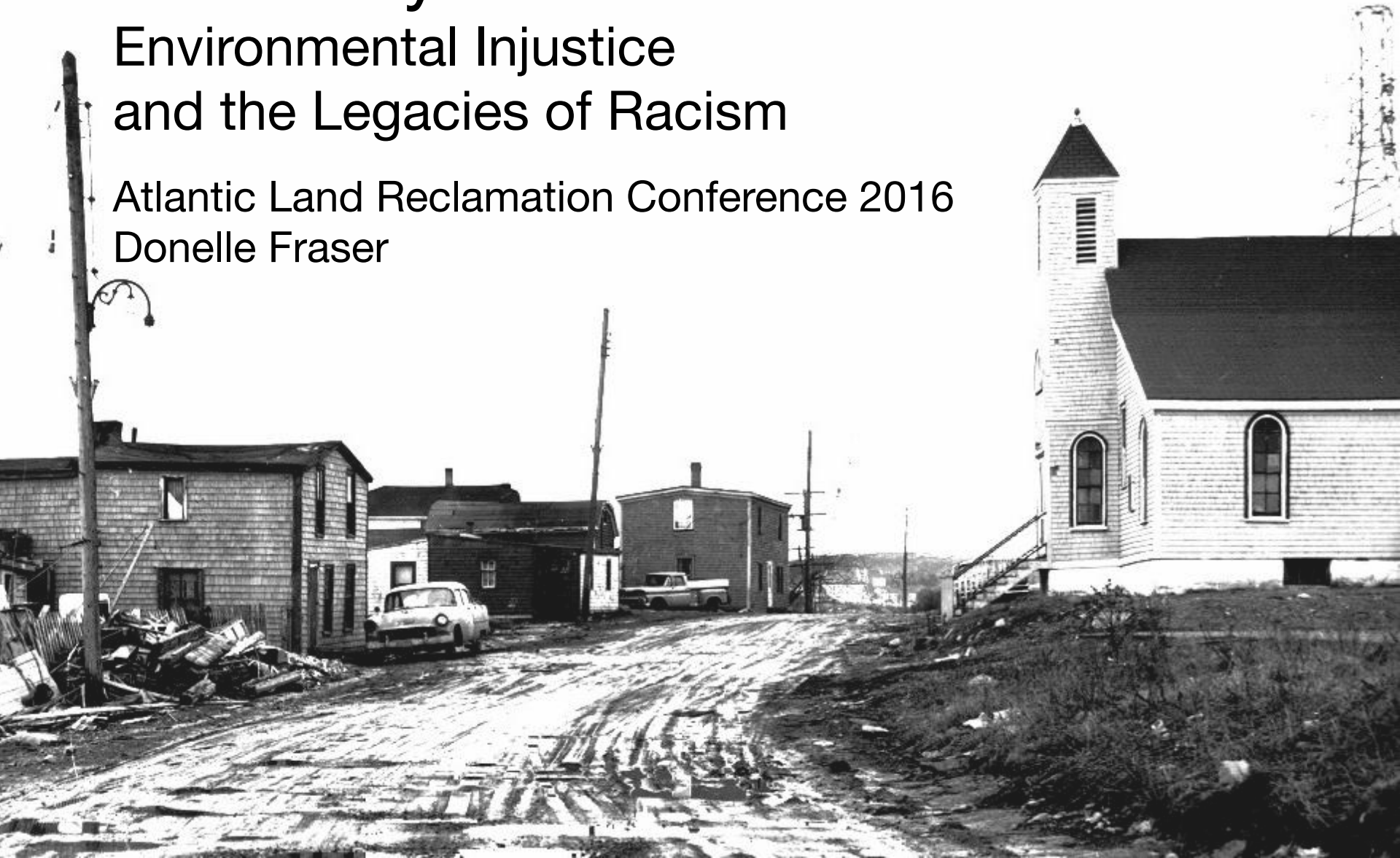


From Loyalists to Lincolnville

Environmental Injustice and the Legacies of Racism

Atlantic Land Reclamation Conference 2016
Donelle Fraser

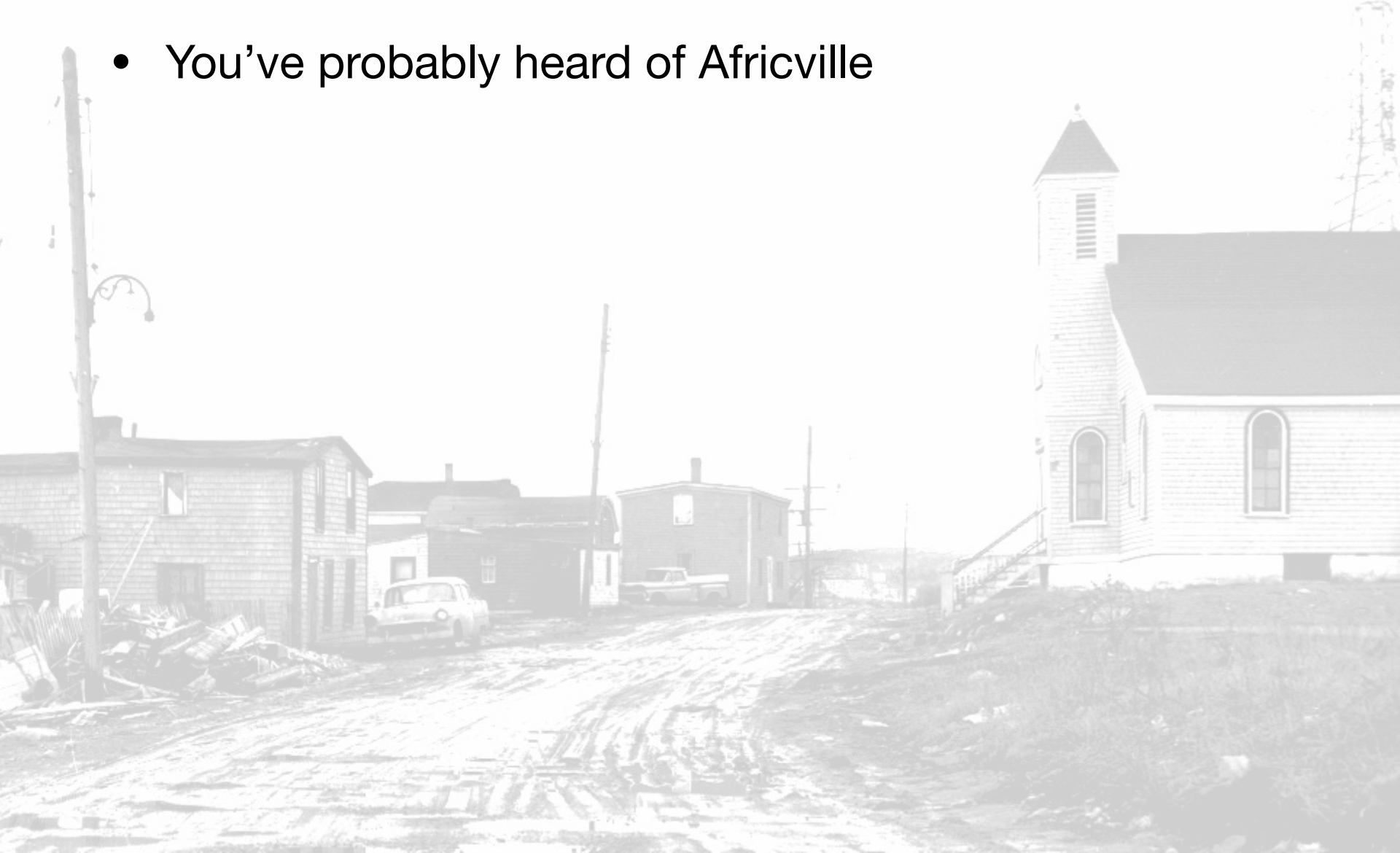


Introduction



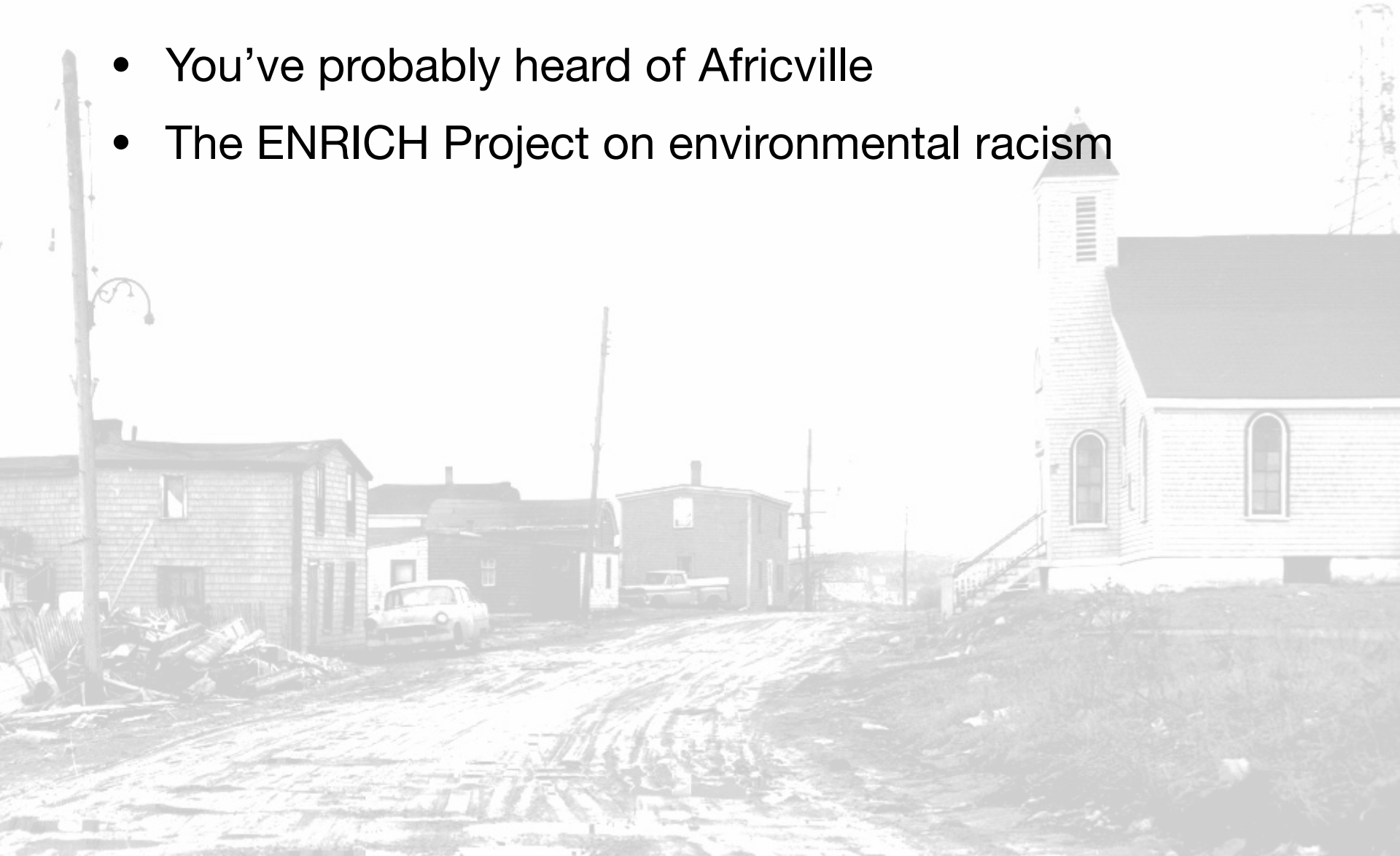
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- You've probably heard of Africville



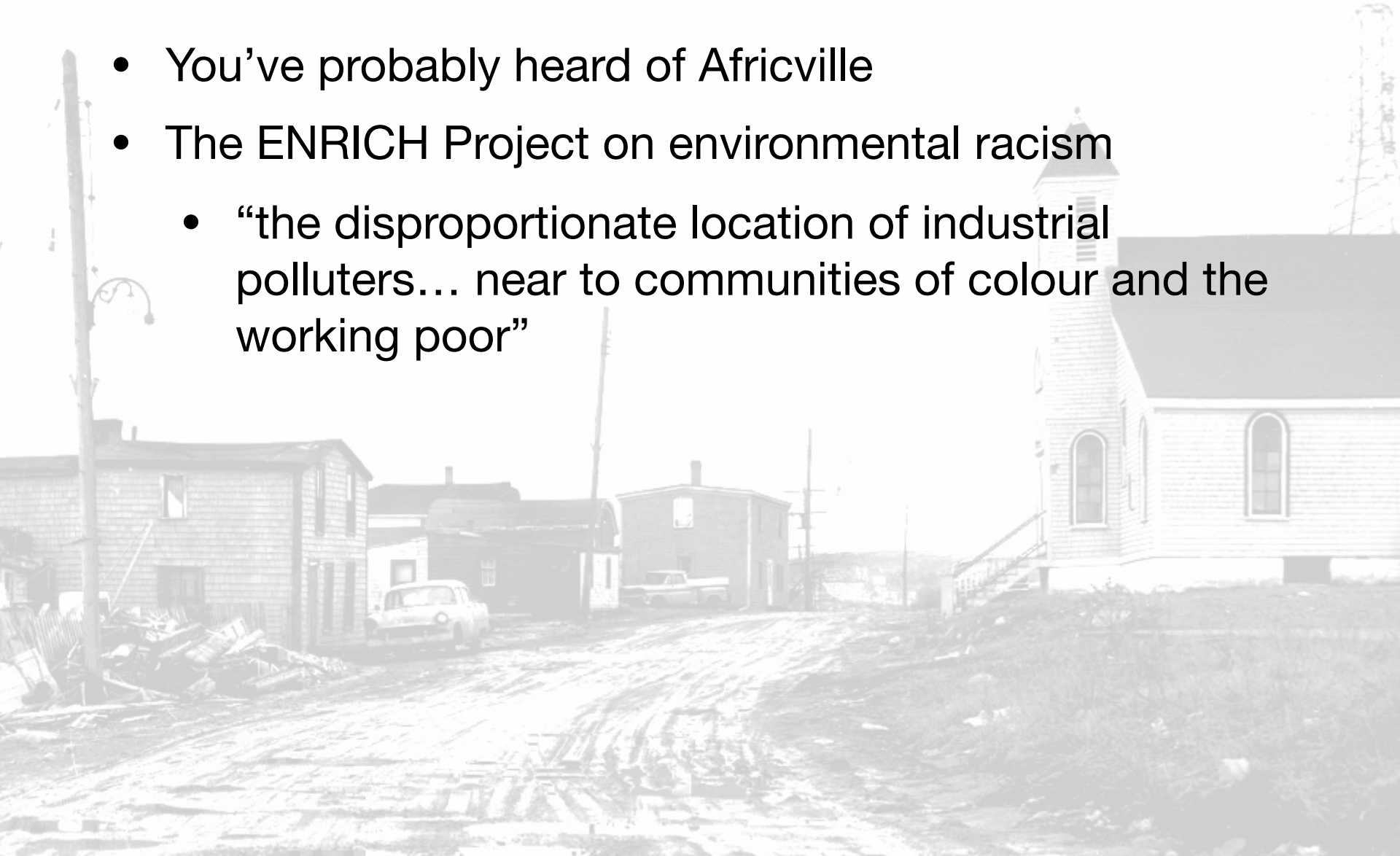
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- You've probably heard of Africville
- The ENRICH Project on environmental racism



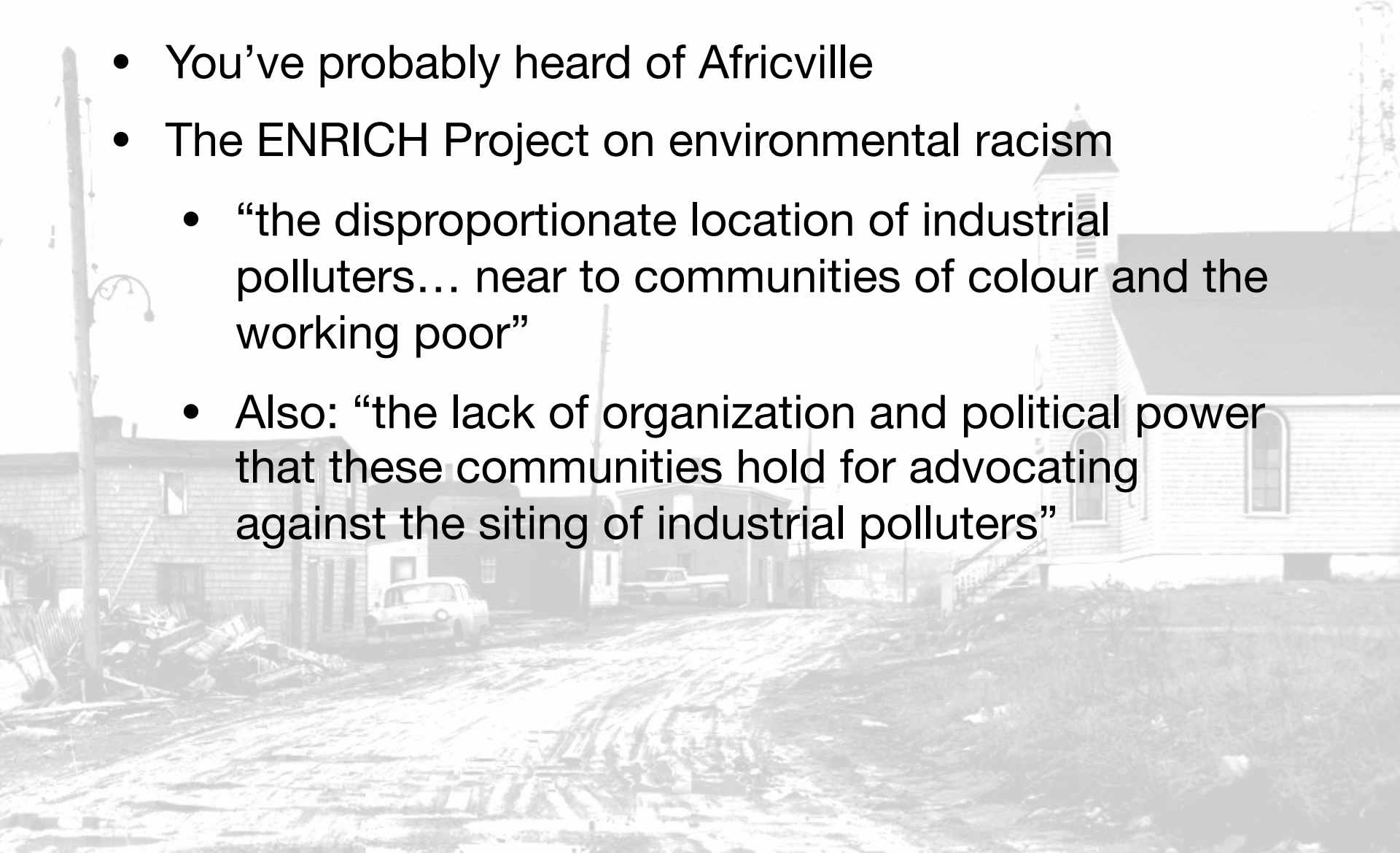
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 - “the disproportionate location of industrial polluters... near to communities of colour and the working poor”



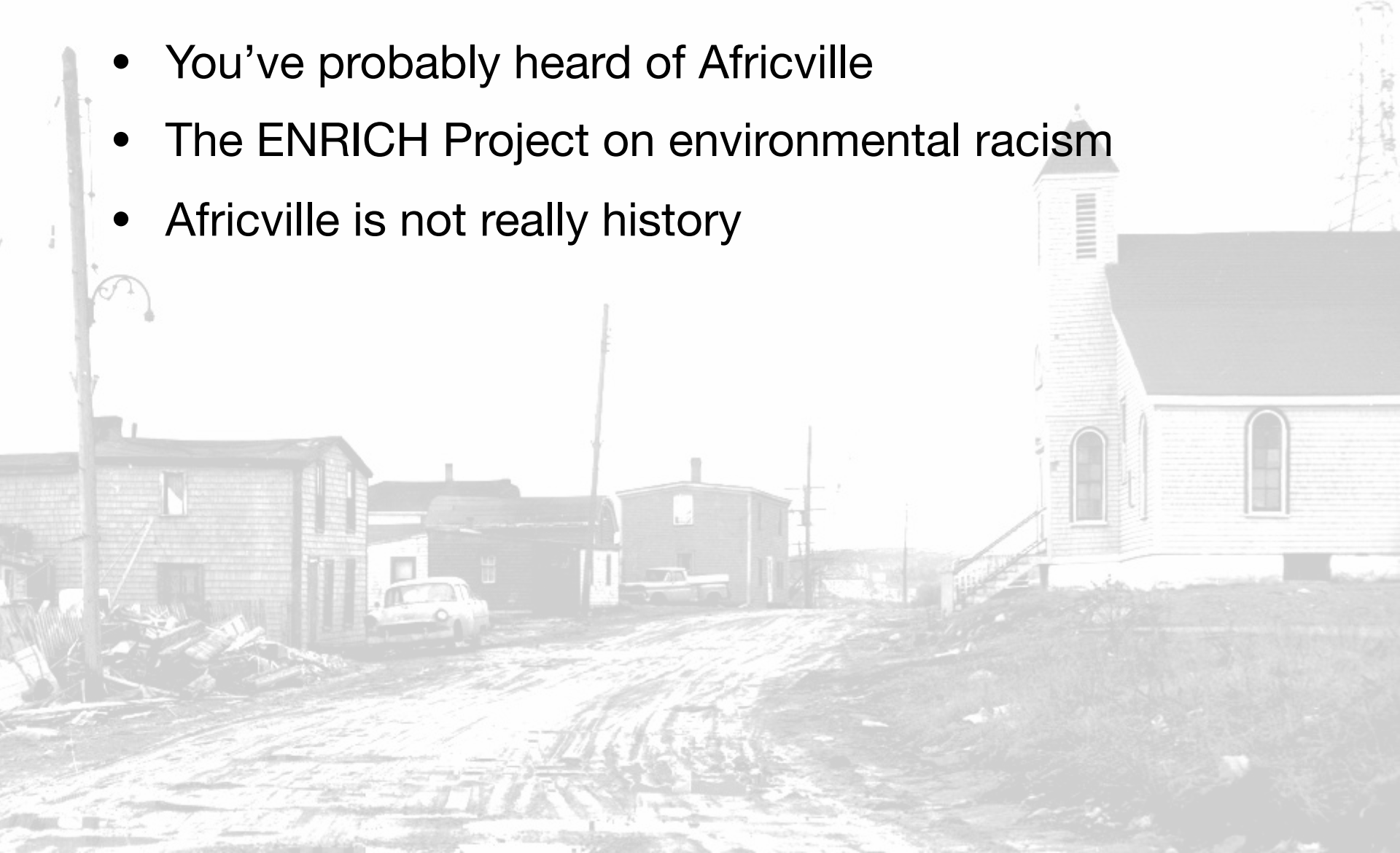
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- The ENRICH Project on environmental racism
 - “the disproportionate location of industrial polluters... near to communities of colour and the working poor”
 - Also: “the lack of organization and political power that these communities hold for advocating against the siting of industrial polluters”



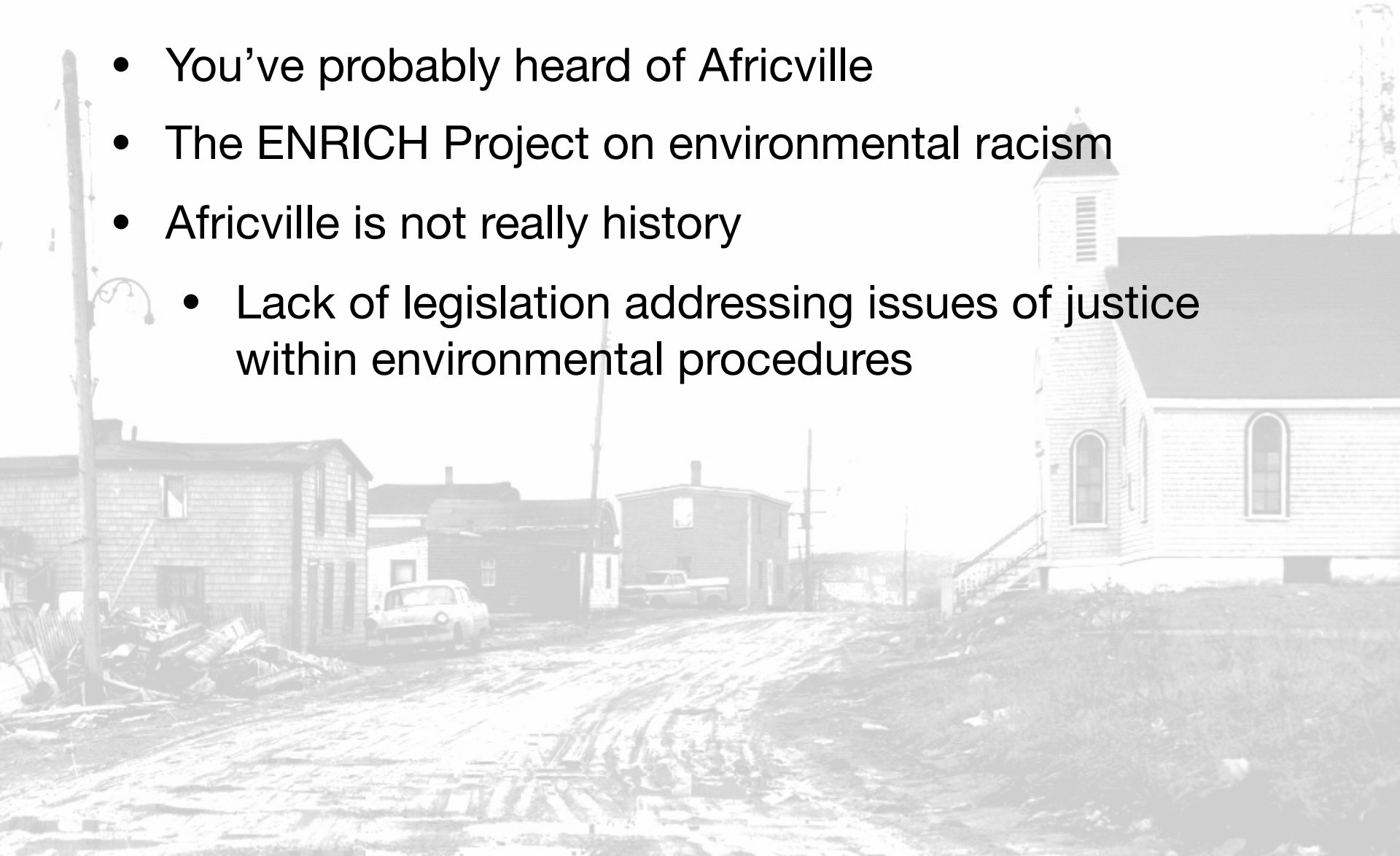
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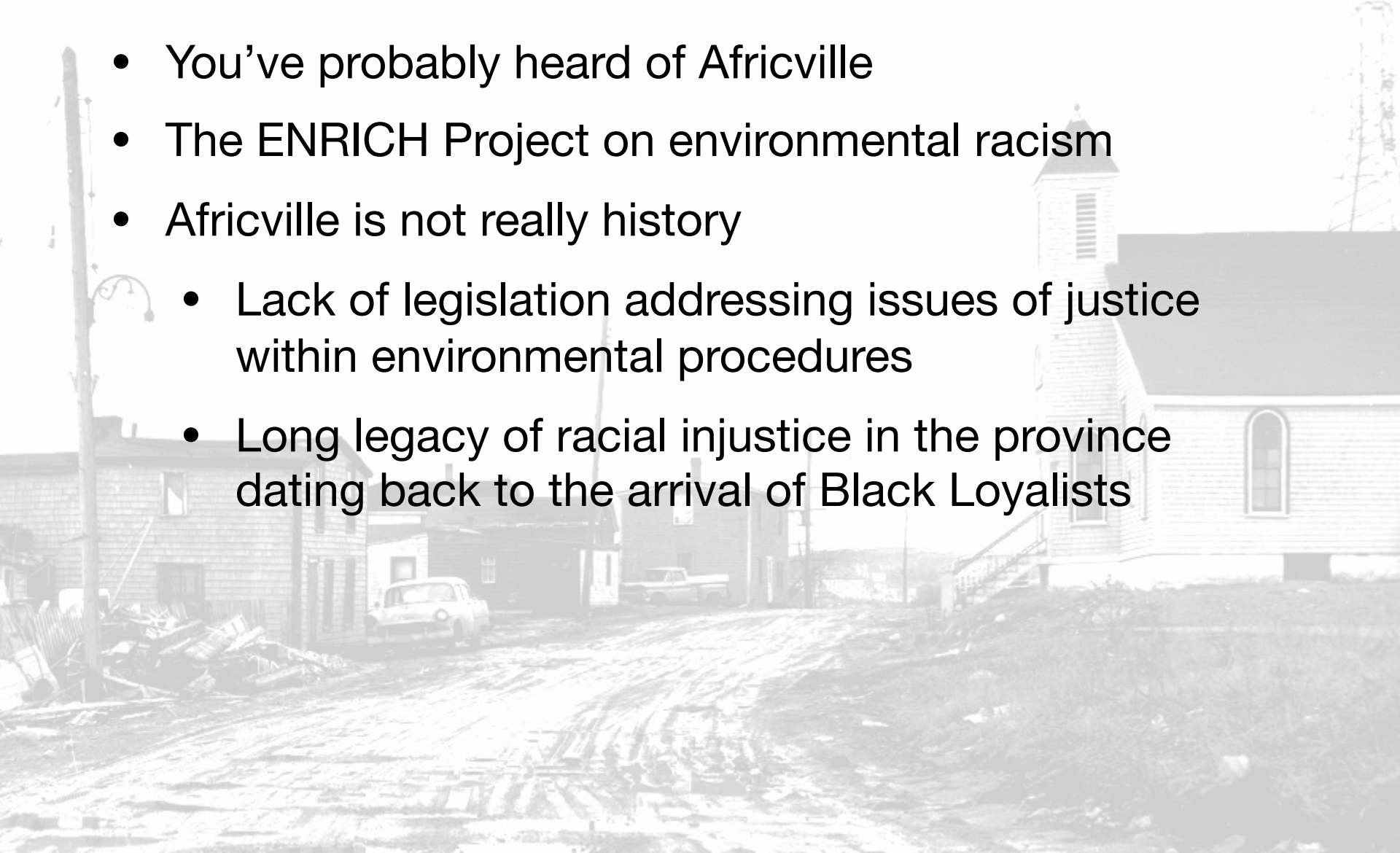
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Introduction

