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### Digital History Project: Greensboro Jewish History Tour

My project is to make a Greensboro Jewish History Tour for the Greensboro History Museum in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month. The central question I examined in my project is how physical spaces in Greensboro have been transformed or influenced by the Jewish community, while also highlighting key Jewish people. The goals of my project included selecting locations and families/individuals connected to Greensboro's development, writing a historical context for each location and connecting it with a photograph, inputting this information into KnightLab StoryMap JS, creating Juxtapose images to highlight location differences over time, and reaching out to local Jewish organizations for input and feedback. I wanted this tour to be interactive, adaptable, and accessible, which is demonstrated in how locations are divided into three sections: walking, bicycling, and driving. The progression of the map is not in a chronological order but in distance and practicality of an in-person tour, visually divided by the symbolized three ways of transportation. Instead of three separate maps, it is all in one, with the Greensboro History Museum acting as the starting point for each section and following the order of the slides.

For my project, I wanted to have a clear data management plan. I was able to create a bibliography, including a mix of both primary and secondary sources, of the sites I visited for my research, where I pulled photographs and information. The main digital technology I used for my

project was KnightLab StoryMap JS. While there were instances of typing and editing directly on StoryMap, I largely tried to write on a Google Doc to avoid any loss of data due to something not getting saved. I also made sure I had copies of my writing, which my supervisor also has access to my copies. Once I was satisfied with my writing, I would then input my information into StoryMap. For each of the photographs I incorporated into the StoryMap, there are photo credits and descriptions for the context of the image. Some of the photos included in the map are images I took myself when visiting a few of the sites. At the end of the StoryMap, there is a copy of the bibliography for all of the sources I used for my writing and a transcript for each slide on the StoryMap.

I also relied on another KnightLab tool for my project, Juxtapose. Because StoryMap only allows for one photograph per slide, I wanted a way to incorporate more photographs that I was able to find. Through Juxtapose, I was able to highlight a few locations in Greensboro showcasing how buildings have changed or stayed the same over time.

Lastly, I visited the UNCG Special Collections and University Archives, where I was able to scan some documents related to the Greensboro chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women. While I actually did not end up directly showing the images in the map, there were a lot of helpful sources in the archives I used to get a better understanding of the local families and those involved in civic activism in the area.

While I was originally interested in using the Map Warper we practiced with in class and applying a 1915 Sanborn map of downtown Greensboro to my StoryMap, I felt it was not as accessible to read as I would have liked. While I ultimately decided to scrap it from my original plans, the map was incredibly helpful in locating some locations I highlighted on my tour, which have since been demolished and built over.

Another aspiration that I had to shelf while creating this project was the incorporation of videos or sounds through SoundCite. While I still stand by the importance of incorporating videos, and I was able to input one oral history video into my StoryMap, I was afraid of it becoming overwhelming to users pulling up the map on devices other than a laptop. I had a friend consult on my project to see how StoryMap looked from the medium of an older iPhone, and I was told it was somewhat hard to read with the amount of text and images.

To provide a better sense of ways this tour could be adapted, I used markers to show which locations would make a good walking, bicycling, and driving tour. In my introduction, I clarify that these markers, with the Greensboro History Museum as the starting point, are merely a guide or suggestion and not mandatory for anyone's experience. At the core of this digital project, I wanted it to be used and adapted to anyone's preference in how they chose to explore Greensboro's Jewish history, whether that be in person or solely through the comfort of their screen.

Also, from my original project plan, the StoryMap came to take on a life of its own, with a lot of the focus being on the downtown Greensboro area rather than originally planned as evenly spread out across town. As I met with individuals a part of groups like Women of the Shoah, Beth David Synagogue, Temple Emanuel, and the Jewish Federation, I was met with positive interest and excitement to help/experience this project. From this support, the number of locations increased more than the original amount I decided on when starting this project.

