

THE PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION • 1111 TWENTIETH STREET NORTHWEST 20576 • FEBRUARY 1967

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11

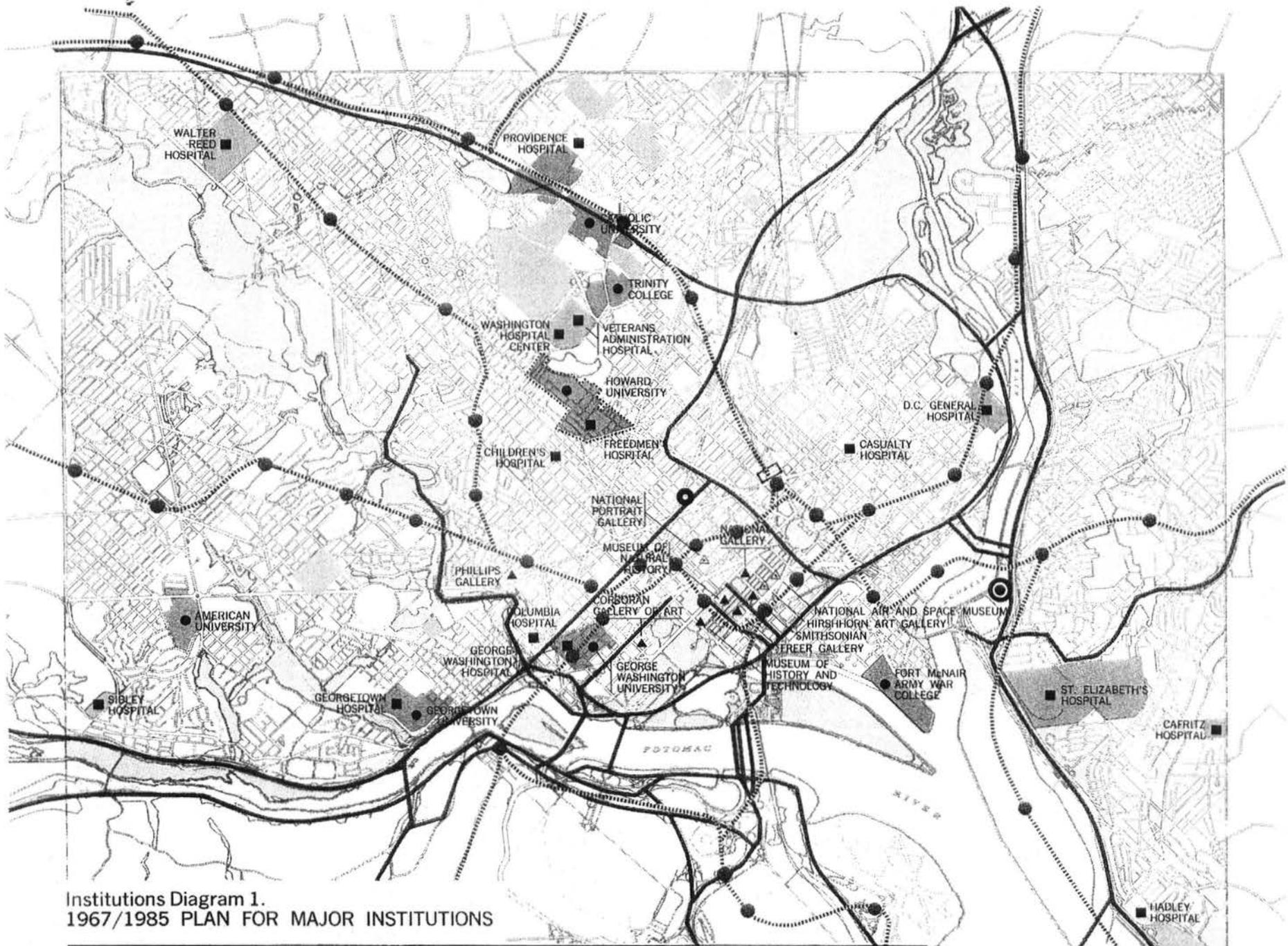
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