

THE MORPHOLOGICAL EVOLUTION

OF MERIDA, YUCATAN

An Abstract of a Thesis

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ABSTRACT

Merida, Yucatan, Mexico was founded in 1542 in conformance to a great master plan, as were many of the cities of New Spain. Due to the flat terrain of the city, it was thought to be ideal for morphological comparison to various models of urban growth. Several of the popular formulations of urban growth were examined to discover similarities and differences which might prove helpful in the analysis of a single city.

Maps and aerial photographs of the city for the period 1864-1974 were collated to determine how the city had grown. Land use patterns were examined for the years 1934 and 1974, the data for the latter year being collected through field surveys.

It was determined that Merida illustrated characteristics of all of the models discussed, yet did not have all of the features which any one construct predicted. The correspondence of the various models to different stages of transportation development was also noted.