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Spring 2014

Make Use in Syracuse

Nolan Ediger

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Recommended Citation
Ediger, Nolan, "Make Use in Syracuse" (2014). *City Wild.* Paper 9.
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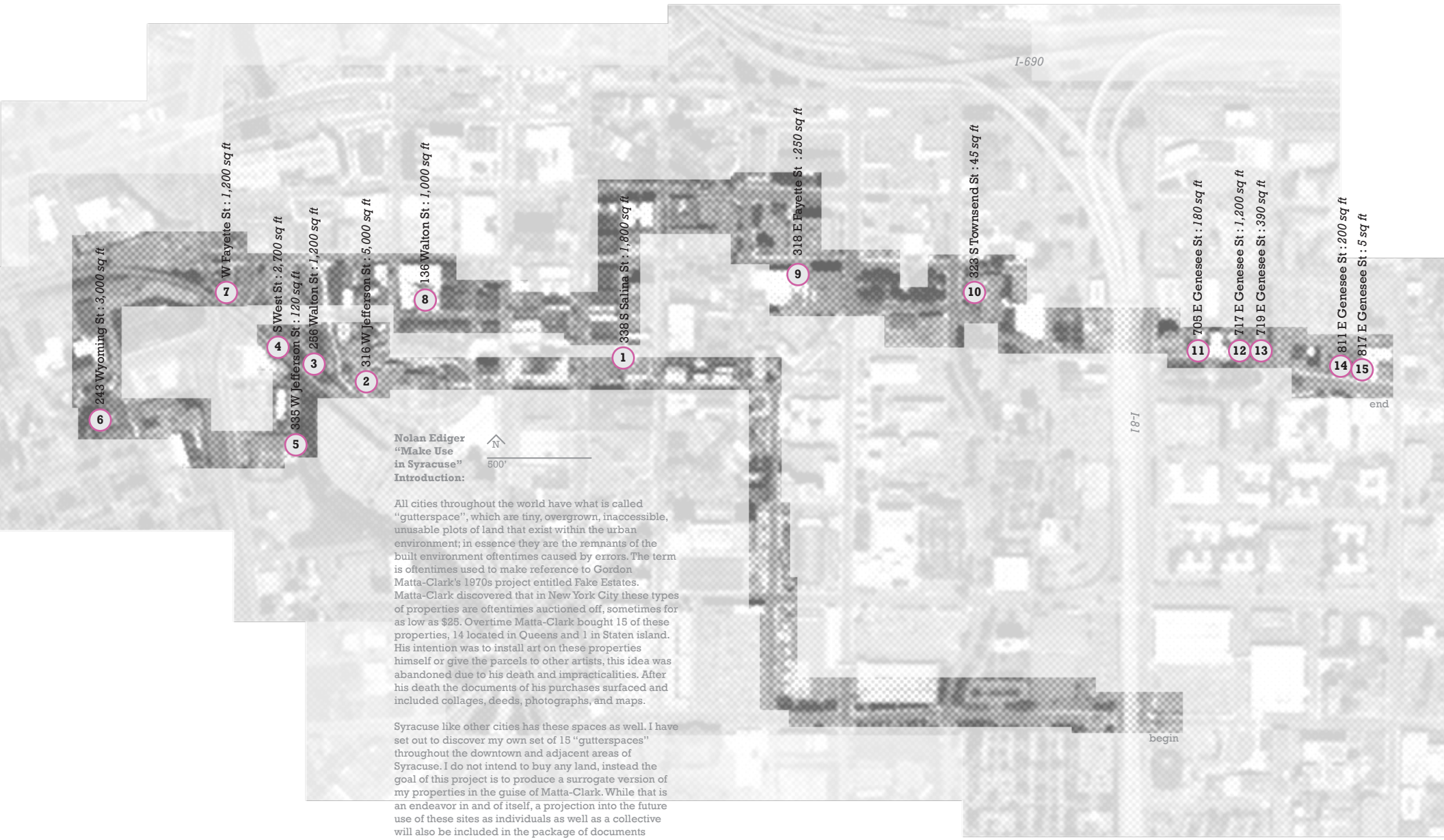

