

Stuff to do:

Legend

- **Change legend to:**
 - Historic White settlement (instead of White settlement)
 - Kanehsatà:ke today (instead of Kanehsatà:ke)

Pop Ups

- The popup windows are a bit difficult to understand. The way the info is organized could be improved (more like if we were reading a text rather than a database).
 - **Bring the date** at the same level as "Sold by" and "Sold to" and call it **"First sold on" / First conceded on (for conceded lots)**
 - **Change** Sold by or Conceded by to "By" and "Sold to" or "Conceded to" to "To"
 - **Add the acreage** to the top along with "First sold on" / "First conceded on", "To" and "By"
 - Make a clearer distinction between these info (i.e., "By" and "To" and "First sold on") and the following ones which are not always easy to understand.
 - ✓ **Add text before** that says, "Information from the Land Registry of Quebec."
 - ✓ **Change** "registration number" to "lot registration number"
 - ✓ **Change** "Found original sale" to "Researcher found original sale."
- **For lots only sold in part can we incorporate that in the pop up title.**
 - Example: "Lot number 17" would be "Part of lot 17"

General map

- **When I browse the map outside of the queries and click on a lot can the same settings apply as when I use a query ?** → other lots disappear and the lot selected appears in red.
- The fact that the map looks empty outside of the Sulpicians areas is puzzling, but I don't really have a great idea to suggest making it clear that this is a sample in a much larger sea of dispossession (this is not exactly the message conveyed here).
 - Maybe **adding text like a watermark outside the polygons** saying something like "Indigenous Territory beyond the scope of this project"
- The Animated timeline is the strongest feature of the map, **can we move it to the top instead of the address bar?**
- **Move the address bar to the bottom of the right panel as another query type.**
 - **Change the text to:** Are you from this area? If yes, question your property rights by entering your address and examining its ties to colonization.
- **Change the text** "Enter one or two queries" to "Search the database by"

- **Move** "Years" to the top of the list of queries.
- **Change** "Submit query" to "Search"
- **Change** Concessions with "name unknown" in the conceded by category to "Séminaire de St Sulpice"

Web page

- **Change tab** "Research" to "Research Methodology"
- **Include a StoryMap** that tells the story of this dispossession (i.e. the main phases with some maps and a bit of text).
 - Lets use [this](#) as a base for inspiration to structure and style the web page.

Introduction

Use the format below but replace it with:

540 km²	1830	200	2%	
Indigenous land granted Kanehsatà:ke	Parcels Distributed	Years	land remains for	
245	10.7 million	52	79,410	\$495 million
TRIBAL NATIONS AFFECTED	ACRES GRANTED	UNIVERSITIES BENEFITING	PARCELS DISTRIBUTED	ENDOWMENTS RAISED, 2020 DOLLARS

Approximately 540 square kilometers of Indigenous territory, comprising around 1830 individual parcels, were gradually allocated to European settlers over a span of two centuries. Today, a mere fraction, less than 2% of the original land, remains for the Mohawk of Kanehsatà:ke. This stark reality sheds light on the somber consequences of settler colonialism in the historical Seigneurie du Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes, situated within the present-day Deux-Montagnes Regional County Municipality in the Laurentides administrative region of Quebec, Canada.

The area gained significant notoriety during the Oka Crisis, or the siege of Kanehsatà:ke, when the Mohawk people confronted the Sureté Québec (SQ), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and the Canadian Army. This bold stand aimed to protect their sacred lands from being transformed into a golf course for Oka residents. This intense 78-day military standoff not only shook the nation but laid bare the persistent and deeply unjust structures at the core of land based conflicts today.

But the Oka crisis was just the tip of the iceberg. The roots of this conflict stretch back nearly three centuries.

In Quebec, the seigneurial system governed and distributed land from the 16th to the 19th century. The "seigneurs" were often French nobles, merchants or religious congregations, who had been granted large pieces of the land by the French Crown. The Sulpicians, a French society of diocesan priests, are often described as wealthy educated elites, academics and missionaries, they were first and foremost powerful and influential landowners. They were the Seigneurs of the island of Montreal for almost 200 years (1663 to 1854) in addition to the Seigneurie they administered in the Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes and the Seigneurie de Saint-Sulpice.

