

# **Planning History**

The Roots of Today's Decisions

Written and Presented By Graham Billingsley, AICP Boulder County

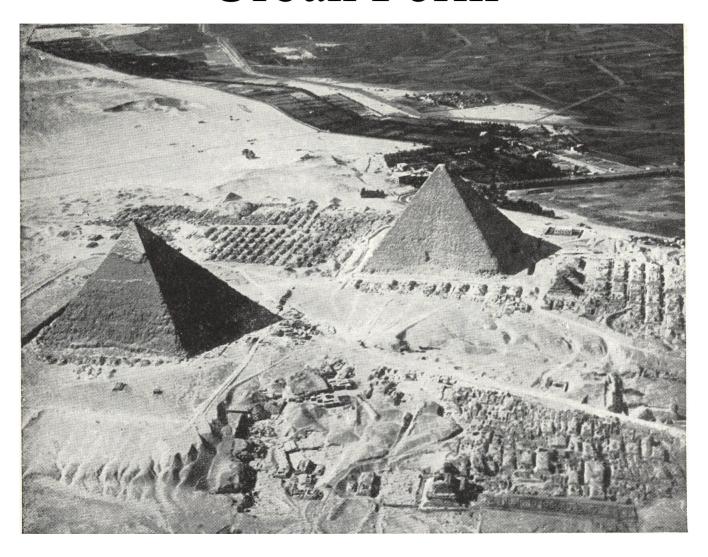
#### Overview

- History of Planning
  - What are the origins of planning
  - –Why we plan
  - -The context in which we plan

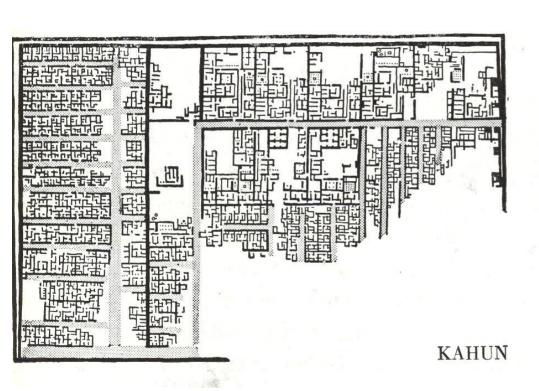
#### Overview

- Brief history of urban form
- Description of the issues leading to the planning movement
- Early results of the planning movements
- Recent planning achievements

## Urban Form

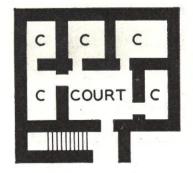


#### Kahun



ANCIENT EGYPT

AN EGYPTIAN HOUSE

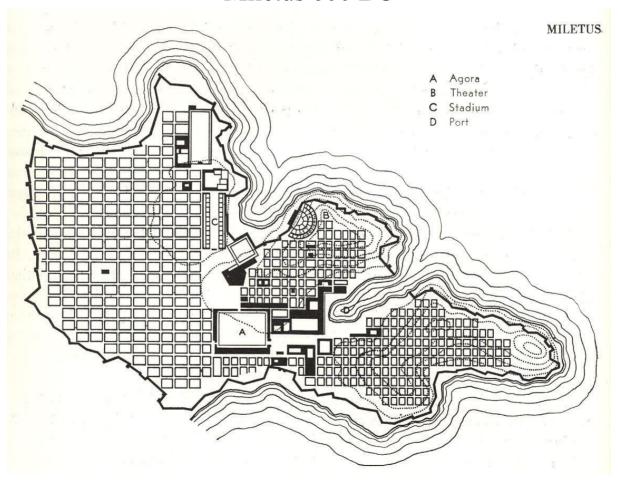


#### City Form

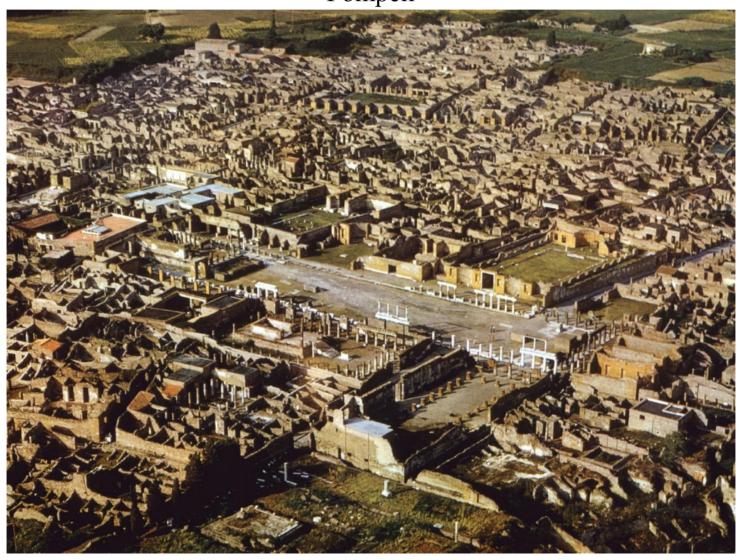
- Religious
- Political/Defense
- Social/Economic
- Physical constraints

