

Basic Magnesium, Inc. (BMI), “Redlining,” Paul R. Williams, and the Building of Carver Park in Henderson, Nevada

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Abstract

The story of Basic Magnesium, Inc. (BMI), and the building of Carver Park, which was a black residential area in Henderson, Nevada, is quite unique. Specifically, back during World War II, “magnesium” was used in making bombs, flares, pyrotechnics, and other lightweight alloys for aircraft, trucks, tools, and industrial machinery; and workers were especially needed to manufacture and put in place such crucial war materials. Therefore, it was not surprising that BMI workers needed a place to live, especially blacks from southern states seeking jobs opportunities. Indeed, finding factory jobs were their top priority. Unfortunately, black workers had to struggle with “redlining” or housing segregation; and their resident problems, at first, went unaddressed by the city of Henderson, Nevada. Hence, Carver Park was built to accommodate the housing of black migrants, which was reaching a critical point.

Carver Park was designed by the great black architect, Paul Revere Williams, whose major job was to help establish a housing community for black employees working at BMI. In this regard, there was a lot of symbolism in the building of Carver Park as it created a safe heaven for black people, in general, who had to face a segregated system that they believed was rigged against them because of their race.

Introduction: The Evolution of BMI and Carver Park

From the start, we cannot discuss Carver Park, a predominantly black residential area in the city of Henderson, Nevada, particularly before and during World War II, without first mentioning the late, trailblazing black architect Paul Revere Williams, who designed and helped build the infamous place. But in the beginning, it was much less clear *if* and exactly when Carver Park would ever be built. But Williams was able to work through architectural issues and *racism* to make the place become reality. Therefore, Williams “was commissioned in 1941 to design 1,000 homes to house [black] workers making munitions and plane parts for the war effort at Basic Magnesium plant” (Vaknin, 2021, p. 3). (Note 1) Carver Park was a functionally designed choice for Williams, as he wanted to create a space for a black community that achieved *minimalism* because of a lack of funds. And he was able to tie *everything* together, with finishing elements that mattered to people of color at that time. Hence, Carver Park became “the first segregated housing development built by [Paul Revere] Williams in the 1940s...” (Pattillo, 2022, p. 2). (Note 2) Unfortunately, black residents made some white Americans afraid and uneasy in Henderson, Nevada; and many accepted racial segregation in specific, separate communities without question. But there was also something inexplicably special about the predominantly black Carver Park, as it once formed a beloved community.

The Legend of Paul Revere Williams

The housing project, aptly named Carver Park, allowed Paul R. Williams to showcase his architectural talents, which cannot be overstated or overlooked or omitted in the annals of architecture. Unfortunately, Williams' involvement was not initially publicized by the city of Henderson. Of course, building Carver Park wasn't a "luck of the draw," because it was sorely needed. And Williams radiated authenticity, despite what some people thought about him. But Williams, as a black man, didn't opt for anonymity, because he needed the architectural business. To be sure, black Americans who worked at Basic Magnesium during this time became the most fortunate of residents — that is, at the miraculous Carver Park, where Paul Revere put his remarkable stamp on this black, residential area or development, even with the underlying challenges of racial segregation. Unfortunately, the policy of racial segregation was practiced in the State of Nevada, where *racial inequality* and restricted rights for black workers were institutionalized by "redlining," or the embrace of the "separate but equal doctrine" (Dubinsky, 2001, pp. 651-652). (Note 3) Indeed, racial discrimination by some white Americans (in Clark County) was the business and order of the day when it came to separate, segregated housing; and the city of Henderson, Nevada, was no exception.

To say the least, some white Americans at this time truly believed that blacks and whites had to be divided or segregated, because "black men were genetically predisposed to rape, and that their preferred victims were white women" (Dubinsky, 2001, pp. 651-652). What nonsense. This bias, racist, and propagandist belief defies logic and the truth. Therefore, we must reject this racist notion in the strongest terms possible. In this regard, the initially segregated Carver Park was a serious place upon which nearly every black person, who rented a home or a room in a dormitory at Carver Park, benefited, because of Paul R. Williams' genius and his creation of a beautiful, black community. The development was like a beacon of light for black folks across the United States, who sought employment at BMI, where they could make their contribution to World War II or the war effort. Moreover, the black people who moved or migrated, mostly from the Deep South to southern Nevada, were from Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. In other words, these migrating black Americans, who were in search of more working opportunities, believed that there was an abundance of factory jobs in Nevada; and they would be able to change their lives seemingly overnight. That is, if they could conceivably find a job at Basic Magnesium or elsewhere in the western part of the United States. Indeed, the *sojourners* of black Americans continually chased opportunities in search of a better life.

