

2025 Fall Semester

Professor Jermone Haferd

ARCH Radical Preservation

THE LIVING ACCUSATION

PRESENTED BY

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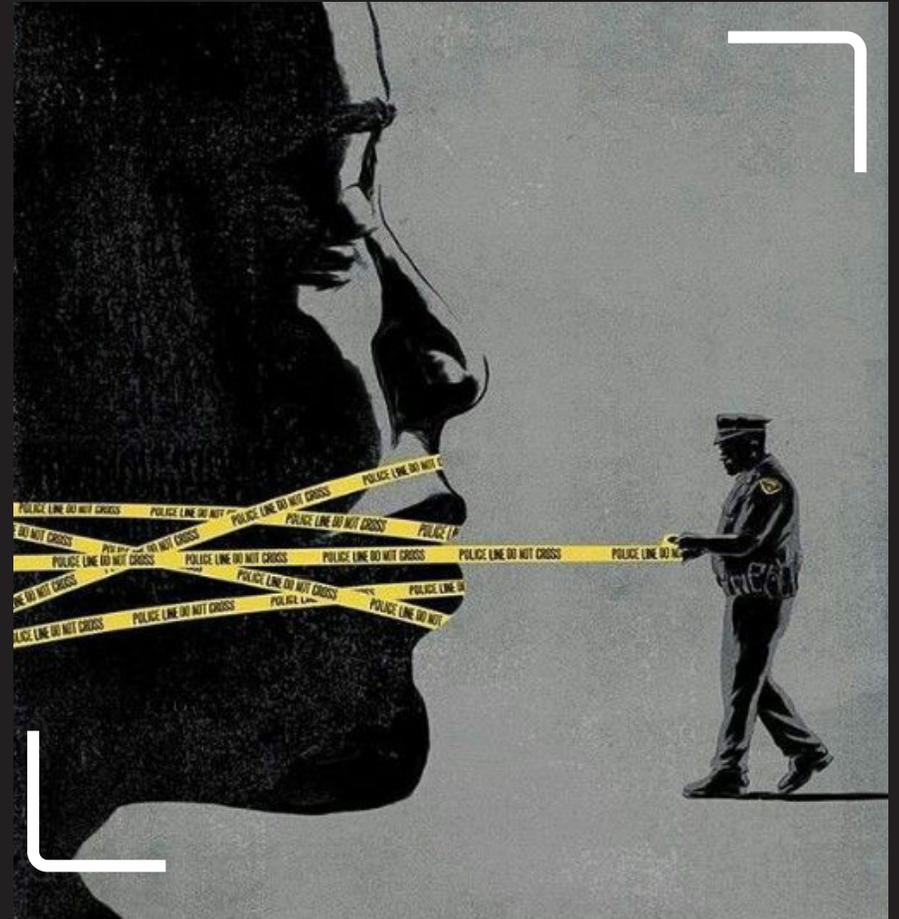
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HYPOTHESIS

We should reframe these sites as direct accusations against this state failure that actively challenges the state's sanitized narratives and rejecting their legitimacy.

Despite the fact that these two houses lived in two very different eras, the methodology of this erasure is oddly similar.

The Stages of Cultural Erasure goes as follows:

- Criminalize the Community
- State sponsored stigmatization
- Systemic invalidation
- Spatial neglect
- Narrative Reframing



CLARA HALE HOUSE

LOCATION: 152 WEST 122ND STREET
New York, New York, 10027

In the 1980's, New York City endured the Crack-Cocaine epidemic.

