History of Planning

CRPLAN 2110

1/24/2017

A Haiku History of Urban Planning

- https://vimeo.com/8179573
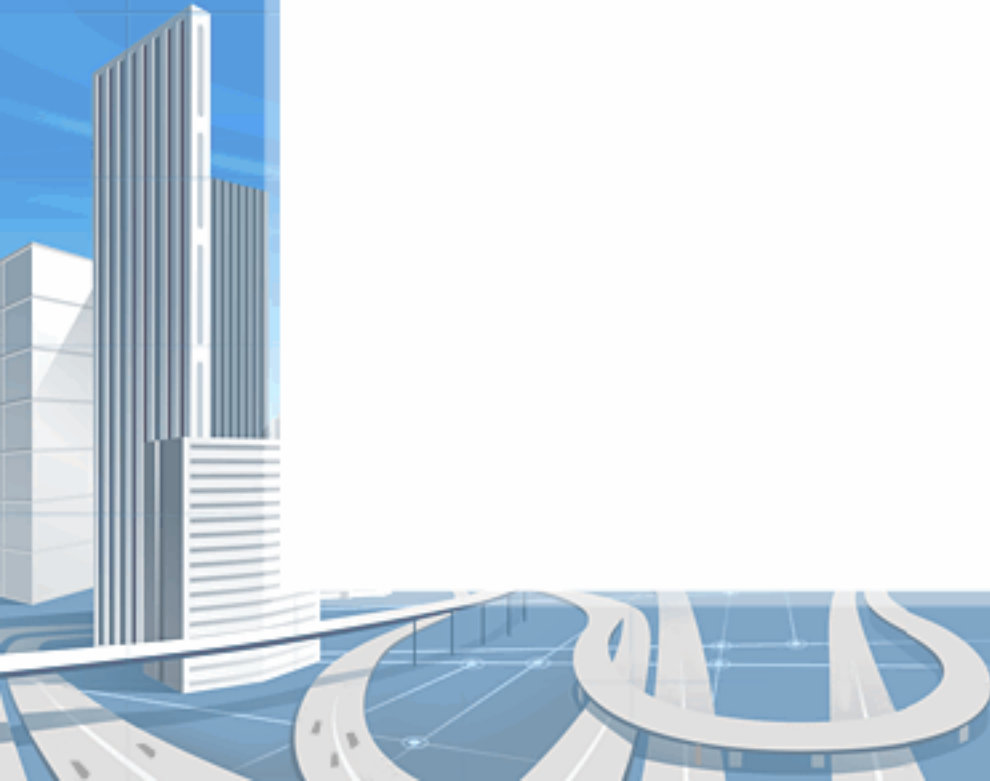
Outline

Colonial Era

Prior to the American Revolution (1760-1789)

