

Public Housing

Public Housing in the early 20th-c.

- National Housing Act of 1934 - created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to provide housing and for job creation through the Public Works Administration (PWA)
- Houser Movement (1920s and 1930s) for social and urban reform
- PWA Housing - oversaw all phases of public housing development except for style which was left to local architects
- US Housing Act of 1937
- Slum Clearance
- Lanham Act of 1940 - focus on housing shortages in defense work areas
- The Housing Act of 1949

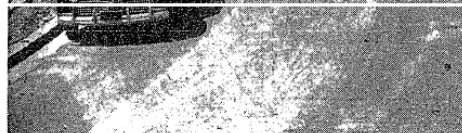
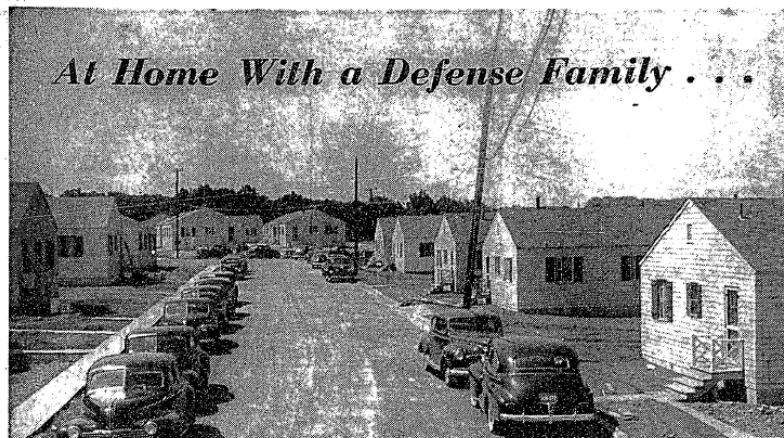
Characteristics of Public Housing in 1930s and 1940s

- Multifamily and attached dwellings in an ordered site plan, often with courtyards and substantial open space
- Utilitarian design and high-quality, durable materials
- Units did not have hallways to minimize wasting space and units situated to take advantage of natural light and ventilation

Public Housing in Alexandria

- 1939 - Alexandria Housing Authority formed
- 1956 - Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority
- 1975 - Office of Housing established in City government

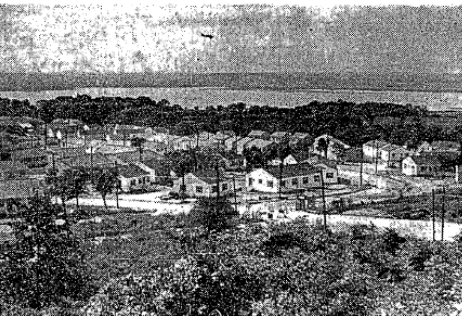
Defense Worker Housing in Alexandria, 1941



1. This is a view of Chingquapin Village in Alexandria which provides homes for workers in the defense-swollen Naval Torpedo Plant. Uncle Sam is striving to provide adequate housing for defense workers brought to already overcrowded metropolitan areas. A typical family is that of ...



3. ... bedrooms, both large, light and airy. Shown is Mary Frances Ramsey, a visitor. Making herself ...



5. ... another defense housing project. This one is Bellevue, a 600-family development for enlisted men and civilian Navy Yard employees near Bolling Field. The ...

At Home With a Defense Family . . .

Uncle Sam Houses His Workers

FRANK EASKE, lathe operator at the Naval Torpedo Plant, used to be crowded into a Massachusetts Avenue flat with his wife and daughter. Now he can relax in the living room of a brand-new two-bedroom family "dwelling unit," out of the heat and rush of the city, for he lives in the Navy's new 300-family Chingquapin Village erected in Alexandria for torpedo plant workers.

The Easke family is only one example among the defense and Government workers that, it is estimated, have been pouring into Washington to a total of 60,000 since June, 1940. And Chingquapin Village is only one example of the efforts that the Government is making to provide adequate housing for them.

Statistics show that Government agencies have already provided new homes for 925 Government and defense workers, and have facilities projected for about 3000. But Chingquapin Village and the Easke family give a much more vivid picture of the enormity of the problem, and the way in which it is being handled, than do the statistics.

THE Village already has 290 of its 300 units occupied, although workmen are still grading and finishing off the lawns, courts and streets. The "units" are arranged two to a house, and the houses are blue or green-shuttered white frame buildings. Frank Easke and his neighbors all are machinists in the torpedo plant, and have an average income of about \$1800 a year each. They pay a monthly average rental of less than \$30, for houses that are unfurnished, heated by gas, and are equipped with electric refrigeration.

Instead of using city streets, 12-year-old Ruth May Easke may now play with other children of all ages in spacious courts around which the buildings are grouped. And Mrs. Easke can gossip cross-court with her neighbors, entertain, or simply relax after housework is done in the neat and tastefully furnished little home. When the grading is done, Frank Easke, who works on a 4-12 p. m. shift, will have time to work about the house and to fix up a lawn and flower beds.

