

Masters' Villas

Up until 1927, the director of the factory and his family lived in the belfry apartments, on the industrial site. But when the workshops were extended, this location became too noisy. To provide accommodation for its director and deputy director, the factory rented the *Frangeoros* and *Marina* villas in Cabourg and, in 1931, purchased *Les Lierres*, a villa in Dives itself, at no. 1 rue du Port. This property, located in the middle of a park, adjoined a tennis court that was reserved for white collar workers, and had a vegetable garden that was maintained by the factory gardeners and went all the way down to the canal (now the boulevard Maurice-Thorez). A footbridge allowed its residents to directly access the factory premises.

On this street, the factory rented or bought three other villas located at nos. 7, 9 and 11, in order to house its principal engineers. At no. 11, from 1942 to 1946, the *villa Mon Abri* hosted the “*Reine Mathilde*” professional centre for young women, which mainly provided a domestic education.

Also on the rue du Port was the former *Grandin* pottery (opposite the *villa Les Lierres*) and the magnificent *Les Bossettes* residence.

Legend

The family of the factory director, Marcel Robert, in 1931, on the front steps of the *villa Les Lierres*, 1 rue du Port, glass plate photograph, Benoît Noël collection.

Legend

The villa Frangeoros in Cabourg, the factory directors' residence from 1927, photograph by F. Dutour.

Legend

Young women from the professional centre posing in the park of the villa Mon Abri, 11 rue du Port, C. Tarin collection – Un fleuve pour la liberté, la Dives.