

Notes and Comments
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Notes et commentaires

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Notes and Comments/Notes et commentaires

IUS Prepares Bibliography on Northern Housing

As part of the Institute of Urban Studies "northern housing" initiative, IUS is compiling an annotated bibliography of literature pertinent to the discussion of northern housing. The bibliography, which now comprises well over 300 entries, is an on-going endeavour which will be regularly revised and/or updated. It presents a thorough and comprehensive appraisal of the published material relevant to the study of the north, and should foster the continued analysis of the unique circumstances of the northern community.

Although the central theme of the bibliography is northern housing, it also provides an overview of literature related to northern development — particularly in the prairie north, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Issues addressed in the bibliography are those which are considered integral elements of the northern community phenomenon (i.e., industrialization, population mobility, utility servicing, cooperative programming or the concept of "deculturalization." In this regard, the bibliography offers an important community perspective to the northern housing issue.

This sense of community is articulated in such studies as: J. Adam's "Settlement in the Northeastern Arctic;" P.J. Usher and L. Beakhus's *Land-Use Regulations in the Canadian North*; or James Van Stone's formative anthropological study *The Changing Culture of the Snowdrift Chipewyan*. Whether addressing the Métis community as discussed by Valentine and Young in "The Situation of Métis in Northern Saskatchewan;" the resource town as portrayed by Janet Macpherson in "The Pine Point Mine;" or even the regional centre as described by O.B. Johnson in *A Study of Churchill, Manitoba*, in numerous publications the particulars of the northern community are examined as they relate to the housing process. Indeed, as argued by Dickens and Platts in a paper entitled "Housing in Northern Canada: Some Recent Developments," the unique quality of northern housing is a by-product of the "peculiar economic and logistic factors of the north."

The housing component of the bibliography ranges in scope from design and construction manuals utilized in the north to the program evaluation reports prepared by government officials. Emphasizing the distinct quality of northern housing, these materials offer an historical overview of changing housing form and construction techniques. While reference can be made to a northern housing tradition, most of the sources consulted are from a fairly recent genre. With the post-1950 expansionary boom into the north, the proliferation of housing studies has become a well established trend. From the "matchbox" units of the federal govern-

ment's crash housing program to the more contemporary fibre-glass-reinforced polyester structures, northern housing has spawned analysis. It has done so, however, at the initiative of government and while there is some evidence to suggest that the study of housing has become more acceptable as an intellectual pursuit, generally it still remains the prerogative of government.

The long list of government sponsored or co-ordinated studies on the topic of northern housing is headed by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Through an extensive range of research documents (i.e., *Houses of the North*, *Examples of Northern Construction Practices*, and *Housing and Northern People*), CMHC has compiled an extensive inventory of northern housing reports. So too has the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Public Works.

At the provincial level, all three prairie provinces have participated in the preparation of northern housing studies. The province of Saskatchewan, however, offers the most substantial contribution through publications such as the *Housing Needs Survey* or *Housing Needs in Northern Saskatchewan*. At the territorial government level, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is the most active participant in the study of northern housing. Its most notable publications in this regard are: *An Integrated Housing Policy*, *Housing Needs and Delivery in the Northwest Territories*, and *The Final Report of the Special Committee on Housing*.

The non-government approach to the study of northern housing has evolved from two sources; private consultants and academics. The consultants' reports are usually site specific and fairly technical in their analysis. For example, publications such as Moshie Safdie and Associates' *Development Plan of Frobisher Bay*, Underwood McLelland and Associates' *Preliminary Analysis of Facilities for the Townsite of Churchill* or Praxis' *Resource Community Study*, all discuss housing in the context of site re-development. The academic perspective, on the other hand, is generally more theoretical and tends to relate housing to the larger perspective of economic development. Growing out of such programs as the University of Manitoba's Centre for Settlement Studies, the University of Saskatchewan's Institute for Northern Studies or the University of Calgary's Arctic Institute, housing has become an important aspect for the northern focus of several universities. S.H. Dietze's "Housing in the Canadian North," B. Culjat's "Climate and the Built Environment in the North," or L.R. Zrudlo's "A Model for An Integrated Design Approach to Settlement Planning in the Arctic," are all outstanding examples of the academic community's interest in northern housing.

