

**Is There
Anybody Home?
A Look at
Post-World War II
American
Domestic Architecture**

Class Outline – “Is There Anybody Home?”

PART 1

Introduction

Post-World War II Domestic Architecture

- Why was there a Housing Shortage?
- The Impact of the Housing Shortage
- What was it like for a returning veteran?

The Housing Shortage in the Media

Alternative Housing Solutions

- Recycled Barracks as Homes
 - Quonset Huts as Homes
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PART 2

Other Housing Solutions

- Trailers
- Cement Block Houses
- Pre-Fab Construction
 - Lustron Houses
 - Other Pre-Fabs
- Apt. Housing Projects
- Misc. Solutions

Additional Information

Books and articles:

Albrecht, Donald. World War II and the American Dream-How Wartime Building Changed a Nation. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1995.

Archer, John. Architecture and Suburbia: From English Villa to American Dream House, 1690-2000. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005.

Bergdoll, Barry and Peter Christensen. Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling. New York, NY: The Museum of Modern Art, 2008.

Beyer, Glenn H. Housing: A Factual Analysis. New York, NY: The Macmillan Company, 1958.

Cuff, Dana. The Provisional City: Los Angeles Stories of Architecture and Urbanism. Cambridge, Mass.,: MIT Press, 2000.

Decker, Julie and Chris Chiei. Quonset hut: metal living for a modern age. Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Anchorage Museum Association, Alaska Design

Fetters, Thomas T. The Lustron Home: the history of a postwar prefabricated housing experiment. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2002.

Godwin, Sara. "Clean and easy living...the Lustron still offers it," Macomb Eagle, 15 Nov. 2001.

Herbert, Gilbert. The Dream of the Factory-Made House: Walter Gropius and Konrad Wachsmann. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1984.

Howe, Hartley E. "Stop Gap Housing - Millions of Families Can't wait for permanent homes," Popular Science, March 1946 pp-66-71.

Jandl, H.Ward. Yesterday's Houses of Tomorrow: innovative American homes, 1850- to 1950. Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1991.

Johnson, Cynthia E. House in a Box: Prefabricated Housing in the Jackson Purchase Cultural Landscape Region, 1900-1960. Kentucky Heritage Council: 2006.

Knerr, Douglas. Suburban Steel: The Magnificent failure of the Lustron Corporation, 1945-1951. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2004.

Lasch, Robert. Breaking the Building Blockade. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1946.

Books and articles: continued

Leavitt, R. Scott. "Harvardens, Livable but Expensive, Shapes Up as Real Community," The Harvard Crimson, 18 Oct. 1946.

Liccese-Torres, Cynthia and Kim A. O'Connell. "The Illustrious Lustron: A Guide for the Disassembly and Preservation of America's Modern Metal Marvel," Arlington, VA, 2007.

McDonough County Historical Society Newsletter. Focus -The Post-World War II Era in Macomb and McDonough County. Winter 2004.

Mitchell, Robert A. "What Ever Happened to Lustron Homes?" APT Bulletin, vol. 23, no. 2, pp. 44-53.

Munro, Heather. "Living in a Lustron," McDonough County This Week 1 Dec. 2008.

Rasmussen, Cecilia. "Quonset Hut Village Gave WWII Veterans a Foothold in Southland," Los Angeles Times 26 Jan. 2003.

Shull, Carol D. and Beth L. Savage. "From the Glass House to Stonewall: National Register Recognition of the Recent Past," *National Register of Historic Places Workshop*, March 25, 2001.

Van Ells, Mark D. To hear only thunder again : America's World War II veterans come home. Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2001.

Movies:

Housing Shortage During the War

- "Johnny Doesn't Live Here Anymore", 1943
- "The More the Merrier", 1942
- "Since You Went Away", 1944
- "So This is Washington", 1943
- "Standing Room Only", 1944
- "Without Love", 1945

Movies: continued...

