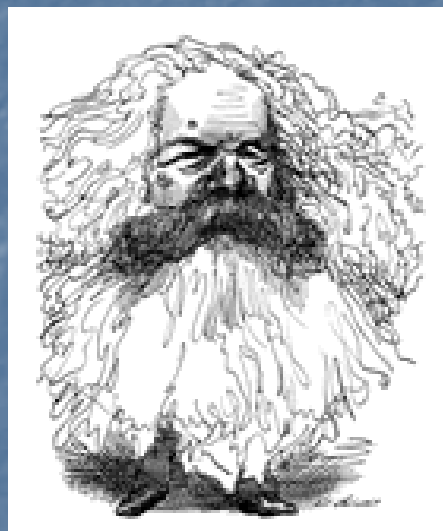
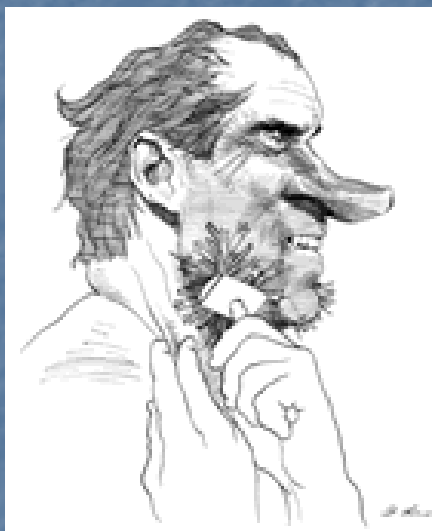
Douglas S. Reed
Georgetown University

Goals of Talk

- Overview of one research project involving archival resources
- Limitations of existing archival resources for this project
- Speculations on how digital resources would change this project and how I research it

But first...

- My Debts to Librarians and Archivists



Overview of Project

- *Building the Federal Schoolhouse: Localism and the Political Development of Public Education*
- How do local politics change as federal officials increasingly make more authoritative decisions about public education?
- Historical examination of Alexandria, Virginia from 1958-2008.

Archival Resources for One Dimension of Book

- “Massive Resistance” to School Desegregation, 1955-65
 - Alexandria City Public School records
 - Virginia State Archives
 - Federal Archives
 - U.S. Court Decisions and Proceedings
 - Special Collections and Local Collections

Desegregation and Massive Resistance

- School Vouchers: State of Virginia paid families to send children to private schools
- My question: Who used the vouchers?
- Were they influenced primarily by racial dimensions of the conflict or class dimensions of private schooling?

Archival Materials from ACPS Record Center

- Written descriptions of school boundaries, from 1959-1965
- Name and address of *each* black child seeking to attend a non-black school.
- Name and address of *each* voucher recipient
- An opportunity to spatially locate children within the school system, using GIS software, and track entries and exits

KEY TO CASES AND RESIDENCE

Case A. Kathryn C. Turner 211 Lincolnia Road
 Case B. Sandra Turner 211 Lincolnia Road
 Case C. Gerald Turner 211 Lincolnia Road
 Case D. Otis E. Jones 6346 Stevenson Avenue
 Case E. Jessie Mae Jones 6346 Stevenson Avenue
 Case F. Betty Jo Jones 6346 Stevenson Avenue
 Case G. James E. Lomax 1120 North Fairfax Street
 Case H. Margaret I. Lomax 1120 North Fairfax Street
 Case I. Patsy Ragland 6346 B Stevenson Avenue
 Case J. James Ragland 6346 B Stevenson Avenue
 Case K. Sarah A. Ragland 6346 B Stevenson Avenue
 Case L. Timothy C. Taylor 415 Wilkes Street
 Case M. Theodora Hundley 409 South Saint Asaph Street
 Case N. Pearl Hundley 409 South Saint Asaph Street

Handwritten:
 Minutes
 Exec. Session
 Alexandria
 City School Board
 Jan 27
 1964

From this...