After the Revolution

Post-colonial Era

Birth of Modern Planning (Plan of Chicago)
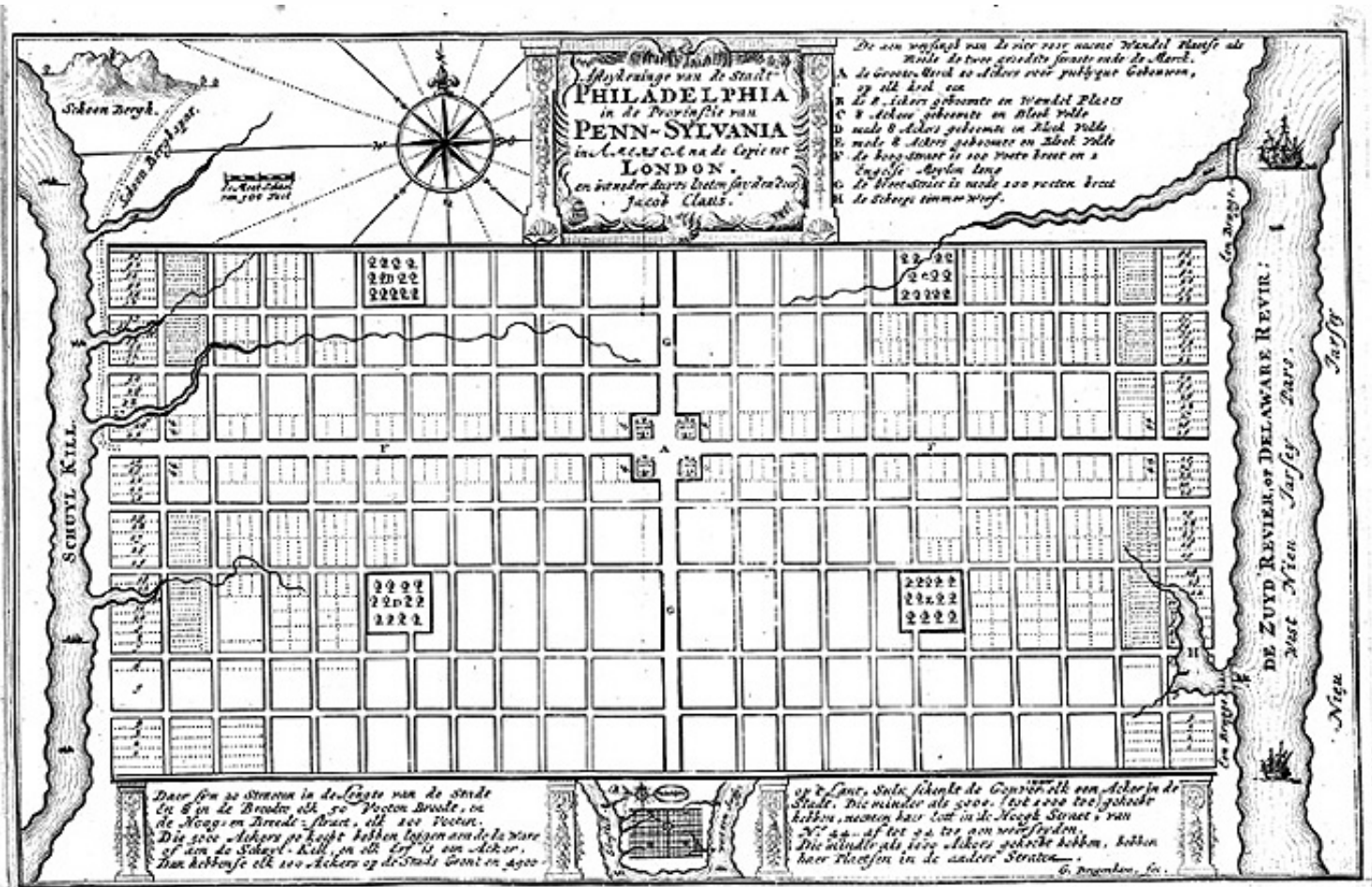