Although Williams designed Carver Park housing development to help the black employees of BMI, who had a place to call their own, it "was not just for black residents," because "a few white families eventually moved into the area, but for the most part, white families lived in the [predominantly white] Victory Village" (Lyle, 2012, p. 2), where black families were not allowed to rent, settle, or live because of "redlining." White residents at Carver Park, of course, moved out of the predominantly black area as soon as possible, to white neighborhoods that were uninhabited by migrating black people. As authors of *City and Regional Planning*, William W. Goldsmith and Edward J. Blakely (1992) write:

As anyone who has ever bought a house or rented an apartment knows, the neighborhood matters. People with a lot of choice, those with resource and good incomes, move in — that is, they pick areas (usually suburban areas) with amenities, accessible to their needs, and often in the expectation of making money.... Those with less choice, but some, with jobs and incomes that are low but rising, may move *out* — that is, they may escape declining neighborhoods, those with poor services or unsafe streets. The poor usually have little choice at all about where they live. (p. 116)

To be accurate, the city of Henderson, Nevada, which was founded in 1942, reluctantly did the right thing by providing housing at Carver Park for black employees at the Basic Magnesium plant, which became a critical industry for the World War II endeavor ("Henderson," 1975, p. 1222). (Note 4) Carver Park was, therefore, built near the Basic Magnesium plant, which made renting rooms and homes to black workers more cost effective and efficient. But it should be pointed out here that Paul R. Williams wanted this special homesite or development to be more or less a temporary housing area for black workers at BMI. That is, as long as the (BMI) plant existed to process *manganese ore* — to make bullets, planes, and guns. Williams also wanted housing units to be readily available. Accordingly, Carver Park "had 64 units for single workers, 104 one-bedroom units, 104 two-bedroom and 52 three-bedroom apartments." Additionally, "the development also included a school and recreation hall" (Lyle, 2012, p. 2), where *extracurricular* and social activities for blacks in the community could take place.

There were also small, black-owned neighborhood businesses that served residents at Carver Park; but such business efforts didn't last very long, as we later discuss.

Fortunately, these temporary dwellings were built at Carver Park because of the acute housing problems for black workers in Henderson, Nevada, and elsewhere in the Clark County valley. Hence, living accommodations had to be made available quickly, because the housing was inadequate and many blacks had no place else to go at that time. Unfortunately, white residents and city officials in Henderson and other white citizens instituted racist zoning laws and restrictive covenants, which were historically unwelcoming to black Americans because of racial discrimination. Moreover, many white Americans *never* accepted the idea of racial integration, which guaranteed that blacks had to keep to themselves, which was akin to the *apartheid era* in South Africa — or the establishment of *Bantustans*, or predominantly black homelands. And some white people living in Henderson, Nevada, were perfectly fine with a racially segregated system, all things considering.