President Reagan announced his "War on Drugs" and "Just Say No" campaign

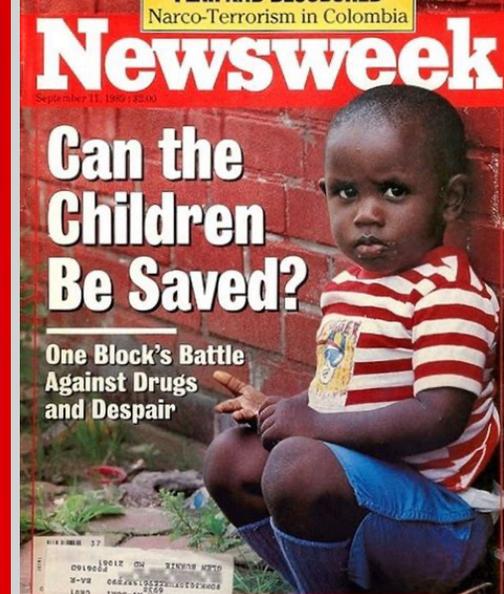
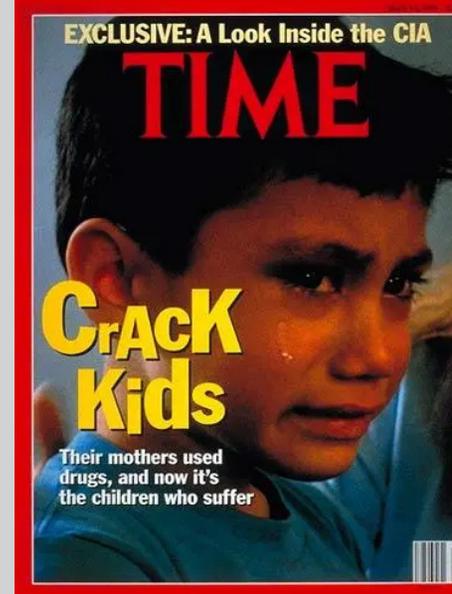
Crack Cocaine users, in particular addicted Black mothers were targeted in mass by police.

Children were stripped away from their criminalized mothers and labeled "Crack Babies".

They were expected to be mentally and physically disabled

Clara "Mother" Hale opened her home to create a place of black communal care, caring for children whom the state had effectively abandoned.

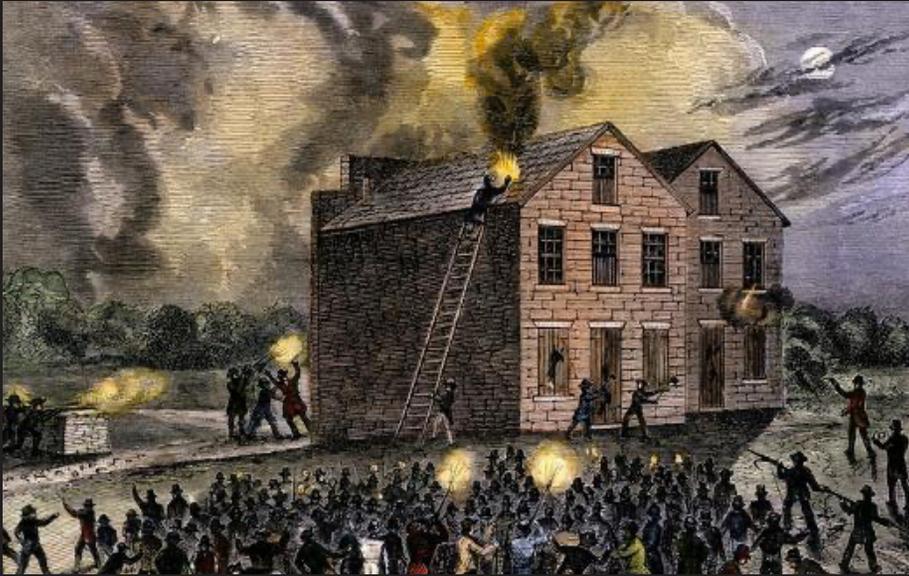
We remember the Saintly Mother Hale for her actions, but we don't know what happened to the children she saved.



THE HARRIS - NEWHOUSE HOME

LOCATION : 857 Riverside Drive, New York, NY, 10032





The Fugitive slave act made liberation illegal.