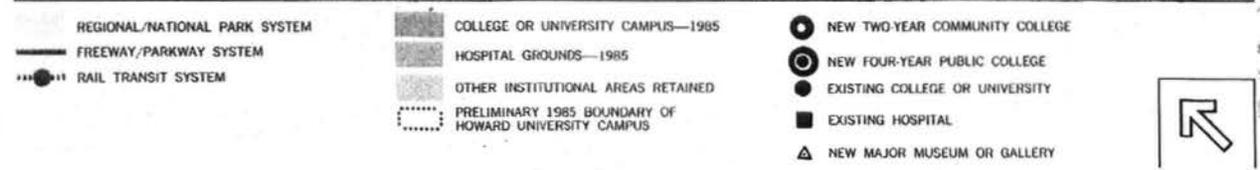
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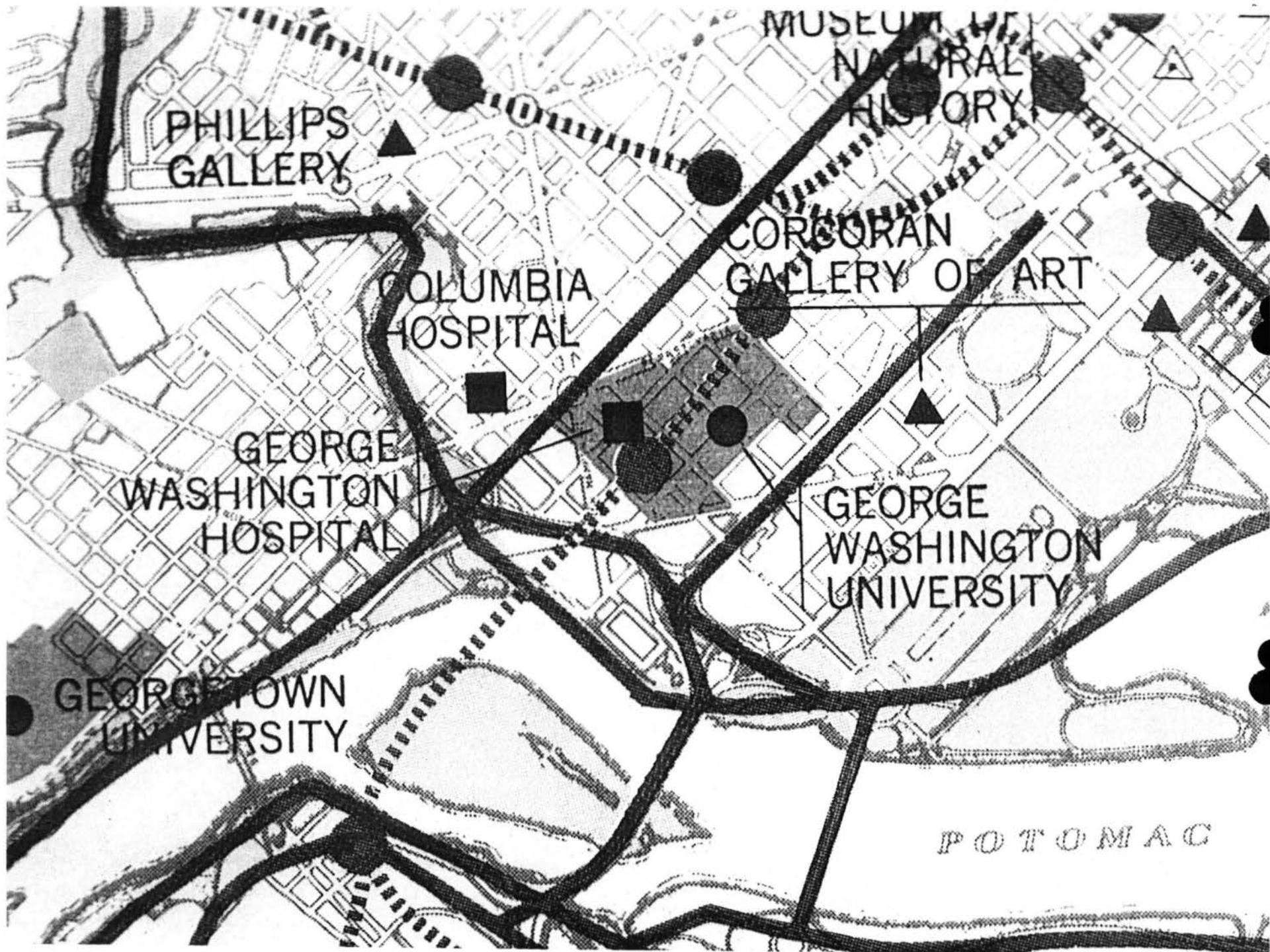
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Institutions Diagram 1.
1967/1985 PLAN FOR MAJOR INSTITUTIONS





