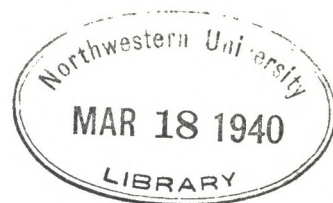


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION



For Release to Afternoon Newspapers,  
Thursday, March 21, 1940.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FEATURES WPA PUBLIC BUILDING PROGRAM

Twenty-three thousand new public buildings, including more than enough school buildings to supply one to each of the 3,070 counties in the United States, are among public improvements the nation has received in exchange for its work relief program during the last four and one-half years, Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner of Work Projects, reported today.

Other improvements, the Commissioner said, include approximately 5,000 new playgrounds and athletic fields and almost 1,500 new water, sewage treatment and other publicly-owned utility plants.

As a part of a comprehensive inventory of WPA accomplishments, the present report covers public buildings, public utilities, sanitation and recreation facilities, on which more than one-fourth of all WPA workers have been employed. The period covered is from July, 1935, when the program began, through December, 1939. In the four and one-half years, Colonel Harrington said, virtually every community in the United States has benefited through one or more improvements of these types.

In the public building category alone, he added, WPA has constructed more than 23,000 new buildings and made improvements and additions to 65,000. Schools, hospitals, town halls and auditoriums are among the types included. In addition to the nearly 5,000 new playgrounds and athletic fields, he said, improvements and

enlargements had been made to 10,000 and 7,700 new tennis courts and more than 600 new swimming pools had been built. In the field of sanitation and public health, he continued, WPA constructed over 15,000 miles of sewers; built 1,750,000 sanitary privies for homes without plumbing facilities, and drained over 1,800,000 acres of mosquito-breeding swamps.

"The unemployed who have been put to work by WPA have made a great contribution to our national wealth," Colonel Harrington stated. "There is not a county or city throughout the nation which has not been enriched in some tangible way -- a new or improved school, a water plant, new sewerage lines, a park or swimming pool -- through the labor of WPA workers.

"These are improvements which would not have been made had there not been a program such as this to make workers available, bearing nearly all the labor costs and defraying a portion of other charges.

"By giving the unemployed jobs on useful public projects we have also kept them off local relief rolls and preserved -- in many cases, improving -- their skills in preparation for the time when they could again find private employment."

Public building projects constitute one of the most important fields of activity for WPA workers, Colonel Harrington pointed out. Of particular significance, he said, are the 3,985 new schools which range from small two-room structures in rural sections to large city high schools and college buildings. WPA also reconstructed or improved 27,634 school buildings and built 1,480 additions. New libraries numbering 110 were built and 752 were improved.

Of 6,475 new recreational buildings, 848 are gymnasiums and 318 are auditoriums, he said. The remainder are miscellaneous structures such as field houses, pavilions, picnic shelters, etc. New office and administrative buildings, which include town halls, police stations, court houses, etc., total 1,063, while improvements and additions to 3,710 are reported.

One hundred fifty-six new hospitals were built, many in areas where no adequate facilities previously existed. WPA workers also reconstructed or improved 1,436 hospitals and built additions of 66 others.

Outdoor recreation areas built or improved by WPA include 1,302 new parks aggregating slightly more than 59,000 acres, improvements to 343,000 acres and park additions totaling 2,471 acres. New playgrounds total 2,271, two-thirds of which are on school property. More than 10,000 new tennis, handball and horseshoe courts were built and 295 miles of ski trails cleared and graded. New swimming pools total 629, and wading pools, 636. More than 12,000 acres devoted to fairground and rodeo use were prepared or improved.

The 1,470 new publicly-owned utility plants constructed by WPA include electric plants, incinerators, water works and sewage treatment plants. A total of 9,646 miles of new water lines were laid and 239,000 consumer connections made. New sewer lines total 15,191 miles and 352,000 service connections were made.



An important contribution to public health has been made through the construction of more than 1,750,000 sanitary privies, Colonel Harrington said. These are built to serve families who do not have modern plumbing facilities, and usually replace structures which are a menace to public health. The U. S. Public Health Service has credited this program with much of the responsibility for the decrease in typhoid and other filth-borne diseases which have been prevalent in certain parts of the country, the Commissioner pointed out.

Another valuable aid to public health, he said, has been achieved through the drainage of 1,833,000 acres of swamp, the construction of 12,327 miles of drainage ditches and the application of over 2,000,000 gallons of spray in mosquito control work.

Earlier reports on the WPA inventory of accomplishments listed the construction or improvement of more than 450,000 miles of highways, roads and streets, the building of hundreds of airports and landing fields and extensive improvements to other phases of the nation's public transportation system. A third and final report will be completed in a few days, officials said, listing the accomplishments of professional and service projects and other types of WPA operations.

