

Collection #  
P 0374

## WORKMEN'S HOUSES, GARY, INDIANA PHOTOGRAPHS, 1916–1917

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

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April 2000

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5 March 2004

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 box of photographs

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1916–1917

PROVENANCE: Ronald Pettus, 227 Frances Drive, Killen, Alabama, 35645,  
January 2000

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: United States Steel Corporation. Gary Works and Gary (Indiana)  
Townsite Construction Photographs, ca. 1906–1907 (P0382)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.0311

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The first residential subdivision in the town site of Gary, Indiana, was platted in 1906 by engineers working for the United States Steel Corporation (U.S. Steel). The subdivision extended south from Fourth Avenue to the Wabash Railroad tracks at Ninth Avenue, east to Tennessee Street, and west to Fillmore Street. The Gary Land Company, a subsidiary of U.S. Steel, managed the sale of property and construction of homes in the development. Neighborhood growth was slow as U.S. Steel directed its financial and human resources towards construction of the town's first steel plant. By 1907 the Gary Land Company primarily marketed vacant lots. Individuals who bought undeveloped lots were to develop the land within eighteen months of purchase. Sales of undeveloped lots were not brisk between 1907 and 1910 so by 1911 contractors employed by the land company were again constructing homes east and west of Broadway Street.

The Gary Land Company platted Gary's "Second Subdivision" before 1915. This area included neighborhoods west of Fillmore Street to Grant Street, north to Third Avenue, and south to the Wabash Railroad tracks. Homes in the second subdivision were priced to attract white-collar workers, foremen, and skilled tradesmen.

### Sources:

Items in the collection.

*Insurance Maps of Gary, Indiana*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1915.

Lane, James B. *City of the Century: A History of Gary, Indiana*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1978.

Mohl, Raymond A., and Neil Batten. *Steel City: Gary Indiana, 1906–1950*. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1986.

Peters, Steven M. (Chicago Historical Society) Electronic mail transmission to Pamela Tranfield (Visual collections Archivist) 14 April 2000.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection of 117 black-and white photographs shows residences and neighborhoods under construction in Gary, Indiana, between November 1916 and November 1917. Labels printed within the images, except photograph number twelve, identify the structures as "Workmen's Houses" designed by Dean and Dean Architects and built by the Thompson-Starrett Construction Company. These companies were located in Chicago.

Information on the labels also includes an image number assigned by the construction company or the photographer. Numbers on the photographs consist of unbroken sequences from 1 to 77, and from 82 to 121. Image numbers 78–81 are missing from the collection, and were not in the original sequence of photographs accessioned by the Indiana Historical Society in January 2000. The photographs arrived at the Indiana Historical Society bound in an album. For conservation reasons society staff removed the photographs from the album (retaining the original order) and placed them in ten acid-free folders.

Some of the construction photographs in Folders 1–4 show surrounding neighborhoods with a scattering of substantial, two-story homes in the background. Photographs in Folders 8–10 identify Buchanan, Pierce, Fillmore, Polk, Harrison, and Van Buren streets between Third and Sixth avenues. Details in some images include African American workers clearing land, excavating the basements and constructing foundations, and laborers and construction workers hauling materials with mules and horses. Image number 114 in Folder 10, a view of Fillmore Street, shows a home with laundry hanging on a clothesline in the back yard and a baby buggy beside the porch.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Workmen's Houses: No. 1–12,  
20 Nov. 1916–18 Dec. 1916

Workmen's Houses: No. 13–24,  
18 Dec. 1916–2 Jan. 1917

Workmen's Houses: No. 25–36,  
2 Jan. 1917–15 Jan. 1917

Workmen's Houses: No. 37–48,  
15 Jan. 1917–26 Feb. 1917

Workmen's Houses: No. 49–60,  
26 Feb. 1917–24 April 1917

Workmen's Houses: No. 61–72,  
24 April 1917–5 June 1917

Workmen's Houses: No. 73–77, No. 82–88,  
5 June 1917–1 Aug. 1917

Workmen's Houses: No. 89–100,  
1 Aug. 1917–10 Sept. 1917

Workmen's Houses: No. 101–112,  
10 Sept. 1917–23 Oct. 1917

Workmen's Houses: No. 113–121,  
23 Oct. 1917–20 Nov. 1917

### CONTAINER

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 8

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 9

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 10

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0374).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.