Housing Shortage *After* the War

- “Apartment for Peggy”, 1948
- “The Best Years of our Lives”, 1946
- “It Happened on 5th Ave.”, 1947
- “Miss Grant Takes Richmond”, 1949

Housing Shortage - documentaries

Prelinger Archives at www.archive.org “The Internet Archive”

- “A Ceiling on your home” 1945
- “A Report to Home Builders” 1945
- “Homes for Veterans” 1946

Websites:

www.docomomo-us.org –DOCOMOMO: Documentation and Conservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the Modern Movement

<http://exhibits.mannlib.cornell.edu/prefabhousing/index.html> “Fast and Affordable: A century of Prefab Housing – an exhibition at the Mann Library, Cornell University

www.lustronconnection.org – Lustron Connection

www.lustronpreservation.org – Lustron Preservation

www.lustronregistry.org – Lustron Registry – A Database of Lustron Homes

<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/modernism-recent-past/>
Modernism + the Recent Past – National Trust for Historic Preservation

Websites: continued...

www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/recentpast/index.htm - Recent Past Initiative – National Park Service

www.recentpast.org –Recent Past Preservation Network

www.retrorenovation.com – Retro Renovation

Historical Census of Housing Tables: Homeownership Retrieved June 19, 2009, *U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division*

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/census/historic/owner.html>

Phipps, Jennie. “Houses of Steel,” *Preservation Online*, January 27, 2006, www.nationaltrust.org/magazine/archives/arch_story/012706.htm

<http://www.dahp.wa.gov/Styles/QuonsetHut.htm> -- Quonset Hut

<http://images.google.com/hosted/life> -- Life photo archive hosted by Google

www.archives.org - The Internet Archive – the Prelinger Archives

www.youtube.com – source of 1940s movies

Videos shown in class:

Part 1:

1. Excerpt from “Homes for Veterans” 1946 [5:26] --*returning veteran can't find a place to live* --from the Prelinger Archives at www.archive.org “The Internet Archive”
2. Excerpt from “Homes for Veterans” 1946 [1:38]-- *it's an emergency!*-- from the Prelinger Archives at www.archive.org “The Internet Archive”
3. Excerpt from “Homes for Veterans” 1946 [:35] –*veteran housing program launched*-- from the Prelinger Archives at www.archive.org “The Internet Archive”

Videos shown in class: continued...

Part 1:

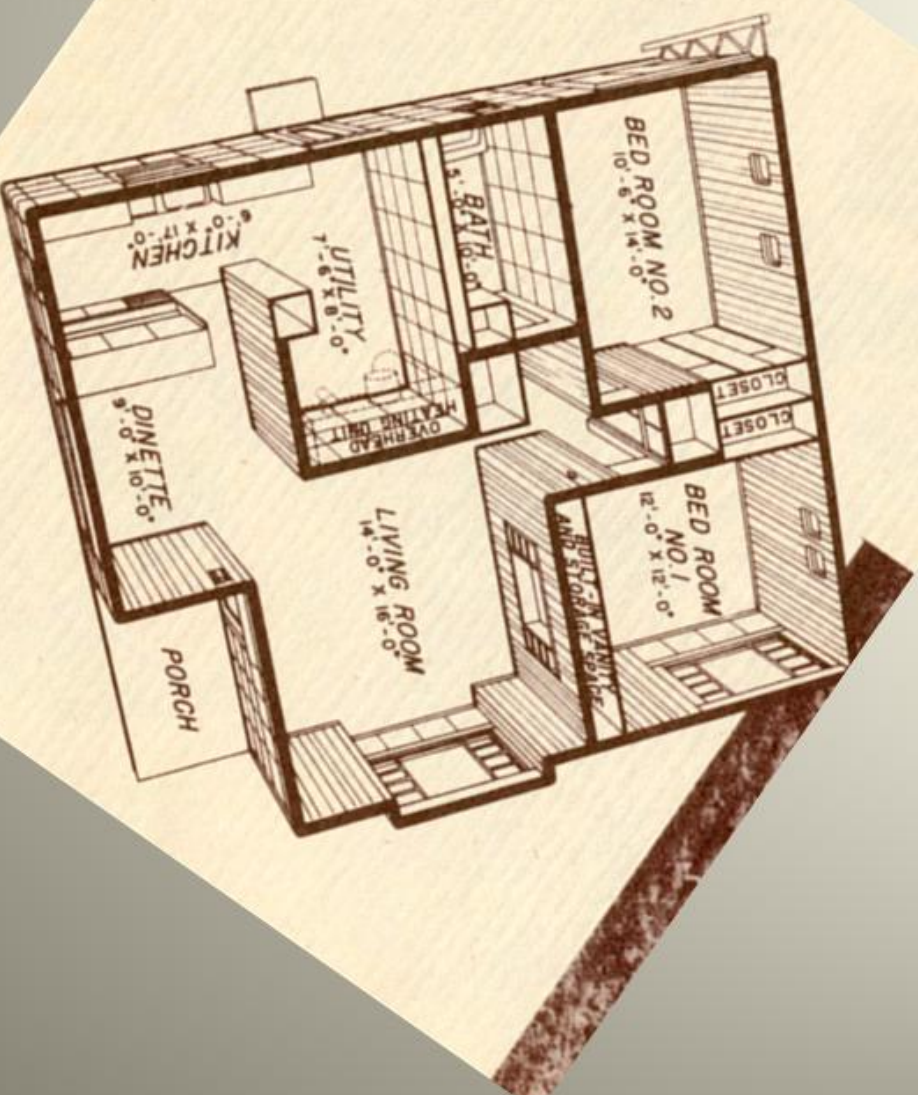
4. Excerpt from “It Happened on 5th Ave.”, 1947 [3:16] –*make barracks into homes?*--from YouTube
5. Excerpt from “It Happened on 5th Ave.”, 1947 [1:11]– *barracks can be made into homes!* --from YouTube
6. Excerpt from “Homes for Veterans” 1946 [:54] –*barracks will be homes!*--from the Prelinger Archives at www.archive.org “The Internet Archive”
7. “Quonset 3-D Animation” [2:27] from YouTube
8. Excerpt from “A Report to Home Builders” 1945 [4:20] –*housing in the future will be great!*--from the Prelinger Archives at www.archive.org “The Internet Archive”