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- Africville is not really history
 - Lack of legislation addressing issues of justice within environmental procedures
 - Long legacy of racial injustice in the province dating back to the arrival of Black Loyalists



Environmental Justice Movement



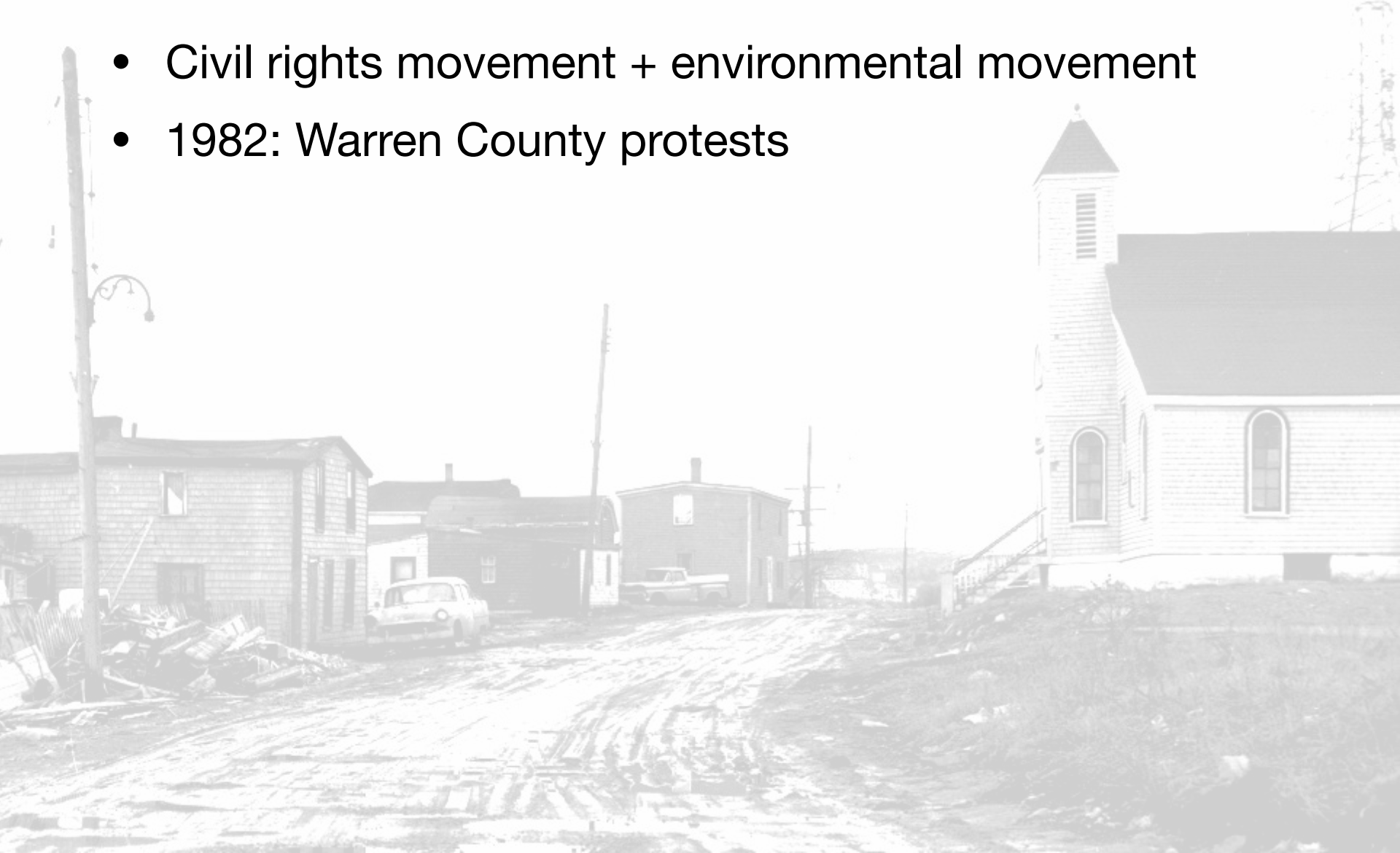
Environmental Justice Movement

- Civil rights movement + environmental movement



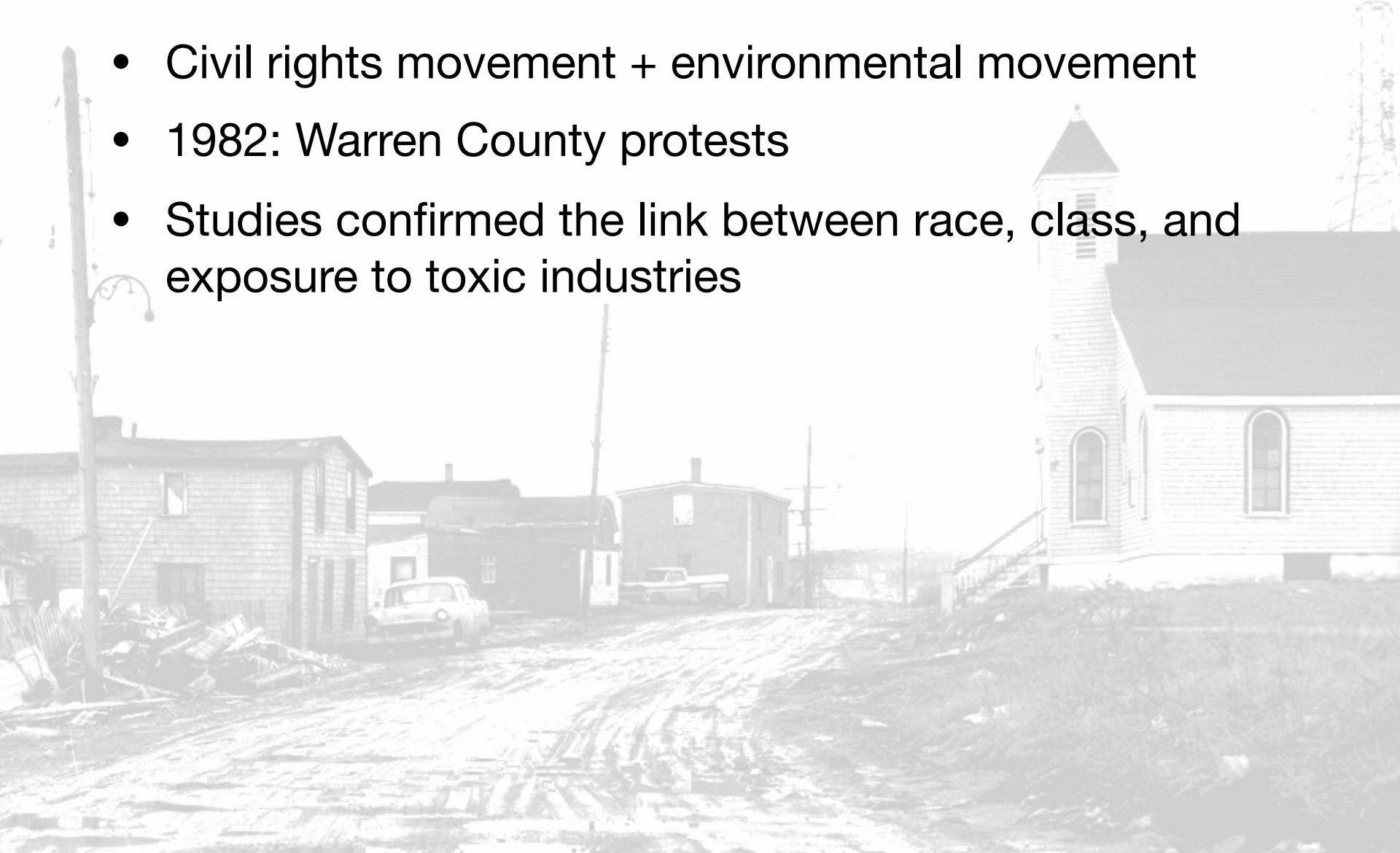
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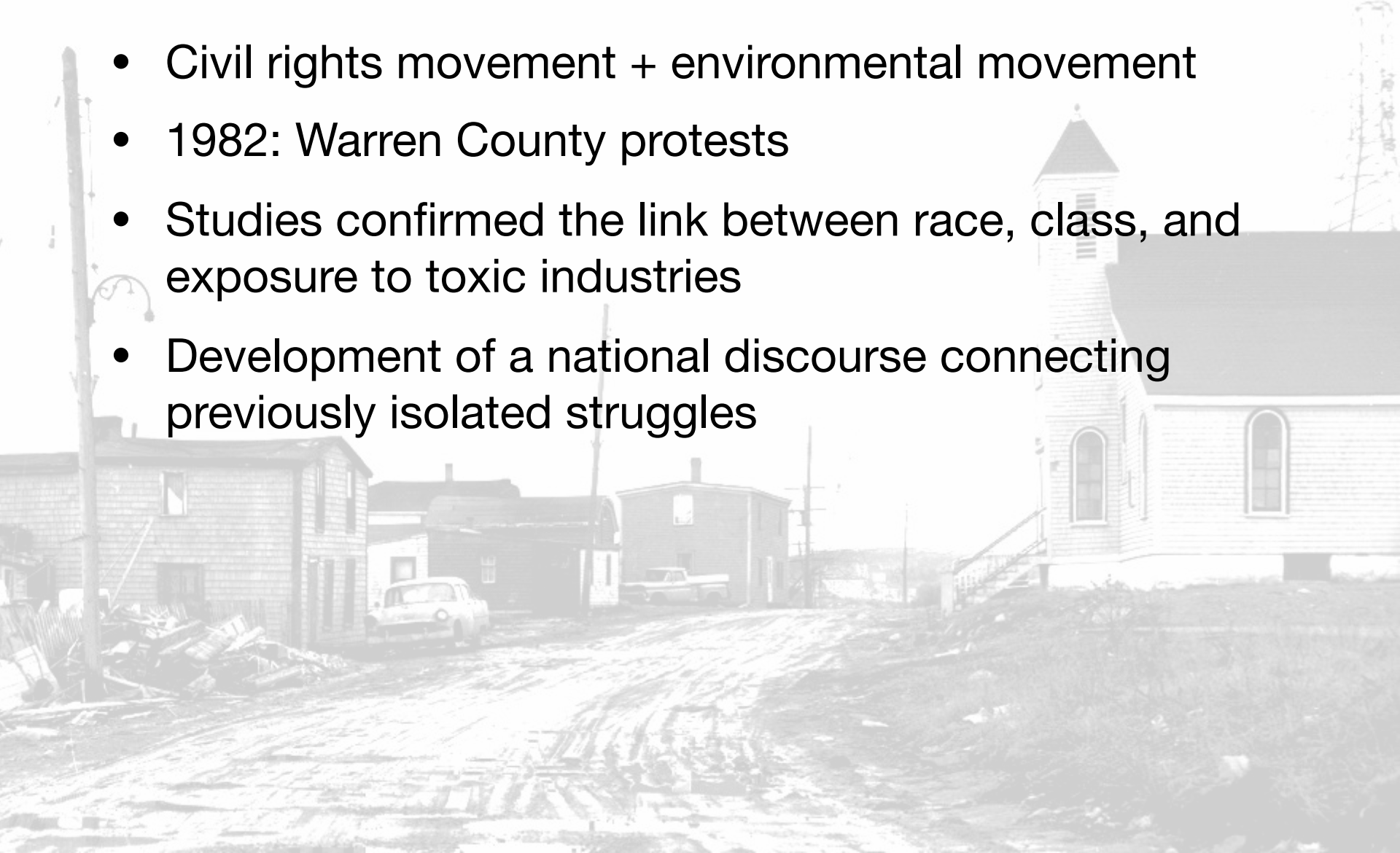
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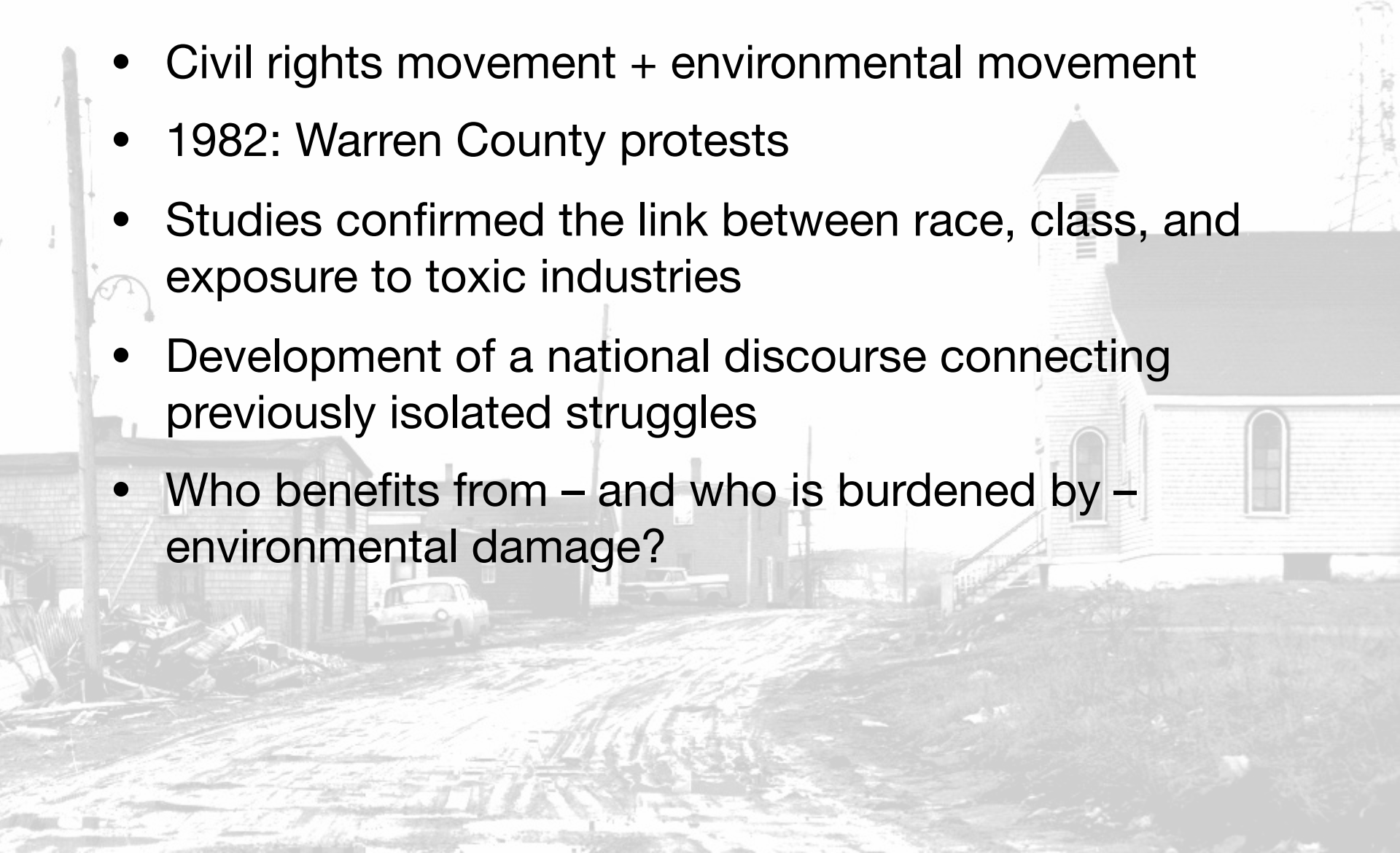
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- Development of a national discourse connecting previously isolated struggles
- Who benefits from – and who is burdened by – environmental damage?



Environmental Justice Research



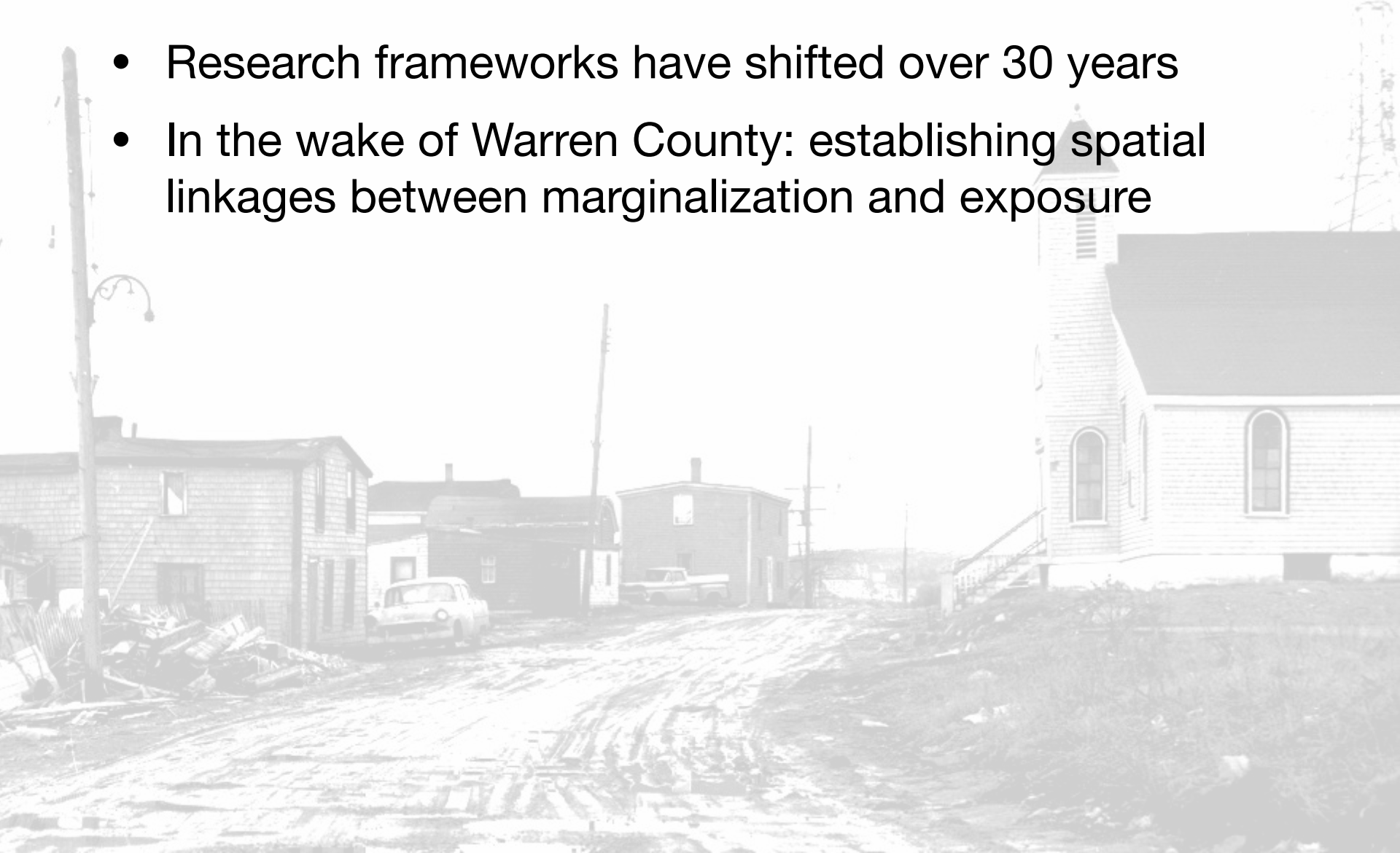
Environmental Justice Research

- Research frameworks have shifted over 30 years



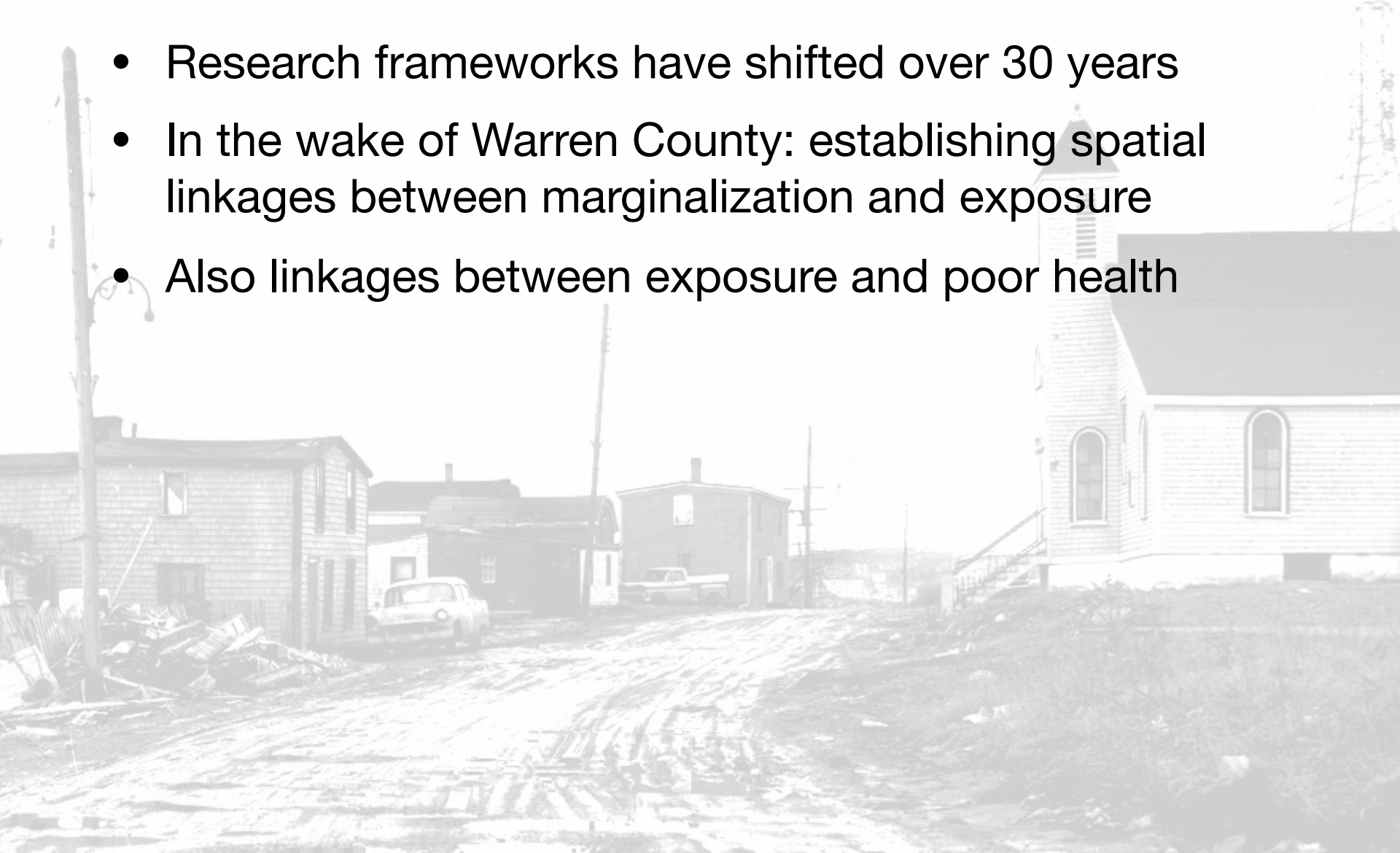
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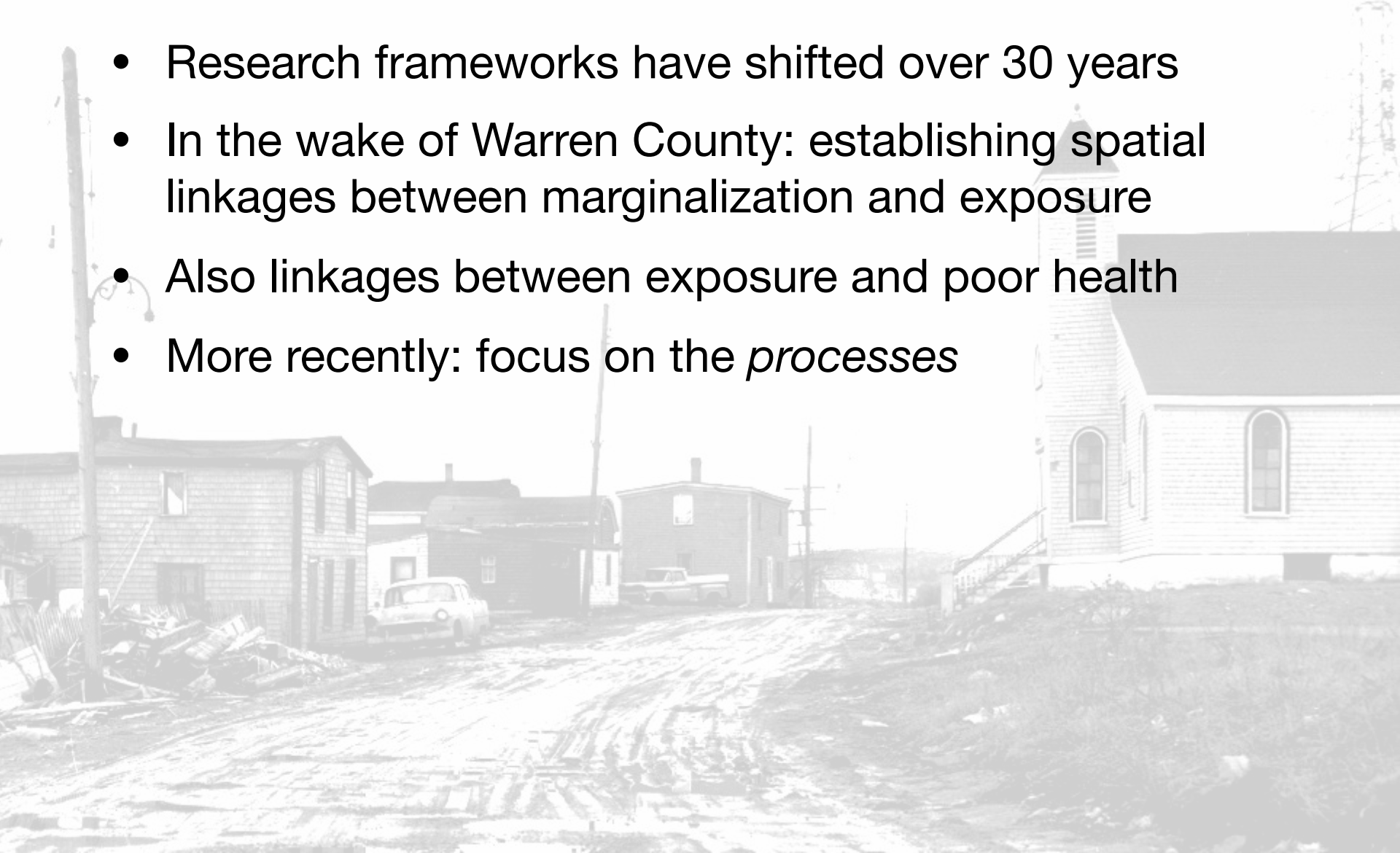
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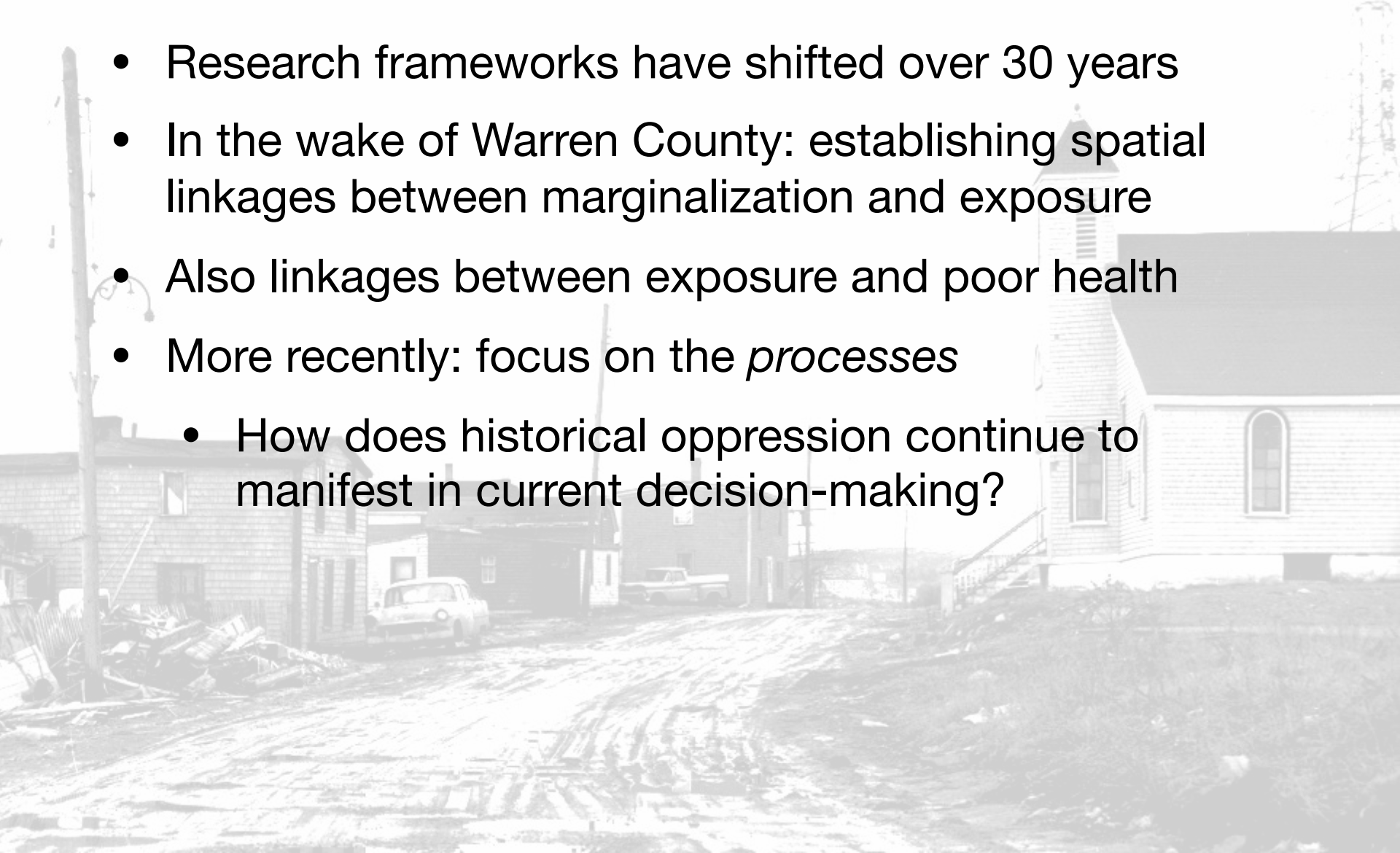
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Environmental Justice Research

