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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Blachownia Foundry in Blachownia

DATE DISTR. 31 AUG 1959

NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES RD

DATE OF INFO.

50X1-HUM

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

FIELD REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

report on the Blachownia Foundry in Blachownia. The report contains information on the following: the gray cast iron foundry, the malleable cast iron foundry, labor force, source of raw materials, plant layout and plant buildings.

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ARMY review completed.

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THE FOUNDRY AT BLACHOWNIA (C)

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THE FOUNDRY AT BLACHOWNIA (C)

Introduction

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Listed below are the names, geographical coordinates, and UTM coordinates of locations used in this report:

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Geographic</u> | <u>UTM</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| BLACHOWNIA | N50-47, E18-58 | CB-566285 |
| GZESTOCHOWA | N50-48, E19-07 | CB-6813 |
| LUBLINIEC | N50-40, E18-41 | CB-3616 |

1. Background

The foundry site at BLACHOWNIA was among the oldest in all Poland. The original foundry there was constructed about 1916 and, although no longer in use, still stood. Originally that foundry produced only malleable cast iron.

During WW II, the Germans built a large, modern foundry building, which they never had a chance to equip and use because the war ended before it was completed. This building was not used until 1950.

There was some discussion after the war as to whether the foundry at BLACHOWNIA should be expanded and whether the foundry building constructed by the Germans should be used or whether all operations at BLACHOWNIA should be abandoned. It was decided to expand the operation and use the German building as a gray cast iron foundry. Installation of all equipment was completed by late 1949, and by 1950 the foundry was in full operation.

The plan for this expansion was handled by the Special Projects Bureau (Biuro Projektow Budownictwa Specjalnego), now called the Investment Supply and Designing Bureau (Biuro Projektowania i Dostaw Inwestycyjnych), 1. a project bureau which designed all metallurgical and electrotechnical facilities for military production. This new foundry was to produce cast parts for mines of various types, which it did until 1956, when the mine production was abandoned and the production of pipes of various sizes and cast parts for meat cutting machines was begun.

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The task of reorganizing the foundry for this new production was handled by Prozamet (Biuro Projektowania Zakladow Przemyslu Metalowego i Elektrotechnicznego - Prozamet), ² a project bureau which planned metallurgical and electro-technical facilities for civilian production.

2. Production and Expansion

In late 1957, the Control Commission (Komisja Bilansow) of the Ministry of Heavy Industry decided to change the production at BLACHOWNIA again. The change was to be gradual and the complete transition was to be effected by 1965. The outstanding features of this change were to reduce the total foundry output by 1800 tons yearly; and slowly to phase out the pipe production, which was to be replaced by the production of cast parts for the electrotechnical industry and faucets and water valves for industrial and domestic use; and to increase the production of cast parts for meat-cutting machines.

In 1958, the production at BLACHOWNIA was 16,000 tons: 10,000 tons of pipes; 2000 tons of malleable cast iron for the machine industry; 2000 tons of cast iron for meat-cutting machines; and 2000 tons of various unknown cast items.

By 1965, the total production was to be 14,200 tons: 2200 tons of malleable cast iron for the machine industry; 4000 tons of cast parts for meat-cutting machines; 6000 tons of cast parts for the electrotechnical industry; and 2000 tons of faucets and water valves for industrial and private use (armatury domowe i przemyslowe).

Exactly how this transition in production was to take place was unknown in 1959, only 6000 tons of pipes were scheduled for production at BLACHOWNIA. The production of pipes dropped by this foundry was to be picked up by two new foundries to be constructed by 1965, the locations for which had not been chosen as of December 1958. ³

3. Labor Force

technical staff was considered very good by engineers and technicians of the project bureau. On the basis of his observations, the morale of the workers seemed to be good. the total work force at about 1600 to 2000.

4. Source of Raw Materials

Raw materials for the two foundry facilities at BLACHOWNIA came from CZESTOCHOWO. there was some sort of storage facility for iron ore in the area around CZESTOCHOWA (exact location unknown). Sand was mined in the Bledowska desert (pustynia Blendowska) north of CZESTOCHOWA, for use in foundries throughout Silesia. The bulk of iron ore was imported from the USSR and China.

