



CLEVELAND DEMONSTRATION NEIGHBORHOODS
THE FIRST YEAR

Institute of Cultural Affairs
11136 Magnolia
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

CLEVELAND DEMONSTRATION NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM

In the greater Cleveland area during 1975-79, the ICA worked with more than 40 Town Meetings, Youth Forums, Women's Forums, and Economic Strategies Conferences. The successful reception of these events in a variety of settings across Cleveland, as well as the Institute's work in urban settings around the world led to development of the Cleveland Demonstration Neighborhood Program.

This program answers the need expressed by local city and national leaders for locally based responsible groups willing to participate in their own community development. Such groups protect the rights of the community, while at the same time articulate their consensed vision and plan. In addition, Cleveland is in an enviable leadership position by nature of its position as an urban center that impacts the nation at a time when models for local community self-sufficiency are at a premium.

The question of which neighborhood should be the focus of attention was addressed by developing an evaluation screen. Eleven neighborhoods were, eventually, evaluated and three selected for further work. The criteria used were:

- Visible signs of social and economic need
- Undeveloped and having inadequate resources and social services
- High rates of unemployment, crime and substandard housing
- Variety of ethnic groups
- Population stability
- Target areas for City Community Development
- Familiarity with, and positive receptivity of ICA services and programs.

Evaluations were carried out using data obtained by interviews with residents, neighborhood leaders, city-wide agency heads, representatives of the City, and university faculty members. In addition demographic data were studied and site visits made to each of the eleven neighborhoods for visual inspection and informal interviews.

In December 1979, ICA consultants led a Block-Grant Strategies Conference attended by most of the local development corporations in the city, the City Department of Community Development and the Greater Cleveland Growth Association. The positive response to this conference made it possible to talk in depth to all three sectors and led directly to requests for ICA assistance in local projects.

In March 1980 the decision was made by staff and Advisory Board members of the Institute to focus attention on the Central, Clark Metro and West Collinwood neighborhoods. At that time the Program Prospectus was drafted, and in April 1980 the Initiation Phase was started in the Central neighborhood.

The overall objective of the Cleveland Demonstration Neighborhood program is to demonstrate the possibility of rapid socio-economic change based on establishing partnerships between social agencies, residents and private and public economic institutions. Objectives for each of the phases of this program are as follows:

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| INITIATION PHASE | To establish familiarity with the concepts and methods of human development through direct, cooperative efforts with existing civic groups, social agencies, business and local leaders. |
| PLANNING PHASE | To develop, publish and distribute a community-wide Action Plan based on a Neighborhood Strategies Conference hosted and attended by the newly emerging partnership. |
| ACTION PHASE | To catalyze simultaneously the actuation of local projects and the training of local leadership/ |
| EXTENSION PHASE | To extend the program into three neighborhood so that cross-community discussions and planning, pooled experience and sharing in training opportunities can occur. |

In actuality, these phases will overlap when there is a need of a readiness for other components to be introduced.

ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL (INITIATION PHASE)

1. Visited twenty community leaders.
2. Worked with Spring Clean-up Campaign with King-Kennedy, Outhwaite and Cedar Public Housing Estate Committees.
3. Acted as consulting member of Central-Downtown Youth Group.
4. Prepared Youth Service Directory for Central Area.
5. Assisted in forming Youth Council using Youth Forum format.
6. Worked with Friendly Inn to sponsor first parade in five years.
7. Helped initiate Central Community Council on Outhwaite Estate and served on committee for "Coming Alive Day" for 500 residents on September 10, 1980.
8. Led two meetings with the Concerned Central Community Congress attended by 150 Central residents and agency representatives on July 23rd and September 27th, 1980.
9. Worked with CMHA's Community Service Department to hold 40 resident forums on Outhwaite, King-Kennedy and Carver Estates.



ACTIVITIES IN CLARK METRO (ACTION PHASE)

1. Held Strategies Conference with a cross-section of 50 leaders.
2. Worked with Task Forces on a weekly or biweekly basis in the arenas of housing, retail business development, and inter-cultural activities.
3. Aided in writing a funding proposal for staff for the Clark Metro Development Corporation.
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5. Held Youth Forum at the Spanish American Committee.
6. Held Planning Forum at Orchard School for total staff.