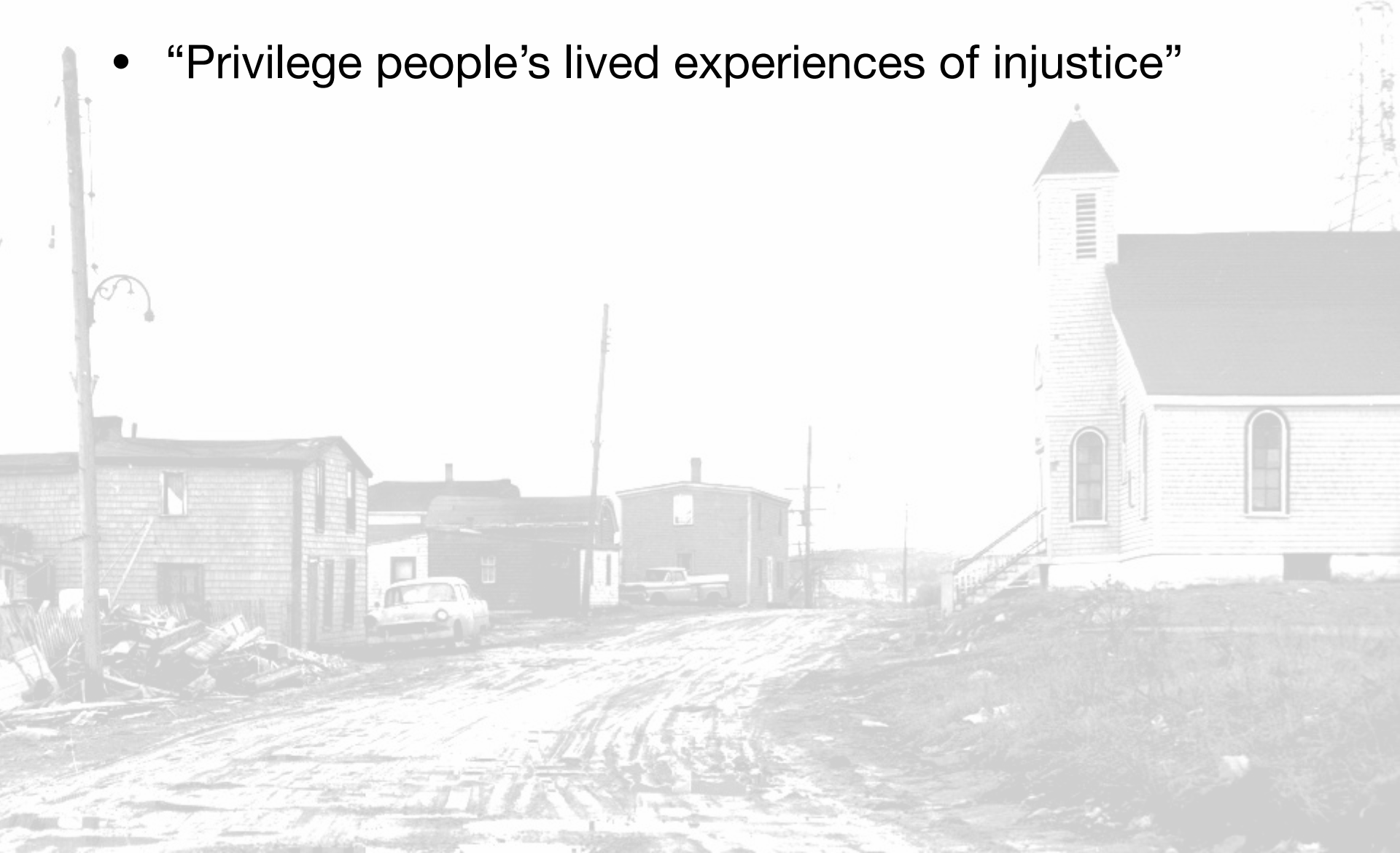
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- More recently: focus on the *processes*
 - How does historical oppression continue to manifest in current decision-making?
 - How does the technical/scientific framework of environmental planning undervalue traditional knowledge?

The “Double Burden”



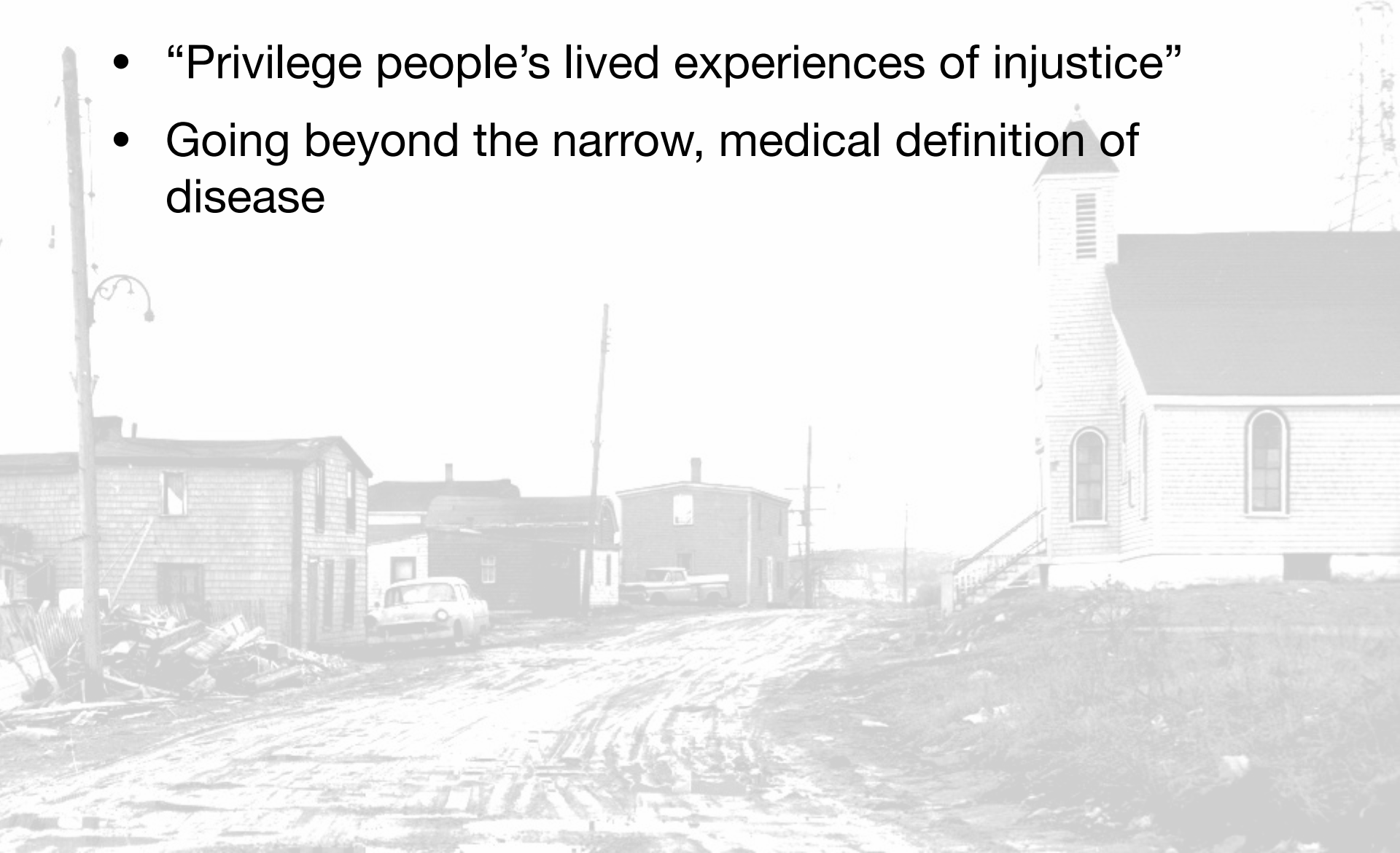
The “Double Burden”

- “Privilege people’s lived experiences of injustice”



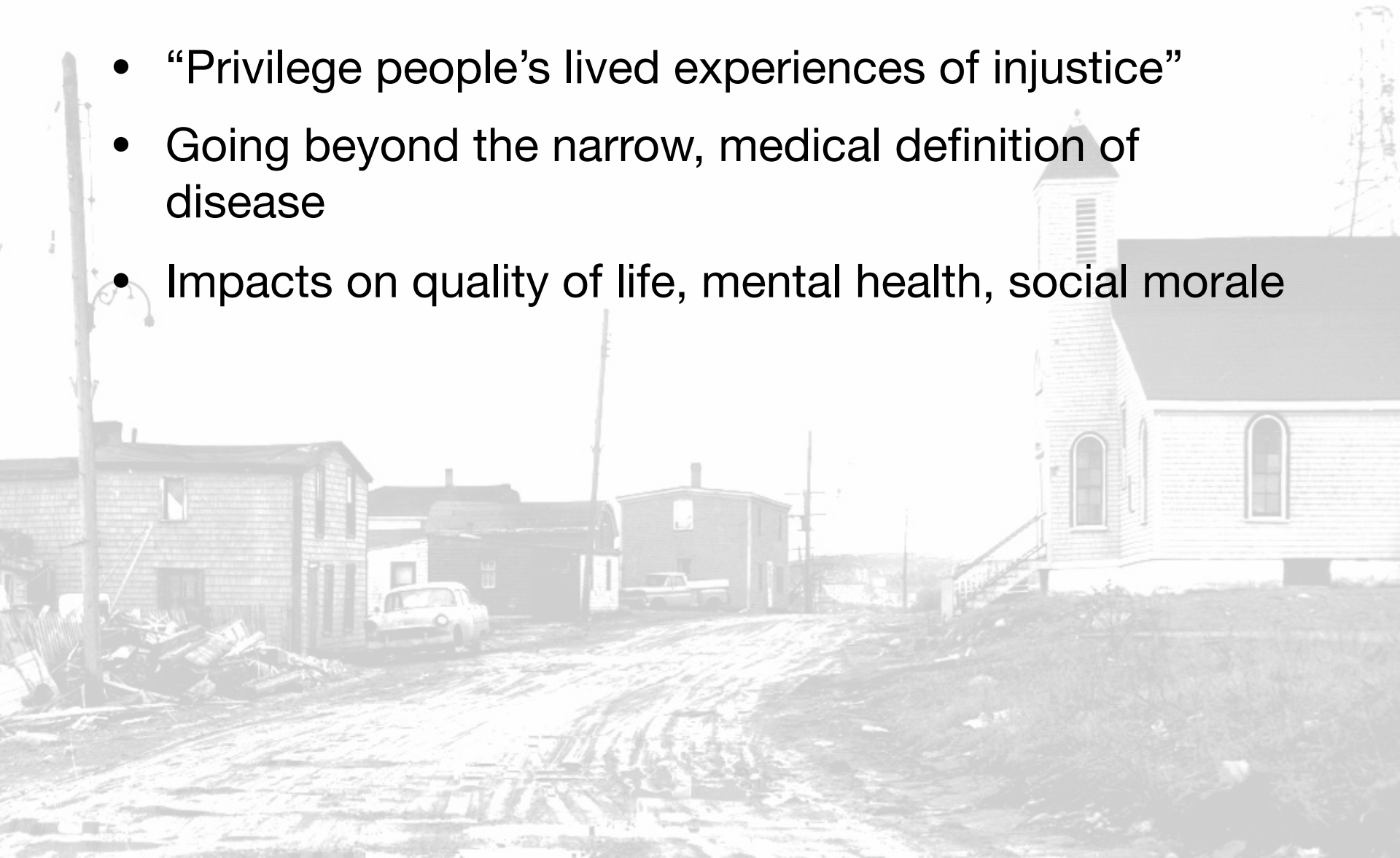
The “Double Burden”

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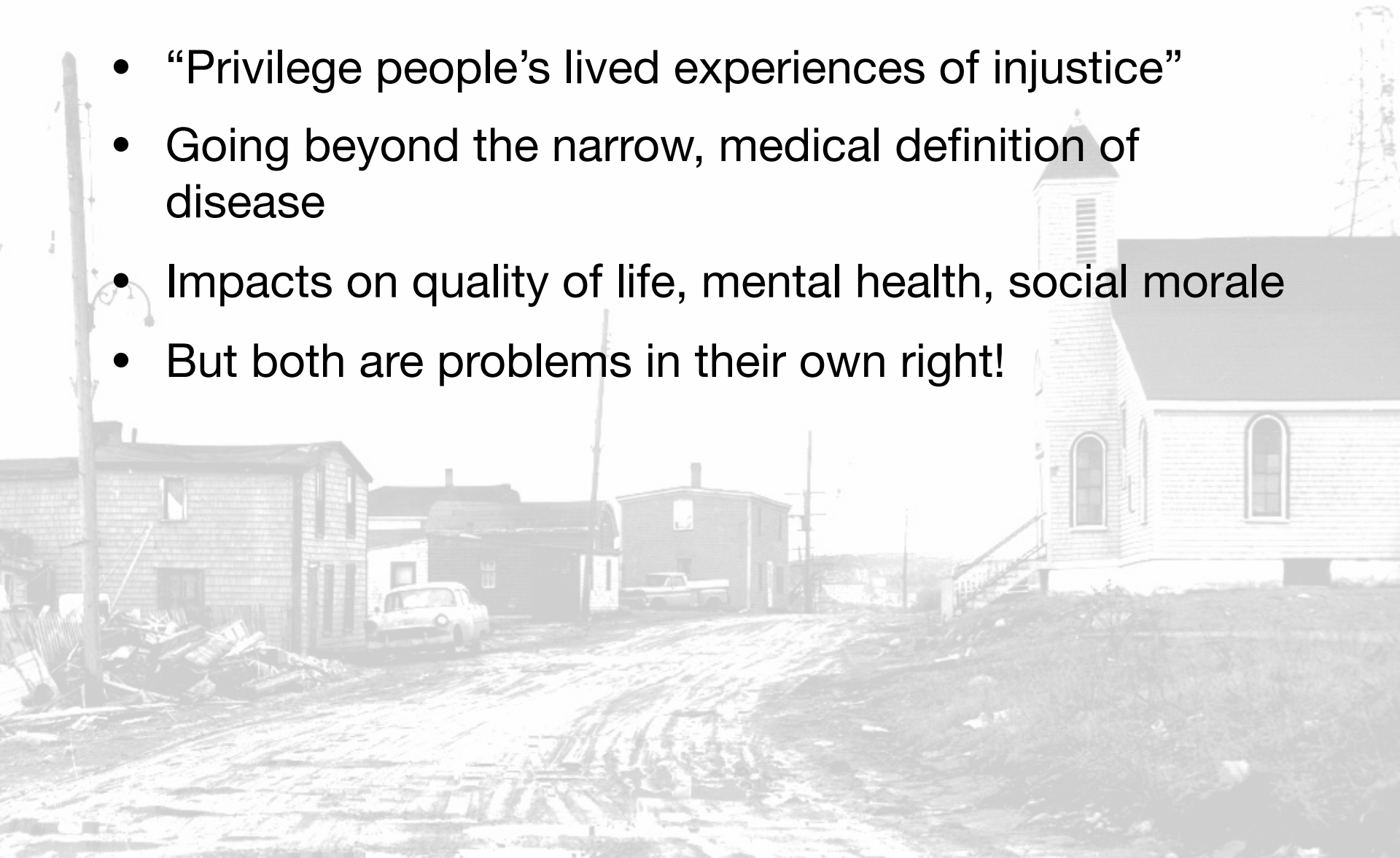
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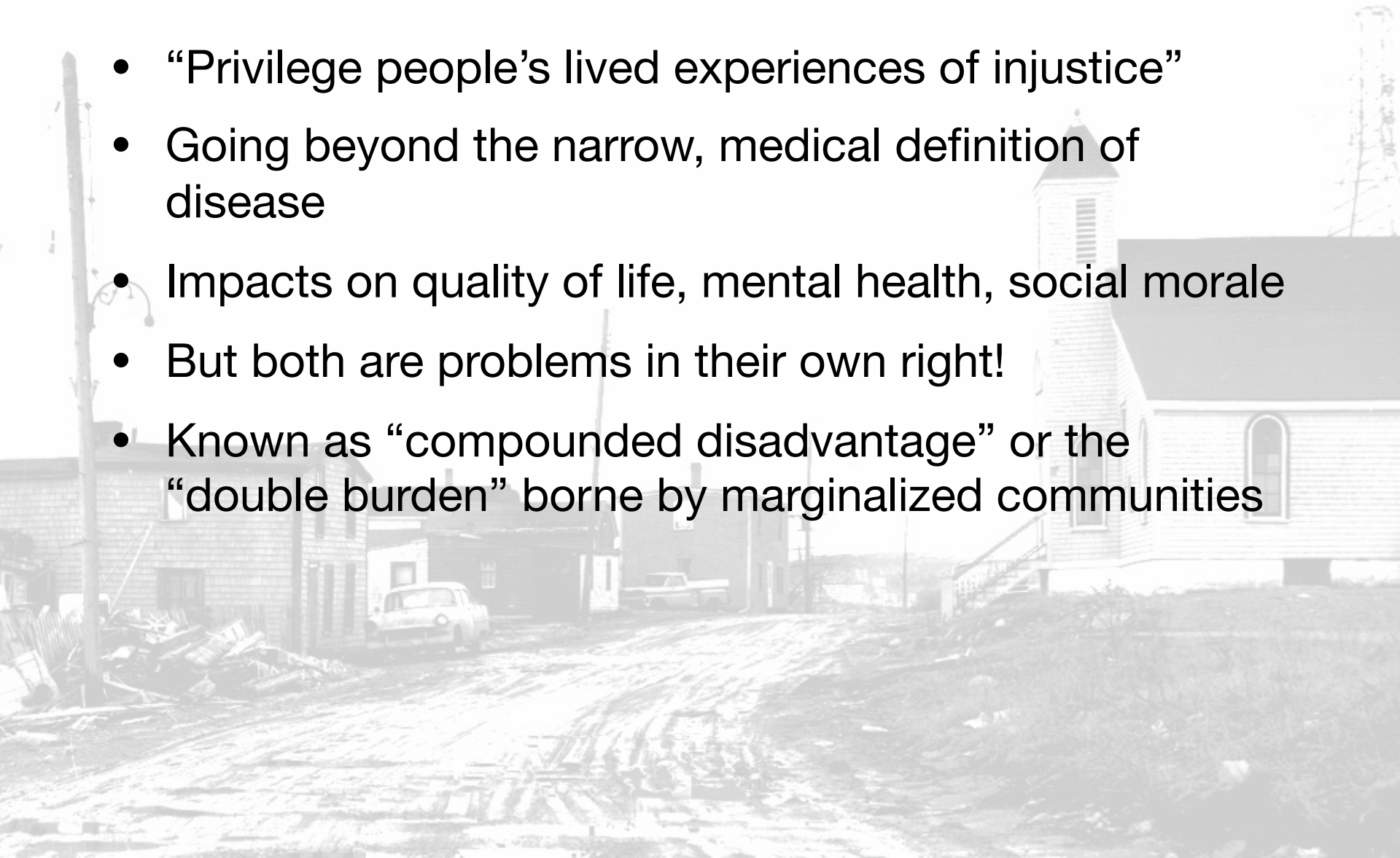
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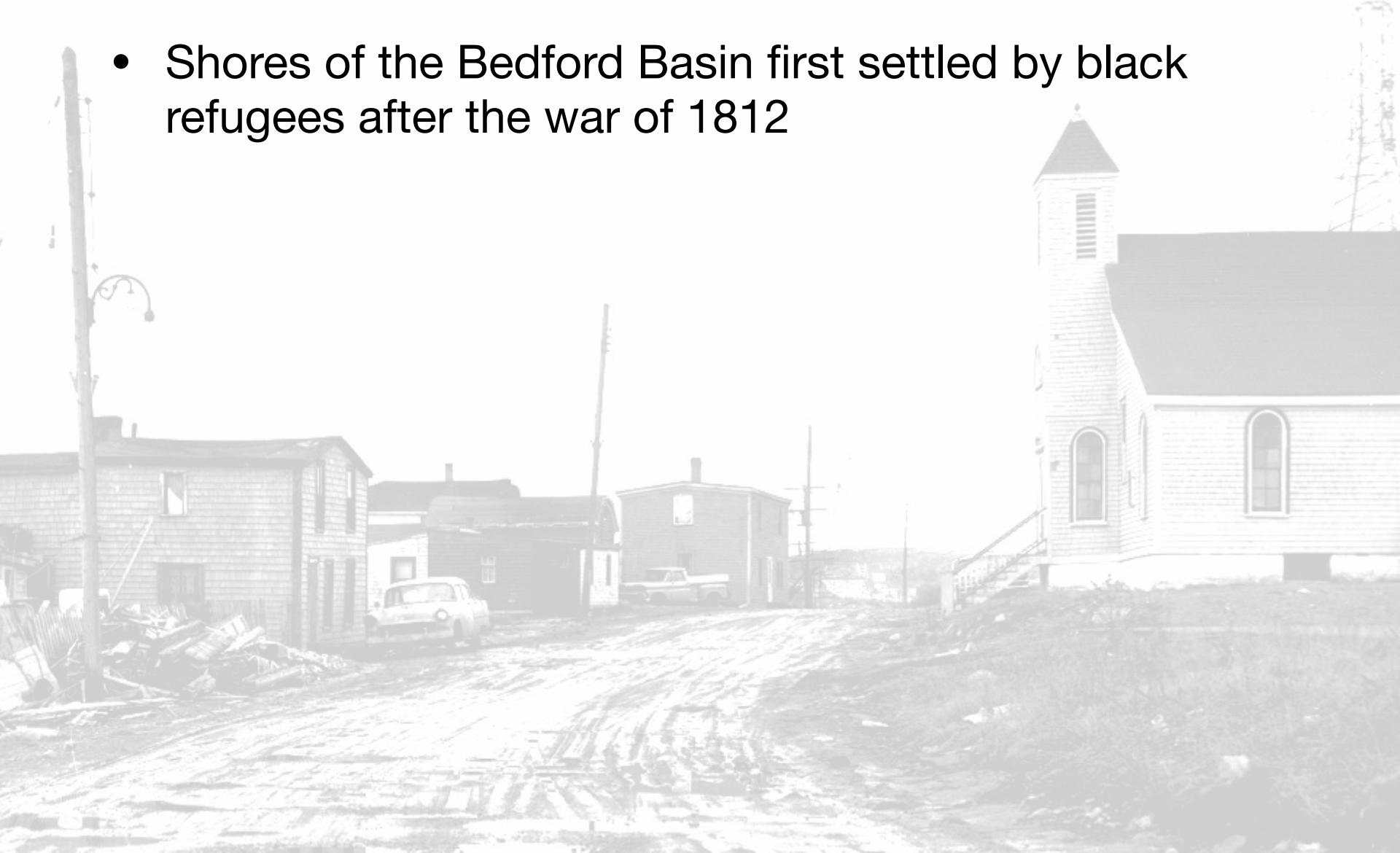
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- But both are problems in their own right!
- Known as “compounded disadvantage” or the “double burden” borne by marginalized communities
- Environmental injustice can also manifest as limited access to “environmental opportunities”

Africville



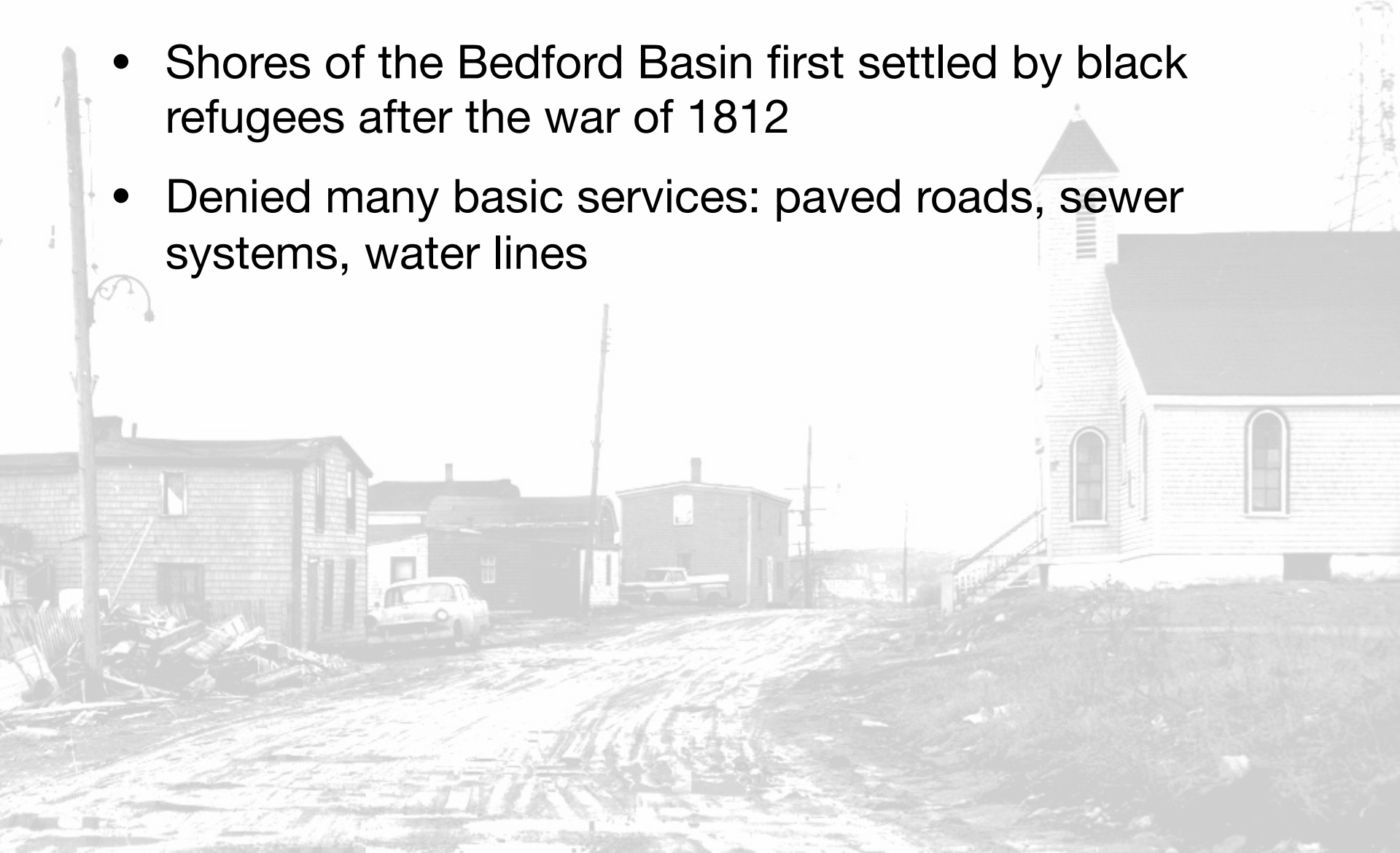
Africville

- Shores of the Bedford Basin first settled by black refugees after the war of 1812



