Remaking Space: A Geo-spatial Visualization of the Irwinville Farms Community
SETTING THE STAGE:

01 Filming the Documentary
Collected a variety of available photographs, articles, and interviews from the program’s history.

2014

02 “Memory & Archives” Class
Used Esri Story Maps to create online mapped version of the project.

2017
Question 1: What are the rhetorical implications of using a geospatially visualized archive to facilitate memory of cultural heritage?

Question 2: How might this project serve in the construction of new, “prosthetic” memories (Landsberg 2004) about the Irwinville Farms Project?

Question 3: In what ways could the concepts of “crowdsourcing” and the “user-archivist” be incorporated in this project, and how might this contribute to collective ownership of the project?
Establishing “THE WHY”:

In “Mapping the Geo-Spatial Turn” (2016), Todd Presner and David Shepard point out that “much work still remains to be done in marking up and curating the physical environment in ways that augment knowledge, deepen community, and preserve the complexity of cultural memories through mapping.”

By overlaying historic photographs and oral histories over a mapped version of the Irwinville Farms Project, I hoped to help deepen community while also preserving community memories—even, as mentioned, the more problematic ones.
**PATTERNS FOUND:**

**Irwinville Schoolhouse**
Culturally significant place of community bonding.

Demonstrates the ways in which “GIS resources can furnish insights into spatial histories of cultural representation & practices.”

**A Problematic Narrative**
Multiple residents remember being called derogatory or names that were considered offensive.

Represents the darker side of the program often left out of the narrative in the community.
MOVING FORWARD:

How to crowdsourcing and spark additional dialogues about this narrative?