"It's the first real home we've had here," he says, "and we're pretty proud of it."

ALTOGETHER Federal agencies are building or planning to build 20 such housing projects through the District and vicinity. The need for them has been surveyed by the Housing Coordination Office,



and its recommendations sent to the President for approval.

The Federal Works Administration, under the direction of John M. Carmody, is in charge of the public housing problem, and selects the construction agency for each project. Construction is done through such agencies as the United States Housing Authority, the Alley Dwelling Authority, the Public Buildings Administration, and the Farm Security Administration. The Navy Department is in direct charge of two projects, Chingquapin Village and Bellevue, the latter a 600-family settlement for enlisted men and civilian Navy Yard employees near Bolling Field.

Qualifications for residence in USHA-aided projects fix maximum incomes (not more than \$1320 for a family with two children and not more than \$1584 with three children), require a year of residence in the city before application and with six months of that time spent in substandard or over-crowded living quarters. It is necessary, also, to be an American citizen.

ALTHOUGH almost all of the projects are for married couples and families, the myriad of young and single girls flocking into the Government service have not been forgotten. Among the buildings is to be a 150-unit dormitory-hotel for single girls employed by the Government.

The houses are going up here, in Alexandria, in Arlington, Falls Church, Cabin John, Greenbelt and Cheltenham, Md. There are homes of brick and of frame construction, for enlisted personnel and for civilian workers, for white and for Negro families.

"We are going to help rid Washington of all substandard dwellings," says John Hilder, executive head of the Alley Dwelling Authority, speaking for his agency. "National defense housing fits into this program as it results in low-rent dwellings for defense workers who otherwise would overcrowd existing dwellers, and so cause rapid deterioration."

"We are in a very real sense contributing to the defense of the Nation," adds Administrator Carmody. "And we intend to do a first class job."

HILDER announced yesterday that the ADA has signed a \$1,286,892 contract for the construction of 350 houses at Highland Dwellings. The project will house civilian Navy Yard workers and will be on a tract bounded by Atlantic and Eighth Streets and Condon Terrace Southeast.

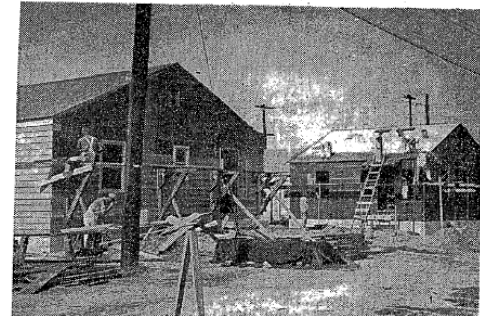
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2. . . . Frank Easke, a lathe operator, who has found a pleasant home in the midst of the defense furor. Shown in the streamlined kitchen of the Easke home are (from left) Ruth Easke, 12; Helen Cunningham, a guest, and Mrs. Easke. The home has two ...

Post Staff Photos



4. . . . comfortable in the living room is the master of the household himself, set for an evening with radio and paper. Being completed is ...



6. . . . last two houses of the Bellevue project are being rushed to completion. Both the Chingquapin and Bellevue projects are administered by the Navy. Meanwhile ...

At Home With a Defense Family . . .



Uncle Sam Houses His Workers

FRANK EASKE, labor operator at the Naval Torpedo Plant, used to be crowded into a Manhattan-style tenement flat with his wife and daughter. Now he has moved to the living room of a brand-new two-bedroom, fully equipped, single-unit house in the Navy's new 100-family Chippendale Village in Alexandria.

The family is only one example among the defense and Government workers that, it is estimated, have been housed in Washington in a total of 85,000 since June, 1942. And Chippendale Village is only one example of the efforts that the Government is making to provide adequate housing for them.

Statistics show that Government agencies have already provided new homes for 200 Government and defense workers, and have furnished professional for about 200. In Chippendale Village and the nearby family plan a much more credit picture of the enormity of the problem, and the way in which it is being handled, from the nation.

The Village itself has 200 of its 200 units to be built, although workers are already moving into the new homes, and the "units" are arranged two by a house, and the houses are built on pre-constructed white frame buildings. Frank Easke and his neighbors all live in the same plan, and have an average income of about \$1,000 a year each. They pay a monthly average rental of less than \$50 for houses that are unfurnished, heated by gas, and are equipped with electric refrigerators.

During city streets, 12-year-old Ruth May Easke may now play with other children of all ages in spacious courts around which the buildings are grouped. And Mrs. Easke can gossip cross-court with her neighbors.

Another defense housing project. This one is in Beltsville, a 100-family development for colored men and women. Plans have been approved by the Housing Construction Office, and the houses are being built.



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2 . . . Frank Easke, a labor operator, who has found a pleasant home in the new home. Easke, of the Alexandria Torpedo Plant, and his family are (from left) Ruth Easke, 12, Helen, Chippendale's guest, and Mrs. Easke. The home has two . . .



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