Planning before WWII (Great Depression)
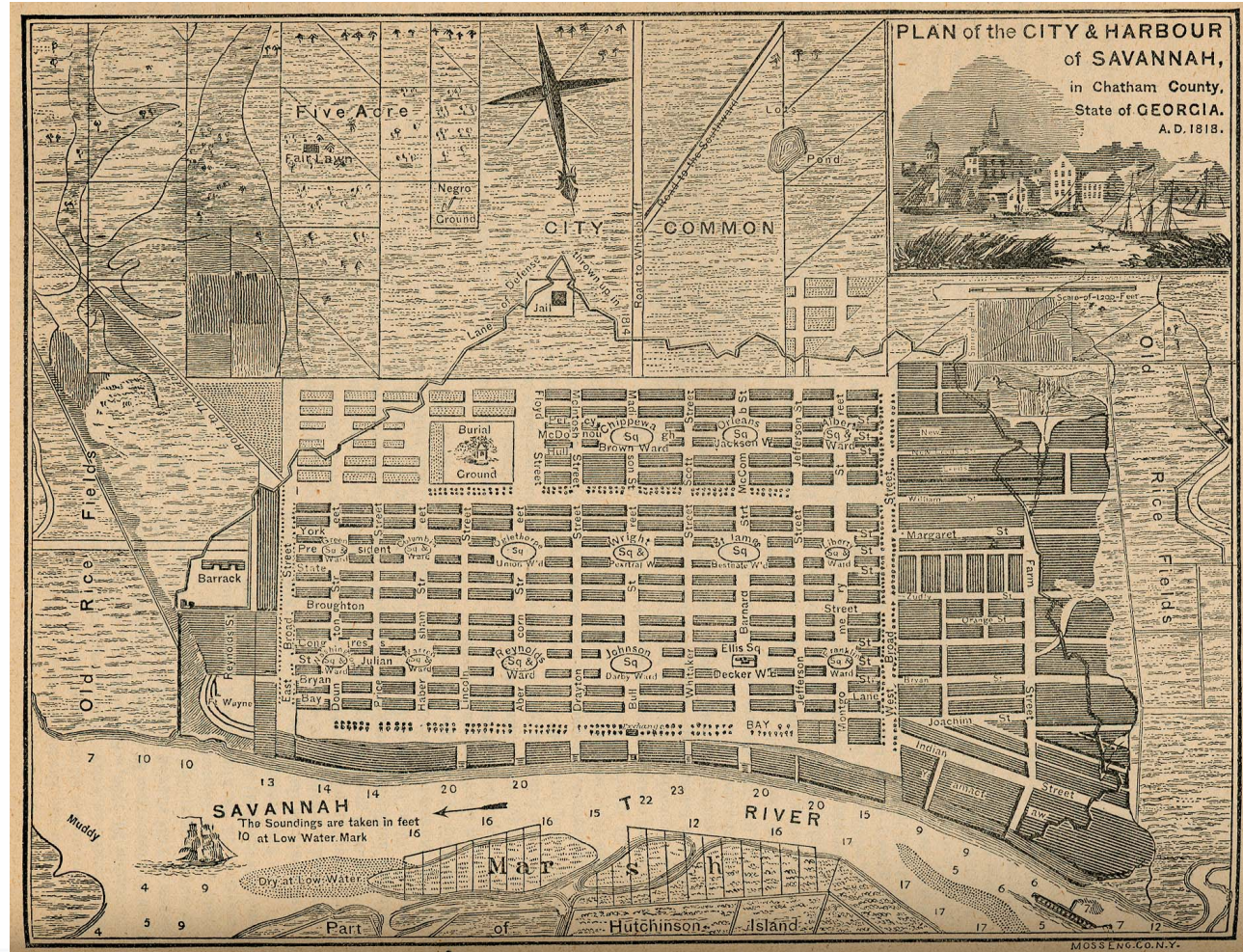
WWII