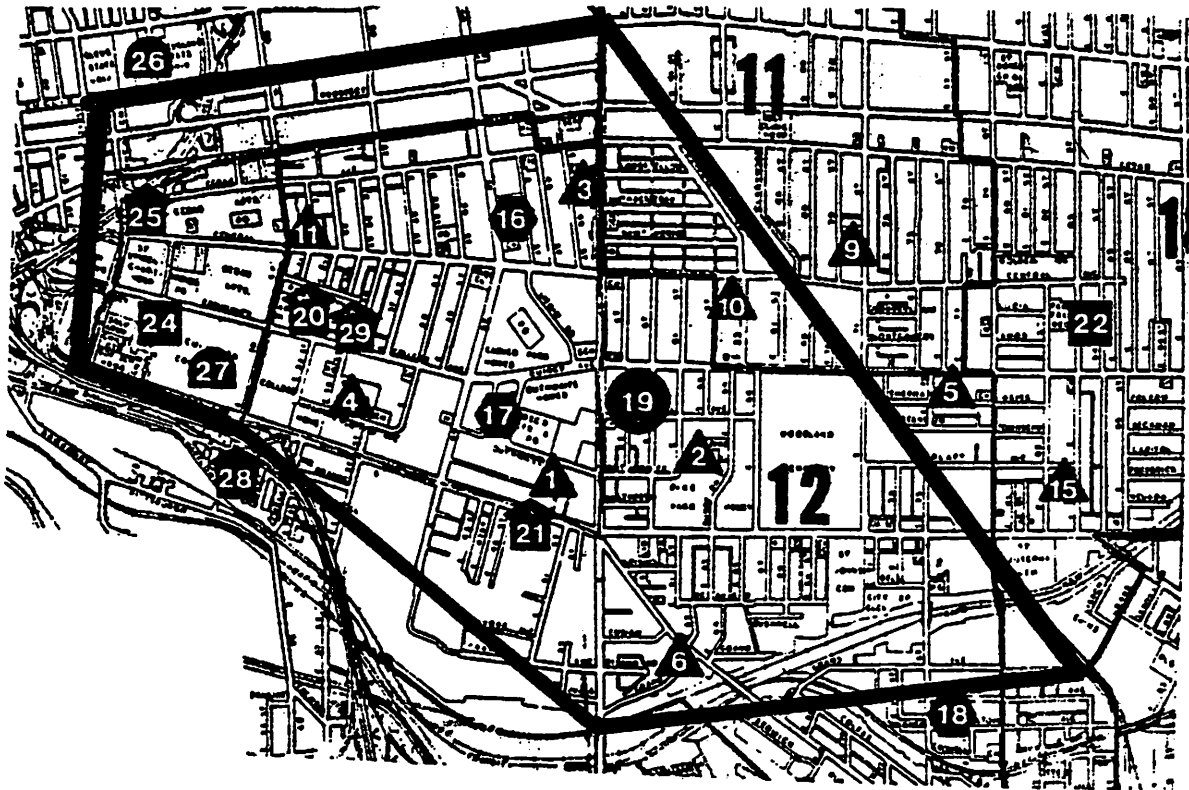


A NEW VISION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

ACTIVITIES IN WEST COLLINWOOD (INITIATION PHASE)

1. The research phase has included visitation with community leaders, the gathering of baseline data, a Town Meeting and a Special Audience (Parents of School Children) Forum, dating as far back as 1978.
2. Held Five-Points Strategies Conference.
3. More recently, the ICA has held two meetings with West Collinwood residents, attended by 35 people, and involving 27 merchants in the input process for the Collinwood Development Potential Study.

CENTRAL PROFILE



BOUNDARIES: NORTH: Euclid Avenue, EAST: Penn-Central tracks, WEST: E. 22nd. St., SOUTH: Woodland to E 30th., diagonal to E. 55th and Rapid Line, and along Grand Avenue.

CHARACTERISTICS: Site of four Public Housing Family Estates and three Senior Citizen high rise apartments. Area designated as Central Public Housing NSA by the City.