#### Political/Social City Form

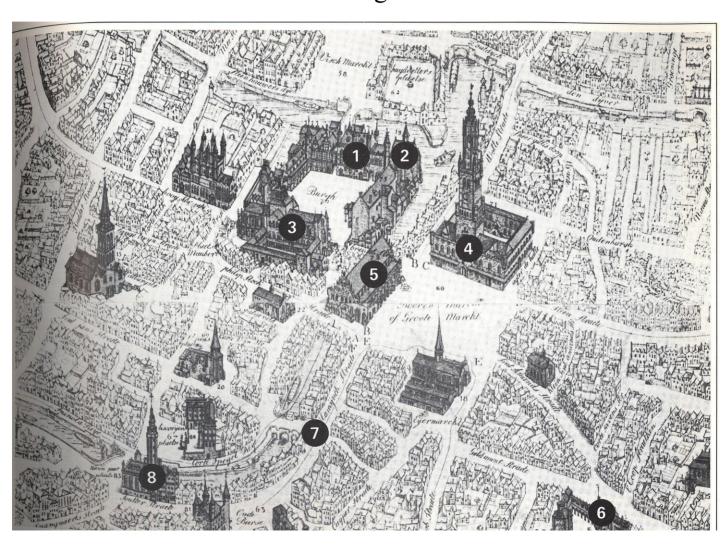
Miletus 600 BC



Political/Social City Form Pompeii

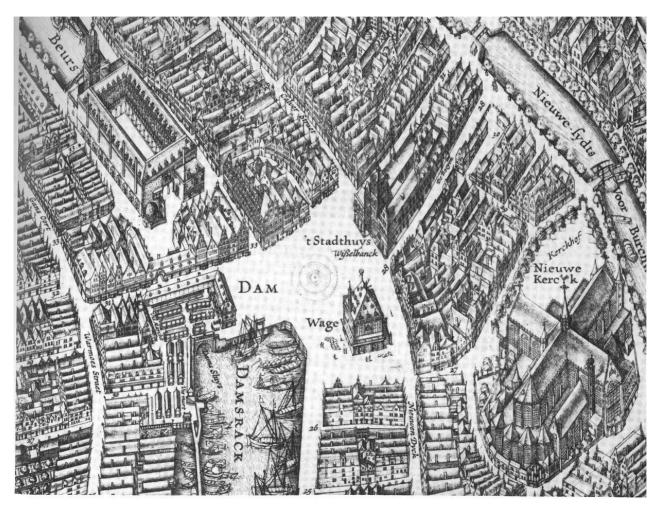


# Religious Brueges



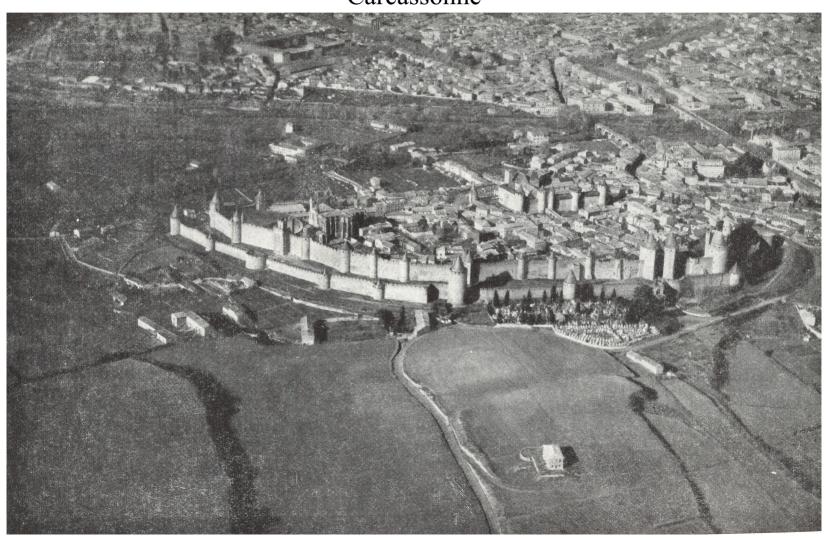
#### Religious

Amsterdam 1625



#### Defense

Carcassonne



### Suburbs

- Significant number of suburbs were developed in response the plague in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- The English, and the French, in particular built "country estates" to get out in the open.
- By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, commoners were able to consider moving out of the cities but staying close by.