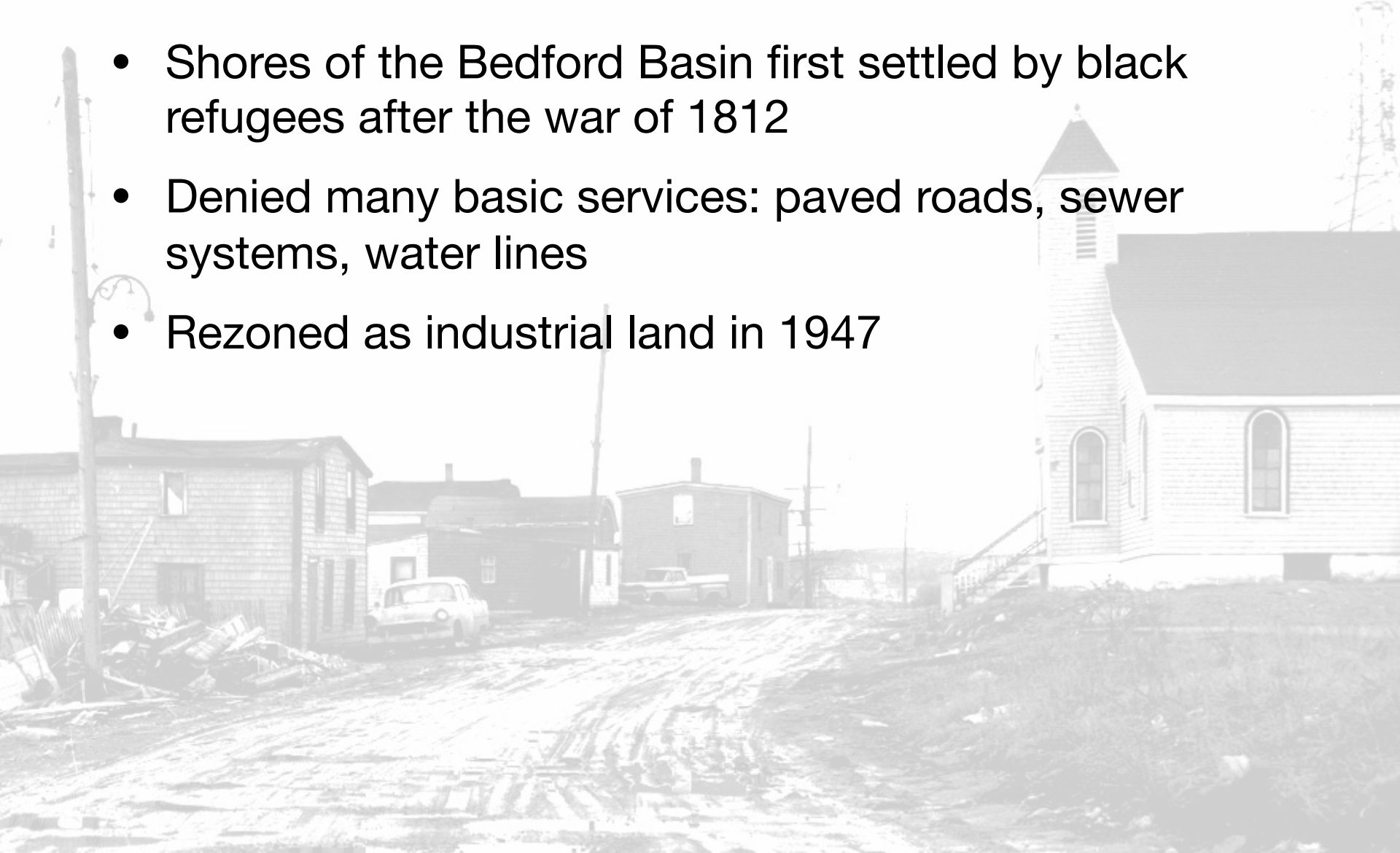
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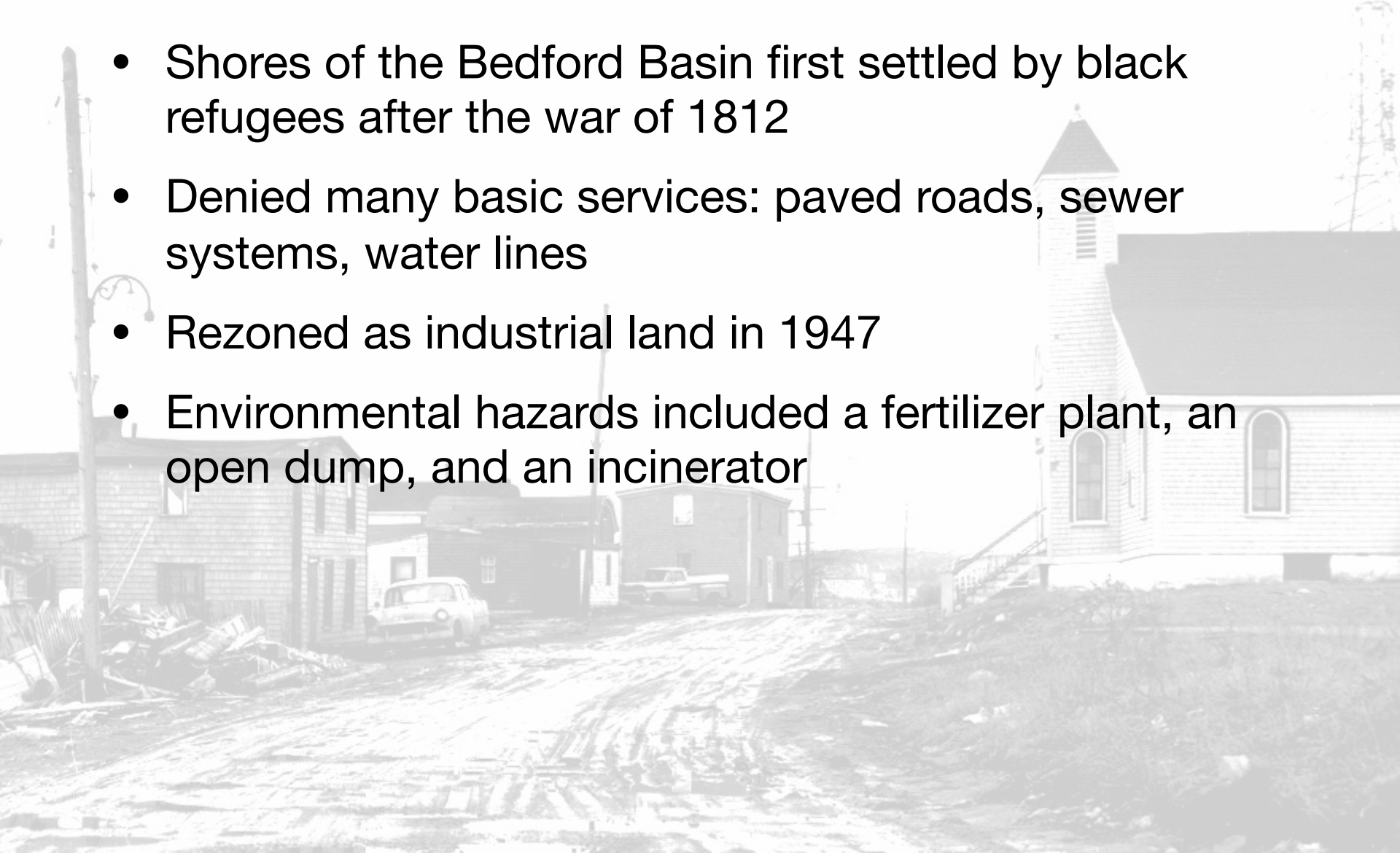
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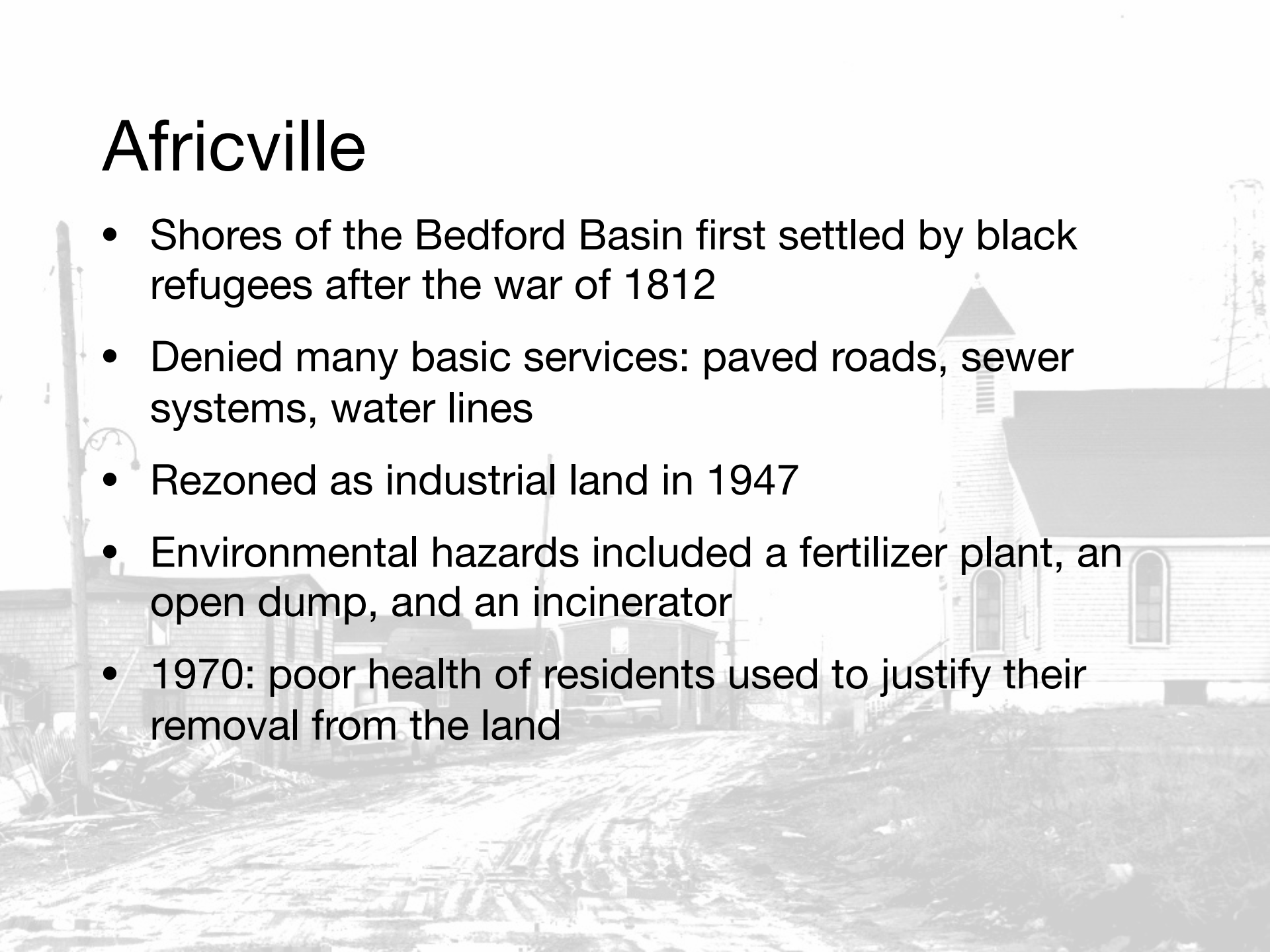
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- 1970: poor health of residents used to justify their removal from the land

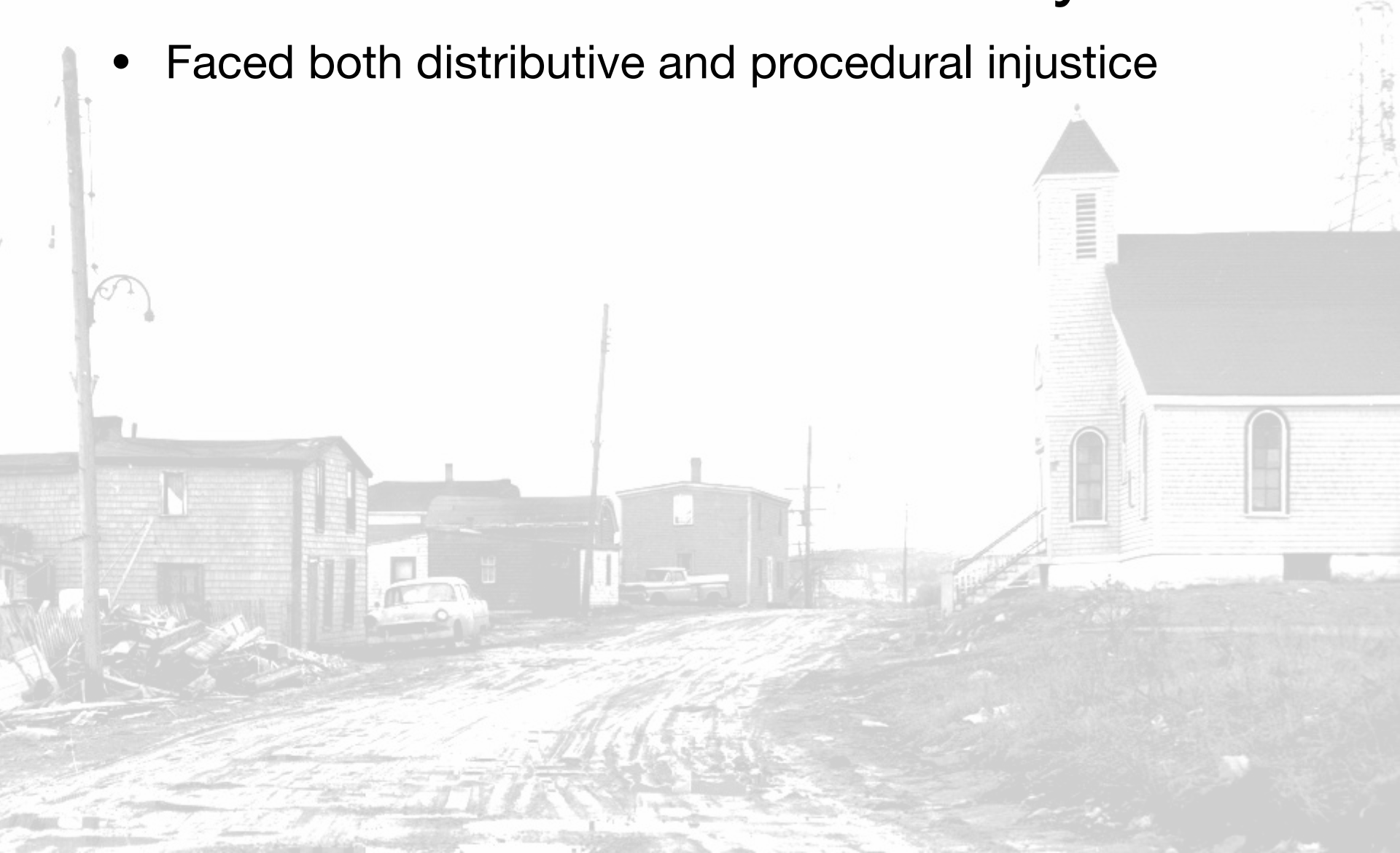


Environmental Justice Analysis



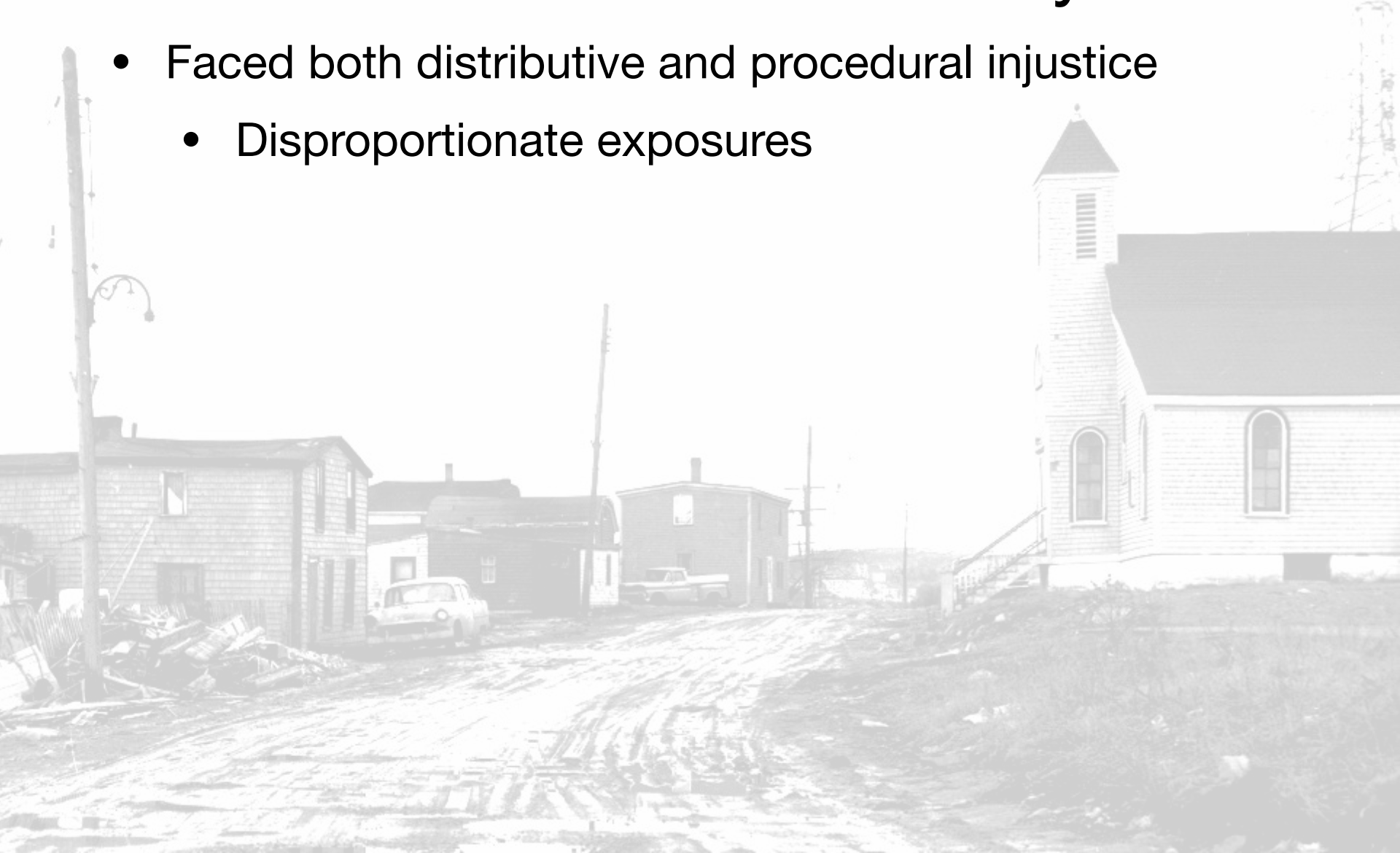
Environmental Justice Analysis

- Faced both distributive and procedural injustice



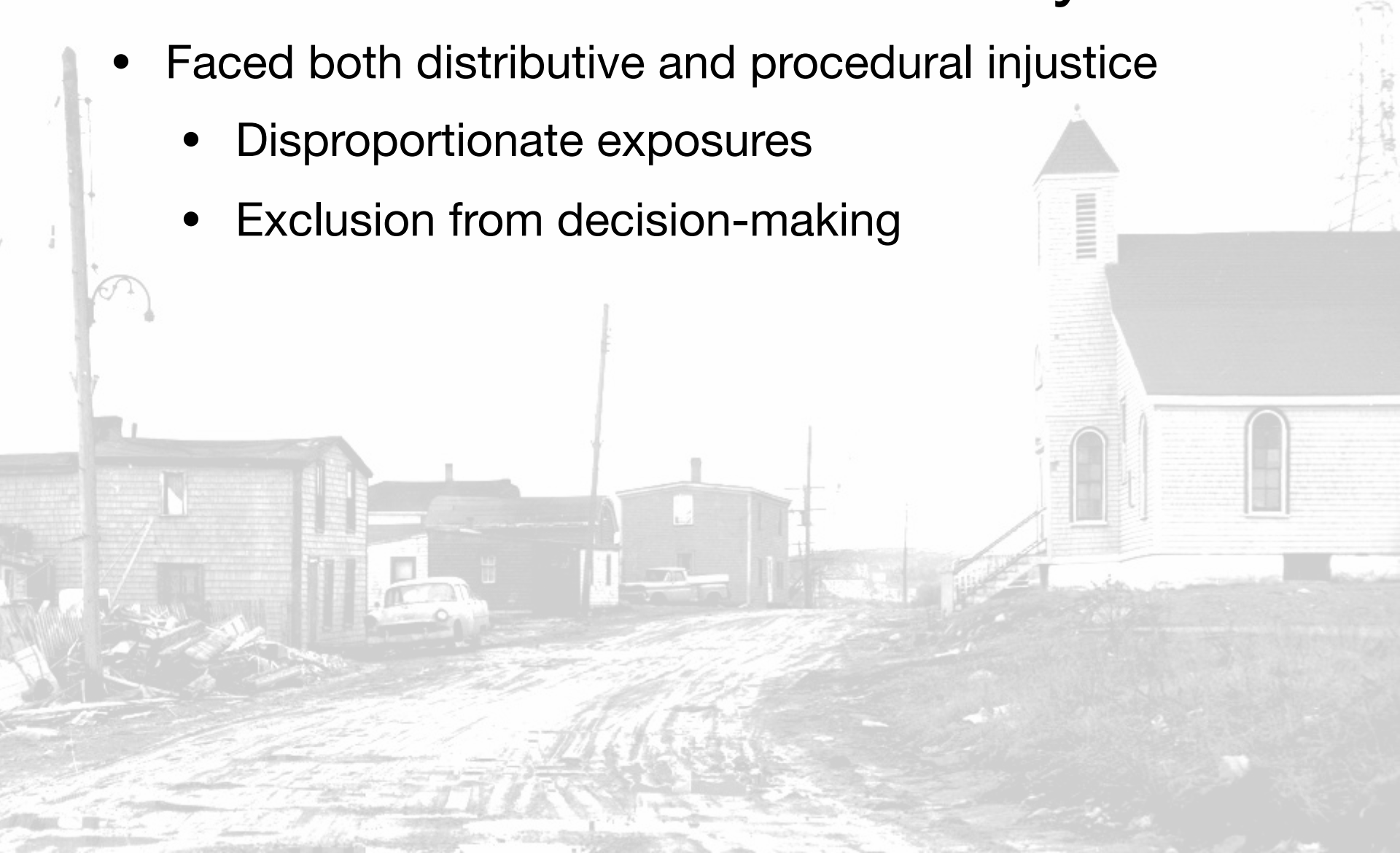
Environmental Justice Analysis

- Faced both distributive and procedural injustice
 - Disproportionate exposures



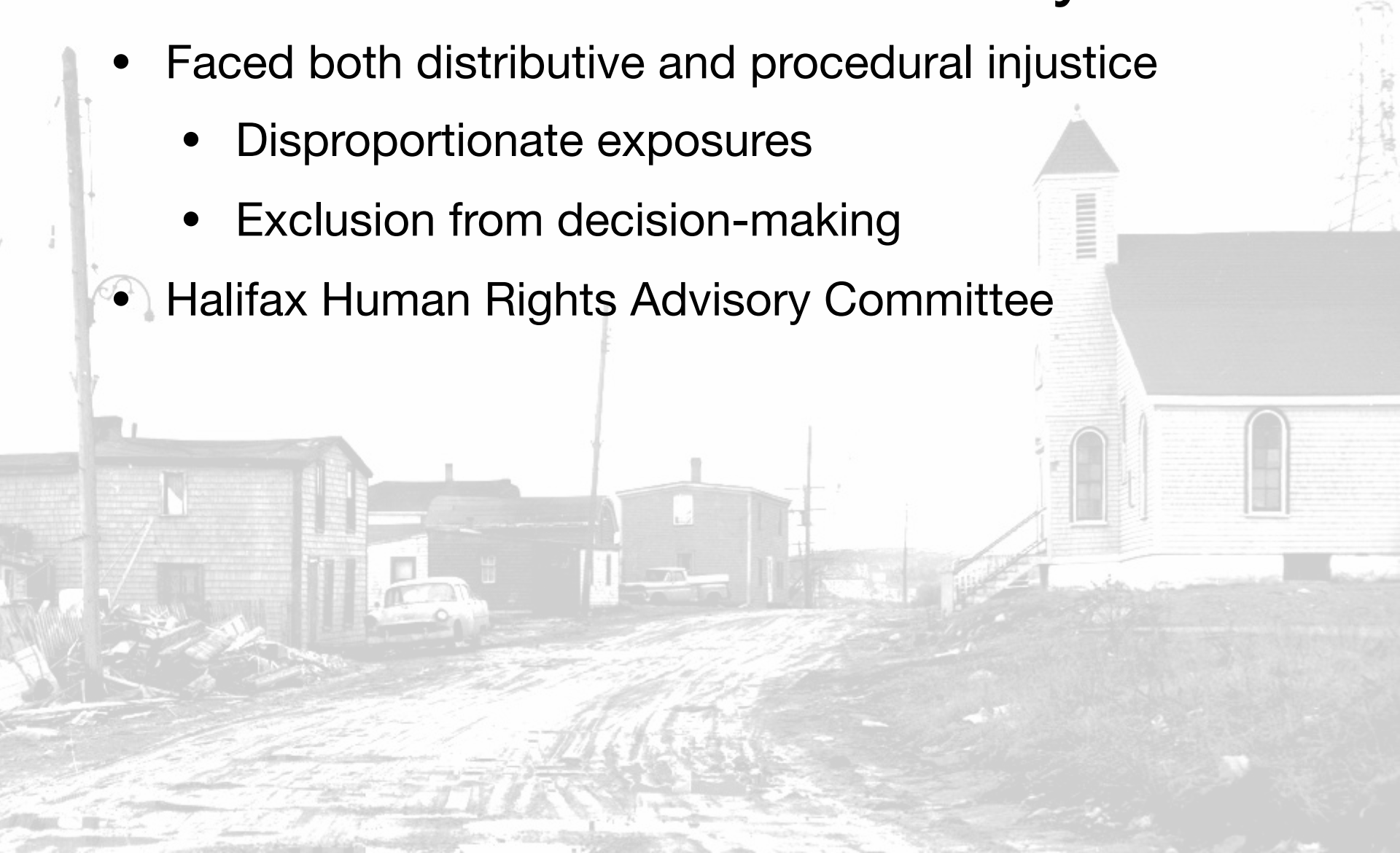
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 - Exclusion from decision-making



