

# Dean Pledges Low-Cost Housing



Carol Rankin

The Affiliated Hospitals Center is superimposed on the Francis St.-Fenwood Road-Convent lot area which it is

planned to displace. Huntington Ave. divides medical area at the extreme left from quarry site at top center.

Dean Robert Ebert announced on April 15 that Harvard would build low-cost housing in the Mission Hill area to replace Harvard-owned property due to be razed during the next five years to make way for the Affiliated Hospitals Center.

This announcement, made after discussion with the President and Fellows, indicated that Harvard would implement the basic recommendation of the Wilson Report (issued December 1968) calling for the university to increase the supply of housing in Cambridge and in the medical area.

The Harvard Corporation on April 18 confirmed the Dean's announcement and on May 6 said that the university would build about 1100 low- and moderate-income housing units in Boston for both Harvard and non-Harvard members of the community.

Boston was accorded first priority because of the availability of unoccupied Harvard-owned land. Plans for new Cambridge housing will be announced later.

Recommendations on the housing came from Edward S. Gruson, President Pusey's newly appointed assistant for community affairs (appointed prior to the April 9 crisis but whose arrival on the scene was expedited by two months).

Gruson, who in 1960 had directed the original planning studies of the medical area, had previously headed the development corporation for the Yale-New Haven Medical Center.

The locations for the new housing are the quarry near Huntington Avenue and the Convent. The decision to build 1100 units reportedly has no special significance other than that this number will fit the land available, will more than meet requirements for the displaced neighborhood, and will enhance Harvard's ability to house its own employees, staff and other citizens.

One newspaper pointed out that it also would constitute 20% of all the low- and moderate-income housing built in the city of Boston in the past nine years.