POPULATION: ca. 19,000 (1970), 90% black, highest %ADC and female head of household in City, income 2nd. lowest in City. High percentage of Sr. Citizens.

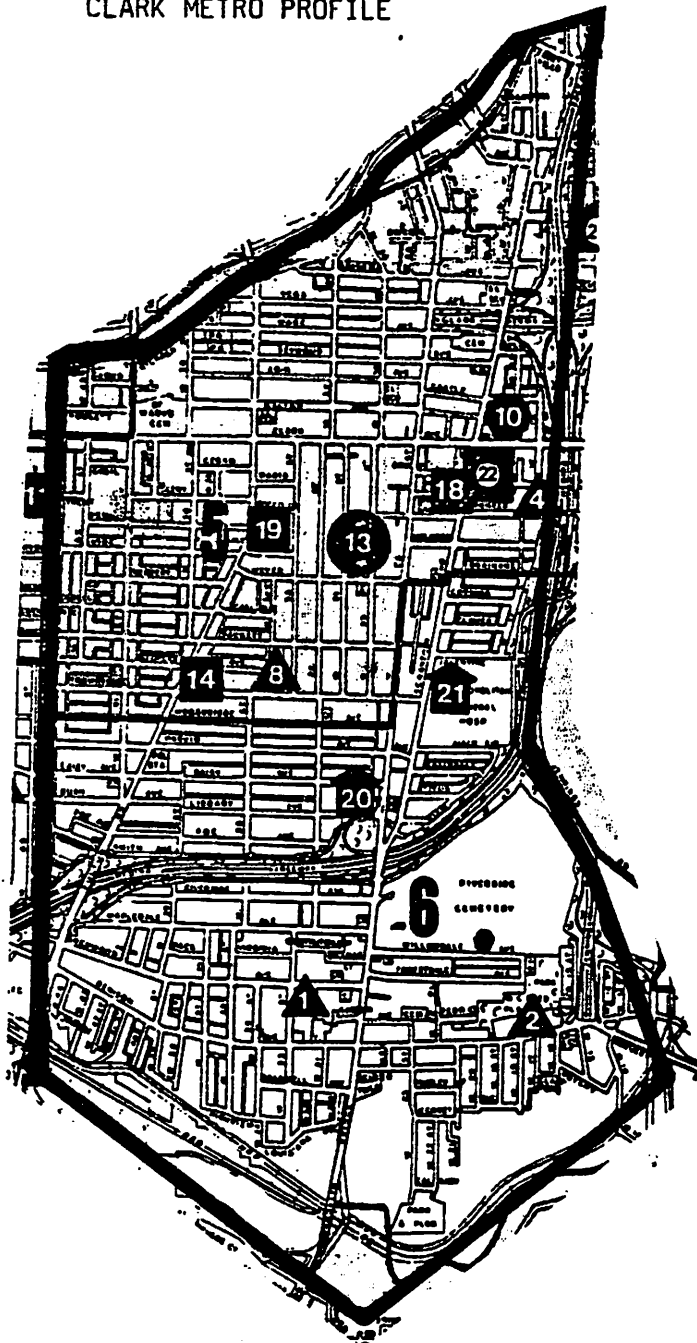
HOUSING: Private housing mainly frame construction and badly in need of maintenance and painting. Public Housing structures are brick, but also are in need of exterior and interior repair.

COMMERCIAL: Stores are small and privately owned. Many properties, particularly on the side streets are vacant. Few well-financed or capable of expansion.

STATED COMMUNITY PROBLEMS:

- Crime and vandalism, safety on the streets and sidewalks
- Jobs for youth and young adults
- School truancy
- Over-crowded conditions
- Building maintenance
- Inflation for those on fixed incomes
- Lack of cooperation among groups and agencies
- Feelings of hopelessness and apathy among the citizens

CLARK METRO PROFILE



BOUNDARIES: NORTH: Train and Monroe Avenues, WEST: W. 44th. St., EAST: I-71 and Jennings Freeway, SOUTH: Big Creek Valley

CHARACTERISTICS: Largly residential with commercial strips along W. 25th., Clark and Fulton.