CASES APPLYING FOR CERTAIN GRADES IN CERTAIN SCHOOLS

- e A. Applying for sixth grade in Patrick Henry from sixth grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e B. Applying for second grade in Patrick Henry from second grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e C. Applying for first grade in Patrick Henry from first grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e D. Applying for fourth grade in Patrick Henry from fourth grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e E. Applying for third grade in Patrick Henry from third grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e F. Applying for second grade in Patrick Henry from second grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e G. Applying for second grade in Theodore Picklin from second grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e H. Applying for first grade in Theodore Picklin from first grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e I. Applying for tenth grade in Hammond High from tenth grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e J. Applying for ninth grade in Hammond High from ninth grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e K. Applying for third grade in Patrick Henry from third grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e L. Applying for ninth grade in George Washington from ninth grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e M. Applying for tenth grade in George Washington from tenth grade in Lyles-Crouch
- e N. Applying for ninth grade in George Washington from ninth grade in Lyles-Crouch

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 5/20/64

ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Alexandria, Virginia

List of approved Scholarship applicants for second semester - 1963-64

Name of Parent Address	Name of Pupil School	Grade	Total Amount	Approved
Adams, Carmen 3810 Elbert Ave.	Carol Adams Burgundy Farms	3	\$250.00	1
Aggers, Martha 1817 E. Wakefield Apt. C-1	Rhonda Aggers Brownie	1	164.77	
Aggers, Martha 1817 E. Wakefield Apt. C-1	Thomas Aggers Brownie	2	184.77	
Albert, Arnold 49 E. Taylor Run Pky.	Gary Albert McLean High School	12	275.00	1
Baker, Lynn E. 4524 Layola Ave.	John Baker Flint Hill	7	250.00	1
Banister, Nellman 4702 Richmar Pl.	Scott Banister Charlotte Hall, Md.	10	275.00	1
Baumann, Betty 3769 Gunston Rd.	Dawn Baumann Brownie	1	250.00	1
Beecher, Jo Ann 3732 Jason Ave.	William Beecher Glebe Acres	7	250.00	1
Bell, John J. 711 Oronoco St.	Deathea Bell Western High, N.C.	10	275.00	1
Bellamy, Grace 5421 Sanger Ave.	Gail Bellamy Tallwood	5	250.00	1
Black, Carrol M. 621 N. Howard St. Apt. 3-2	Bonnie Black Benjamin Acres	6	202.84	1
Blei, Ira 5200 Maris Ave.	Keith Blei Burgundy Farms	5	250.00	1
Blei, Ira 5200 Maris Ave.	Ira Blei Burgundy Farms	3	250.00	1
Bodamer, Patricia 902 Banks Pl.	Steven Bodamer Tallwood	4	250.00	1

ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Alexandria, Virginia

SCHOOL ZONE'S 1959-60 -- 1964-65

DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL: For grades one to seven inclusive. Beginning at the Jefferson Davis Highway (Route #1), thence west along both sides of Clifford Avenue to Mount Vernon Avenue. Thence northward including the east side of Mount Vernon Avenue to Glebe Road. Thence northward including the north side of Glebe Road to Old Dominion Boulevard. Thence northward along both sides of Old Dominion Boulevard to Metabene Drive. Thence north along both sides of the intersection of Old Dominion Boulevard with the City Line, along the City Line northward and eastward to the Jefferson Davis Highway (Route #1). Thence southward including both sides of the Jefferson Davis Highway (Route #1) to the starting point at the intersection of the Jefferson Davis Highway (Route #1) and Clifford Avenue.

MONROUE SCHOOL: For grades one to seven inclusive. Beginning at Monroue Drive, thence west along the center of Duke Street to Quaker Lane. Thence north on Quaker Lane to a point just beyond the Seminary Gate. Thence along center of Lane passing old Seminary Negro School to Chincopin Village boundary. Thence north with boundary to King Street. Thence southeast along the center of King Street to Janney's Lane. Thence along Janney's Lane west to Putman Place. Thence southeast along both sides of Putman Place to its south end and then along an imaginary line from that point south to intersection of Monroue Drive with South View Terrace. Thence along center of Monroue Drive to Duke Street.

