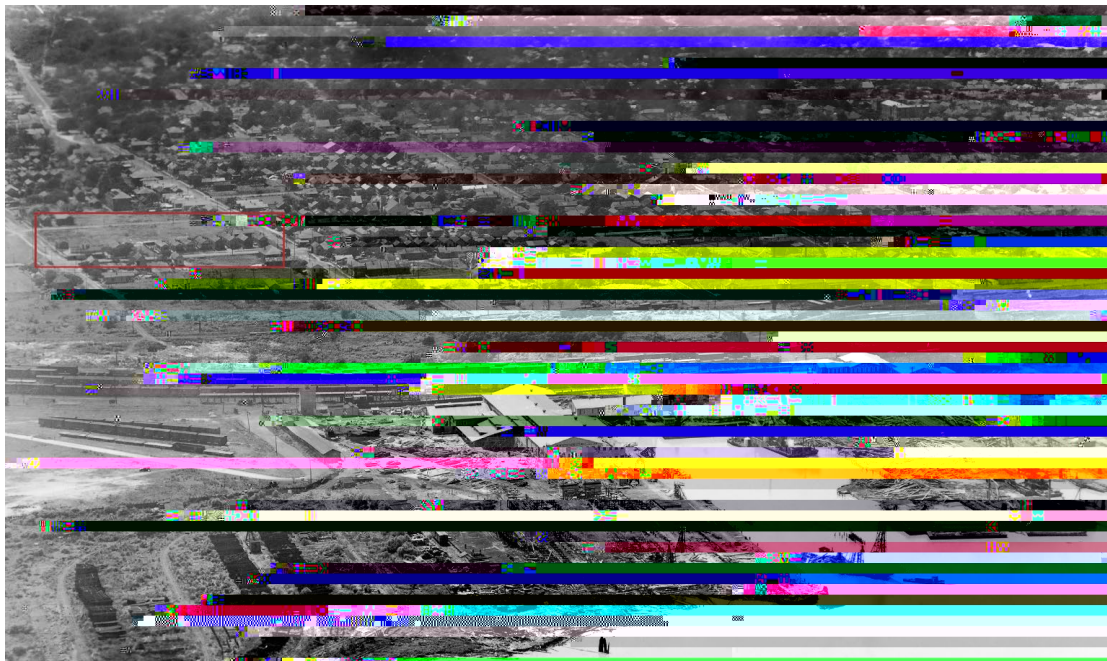
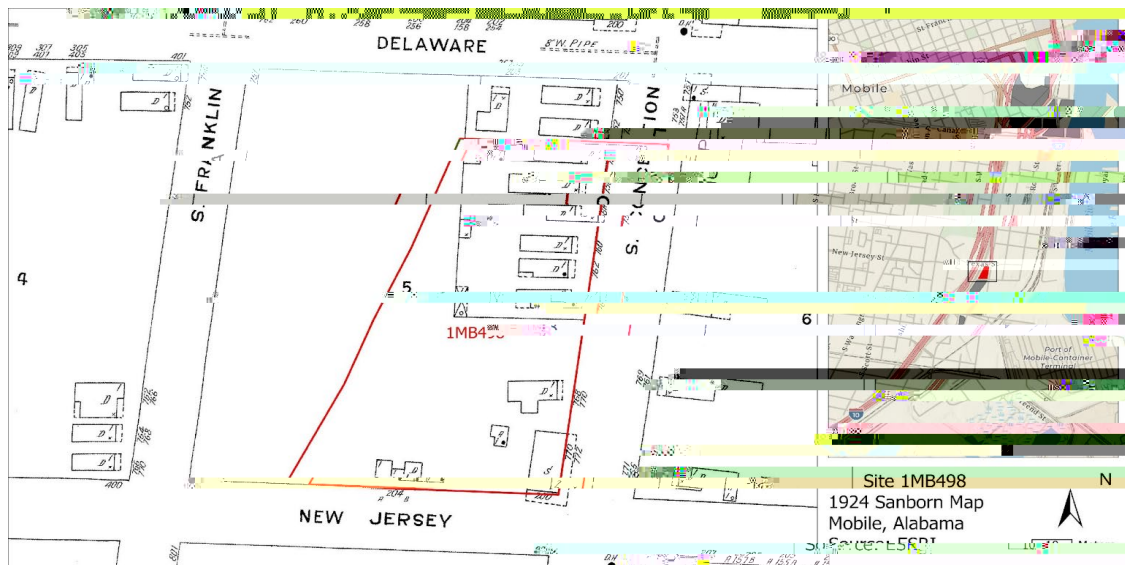


# Towards a Better Understanding of African American Yardscapes at 1MB498

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## Background

Site 1MB498 is a portion of what was a city block containing six 20th century shotgun houses. Unlike the rest of the sites covered in this poster session, 1MB498 has not been fully investigated. The focus here is approaches to yardscapes, the African Americans residents who created them, and how we can recover the archaeological evidence to create synergy with the archival and oral history data.



## Approaches

In order to better understand yardscapes of 1MB498 we can apply models to collect historical data (Clarke 1968). For example, Amos Rapoport's (1993) model focuses on categorizing features into two types: fixed and semi-fixed.

Fixed features are permanent and include fences, sheds, pens, or trees. Semi-fixed features, or yard furnishings, include rain barrels, wood piles, benches, and moveable or transient activity areas such as cooking pits, trash pits, flower beds, and gardens (Heath & Bennett, 2000).

While we are fortunate to have images of several of the structures that stood at 1MB498 (see above), these photos only show the front street view. Other than historic maps, the backyards are largely unknown, especially regarding semi-fixed features. Therefore, archaeology is necessary to help us reconstruct how the rear spaces were used and treated by the occupants.

## Questions to Consider

For the residence of 1MB498 (15-21-87-5) + 2.8 (b)-u8 (b)-g5.9 (s)-4.8 (a)-3.3 (n)-0.7 (e)-6 (o)-1.3 (t)-5.9 (h)10.1 (e)

