



7) modern machine
 Russia
 (Europe)
 USA
 etc
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- 1) Egyptian camps : production and enslavement
- 2) Hellenistic towns : economic expansion and trade
- 3) Roman settlements : empire-building and efficiency
- 4) French Bastides : national extension and security
- 5) Spanish towns : colonisation for religion and profit
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Southwest Washington in Plans

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Had Thomas Jefferson's sketch plan of 1791 for the new city of Washington prevailed, Southwest Washington would have been in an area "to be laid out in the future." His plan, a modest 3 by 11 block rectangular grid stretching eastward from about the midpoint between the three existing townships on the site, Georgetown, Hamburg and Carrollsburg, specified the major public buildings to face south onto the Potomac and the Tyber Creek (Fig 1). The "future" would probably have seen a city housed in an extension of the grid.

L'Enfant's plan was not so open to future development. In it, Southwest Washington appears precisely as any other part of an urban area which stretched from Georgetown on the west to beyond Carrollsburg on the east (Fig.2). L'Enfant considered grid plans "tiresome and insipid...however answerable they may appear on paper or seducing as they may be on the first aspect to the eyes." He didn't realize that his plan, relying so much as it did on achieving the power of its image only when completed, would suffer for a long time. In the meantime, the neighboring town of Alexandria, laid out as a grid, would flourish right from the start and would be easy to add to. A visitor to Alexandria in 1797, in fact, delights in its "rectangular plan [where] streets sufficiently wide intersect each other at right angles; and spacious squares add to its beauty, convenience and salubrity (Fig.3)."

The Jefferson plan, like earlier Chinese models, faced south toward water. L'Enfant, on the other hand, made a city which abjured orientation to the rivers which surrounded his plan and to the creeks which penetrated it. The plan was organized as an internalized construction, linking hills and arrang-

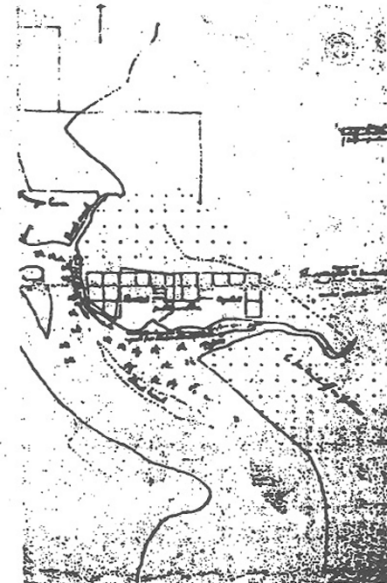
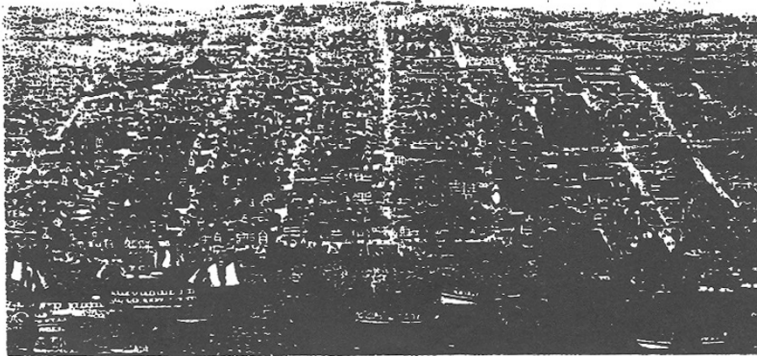


Figure 1. Untitled and undated map drawn by Thomas Jefferson, probably in March 1791.



Figure 2, Above. "Sketch of Washington in Embryo," showing the three existing settlements and the extent of the L'Enfant plan.

Figure 3, Left. Birds-eye view of Alexandria, Virginia, and the development of its grid plan.

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4.241J / 11.330J Theory of City Form
Spring 2013

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