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5. Foundry Facilities

a. Gray Cast Iron Foundry

In 1958, the foundry had a total production capacity of 14,000 tons yearly, but, as previously mentioned, the capacity was to be cut to 12,000 tons yearly by 1965. The building was of steel construction and measured about 80 by 54 by 12 m. The outer walls of the entire building were gray stucco, and there were two types of roofs (see Annex B for sketch). A railroad spur ran through the northern side of the building about two-thirds of the length.

The foundry was one of the most modern in Poland. There was very little manual transport in the operation. Most of the transport was by conveyor belt or overhead power crane (see Annex B for sketch of internal organization and location of transport facilities). The foundry was equipped with five cupola-type furnaces (zeliwiaki), two with a diameter of 600 mm, and three with diameters of 900 mm. There were four vibrating form removal machines (kraty do wybiania odlewow) which separated the cast from the form. These machines were not of Polish manufacture, [redacted]

[redacted] there were also 14 casting machines (type and place of manufacture unknown [redacted]).

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Attached to the west end of the foundry building was a 2-story, flat-roofed, gray stucco office building, about 54 by 9 by 8 m, which housed the foundry offices and social room for the workers. There was an entrance from the foundry to the office building on the ground floor. [redacted]

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b. Malleable Cast Iron Foundry

This was a very old, red brick building in very bad condition, about ready to fall down. There were skylights in the roof and many panes were missing or broken. It was to be torn down by 1965, [redacted] probably be the first of all the buildings to be torn down because of its condition. It measured about 30 by 12 by 5 m. (see Annex C for sketch). It was equipped with two cupola-type furnaces [redacted], capable of producing 2000 tons of malleable cast iron yearly. [redacted]

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6. Plant Layout and Description

The total foundry terrain was about 210,000 sq m in area (300 by 700 m) and was open and flat with only occasional trees and shrubs. The buildings were well spread out over the area; no two buildings were closer than 15 m. The grounds were completely enclosed by a heavy wire fence about 2 m high. There were only two entrances, one for the railroad spur and one for foot and vehicle traffic (see Annex D).

The foundry terrain could be extended only to the east. The north side was bounded by a stream (name unknown), the west and south sides by hard-surfaced oil, and crushed rock roads about 5 m wide. There were open fields to the east.

The foundry was served by the main railroad line, LUBLINIEC-CZESTOCHOWA, about 1½ km south of it. There was a main factory spur line, which branched into other spur lines within the foundry terrain.

Annex D shows the plant layout and gives a description of each building and its use.

