

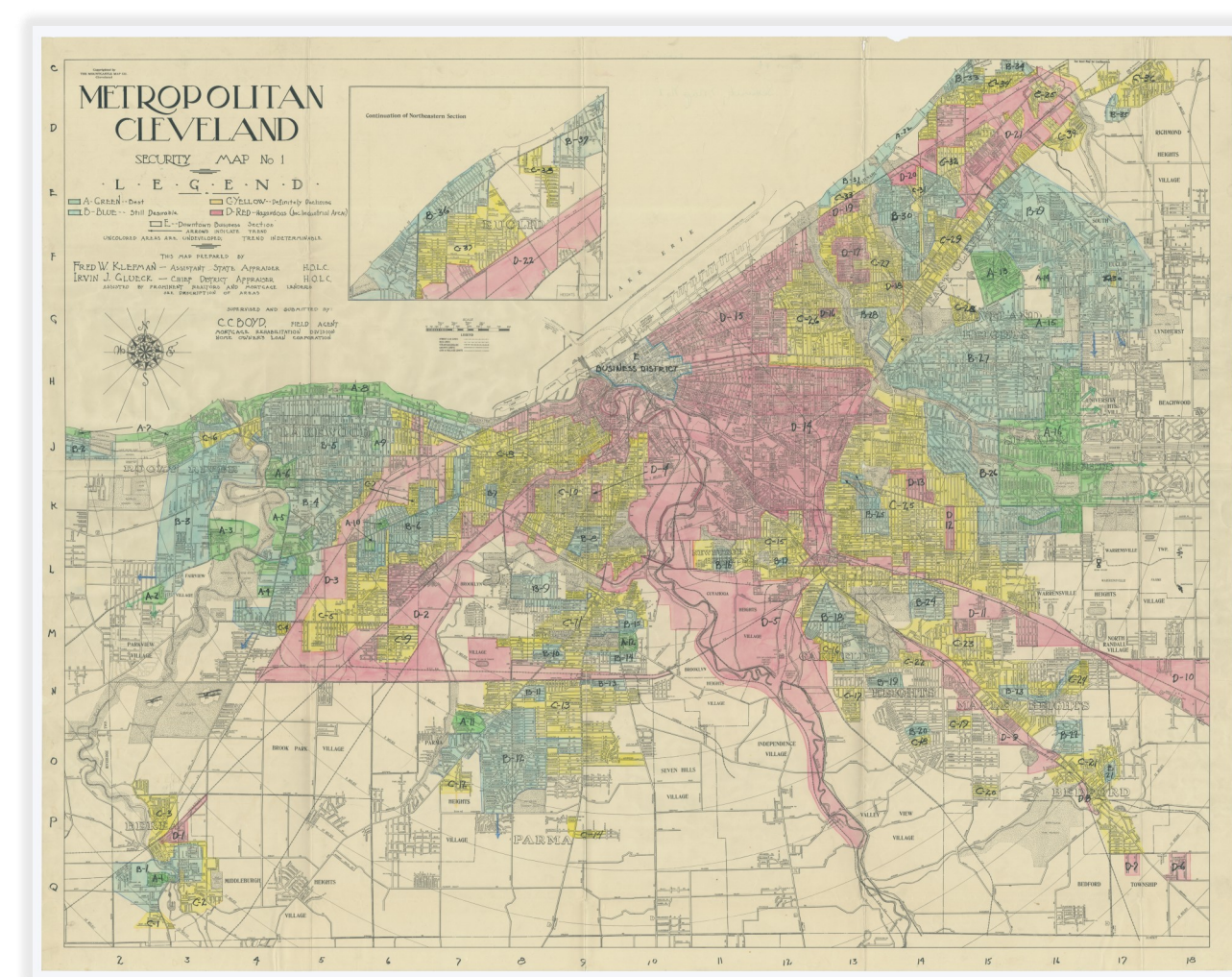
A Digital Archaeology of Life in Cleveland's Depression-Era Slums

Charlie Harper and Jared Bendis, Case Western Reserve University

Housing in Cleveland



Ernest J. Bohn (1927)
The Cleveland Press Collection



Cleveland HOLC Redlining Map (1936)

"Slums and Blight" in the 1930s



Rear of Lenard Street (8/24/1938)
CWRU Special Collections, Bohn Collection, Box 24 Image C98

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
West Hall Drive, Cleveland, Ohio

Place CLEVELAND

Subject Housing - Slums & Blight

Rear of Lenard St.