HOUSING: Frame. Older homes. Housing survey in September 1980 showed that there are 1032 fewer units than in 1970 and that 174 are vacant. 22.9% of the vacant buildings are in violation of code.

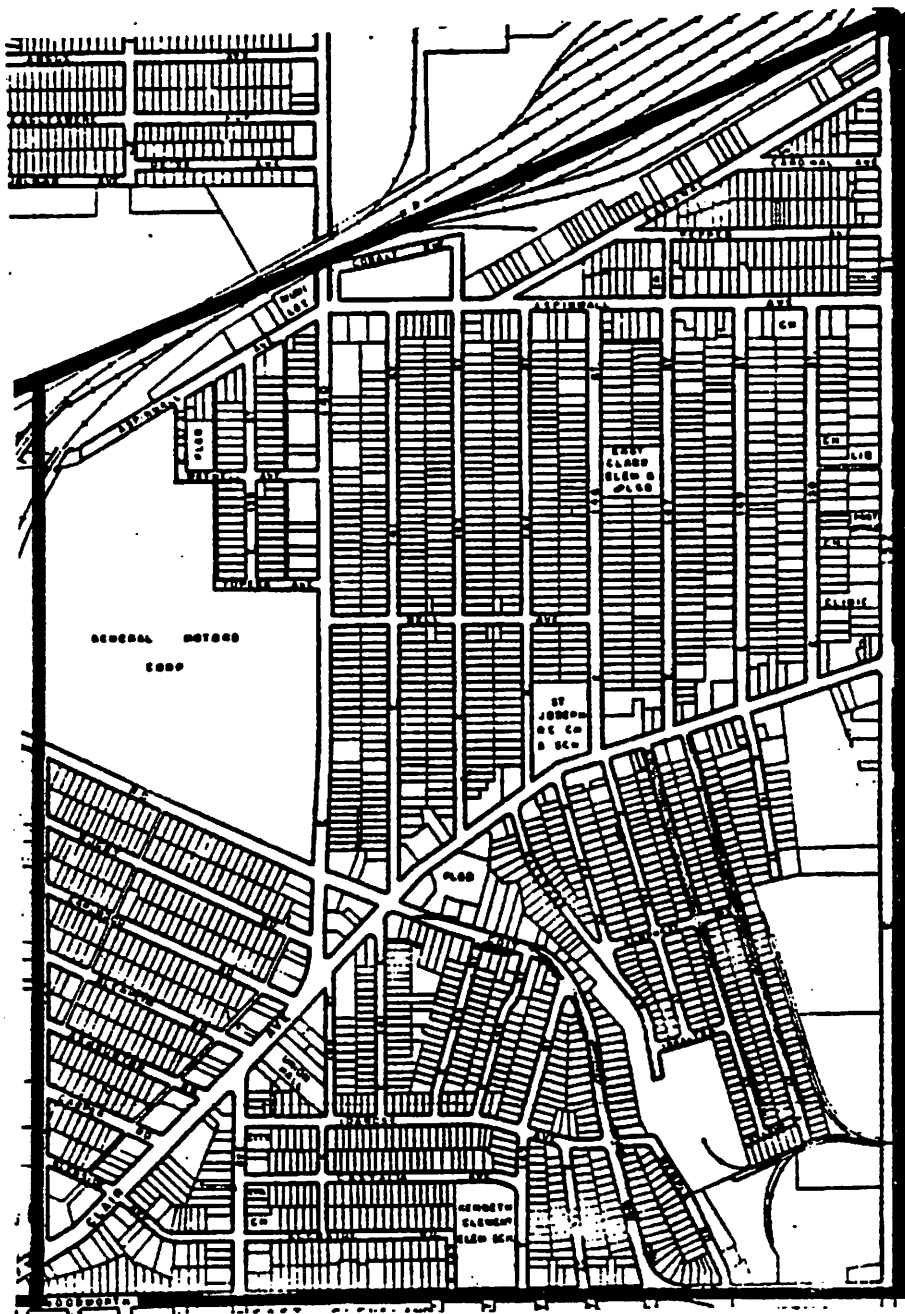
POPULATION: Older ethnic families (Irish, Italian, Polish, and Czech), newer families are Appalachian and Hispanic. 1970 population ca. 35,000.