Planning after WWII

Colonial America (1760-1789)

- Municipalities had strong powers to control land use and development
- "Preindustrial age": Faced weaker growth pressures
- Strong authority to plan

Representative Colonial Towns

Philadelphia, PA (William Penn, 1682)

Representative Colonial Towns

Savannah, GA (James Oglethorpe, 1733)

Rectangular grid system of streets

The grid pattern was used in laying out many Midwestern cities and

Uniform spacing & building setbacks

System of open spaces

Colonial Planning

Compact urban development

Town square

Post-Colonial Era: Pressures for Reform

- Public Control
  - Very little public control of private land
  - The commercial elite controlled planning
- Growth
  - America's population was increasing and its cities became over crowded

Urban Problems in the 19C

- Public health and sanitation
- Overcrowding and traffic congestion
- Poor housing quality and crime
- Ugliness of the industrial city, pollution, and lack of urban open space

1800s Manhattan, New York

The Reform Movement

Focused on:

- Sanitary reform
- Integrated Design
- The provision of public open space
- Housing reform

Different movements followed:

- Municipal Art movement
- City Beautiful movement

The Pressure for Reform

🏙 **Sanitary Reform** (Mid 19C)

  ➢ Sanitary conditions before reform:
  - ✓ Human wastes ➔ septic tank or cesspool ➔ soil and water contamination problems

  ➢ Invention of the "water carriage" sewer system in England (1840)
  - ✓ Small dia pipe, egg shaped- flow of water can carry human waste for long distances before being discharged

  ➢ Challenges: Massive planning at the city level
  - ✓ Topography (Operated by Gravity)
  - ✓ Volume of flow
  - ✓ Rebuilding streets to provide drainage
  - ✓ Where to install sewer lines, route and discharge
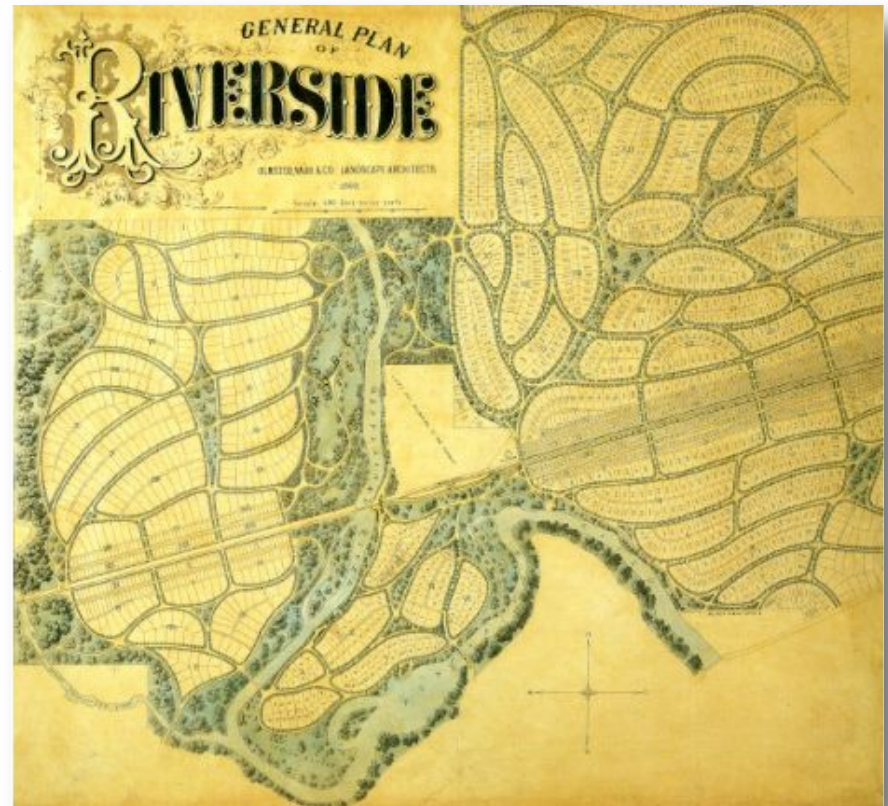 - ➔ Sanitary Survey

Septic tank

Leaching field
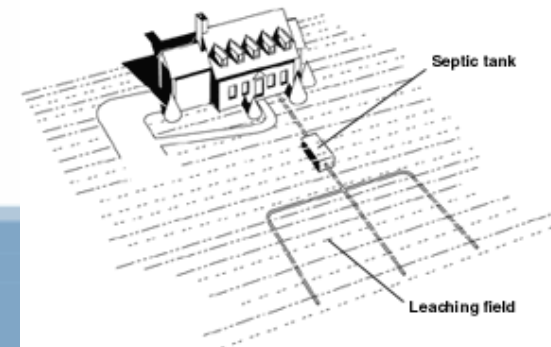
The Pressure for Reform

🏙 Integrated Design

- Fitting the street pattern to the topography for effective drainage through Curvilinear street pattern (not gridiron)
- Preserving open green space
- Considering sunlight and ventilation in locating open space

→ To reduce diseases!