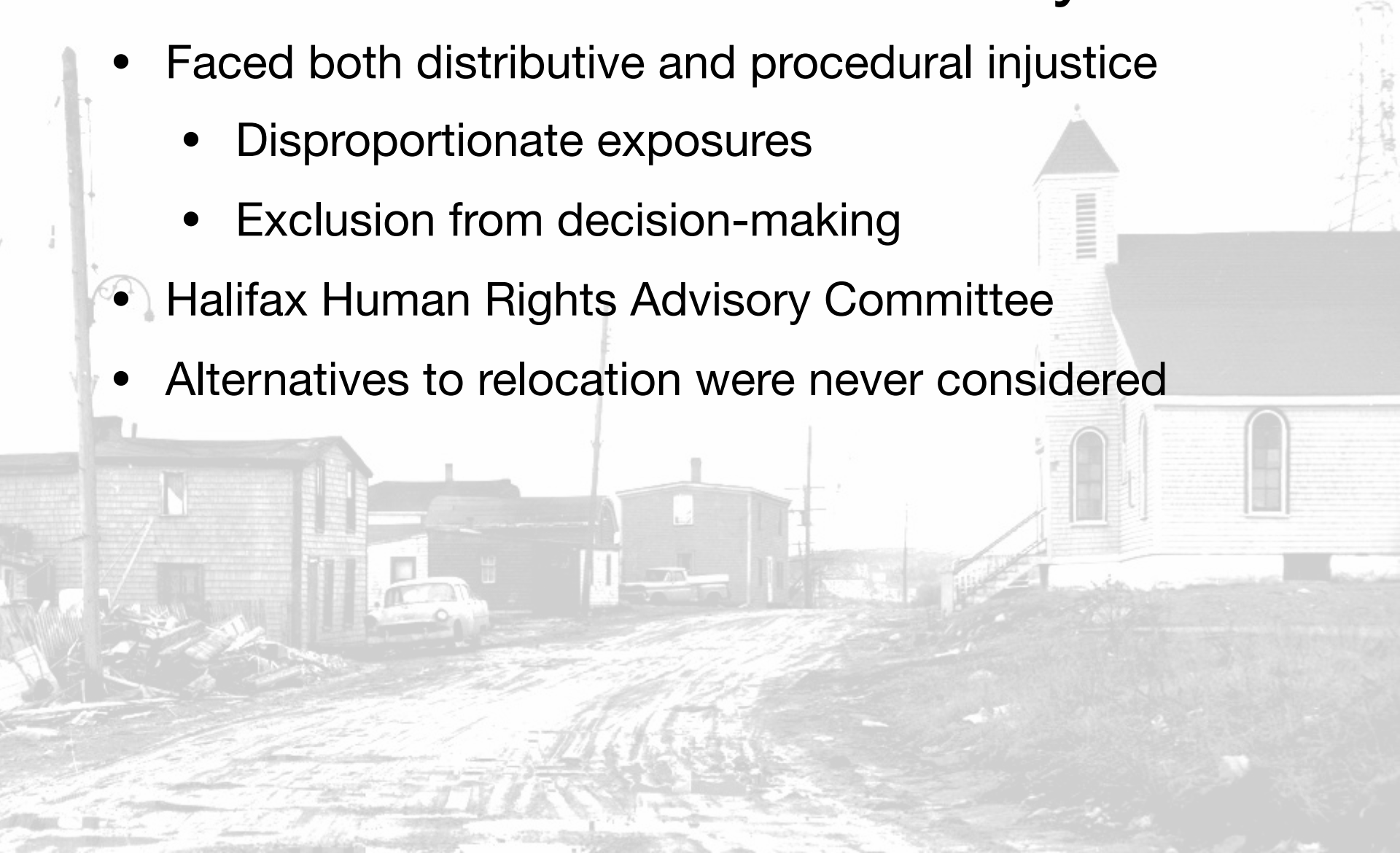
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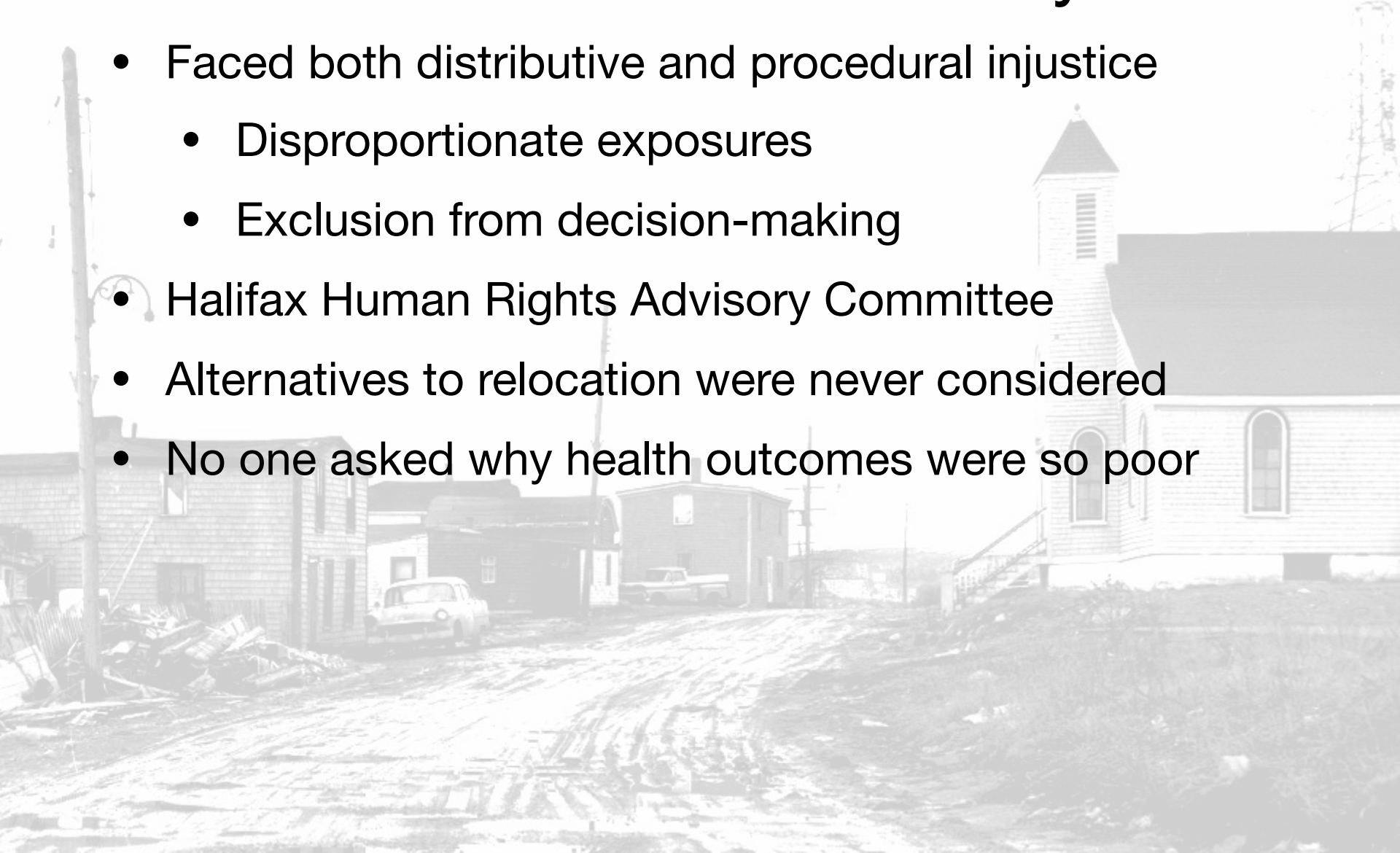
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Environmental Justice Analysis

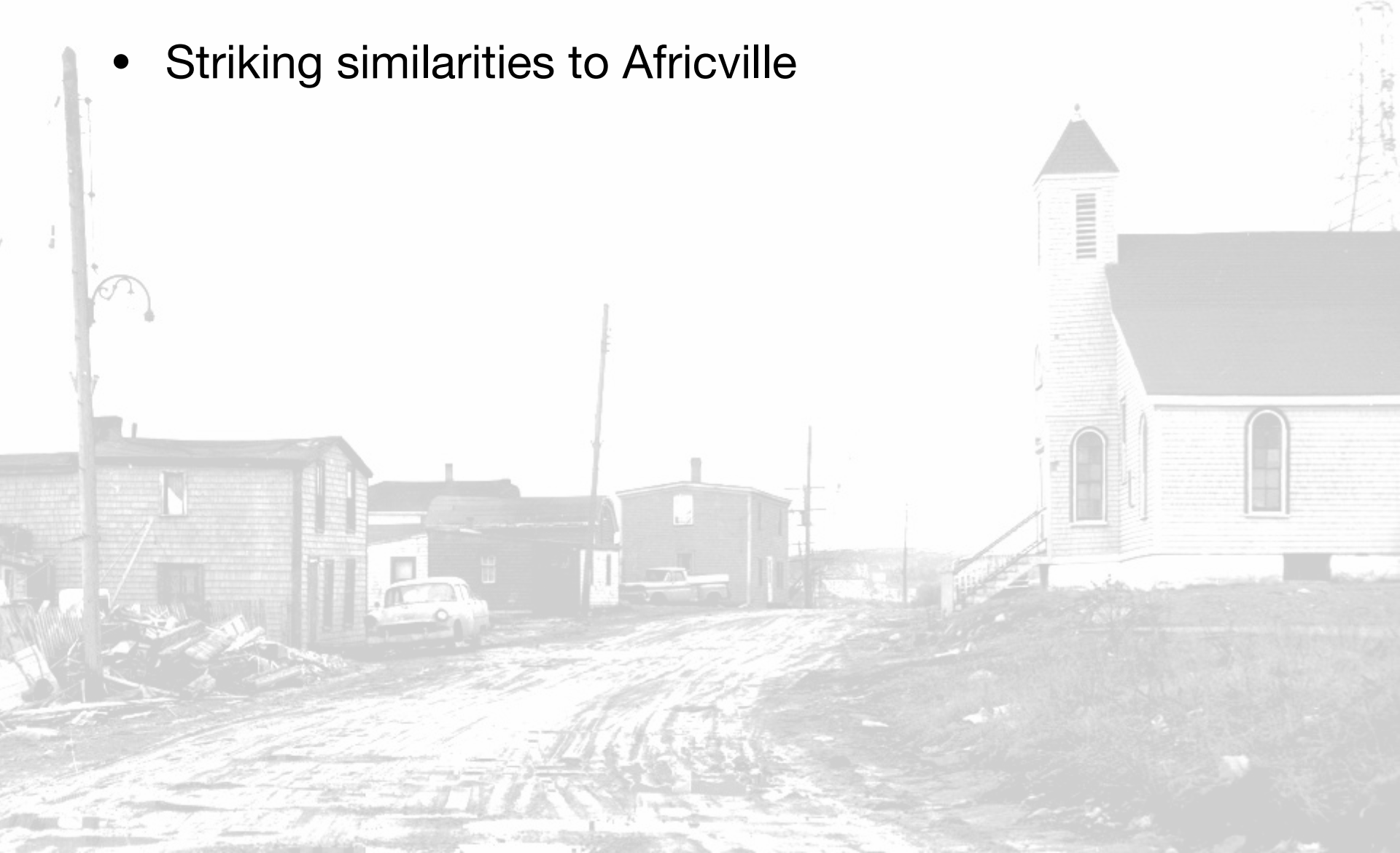
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- Alternatives to relocation were never considered
- No one asked why health outcomes were so poor
- Reports ignored the rich historical and cultural ties residents had developed with their community

Lincolnville



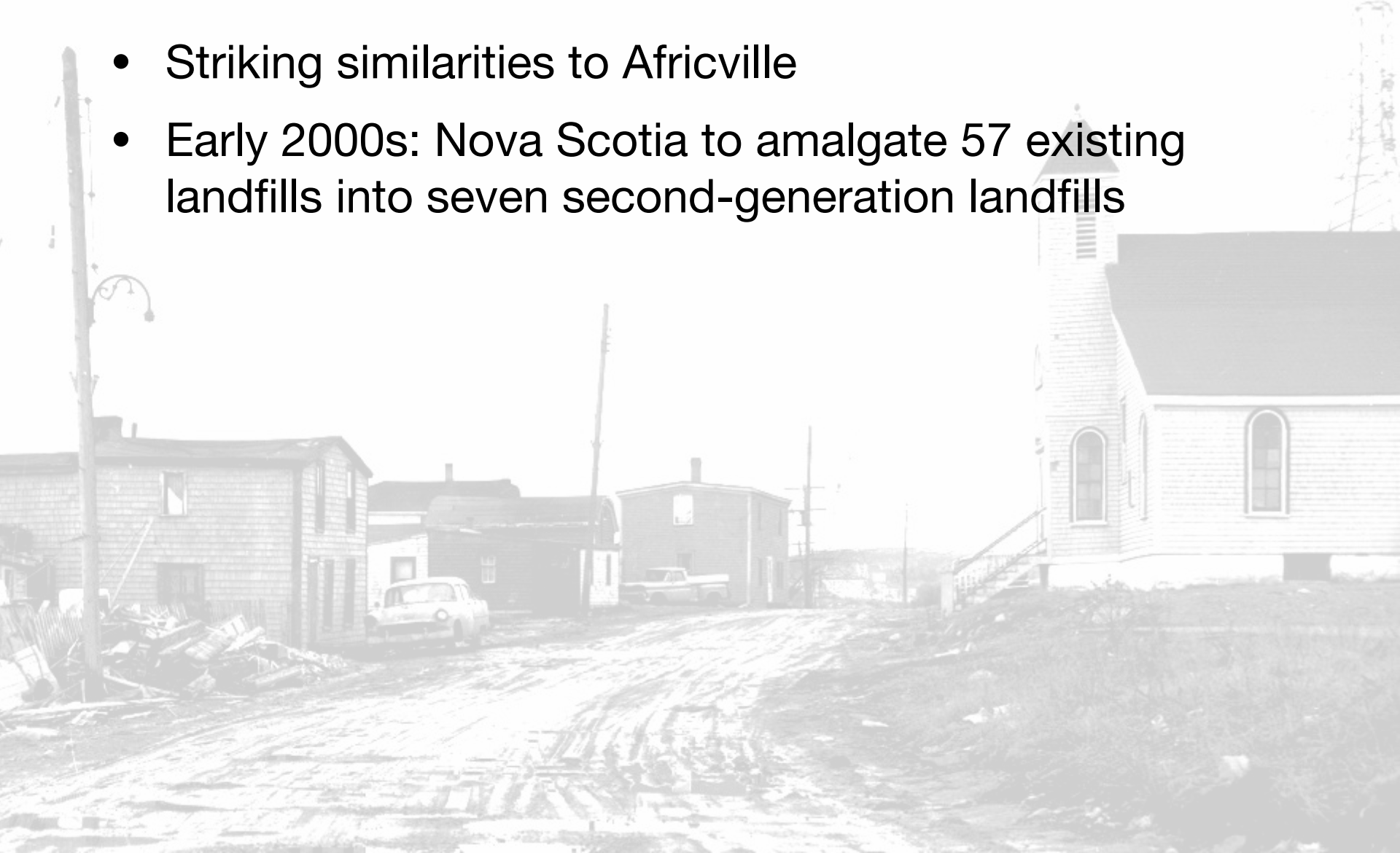
Lincolnville

- Striking similarities to Africville



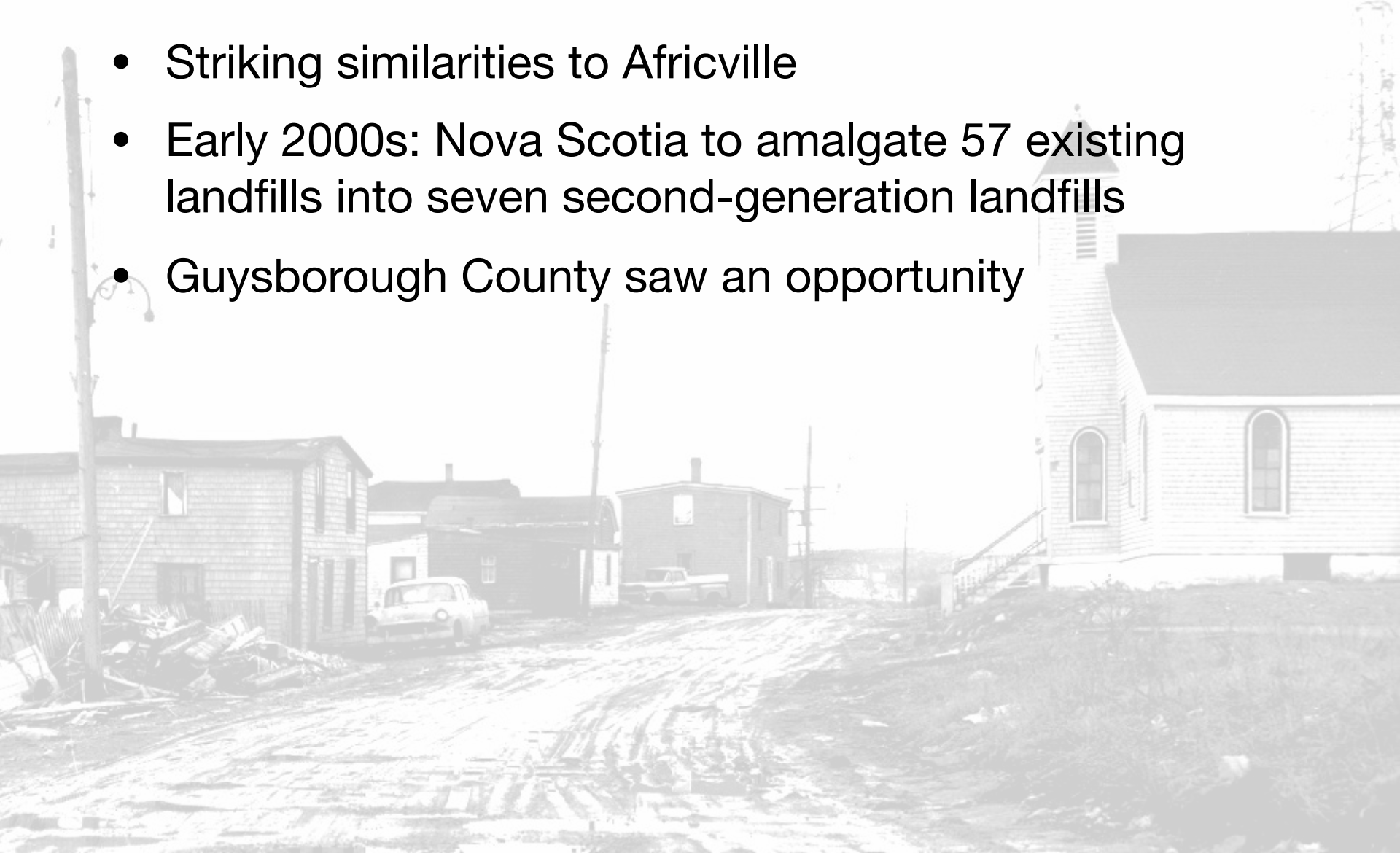
Lincolnville

- Striking similarities to Africville
- Early 2000s: Nova Scotia to amalgamate 57 existing landfills into seven second-generation landfills



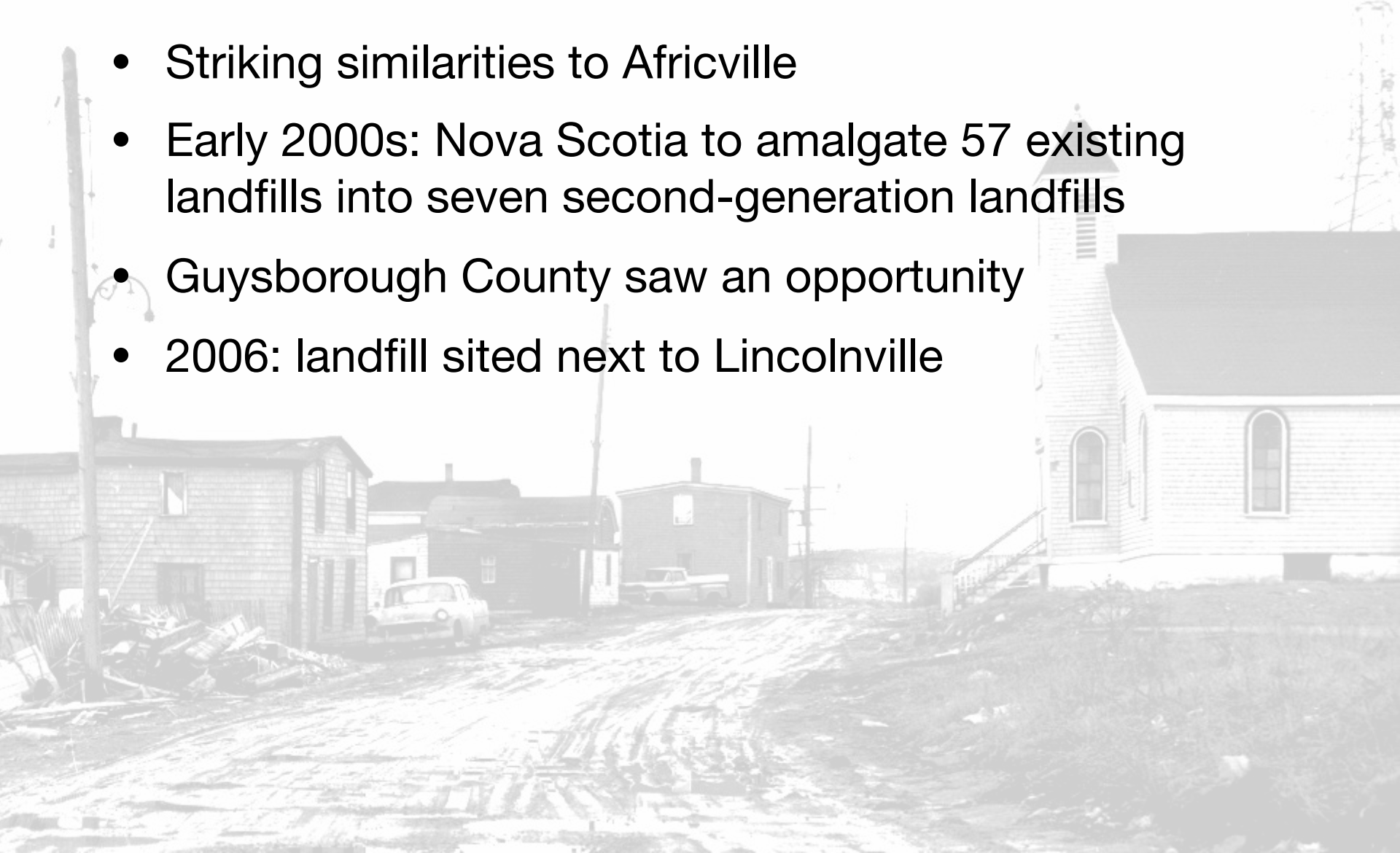
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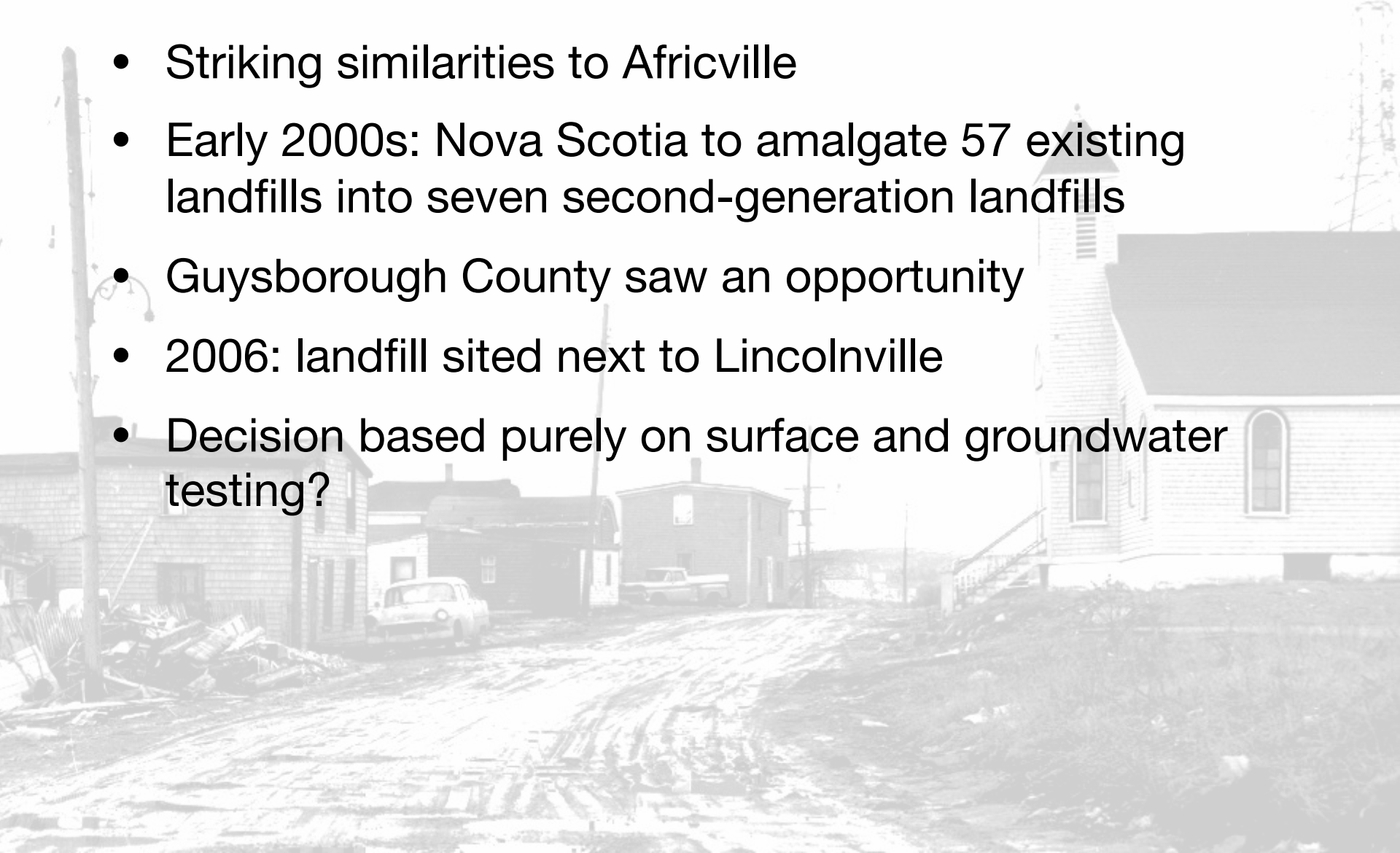
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- Guysborough County saw an opportunity
- 2006: landfill sited next to Lincolnville
- Decision based purely on surface and groundwater testing?