To be certain, it should be understood that, “racial segregation at the time [provided] a means of maintaining the economic advantages and higher social status of the politically dominant [white American] group” (“segregation,” 2000, p. 1543). However, there are those today that don't want American citizens to believe in this uncomfortable truth about racial segregation in the housing industries throughout the United States. Henderson, like most southern cities, segregated “neighborhoods along racial lines, ensuring white residents lived in larger houses in neighborhoods with less pollution, less poverty, more services and more amenities” (Tisby, 2022, p. 7A). Despite words to the contrary, “redlining,” or housing segregation, and socially sanctioned racial discrimination continue to exist in the United States to this day. Furthermore, the predominantly white *Victory Village* area was *off-limits* to black people, in general, because of “redlining,” which prevented them from moving into white neighborhoods in the growing city of Henderson, Nevada. Again, *redlining*, of course, is the discriminatory practice in which black residents or black people were/are kept in containment areas, so to speak; and away from white Americans and their specific neighborhoods. According to associate professor of Urban and World History at the University of Buffalo, Carl H. Nightingale (2012): “[Federal] agencies did little in the postwar period to widen housing options for blacks, including black soldiers and black people who could easily afford suburban homes. Instead, those agencies helped ensure that the ongoing migration from the South would continue to feed an inner-city black housing shortage” (p. 355). Also, black Americans had to live in restricted areas by state law. In fact, the nation — then as now — was torn by division and polarization, which has been an inhumane crisis in itself. Furthermore, “Antidiscrimination policies for employment of [black] workers in defense industries, mandated by President Roosevelt in *Executive Order 8802*, did not extend to housing, which was fully segregated for [all] workers of Basic Magnesium, Inc” (“Vintage Las Vegas,” 2023, p. 2). Black Americans, however, during the 1940s were essentially suffering (along racial lines), because many were unable to enjoy their hard-earned freedom, as they were subject to stringent housing restrictions and racial discrimination, even in the city of Henderson, Nevada.

Therefore, we can say that the Carver Park development was a necessary housing endeavor, because of the arrival of a large swath of black factory workers, particularly seeking jobs at BMI, which made up the black renters' neighborhood during World War II. Unfortunately, in this regard, the affluent white neighborhoods in Henderson, Nevada, and the nearby city of Las Vegas were sights to behold; but black families were not permitted to live in these locations at this time. Or black Americans were restricted from residing in white areas, because of racial segregation or “redlining” in the entire State of Nevada. As mentioned, Carver Park was built to help the increasing number of black, working employees, who were segregated from white employees working at the (BMI) plant, as well as their family members. Unfortunately, this situation was put in place because of institutionalized “redlining,” and the bureaucratic hurdles of the city (government) of Henderson. To be clear, the federal government at that time supported “nation-wide racial covenants and ‘redlining’ — or devaluing — racially mixed communities” (Lawrence, 2022, p. 6A). (Note 5) Hence, an “unholy segregationist alliance” locked black people out of white neighborhoods, like *Victory Village* in Henderson, upon pain of being harassed or arrested by law enforcement officials. Sadly,

The legacy of racial zoning, segregation, legalized redlining have ultimately led to the isolation, separation and sequestration of racial minorities into communities (with) diminished tax bases, which has had [negative] consequences for the build environment, including [black] infrastructure[s]. (Freeman, 2023, p. 7C)

No doubt, the white city fathers of Henderson, Nevada, and other local (Clark County) authorities were also concerned with the further expansion of the black population, as they believed that economic, political, and social problems would persist or increase to an unmanageable extent — that is, if more black people moved into the intrepid city of Henderson. Indeed, there were still serious housing deficiencies for black workers at BMI during this time, particularly because of a lack (or shortage) of family homes, especially for purchasing. Indeed, home ownership in black areas was almost nonexistent during World War II because of the inability of blacks to qualify for bank loans. Such specific problems were aggravated at this time by the Carver Park development, which was prevented from growing in place, or expanding. Was this because of some kind of racial *animus* on the part of the white residents in Henderson? Perhaps. Or was it because of the exact location of Carver Park, which is actually located “east of Boulder Highway near Lake Mead Dr. at what is now [called] Grand Cadence Dr. in Henderson” (“Vintage Las Vegas,” 2023, p. 2)? Or did the city planners during this period of time understand or care about the needs of black people in the city of Henderson? Probably not. Finally, was prioritizing city funding even considered to help the increasing black population? Whatever the case might have been for the location of the Carver Park housing area for blacks (at that time) became a model for other black communities in the area, like the predominantly black Westside in Las Vegas.