Suburbs



# Early American Cities

### **Physical Constraints**

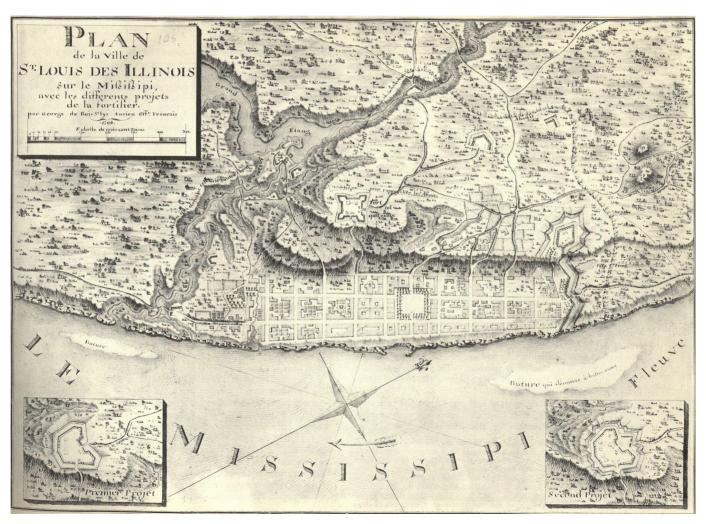
New Amsterdam 1660



## Early American Cities

#### **Physical Constraints**

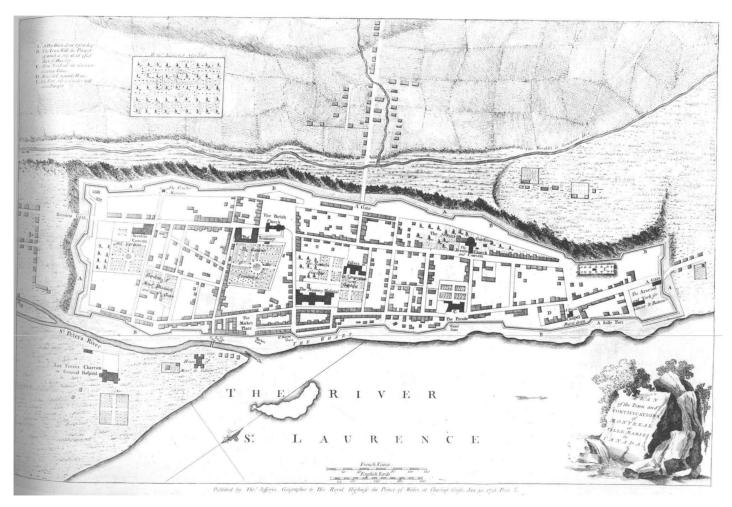
St. Louis 1796



# Early American Cities

#### Defense/Physical Constraints

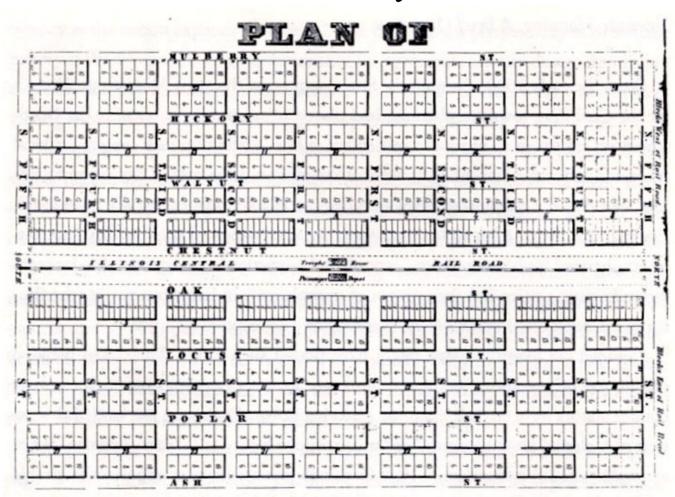
Montreal 1758



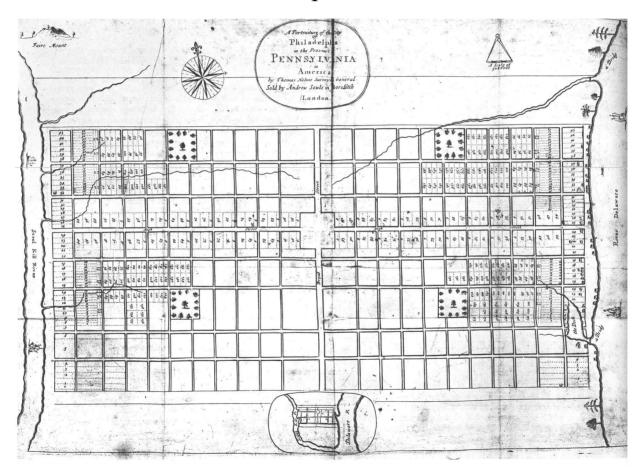
Gridiron Layout

- Gridiron layout was universal
- It helped speculators, made everyone comfortable they knew what to expect.
- It symbolized the city curved roads symbolized the country.