INSTITUTIONS

* Many of Washington's public and private institutions will need to be expanded and strengthened in the next two decades. Institutions already occupy a large amount of land, and their requirements will have to be reconciled with other demands for land.

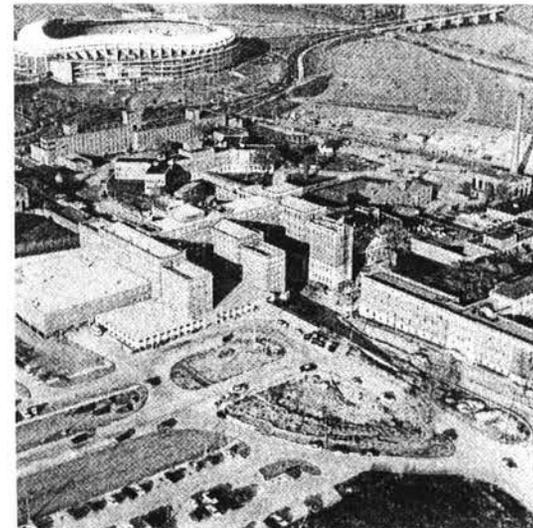
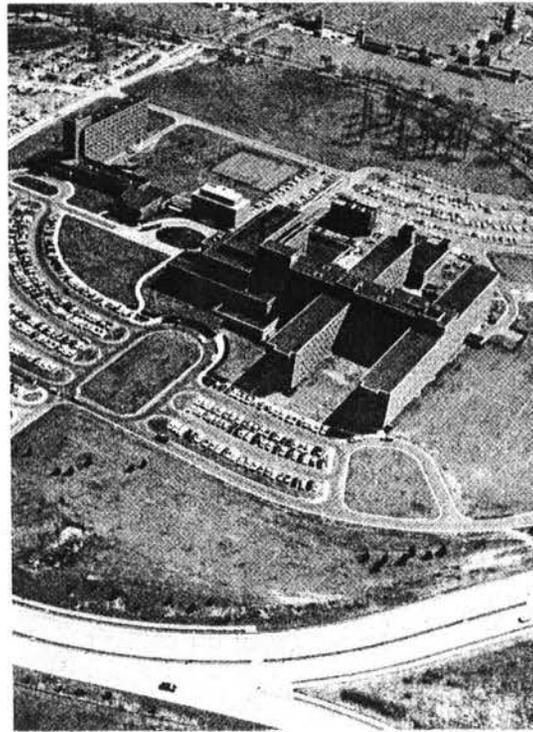
Institutions must also be evaluated in terms of the effectiveness of their services. Hospitals and public health centers must be adequate for an increasing population and new programs. The expansion of cultural facilities should be planned to enrich urban life. Colleges and universities should be examined in terms of their responsiveness to the needs of District residents for quality higher education.

HOSPITALS

Twelve general-care hospitals in the District serve the city and much of the Region. At present, they are operating at optimum levels, with approximately 85 percent of the beds filled. There are also three Federal hospitals in the District—Walter Reed, St. Elizabeths, and a Veterans' Administration hospital.

The future expansion of District hospitals depends on three factors: population growth in the District and in the Region; the increase in demand for health services that is likely to result from rising incomes and such financial aids as Medicare; and the extent to which the suburbs continue to build their own hospitals. Population growth alone will require a sizable increase in hospital beds. The introduction of Medicare could increase hospital admissions, although Washington has a smaller percentage of older persons than most cities. Even if more new hospitals are built elsewhere in the metropolitan area, District hospitals will continue to provide specialty services for the Region as well as general care for District residents.

HOSPITALS. Hospital expansion in the next 20 years should be restricted to present institutions which need expansion or modernization. Two of the biggest are the relatively new, privately owned Washington Hospital Center, above, and the newly modernized, public D.C. General Hospital, below.