In this respect, city officials in Henderson, Nevada, recognized that *something* had to be done for its black inhabitants as soon as possible; and even if some white Nevadans were needlessly afraid of black people. It might also be argued that Carver Park was one of the earliest, full-fledged housing development for a growing black population, as mentioned. This is to say that Carver Park became a treasured hallmark of the black community in the city of Henderson, which “was forged in support of World War II” (“Henderson continues,” 2023, p. 1). as already discussed. Moreover, was the Carver Park location a sort of *utopia* — that is, before the mostly segregated, black neighborhood essentially ended? Also, it should be noted that the newly arriving black Americans from the Deep South were seriously looking for work in the Henderson and Las Vegas areas. But housing for black workers at BMI became the primary concern for white leaders of Henderson. Fortunately, the city later required better constructed housing for *all* old and new employees at BMI. Nonetheless, these were times of change and scarcity when it came to the black community. Unfortunately, Carver Park wasn’t built to last. It should also be noted that, “while the homes were intended to serve as temporary housing, [a few] are still standing [today] as part of the area’s World War II history that includes thousands of ‘Basic Townsite’ homes” (Vaknin, 2021, p. 3). Nonetheless, the Carver Park buildings were not exceptionally well-built; and went against the prevailing style of housing of the day, which had more basic amenities, like central heating and air-conditioning. Which is to say that the cinder-block, rental homes were really sub-standard. However, the Carver Park buildings were structurally sound, because of the genius of Paul R. Williams, who consciously designed the ennobling homes that mostly made up the development. As evident by old photographs of Carver Park, we can see Paul R. Williams’ technical considerations and architectural brilliance and prowess in laying out the area for the human comfort of black workers at BMI and their families. In this respect, Williams kept practical and functional things in mind too, which was like having aspects of higher, black American culture, and stretched the boundaries of what could be achieved with *bricks* and *mortar*. And because of the unique designs of Paul R. Williams, Carver Park became a symbol of the enduring resilience of black people. To wit, this predominantly black residential area was also a major step for black Nevadans and workers who resided in the Clark County area, as many took advantage of becoming renters. In this regard, it was reported that on October 13, 1943, “The first black family to move into Carver Park was the Williams family (of no relation to Paul), which included Robert, his wife Rosie Lee, and their children Yvonne, Clarice, Roscoe, Theodore, and Cleopatra” (Lyle, 2012, p. 2). To be certain, the ability to rent a home was a monumental achievement for many black families that moved to Carver Park.

Additionally, the Carver Park development was also about the racial, social, and political context of the day, as segregation between ethnic groups — or blacks and whites — was in full swing — and dangerous. To say the least, black workers at BMI had to have a safe place to reside where they could withstand the possible racist forces to come. In other words, black people had to be leery about where they could hang their hats, to use the *metaphor*. And because of the racial discrimination and segregation of the day, Carver Park would even have to house or accommodate “black airmen,” and their families “from Nellis Air Force Base” (Lyle, 2012, p. 2), (Note 6) formerly of the *Army Aircorps*. Of course, housing black military men was a new or different focus; but it reinforced the racial segregation between black and white residents of Henderson, which was a serious problem, because of the issue of “redlining,” and segregation of the armed forces at that time.

In unprecedented ways, the black people of Henderson at this particular time were mostly unseen and often unprotected by the city government unless some major crime had occurred. And as time went on, Carver Park became a beacon for black people moving into the fledgling city of Henderson, Nevada, particularly when many had to move to the historic “Westside” in Las Vegas, where they lived in dilapidate homes and residents, without paved roads or even an adequate sewer system. Unfortunately, there was a shortage of housing for blacks at this location, too, especially in the 1940s. Therefore, Paul R. Williams, again, “was asked to help create a solution to Nevada’s housing shortage” for black (U.S.) migrants (Vaknin, 2021, p. 3). In addition, according to professor of history at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Michael Green (2023), the great Paul R. Williams later designed houses “that were built after World War II for black residents and retiring black veterans in the first subdivision of its kind in the greater Las Vegas area during the so-called housing boom called Berkley Square.”