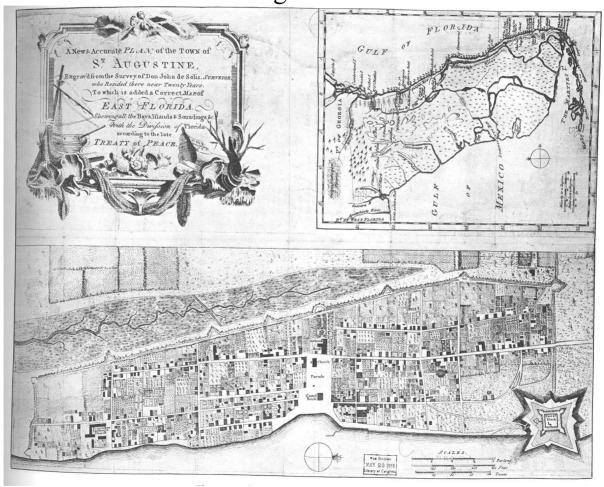
**Gridiron Layout** 



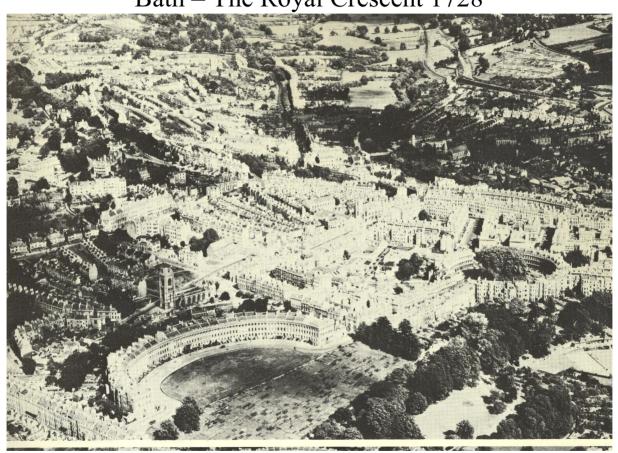
Philadelphia 1682



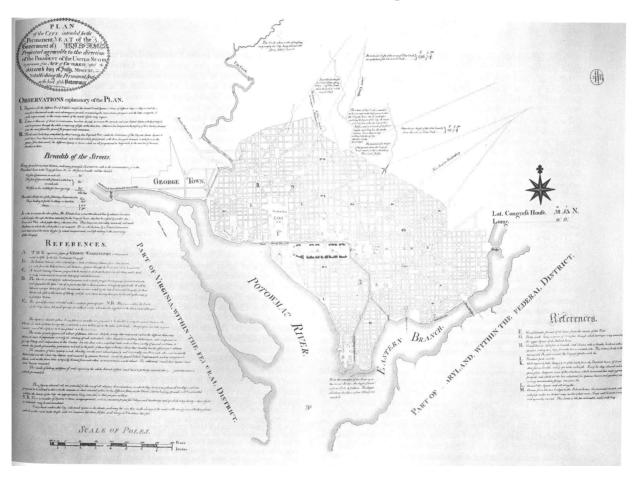
St. Augustine 1770



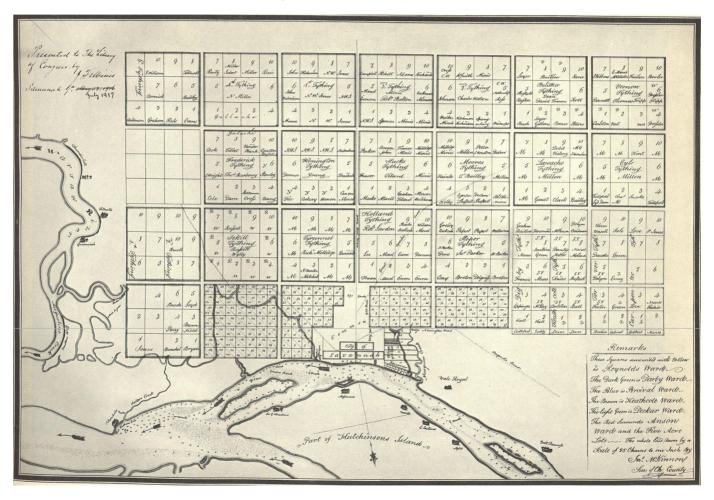
Bath – The Royal Crescent 1728



L'Enfant's Plan for Washington DC 1791

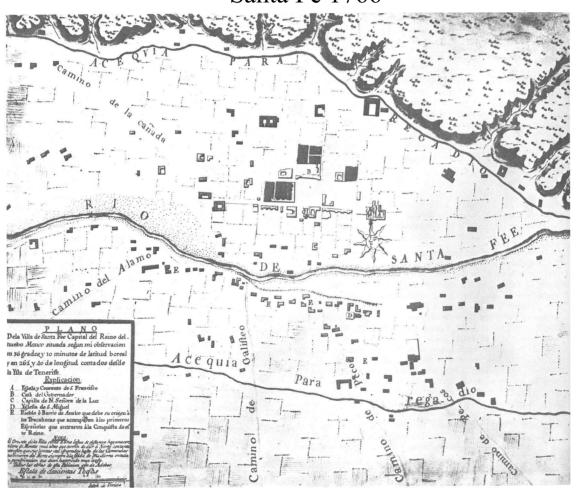


Savannah 1800



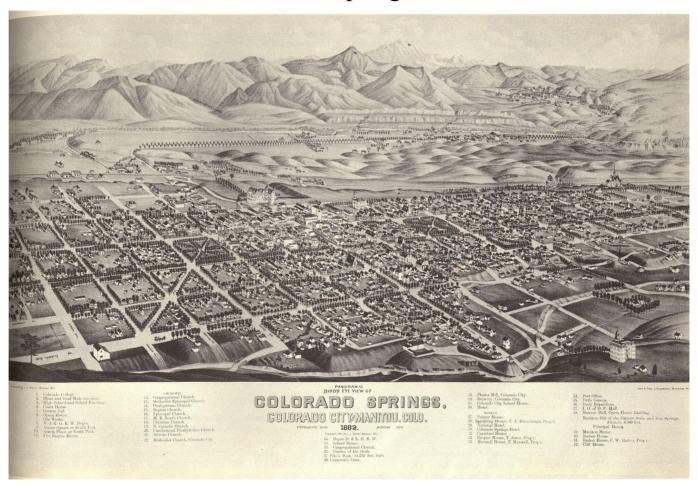
### Western American City

Santa Fe 1766

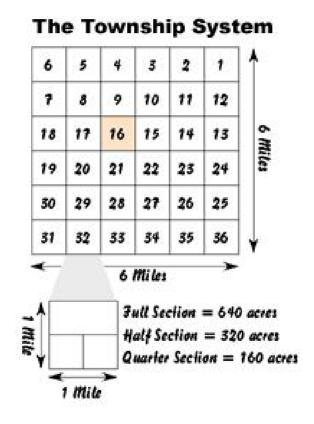


# Western American City

Colorado Springs 1882



# Western Planning Antecedents



• Ordinance of 1785 provided for the rectangular land survey of the old northwest.

# Western Planning Antecedents





• Homestead act opened the lands of the public domain to settlers for a nominal fee and five years residence.

# Antecedents of Planning

- Population changes
- Overcrowding, congestion
- Sanitation
- Transportation
- Civic art, architecture

## Population Change

- Cities were insignificant holding only 5% of the population of the US in 1820.
- This grew over the next 80 years to about 33% as manufacturing and construction attracted emigrants.

## Public Health and Safety

- Government involvement in public health and safety of workers
- 1. Work hours
- 2. Housing standards
- 3. Provision of light and air
- 4. Recreation spaces

### Public Health and Safety

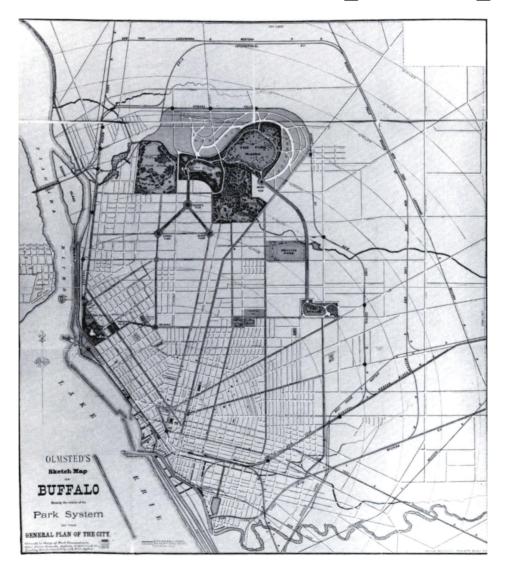
- Central water supplies developed 1840s and 1850s
- No waste, or waste water systems being developed until after the Civil War

# Public Health – Open Space

Central Park in New York (1866)



# Public Health – Open Space



# Public Health – Open Space Sierra Club

 Sierra club founded to promote the protection and preservation of the natural environment. John Muir, Scottish-American naturalist, and a major figure in the history of American environmentalism, was the leading founder.

# Public Health – Open Space

National Park Service 1916

 The National Park Service established with sole responsibility for conserving and preserving resources of special

value.

### Public Health and Safety

- New York Tenement House Law (1867) repeatedly amended.
- In 1901 New York required building permits
  - −1. permits for construction, alterations, and conversions
  - -2. inspection upon completion
  - -3. penalties for noncompliance

## Public Health and Safety

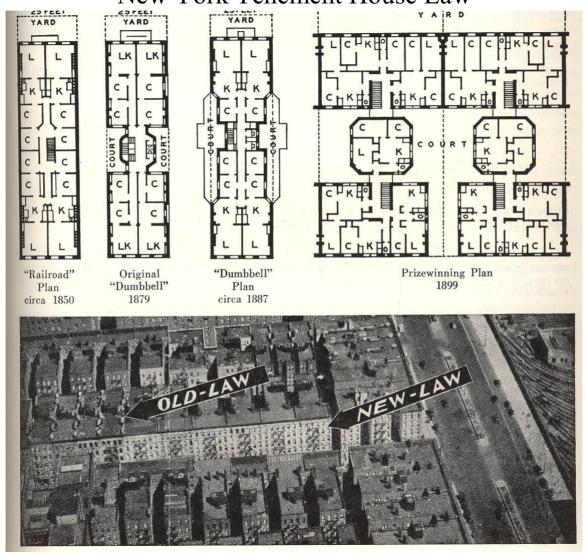
- –4. permanent department to administer
- -5. under light and air courts between structures, or internal to structures
- −6. toilet and running water in each apartment
- -7. no more than 70% lot coverage