Nolan Ediger
"Make Use in Syracuse"
Introduction:

All cities throughout the world have what is called "gutterspace", which are tiny, overgrown, inaccessible, unusable plots of land that exist within the urban environment; in essence they are the remnants of the built environment oftentimes caused by errors. The term is oftentimes used to make reference to Gordon Matta-Clark's 1970s project entitled Fake Estates. Matta-Clark discovered that in New York City these types of properties are oftentimes auctioned off, sometimes for as low as $25. Overtime Matta-Clark bought 15 of these properties, 14 located in Queens and 1 in Staten island. His intention was to install art on these properties himself or give the parcels to other artists, this idea was abandoned due to his death and impracticalities. After his death the documents of his purchases surfaced and included collages, deeds, photographs, and maps.

Syracuse like other cities has these spaces as well. I have set out to discover my own set of 15 "gutterspaces" throughout the downtown and adjacent areas of Syracuse. I do not intend to buy any land, instead the goal of this project is to produce a surrogate version of my properties in the guise of Matta-Clark. While that is an endeavor in and of itself, a projection into the future use of these sites as individuals as well as a collective will also be included in the package of documents produced. Many of these sites have become overgrown with weeds and debris including trash has secured itself in the space; their neglect is evident, it is due time they receive some concern.

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Witness
Josiah Shelli

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in DOLLARS, to

paid by the said party

unto the said party

and situate in the County of

WITNESSETH, that the said party

acknowledged, do

by these presents, Grant, Bargain and Sell, Convey and Confirm,

following described Lots, Tracts or Parcels of Land, lying, being

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July
1929

NO
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TIME

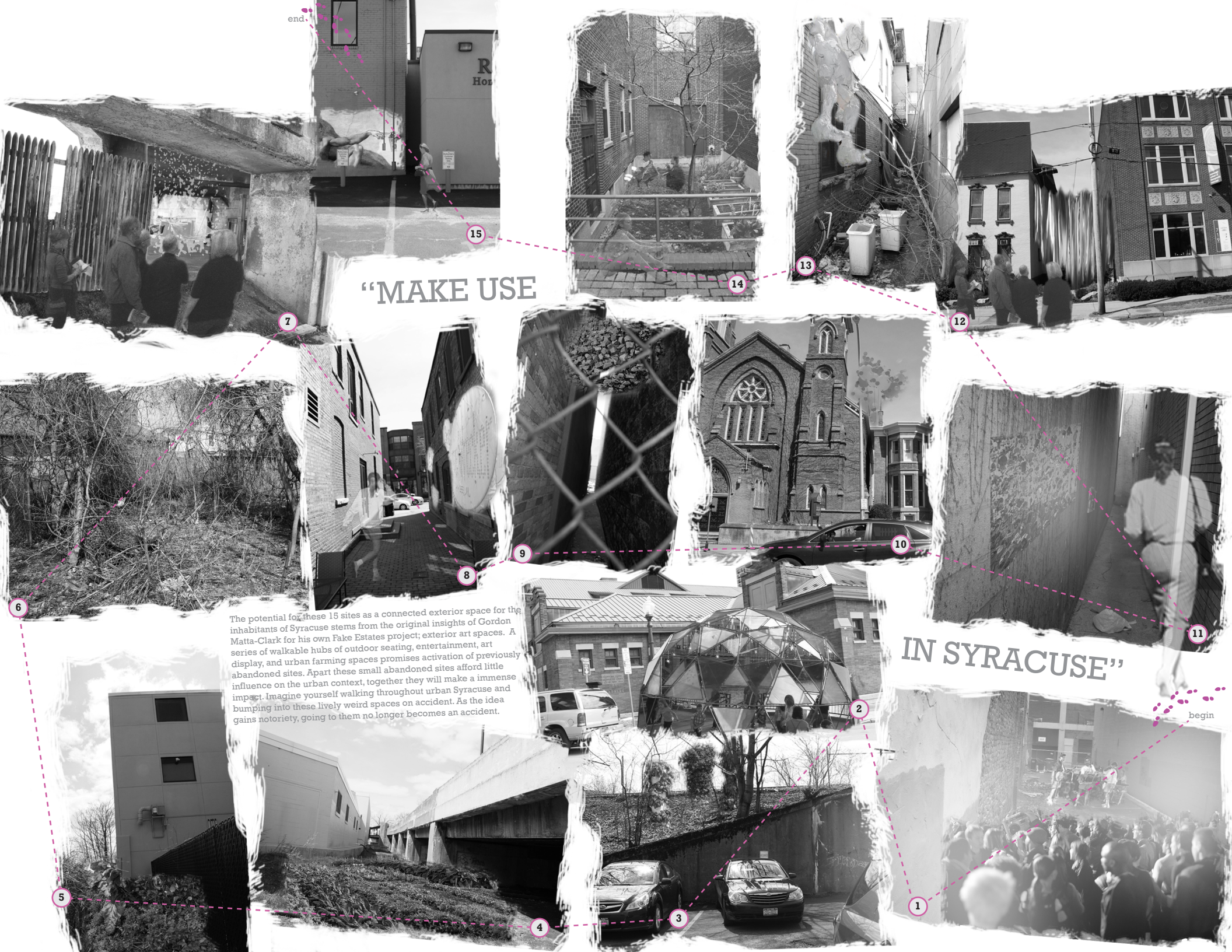
To all people to whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting.