COMMERCIAL: Obvious deterioration and some vacancies. Most stores privately owned.

STATED COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

- Vacant and deteriorating housing and commercial areas
- Cultural and ethnic barriers
- Increasing crime and vandalism
- Commercial area revitalizaion

WEST COLLINWOOD PROFILE



BOUNDARIES: NORTH: Conrail tracks, SOUTH: E. Cleveland City limit, WEST: E. 134th. Street, EAST: E. 152nd. Street.

CHARACTERISTICS:

POPULATION: ca. 12,000, approaching 85% black with older ethnic groups making up the balance. 26% elderly, 20% under the poverty line.

HOUSING: Home ownership 45% in 1970 and declining, frame homes in mixed condition. Area designated as part of NSA by the City.

COMMERCIAL AREA: Badly in need of revitalization. Many vacant, about 25%.

STATED COMMUNITY PROBLEMS:

- Commercial strip revitalization
- Crime and vandalism
- Deterioration of housing
- Lack of community-based organizations

SAMPLE

DOCUMENTATION REPORT



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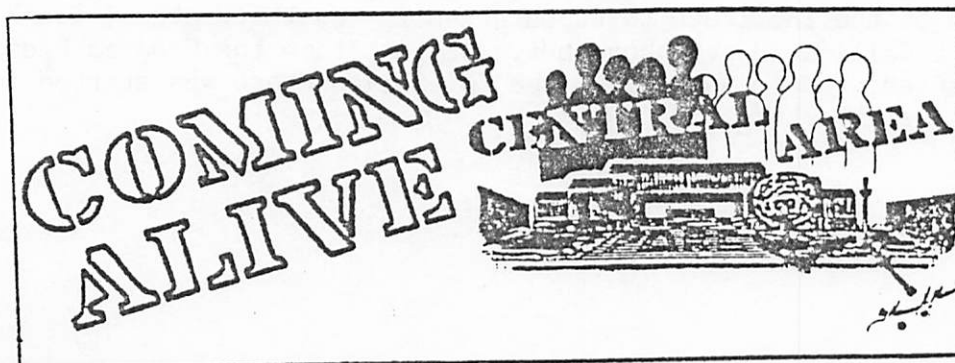
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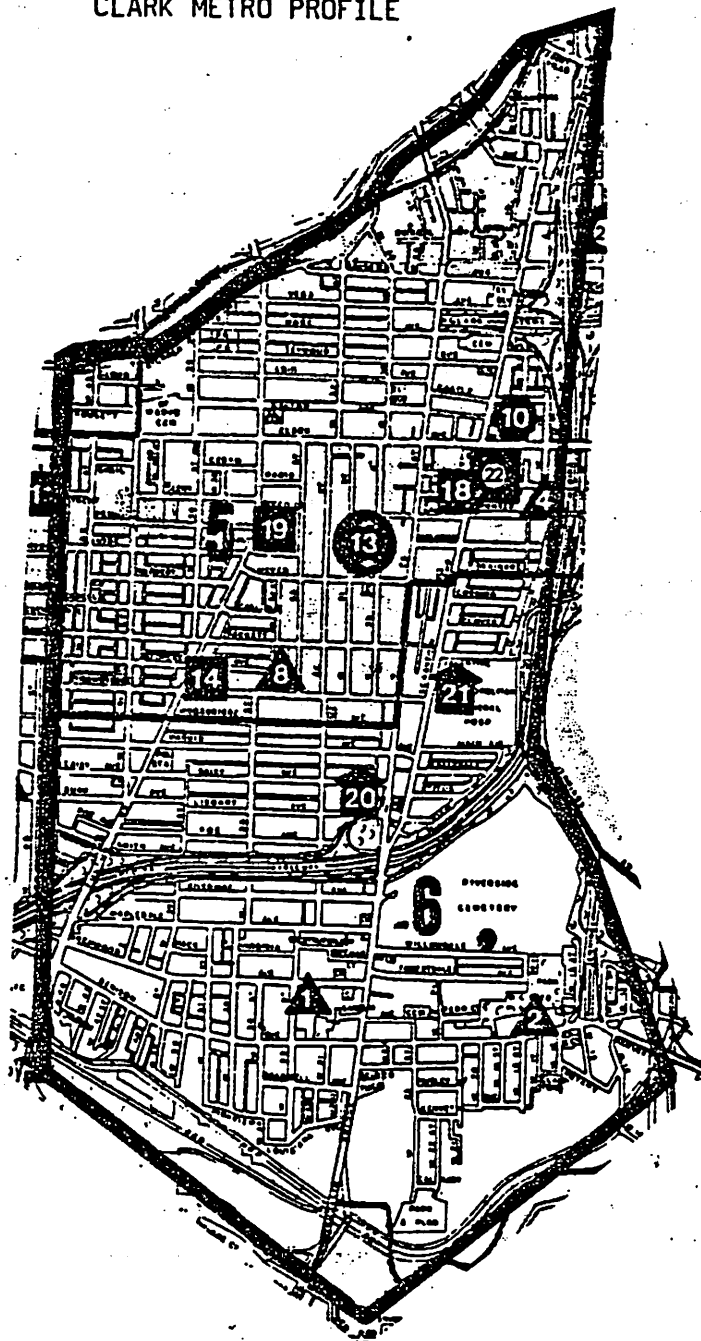