In the early 1700s, the Sulpicians were granted around 540 km² of land by the King of France. The purpose was to establish the Seigneurie du Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes and displace a Mohawk group (Kanien'kehá:ka) that had converted to Catholicism, known as the "Mission Indians," to distance them from burgeoning settler towns on the island of Montreal. Yet, [Kanien'kehá:ka oral traditions and archaeological evidence](#) point to another faction of Kanien'kehá:ka (Kanehsatakeró:non) having inhabited the land long before the Sulpicians' arrival, and the French land grant.



Crédit : Sulpicien XVIIe siècle. Henri Beau, aquarelle

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The Sulpicians and the British assured the Mohawk that the land in the Seigneurie du Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes was theirs to live on. In 1721 the Mohawk made the Two Dog

Wampum as a chain of friendship to confirm this commitment and bind the Sulpicians to their responsibilities and obligations. In the words of Mohawk Chief Aughneetha, Montreal Feb. 8, 1787

“our Priest (in conjunction with the Clergy of the Seminary of Montreal) told us we should remove once more with our Families, for that it was no longer proper that any Indians should live on this Island, and that if we would consent to go and settle at the Lake of Two Mountains we should have a large tract of land for which we should have a Deed from the King of France as our property, to be vested in us and our Heirs forever, and that we should not be molested again in our habitations. Altho’ it was very inconvenient to us to be quitting our houses and small clearings, yet the desire of having a fixed property of our own induced us to comply, and we accordingly set out and took possession of the Land assigned to us, and as was the custom of our Forefather, we immediately set about making a Belt (which we now deliver to you)”

[INSERT WAMPUM HERE]

Although the Kanehsata'keró:non repeatedly delivered this Two Dog Wampum to British officials, officials to honor their promise and protect the land from white settlement, the British upheld that the Sulpician priests were the sole owners of the land. As the Mohawks' (Kanehsatakeró:non) rights and title to the land were never formally recognized, they became dependent upon the Sulpicians to hold for them “in trust.” However, the Sulpicians broke their obligations and sold 98% of the land to settlers, the descendants of whom still live on the land and celebrate the Sulpician’s heritage today.

How was contractually promised land was taken from the Mohawk of Kanehsatà:ke ?

After a Seigneurie was granted, the “seigneur” or lord had a surveyor map the lots to be conceded (the cadaster). In a registry (the “terrier”), each lot was recorded along with the name of the “censitaire” (the settler paying to use the land) and the subsequent transactions. The seigneur sometimes added the details of the taxation (called cens and rents) in the “censier.” In their land registries the Sulpicians painstakingly recorded every property transaction they made with settlers for more than 200 years.

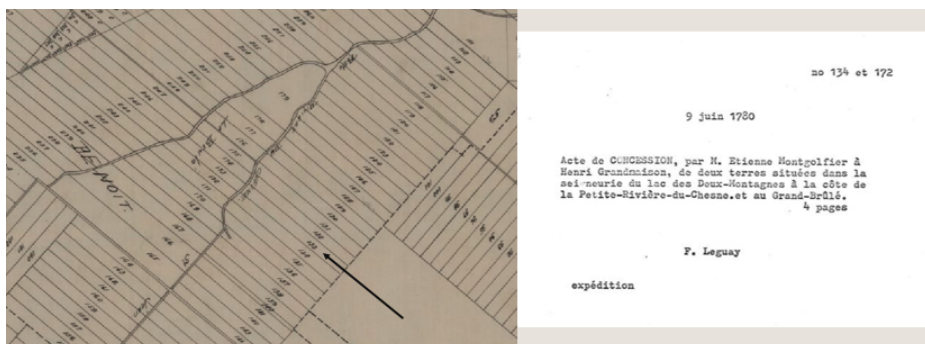
[insert cadaster of the seigneurie du Lac des Deux montagnes here (check your emails)]

By reconstructing the historical cadaster of the Seigneurie du Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes and locating the initial deeds of sale and concession for each individual lot, we can analyze and understand the rhythm, geographical distribution, and spatial dynamics of these transactions. This information provides valuable insights into the colonization process and its significant impact on the people of Kanehsatà:ke.