Photo by J.A. Boersig Date 8/24/38

Prints - No. & Size 43 x 6 3/4

Negative J.A. Boersig



Rear of Lenard Street (8/24/1938)
CWRU Special Collections, Bohn Collection, Box 24 Image C87

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
West Hall Drive, Cleveland, Ohio

Place CLEVELAND

Subject Housing - Slums & Blight

Rear of Lenard Street

Photo by J.A. Boersig Date 8/24/38

Prints - No. & Size 43 x 6 3/4

Negative J.A. Boersig

The Man Behind the Camera

J. A. Boersig Dies; Fireman-Lensman

Joseph A. Boersig, a retired member of the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Cleveland Fire Department and for many years the chief photographer for the arson squad and later for the bureau, died yesterday in his home, 1855 Metzger Road, Valley City. He was 71.

Mr. Boersig painted in oils and frequently had paintings and photographs in the Cleveland Art Museum May Shows.

He joined the department in 1918 and after several years as a driver of a hook and ladder truck, became a photographer.

His photographs were used in investigations and later, when he also took motion pictures for the fire prevention bureau, the films were shown to firemen in training for duty with the department.

IN 1957 AND 1958, Mr. Boersig was chief of the state fire marshal's Cuyahoga County staff.

He maintained a lasting interest in volunteer fire departments and was a member of the Cuyahoga Firemen's Association and the American Association of Firemen Inc.

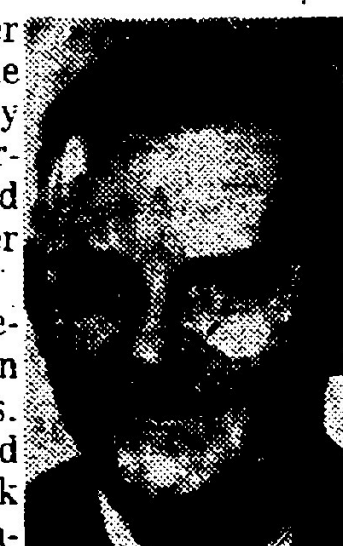
He had studied art at the Cleveland Institute of Art and was a member of the Medina Creative Art League.

He was an Army veteran of World War I and a member of the American Legion Post No. 339 of the Fire Department.

Mr. Boersig retired from the fire department in 1948.

Surviving are his wife, Cecelia, two sisters and a brother.

Services will be Friday at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 4423 Pearl Road S. W., at a time to be announced.