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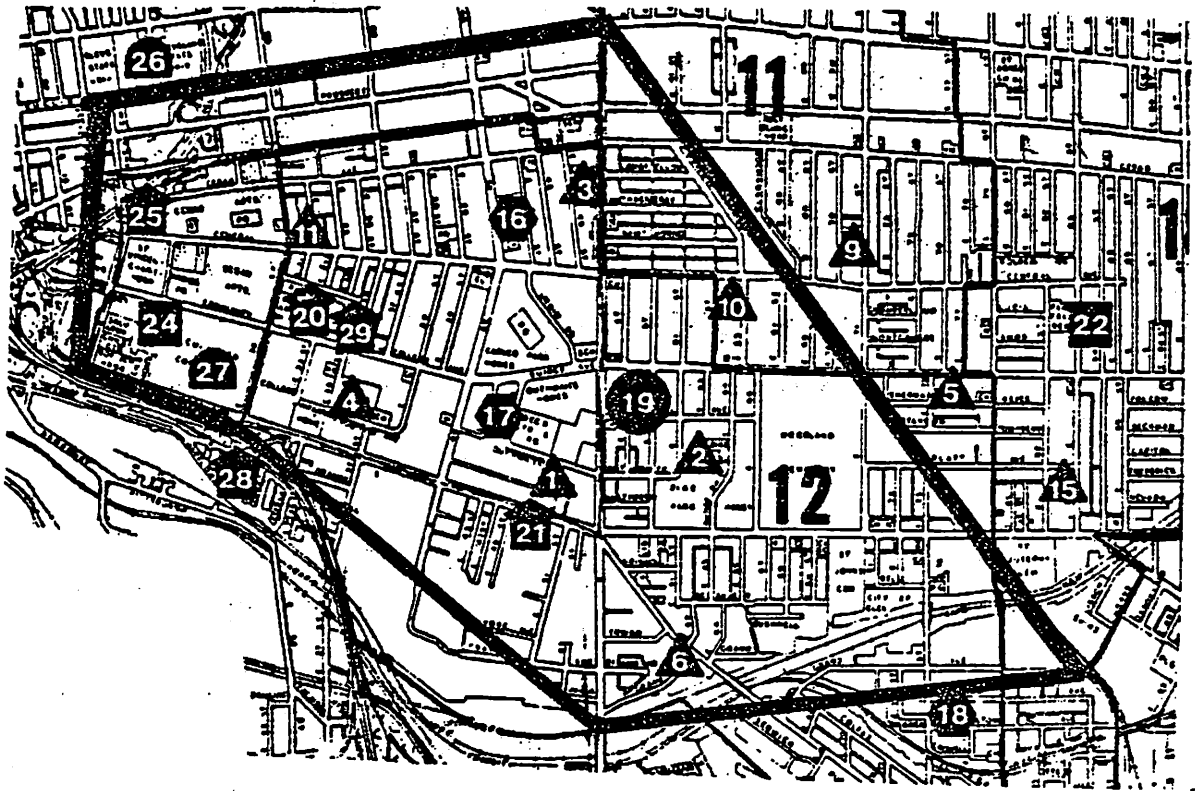