[Insert act of concession here (check your emails)]

layout should look like this:



The scale of dispossession

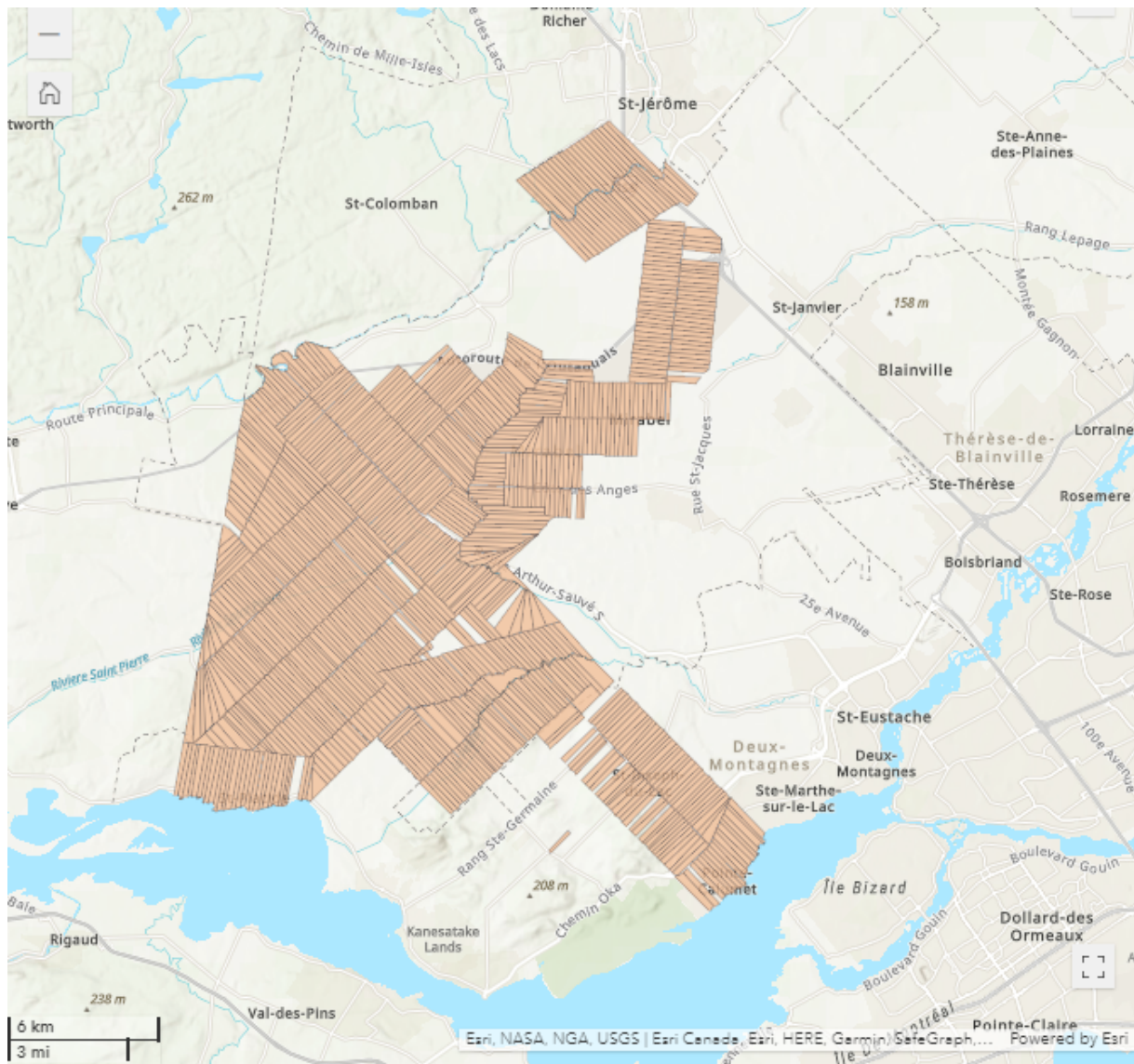
Land was not distributed evenly over time. Settlement seemed to happen through sharp 10 to 30-year bursts. These bursts happened around three phases.

