

Master Plan for the University of Massachusetts

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Master Plan for the University of Massachusetts

By Sidney N. Shurcliff, Fellow A. S. L. A., Member A. I. P., Boston U. S. A.

Rapid population growth and a growing demand for higher education have made it mandatory to plan for the expansion of this University from a present enrollment of about 4400 students to 10,000 in 1965. This means a construction program in the next eight years one and a half times as great as has taken place in the entire period since the University was founded in 1854 up to the present.

The site presently owned consists of 821 acres; however because this is in part an agricultural College which requires fields for experimental agricultural demonstrations the size of the site must be increased to about 1130 acres in order to achieve the desired result. Fortunately the additional land can be acquired at reasonable cost if quick action is taken.

The climate here is cold with frequent deep snows in winter. Heating will be from the present heating plant which, even when improved, will have an effective radius of only 2500 feet. For this reason and also to facilitate quick pedestrian interchange between classrooms, dormitories, library and commons the majority of the new buildings must be placed within the circle formed by the heating radius. Hence, as in many other Universities the juxtaposition of new buildings among the old ones becomes mandatory, with obvious resultant problems in how to harmoniously relate new and old structures.

The problems are further complicated by very steep topography over about one-quarter of the site and the need to conform at least in part to the present

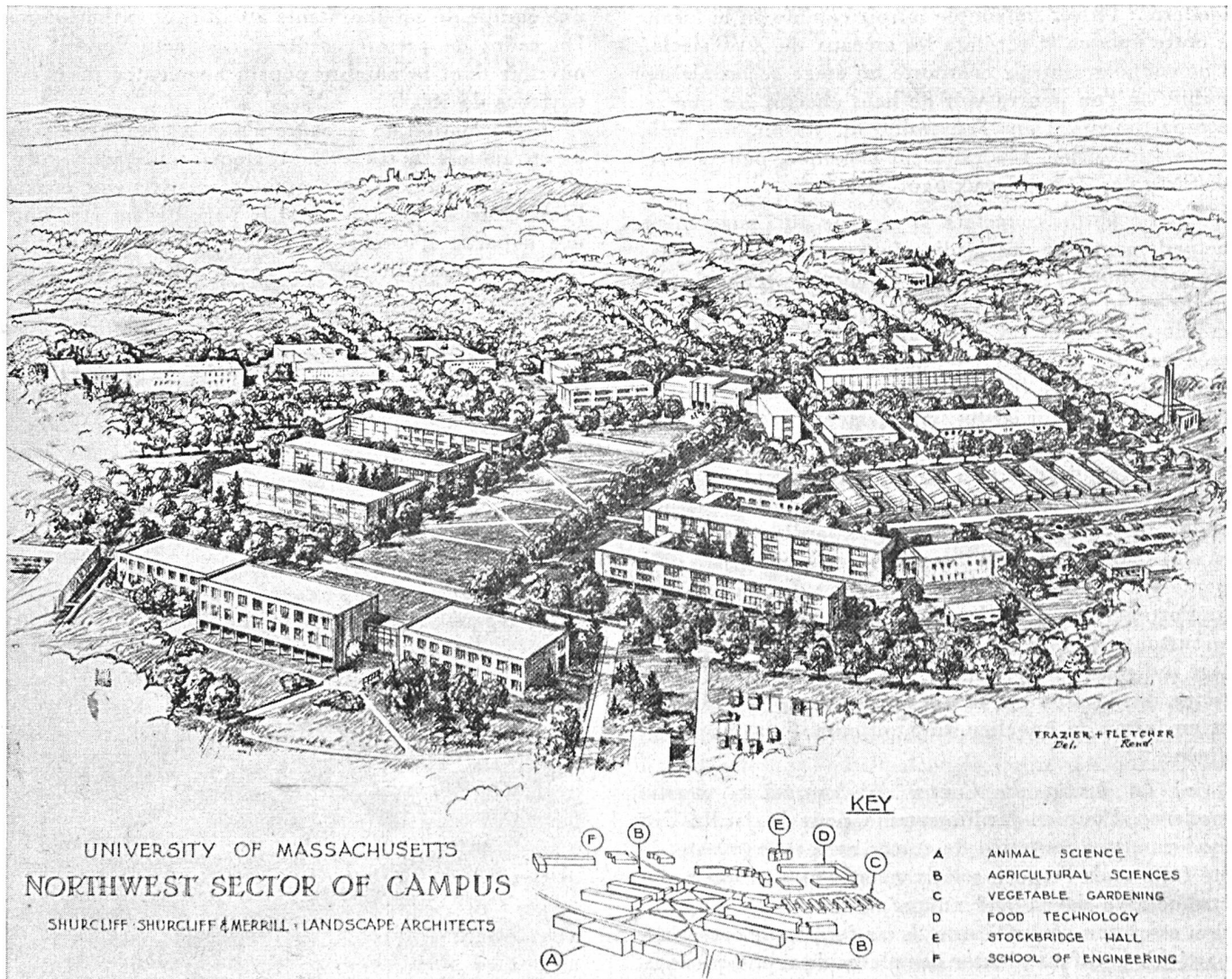


Fig. 1. Université de Massachusetts: Vue du secteur nord-ouest. - Massachusetts-Universität: Ansicht des Nordwest-Sektors.

road network and to the line of a new limited access highway being built as a by-pass to the west.