Pupils living in Cameron Valley Homes will attend the Stonewall Jackson School. Optional. Section of Quaker Lane between Duke Street and Seminary Road is optional between this school and Stonewall Jackson (both sides).

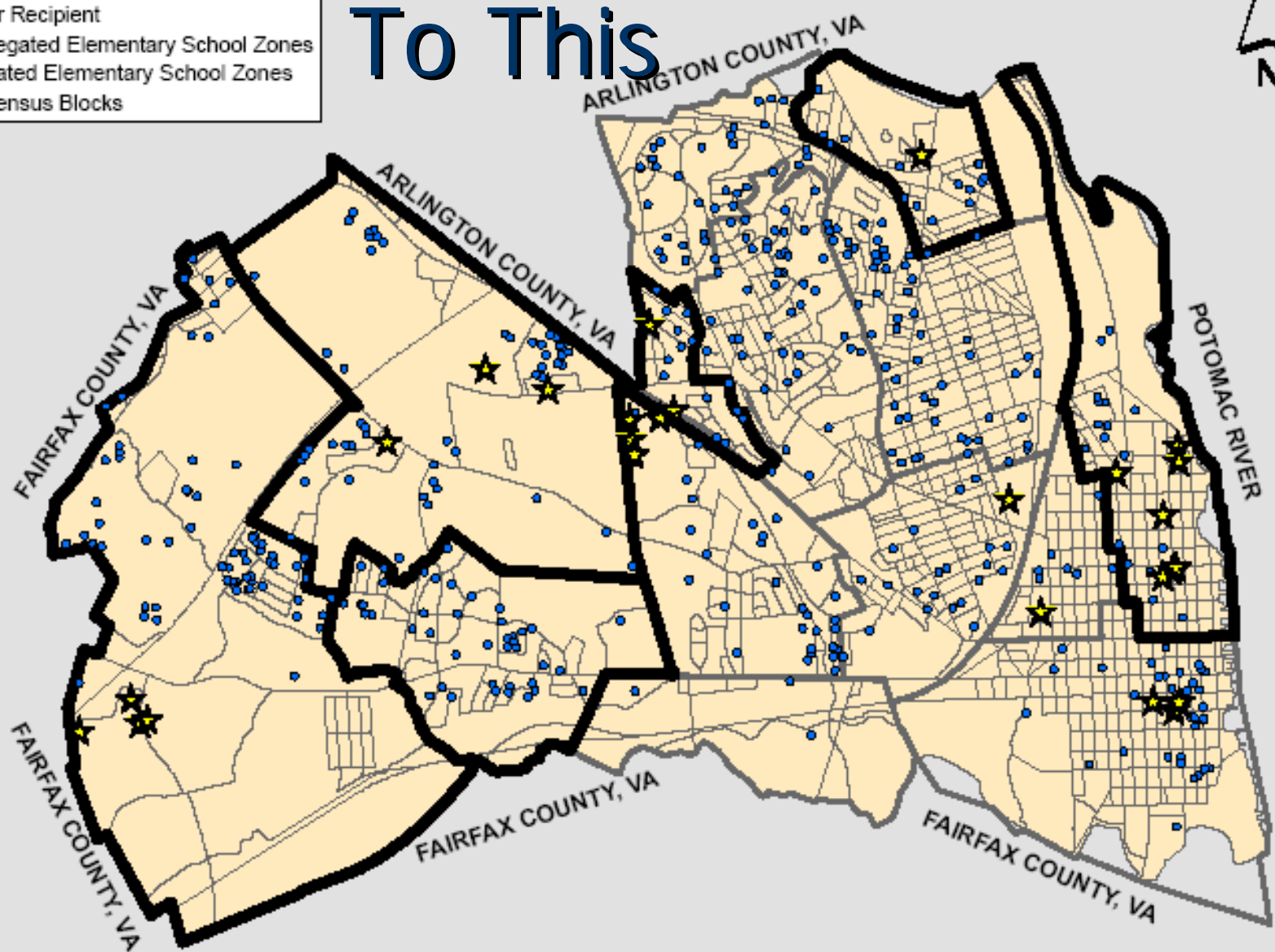
Pupils living along King Street north of Janney's Lane to end including Albany Avenue may attend either Henry or MacArthur Schools; north of this point to Puckoee Lane may attend either Henry or George Mason Schools.