[Insert FIGURE 7] : Number of acres distributed in thousands. This shows us that most of the land was granted to settlers between 1780 and 1829 with a peak at 35 000 acres between 1790 and 1799.

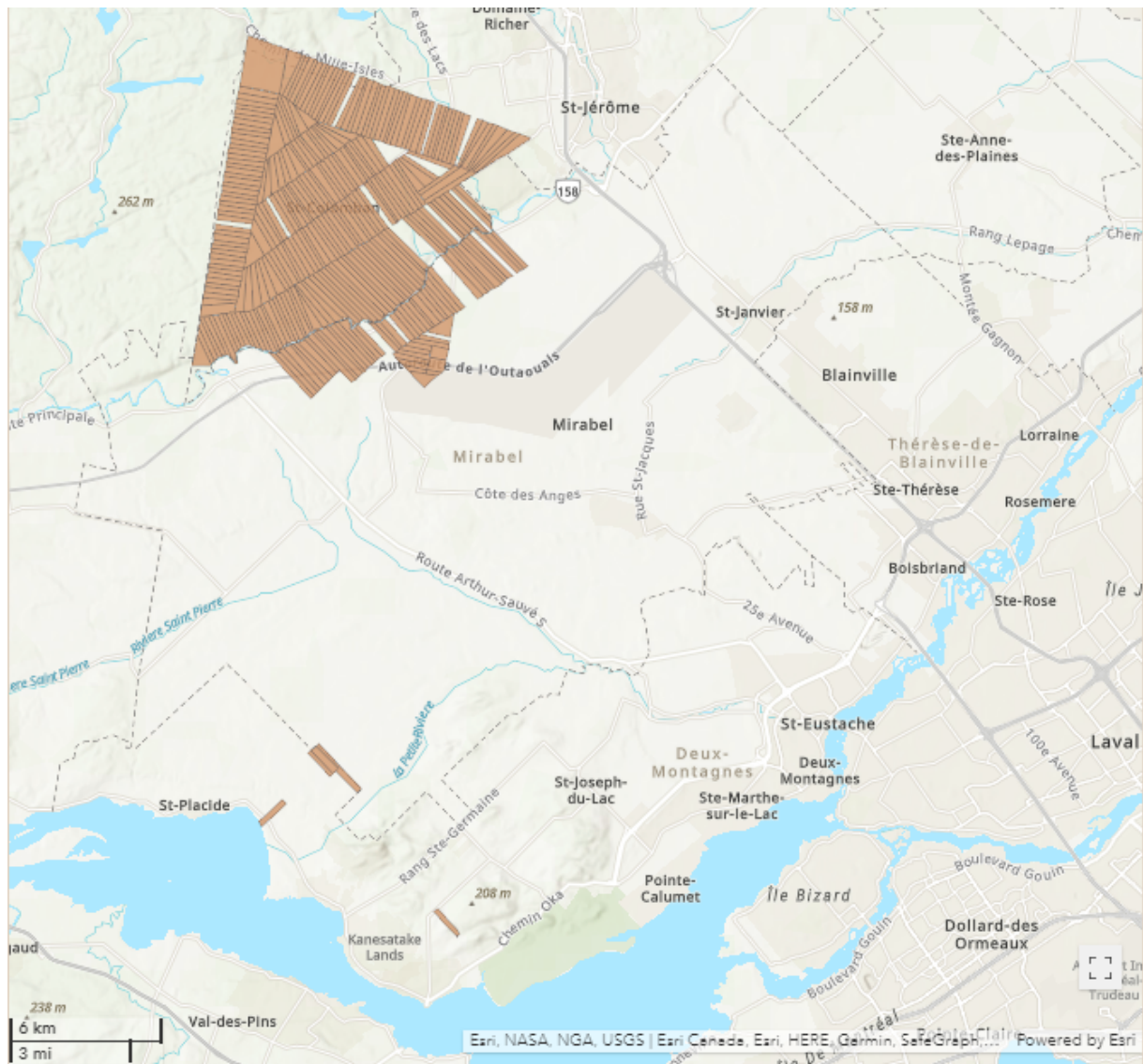
The rhythm of dispossession

The first settlement phase from 1780 to 1809 (with a significant peak from 1790 to 