New Town was an African American neighborhood in Blacksburg, Virginia from the late 19th century until the mid-1960’s. It consisted of Gilbert Street and a small lane that were home to about 20 families. The lone remaining structure today is the St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall, which was the social center for area African-Americans from 1905 until the end of segregation. In the 1970s road construction and other development resulted in the decline and disappearance of the neighborhood.

As an on-line resource and on-site Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality experience, New Town Remembered shows participants the joys and struggles of those who lived in this neighborhood during segregation. Of particular importance, participants will discover how problem solving, persistence, pride, and community cohesion were key elements in a successful neighborhood despite the exclusionary restrictions. These important lessons from the past have universal applications today.

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