Pupils on the east side of Monroue Drive may attend either MacArthur or Henry Schools.

BRUNNEN SCHOOL: For grades one to seven inclusive. Beginning at the north boundary of the city at its intersection with Old Dominion Boulevard, thence generally southward along a line drawn west of Metabene Drive so as to exclude both sides of Metabene Drive. Thence along a line trending southward from west of Old Dominion Boulevard (including Old Dominion Boulevard) until it intersects the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad. Thence along the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad generally eastward to its intersection with Russell Road. Thence southward along the center of Russell Road to its intersection with Kentucky Avenue. Thence along a line south of Kentucky Avenue

- ★ Desegregated Student
- Voucher Recipient
- ◻ Desegregated Elementary School Zones
- ◻ Segregated Elementary School Zones
- 1960 Census Blocks

To This



**Figure 7: Alexandria, Virginia
Desegregated Elementary
School Zones**

NAD 1983 Albers Equal Area Conic
Data Sources:
ESRI Data & Maps CD
Alexandria School Board Records

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



The Process is Painful

- First, convert archival map to GIS-usable scan
- Electronically draw attendance zone boundaries on GIS map, following both current and archival maps.
- Enter name and address lists of desegregation and voucher students by hand

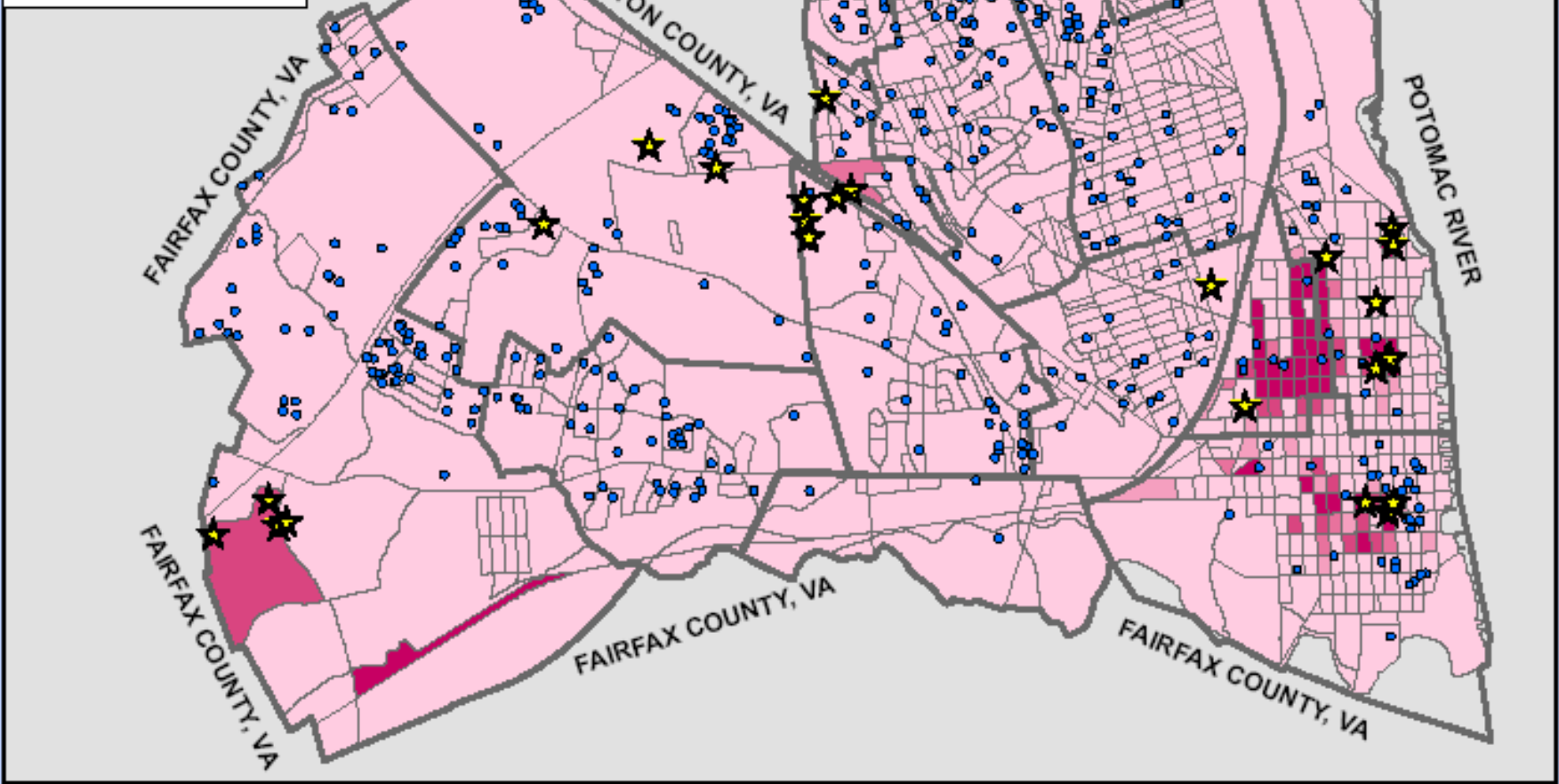
Combining with Non-Electronic Data from Federal Sources