PLAN POLICIES

1. The hospitals within the District of Columbia should meet the general health needs of the residents of the District and the needs of the National Capital Region for specialized hospital care.

2. Hospital construction during the next two decades should consist largely of expansion or modernization of existing facilities. Those hospitals which are least affected by shifting populations (the teaching hospitals) should be encouraged to provide a greater proportion of the city's hospital beds.

3. No additional land will be needed at the three Federal hospitals. Indeed, St. Elizabeths, with nearly 340 acres, may have more than enough acreage, and a study of this institution's land requirements should be made to determine if some of its land can be released for some other public use.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTERS

An estimated 40 percent of the District's population is considered medically indigent. The city therefore must have a system of public health facilities stressing prevention and outpatient care. The existing facilities of this sort, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health, have proved inadequate.

The Department of Public Health has proposed a decentralized system of comprehensive health centers, to be located in each of four "health service" areas. These centers would enable public health personnel to adapt their programs to the needs of the areas served and also would offer the advantages, especially in the mental health programs, of treating the patient in his own community.

PLAN POLICIES

1. To improve the quality of health services, and to emphasize preventive and rehabilitative techniques, a system of comprehensive health centers should be developed at selected locations within the city.

2. Satellite facilities can be developed according to need, to provide even closer links to the population served, especially in areas where there are concentrations of very old or very young persons. These satellite facilities should be under the jurisdiction of the area health centers.

3. To take advantage of existing community health resources, the comprehensive health centers should be located close to hospitals and developed in coordination with them.

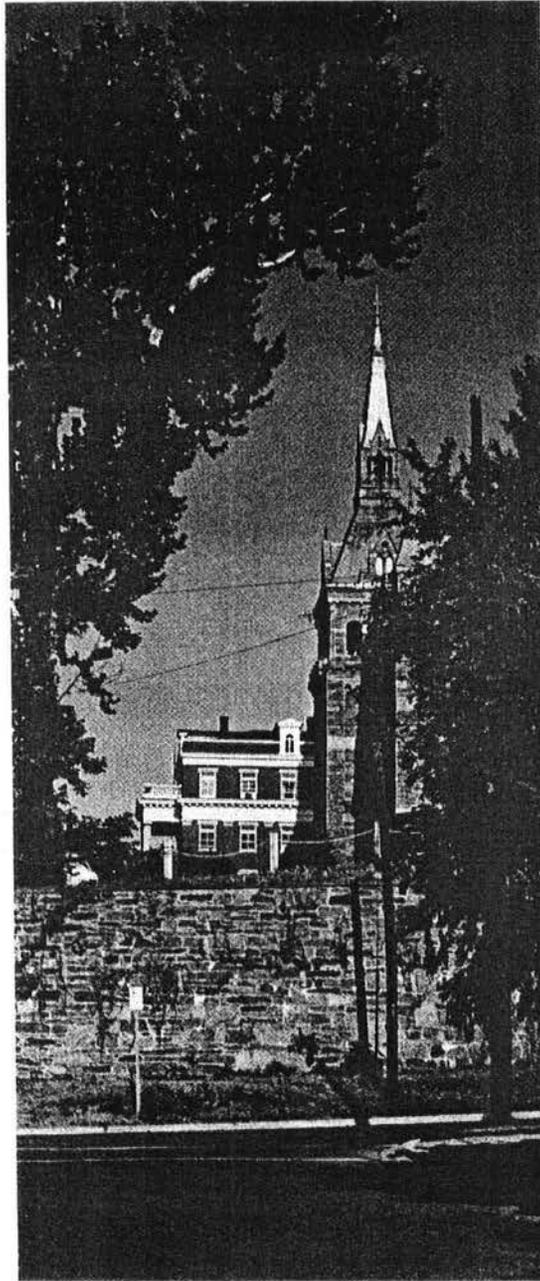
4. Four major centers should be developed to serve the four health service areas. (See Institutions Diagram 2.) In *Area A*, the center should be in conjunction with George Washington University Hospital or Georgetown University Hospital. In *Area B*, it should be associated with the new Freedmen's Hospital. Because of the large population of the area and its dependency on public health resources, this center would be augmented by a referral center established at Washington Hospital Center and a satellite facility in the Cardozo target area, possibly at Children's Hospital. The *Area C* center is being developed at District of Columbia General Hospital, which is presently accepted as a health center serving the immediate community. In *Area D*, the center should be at St. Elizabeths Hospital.

