Area R.—Showing Houses Under Construction in Executive Residential Section

Sectional Houses Piled on the Ground Ready for Erection

Sectional Houses in Course of Construction

Nitro, West Virginia
NITRO, WEST VIRGINIA

U. S. GOVERNMENT EXPLOSIVES PLANT "C"

GRAHAM, ANDERSON, PROBST & WHITE

Designing Engineers

NITRO, a city built in connection with one of the largest explosives plants erected by our Government during the recent war, is situated in the valley of the Kenawha River, in the northwestern portion of West Virginia.

This transitory city — transitory in the sense that it is a part of an emergency plant whose immediate usefulness terminated at the close of the war — has provided housing facilities for the workmen employed at the plant and their families, an estimated population of twenty thousand.

In providing these housing accommodations the well recognized facts were considered that the best workmen can only be obtained and held where housing is not only comfortable but attractive and designed to fit the special needs of each class.

With this in view, the employees have been placed in separate areas or sections as follows, giving in detail the type of workmen and number of buildings, with an estimated number of inhabitants housed in each particular type of dwelling.

Area "A"

In this area houses have been provided for negroes and unskilled foreign-born labor, divided in two sections, according to race.

The dwellings for negro labor constitute two hundred and fifty four-room bungalows, built for an estimated total of 2,000 inhabitants. A particular point to be brought out relative to these houses is that they are convertible to a two-family house of two rooms each, with a shower bath and toilet provided in each portion.

For the foreign-born labor, there has been constructed one hundred four-room bungalows, each house complete in itself, with shower bath and toilet. These houses will house an estimated total of 685 inhabitants.

 Provision has also been made for single men or workmen without families, and for these men barracks buildings and bunk houses have been built. The barracks (twenty-seven in number) will house 200 men each, or a total of 5,400 men, and the twenty bunk houses will care for forty-eight men each, or a total of 960 men. Each bunk house and barracks building has its own particular lavatory building in which is provided a toilet room, wash room and shower bath room.

Recreation features have been provided in two Young Men's Christian Association buildings — one for negroes and the other for white laborers. These buildings contain assembly halls, where meetings and lectures may be held; lounging rooms, billiard rooms, bowling alleys and reading rooms. In conjunction with one of these buildings, there has been built a gymnasium building, which has a gymnasium floor 100 feet long and 50 feet wide, with running track, swimming pool, shower baths, locker rooms, and physical instructors' offices. At this building will be given thorough courses in athletic training.

The cold storage buildings, warehouses and freight houses are located in this area. The cold storage buildings are designed to store all the food stuffs, dairy products, etc., for the entire city.

Store buildings are provided for the everyday needs of the people in this area.

Area "P"

This group of bungalows has been assigned to building foremen, skilled mechanics and
Street Showing Houses Completed

Walls Erected on Sectional Houses

Sectional House Erected

Nitro, West Virginia
unskilled white American laborers. One hundred six-room bungalows have been built for building foremen, estimated to provide housing for 800 inhabitants. Skilled mechanics have ninety bungalows built for them with an estimated number of 700 inhabitants; also two hundred and fifty four-room bungalows to accommodate 1,500 inhabitants. For the unskilled white American laborers there have been provided one hundred and fifty four-room houses for 900 inhabitants and one hundred five-room houses for 700 inhabitants. There also is provided a school building for the lower grades with a kindergarten, and there is a general store building for merchandise in this area.

Area “S”

Housing in this area provides for the mechanical foremen and skilled mechanics. The mechanical foremen have been allotted to forty six-room houses which have been built for them and estimated to provide for 220 inhabitants. Four hundred bungalows have been built for skilled mechanics; also two hundred and fifty of another type for the same class of workmen. All of the above are five rooms, and the six hundred and fifty houses are estimated to house 4,550 inhabitants.

Local storerooms have been provided for food stuffs, clothing, shoes, tailor and barber shops.

The General Hospital is located in this area, the group of buildings (fourteen in number), covers a ground area of fourteen acres. These buildings have all the equipment of a modern hospital fitted to treat all diseases. The ward buildings provide for 450 beds. The staff personnel consists of twenty-nine medical officers and sixty nurses.

School buildings similar to those in Area “P” for the lower grades are provided for, and in addition there are recreational fields for outdoor sports.

Area “R”

As this area is most centrally located to all groups, in it are located the business and public buildings. These buildings include a post office, a town hall — in which are located the police and fire departments headquarters — a court room, and administration offices for the city’s government; a medical dispensary with offices for physicians and dentists, a two-story department store in which all lines of merchandise are handled, and a store, office, and lodge hall building. One of these stores will be a complete grocery and meat market with a large wareroom. The other store is occupied by a twelve-chair barber shop. Above these stores is a lodge hall which will seat 700 persons. In addition there are several suites of offices in this building, a large drug store and haberdashery. A bank building with stores is being built. Some housing is provided in this center, and these buildings are as follows: Two bachelor apartment buildings of forty-eight rooms each, one women’s lodge building of sixty rooms, one women’s and one men’s club building of sixty rooms each, a hotel of ninety-eight rooms, and a Young Women’s Christian Association building, which has seventy-five sleeping rooms. In connection with all these buildings, restaurants are located either in the buildings or adjoining.

For recreation there has been provided a Young Men’s Christian Association building with an auditorium to seat twenty-five hundred. The remainder of this building is along similar lines to the one outlined in Area “A,” except on a much larger scale. This building also will have a gymnasium and swimming pool in connection.

The women are provided with a recreational building in which a combination auditorium and gymnasium is built. This auditorium will seat 600 persons and has locker rooms and shower baths. On the second floor are club rooms for social work, instruction meetings, etc. A motion picture theater seating 500 persons is built, in which regular exhibitions will be conducted. All assembly rooms have been provided with motion picture operating rooms, so that this form of entertainment may be furnished.

The higher grade school buildings are located here and will give the regular term of grammar school education.
Elevation and Floor Plans of Women's Lodge

Elevation and Floor Plans of 8-room Residence

Nitro, West Virginia
HOMES FOR WORKMEN

Front Elevation

First Floor Plan

Elevation and First Floor Plan of Bachelor Apartments

Front Elevation

Six-room House for Mechanical Foreman

Four-room House for Unskilled Foreign Labor

Four-room House for Unskilled Negro Labor
Five-room Bungalow, Elevation, Floor and Basement Plans

Nitro, West Virginia
HOMES FOR WORKMEN

Elevation and Floor Plans of Y. W. C. A. Building

Nitro, West Virginia