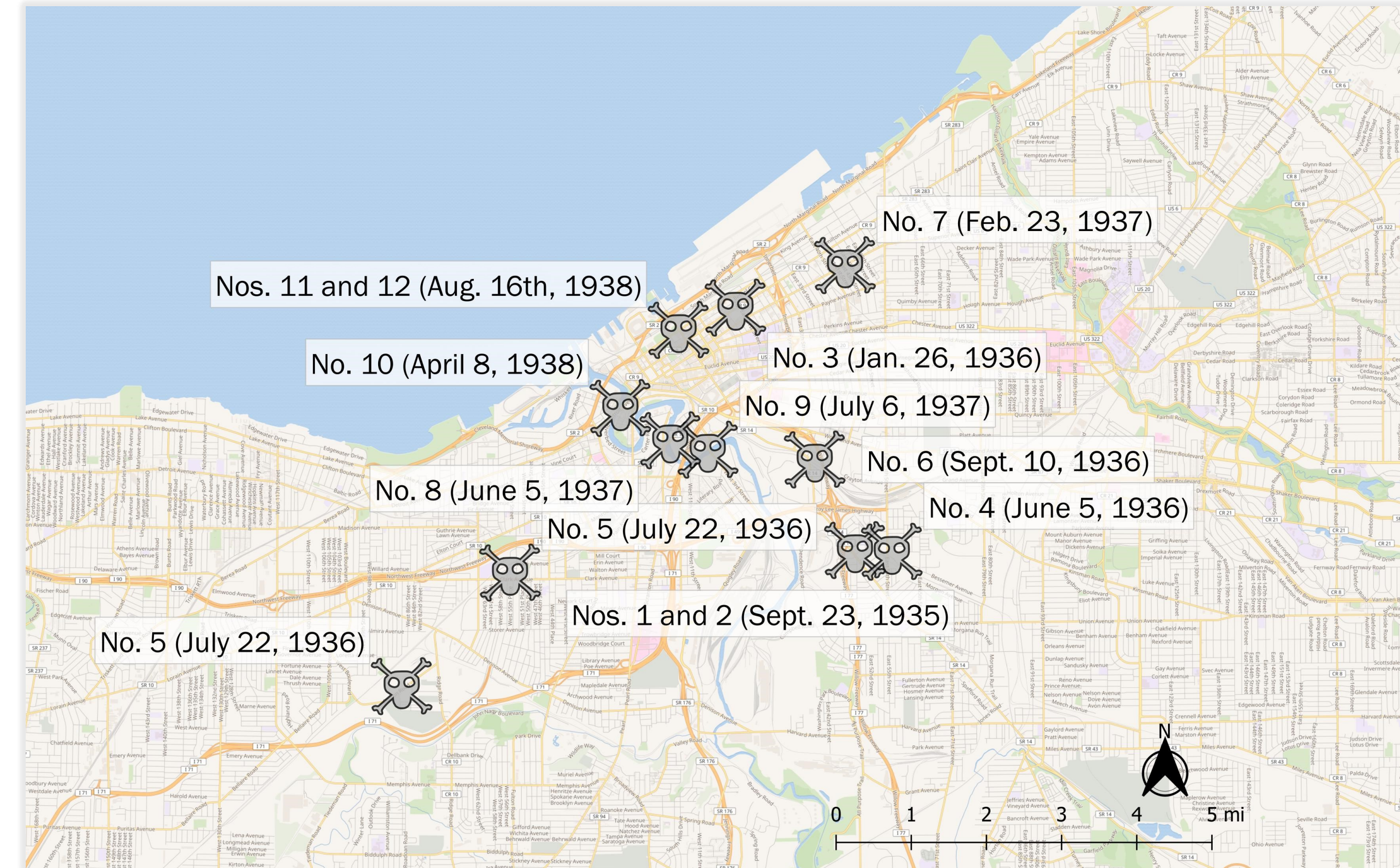


The Cleveland Plain Dealer (May 17, 1967)



Lumber Yard (1931)
Joseph A. Boersig, conté crayon.
Cleveland Museum of Art 1931.207

A Maniac Stalks the Slums



The Torso Killer's Victims (1935-1938)

POLICE SEEK
CLEWS FROM
SEVERED LEG

SKULL TOP FOUND
IN EAST SIDE DUMP

FAINT HOPE KEEPS
TORSO HUNT ALIVE

Blank Walls Greet Police
at Each Clew's End



Searching for Torso Murder Victims (1936)
The Cleveland Press Collection



Elliot Ness
Collection of the National Law Enforcement Museum, 2012.39.2

Hacked Bodies of Women
Discovered on Dump

EIGHTH CITY TORSO
VICTIM IDENTIFIED

TORSO CLEW IS FUTILE

August 1938: Digitally Excavating the Hunt for a Killer

FOR OHIO: Scaled above ready not an worn tonight. (Small text at top of page)

