

I reached, stopped the pickup midway down the block, turned off the engine and climbed down for my first look inside the housing barracks and some of the service buildings.

Everything was still, the comfortably warm morning sun was busy at its spring morning task of gently heating the earth and painting with sunshine the eastside of everything exposed to it. The west side of each building was still covered with a blanket of cool shade. I took an inquisitive walk around two of the units constructed for housing. They were alike and I judged them to be 100 feet long and 20 feet wide. There was a door in each end of the building, and three more doors on one long side of the unit. Each door opened into a separate partitioned apartment. Thus every housing barracks was divided into living areas for five families.

The doors were five panel and unfinished. There were a total of ten windows in each building providing 2 windows for each of the living apartments.

The exterior walls of all the barracks buildings were covered with black roofing paper held by wood slats nailed horizontally to the building sides every 18 inches from the base to roof. This gave all the buildings a horizontal striped appearance, The ends of all the buildings had an air vent below the peak of the roof.

I opened all five doors in one of the residence buildings and found the apartment units to be of equal size, 20 feet by 20 feet square. Unpainted plaster-board covered all of the walls to ceiling joists. There were no ceilings just the exposed roof structure above the uncovered ceiling joists. The partition walls extended from the floor to the ceiling joists leaving no sound barrier above the ceiling level between apartments.

The floors were 1x6 boards of soft-wood nailed side to side and unfinished. The 2 windows in each apartment seemed to provide ample light and there was a dropcord with an uncovered light bulb hanging in the center of every room. The only furniture visible were five army issue metal cots set up in each living quarter.

The rooms were clean and orderly and weather tight. There was no sign of construction trash inside or outside, every bit of debris had been removed leaving the buildings and grounds remarkably neat. The thought struck me that here I stood in the the midst of facilities for thousands of people with nobody at home.. I resolved to come back to this very place after the Center was fully occupied and compare then with now. I did not know it then but I was destined to be astounded ~~within a few weeks~~ by