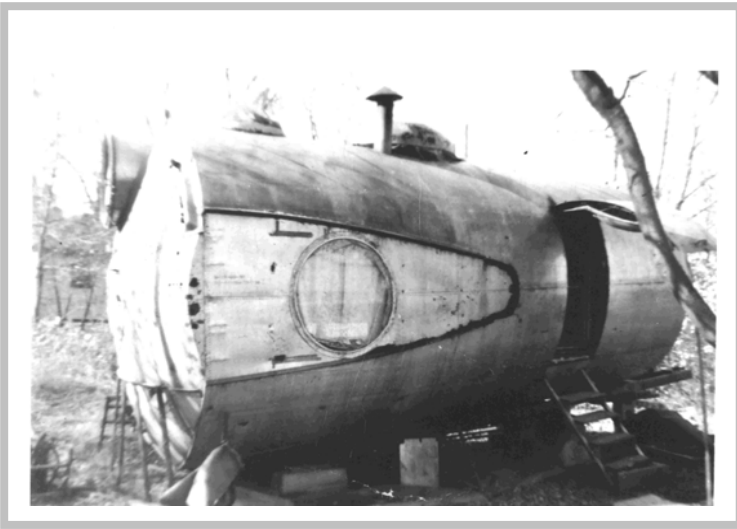
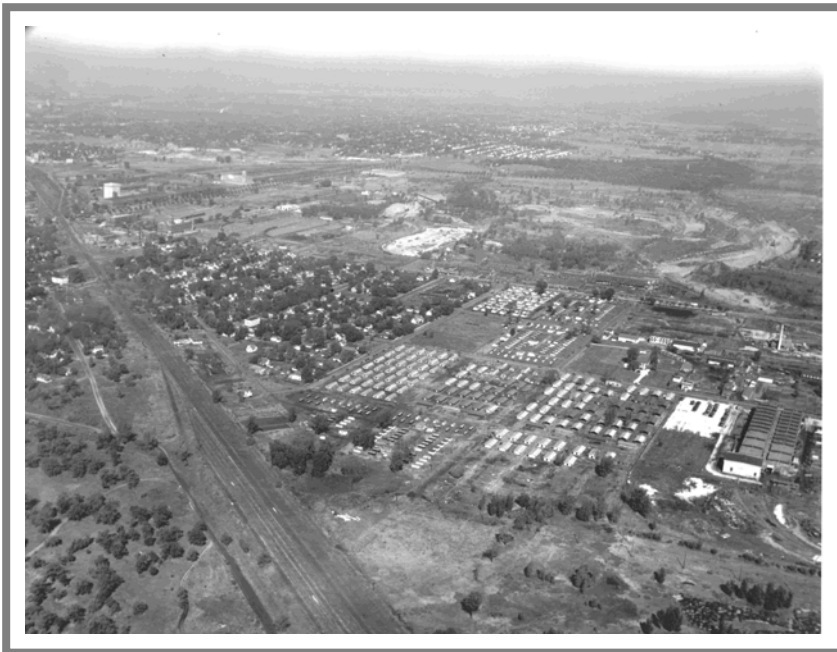


Variety of housing in Como

Before the end of World War II, most University of Minnesota students in Como lived in their parents' home. But the huge wave of veterans using the GI Bill to attend the University created a tremendous housing crunch: where to put them? One veteran, Roy Rasmussen, with his wife and their baby lived for an academic year in the fuselage of a B-29 bomber he had salvaged and that he got permission to place behind Charles Amble's gas station on the SW corner of 18th Ave. SE and East Hennepin Ave. They sold it to another couple, who lived in the fixed-up fuselage for another seven years.



In 1945 the federal government was offering colleges and universities Quonset huts, trailers, and small pre-fabbed structures to house returning GIs and their young families. The University of Minnesota began buying land in east Como from a number of private owners, often using the state's power of eminent domain if owners were reluctant to sell. The first land purchased included four blocks north of Como Ave. between 27th Ave. and 29th Ave. SE, which had been owned by a railroad since 1893 and had nothing on it. By 1946 many hundreds of the University's veteran students lived on that land or the land immediately south of it. The University provided a childcare center, other amenities, and an on-site supervisor. The temporary housing was torn down by the early 1960s, and the University built today's Como Student Co-op Housing complex and a number of University support service buildings on nearby land.



Upper left photo of Armstrong's B-29 Bomber home near 18th Ave. SE & E. Hennepin Ave.: 1947, Minnesota Historical Society

Lower left photo aerial view of University Village on the south side of Como Ave SE, between 27th & 29th Aves.: Minneapolis Star-Journal, 1946, Minnesota Historical Society

Lower right: photo of house at 1059 SE 12th Ave. (still standing): ca. 1895, Minnesota Historical Society