For further information on the *Annotated Bibliography: Selected Sources on Northern Housing and Related Community Infrastructure*, please contact:

Robert Robson
Research Fellow
Institute of Urban Studies

CONFERENCES

Resolving Rural Development Conflicts Conference

The Rural and Small Town Research and Studies Programme, Mount Allison University, New Brunswick and the University of Maine System are organizing a conference on rural development and conflict resolution. Complex issues of housing, economic health, and environmental and resource management confront rural areas throughout North America. This conference will bring together individuals from the academic and public and private sectors to consider options to Canadian and United States rural development concerns.

Topics will be explored from a number of perspectives. These include:

- a) **Housing:** rural/small town housing issues; rural housing markets; special rural needs; nature of rural housing industry; public policy needs for rural housing.
- b) **Economic Development:** approaches to rural economic development; the role of governments; public policy responses; the role of private sector lending institutions; community based development corporations.
- c) **Growth Management:** alternative growth management tools; impact of growth management regulations; planning as a growth management tool; politics of growth management.
- d) **Resource Management:** resource planning approaches; integrated resource/settlement planning and management; tourism/recreation planning and management; water resource planning and management.

The conference will be of interest to a variety of individuals concerned with rural and small development. To emphasize the international context, St. Andrews, on the Maine-Canadian border, will be the site of the conference. St. Andrews is a scenic and historic resort town facing Maine across the mouth of the St. Croix River. Social events and field trips are part of the conference.

For more information, please contact:

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Business History Conference

The second Canadian Business History Conference will be held at the University of Victoria, 3-5 March, 1988. The Conference will include papers from historians, political scientists, geographers, sociologists, economists, archivists and administrative studies. For further information on the conference and registration details, please contact:

Peter Baskerville
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Robert Moses Conference

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Robert Moses, the Long Island Studies Institute at Hofstra University is planning a conference 10-11 June 1988 on "Robert Moses and the Planned Environment: Innovation and in the American Tradition."

While the primary emphasis of the conference will be the effect on Long Island's development brought about by Moses' plan of roadways and parks — 34 miles of which are now New York State historic landmarks — there is also interest in gaining historical and comparative perspectives on his work. The program committee has encouraged the submission of papers that place the work of Robert Moses within the national and international traditions of landscape architecture and the built environment, urban and suburban planning, management of public land, recreation and the playground and parks movement, and transportation history.

For more information on the conference, contact:

Joann P. Krieg
English American Studies
Calkins Hall
Hofstra University
Hempstead, New York
USA 11550

Public History Conference

The American Council on Public History is holding its annual meeting and conference in Denver, Colorado, 3-6 March 1988. The theme of the annual conference is "Our Nation's Heritage: Preserving and Interpreting America's Past." Issues addressed at the conference will include: archives, cultural resources management, museums, politics and policy, libraries, and interpretation. For more information, contact:

National Council on Public History
7264 West Otero Avenue
Littleton, Colorado
USA 80123

PUBLICATIONS

**Institute of Urban Studies
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RESEARCH AND WORKING PAPERS

Earl A. Levin, *Comedy in Three Acts: Municipal Policy and District Planning in Manitoba* (1987), 56 pp., \$10.00. Research and Working Papers No. 31.