## Public Health and Safety

 Prohibition of slaughterhouses in residential areas in San Francisco (1867)

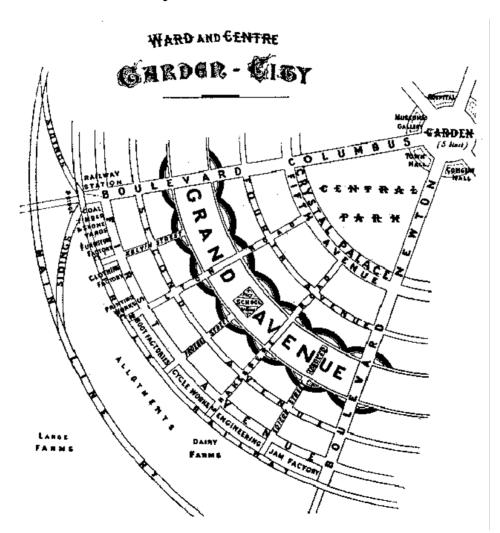
# Public Health and Safety





#### Social - Economic

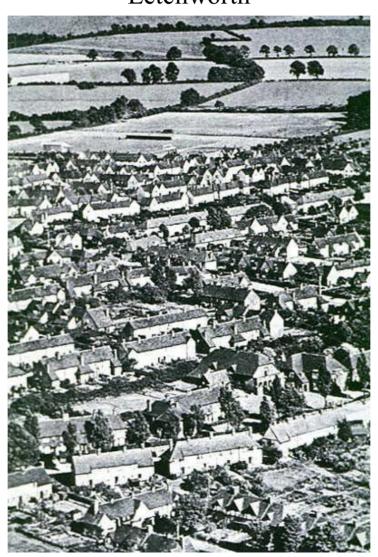
The Garden City Movement - Ebenezer Howard



