HANDOUT

Title: Sugar Beet Factory Labor Camp Journal

Handout #: 16c

Content:

Excerpt from Vta. Co. Historical Society Journal, 2002

American Beet Sugar Company, Oxnard California plant—opened in 1899.

The factory buildings consisted of the general offices, which included a chemical laboratory and engineers' department, weighing office, time office, main building, sugar house, boiler house, rotary lime kilns, vertical lime kilns and oil storage tanks. The factory was 401 feet due east and west, by 121 feet north and south with three floors and 100 ft. to peak of roof. The warehouse (sugar house), where the product awaited shipment, was large enough to store 8,000,000 pounds of processed sugar. It was 222 ft. by 85 ft. and constructed of brick and iron. The three-story management building was 40 ft. by 50 ft. and connected to the factory by a bridge on the third floor. The smoke stacks on the boiler house were 12 ft. in diameter and 156 ft. high (PN 27539).

The Oxnard plant still under construction. Prior to completion, the beets (in foreground) were sent to Chino to be processed. Iron oil storage tanks are visible 700 feet away from the main buildings. There were three on the factory grounds; each held 35,000 barrels. 80,000 barrels of oil were consumed per season (PN 27542).

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