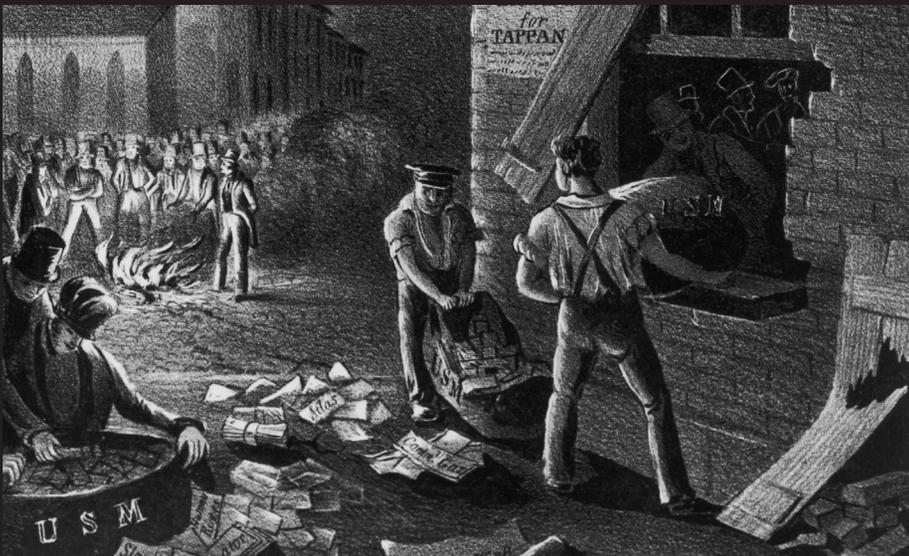
Anti-Literacy Laws and federal rulings allowed post-master generals to prevent the ability to spread or read anti-slavery literature.

Anti-slavery Newspapers and authors were violently targeted by rioters, police, and the local media.

Discreet messages were then used to communicate

Media told the public that blacks aren't capable of taking care of themselves

Local activists are campaigning the preservation society to give the site landmark status but was told that there was not enough documentation.





HARRIS NEWHOUSE (ABOLITIONIST HOME)
857 RIVERSIDE AVE



HALE HOUSE
152 W 122ND ST

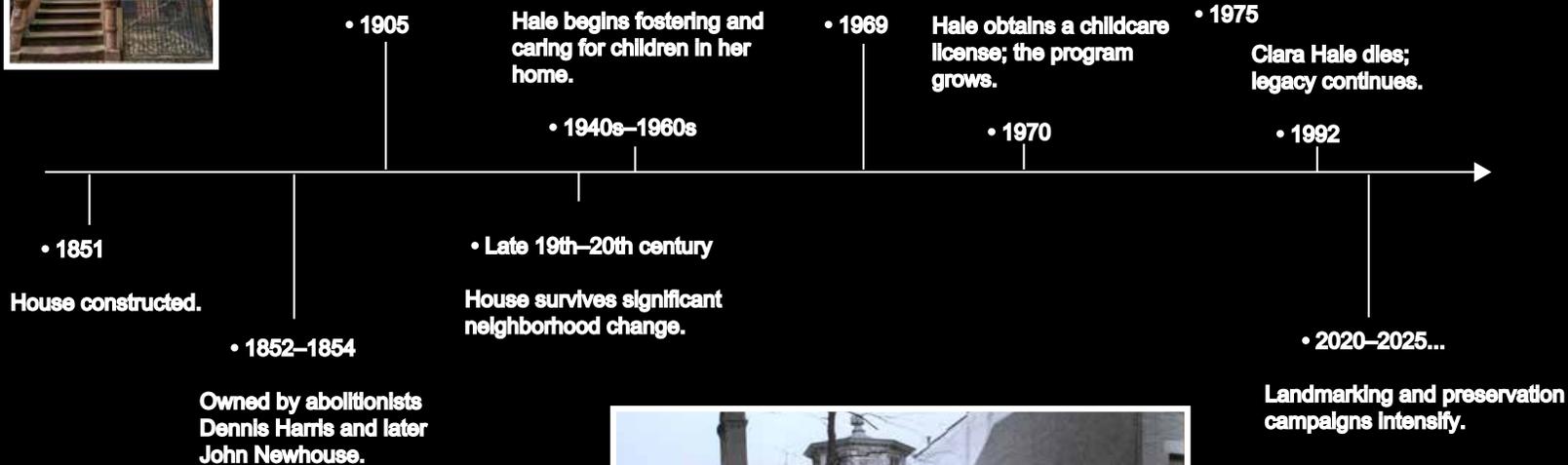
Hale House & Harris–Newhouse Timeline



Clara McBride (later Clara Hale) is born.