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Annex A

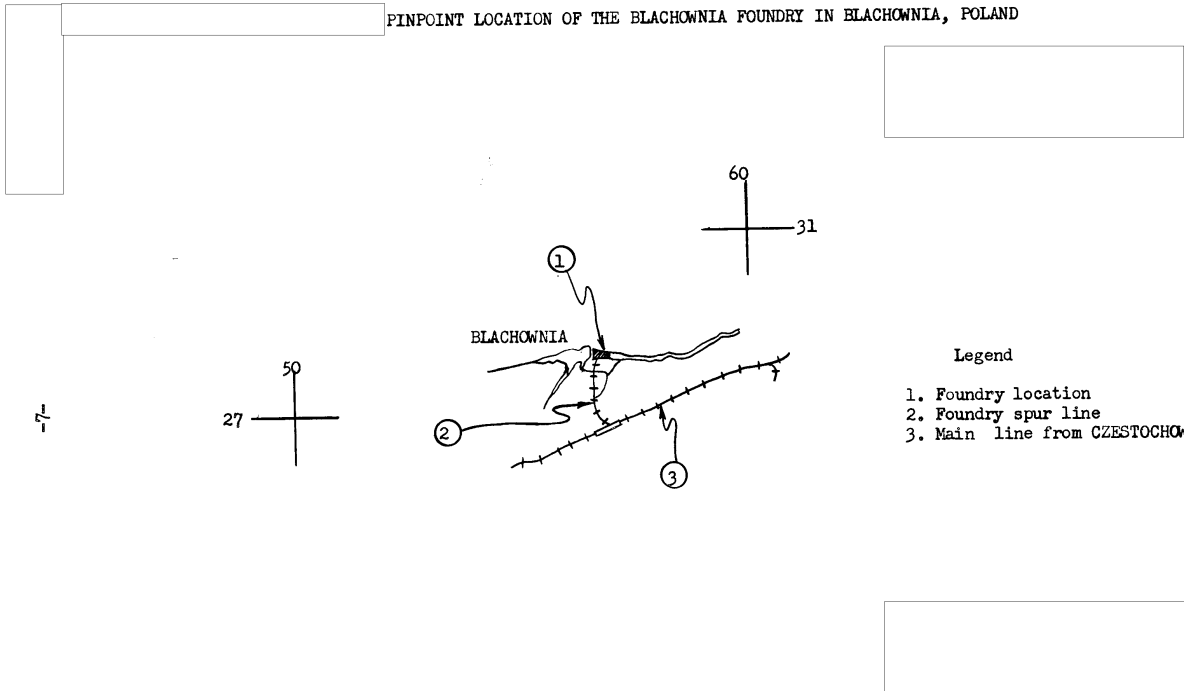
PINPOINT LOCATION OF THE BLACHOWNIA FOUNDRY IN BLACHOWNIA, POLAND

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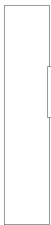


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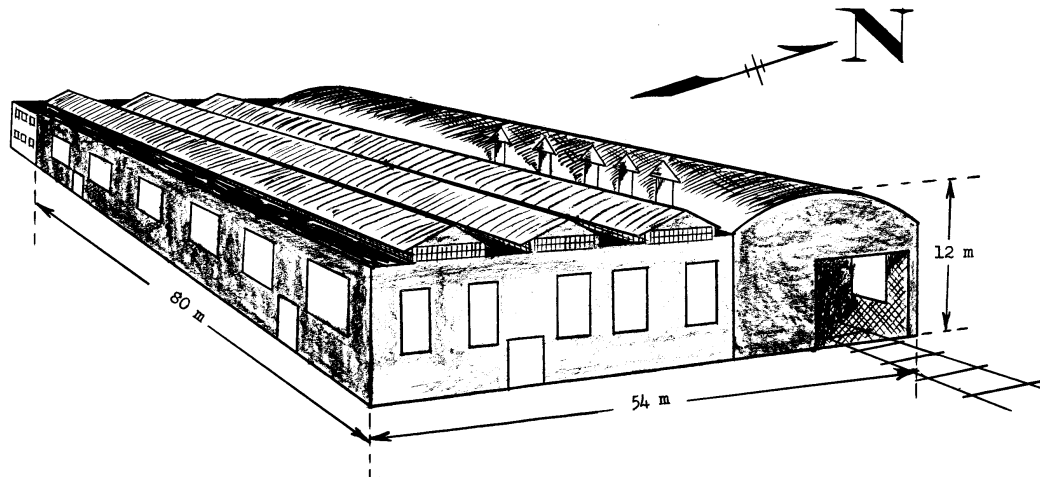
Annex B

