

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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**TITLE:** Government Hill Housing Projects Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1959.x.001

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1947-1951

Extent: 2 boxes; 0.6 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): unknown

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

The Government Hill Housing Project was a development project begun in the 1940s in Anchorage, Alaska. Faced with limited housing for Alaska Railroad employees around World War II, the Alaska Railroad proposed to the Anchorage City Council that a Quonset hut community for two hundred railroad workers and their families be built on Government Hill. Surplus Quonset huts were transferred from the U.S. Army bases in Whittier and Dutch Harbor and re-erected on parcels in Government Hill. One hundred sixty-five Quonset huts, a church and a Teen Town were erected before the project was cut short due to lack of funds and materials in late 1948.

**Scope and Content Description:**

The collection consists of 74 black-and-white photographs and 114 negatives. Images 75-124 are present in negative only; 63 of the 74 prints have corresponding negatives. These images document the housing project in the summer of 1947, with images of the completed Quonset community, other single dwelling homes under construction, the construction of Richardson Vista, and a groundbreaking ceremony from August 22, 1949. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

## **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE**

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

### Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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### Preferred Citation:

Government Hill Housing Projects Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1959.x.001

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated to Cook Inlet Historical Society and accessioned in 1959. Donor name not found in CIHS inventory. Transferred to Anchorage Museum.

### Processing Note

Guide created from card catalog data and accession file inventory; photographs not physically consulted at time of writing.

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

Lloyd E. Brewer Photographs, B2005.023

## **SUBJECTS**

Alaska Railroad

United States. Army, Alaska

Housing—Alaska—Anchorage

Quonset huts—Alaska—Anchorage

Government Hill (Anchorage, Alaska)

Anchorage (Alaska)

## Detailed Description of the Collection

- .1 – Summer of 1947, construction of housing project [Quonsets]
- .2 – Frame of Quonset hut, 1947
- .3 – Building Quonset hut, 1947
- .4 – Building Quonset hut, 1947
- .5 – Frame of Quonset, 1947
- .6 – Quonsets, summer 1947
- .7 – Housing project, summer 1947 [same as .6]
- .8 – Rows of housing, summer 1947 [same as .6]
- .9 – Quonset huts, summer 1947 [same as .6]
- .10 – Quonsets and building material, summer 1947
- .11 – Housing, beginning construction, summer 1947
- .12 – Row of Quonsets in construction process, summer 1947
- .13 – Housing and building material, summer 1947 [same as .12]
- .14 – Construction equipment and materials, Quonsets and crane, summer 1947
- .15 – Overall view of housing project, summer 1947
- .16 – Row of Quonsets
- .17 – Housing and building materials
- .18 – Rows of housing
- .19 – Row of Quonsets
- .20 – Rows of housing
- .21 – Aerial view of housing project looking east, 12-8-47
- .22 – Aerial view of housing project looking toward Knik Arm, 12-8-47
- .23 – Aerial view of housing project looking toward Mt. Susitna, 12-8-47
- .24 – Aerial view of housing, 12-8-47
- .25 – View from water tower, 12-8-47
- .26 – Row of Quonsets, 12-8-47
- .27 – Aerial view of housing project, 12-8-47 [with Mt. Susitna. Same as .26]
- .28 – Dusty street conditions on Government Hill, 6-2-48
- .29 – Filling yards with topsoil for gardens and also to relieve dust conditions
- .30 – Dust in street of Govt. Hill, 6-2-48
- .31 – Govt. Hill housing, May 3, 1949
- .32 – Govt. Hill housing, May 3, 1949 [same as .31]
- .33 – Govt. Hill housing, May 3, 1949 [same as .31]
- .34 – New steel houses, Govt. Hill, 5-3-49 [same as .31]
- .35 – Virtually tundra and wildflowers when his picture was recorded 6-29-49, this area on Govt. Hill was soon turned into a beehive of activity as work commenced on a joint Army-Railroad housing project under contract to the Lewis Construction Co. of Seattle. Project 83P
- .36 – Field of wildflowers [similar to .35]
- .37 – A field prior to construction, 6-29-49. Project 8370
- .38 – Field of wildflowers [with Quonsets]
- .39 – Land prior to construction

- .40 – Survey crew standing in front of a vehicle
- .41–50 – Project 8370
- .51 – [same as .48]
- .52 – Govt. Hill housing, 4-18-50
- .53 – Govt. Hill housing, 4-18-50
- .54 – Govt. Hill housing, 4-18-50
- .55 – Govt. Hill housing, 4-18-50
- .56 – Industrial area by Ship Creek bottom of Govt. Hill
- .57 – Proposed apt. house area
- .58 – Proposed apt. house area
- .59 – Proposed apt. house area
- .60 – Proposed apt. house area
- .61 – Proposed apt. house area
- .62 – Proposed apt. house area
- .63 – Proposed apt. house area [JPJ lot]
- .64 – Proposed apt. house area
- .65 – Proposed apt. house area
- .66 – Proposed apt. house area
- .67 – Proposed apt. house area
- .68 – Proposed apt. house area
- .69 – Aerial view of Govt. Hill
- .70 – Interior view of house
- .71 – Interior view of house
- .72 – Groundbreaking ceremony
- .73 – Groundbreaking ceremony
- .74 – Groundbreaking ceremony [with unidentified men]
- .75 – Groundbreaking ceremony [with group of people]
- .76 – Groundbreaking ceremony
- .77 – Groundbreaking ceremony
- .78 – Groundbreaking ceremony [machines]
- .79 – Groundbreaking ceremony
- .80-90– Groundbreaking ceremony
- .91-101 – Groundbreaking ceremony
- .101-110 – Groundbreaking ceremony
- .111-119 – Groundbreaking ceremony
- .120-124 – Groundbreaking ceremony [interiors]

Guide updated: August 2, 2016