Riverside, IL
Frederick Law Olmsted & Calvert Vaux (1868-1870)

The Pressure for Reform

🏙 Provision of Public Open Space

➢ 'Good ventilation makes a house healthier, so too would parkland serve to ventilate cities'

➢ Pioneer of such development- **Fredrick Law Olmsted**

➢ Olmsted's works in Brooklyn, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit etc. Many more such examples exist today.
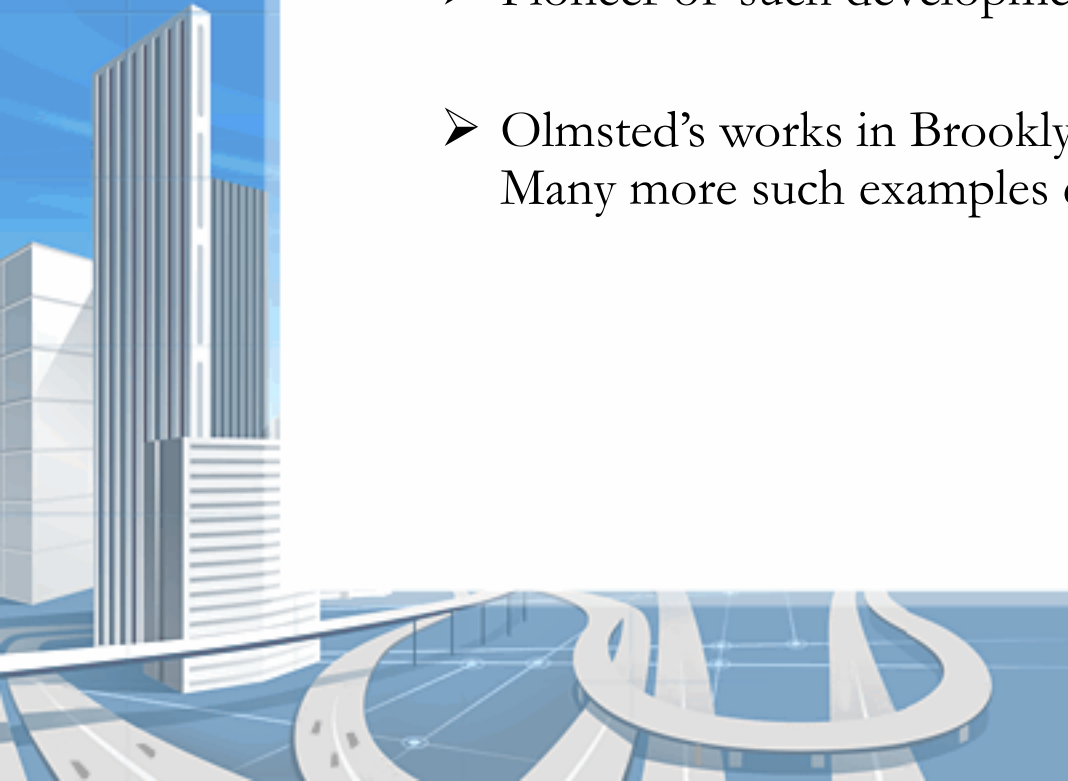
The Pressure for Reform

Housing Reform (19C)

- Focused on Housing Quality for the Urban Poor
- Legislation for mandating standard Codes and Permits
- 1901 – NYC Tenement Housing Act
  - Reduce lot coverage, separate bathrooms, courtyards for ventilation and light
- 1920: Forty other cities enacted building codes

The Pressure for Reform

Municipal Art Movement (End of 19C)

- Fusion of art, architecture, and planning
- Beautification rather than functionality
- Focus on points in the city: arches, fountains, statues

The Pressure for Reform

The City Beautiful Movement

- 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago

- Focused on streets, municipal art, public buildings and public streets

- City Beautiful Philosophy and Goals
  - Beautiful public works attract the wealthy, improve the lives of the poor, and create civic pride
  - Tree lined avenues bring light and air to the slums