1780) comprises primarily French farmers. They settle in the fertile lands around the côte St-Joseph, côte de la Baie, and les Eblouis and extend northwards. These areas constitute "la mouvance,"

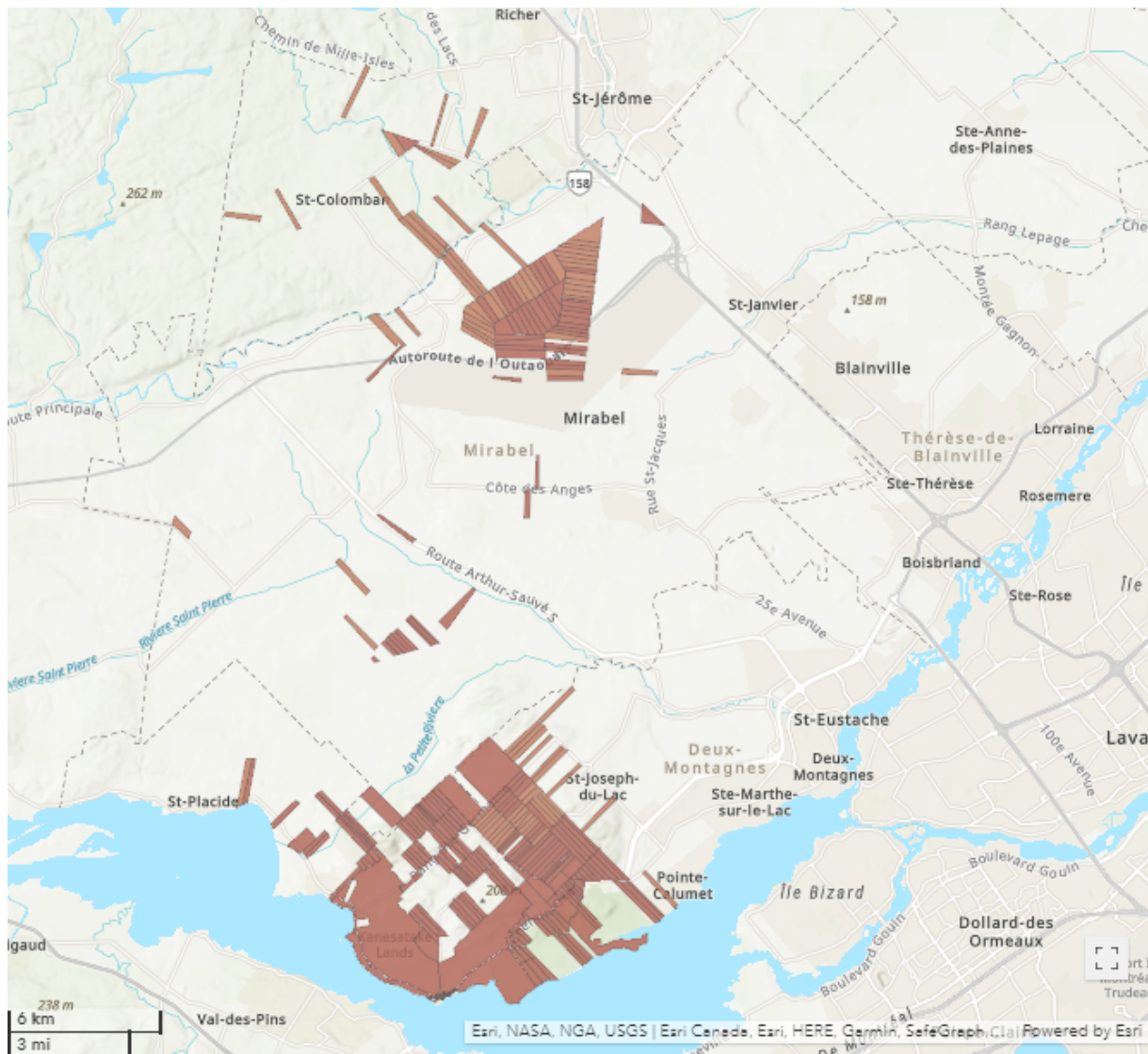
where the Sulpicians collect feudal taxes (cens and rentes) according to their affirmed title to the land.