- 1960 Census of Housing
 - Able to explore racial and class dimensions of neighborhoods at the block level.
 - But.....

The Pain, Part Two

- Convert Census Bureau archival map to GIS-usable scan
- Align Census Bureau map with Alexandria map
- Key enter housing and race data for each block by hand,
- Link up blocks with geo-coded address lists of voucher recipients and desegregated students.

- ★ Desegregated Student
- Voucher Recipient
- ▭ 1960 School Boundaries
- % Non-white
- 0-20%
- 20-40%
- 40-60%
- 60-80%
- 80-100%



NAD 1983 Albers Equal Area Conic
 Data Sources:
 ESRI Data & Maps CD
 Alexandria School Board Records

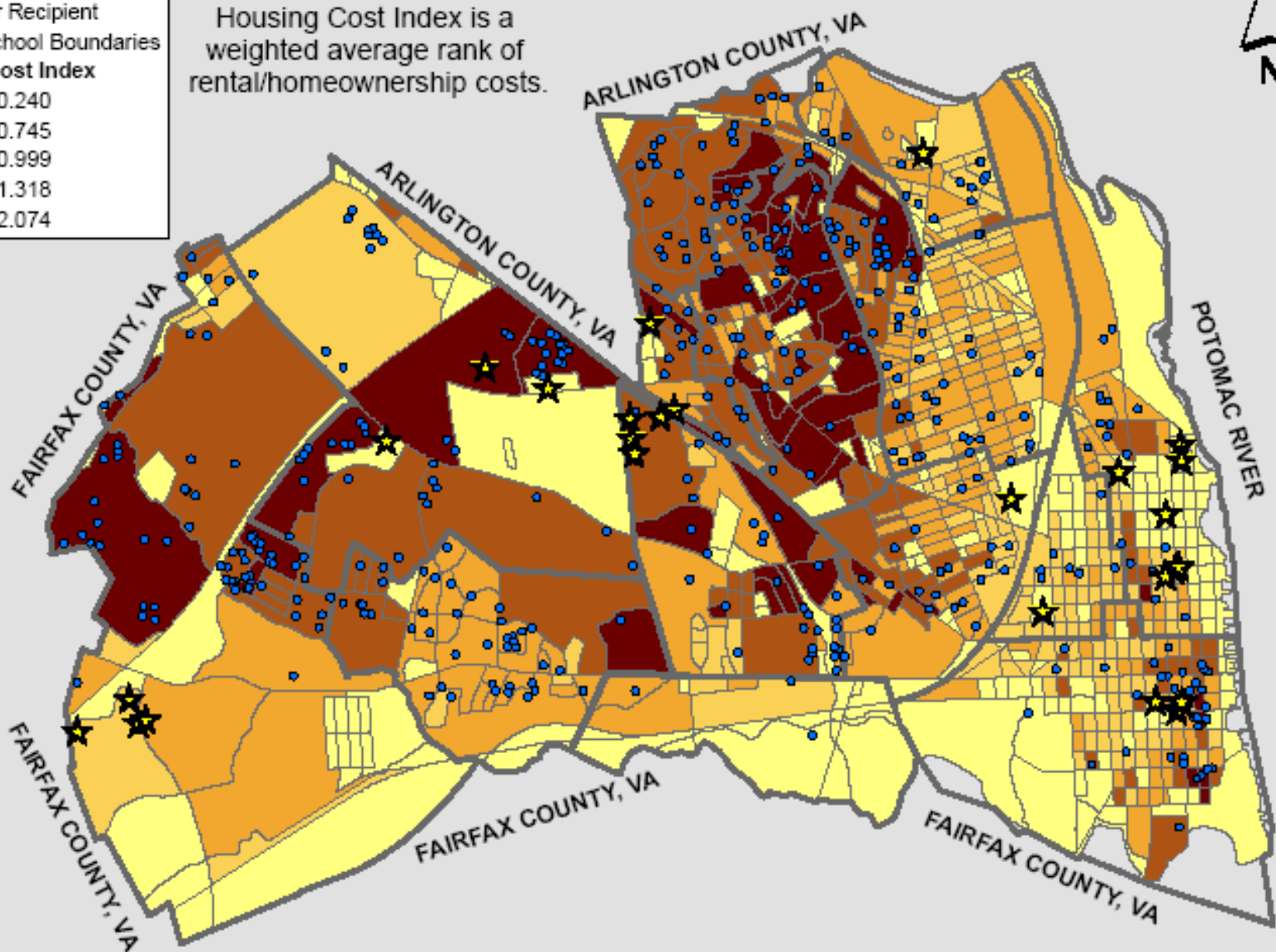
0 0.25 0.5 1
 Miles

Figure 6: Alexandria, Virginia
 Racial Demographics
 by Census Block



- ★ Desegregated Student
- Voucher Recipient
- ▭ 1960 School Boundaries
- Housing Cost Index**
- 0.000 - 0.240
- 0.241 - 0.745
- 0.746 - 0.999
- 1.000 - 1.318
- 1.319 - 2.074

Housing Cost Index is a weighted average rank of rental/homeownership costs.