First recorded instance of Hale taking in drug addicted infants.

Hale purchases a larger Harlem brownstone for Hale House.



THEMES

BLACKNESS AND OTHERNESS

DOUBLE ERASURE

PRESERVATION VS HERITAGE





WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Losing the oral histories of fugitive communal care.

Allow black history to liberate itself from the control of state controlled narratives that are full of lies and half truths

Exposing the blueprint of erasure to prevent the future erasure of black history and sites in Harlem

Force the state to face accountability for its complicities in failing the black community

FRAMEWORK: “COUNTER ARCHIVING CARE AND RESISTANCE”

The Harris-Newhouse house becomes a vessel where its front façade remains intact to highlight the effects of double erasure, but the interior is liberated to stage performative archival reclamation.

create an exhibition space that shows the process of erasure of both homes and potentially other sites of harlem that faces similar threats

We transform the interior into a narrative chamber (immersive, temporal, and affective).

Room 1

Projected footage, interviews, baby cries, warmth of lighting.
Audio re-enactments of meetings, layered voices.

Home As a Sanctuary

Clara Hale’s domestic care network
Harris-Newhouse abolitionist discussions

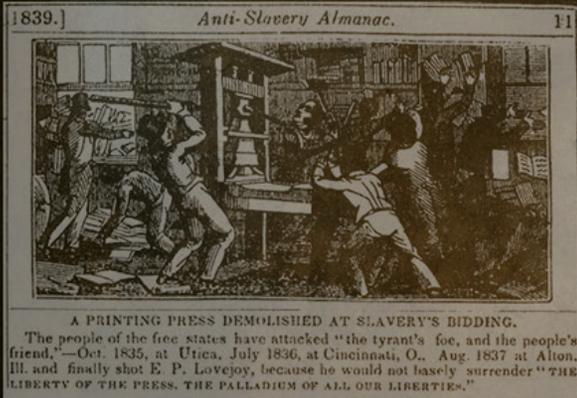
Archival Excavation: Collect fragments, oral testimonies, photographs, letters, city records.

Sensory Storytelling: Use sound, projection, and material atmosphere to reconstruct what cannot be visually archived.

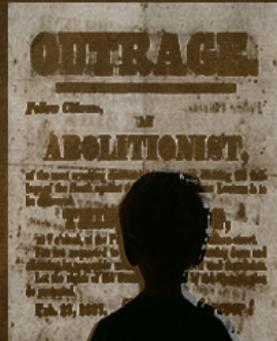


Juxtapose the counter archive against the state controlled narrative to highlight the archival violence that included the double erasure that threaten the Harris-Newhouse and Hale Homes

INTERVENTION



Generation of So-Called 'Crack Babies' Are Now Grown Up and Demonstrating the Hysteria of the 1990s Was a Racist Myth



Crack Babies: The Worst Threat Is Mom Herself

By Douglas J. Besh...

LAST WEEK in this city, Gre... Community Hospital released a... baby to her homeless, drug-addicted... although the child was at severe risk of pul... The hospital's explanation: "Because... mandated that the baby be released."
The hospital provided the mother... itor to warn her if the baby stop... asleep, and trained her in CPR. I... night, the mother went out drinkin... a friend's house—without the m... hours, the baby was dead. Like U... year-old living in his mother's de... ing story was reported in The... week, this child was all but aba... ities.





POLICE ARE WATCHING
THIS CRACK BLOCK



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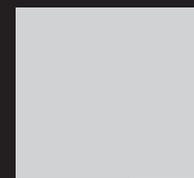
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