(A statistical summary is attached. Details of WPA operations, by States, may be obtained from State WPA headquarters.)

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FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
 WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION  
 REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENT ON PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF OPERATIONS

Cumulative through December 31, 1939

United States Summary

(Part II)

(Preliminary - Subject to Revision)

Public Buildings, Excluding Utility Plants and Buildings at Airports				
Item	Unit of Measurement	New Con- struction	Reconstruction or Improvement	Additions
Public Buildings - Total	Number	23,003	62,468	2,784
Educational Buildings - Total	Number	4,095	28,416	1,533
Libraries	Number	110	752	53
Schools	Number	3,985	27,664	1,480
Recreational Buildings - Total	Number	6,435	4,153	392
Auditoriums	Number	318	316	92
Gymnasiums	Number	848	556	161
Other Recreational Buildings	Number	5,269	3,281	139
Offices and Administrative Buildings	Number	1,063	3,518	192
Hospitals	Number	156	1,436	66
Penal Institutions	Number	123	436	22
Firehouses	Number	203	1,891	48
Garages	Number	1,739	1,280	128
Storage Buildings	Number	1,479	2,064	78
Armories	Number	222	344	31
Other Public Buildings	Number	7,488	18,930	294

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## Outdoor Recreational Facilities

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount		
		New Con- struction	Reccnstruction or Improvement	Additions
Stadiums, Grandstands and Bleachers	Number Seating capacity	1,640	582	80
		2,742,069	2,458,125	218,564
Airgrounds and Rodeo Grounds	Number	37	231	5
	Area in acres	2,140	10,581	46
Parks	Number	1,302	5,380	119
	Area in acres	59,179	342,540	2,471
Playgrounds - Total	Number	2,271	7,898	67
School Playgrounds	Number	1,383	6,737	56
Other Playgrounds	Number	888	1,161	11
Athletic Fields	Number	2,490	1,999	37
	Area in acres	14,198	12,463	135
Handball Courts	Number	1,365	186	XXX
Horseshoe Courts	Number	1,751	144	XXX
Tennis Courts	Number	7,759	2,438	XXX
Swimming Pools	Number	629	281	XXX
Wading Pools	Number	636	63	XXX
Hiking Trails	Miles	295	52	XXX
Hiking Jumps	Number	56	11	XXX
Handshells	Number	162	62	XXX
Outdoor Theatres	Number	105	23	XXX
Golf Courses	Number	207	288	XXX
	No. of Holes	2,287	3,792	XXX
	Area in acres	14,901	28,607	XXX

## Public Utilities and Sanitation

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount		
		New Con- struction	Reconstruction or Improvement	Additions
Utility Plants - Total	Number	1,470	783	66
Electric Power Plants	Number	77	101	10
Incinerator Plants	Number	74	42	-
Pumping Stations	Number	646	219	9
Sewage Treatment Plants	Number	549	313	37
Water Treatment Plants	Number	124	108	10
Water Mains, Aqueducts, and Distribution Lines	Miles	9,646	2,737	XX
Water Consumer Connections	Thousands	239	344	XX
Storm and Sanitary Sewers	Miles	15,191	3,050	XX
Sewerage Service Connections	Thousands	352	33	XX
Manholes and Catch Basins	Thousands	472	282	XX
Sanitary Privies	Thousands	1,759	25	XX
Abandoned Mine Sealing	No. of open- ings sealed	172,710	XX	XX
Mosquito Control	Thousands of Acres drained	1,833	1,968	XX
	Miles of ditch and pipe	12,327	17,859	XX
	Thousands of gallons of spray used	2,060	XX	XX



## Public Utilities and Sanitation (Cont'd)

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount		
		New Construc- tion	Reconstruction or Improvement	Additions
Telephone and Telegraph Lines	Miles	2,699	1,536	XXX
Police, Fire Alarm and Traffic Signal Systems	Miles of Line	1,010	987	XXX
Electric Power Lines	Miles	2,096	831	XXX
Flood Lighting Athletic Fields, Parking Lots, Etc.	No. lighted Acres lighted	869 9,786	108 445	XXX XXX
Gas, Oil and Steam Pipe Lines	Miles	482	93	XXX

## Items Not Elsewhere Classified

Item	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount		
		New Con- struction	Reconstruction or Improvement	Additions
Cemeteries	Number	16	730	61
	Area in acres	225	8,028	677
Landscaping and Beautification, other than Roadside and Parks	Acres	XXX	77,990	XXX
Ornamental Pools and Fountains	Number	646	60	XXX
Drainage other than Roadside and Mosquito Control	Thousands of Acres	3,412	10,850	XXX
	Miles of ditch	3,697	15,562	XXX
	Miles of pipe	1,613	594	XXX
Fencing	Miles	13,564	20,251	XXX