The Birth of Modern City Planning: Plan of Chicago (1909)
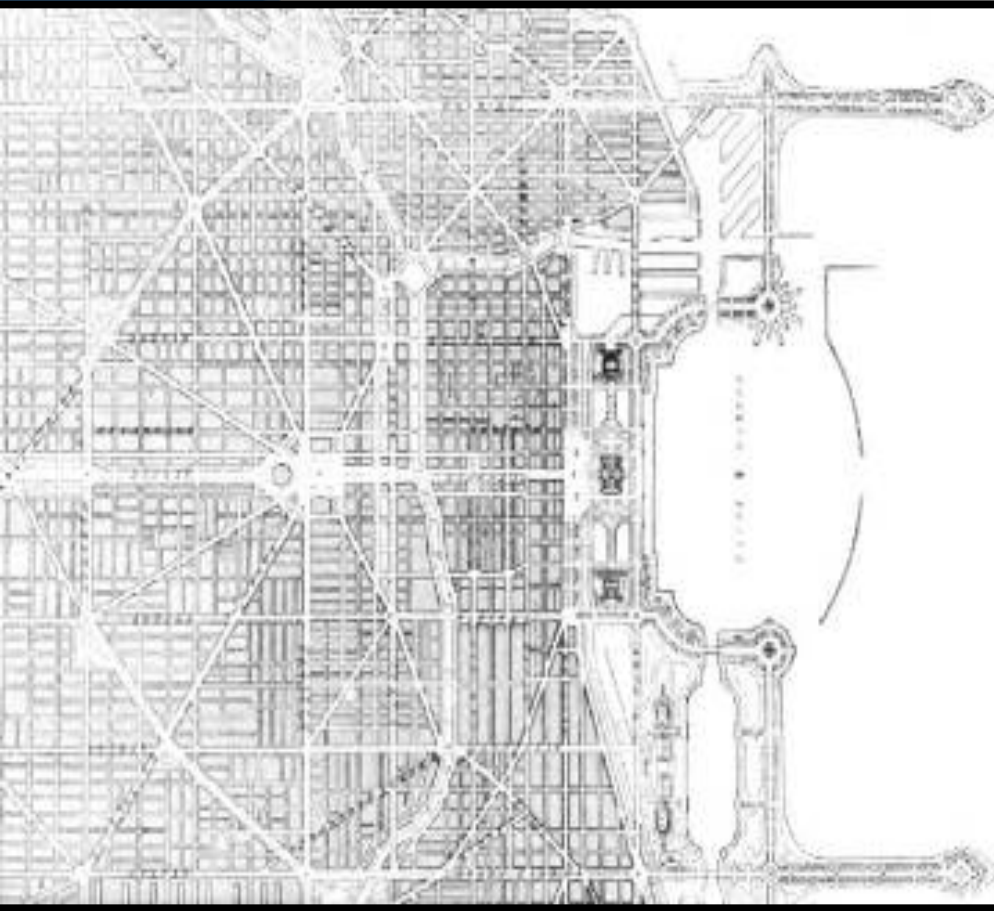
- Involved Public Support
- Integrated Transportation
- Housing
- Commerce
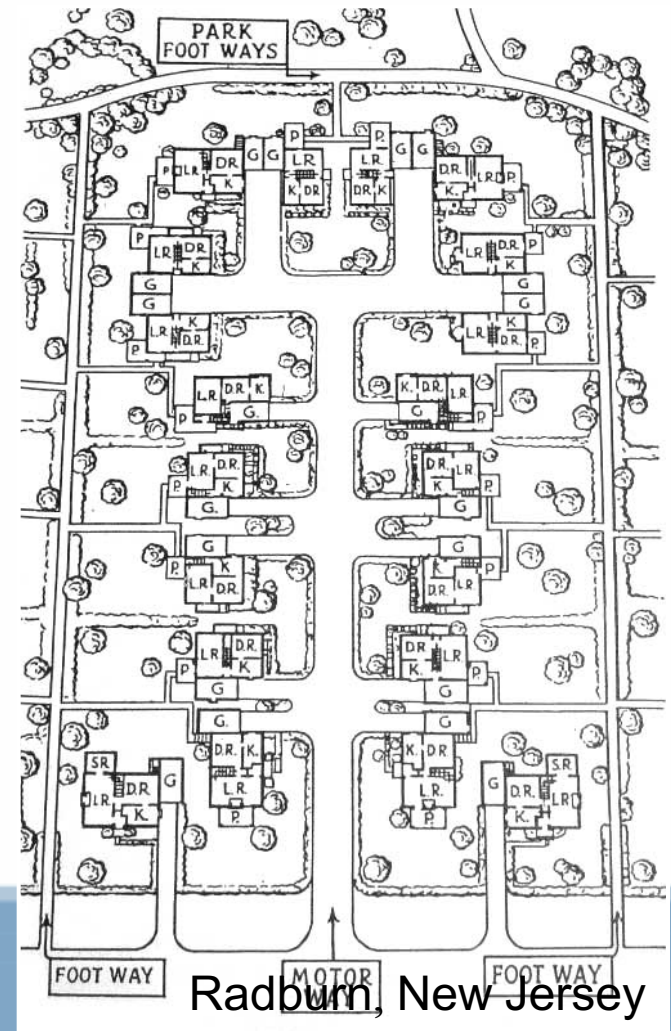- Recreation
- Growth