Approximately \$6.5 million will be required to develop the center to serve *Area B*. No construction costs are anticipated for the other centers. A grant to establish a center in *Area C* has already been made. In *Area A*, where there are few indigent patients, the presently existing health clinic will probably be moved to larger rented quarters. The comprehensive health center at St. Elizabeths Hospital, in *Area D*, can utilize existing facilities.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VILLAGE AND JUNIOR VILLAGE

District of Columbia Village and Junior Village, located at Blue Plains, are the District homes for the aged and for dependent children. The District does not plan to increase the capacity of either facility in the next two decades. Although programs of foster home care are being expanded, it is expected that there will continue to be a need for Junior Village as a center for homeless children.

Pending the results of a new study on the future of Junior Village, no transfer of land is recommended. However, if the population of Junior Village is sub-



stantially reduced as a result of new methods of care, consideration should be given to the reuse of portions of this property and its facilities for other public purposes.

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Of the numerous museums in Washington, only the Smithsonian plans to expand in the next two decades. Most of its growth can be accommodated on The Mall, but some expansion can appropriately occur in other Central Area locations.

PLAN POLICIES

1. Expansion of the Smithsonian complex on The Mall should reflect the highest design standards and should occur within an overall design framework.

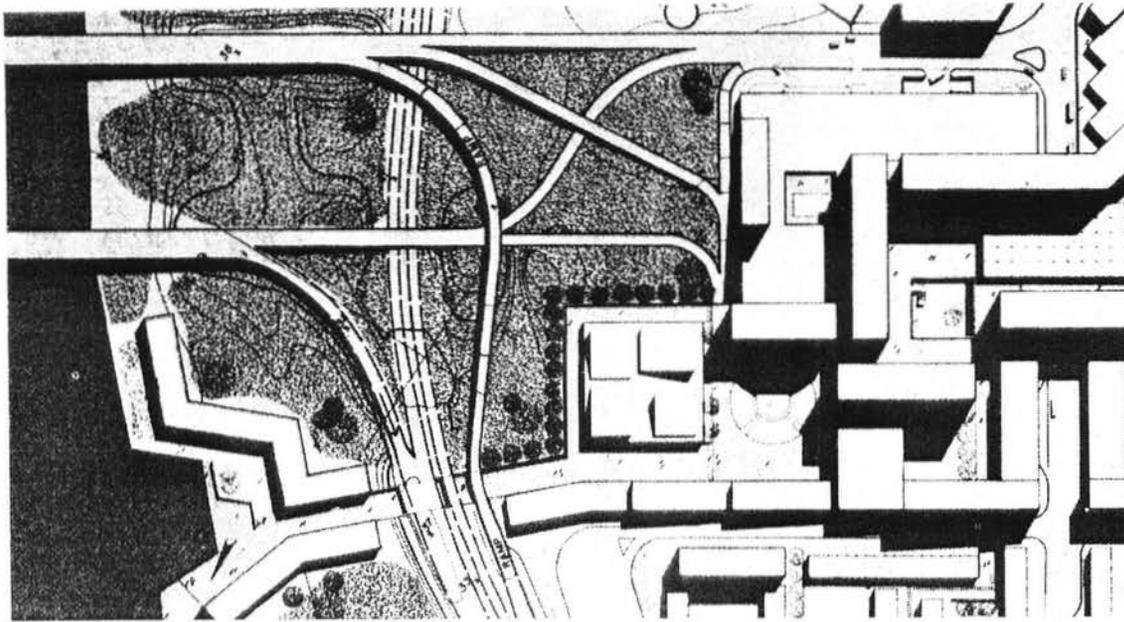
2. Buildings which may no longer be functional for office use, but which deserve preservation for architectural or historic reasons (such as the Court of Claims and Pension Office buildings), should be considered as locations for expanding museums.

3. The proposed Woodrow Wilson Center for Advanced Studies, under the jurisdiction of the Smithsonian, should be located along the Eighth Street Mall, as part of the redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue.