KNOW YE, That I London Negro of Simsbury in the County of Hartford and Colony of Connecticut in New-England

For the Consideration of Sixty Six pounds Lawfull Money to me in hand paid Received to full Satisfaction, of Joshua Holcomb Junr. of Simsbury aforesaid DO Give, Grant, Bargain, Sell and Confirm unto the said Joshua Holcomb Junr. Five Acres of Land Lying in Simsbury aforesaid Turky Hills Society in the Great Lot (so called) that was Nath. Griffens Deed the Said Lot is Scituate on the South Side of Simsbury Mine Hill so called and is bounded as follows viz. Beginning at the Stake and Stones in the path and to extend west the whole breadth of said Lot to make the full Quantity of five Acres being five parts of the whole Lot that Caleb Holcomb Late of Simsbury Deceased Died Seized of with a Dwelling House thereon Standing Only Reserving to the Grantor Caleb Holcomb Junr. and Heirs and Assigns of the said Caleb Holcomb Junr. the Liberty of Digging Stone for Building and Fencing on the Premises Together with all the Privileges and Appurtenances thereunto belonging or appertaining To have and to hold the above granted and bargained Premises with the Appurtenances thereof unto him the said Joshua Holcomb Junr. his Heirs and Assigns forever to his and their own proper use benefit and behoof forever and I the said London Negro for my self my Heirs Executors and Administrators do Covenant promise and grant to and with the said Joshua Holcomb Junr. his Heirs and Assigns that before the Ensealing hereof I am the true Sole and Lawfull Owner of the Premises and am Lawfully Seized and Possessed of the aforegranted and bargained Premises, and

This Indenture
Witnesseth
Bounden and to hold
In witness
Sealed and Delivered

Rothschild's
Customer
Parking
Only
Mon.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 9:00-2:00
#17
Rothschild's
Customer
Parking
Only
Mon.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 9:00-2:00
#16
Land-Office TREASURY WARRANT, No.
To the principal SURVEYOR of any County within the
Commonwealth of VIRGINIA.
THIS shall be your WARRANT to survey and lay
off in one or more Surveys, for
or Assigns, the Quantity of
to the said



"MAKE USE IN SYRACUSE"

The potential for these 15 sites as a connected exterior space for the inhabitants of Syracuse stems from the original insights of Gordon Matta-Clark for his own Fake Estates project; exterior art spaces. A series of walkable hubs of outdoor seating, entertainment, art display, and urban farming spaces promises activation of previously abandoned sites. Apart these small abandoned sites afford little influence on the urban context, together they will make a immense impact. Imagine yourself walking throughout urban Syracuse and bumping into these lively weird spaces on accident. As the idea gains notoriety, going to them no longer becomes an accident.