Zoning (1920s)

- Zoning capacity of government established
  - ➤ 1916: 1st zoning ordinance in NYC
  - ➤ 1924: Standard Zoning Enabling Act by US Det. Of Commerce
- Zoning allowed municipalities to control the use of private property and to control land use patterns to some extent.

Pre-1916 Building, New York City

Typical "Wedding Cake" Building after 1916, New York City
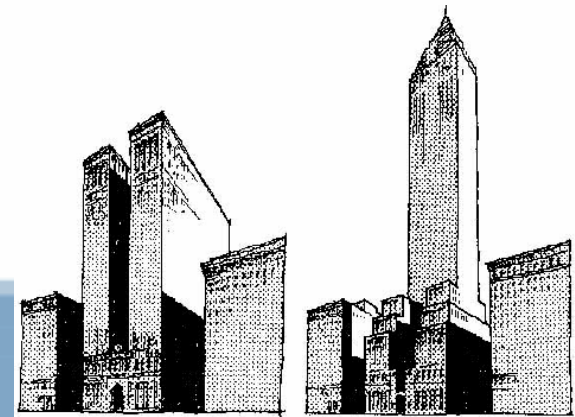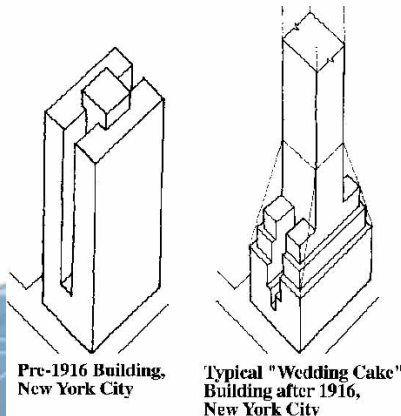
Growth of Community Master Planning (1920s)

☐ Content:

   ➢ Land use (zoning)

   ➢ Street pattern

   ➢ Transit

   ➢ Rail transportation

   ➢ Public recreation

   ➢ Civic art

Radburn, New Jersey

State and Regional Planning (1920s)

- Population can travel from home to work
- Recreational areas within reach of metropolitan center
- Followed the boundaries of cities and counties
- Regard the physical characteristics such as waterways and watersheds

