The U.S. Bureau of the Census has published three more instructional aids to help college instructors, students, and researchers use the 1980 census products. Entitled "Census '80: Product Primers", each one includes an introduction, exercises, and technical notes about the featured product.

- **Primer 5** introduces "General Population Characteristics", PC80-1-1B. Age, sex, marital status, and Spanish origin, and household relationship are some of the population items that this report covers. One of the exercise introduces the concept of "overheads," and the other shows how to derive such measures as family composition and size.

- **Primer 6** and **Primer 7** feature the two microfiche products that offer complete count and sample estimates. When used together, these products offer an extensive amount of information. The first exercise shows how to derive such measures as family composition and size.

- **Primer 8** also includes a detailed exercise on the geographic hierarchy. Without this understanding, users cannot locate data on these fiche for a specific area.

**Product Primers** are for sale at $1 each (25% discount for orders of 100 or more) to a single address from Customer Services (Publications), Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. To receive examination copies, write to the College Curriculum Support Project, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.
Washington Guidebooks Reviewed

In anticipation of the 1984 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Washington, D.C. next 22-25 April, the following description of guidebooks to the Nation's capital have been reproduced with permission from American Urban Guidebooks (Vol. 3, No. 3, October 1983), pp. 10-11. American Urban Guidebooks is published quarterly and includes descriptions and reviews of architectural guidebooks and related publications. Upcoming issues include features on guides to cities, especially New York (3:4); a survey of books dealing with the history or travel, and guidebooks and guidebooks and guidebooks to Texas (4:2); guidebooks to North Carolina and the Southwest, 1985 at 50, and small town and state guidebooks (4:3); and early American guidebooks and guidebooks to Virginia (4:4). Single copies are available for $3; four issue subscriptions are $10, and eight issue subscriptions are $19 from American Urban Guidebooks, Box 158, Washington, D.C. 20044.

GUIDES TO A CAPITAL CITY

In this issue of Guidebooks focused on guides to America it seemed appropriate to also report on guidebooks to our nation's capital. In recent years the attractions of Washington have grown and the number and variety of guidebooks have increased to tell the story. Washington has an unusual image problem. The city as a place and some of its major buildings are extremely well known throughout the country, indeed the world. Yet the image is limited to these symbols such as the Capitol, the White House, the monuments, the cherry blossoms. The rest of the city, the real city, is unknown to many visitors. Even some parts of the city are little known by local residents. Mayor Marion Barry has launched a Washington is a Capital City campaign to make the other attractions of Washington more well known.


There are now two current general guidebooks to Wash­ington.


Washington, D.C. The Complete Guide has a somewhat cleaner appearance and makes maximum use of graphic symbols, perhaps more than in any other guidebook we have seen. Places of interest are arranged by area, which is useful and easy to understand. There are some general maps in the front of the guide, but more detailed maps of each area would have been useful. Chapters cover history, shopping, dining and hotels.

HISTORIC WASHINGTON


The Washington WPA guide has a unique history. The Project officials wanted it to be the first published guide in the American Guide Series, but Vardis Fisher completed and published the Idaho guide first in early 1937. Washington City and Capitol, printed on heavy paper by the Government Printing Office, was published in the Spring of 1937. It weighed 5.5 pounds. The background information is very useful information but its size and weight made it unusable except as a reference work. Five years later (1942) a smaller and revised guidebook, Washington, D.C.: A Guide to the Nation's Capital, was published by Bill Colby and sponsored by George Washington University. It is this guide which Pantheon Books has now reprinted as part of its current program "America Remembered." Roger G. Kennedy, Director of the National Museum of American History, provides a short but useful introduction of the city's historic development.


This revised book with many beautiful photographs is really a more background reference work than a true guidebook. It provides a good historical overview of the evolution of the city, with limited attention to outlying neighborhoods.


The Civil War was a pivotal time in the development of Washington. The city in effect became a large army camp, a staging area for the army movements into Virginia. The capital is a part of many of the Civil War sites, but it is not the major site (many of which are park sites today). This guide provides a base for understanding the city of that time, and exploring the features.


Washington As Itself is the most interesting guide to Washington to appear in recent years. It is not as useful a guide to walk the streets with as a delightfully helpful background book to dip into and to save. Applewhite has written a very personal guide book. It is by far the best Washington guidebook we have seen. Many guidebooks look at buildings only from the outside, but Applewhite describes important interiors, and goes further by describing the features that make Washington different from those buildings. It is likely that this guide will become one of those classical works of urban description. Fine line drawings by Fred Greenberg complement the text.

THE DESIGN OF WASHINGTON

Washington has a physical character unique among American cities, the result of the original L'Enfant Plan (1791) and its evolution over time, the height, limit, monumental buildings, and large park areas. The city's neighborhoods and new features such as the Metro subway system provide other attractions. The visitor will want to explore the city and its surroundings.


There are only a few landscape architecture guidebooks in the United States. We are fortunate to have this one for Washington, where landscape design is such an important feature of the city. This guidebook covers the monumental landscapes in the center of the city, as well as outlying parks and gardens. Maps and photographs illustrate these sites. Landscape architect Evans provides short but useful descriptions.


The first edition of this guidebook was published for the 1976 American Institute of Planners/National Planning Conference in Washington and subtitled A City Planner's Guide to the Nation's Capital. The Smithsonian Institution Press dropped that subtitle but the content remains the same. The line drawings and maps by Fred Greenberg are especially good, and the descriptions for the walking tour deal with architectural, urban development and planning features of the city. For the visitor interested in obtaining an urbanistic understanding of the city, this guidebook is a useful tool. A new edition is in preparation.

One of the most important programs in Washington is the revitalization of Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House. The recent opening of the Pavilion at the Old Post Office and other projects now underway signal a new era for this historic avenue. The free brochure, Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue Area provides a glimpse of this future. Write: Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, 425 13th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004.

For continuing information, Design Action is a quarterly publication dealing with the architecture and landscape of Washington and nearby areas. Write: Design Action, National Building Museum, 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004 ($10/year).

SPECIAL GUIDEBOOKS

One of the unusual guidebook characteristics of Washing­ton is the number of very good, attractive, and relatively inexpensive guidebooks to important buildings, including the Capitol, the White House, and the Supreme Court. The latest special guidebook of this type is the Guide to the Library of Congress, by Charles A. Goodrum. 1983. 126 pages. $9.95. Available at the Library of Congress or by mail ($2.00 additional for postage) from: Library of Congress, Information Office, Box A, Washington, D.C. 20540.


One of the unique features of Washington is the juxtaposition between the formal man-made city and the parks and open spaces, even wild places, which extend into the city or are located nearby. This well designed guidebook outlines a wide range of parks and open spaces in the city and places within fifty miles in adjacent Maryland and Virginia.


Over the last several decades Washington has become one of the great art centers of the world, both in terms of more and better national galleries and the increase of private galleries. This guidebook provides the art lover with an overview of 16 public galleries and museums and some 70 private art galleries.


Washington has more than its share of Civil War generals on horseback decorating its squares and circles, but there is much other sculpture, including an increasing amount of contemporary work. James Goode's guide is one of the best of the outdoor sculpture guidebooks to American cities.


One of the advantages of Washington for the resident and tourists alike is the number of free or very inexpensive scenic attractions within a few hours of the city. The mountains to the west, the Chesapeake Bay and the beaches to the east, and the many historic places in Maryland and Tidewater Virginia to the south. One-Day Trips provides a summary guide to many of those points of nearby interest. Fairs and Festivals provides a guide to the increasing number of festivals and celebrations in the city and nearby areas.