SKETCH OF THE CAST IRON FOUNDRY AT BLACHOWNIA, POLAND



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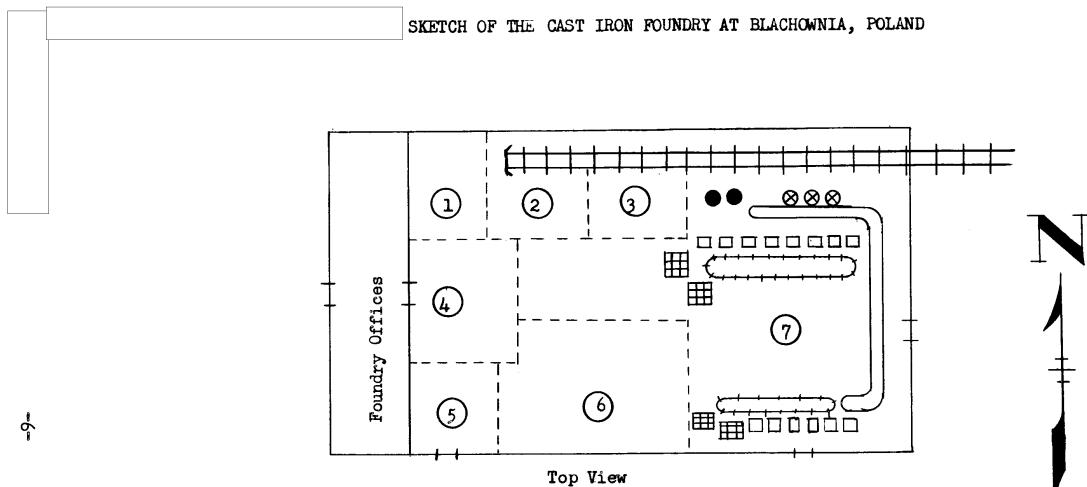
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Front and Side View



Annex B-1

SKETCH OF THE CAST IRON FOUNDRY AT BLACHOWNIA, POLAND



Top View

LEGEND:

- ① Mass Mixing Section
- ② Foundry Materials Storage
- ③ Furnace Materials Storage
- ④ Core Casting Section
- ⑤ Equipment Repair Shop
- ⑥ Cast Storage and Shipment Section
- ⑦ Hand Casting Section

- +— Exits and Entrances
- ||||| Railroad Tracks
-) Overhead Transport
-) Conveyor belt
- ▣ Form Removal Vibrator
- Casting Machines
- Cupola Furnaces w/diameter 600 mm
- ⊗ Cupola Furnaces w/diameter 900 mm

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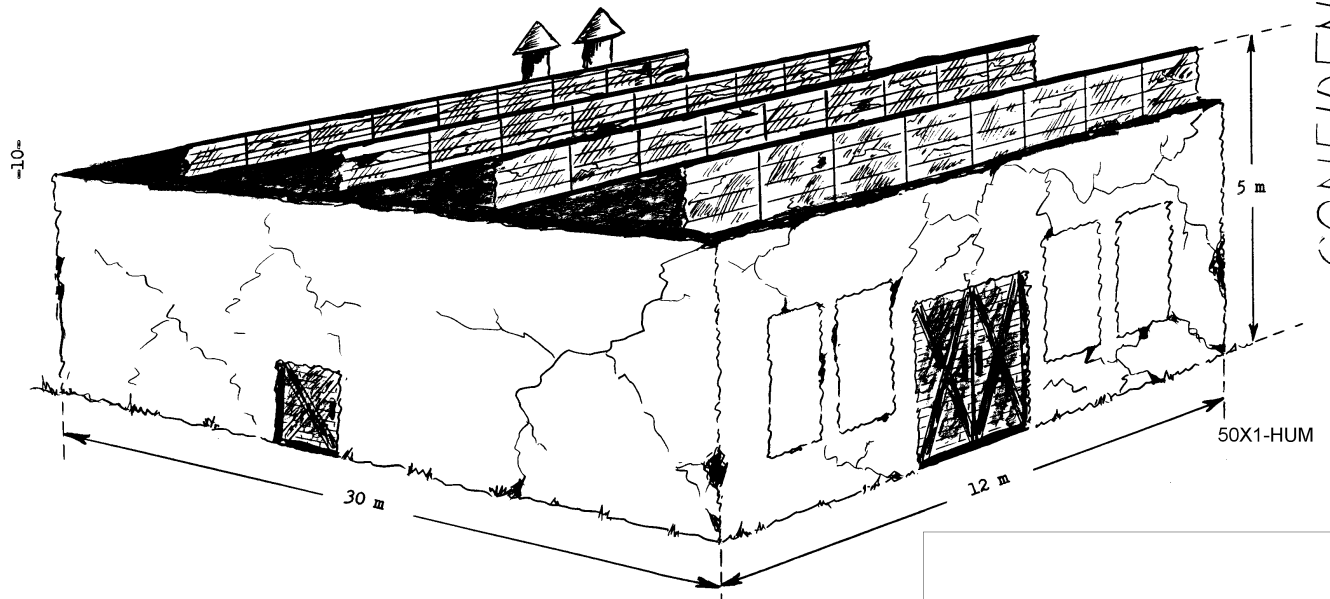
Annex C