LOCATION MAP
NEW YORK AND ITS ENVIRONS
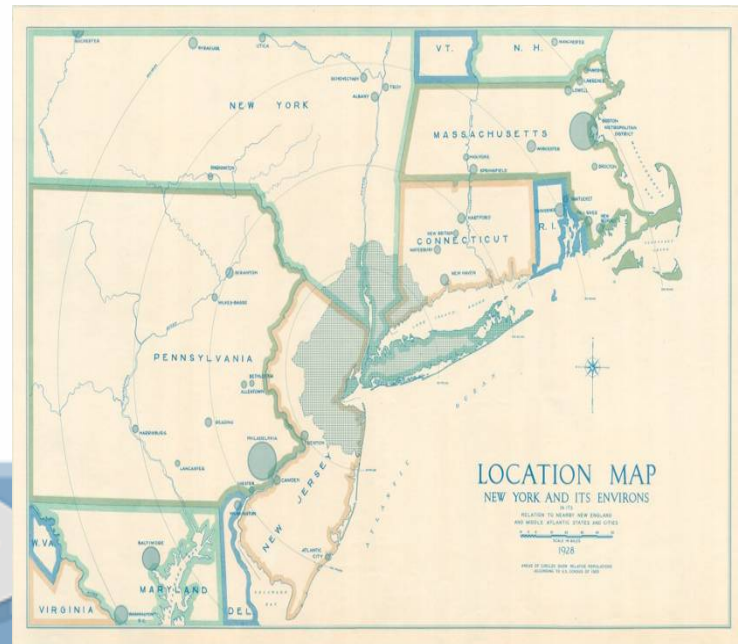
Planning during the Great Depression

- 1930s:
  - Economic distress
  - Disillusion of the Great Depression
  - Favored more planning
- Planning initiatives:
  - Federal funding of local and state planning efforts
  - Provision of low-cost housing by the federal government
  - Provision of mortgage insurance by FHA
  - National Resources Planning Board
  - Start of a number of regional planning efforts

Planning after WWII

Housing Act of 1949 & Urban Renewal

- Goal of the Housing Act of 1949
- Priorities:
  - Providing federal financing for **Slum Clearance**
  - Extending federal money to build **public housing units**
  - Allowing the FHA to insure mortgages
  - Permitting the FHA to provide financing for rural homeowners

Levittown Suburbia

- Late 1940s
- The mass-produced suburban tract house
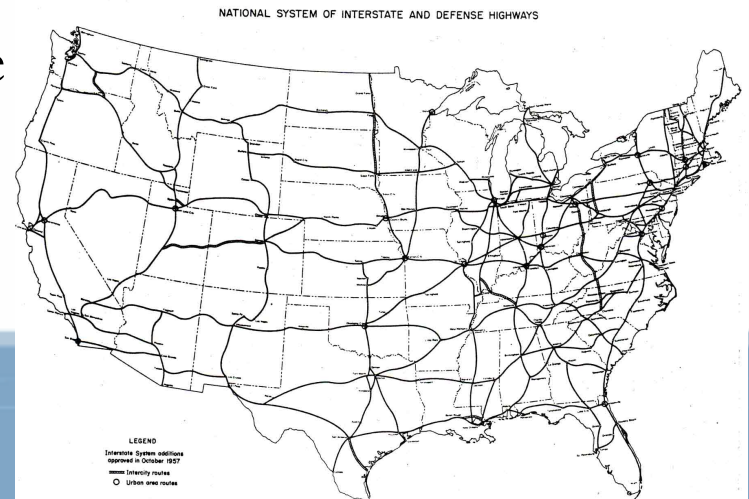- Housing for returning WWII veterans

The Interstate Highway Act of 1956

- A major act of national planning:
  - 41,000 miles in length
  - 20 years
  - 25 billion dollars
- A cooperative venture between the federal government and forty-nine states

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF INTERSTATE AND DEFENSE HIGHWAYS

Exhibit 9-3

Features of Postwar Planning

- Planning initiatives in a conservative framework
  - Private initiatives and capital VS Government intervention
- State and local levels: large expansions of planning activity
- Development of various types of planning
  - Environmental planning, growth control and growth management, economic development planning, planning for public safety, and planning for a natural catastrophe

Discussion

- Neighborhood Plan
  - Based on the plans you were starting to develop last week, what are some approaches to solving urban issues we discussed today?

- Discuss the history of your hometown
  - How has it grown overtime? Has it sprawled? Or is there still a concentration in the downtown area?