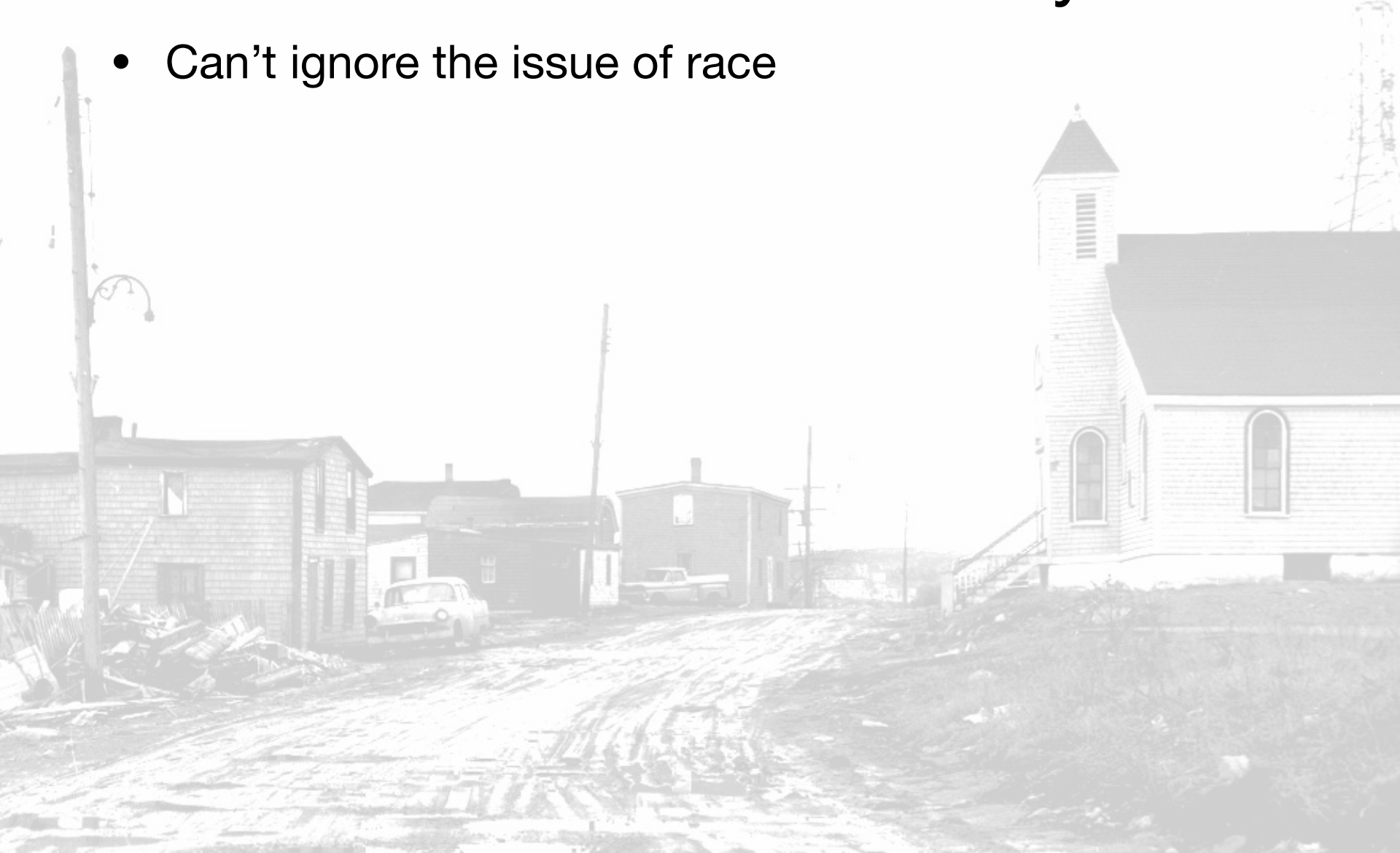


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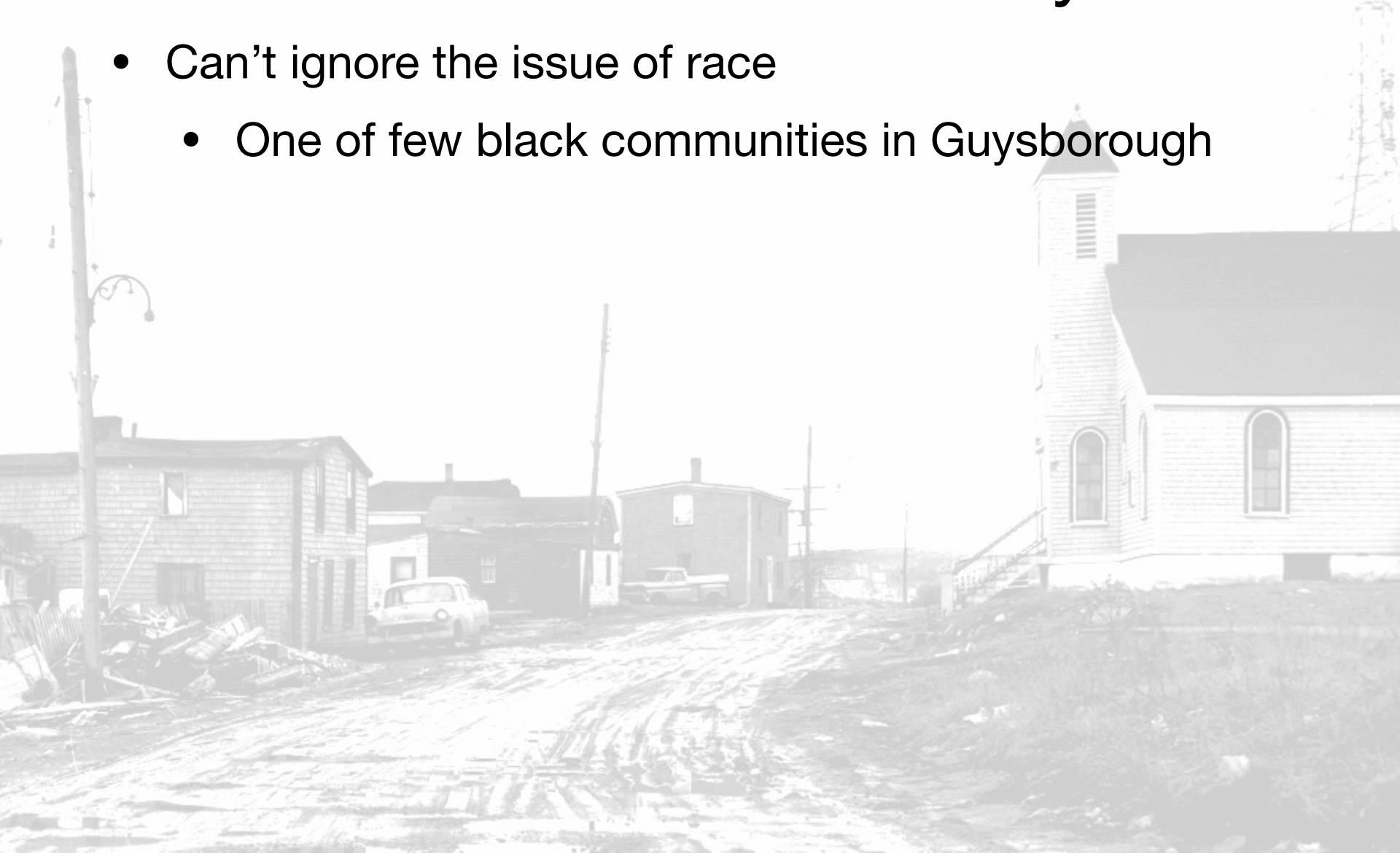
Environmental Justice Analysis

- Can't ignore the issue of race



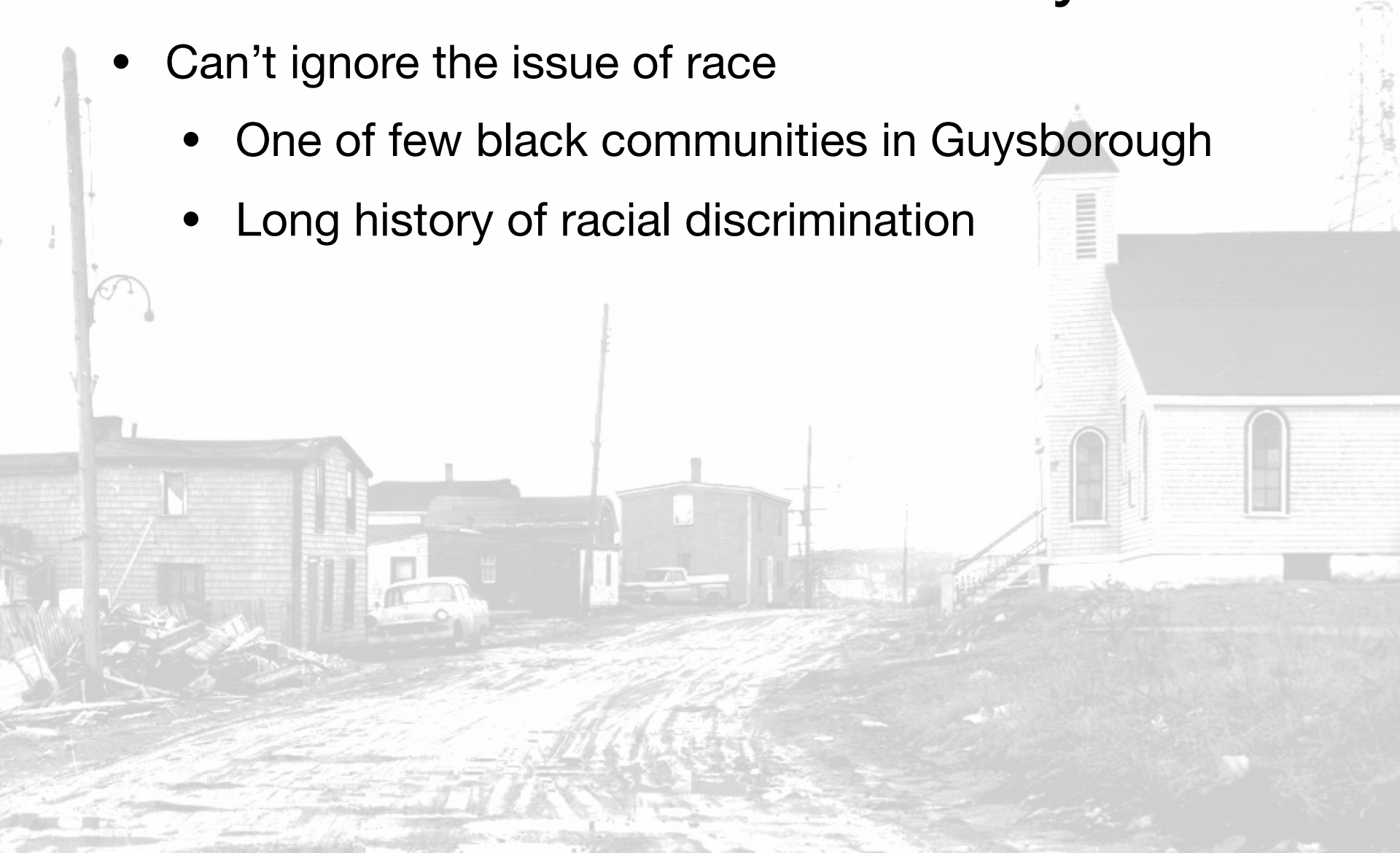
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- Can't ignore the issue of race
 - One of few black communities in Guysborough



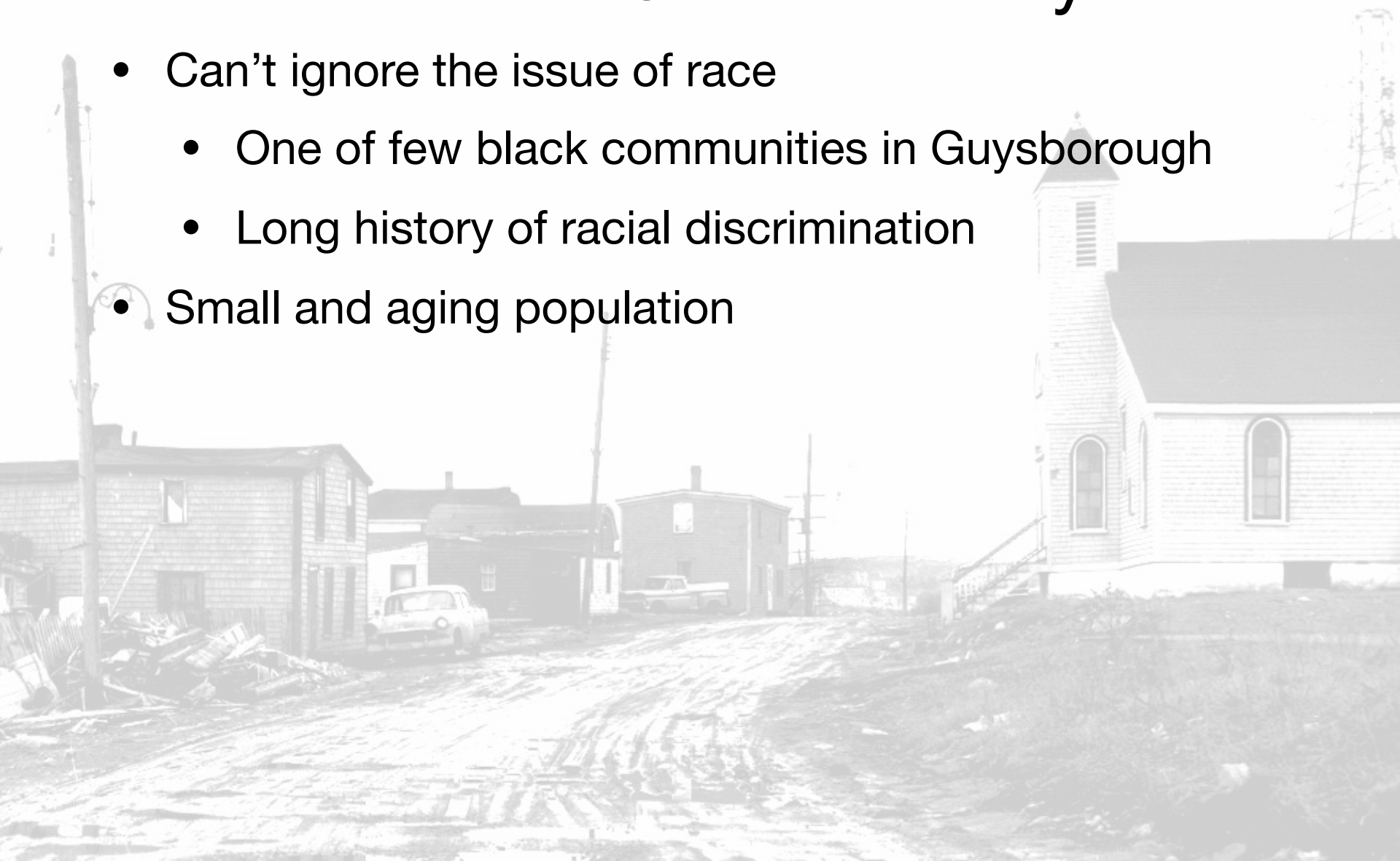
Environmental Justice Analysis

- Can't ignore the issue of race
 - One of few black communities in Guysborough
 - Long history of racial discrimination



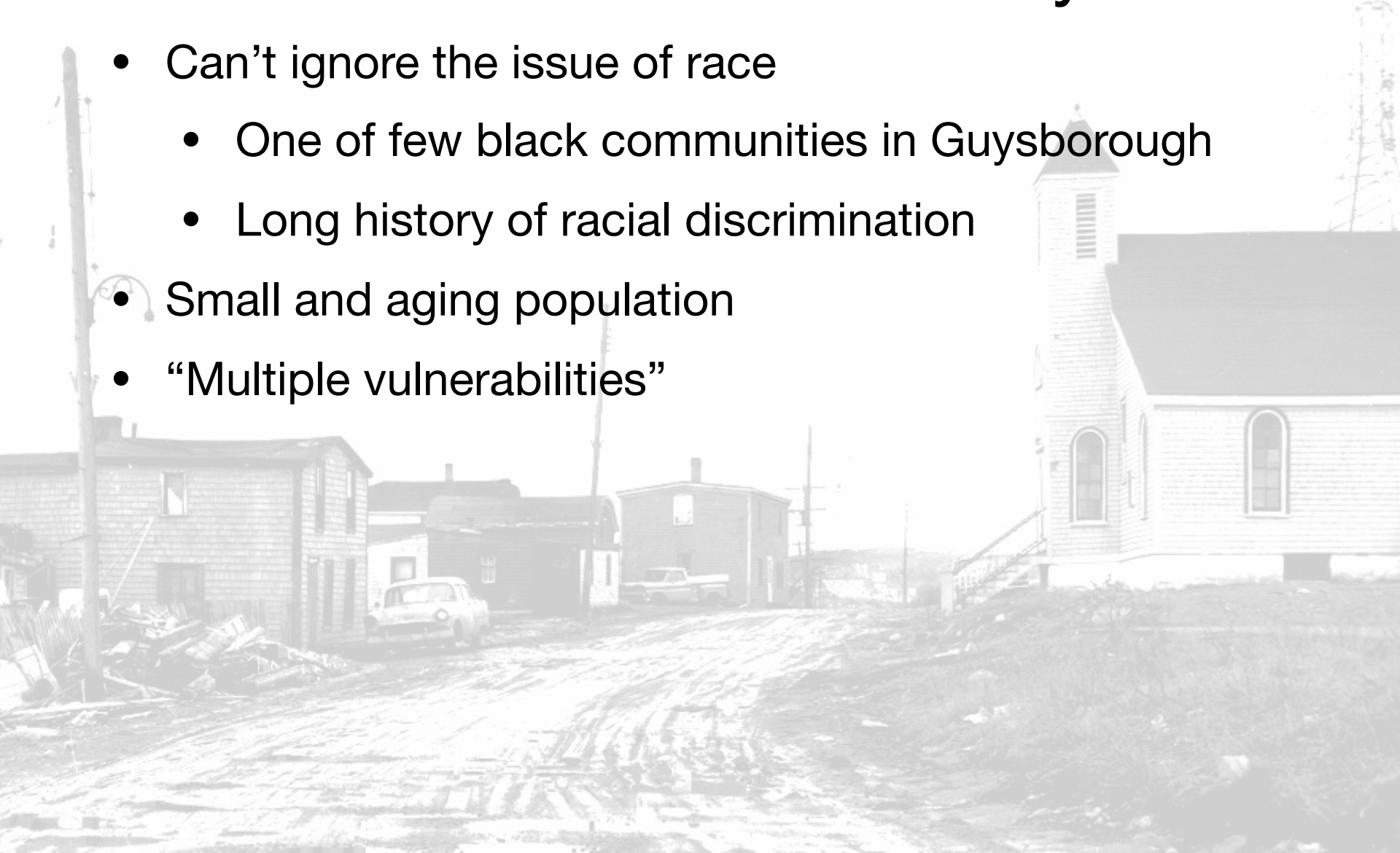
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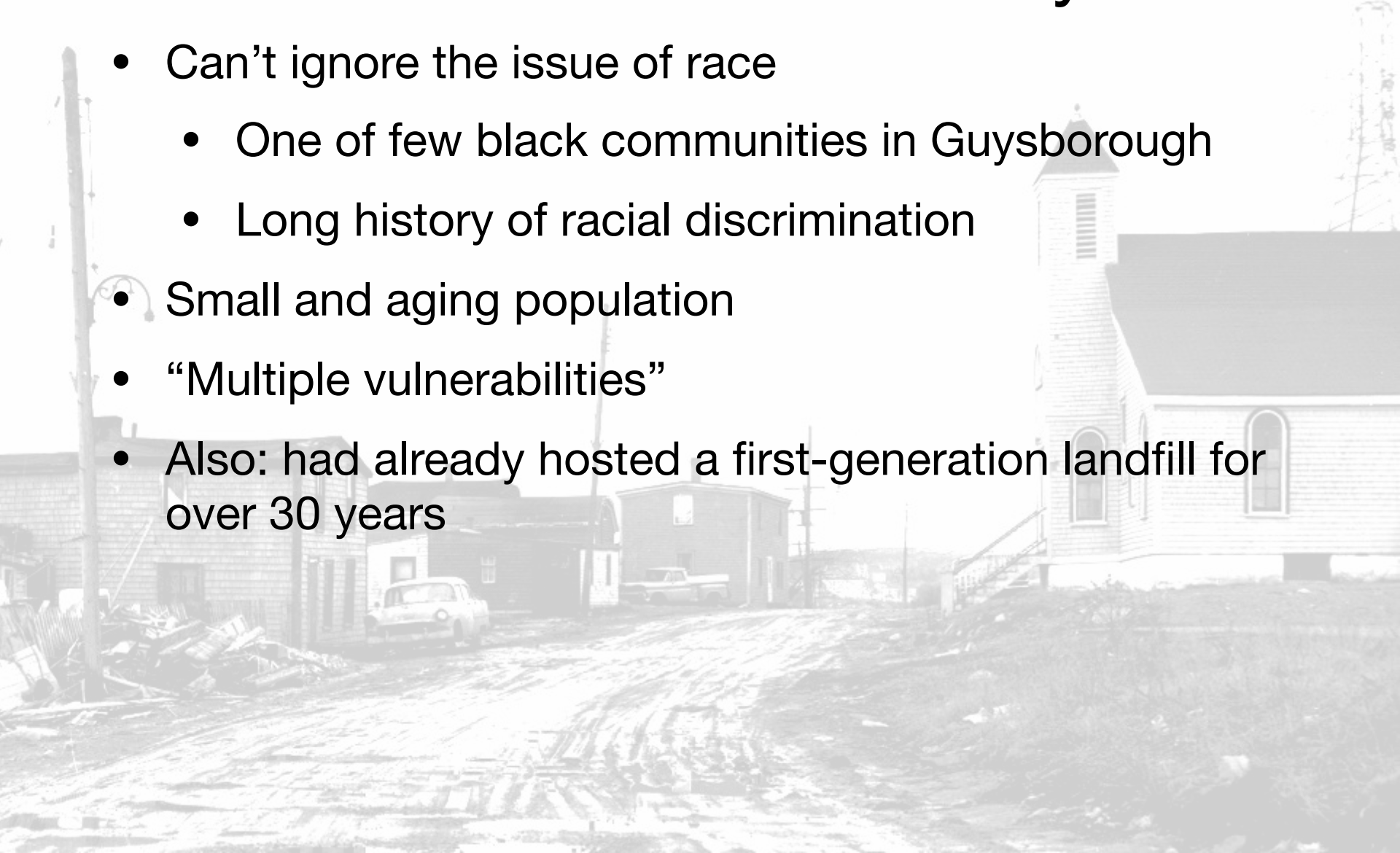
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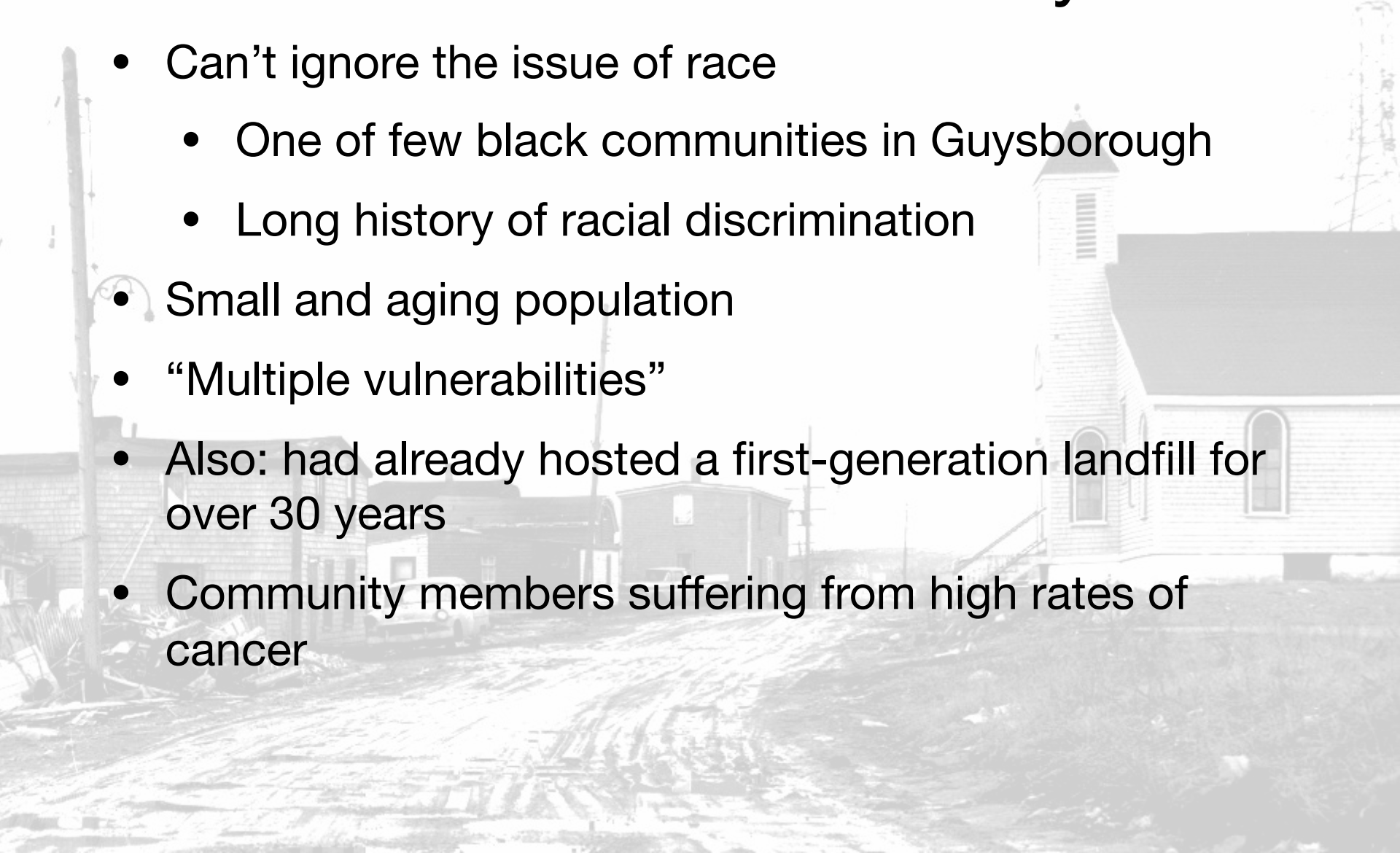
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- Also: had already hosted a first-generation landfill for over 30 years
- Community members suffering from high rates of cancer



Deacon & Baxter's Findings



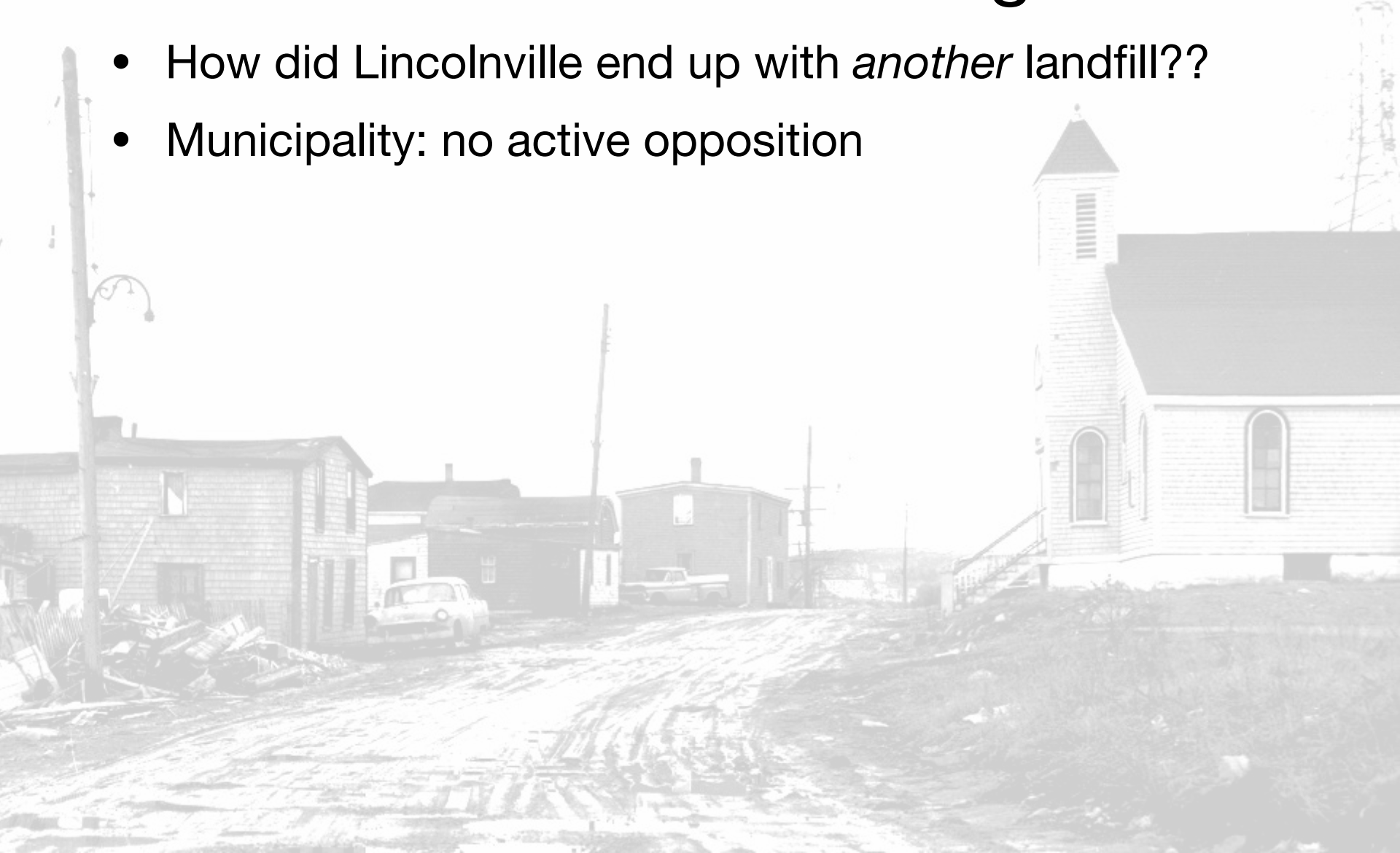
Deacon & Baxter's Findings

- How did Lincolnville end up with *another* landfill??