From: Tomorrow: A peaceful Path to Real Reform

#### Social - Economic

The Garden City Movement - Ebenezer Howard Letchworth



#### Social - Economic

The Garden City Movement - Welwyn Garden City



# Civic Improvement

The Problem

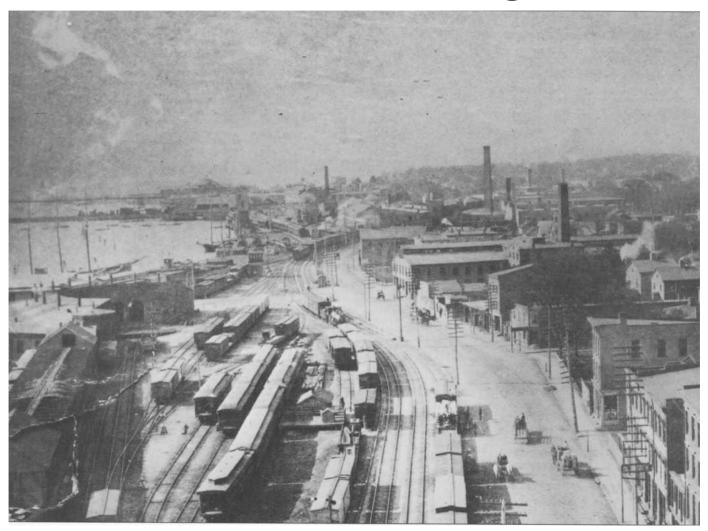


#### Downtown



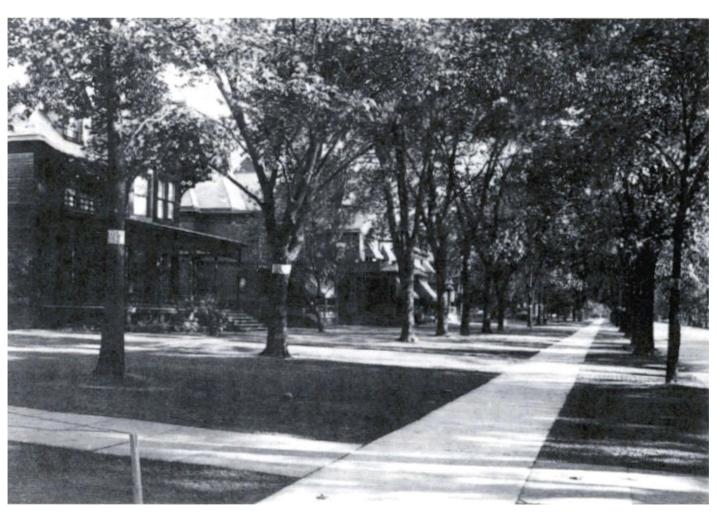
Macy's, New York, 1908

# Manufacturing



# Civic Improvement

The Desire

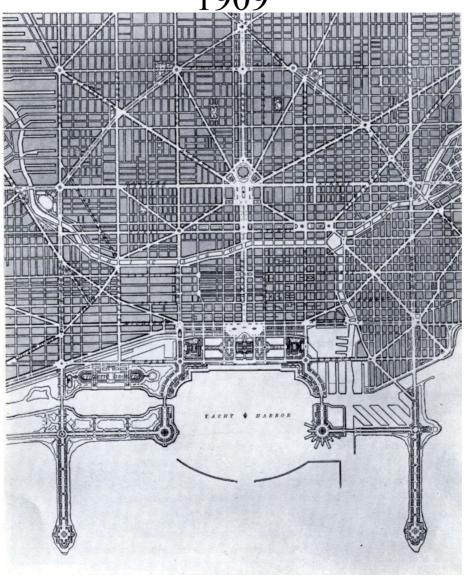


# The City Beautiful Movement

Columbia Exposition

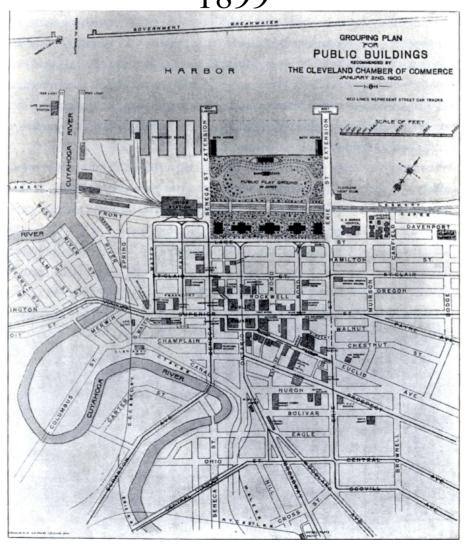


# Chicago Plan



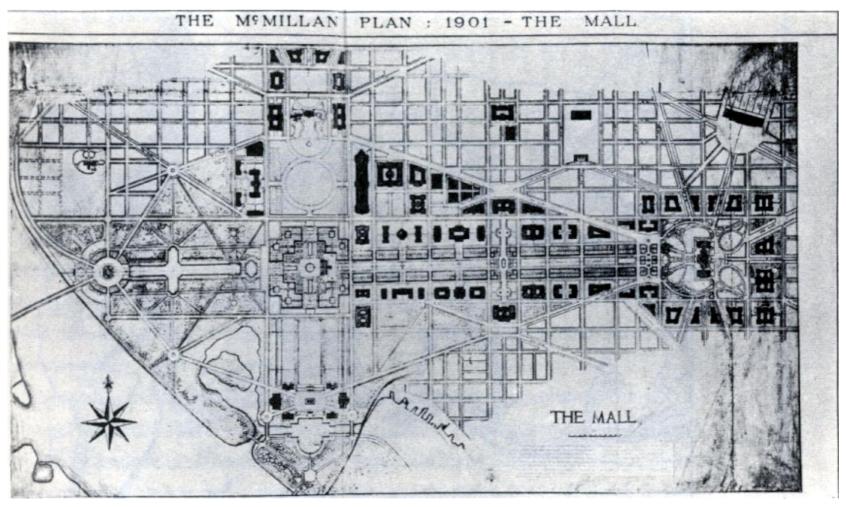
#### Cleveland Plan

1899



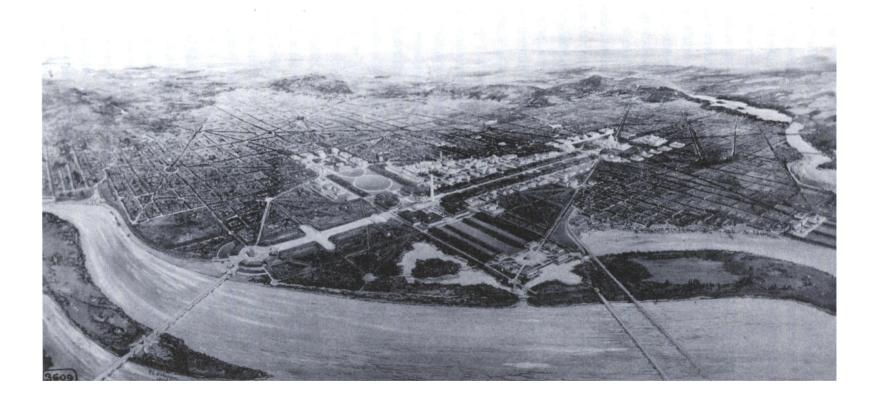
# Washington, D.C.

#### McMillan Plan



# Washington, D.C.

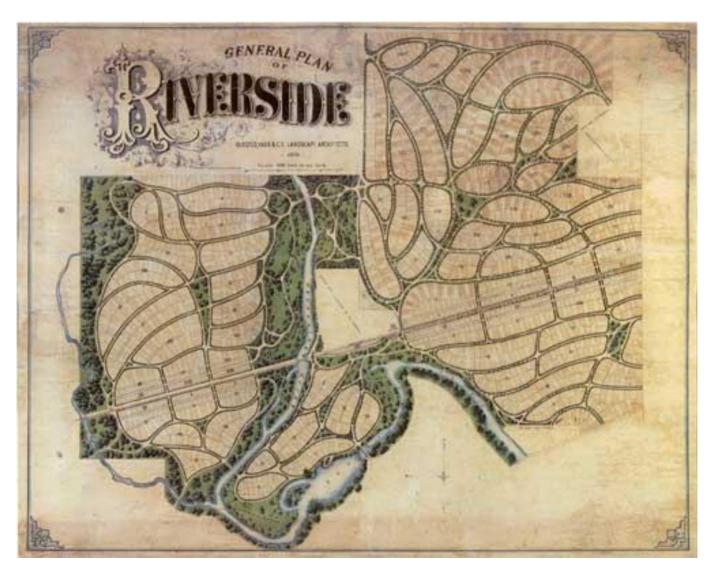
#### McMillan Plan



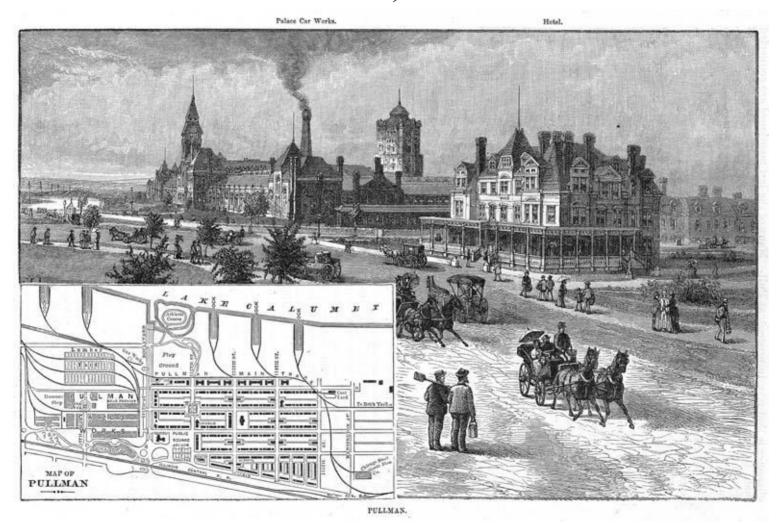
# 20th Century Issues

- Planning becomes accepted
- Population shifts continue
- Economic changes drive change

Riverside, Illinois 1868



Pullman, Illinois



Pullman, Illinois



A STREET IN PULLMAN.