SKETCH OF THE MALLEABLE CAST IRON FOUNDRY AT BLACHOWNIA, POLAND

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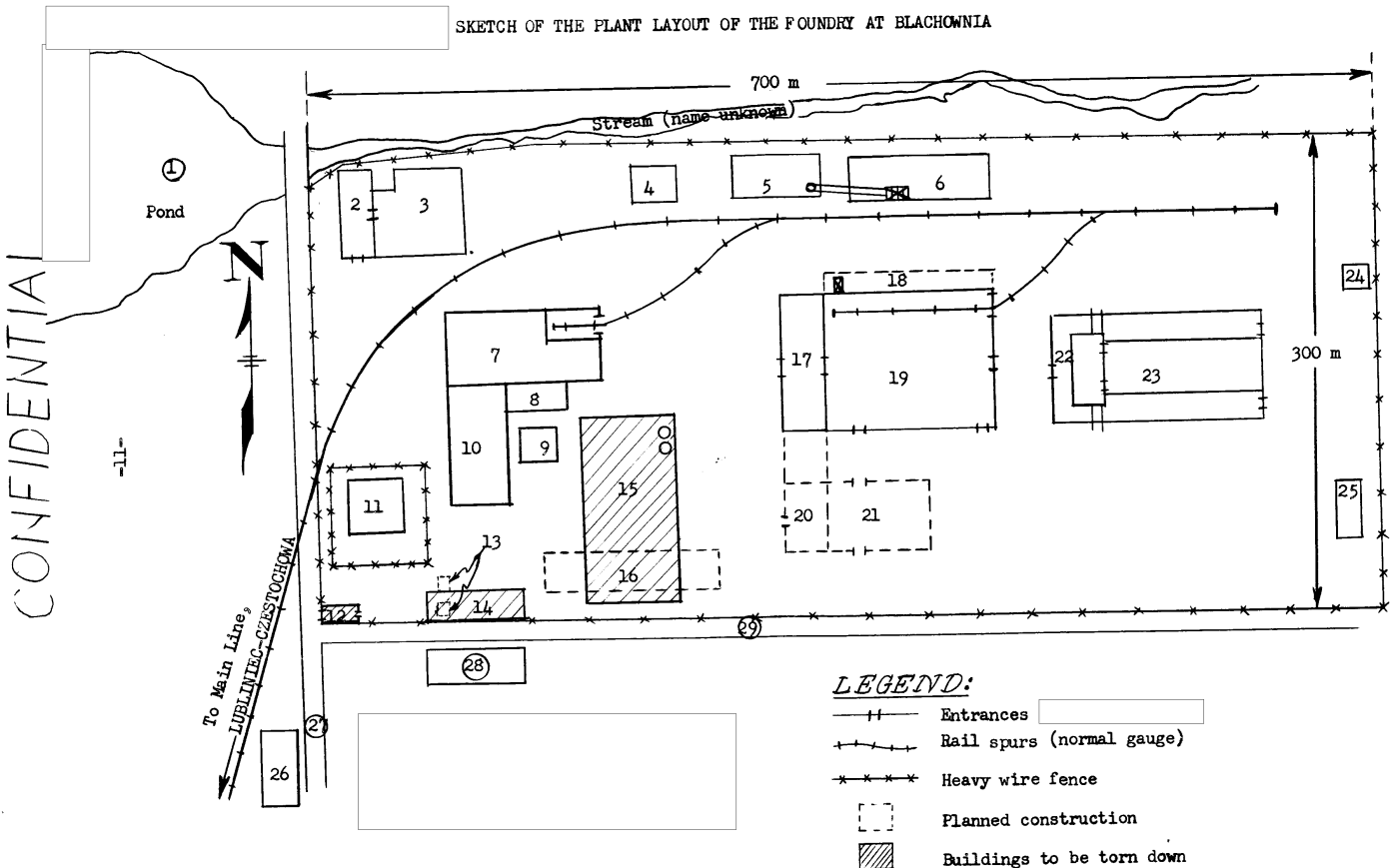
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Annex D