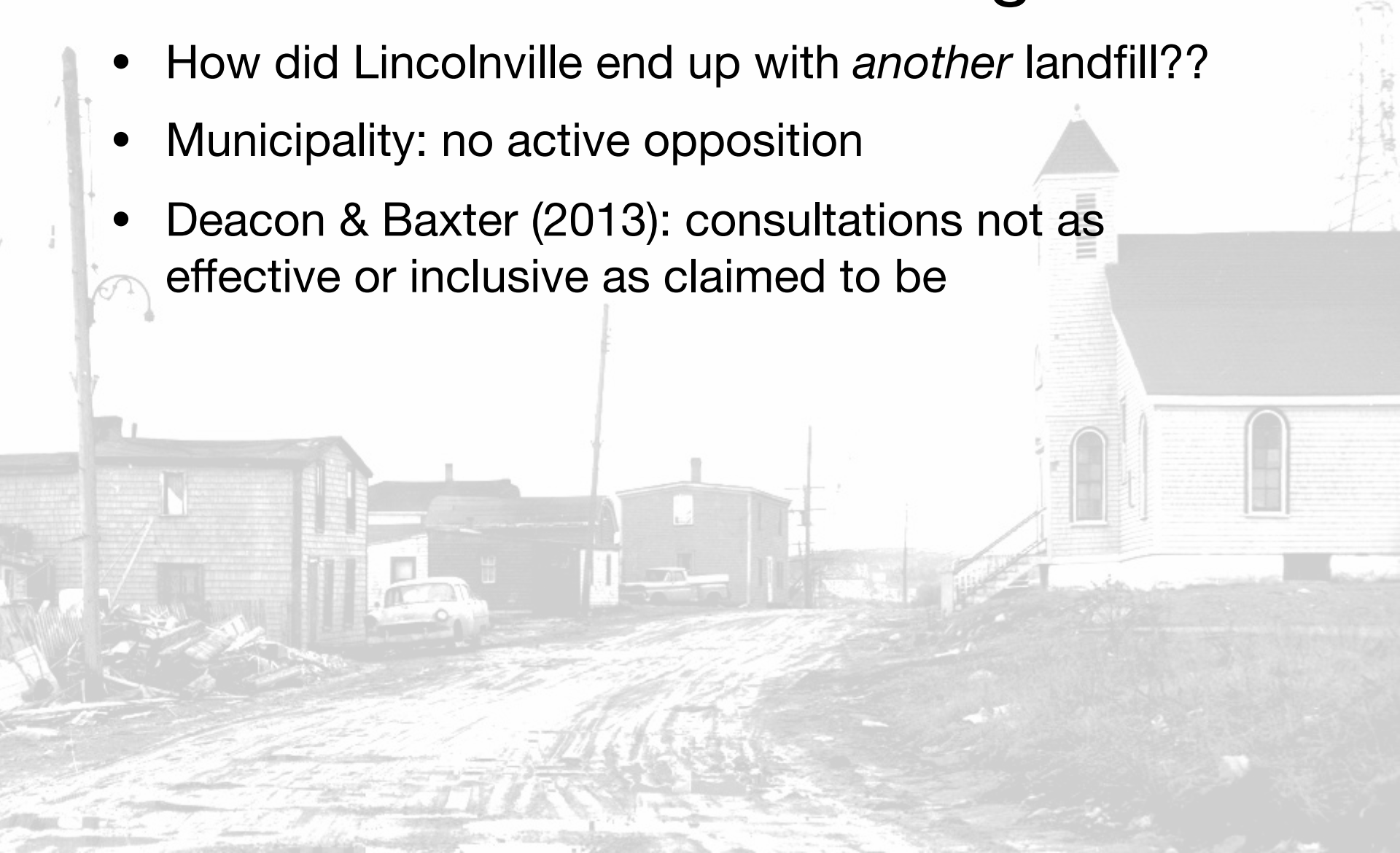
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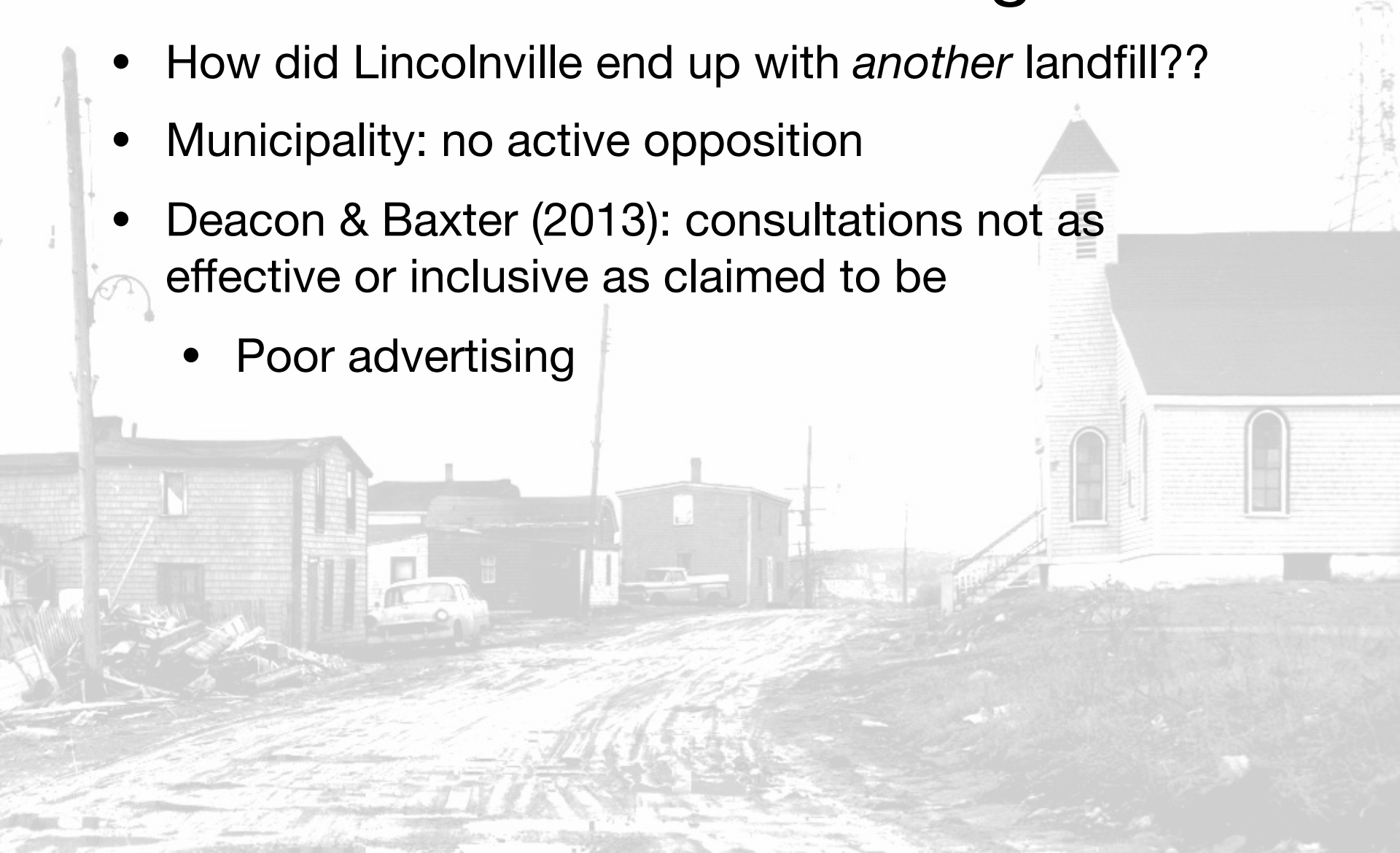
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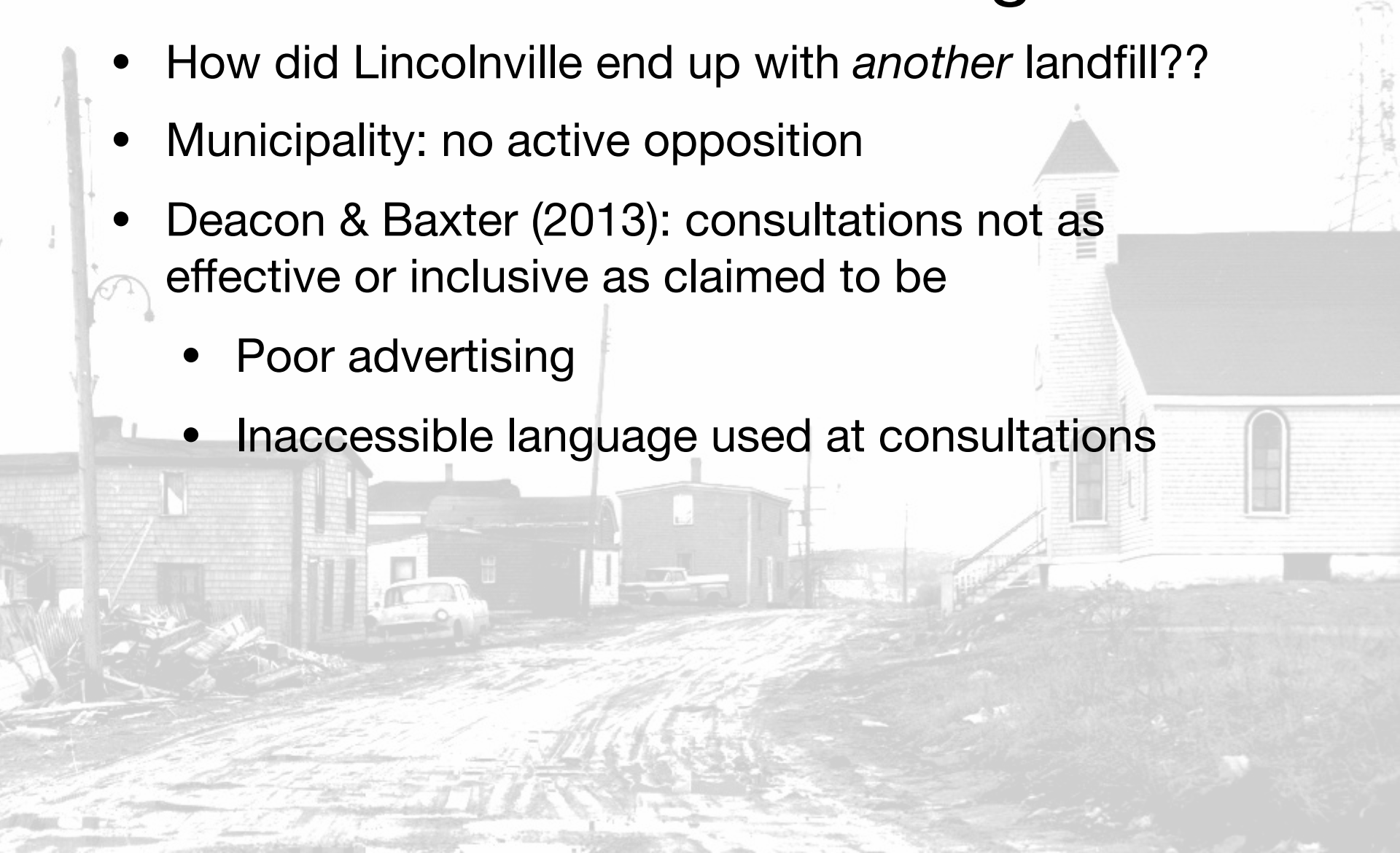
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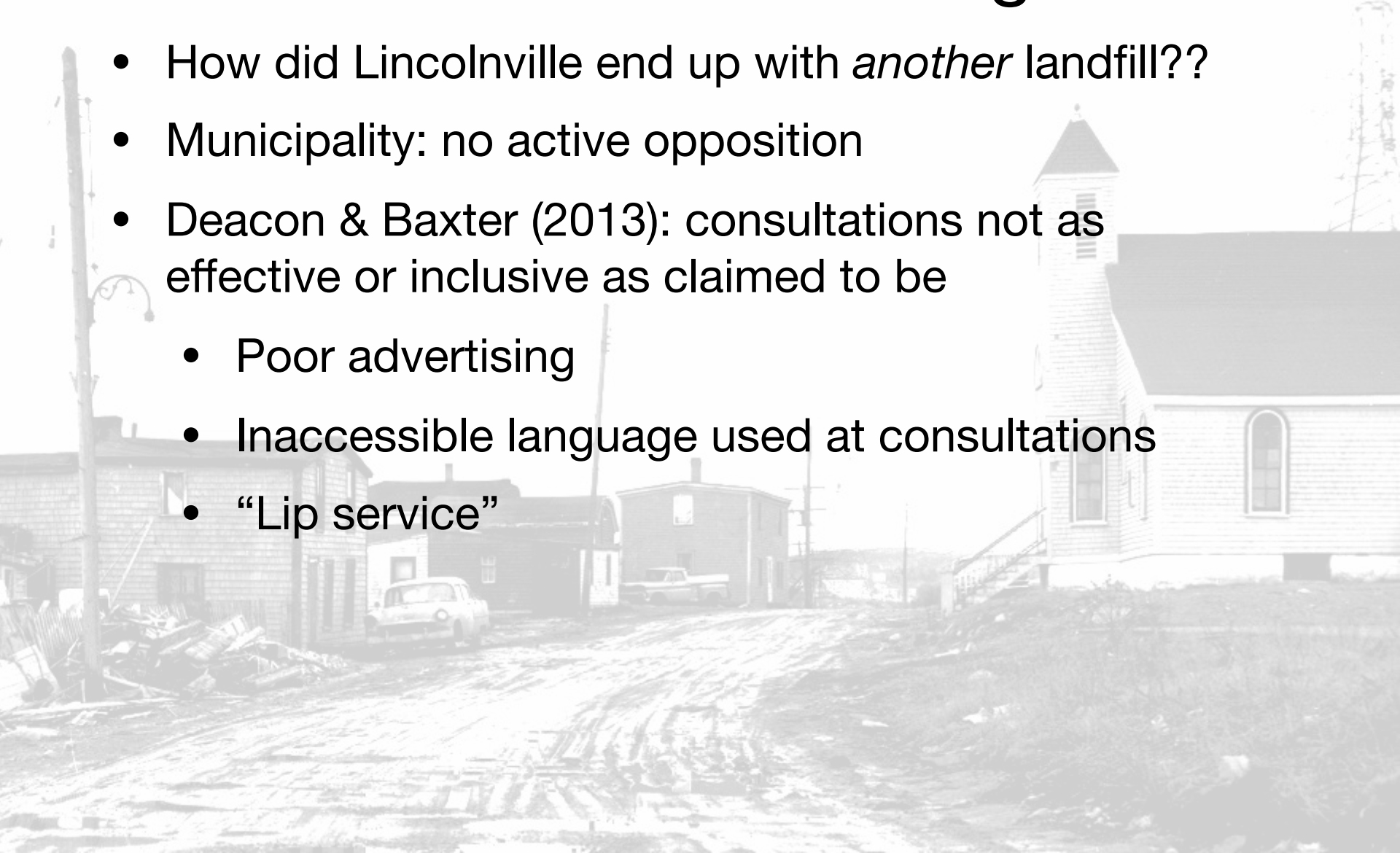
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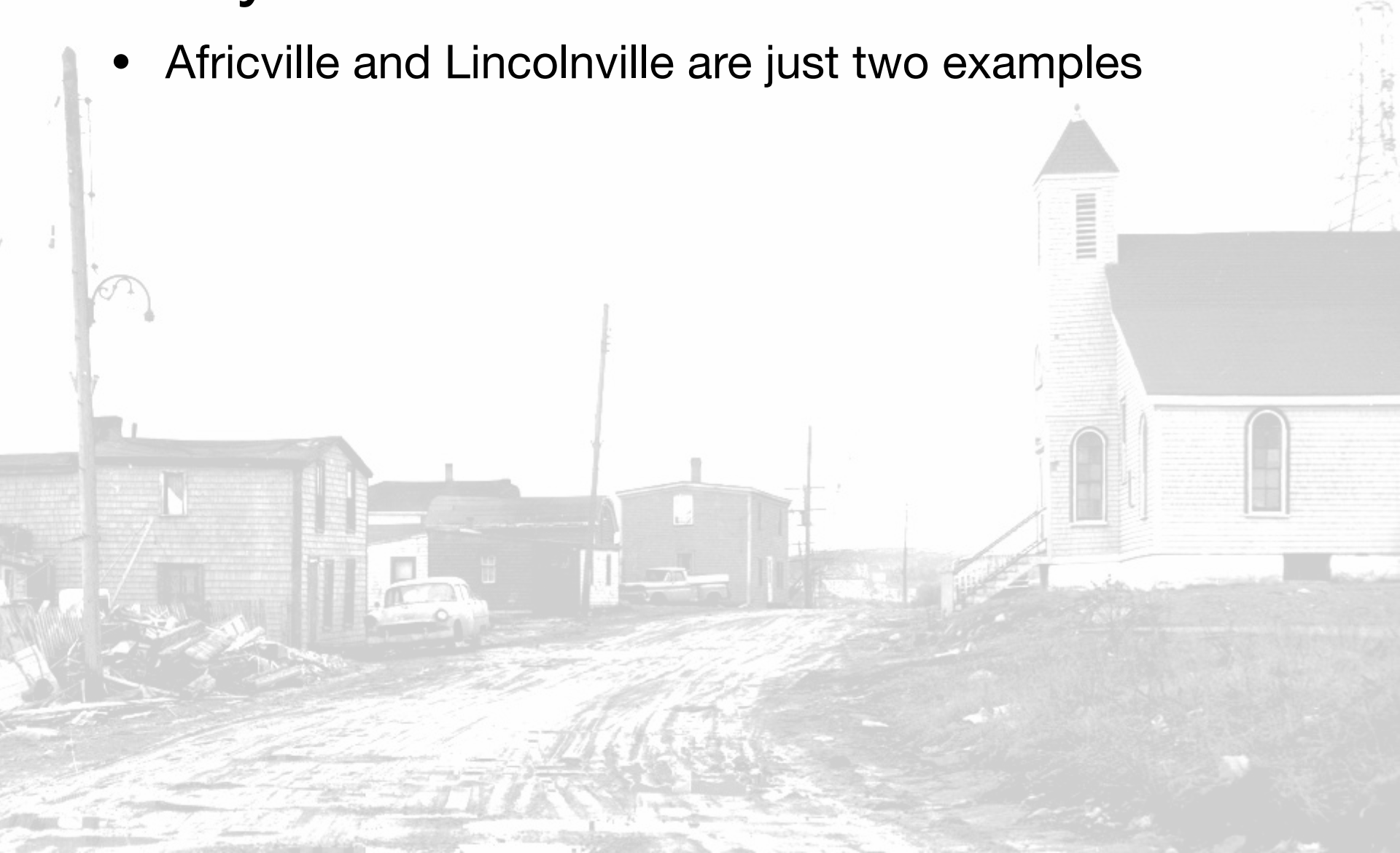
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 - “Lip service”
- Concerned Citizens of Lincolnville ignored

A Systemic Issue



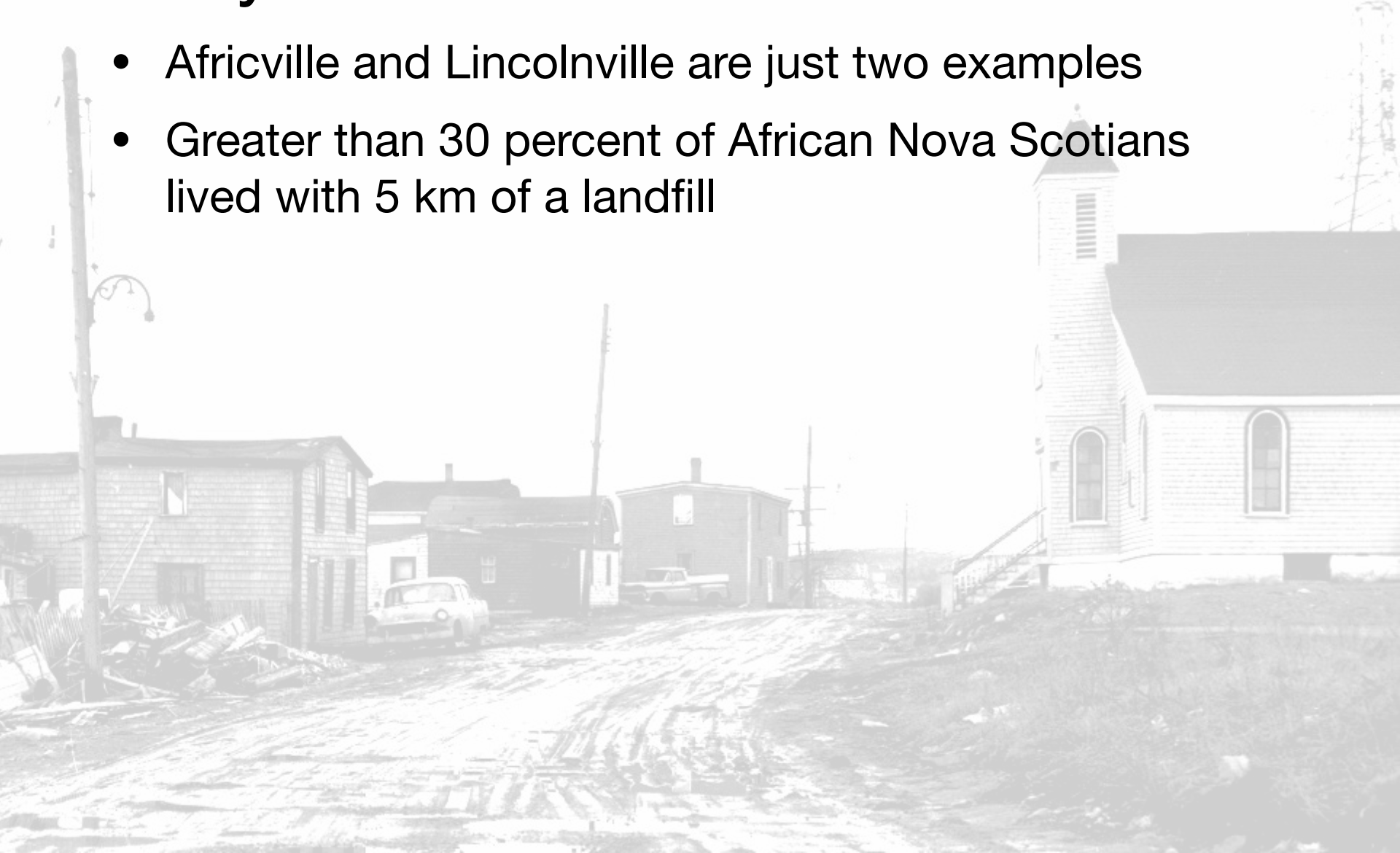
A Systemic Issue

- Africville and Lincolnville are just two examples



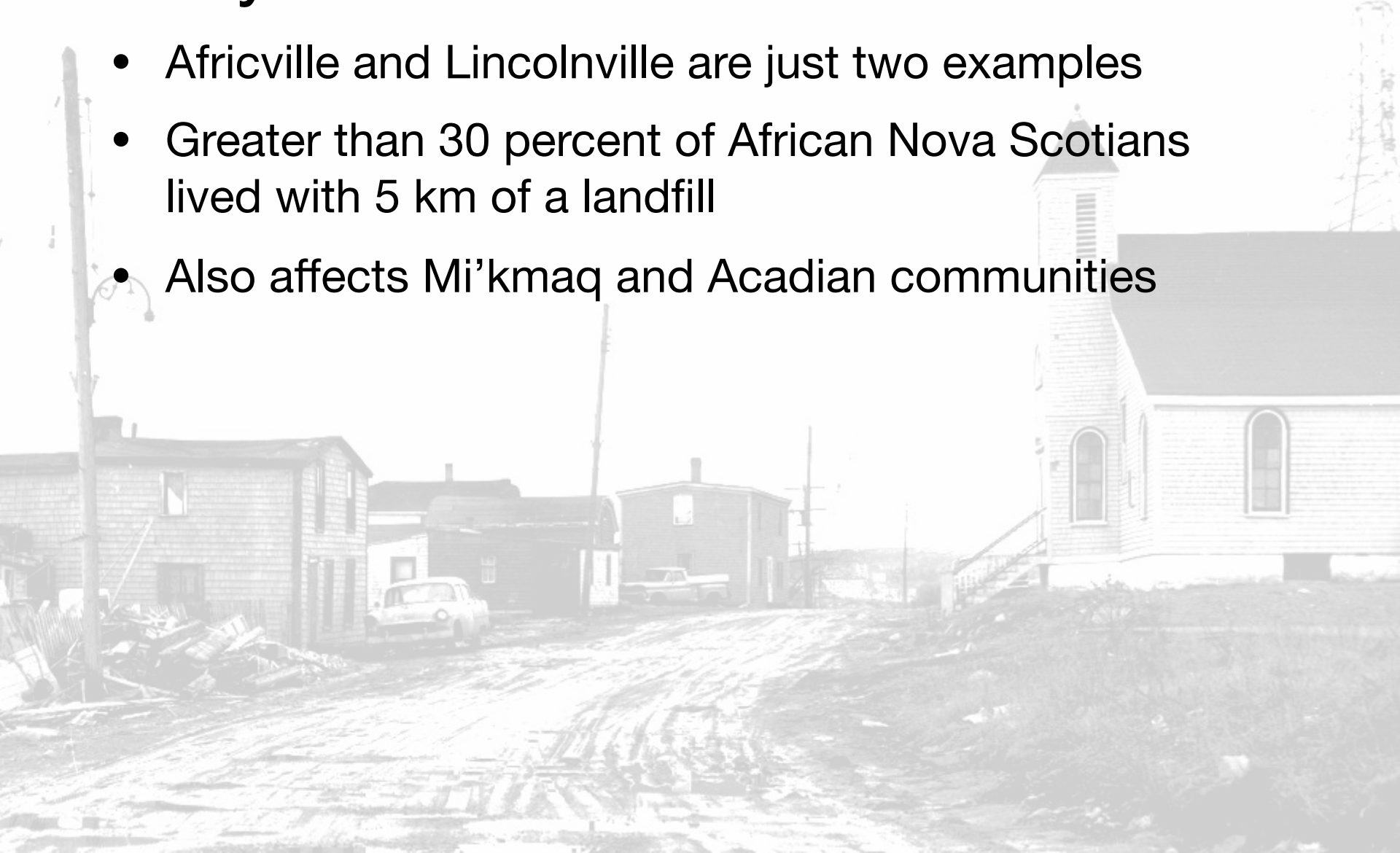
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- Africville and Lincolnville are just two examples
- Greater than 30 percent of African Nova Scotians lived with 5 km of a landfill