This paper examines the ambiguous and ironic position of policy at the municipal level of planning in the Province of Manitoba. It uses as the vehicle for that examination the events surrounding the establishment of a Planning District made up of four municipalities in the southern part of the province and the subsequent efforts of one of them to withdraw from the District. The paper outlines the background of concepts, statutes and practices which bear on the role of policy-making in the municipal planning function. It then describes the events which took place related to the Planning District and points out the differences and conflicting motivations of the various actors involved. What emerges is the clear indication of a profound confusion in the minds of provincial politicians, bureaucrats, lawyers, quasijudicial bodies, and municipal officials about the nature of the planning function at the municipal level, and the municipal council's lack of insight into or even awareness of its potential as a policy-making body. "Comedy" in the title refers to a philosophical definition of comedy as "an ironic struggle with society," of which the episode described may be regarded as an example.

Robert S. Robson, ed., *Northern Housing: Perspectives on Design and Construction* (1987), 69 pp., tables, maps, graphs, \$9.00. Winter Communities Series No. 4.

In May 1987, the Institute of Urban Studies organized a conference entitled "Northern Housing: Policy, Design and Delivery" as part of a series of seminars on housing issues. Seminar sessions focused on housing needs in northern communities; government policy; program requirements; housing and community relationships; technical and design problems; and other important housing issues. Northern housing confronts a complex set of housing and housing related issues, including: transportation, timing, economics, design, etc.

This report is the second of a series of published papers from the conference. Papers in this volume all address the issue of building housing geared to the needs of the occupant; the central theme in each case is building for people. The papers included in the volume are: "Remote Housing and the Need for Monitoring" by Nils Larsson (Architect/Consultant); "Housing Design and Construction in the North West Territories" by R.S. Bushell (Manager, Design and Development, NWT Housing Corporation); "Patterns and Building Blocks" by Glen Wither (Architect, CMHC); and "Northern Housing Design and Construction" by David McCann (Treeline Planning Services Limited).

Canada's resource towns are a major feature of the Canadian settlement experience. Just as the resource community has undergone a series of dramatic changes since the nineteenth century — from helter-skelter settlement to contemporary town — so have the facilities within the resource town. And one of the most significant changes has been the area of housing.

Richards Roberts (President, Praxis) focusses on the issue of housing, and articulates the role of local residents in the provision of housing, in his paper "Canadian Resource Communities: The Residents' Perspective in the 1980s."

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Richard Dennis, *Landlords and Rented Housing in Toronto, 1885-1914* (1987), 65 pp., \$6.00. Research Paper No. 162.

Housing research in Canadian urban history has tended to focus on individual home ownership in urban

development, associating it with increasing affluence and satisfaction, while the historical importance of the rental sector and of the role of landlords has been largely neglected. This paper attempts to discover who landlords were and how they responded to the changing demand for housing in the late 19th and early 20th century. The research compares the situation in Britain with that of Toronto, where rates of ownership-occupation were higher. It uses contemporary data and other sources to examine patterns of construction, financing and ownership, occupational structures of owners and tenants as well as landlord profiles and activity in three study areas of Toronto during the period 1885-1914.

Richard Harris, *The Growth of Home Ownership in Toronto, 1899-1913* (1987), 37 pp., \$5.00. Research Paper No. 163.

It is generally thought that in Toronto stagnant real incomes kept home ownership rates down during the first decade of this century. In fact, assessment data show that between 1899 and 1913 the local proportion of owner-occupied dwellings rose by about 20 percentage points. Among the middle class, changes in the domestic division of labour were associated with an increase in ownership aspirations, while smaller and cheaper homes were becoming acceptable. Among workers, a housing shortage and rapid rent increases forced families to acquire a home at any cost. Many followed the factories, building shacks at the suburban fringe. Toronto's experiences challenge the assumption that prior to World War I suburban home ownership was a middle class phenomenon, and shows that homes must be viewed as places of both domestic production and consumption.

Marc Choko, *The Characteristics of Housing Tenure in Montreal* (1987), 32 pp., \$4.00. Research Paper No. 164.