SKETCH OF THE PLANT LAYOUT OF THE FOUNDRY AT BLACHOWNIA

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LEGEND:

- ||— Entrances
- +—+— Rail spurs (normal gauge)
- *—*— Heavy wire fence
- - - - - Planned construction
- ▨ Buildings to be torn down

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Legend to Annex D

1. This was a pond, about 100 m wide and about 150 m long, into which the stream flowed. Either the pond or the stream was the foundry source of water.
2. This was a red brick, 1-story, shed-roofed building, which was used for storage (details unknown). It measured about 40 by 10 by 5 m. It was to be remodeled and made into a carpenter shop (stolarnia) by 1965.
3. This was the lumber yard (sklad drzewa), an open storage area, about 60 by 60 m. The lumber was stacked in piles about 3 by 2 by 2 m.
4. This was an open storage water basin, about 15 by 15 by 3 m deep. It was used for fire fighting. It was the same as Number 9.
5. This was the boiler-room building, a red brick, flat-roofed building, about 20 by 9 by 8 m. There was room for two boilers with capacities of 2,500,000 calories each. There was only one boiler of that capacity, however, in 1958; the other was to be installed by 1965. They were to be conveyor fed with coal; the one existing boiler was hand fed but was to be converted when the second boiler was installed.
6. This was an open concrete coal storage area about 18 by 10 m. On the southern side was a small indented basin, about 2 by 1 by $\frac{1}{2}$ m, which was to be used as a hopper when the conveyor fed system was installed. (The position of the conveyor is shown in Annex D).
7. This was a gray stucco, 2-story building of reinforced-concrete, about 40 by 24 by 9 m. It was being completed in late 1958 for use as the main plant shipping warehouse (magazyn glowny i ekspedycja). The portion of the building into which the railroad spur ran was open to the roof (no second floor). There were windows at the east and west ends of the building, but none on the other two sides. There was a mechanical lift (winda) located in the building, opposite the end of the railroad spur. No further information.
8. This was a gray stucco building with a gable-roof, about 20 by 8 by 7 m, which housed the pipe-fitting shop (warsztat remontu rur) and the compressor station (stacja sprzerek tlokowych), with three piston-driven compressors. The pipe-fitting shop was located in the western half of the building and the compressor station in the eastern half. No further information.
9. This was a concrete open water storage basin, about 15 by 15 by 3 m deep. It stored water for fire fighting and was identical to Number 4.
10. This was a gray stucco, 1-story, gable-roofed building, which housed the annealing and cast cleaning section (wydzial wyzarczania i oczyszczalnia) for the malleable cast iron foundry. It measured about 40 by 15 by 7 m. 50X1-HUM
11. This was the oldest part of the original foundry, the malleable cast iron foundry which was no longer used. It was to be fenced and made into a museum with a small area of lawn and gardens. It was a combination red brick and wood building, about 15 by 12 by 4 m. It had the two original primitive cupola furnaces (sizes unknown). The roof had two gabled skylights running the full length of the building, which admitted very little light; there were no other windows. 50X1-HUM

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12. This was the factory security guard shack and workers' entrance gate (portiernia). Through the southern portion of the building was a hallway through which the workers had to walk to gain entrance to the foundry terrain. The building was gray stucco, 1-story, with a gabled roof, and measured about 8 by 4 by 3½ m. It was manned by one guard 24 hours a day. It was to be torn down by 1965 and replaced by a new entrance arrangement (see Number 13 on Annex D). No further information.

13. After Number 14 has been torn down, two small, 4 by 4 by 3½ m security guard shacks are to be constructed, one on either side of the entrance road also to be built. This is to take place by 1965 and will constitute the new main entrance to the foundry grounds. No further information.

