



Clark County Museum

Townsite House

Built: 1942

Style: Government Temporary

Moved: 1982

Opened for Exhibit: 1985

Restored time Period: 1940's



In 1941, a magnesium processing plant was built on vacant land between Las Vegas and Boulder City by Basic Magnesium Incorporated (B.M.I.). In 1942, to house workers of B.M.I., a townsite was built that included 297 three-bedroom and 703 two-bedroom homes.

The houses were designed to be temporary at the time they were built. The exterior is of redwood siding and the interior walls are made of $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood with batten strips covering the seams. The windows are situated to provide cross ventilation and a six-sided swamp cooler provided comfort during hot weather.

Besides housing, the townsite also had stores, schools, two churches, a library, theater, hospital, and bowling alley. On January 1, 1944 a Post Office was completed and the Townsite officially became Henderson. It was named in honor of Charles B. Henderson, a Nevada Attorney, former US Senator and chair of the Federal committee which provided the funding for the plant.

Due to the development of an apartment complex, this house was donated to the museum. Parts from other Townsite houses helped complete the renovation of this home.

Major assistance was provided by the Clark County Museum Guild.

