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HENDERSON HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

Southeast corner of Pacific and Panama

Family/Home

The first BMI workers lived in camp grounds and tent communities near the Basic Magnesium plant beginning in 1941. They planted the seeds of community that would become Henderson and a place for hard-working, honest families. McNeil Construction built 1,000 two to three-bedroom wood-frame houses. Schools, stores, churches, library, theatre, hospital bowling alley, clubs and organizations followed.

The houses weren't meant to be permanent structures, but a number of them still stand. Due to their small size, later owners built additions, raised roofs, and altered their appearances in other significant ways. Few originals remain intact, but a restored one can be seen at the Clark County Museum.

In 1943, qualified families applied for company housing at the BMI housing office on Water Street at Nebraska Ave. They were required to follow specific guidelines to plant and maintain lawns and for installing corral or picket fences.

Following incorporation, Henderson continued to grow and add family amenities. The first recreation facility was built in 1956 after a fundraising concert with such world-class entertainers as Frank Sinatra, and a number of parks were added. By the late 1950s, Henderson had 12 different church denominations within its 14-square mile area.

