

Figure 1: Shantytown, Shanghal, c. 1940 SOURCE: Shanghal minyong jianzhu shejiyuan (Shanghal Civil Architectural Designing Institute), ed., Shanghal jindal jianzhu shigao (A Draft of History of Architectures in Modern Shanghal) (Shanghal, 1988), 20.

riverside an ideal spot for a compact residential community for factory workers and urban poor. At the end of the 1930s, Yaoshuilong already had about five thousand households, or ten thousand inhabitants. By the end of the 1940s, it encompassed about 130,000 square meters; there were sixteen thousand residents living in four thousand dwellings, of which most were straw shacks (Figure 2).²⁵

Most pioneer residents of Yaoshuilong, like virtually all other slum dwellers in Shanghai, were from the countryside. The tough experience of these people who sought to settle in Shanghai can be traced by what we might call their "housing solution" in this area. Usually, émigrés from the countryside passed through three stages in their struggle to find shelter in the city. The emergence of Shanghai's



Figure 2: Straw Huts in Nanehi, Shanghai SOURCE: Jiangnan zaochuanchang shi blanxiezu (Writing group of *The History of Jiangnan Shipyard*), *Jiangnan zaochuanchang shi* (The History of Jiangnan Shipyard) (Shanghai, 1975), 32.



Figure 3: Capped Boats (macmaochuan) on the Bank of Suzhou Creek, Shanghal SOURCE: Tu Shiping, Shanghaishi daguan (Shanghai Miscellanea) (Shanghai 1948), C7, and Tang Welkang and Du Li, Zujie 100 nian (A Century of Foreign Concessions) (Shanghai, 1991).