Several problems need to be addressed before attempting an explanation of the historical evolution of housing tenure in Montreal. First, data on changes in ownership ratios through time should be examined in order to identify periods of key significance. The second step would then be to identify for each of these periods those factors that could explain disparities between cities, making sure that they are weighted in similar ways and are thus comparable. More general explanations of ownership characteristics should get rid of priori assumptions and pay more attention to the impacts of the production system as well as those of consumption which are usually addressed. This paper illustrates the need for such further research through its critical examination of the existing literature and data, and the explanations that these have put forward.

Student History Journal

The *Mirror* is the University of Western Ontario's student history journal. The purpose of the journal is to highlight the efforts of undergraduate students by publishing works of exceptional quality which would not otherwise be available to a wide readership. To date, the *Mirror* is the only journal of its kind published in Canada. It is produced by a student staff and is published in February each year.

The 1988 issue, Volume 8, will contain approximately 150 pages of articles, book reviews, interviews and features. All of the articles will be the work of undergraduates. The cost of the journal is \$7.00 plus postage and handling. To order the *Mirror*, write to:

The *Mirror*
Department of History
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario
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Report of the State of the Small City

To examine the problems, concerns, and challenges facing smaller cities and towns in the United States, the National League of Cities recently released a report that provides statistics on conditions of US communities with populations under 50,000. The information is drawn from the State of Small Cities Survey, which was mailed to the mayors of 1,100 cities and towns.

Many American small cities and towns are experiencing difficult problems caused by changes beyond their control. And due to a number of factors, small communities have been struggling to offer the programs and services its citizen's want and need. Among these factors are: the federal and state laws and policies that restrict the powers of cities and towns to govern; cutbacks in federal aid and limits on the amount and ways cities and towns may raise revenue at the local level; problems with the local economy; losses or gains in population that put strains or restraints on municipal services and budgets; and the ever-increasing power of the courts at all levels over matters that affect the way even the smallest communities provide programs and services.

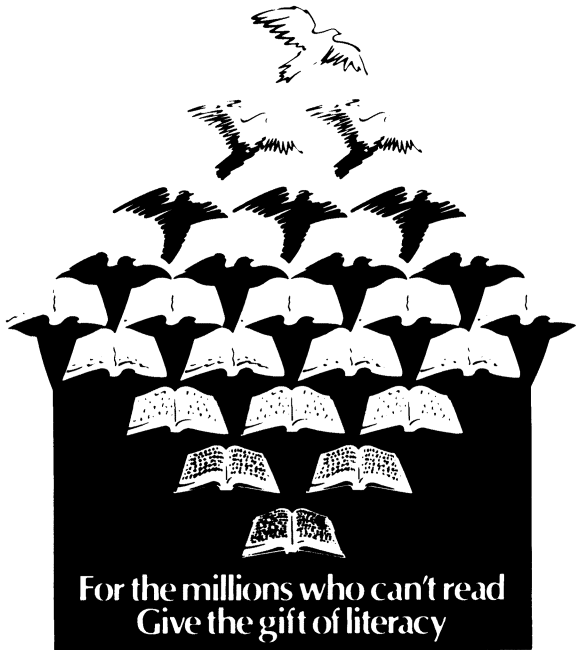
The report, *The State of the Small City: A Survey of the Nations' Cities and Towns Under 50,000* is available from the National League of Cities at \$15.00 (U.S.), 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. USA 20004. [From the *Center City Report*, The Newsletter of the International Downtown Association, July/August 1988].

Urban Abstracts

The London Research Centre (England), which is funded by London's municipal authorities, collects and analyses information about most urban issues; many of these issues are common elements of both the North American and the European scenes. Each month, its *Urban Abstracts* journal presents a concise selection of important new documents in the fields of urban renewal, environmental protection, social policy, economic development, planning and transportation, community relations, policing, local government finance and

administration, and many related topics. The cost of an annual subscription to *Urban Abstracts* is £80 per year. Subscriptions are available from:

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