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER FINAL

97TH YEAR-NO. 229 CLEVELAND, WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 17, 1938 18 PAGES THREE CENTS

TWO MORE TORSO VICTIMS FOUND



East of 55th St. Near Lake Shore Drive (8/30/1938)
CWRU Special Collections, Bohn Collection, Box 24 Image C95

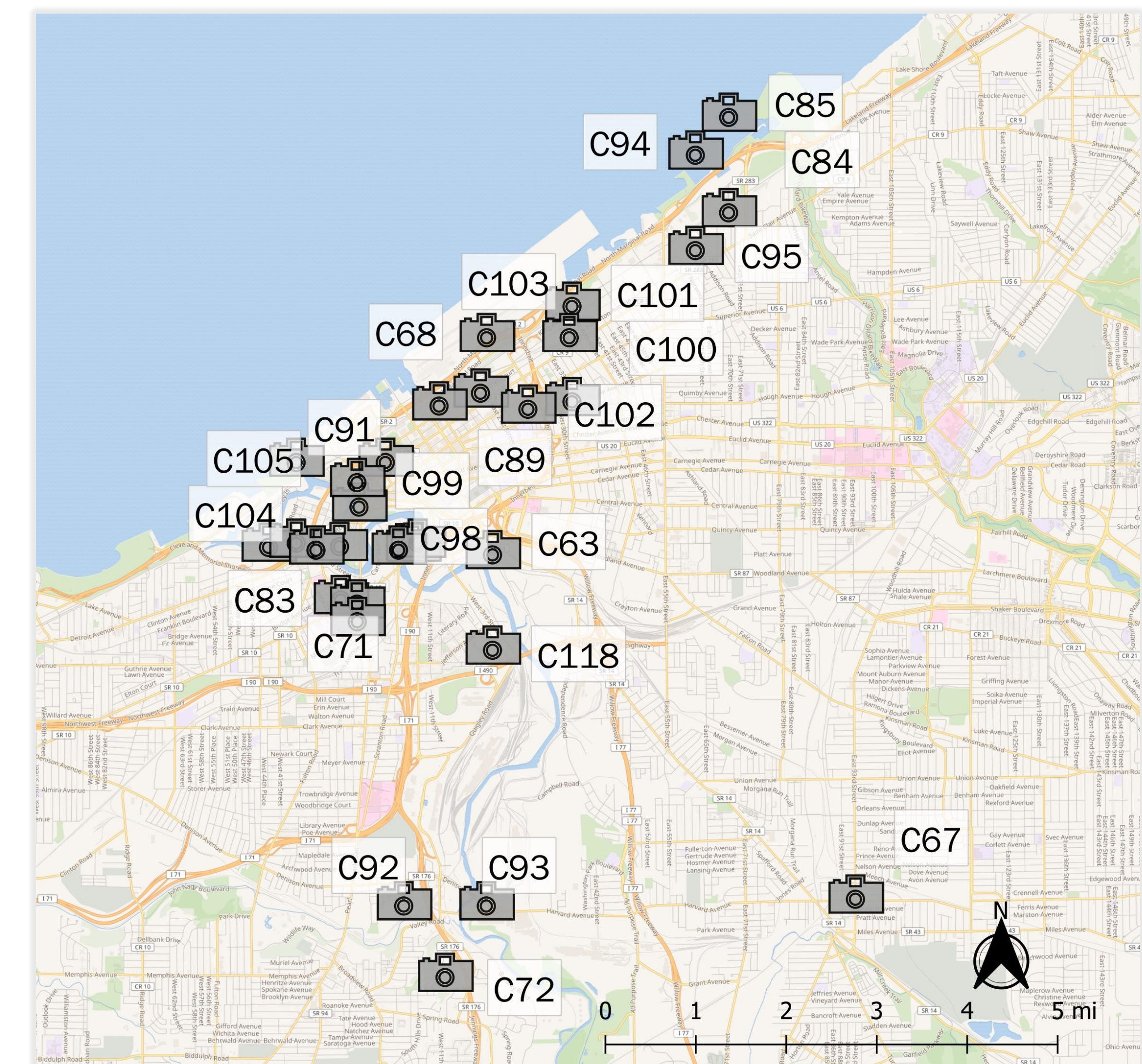


Union Salt Co. Brine Tanks?
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Cleveland vol. 2 pl. 1 (1912)