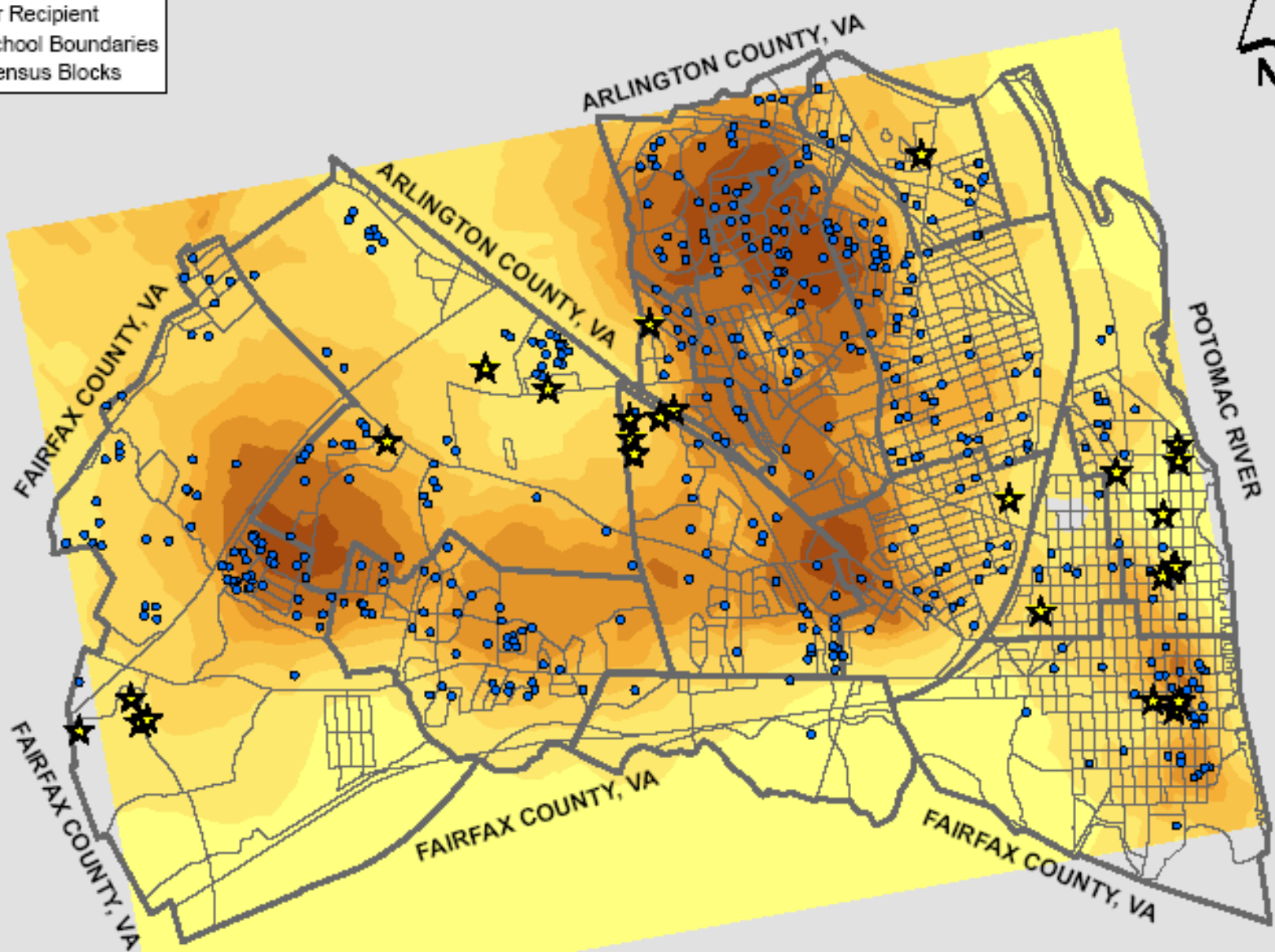
NAD 1983 Albers Equal Area Conic
 Data Sources:
 ESRI Data & Maps CD
 Alexandria School Board Records

0 0.25 0.5 1
 Miles

Figure 8: Alexandria, Virginia
 Housing Cost Index
 by Census Block



- ★ Desegregated Student
- Voucher Recipient
- ▭ 1960 School Boundaries
- 1960 Census Blocks



NAD 1983 Albers Equal Area Conic
 Data Sources:
 ESRI Data & Maps CD
 Alexandria School Board Records

Alexandria, Virginia

Socioeconomic Demographics Kriging of Housing Cost Index



The Upside

- Alexandria archives represent a rich repository of archival information and data virtually untapped.
- New perspectives – both historic and contemporary -- on an important story
- Applications of new data tools to archival-based information

The Downside: Where Did the Time Go?

- Began this GIS investigation in 2004
- Time spent gathering complete data from archives
- Map preparation, data preparation and data entry
- Problems with historical maps and GIS-related issues
- Technical issues (geo-coding, orphaned addresses, etc)

Locker rooms and silos

- Location of Alexandria City Public Schools Records Center
 - Storage room converted from a locker room adjacent to a gymnasium in a middle school.
 - Knock on Door 7 of the gym and ask for Val
- The record center contains the administrative working life of an on-going enterprise, but has valuable historical importance
- A need to link these non-university based archival sources to scholarly communities

The Silo Problem

- “Off the grid” means the archives are siloed.
- How can I view these archives, both topically and substantively, relative to other archival sources that contain relevant information from the same time period, held by a different entity?
- Eg, What do the Federal or state archives have to say about problems or issues confronting locals?

Conclusion

- Rich archival resources outside of library settings
- Digitization of archives needs to both uncover these resources and link them up in content and topic with other archival sources from the same time window.