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HENDERSON HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

Northwest corner of Army and Market Street

Patriotism

Henderson, "born in America's defense" during World War II, was the key site for magnesium production for use in airplane parts and ammunition. Street names reflect this patriotic origin with Army Street and Navy Street and places like Victory Village. The town grew to provide housing for the workers at Basic Magnesium, the community's industrial center.

In November 1944, when the War Labor Board halted all magnesium production due to a surplus, the future of the community seemed uncertain. However, in 1945, Air Force officials secured housing for servicemen stationed at the Las Vegas Army Air Field (later named Nellis Air Force Base) in Victory Village and Carver Park. In February 1948, after attempts to sell the site to private industry, the federal government sold the plant and the townsite to the Colorado River Commission, after approval by the state of Nevada. Though the federal presence was gone, Henderson residents continued to show their devotion to their country. When the Korean War started a few years later, Henderson once again rushed to aid the war effort.

The outbreak of the Korean War gave another boost to the BMI facility and Henderson residents to support the war effort. In March 1951, Western Electrochemical Company signed a contract with the U.S. Army to produce sodium chlorate, which was followed by the National Lead Company also setting up operations at the facility to produce titanium.

The people who founded and remained in Henderson, lived and worked with a sense of duty and service to the nation. This proud heritage is reflected throughout the community today...