14. This was an old 1-story, gray stucco, gable-roofed building, about 16 by 10 by 4½ m, which housed the foundry management offices: office of the director, office of the chief engineer, and the secretariat. It was to be torn down by 1965 and the offices were to be moved into a new building. No further information.

15. This was the malleable cast iron foundry (odlewnia zeliwa ciagliwego), which was also scheduled to be torn down by 1965. For complete information on this building see paragraph 5.b. of this report.

16. This was the projected building for the foundry management offices (see Number 14). It was to be a 2-story, gray stucco building, 40 by 10 by 8 m, to house the main office of the factory security guard and the foundry dispensary (ambulatornia) on the second floor. No further information.

17. This building housed the offices of the gray cast iron foundry and social rooms for the workers. For complete information on this building see paragraph 5.a. of this report.

18. This was the projected foundry materials storage area, to be constructed by 1965. It was to be about 10 m wide and 80 m long. There were to be concrete bins for sand, clay, and coal, and some storage area for iron ore. It was scheduled for completion by 1965 but no work had started in 1958. It was to have some sort of overhead crane loading and unloading device to unload railcars and transport materials from point of storage to the point of use.

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19. This was the gray cast iron foundry; for complete information see paragraph 5.a. of this report.

20. This was to be identical to Number 17, except that it was to be smaller, 30 by 9 by 8 m. It was to house the offices of the cast cleaning section (oczyszczalnia), the tinning and galvanizing section (cynkownia i cynownia), and the surface painting section (malarnia), and to have social rooms for the workers. It was scheduled to be constructed by 1965.

21. This was to be the new cast cleaning section, tinning and galvanizing section, and painted surface section for the gray cast iron foundry. Work on this building was to start in 1959. It was to be of gray stucco, a three-part (3 nawy) arched-roof building, about 50 by 30 by 6,9,6 m. No further information.

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22. This was a U-shaped, 2-story, red brick, flat-roofed building, which housed the offices and social rooms for the workers in Number 23 (the main mechanic's workshop and the tool room). It joined building Number 23 at the west end but only on the second floor. The first floor was open and formed an arched passageway to the inner courtyard of the building (see Annex D). The building measured about 38 by 9 by 8 m, and each wing about 10 by 9 by 8 m. The building was to be stuccoed sometime in the future. No further information.

23. This was a prefabricated reinforced-concrete building with red brick outer walls. It was in three parts (3 nawy). The center part was 70 by 20 by 9 m and had a series of box-type skylights in the roof. The two side parts were 70 by 9 by 9 m, each with windows along the outer sides. The building housed the main mechanical workshop and the tool supply room (warsztat glownego mechanika i narzedziownia). The building was only in partial use in 1958 because workmen were still finishing the construction. 50X1-HUM

24. This was a small, 6 by 6 by 4 m, red brick, flat-roofed building.

25. This was an empty building in 1958, but it was to be used as the firehouse starting in 1959. It was a garage-type building, about 12 by 7 by 4 m, of brick and stuccoed gray. A fire truck (type unknown) and one automobile (type unknown) were to be parked in the building. No further information.

26. This was a 1-story, old, gray stucco gable-roofed building, which was used as a kitchen and dining room (kuchnia i stolownia) for feeding the plant workers. It measured about 20 by 7 by 3½ m. No further information.

27. This was a hard-surfaced, oil and crushed rock road about 5 m wide, which ran from the city of BLACHOWNIA to the Blachownia railroad station, about 1½ km south of the foundry. There was a grade crossing. Source did not know whether the stream crossing was a culvert or a bridge. No further information.

28. This building was also used to house some of the foundry management offices. When the new office was completed within the foundry terrain, this building was scheduled to house a laundry and a tailor shop for the workers. It measured about 20 by 8 by 4 m, had a gabled roof, and was of gray stucco. No further information.

29. This was a hard-surfaced, oil and crushed rock road, which formed the southern boundary of the foundry terrain. Source could give no other information about it except that it was about 5 m wide. No further information.

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