The second phase of settlement was brief but intense, 28 000 acres granted in the span of 10 years from 1820 to 1829, the equivalent of 21 200 football fields, slightly larger than the entire municipality of Oka today. This data spike corresponds to the Sulpicians' implementation of the British monarchy's plan to settle British immigrants in the Seigneurie du Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes. The British immigrants settled in the north/west of the seigneurie. The North River ("La Rivière-du-Nord ") provided a buffer between the British and the French settlements.



The third phase of settlement happened between 1860 and 1889 and is notable because it marked the end of the seigniorial regime in 1858. The lots granted in this period will be the first legal land sales in the Seigneurie, where the settler could purchase lots and gain full title of the land or purchase the lot they had previously been leasing (at the value of seventeen years of annual taxes). The upsurge in acres granted could also be due to the large number of Algonquin families that moved to Miniwaki from Kanehsatà:ke between 1858 and 1870, and Kanehsatakeró:nnon families to Gibson in 1881 freeing up more land (Gabriel-Doxtater & Van den Hende, 1995).



Profits generated

It's hard to say how much was made because land sale amounts were not consistently recorded. What we do know is:

- Between 1790 and 1824, Quebecois historian Christian Dessureault (1979) estimates that the Sulpicians made 290 027 livres (**4 818 907 \$ in 2023**) collecting taxes (le champart, les banalités, les droits casuels, les cens et rentes).
- In 1859, The Canadian federal government paid a first installment of **157 413 CA\$** (when the seigneurial system was abolished in 1854).
- Despite the abolition of the seigneurial regime **80%** of the censitaires (the settlers paying to use the land) ended up paying "rentes constituées" for the next 80 years.
- The abolition of the seigneurial regime granted the seigneurs full possession of domain lands in the municipality of Oka, to which were added the unconceded spaces

in the Seigneurie. This provision of the law testifies to the legislator's very favorable attitude towards the seigneurs and his desire to preserve their property rights at all costs, even if it meant depriving the Kanehsatakerónon of even more land.

- In 1935, the National Commission for the Repurchase of Seigniorial Rents (SNRRS) paid 51 835 CA\$ (**1 131 730 CA\$ in 2023**) the trustees of the commercial property of Saint-Sulpice. This money served to redress the Sulpicians' finances in a moment where a series of bad investments had placed them under governmental trusteeship from 1937 to 1960.

This map documents the history of land dispossession in the Seigneurie du Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes from 1780 to 1960. It records for each parcel of land (in white) the dates they were taken from the Mohawk through sale or concession, identifies the Sulpicians responsible for these actions (when possible), and lists the names of the settlers who received these parcels of land.

To navigate through the information, you can use the panel on the right-hand side. You have the option to search through the database or directly enter a specific address. If you want to visually experience the process of dispossession unfolding over time, you can click the "[]" button, which will allow you to see the changes dynamically on the map.

[Spencer's map goes here]