Police Squads Led by Ness
in Hobo Roundup

Squads Surround Cliff
Shacks and Take in Dwellers
for Fingerprints

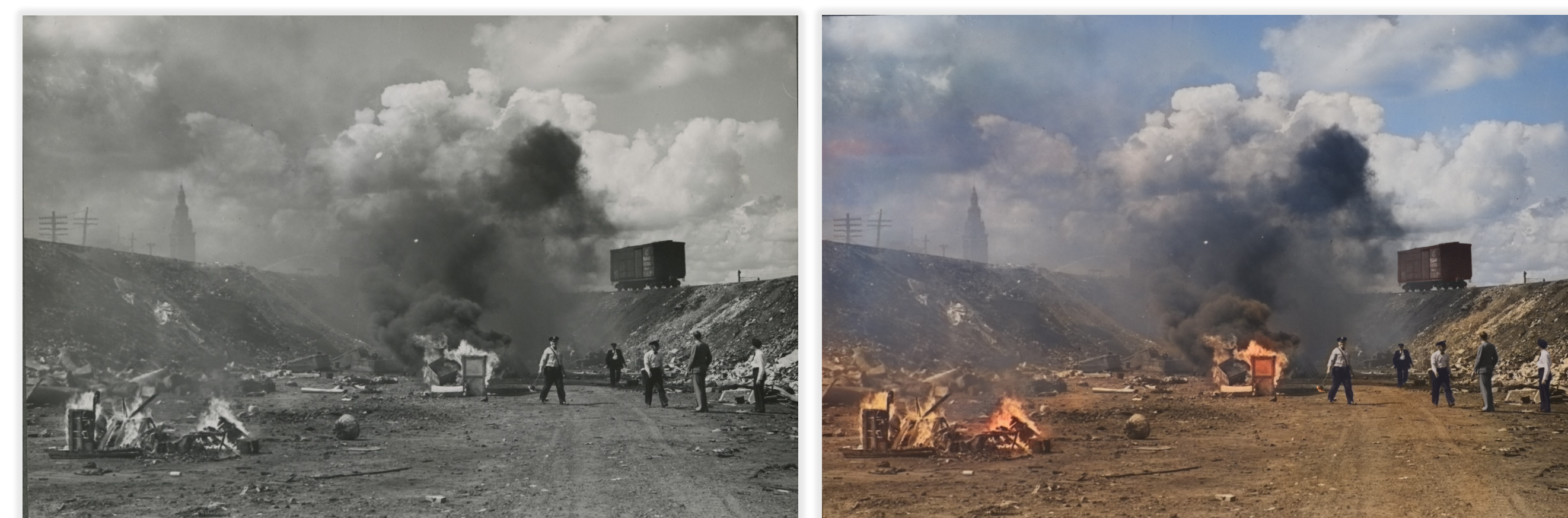
Shanty Town Firing
Defended by Ness



Mapped Photo Locations



Machine-Learning and Hand Coloring Images
Shore Drive Opposite East 30th St. (8/25/1938)
CWRU Special Collections, Bohn Collection, Box 24 Image C103



Glimpses of the Inhabitants
CWRU Special Collections, Bohn Collection,
Box 24 Images C67, C99, C92, C93



The Few Possessions They Owned
CWRU Special Collections, Bohn Collection, Box 24 Images C63, C67, C87, C89, C94, C118, C105