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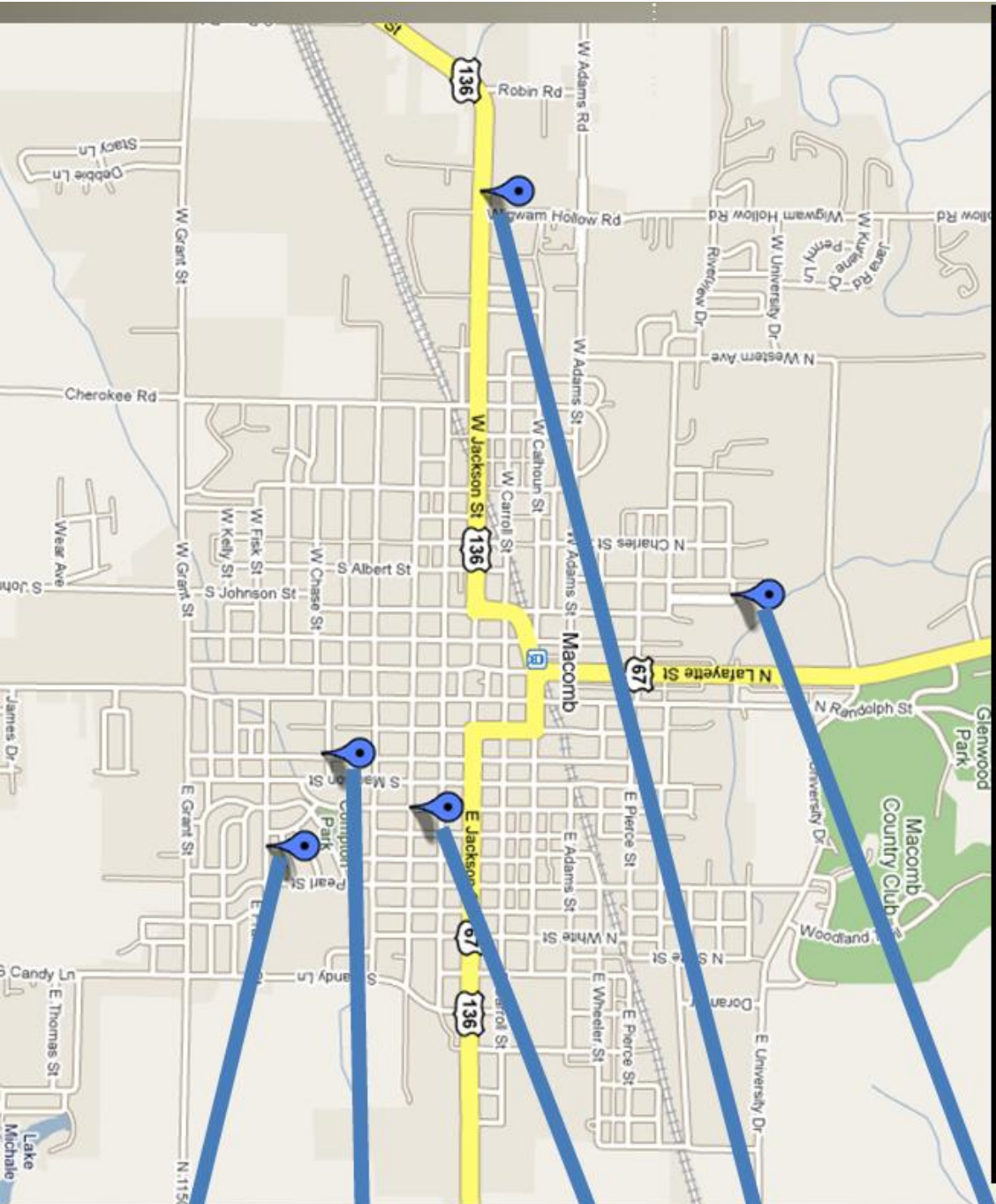
Part 2:

1. Excerpt from “A Ceiling on your home” 1945 [5:25] –*struggle to find a home*--from the Prelinger Archives at www.archive.org “The Internet Archive”
2. Excerpt from “Apartment for Peggy”, 1948 [6:19] --*living in a trailer on university campus and the struggle to find a place to live*—YouTube
3. “Lustrons of Albany” [1:18] from YouTube
4. Excerpt from The Graveyard Scene from “The Best Years of our Lives”, 1946 [2:49]- *making pre-fabs from scrapped planes* --from YouTube
5. Excerpt from “Homes for Veterans” 1946 [:45] --*pre-fabs*-- from the Prelinger Archives at www.archive.org “The Internet Archive”
6. Excerpt from “Miss Grant Takes Richmond”, 1949 [2:26] --*low-cost veteran’s housing project*--- from YouTube
7. “Levittown” [2:46] from YouTube
8. Excerpt from “Homes for Veterans” 1946 [:54]—*facing the housing emergency*--from the Prelinger Archives at www.archive.org “The Internet Archive”

Floor plan of two bedroom “Westchester” model



Locations of Lustron Houses in Macomb



67 North Chandler Blvd.
gray

1707 West Jackson
gray

309 South Edwards
yellow

537 South Dudley
yellow

730 East Franklin
*remodeled
(gray)*

Locations of Post-WWII Structures in Macomb



1204 W. Jackson St.
Quonset hut

917 W. Piper St. Quonset hut

617 W. Jefferson St. Cement block house

408 W. Woodbury St.
Cement block house

718 S. Albert St. Camp Ellis Barracks

717 E. Calhoun St. Quonset hut

1229 E. Wheeler St.
Cement block house

1240 E. Wheeler St. Cement block house