After selection of the primary sampling units, specific descriptions of their field location must be prepared. Different procedures are used for cities with published block statistics, for those without published block statistics, and for rural areas.

Cities with Block Statistics

In the City Blocks publication, a map showing each census block number (as in Table 2 of the census publication) is enclosed as an insert. Since, however, census blocks may include one or more city blocks, a recent city map must be used as a master survey map for location of primary sampling units.

A block by block transfer of primary sampling units is made from the census map to the city map. As this is done, a 3x5 card, illustrated in Figure 7 is prepared for each Interview Sector.

In the upper left-hand corner the Code 2-19-21, identifying the primary sampling unit, includes an area number
(socioeconomic or other), the census tract (or census block area) number and the block number given in the City Blocks statistics publication. In this example, the primary sampling unit is formed of two blocks: Block 21, to which the Interview Sector was allocated and Block 18 on which the Interview Sector continues. The identifying number of the second block is recorded for description but is not included in the code number. The number of housing units given in the census publication is also recorded.

The Street Intersection is an intersection at one corner of the sample block, included to assist field workers in locating the block.

Special Instructions may be of various kinds. In the example, they further identify the block on which the Interview Sector begins.

The heading Housing Unit Numbers to be Interviewed indicates which housing unit numbers within the Interview Sector are to be visited. A different sequence of 6 (or 8) random assignments is taken from Appendix B (or C) for each Interview Sector. Housing Unit #1 of the Interview Sector is determined in one of two ways: (1) Many blocks must be field checked and as this is done, a street address for housing unit #1 is randomly chosen and recorded under “Special Instructions,” (2) in residential areas, the team parks at any convenient place on the block, counts the housing unit nearest to the point at which the car is parked as #1 and proceeds clockwise around the block. In this example (Figure 7), the first housing unit visited would be #2, the second #4, and so on, as shown on the master Card. The “Team No.” and “Order No.” are entered at a later stage described in Chapter 6.

The card for each Interview Sector is made at the time that the census block is located on the city block map. On the map itself, the block (or blocks) of the primary sampling unit is marked with the color code used to designate socioeconomic areas, and the census tract and block numbers recorded. Various problems will arise as this work proceeds.

1. The census block may include more than one city block. If this occurs, one of the city blocks is selected randomly, and described under “Special Instructions.” The card is set aside for later field check.
2. Two or more Interview Sectors may have been assigned to one city block. If this happens, separate cards are made out for each Interview Sector, adding a one-digit decimal to the census block number to distinguish the Interview Sector cards. These cards are set aside for field visits to select Housing Unit #1 of each Interview Sector on the block.

3. Some "blocks" may be very large, or of irregular shape, or consist of strips along streams and railroad tracks, and in other ways present problems of location and identification to the interview teams. The cards for these are also set aside for field check with a notation indicating the nature of the problem lightly pencilled in under "Special Instructions."

After all the Interview Sector cards have been made out, they are screened for removal of additional Interview Sectors to be field checked. These should include

1. All blocks near the central business district.
2. All blocks near railroad yards or industrial areas.
3. All blocks with a very large number of housing units, say three times as large as the average number of housing units per block. Such blocks may include apartment houses and a random selection of housing unit #1 for the Interview Sector should be made by the survey staff.

The Interview Sector cards set aside because of one problem or another are then taken into the field. An additional blank map of the city should be taken along for marking of relocated blocks. These should be located as near as possible to the original selection.

As the primary sampling units are checked in the field a starting address for each Interview Sector is chosen with use of a table of random numbers and entered on the 3x5 card under "Special Instructions." If the sequence of housing units forming an Interview Sector is not clearly discernible, the street addresses in the sequence of random assignments should be recorded. Later when notations from the cards are transferred to the Interview Schedule form, the address of Housing Unit #1 should be shown under "Special Instructions," and individual addresses entered on each line of the Interview Schedule.
Cities with No Block Statistics

A set of 3x5 cards similar to the example in Figure 7 (page 75) is prepared and is taken into the field at the time that each primary sampling unit is visited for estimates of the number of housing units. At this time an address for housing unit #1 of a possible Interview Sector should be chosen for each block of each primary sampling unit. Although Interview Sectors will not fall on every block, the additional work of recording a starting address during the count of housing units is negligible, and may remove the necessity for revisiting a number of the blocks.

Rural Areas

Similar 3x5 cards are prepared for each Interview Sector in the rural area. On these cards, designation of the Township and Section replace the census tract and block number of Figure 7. Street intersection is not needed. Since the Interview Sector consists of two adjacent housing units (one of which is selected by the Interviewer in the field), a sequence of random numbers is not needed on the rural 3x5 cards. The space saved by the omission of these latter items is used for descriptive instructions on location of the first housing unit of the Interview Sector. These will be of the following form for housing units in the open country,

"Second house on North Side of 12 Mile Road, just West of Borculo Pike."

The housing unit on which the instructions are based is circled on the map, but only as a guide. If a housing unit built since the map was prepared satisfies the written description, it is to be visited. Similarly, if the housing unit marked on the map has fallen into disuse or been torn down, the next habitable housing unit is visited.

In villages and small towns of the rural area, similar descriptions in terms of local landmarks may be necessary, since street signs may not be in use. A field check should be made of all Interview Sectors located in towns or villages shown on the rural map as a concentration of housing structures rather than by an individual symbol for each housing unit.