The solution, after more than three years of work, is shown in the accompanying illustrations. Features of the solution include:

1. Creation of a park like central open space in the midst of the old and new academic building, embellished by the historic College Pond.
2. Elimination of a through highway which at present bisects the Campus and the substitution of three new by-passes, one for high speed traffic, one for local trucking and one for local pleasure traffic.
3. Provision of sites for 176 new buildings including 27 academic buildings, 13 women's dormitories, 14 men's dormitories, 60 row houses for married students, 24 fraternities, 11 sororities, a cage, field house, stadium, dining commons, infirmary, chapel, president's house, maintenance building, poultry range, cattle exhibition building, etc.

4. Increasing the number of motor parking spaces from 2030 at present to 7170 which ups the present inadequate parking ratio of .46 spaces per student to .72 spaces. Not only students, but also instructors, staff, visitors and sports spectators must use these spaces and therefore there may still be long walks to parking spaces in the crowded central area.
5. Provision of approximately 90 acres of athletic fields for men and 28 acres for women.

In considering the perspective sketches which accompany these plans it is well to bear in mind that they represent space allocation diagrams rather than actual buildings. Because the policy of the University is to award the design of each major building to a *different* architectural firm, it is impossible for either the landscape architect or the consulting architects to predict in detail what architects yet to be employed will wish to design in the future.

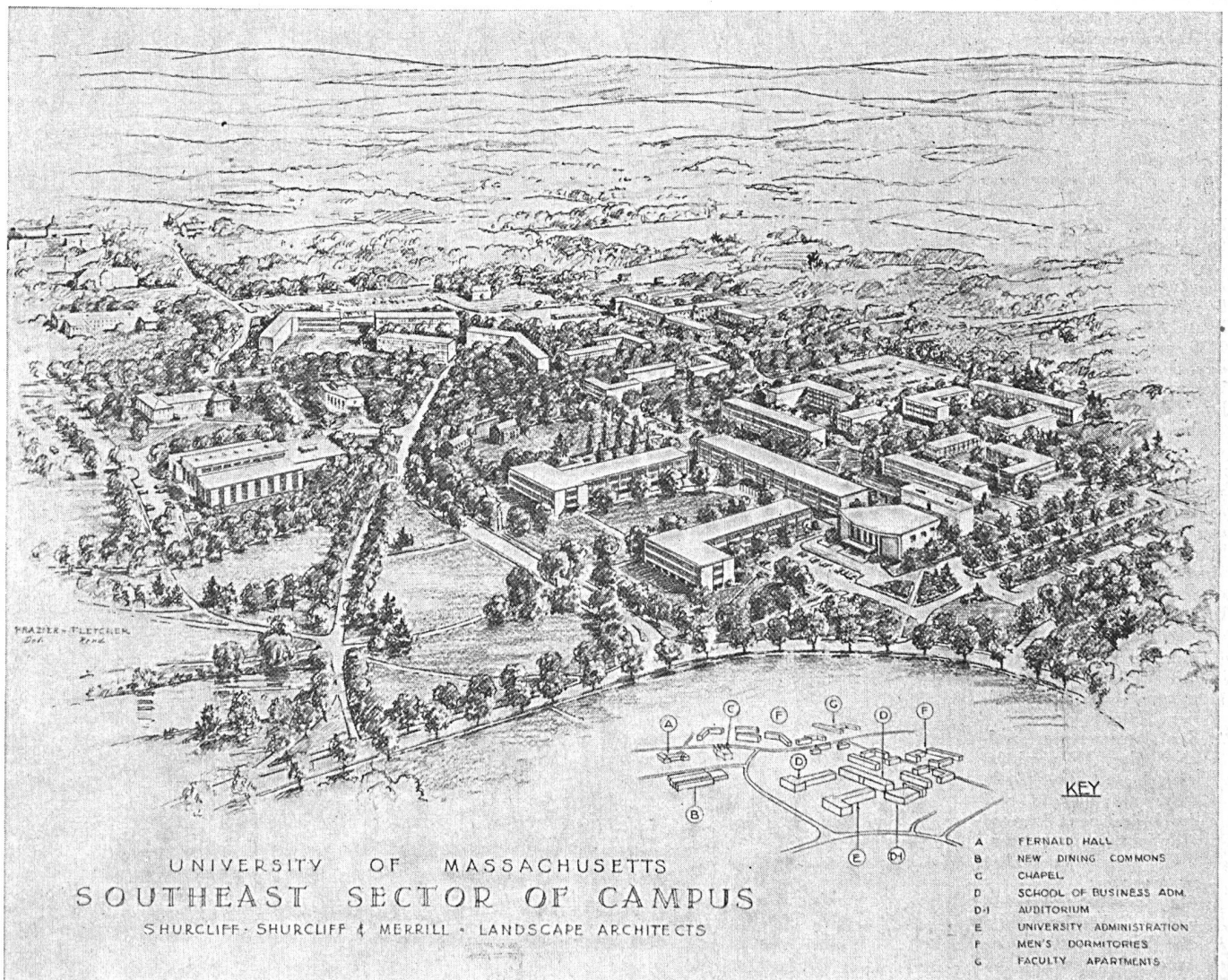


Fig. 2. Université de Massachusetts: Vue du secteur sud-est. - Massachusetts-Universität: Ansicht des Südost-Sektors.

