

OLOGUE

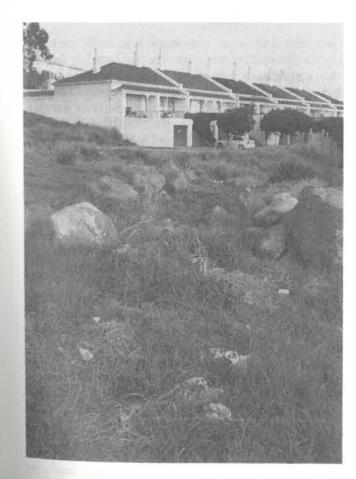
ation, they're liable to be left alone time. Such "land invasions" appear ne of the greatest uncertainty over nd 1991. There was a real fear for djoining the city center at that time,

ng peripheral or interstitial, a third ect on the overall landscape of South ; "incumbent upgrading," is associoduced into township housing forstate. In 1983 "The Great Sale," a off, was instituted, and by 1989 just can government housing was in indients, who as renters in the past were lditions or adornments officially torn see same homes. As a result, the previuth African townships has been partly offer diversity.

elf" diversity.

Iree prior developments, a change that while apartheid was on the law books.

e "grey areas" (because neither Black Cape Town can now be seen so evi--water-mark of urban apartheid-that may have thought it more or less had s sewn up the way it wanted, with the n District Six being expelled in 1982sburg a "White" area named Hillbrow as a racially ambiguous zone. Eagerly ped-for nonracial future, Hillbrow was cursor of like zones in Durban, Cape ermaritzburg, among others. In compargimentation, the operation of the "free n progressive, in its ability to conjure sing supply and demand. "Greying" ocges of downtowns, and particularly where e for the suburbs, opening vacant slots r-income Blacks (be they Indians, Colight move. In 1988 a South African govnonetheless



Upper Ashley Street, now gentrified as Blinde Street, among the hummocky, rubble strewn empty spaces of the former District Six. This was one of a handful of streets not razed to the ground.

As the reader will find in Chapter 6, such was the District's symbolism that after the enforced removal of the bulk of its population in the early 1970s it proved exceedingly difficult to induce any non-government investment there whatsoever. Indeed, the parallel with a never-to-rise-again Carthage which I made by introducing the image of tainted, salted earth (p. 153) seems to have become common coin in any discussions of the square kilometer or more which is District Six. The present resultant underutilization of extensive tracts of this inner-city territory makes it, surely, an opportunity for a democratic South Africa to show that times really have changed—as shall be seen in the Epilogue