



BIRD'S-EYE RELIEF DIAGRAM OF WASHINGTON AND VICINITY, SHOWING STEP-LIKE TERRACES RISING FROM THE ALLUVIUM AND FILL ALONG THE POTOMAC AND ANACOSTIA RIVERS

Diagram prepared by Virginia P. Byers, Edith M. McKee, and Hal Shelton. Based on U. S. Geological Survey topographic map, 1947. Buildings, monuments, and bridges drawn by Allan P. Sadtler, Jr., and Fred L. Morgan

The alluvial marshes and artificial fill, the more extensive terraces, and the so-called Lafayette Plateau are indicated on the diagram by large numerals, and some of the well-known landmarks on these levels, by small numerals. Inasmuch as the terraces are gently sloping, the altitude given for each is arbitrary. In the District of Columbia the level designated as the 25-foot terrace slopes from the deposits of alluvium and artificial fill along the rivers to 25 feet; the 50-foot terrace, from 42 to 70 feet; the 90-foot terrace, from 80 to 100 feet; and the 200-foot terrace, from 170 to 215 feet. In addition to these terraces, there are many intermediate terraces. The plateau, like the terraces, is sloping. In the northwestern part of the District it reaches an altitude of 420 feet and in the southeastern part, about 300 feet. To the west, in Virginia, the plateau reaches higher altitudes. As shown in the diagram, both the plateau and terraces have been much eroded.

EXPLANATION

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| <p>1. Alluvial deposits and artificial fill along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers:
1a. Pentagon Building, Va.
1b. Washington National Airport, Va.
1c. Thomas Jefferson Memorial</p> <p>2. 25-foot terrace:
2a. Washington Monument. (Mound on which Monument is built is artificial.)</p> | <p>3. 50-foot terrace:
3a. White House
3b. Union Station</p> <p>4. 90-foot terrace:
4a. Dupont Circle Fountain
4b. United States Capitol</p> <p>5. 200-foot terrace:
5a. Lee Mansion, Va.
5b. The Meridian Hill Hotel
5c. St. Elizabeths Hospital</p> | <p>6. So-called Lafayette Plateau (420-300 feet):
6a. Rixey Mansion, Va.
6b. Reno Reservoir. (Locality having highest altitude—about 420 feet—in the District of Columbia)
6c. Washington Cathedral
6d. Scott Building, Soldiers' Home
6e. Good Hope Hill</p> |
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