Public Housing
Public Housing in the early 20th-c.

- National Housing Act of 1934 - created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to provide housing and for job creation through the Public Works Administration (PWA)
- Houser Movement (1920s and 1930s) for social and urban reform
- PWA Housing - oversaw all phases of public housing development except for style which was left to local architects
- US Housing Act of 1937
- Slum Clearance
- Lanham Act of 1940 - focus on housing shortages in defense work areas
- The Housing Act of 1949
Characteristics of Public Housing in 1930s and 1940s

• Multifamily and attached dwellings in an ordered site plan, often with courtyards and substantial open space
• Utilitarian design and high-quality, durable materials
• Units did not have hallways to minimize wasting space and units situated to take advantage of natural light and ventilation
Public Housing in Alexandria

• 1939 - Alexandria Housing Authority formed
• 1956 - Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority
• 1975 - Office of Housing established in City government
Defense Worker Housing in Alexandria, 1941

At Home With a Defense Family...

This is a view of the Defense Worker Housing Project at 1200 N. Fort Street, Alexandria, which provides adequate housing for defense workers. The project was funded under the Housing Act of 1943. The buildings are designed to accommodate families of various sizes.

Uncle Sam Houses His Workers

FRED ELLIS, laborer at the Naval Supply Depot in Alexandria, is shown with his wife and children. The family lives in a rowhouse in the defense worker housing project. The project provides affordable housing for defense workers and their families.

3. View of the defense worker housing project. This row of homes is designed to accommodate families of various sizes.

4. View of the defense worker housing project. The buildings are designed to accommodate families of various sizes.

5. View of the defense worker housing project. This row of homes is designed to accommodate families of various sizes.

6. View of the defense worker housing project. The buildings are designed to accommodate families of various sizes.

The Federal Housing Administration, under the direction of the United States Housing Authority, has authorized the construction of this defense worker housing project. It is in the interest of the nation to provide housing for defense workers. The project is being constructed to accommodate families of various sizes.
“We are going to help rid Washington of all substandard dwellings,” says John Ihlder, executive head of the Alley Dwelling Authority, speaking for his agency.

“National defense housing fits into this program as it results in low-rent dwellings for defense workers who otherwise would overcrowd existing dwellers.”

“Instead of using city streets, 12-year-old Ruth May Easke may now play with other children of all ages in spacious courts around which the buildings are grouped. And Mrs. Easke can gossip cross-court with her neighbors...”