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Housing - c

Columbia →
Housing

May 17, 1966

TO: Wm. Purnell Hall

CC: William E. Finley
William H. Winstead

FROM: James W. Rouse

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At the latest Columbia staff meeting it was strongly urged that we find a way to reach lower in the rental market than we had planned. Many people around the table felt that we should make visible from the beginning of Columbia, our determination to provide housing for "all the people who work there."

Although it is obvious that we cannot at the first stage cover the entire spectrum from top to bottom, it would be very useful for us to reach as low as we reasonably can in our first offering.

Might it not be possible for us to do something unique and special in meeting the needs of Howard County for housing for lower income professional workers? I'm thinking in terms of a small, (perhaps twenty-five units) project developed in the spirit of faculty housing for junior faculty on a college campus. The unit would be tight and trim in appointments. We might include, at very moderate cost, a special feature such as a lounge and library. There might be small efficiency units for single girls and bachelors as well as family size units.

We would give this a name that had the ring of a campus, such as "The Quadrangle" and focus its occupancy (perhaps limited) to professional employees of the school system, county government, health institutions, etc. The purpose would be to provide a compatible professional atmosphere for those who lived there. The units, however, would be designed and built to reach as low as possible in rent. We would make a positive concession on land price in order to make it possible.

Will you have Bill Winstead think about this with Harkins and others, and see if he can recommend a good program?

James W. Rouse

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