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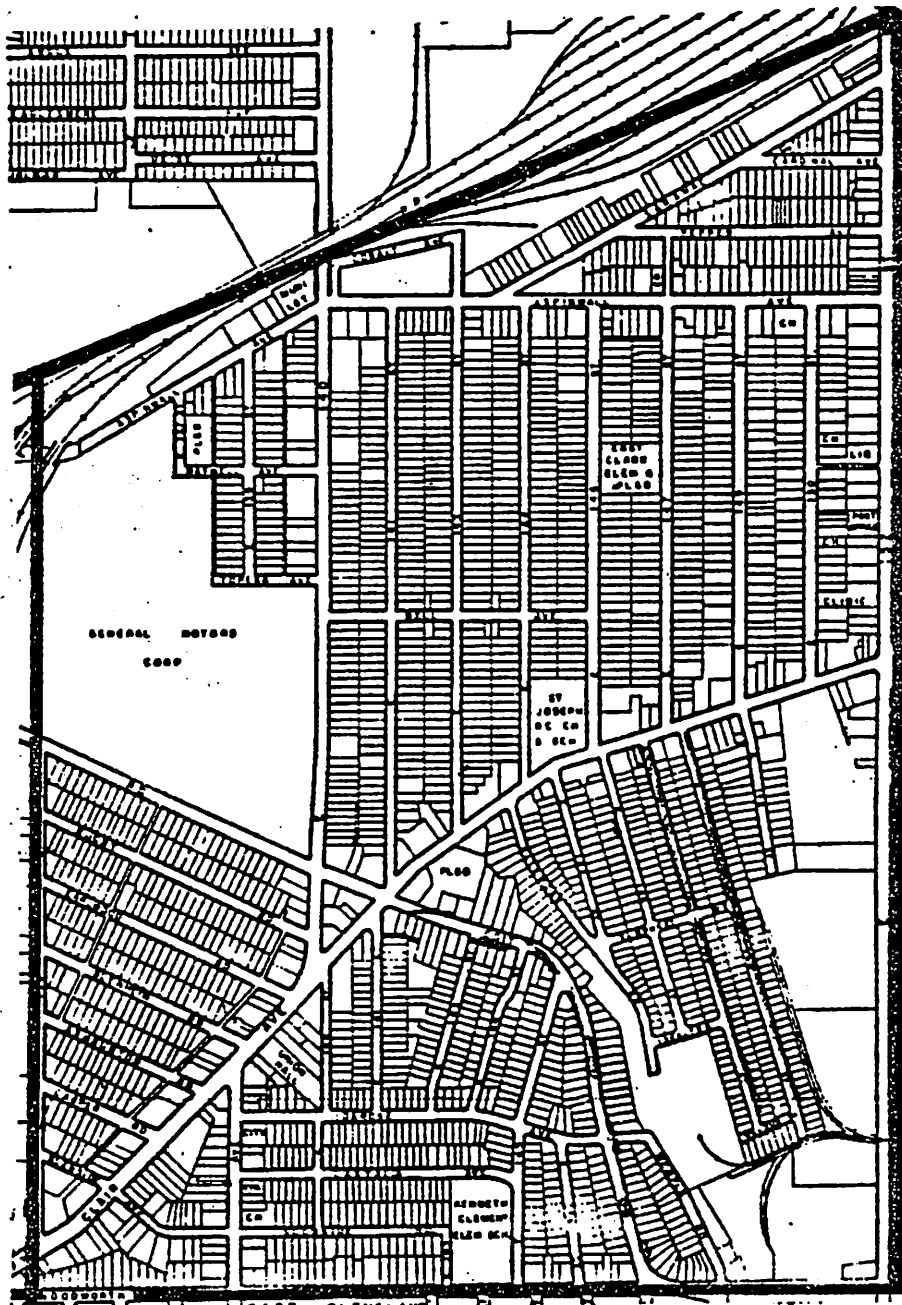
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