EXISTING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

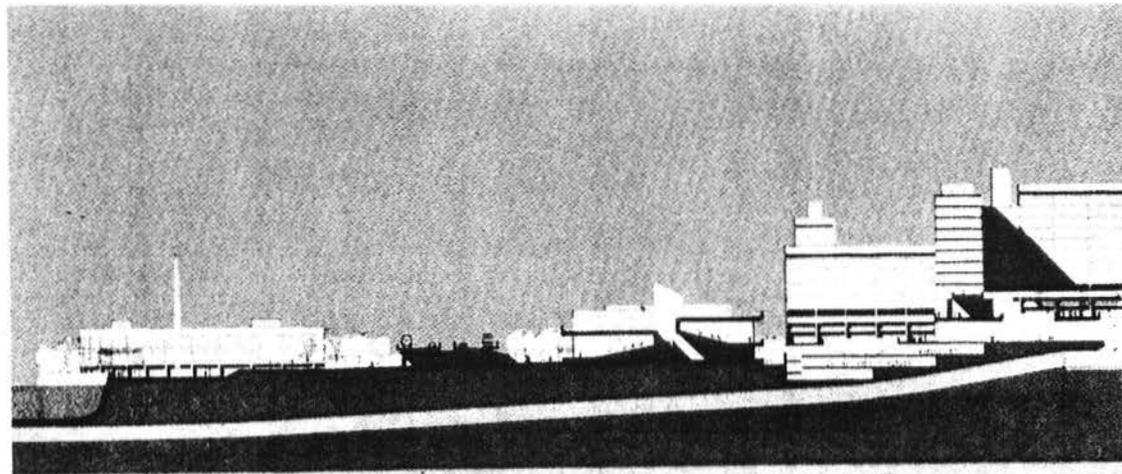
All of the existing major colleges and universities of the District expect significant increases in enrollment over the next two decades. In areas where their expansion can contribute to the improvement of the environment, acquisition of additional land can be encouraged. But in areas where sound residential communities exist, physical expansion of the universities presents severe problems, both because it removes valuable land from the tax rolls and because it diminishes the available housing stock. *

GEORGETOWN. All of the city's universities face problems of expansion to meet growing enrollments. Georgetown, as the rest, is hemmed in by established communities and will be restricted largely to land it now owns.



LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE. The four-year liberal arts college with a riverfront setting, would be a vital part of the Anacostia Uptown Center. Its location within walking distance of the rapid transit stop would make it accessible to students from all over the District, and its potential as a cultural center would be a much-needed

addition to this section of ANACOSTIA. The college would replace the present D.C. Teachers College and provide a broader curriculum, with original emphasis on sciences, social studies, humanities and the arts. It would make it possible for any District resident to attend college.



ANACOSTIA RIVER LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE ANACOSTIA RIVER PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE LECTURE HALL FEDERAL SERVICE CENTER OFFICE BUILDING & STORES ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING MAIN PLAZA

PLAN POLICIES

The colleges and universities should intensify the development of their existing campuses. Vertical rather than horizontal expansion should be encouraged, both to emphasize the identity of the institution and to protect the adjacent neighborhoods. Where neighborhoods are blighted and university development can make a positive contribution, as in the case of Howard University, some horizontal expansion should be encouraged. Expansion should take place, however, according to a well-defined development program which might also be coordinated with an urban renewal program for the area.

For campus boundaries proposed for all existing colleges and universities within the District, see Institutions Diagram 3.

PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

The District of Columbia is one of the few cities of its size which has never provided its residents with a system of public higher education. None of the five universities in the District addresses itself primarily to District residents, and the tuition costs at all these universities, except Howard, are too high for many high school graduates. District of Columbia Teachers College, the only institution offering low-cost education to District residents, specializes in teacher training. But today the normal school concept on which the college has been based is considered too narrow. Moreover, the physical facilities of District of Columbia Teachers College are inadequate even for its limited role.

In June 1964, the President's Committee on Public Higher Education in the District of Columbia issued a report urging the creation of two publicly supported institutions: A 2-year community college to offer "varied opportunities for occupational education," and a college of liberal arts and sciences to grant both baccalaureate and master's degrees.