One of the greatest challenges I faced while working on this project was the question of "when do I stop?" I originally planned to cover about 15 stops on my tour, evenly divided between walking, bicycling, driving, and key people. As I kept researching and meeting with people, I would be met with the occasional "do you have this location/person," or "you have to

include this.” I am extremely grateful for the feedback I received, but I began to feel the pressure of representing a community I am not a part of, and I wanted to include as much as I could. I eventually capped myself at twenty markers on the StoryMap, but still felt somewhat guilty for not adding more locations. However, in my introduction and conclusion slides, I emphasized how this map is in no way a complete list of everything related to Jewish history in Greensboro.

On a similar thread of feeling guilty about what I did and didn’t include, there are a few slides where I felt the amount of writing was overwhelming, and no one would want to read it. I divided some of the longer texts into smaller sections to visually aid viewers; however, I ultimately had to choose to leave certain things out of the narrative for this project. Each slide offers a good amount of historical context, and if visitors are still interested in learning more, the included bibliography can help them as a finding aid for primary and secondary sources I came across in my research to make this project.

Another issue that came up when conversing with the Jewish Federation and Temple Emanuel was security. A few people brought up how this project could potentially put locations and people in danger by publicly announcing Jewish spaces. In attempting to address this issue, Dr. Parsons and I reflected on how the project should reflect historical spaces or locations geared more toward “neutral” public community spaces instead of sites where Jewish communities gather to practice their faith. Two sites that might get edited or taken out completely from the digital project are the Temple Emanuel Greene Street campus and the former home of Albert and Min Klein. While both sites are historically significant to Greensboro’s Jewish community, the Greene Street site is still used for service once a month and houses the Temple’s archives. And with the Klein home, while the family no longer resides there, the home has since gone under new ownership, which might not want their home displayed on a tour map.

While I would not classify this as a challenge, but a change from my original plan, I had hoped to edit/design directly on the Greensboro History Museum WordPress. I ultimately was not given access, and it will need to be something I work on together with Sarah Anne Maske later in December. Despite this limitation, I decided to input my ideas on a WordPress account I bought for my internship course over the summer. I was told in advance on the GHM website, it would be put in as a post, which is how I have it set up on my site. This WordPress is merely a placeholder for practice for my materials and not its final destination.

WordPress continued to be a challenge for me due to the layout. The text was not able to go full-width, as the site required me to upgrade my subscription to change the layout. Due to this layout limitation, the StoryMap is not accessible to read, in my opinion. I also extremely dislike how the yellow background is displayed behind the text of the StoryMap instead of a cleaner and more readable grey/black text with a white background. However, as this is merely my placeholder, it will have to do for now until I can apply my project to the GHM WordPress. To make up for the readability of the map, I input a link for people to visit the StoryMap in a separate tab.

I also came into another issue with the Juxtapose I created in Knight Lab; it was not displaying in WordPress. While I considered putting in the links as I did with the StoryMap, I wanted to incorporate more images directly into WordPress instead of just putting a lot of links, which people might be scared to open separately or get irritated opening too many tabs. WordPress also offers its own form of comparison, putting photos side-by-side with a slide bar. In the beginning, I had planned to offer an element geared more towards a classroom setting in the form of an activity students could use alongside the map. While I still feel like I

accomplished that original goal, it was toned down/marketed a bit more as a fun visual aid exercise for all ages to see how buildings in Greensboro have changed over time.

Overall, I have come to be happy and proud of my project. I plan to continue working on this project as part of my capstone for museum studies. I will apply a select few of these locations to lead an in-person program with the Greensboro History Museum. While originally discussed to be solely a bus or trolley tour, we are in conversation about offering both a walking tour and a trolley/bus tour in the spring, in late April/early May. From the StoryMap, I will take the information and tailor it to the writing style of a script to be read aloud in a public setting. I also hope to tie this digital map to the small temporary exhibit I will put up in the lobby of the GHM during Jewish American Heritage Month. While the map focused on locations and people building their spaces for the community, I want the exhibit to highlight the life moments occurring within these spaces.