# American City Planning Institute 1917

- Technical body made of up individuals knowledgeable in planning
- Offered their services to the war department, designed 20+ U.S. Army base camps built almost overnight.

#### World War I

- Emergency fleet corporation (federal agency) appointed a town planner to build worker housing for the ship building industry
- The U.S. Housing corporation (under the labor department) similarly appointed a town planner and contributed to the effort of the EFC

#### The Comprehensive Plan

- The first comprehensive plan was passed by the planning commission in Cincinnati in 1926 authored by Alfred Bettman and Ladislas Segoe
  - A long term plan
  - Capital improvements plan
  - Transportation plan
  - Basis for the zoning plan

#### City Planning Movement

- In the 1920's planning continued to take root.
  - Zoning became accepted and commonplace
  - Planning commissions increased from 100 in 1915 to 650 by 1929

## Legal History

- Case Citation: Village of Euclid v. Ambler Realty Company 272 U.S. 365 (1926).
- **Parties**: Plaintiff- Village of Euclid; Defendant- Ambler Realty Company
- Court: Supreme Court of the United States
- **Decision**: Zoning is a proper use of the police powers

# Historic Preservation

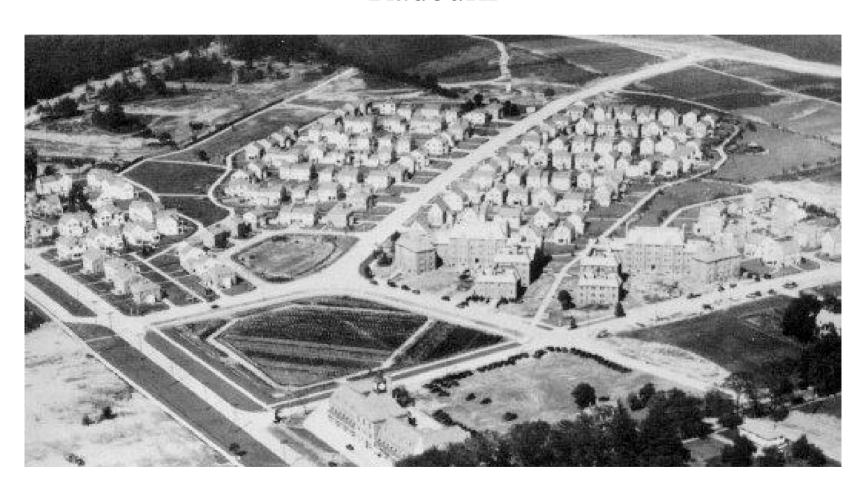
• New Orleans designates the Vieux Carre commission, the first historic preservation commission in the U.S.



## Legal History

- U.S. Department of commerce under secretary Herbert Hoover issues the Standard City Planning Enabling Act in 1928.
- Adopted by most states over the next decade.

#### Modern American Planning Radburn



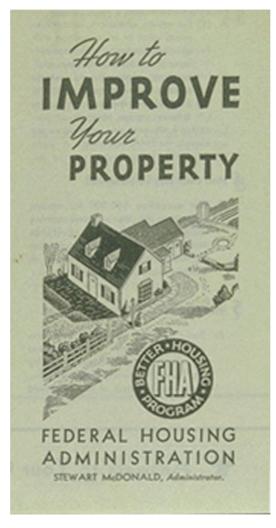
Radburn



- The federal government steps in.
- 28 states passes moratoria on mortgage foreclosures leading to the creation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in 1932.
- In 1932 the Home Owners Loan Corporation was created. By 1936 they had loaned \$3 billion.

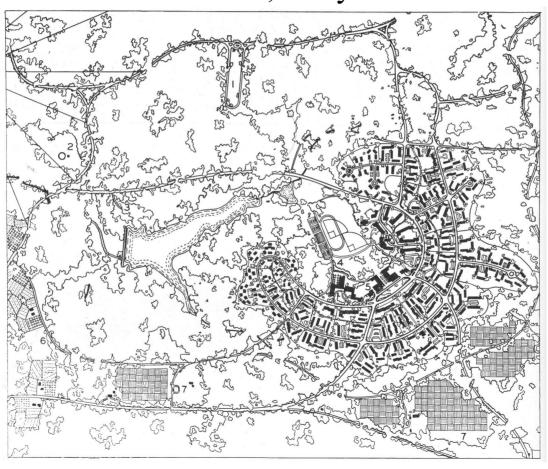
• Tennessee Valley Authority created to provide for unified and multipurpose rehabilitation and redevelopment of the Tennessee Valley, America's most famous experiment in river-basin planning. Senator George Norris of Idaho fathered idea and David Lilienthal was its most effective implementer.

• 1934 National Housing Act created the Federal Housing Administration. By 1941, the FHA had insured over \$3 billion in loans.



- In 1935 the Resettlement Administration was create to rehabilitate the agricultural economy.
- Resettlement Administration established under Rexford Tugwell, Roosevelt "braintruster," to carry out experiments in land reform and population resettlement. This agency built the three Greenbelt towns.

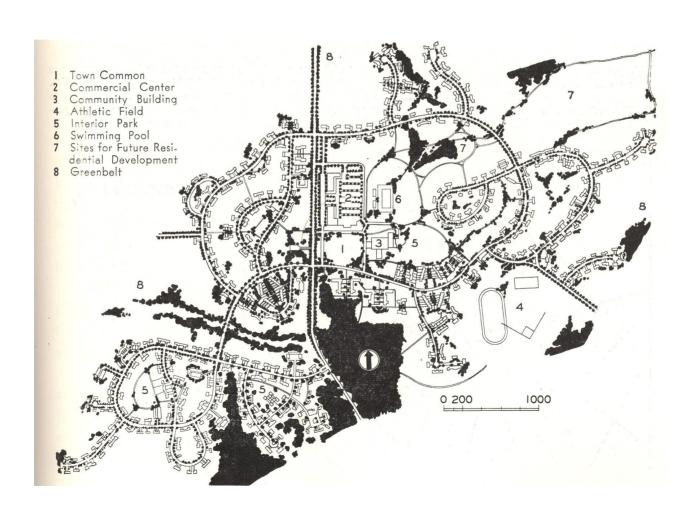
Greenbelt Towns Greenbelt, Maryland



Greenbelt Towns Greenbelt, Maryland



Greenbelt Towns Greenhills, Ohio



Greenbelt Towns Greenhills, Ohio



**Urban Renewal** 

• The Reconstruction Finance Corporation was created in 1932. This led to slum clearance programs.