The community college would help fill the growing need for workers with skills beyond those obtainable in high school. According to the President's Committee, "technical training at the subprofessional level is a major employment need and will provide the base for the economic improvement of a large number of

youths now unskilled and untrained for productive careers." The presence of the community college would serve as an inducement for a higher percentage of high school graduates to go on to college, and some of these would no doubt transfer to 4-year institutions.

The college of liberal arts and sciences would replace D.C. Teachers College, but its function and curriculum would be broader. The President's Committee suggests that the college program concentrate at the outset on a strong curriculum in the sciences, social studies, humanities, and the graphic and performing arts.

With the establishment of the community college, the liberal arts college could emphasize upper division work and graduate study through the master's degree. Thus, the two institutions would have complementary roles.

PLAN POLICIES

1. To bring college education within reach of larger numbers of local residents who cannot afford private or out-of-town colleges, two new public colleges should be established in the District of Columbia:

a. A 2-year community college emphasizing vocational training but providing background so that stu-

dents can continue on to a 4-year college. Initial enrollment would be 2,500.

b. A 4-year college of liberal arts and sciences which would absorb District of Columbia Teachers College and which would, in addition, provide a broader curriculum. The liberal arts college would have an enrollment of 2,000 and would provide study through the master's degree.

2. Both institutions should be commuter-oriented. No living quarters would be provided for either faculty or students, and parking space would be limited.

3. Because of the different nature and curriculum of the colleges, each should have its own facilities and campus. Each should have a prominent location, and building and site design should help to establish a unique identity. Where feasible, high-rise solutions should be adopted in order to conserve valuable land.

4. The following locations are recommended as prime candidates for the development of these new institutions (see Institutions Diagram 1):

a. For the community college, a site in the vicinity of Mount Vernon Square, and

b. For the 4-year college, a site to the east of the Naval Receiving Station in Anacostia Park, so situated that the college could be vitally related to the uptown center proposed for development in the vicinity of the

rapid transit station at Nichols Avenue and Good Hope Road.

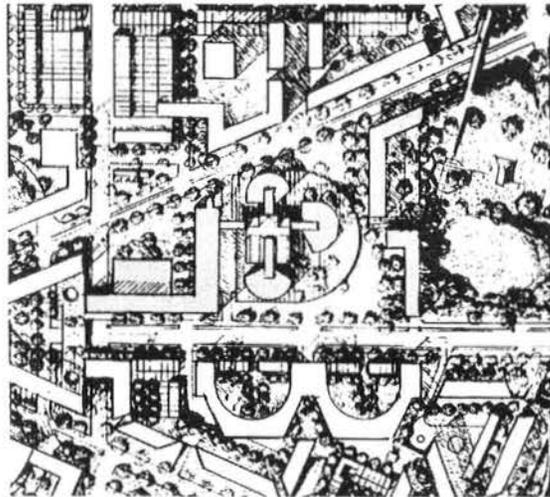
Three criteria are reflected in the selection of these preferred locations:

□ *Accessibility of location to the students.* Both institutions should be located within walking distance of rapid transit stations or should be close to major bus routes. It is preferable to locate them in areas where there is a concentration of potential students.

□ *Flexibility of site.* Since enrollments may change, sites should have sufficient acreage for expansion. Flexibility of site is especially crucial for the 4-year college, which could possibly assume the functions of a "national" university. The community college would presumably need less room for expansion since its enrollment would consist largely of District of Columbia residents.

□ *Contribution to the surrounding community.* The colleges should be located where they can make a positive contribution to their environment—for example, as part of an uptown center or as part of an urban renewal area. In their primary role as educational and cultural centers, and also as sources of employment and retail customers, the colleges represent important potentials for enriching urban life.

VOCATIONAL COLLEGE. The two-year vocational college would occupy a superblock near Mount Vernon Square. This location, close to bus and subway, also is near the CENTRAL EMPLOYMENT AREA, making part-time attendance easy.



GROWING NEED. Two new public colleges are needed to take care of local residents who can't afford private colleges. A 4-year liberal arts and science college and 2-year community college are planned.



GEORGE WASHINGTON. George Washington University, in the middle of the city, is limited in space and must expand vertically for the most part, rather than spread into the existing neighborhood.



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