

Appendix C.

Interview Schedule

How do you usually describe your house to someone who hasn't been here before? What three words best describe your house?

Would you say you're happy with the house? How happy, on a scale from 1–10?

What's your favorite thing about your house? What do you like the least?

How long have you lived here? What year was this home built?

Have you made any changes to the house? Have you done them yourself?

What do you think your house says about you?

How would you describe your neighborhood? Are you happy with the neighborhood? How happy, from 1–10?

What do you think other people think about this neighborhood when they drive through? About the people who live here?

Does this neighborhood have any kind of reputation? What kind? Is this reputation accurate?

What's most important in defining a good neighborhood? What makes a good neighborhood? A bad neighborhood?

Can you usually tell just by looking if a house is a good place to live? What characteristics do you look for?

What do you think a house says about the people who live there? Give examples.

What do you think people notice first when they see your home for the first time? What do you wish they would notice?

If you're driving through a neighborhood for the first time, what sorts of things do you look for to tell if it's a good neighborhood?

How would you compare your homes to others in this neighborhood?

Can you see yourself moving in the next five years? Would you move to a different house if given the opportunity? To a different neighborhood?

Describe your “dream home.”

Are there any houses in the neighborhood that you wish weren't here? What sorts of houses would you not want in the neighborhood? If those houses were here, what would they say about the neighborhood?

Have there been many people moving in or out in the last few years? Any reasons why they're moving? Have there been changes to the neighborhood since you've been here? Please describe.

Do you think most people in this neighborhood are satisfied with it? More or less satisfied than you?

Do you know most of your neighbors? How often do you usually interact with your neighbors? Are you happy with this level of interaction?

Have you had any bad experiences with neighbors? Give examples.

What sorts of people would you not want to live near? Why?

Would you say you trust your neighbors? Would you say you rely on your neighbors for anything? What?

Would you say your neighbors are similar to you? In what ways? Are some more similar than others? Do you interact with them more often?

Do you want to live in a neighborhood where most people are similar to you? Where people have about the same amount of money? Why? Why wouldn't/would you want to live somewhere where people had more/less money?

Would you say this neighborhood is working class, middle class, or upper class?

Do you have people over to your house very often? About how often? What sorts of reasons do you invite people over for? What is these people's relationship with you? Can you give some examples of times you had guests in your home in the last six months?

Do you go over to others' homes more than people come here? Homes in this neighborhood or outside? Why do you think this is?

Would you say you're proud of your house? What about it are you most proud of?

Has it ever happened that you've felt embarrassed of your house? Can you give any specific examples?

What do you think makes a house aesthetically appealing or pretty?

What types of landscaping or lawn décor do you like? Are there kinds you don't like? Why? What do they say about the people who live there?

Do you have any feelings either way about lawn ornaments? About displays of modern art or architecture?

Now I'm going to list some characteristics of homes. If they were looking for somewhere to live, how important would each of the following characteristics be on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being not at all important and 5 being extremely important?

- Spaciousness of home
- Spaciousness of yard and property
- Efficient use of space in and outside of the house
- High market value
- A sense of isolation or separation from neighbors
- Upkeep or maintenance of exterior (painting, roofing, yard work, etc.)
- Convenience of vicinity of shopping, restaurants, public transportation, etc.
- Having a low crime rate, or being a safe neighborhood
- Being an affordable place to live
- Being what you would consider to be aesthetically appealing
- Being a friendly neighborhood
- Are there any other characteristics you'd like to mention?

Now, for each of the following characteristics, please tell me how your home compares to others in this neighborhood, whether you see it as being below average, about average, or above average.

- Spaciousness of home and yard
- Efficient use of space in and outside of the house
- Market value
- Sense of isolation or separation from neighbors
- Upkeep or maintenance of exterior (painting, roofing, yard work, etc.)
- Aesthetic appeal to you
- Are there any other characteristics you want to mention?

Now, please tell me how you think the homes in your neighborhood compare to all homes in [this metropolitan area], again whether it's below average, about average, or above average.

- Spaciousness of home and yard
- Efficient use of space in and outside of the house
- Market value of homes
- Sense of isolation or separation from neighbors
- Upkeep or maintenance of exterior (painting, roofing, yard work, etc.)
- Aesthetic appeal to you
- Having a low crime rate, or being a safe neighborhood
- Neighborhood friendliness
- Are there any other characteristics you want to mention?

I'm now going to show you some photographs of homes. For each:

- What are your first impressions? What do you notice first?
- Is this somewhere you could see yourself living? Why/why not?
- What can you tell about the people who live in this home by looking at it? What specific cues tell you this?
- Do you think this house is more or less desirable than the house you're currently in?

[Photographs of homes in neighborhoods similar to those included were taken. These are the photographs used for the Eugene, Oregon respondents. Different photos were used for the Boston, Massachusetts sample due to regional differences in housing appearance.]

Photograph 1:



On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being very safe and 10 being very unsafe, where would you put your neighborhood? What would an unsafe neighborhood look like?

On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being really friendly and 10 being really unfriendly, where would you put your neighborhood? What would an unfriendly neighborhood look like?

That completes the questions about homes and neighborhoods. Now I have a couple of questions about you more generally.

Do you currently work? What kind of work?

How many years did you go to school?

Are you currently married or cohabitating? Does your partner currently work? What kind of work?

Do you have children? What do they do?

What kind of work did your parents do?