## Urban Renewal Williamsburg Houses



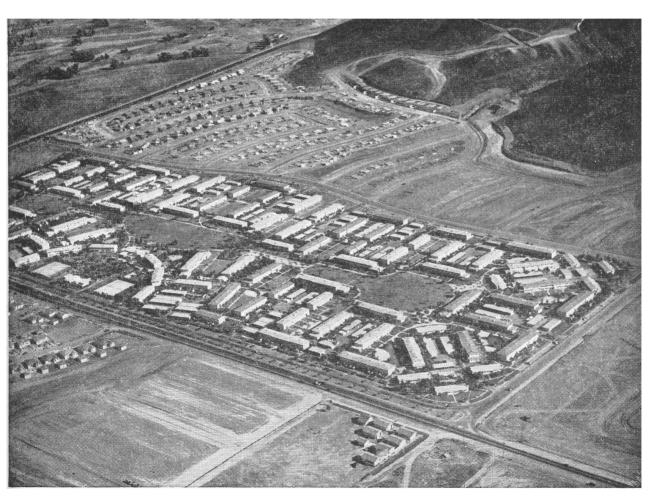
The Original Site





Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc.

Subsidized Housing Baldwin Hills



**Urban Renewal** 

• The United States Housing Act (Wagner-Steagall) was passed in 1937 to be the funding agency for local housing authorities. It appropriated \$500 million for loans.

#### City Planning Movement

- City planning movement faltered
- Government infusion kept planning alive
- The change in development patterns with significant inner city flight changed America's interest in planning

### Suburbs

#### Levittown



# Housing Acts

- Housing Act (Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill). First U.S. comprehensive housing legislation.
- First U.S. comprehensive housing legislation.
- Aimed to construct about 800,000 units.
- Inaugurated urban redevelopment program.

# Housing Acts

 Housing Act of 1954 stressed slum prevention and urban renewal rather than clearance and urban redevelopment, as in the 1949 act. Also stimulated general planning for cities under 25,000 population by providing funds under Section 701 of the act. "701 funding" later extended by legislative amendments to foster statewide, interstate, and sub state regional planning.

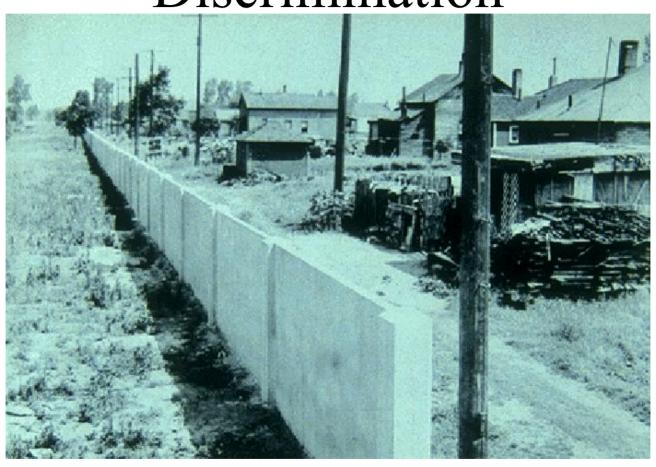
#### Highway Act

• Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 proposed 41,000 miles of interstate highways for the entire country.

#### Discrimination

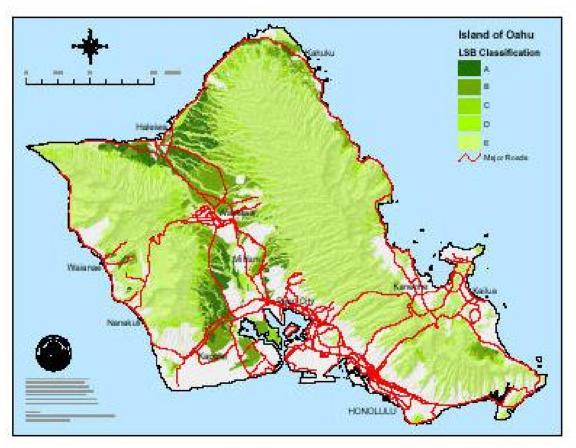
- The effect of racial discrimination on cities was profound.
  - Redlining by banks.
  - Public housing segregation.
  - Exclusionary zoning.

### Discrimination



#### Recent Activity

• After the decline of the federal programs most planning became process. The era of the grand idea was gone, but the issues remained.



• Hawaii passed the first state-wide planning legislation in 1980

Columbia, Maryland New Town





• Civil rights legislation outlaws discrimination based on race, creed, and national origin in places of public accommodation



• In 1968 A-95 review was created requiring state and substate regional clearinghouses to review and comment on federally assisted projects to facilitate coordination among the three levels of government



• In 1969, Environmental Impact Statements are required or every federal or federally aided state or local major action that might significantly harm the environment



• In 1970, the Clean Water Act is passed and the EPA is set up to administer it



• In 1973, the Endangered Species act passed

New Urbanism





 Passage of Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)

#### Summary

- Why do we plan and what is planning?
- Health and safety water, sewer, transportation.
  - Public health became a major cause affecting cities in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Air, light, open space, separation of noxious uses from others started reshaping our cities.

#### Summary

- Social development of community, recreation.
  - Planning started because people require organization to function well.
  - Cities were organized around religious, political, defense, social, economic structures, and practices, and/or physical constraints.
  - Aesthetics added to this sense of community.

#### Summary

- Economic jobs, taxes, wealth
  - Cities developed around trade
  - Cities changed and developed centers that served regions
  - Public investment to help with jobs and housing was made to improve social and economic life
- Environmental open space, clean water, clean air