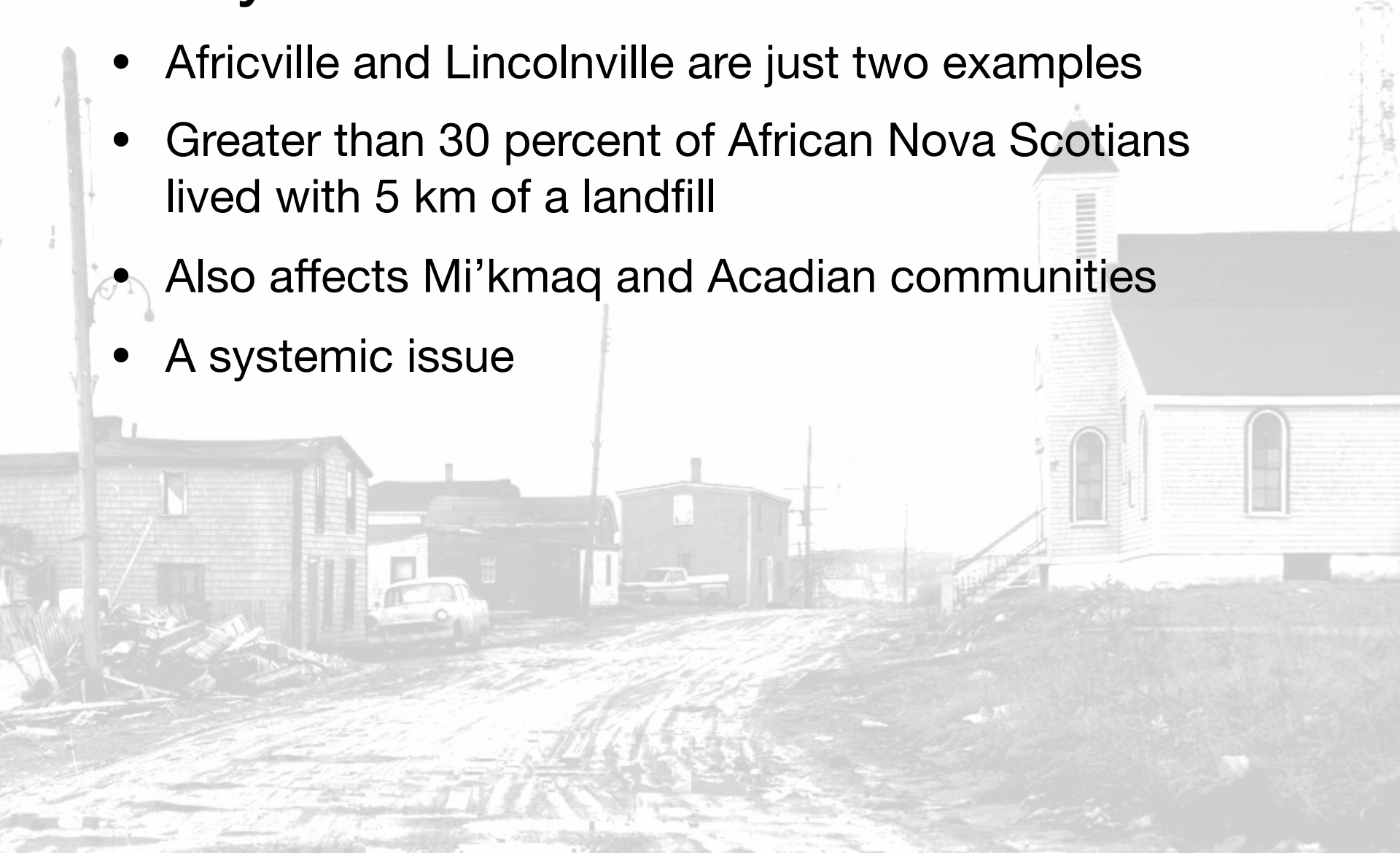
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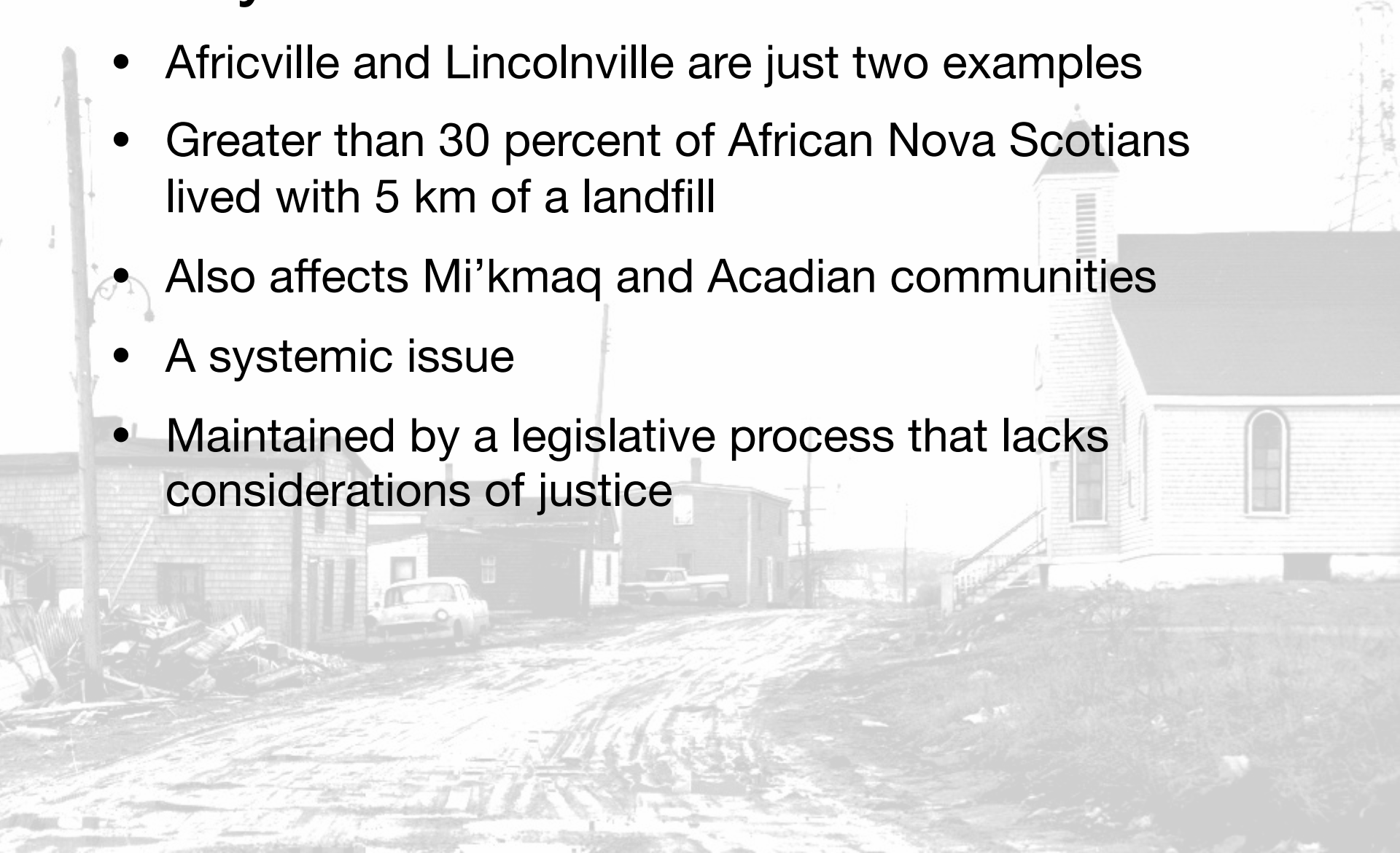
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- Also affects Mi'kmaq and Acadian communities
- A systemic issue
- Maintained by a legislative process that lacks considerations of justice
- Affected communities tend to have a low degree of political power to resist exploitation

Legislative Loopholes



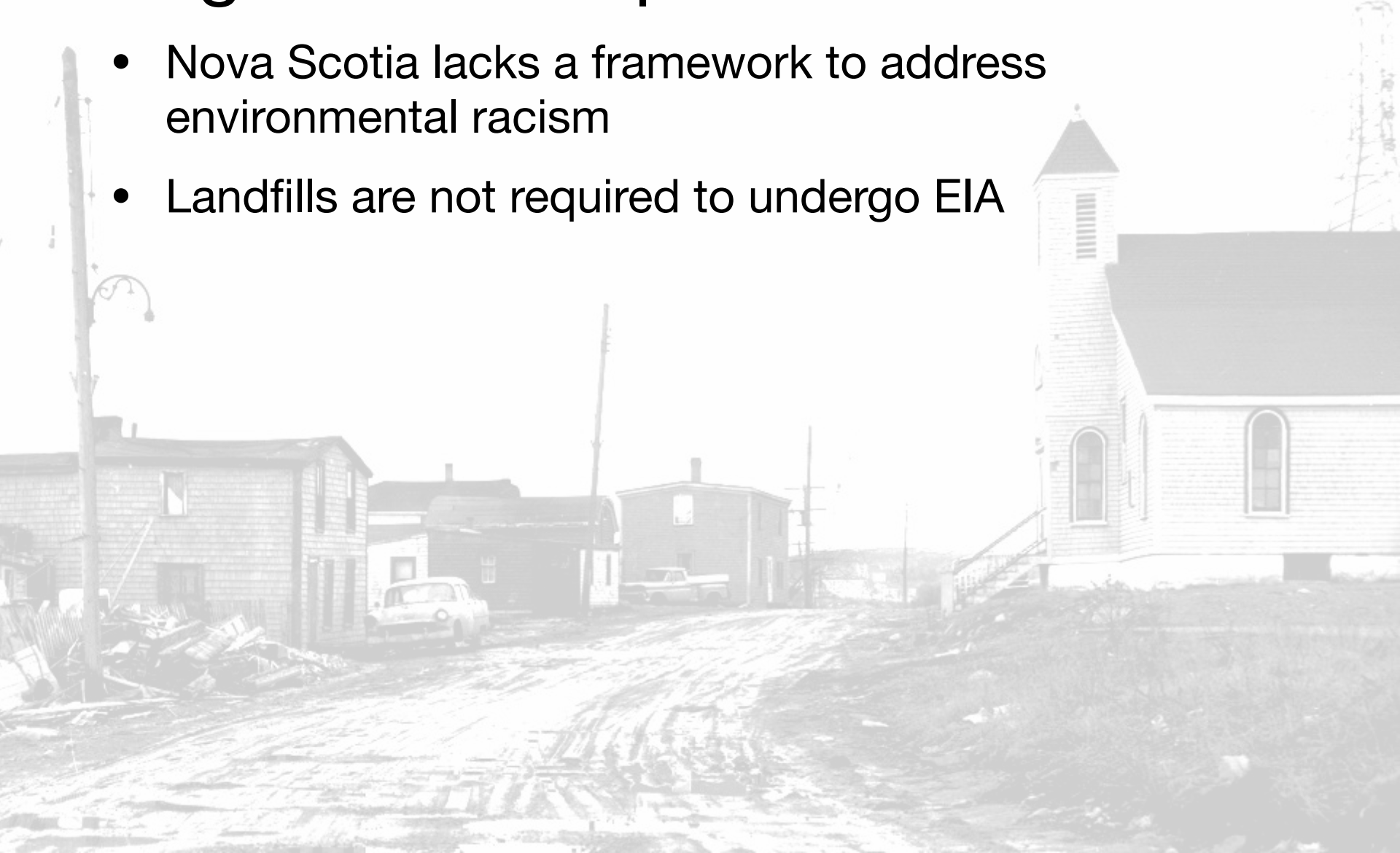
Legislative Loopholes

- Nova Scotia lacks a framework to address environmental racism



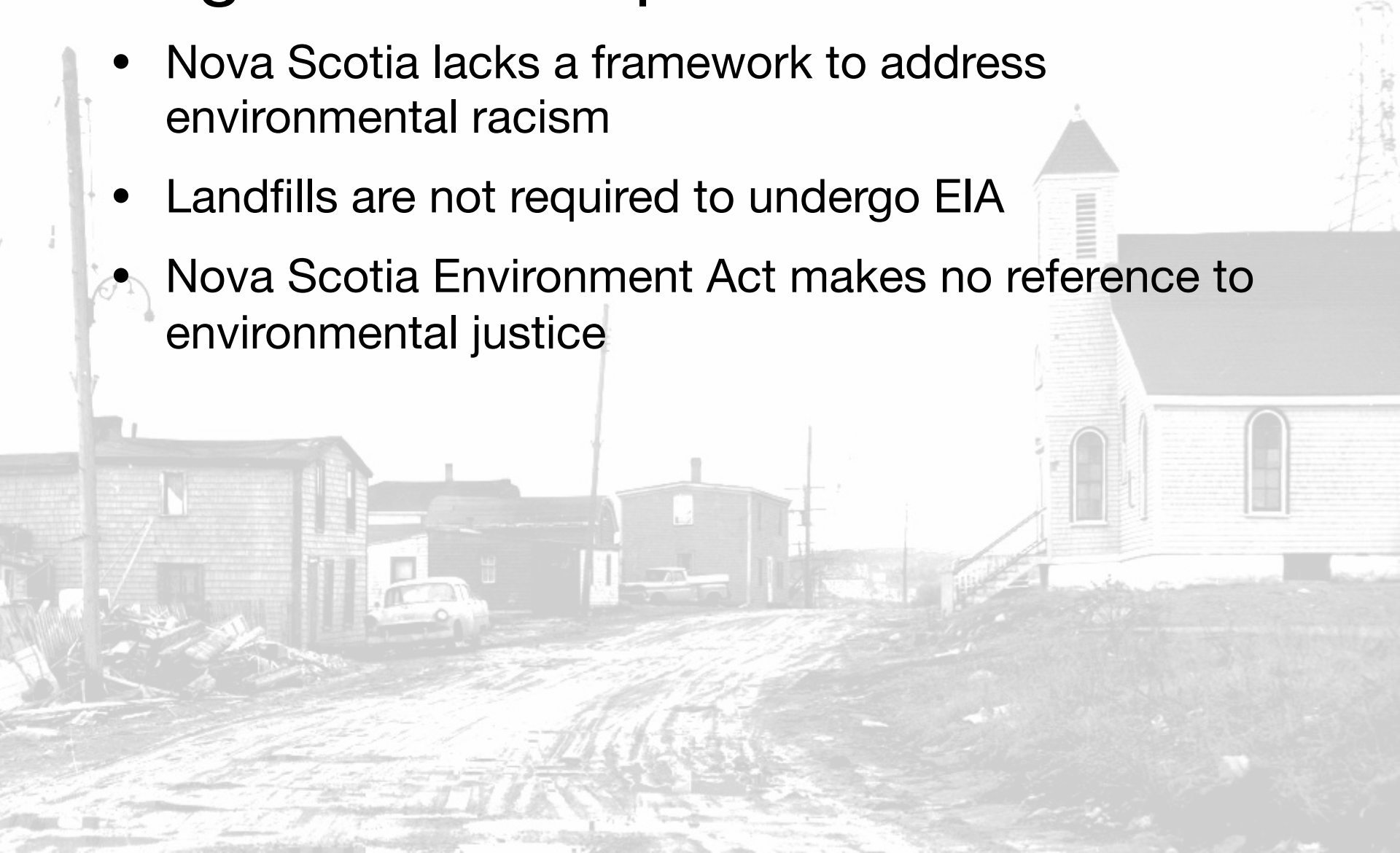
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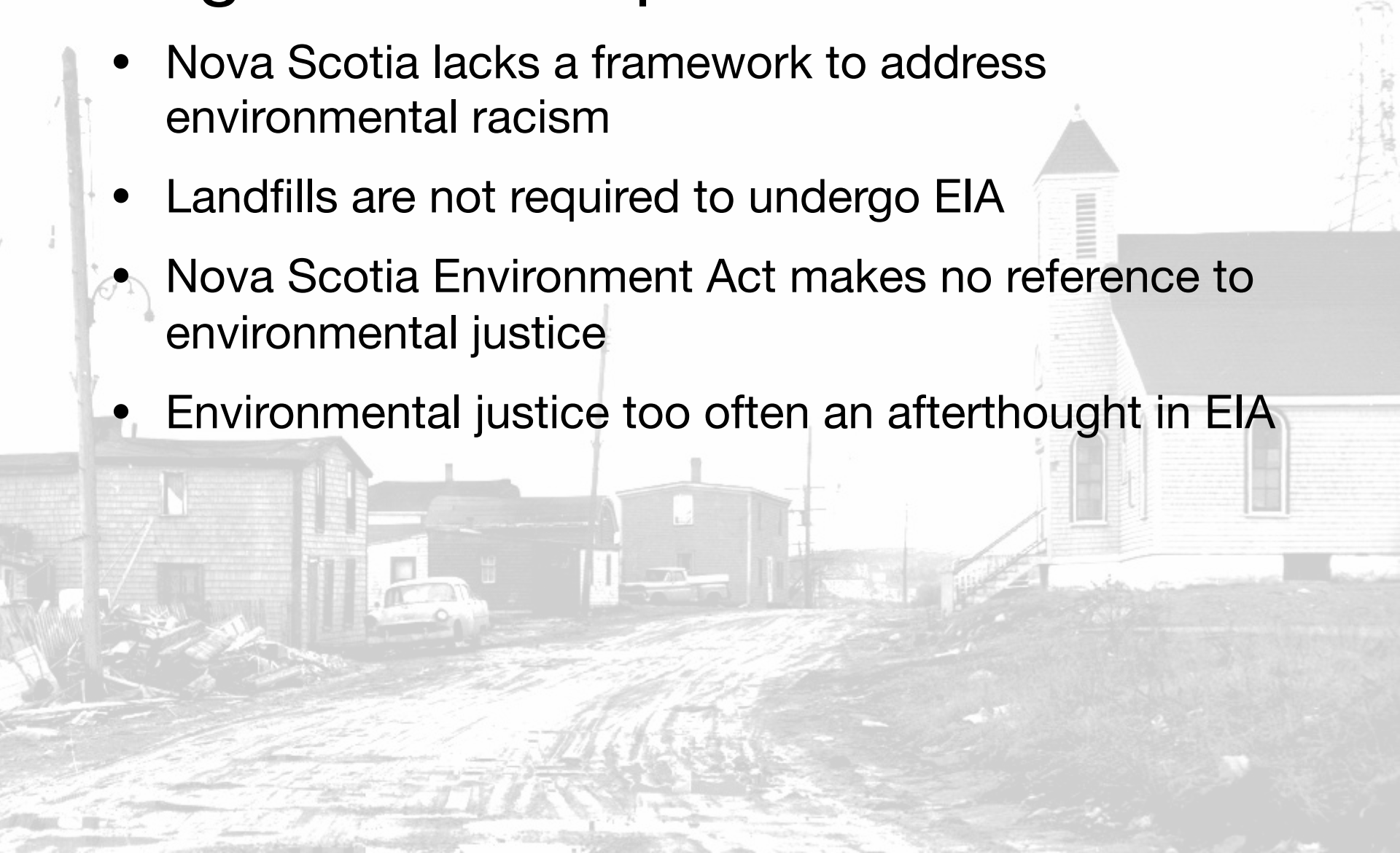
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- Nova Scotia Environment Act makes no reference to environmental justice



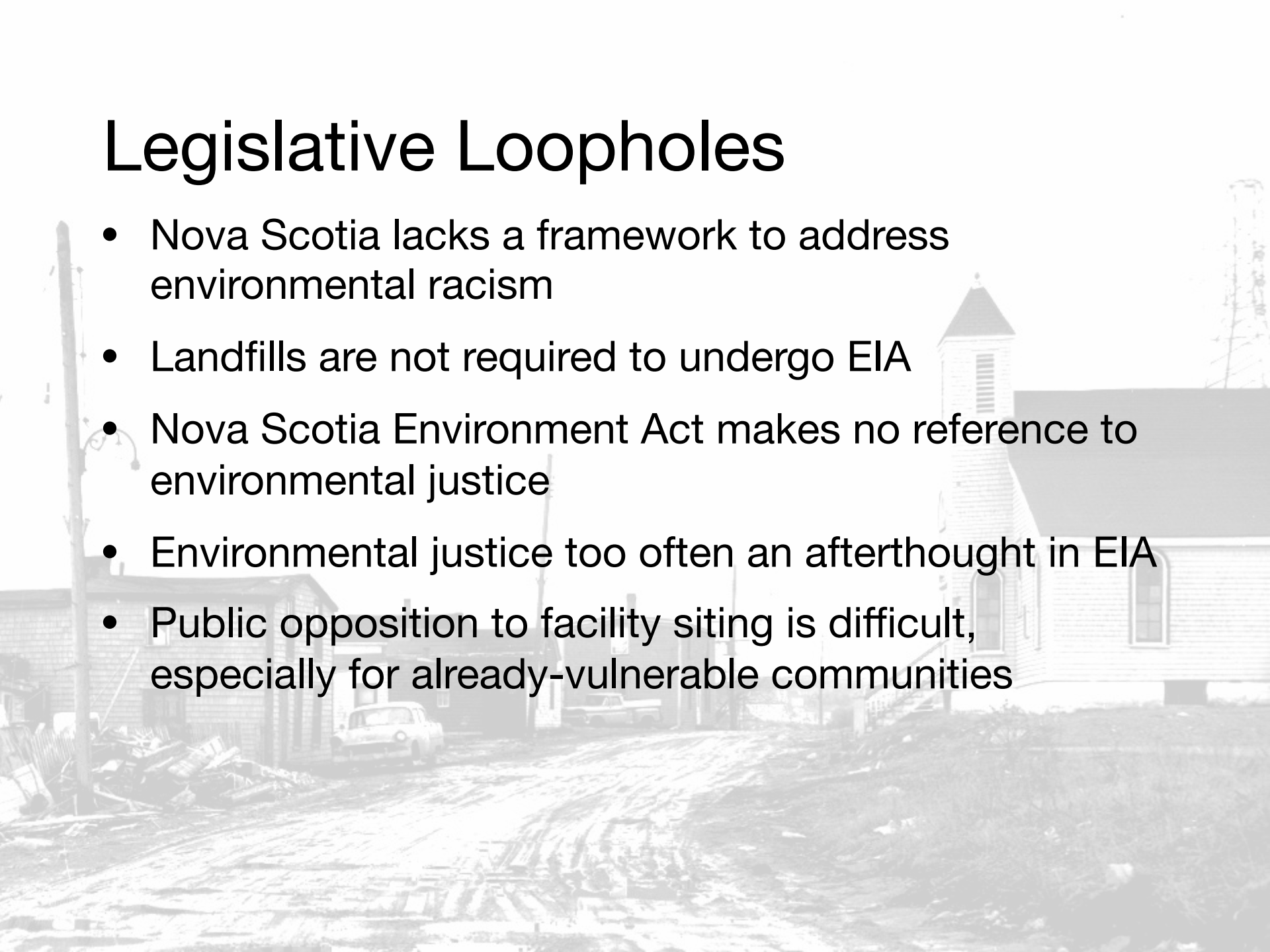
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- Nova Scotia Environment Act makes no reference to environmental justice
- Environmental justice too often an afterthought in EIA



Legislative Loopholes

- Nova Scotia lacks a framework to address environmental racism
- Landfills are not required to undergo EIA
- Nova Scotia Environment Act makes no reference to environmental justice
- Environmental justice too often an afterthought in EIA
- Public opposition to facility siting is difficult, especially for already-vulnerable communities



Legacies of the Loyalists



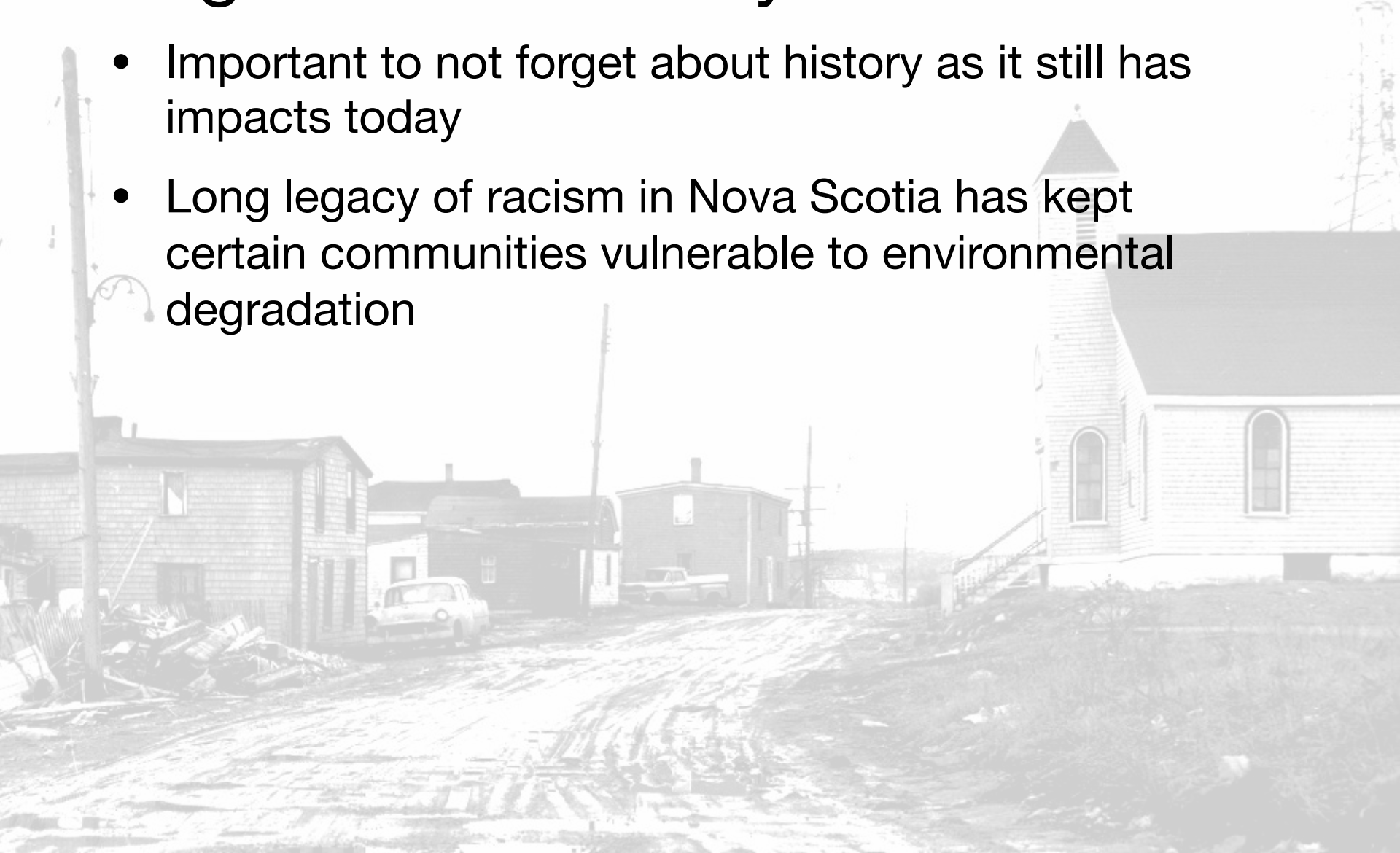
Legacies of the Loyalists

- Important to not forget about history as it still has impacts today



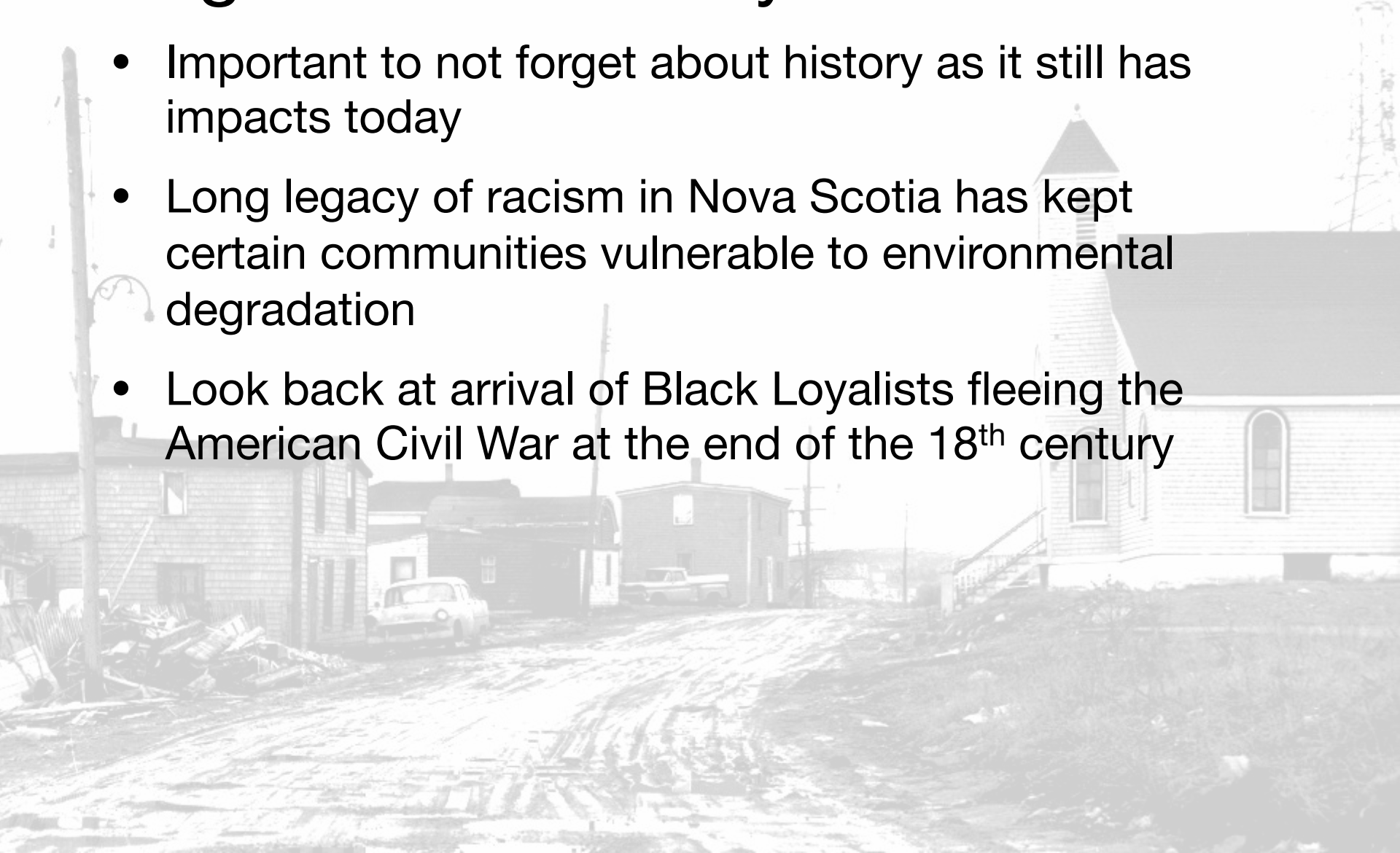
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Legacies of the Loyalists

- Important to not forget about history as it still has impacts today
- Long legacy of racism in Nova Scotia has kept certain communities vulnerable to environmental degradation
- Look back at arrival of Black Loyalists fleeing the American Civil War at the end of the 18th century
- Injustice today may be less overt, but residents of Lincolnville could testify that environmental racism remains a pertinent issue in this province

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Thank You

