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SVERDLOVSK

P. Volodin

Sverdlovsk, the largest city in the Urals, has grown tremendously during the Soviet period. According to the 1939 census, the city population was 425,000. Most of the important public buildings in Sverdlovsk were built in the 1920's and 1930's. A large electric power plant was built near Verkh-Isetskiy Lake in 1927. During the war, the city continued to expand. Many important industrial enterprises were transferred to Sverdlovsk from central regions of the USSR.

Ulitsa Lenina and the Iset' River are the main coordinate axes of the central city area. The Iset' River divides the city into east side and west side, while ulitsa Lenina divides it into north and south. Most of the new public buildings were built around ulitsa Lenina, in the blocks between ulitsa Malysheva (parallel to ulitsa Lenina) and ulitsa Pervomayskaya. The center of the city consists of the portion of ulitsa Lenina between ulitsa Vaynera and ulitsa Lunacharskogo, the embankments of the city lake, and Ploshchad' Narodnoy Mesti (Square of People's Revenge), which is north of ulitsa Lenina. Ploshchad' imeni 1905 goda is located on ulitsa Lenina, west of the city lake. This is the place where parades and demonstrations are held. Two wide streets, ulitsa Vaynera and ulitsa imeni 8 marta, run past the square. The five-story building of the Sverdlovsk City Executive Committee is the highest among the three- and four-story buildings surrounding the square. The lower part of the building is faced with grey Ural granite.

Ulitsa Lenina, a wide street, runs in a straight line from west to east, from Ploshchad' Kommunarov to the square in Vtuzgorodok, and is over 4 kilometers long. Twenty streets running from north to south cross ulitsa Lenina. One of them, ulitsa Vaynera, has numerous commercial enterprises. Ulitsa imeni 8 marta is an important thoroughfare. Pushkinskaya ulitsa has many large apartment houses and trees.

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In the next few years, two streets running from north to south, ulitsa Sverdlova and ulitsa Lunacharskogo, are to be rebuilt. These main thoroughfares will connect the center of the city with the railroad station square and with the northern part of the city. So far, ulitsa Sverdlova is only a thoroughfare, with very little construction. Ulitsa Lunacharskogo is expected to become particularly important in the future. This street, running in an absolutely straight line, begins near the Park of Culture and Recreation in the south, crosses ulitsa Lenina, touches the railroad station square, and finally runs into the northern thoroughfare, the highway to Uralmashzavod.

The Ural Industrial Institute is located at the east end of ulitsa Lenina; it is built on an elevation, and can be seen from a distance. This institute is in "Vtuzgorodok," a fairly new city rayon on the east side. It has many higher and secondary educational institutions, including the Ural Polytechnical Institute imeni S. M. Kirov with 6,000 students. Not far from the Polytechnical Institute are buildings of the Ural Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Vtuzgorodok adjoins a large forest park near Lake Shartash.

The Plant imeni Voyevodin, now situated on ulitsa Malysheva in the city center, is to be moved to a more convenient industrial location and a park is to be laid out on the present grounds of the plant. An outstanding public building is the Dom Ofitserov (Officers' Club) on ulitsa Lunacharskogo. Among the new public buildings which have gone up in the last 10-12 years, the Military Department on ulitsa Lenina is remarkable for its architecture. The exterior is faced with a rare type of rosecolored granite. The central portico of the building is surmounted by a parapet with bas-relief ornaments.

During the first Five-Year Plan, many large new enterprises were built in Sverdlovsk, north and east of the original city area, beyond the railroad tracks. There is a large group of enterprises in the north, about 3-4 kilometers from the former city line. Beyond these industrial plants are new housing projects.

Among Sverdlovsk enterprises, the Ural Heavy-Machine Building Plant imeni S. Ordzhonikidze (UZTM) (also called Uralmashzavod), is one of the most important. UZTM machinery is used by plants in Moscow, Leningrad, the Donbass, and the Kuzbass. A large settlement with a present population of 100,000 grew up around the plant. This is a modern city area with wide streets and gardens. It is connected with the old part of the city by streetcar, trolleybus, and a good automobile road. Ordzhonikidzevskiy Rayon, which adjoins the Uralmashzavod, has been well planned. Three main thoroughfares, ulitsa Il'icha, prospekt Stalina, and prospekt Kul'tury, converge from three sides on the Ploshchad' Pervoy Pyatiletki (Square of the First Five-Year Plan). One side of this square forms the main entrance to the plant. The wide prospekt Kul'tury leads to the sports grounds and the forest park around Lake Shuvakish.

Next to the residential area of Uralmashzavod is a new settlement belonging to the electrical machinery plants ("El'mash"). During the war this settlement expanded considerably; it recently became an independent administrative city rayon, called Kuybyshevskiy Rayon. There are large enterprises in this area; new blocks of dwellings, new streets, and underground communication lines are built each year.

The Verkh-Isetskii Metallurgical Plant is located west of the city center, on the northeast shore of Verkh-Isetskii Lake.

The city has also expanded toward the south. The most important plant in the southern area is the large Nizhne-Isetsk Machine-Building Plant. The southern district is also connected with the city center by streetcar and trolleybus.

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Railroad transport installations are located in the northwest area of Sverdlovsk, between the main railroad station and the marshaling station on Verkh-Issetskiy Lake. During the past 10 years, the Sverdlovsk railroad system has been expanded and rebuilt. Electrified railroad lines connect Sverdlovsk with Nizhniy Tagil and other industrial cities of the Urals.

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