Professor Green goes on to write that the houses built in this segregated black neighborhood “included 148 ranch-style homes built in 1954 and 1955.” Finally, some of the famous, local black civil rights leaders lived in Berkley Square at one time or other, including the late Dr. Charles West and Dr. James McMillan, who were the first doctor and dentist, respectively, in Las Vegas (p. 3). Although Carver Park wasn’t in competition with Berkley Square, the place deserves more reverence than it perhaps gets. Indeed, the Carver Park development is hardly mentioned in the complete history of Clark County, as it is an *underdog* story; and with the “Westside” neighborhood thrown in, it was a (building) battle between the *Haves* and *Have Nots* — or a story of racial segregation, in terms of housing in the United States. In either cases, we should keep Carver Park in mind when discussing why and when black people moved to the city of Henderson, Nevada. Furthermore, as Uri Vaknin (2021) tells us:

In 2009, Berkley Square was added [appropriately] to the U.S. National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places as an example of a [black] neighborhood of mid-century houses designed by [the] important architect [Paul Revere Williams and] built [specifically] for African Americans. (p. 3) (Note 7)

As of this writing, Carver Park hasn’t been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Why? To be sure, we can say that Carver Park was one of the first master plan neighborhoods for black residents in Nevada, or Clark County. In this regard, Paul R. Williams made sure that he built homes for black people/families “during a time when racism was fierce” (Pattillo, 2022, p. 2). Therefore, we should know something about Carver Park and the planning that went in providing and increasing housing for black workers at Basic Magnesium, Inc. We must also ask: Was the city of Henderson providing black people incentives to move to Carver Park? Probably not. But Paul R. Williams received accolades for his accomplishment, as he knew almost *everything* about the art and science of building large structures and housing developments like Carver Park. To be clear, Paul R. Williams was “a man of the people,” a black man who always seemed to have an architectural plan or goal; but he isn’t well-known outside of Los Angeles, California, Las Vegas, and the city of Henderson, Nevada. Furthermore, Paul Revere Williams still remains relatively unknown in the United States, too. However, Williams’ “work is enjoying a significant renaissance nationwide — that is, particularly with his ground-breaking [designs] that promoted African American home ownership in the [Clark County] valley (Vaknin, 2021, p. 3). No doubt, Paul R. Williams studied the work of great architects of the past when he attended the University of Southern California, where he earned his BA degree. Later, Paul R. Williams “became the first black member of the American Institute of Architects” (Green, 2023, p. 3). (Note 8) Williams also believed in aesthetic solutions and engineering completeness, particularly when it came to designing Carver Park, as the indelible style of the place was not *arbitrary*. And who better could have come up with the techniques and plans to construct Carver Park, which was essentially a black village — that is, for a time?

Conclusion

Although the city of Henderson, Nevada, at this time, placed more emphasis on housing affordability and (temporary) sustainability, including its core principles and priorities of providing enough housing *everywhere* it was needed. Nevertheless, the city fathers of Henderson focused on a segregated, residential area for a proportion of black residents working at BMI and nowhere else. Hence, Carver Park wasn’t necessarily a priority for some white, political leaders. This is to say that city officials also mulled over increasing the white population of Henderson more than anything else. In this respect, Carver Park was an exception, or perhaps an afterthought; but it was still a defining moment in the battle for adequate housing for black residents. Unfortunately, *redlining* was symbolic of racial conflict between the black and white communities.

So, was Carver Park a sinister endeavor to racially segregate the two neighborhoods? At least from Paul R. Williams' standpoint, "Race just wasn't a thing" (Lyle, 2012, p. 2). Or race wasn't a major factor when the city of Henderson selected him as the architect who could get things done. Furthermore, Paul R. Williams had the emotional strength and fortitude to get through the unpredictable, architectural world during his era. To say the least, Williams was keenly aware of the racism of his day. For example, Paul R. Williams was often able "to offset race prejudice" by showing his magnificent, architectural plans "upside down," or across a respective table for white clients.

Williams thought that whites wouldn't be comfortable sitting next to him, a black man (Lyle, 2012, p. 2). (Note 9) Respectfully, Paul R. Williams also maintained a calm demeanor under pressure. However, in the early days/years of his architectural career, Williams had to convince white clients that he was worthy and had what it takes, and that he was (ultimately) the right man for complicated jobs, even with his sterling architectural background. Indeed, Williams "designed first-class buildings while being treated as a second-class citizen" (Pattillo, 2022, p. 2). (Note 10) Again, was this because Williams was a black man? Perhaps.

After BMI closed down after World War II, the industrial plant supported hundreds of jobs for black workers. But later, Carver Park would experience a negative economic jolt to the neighborhood. This is to say that although there was a widening desperation for jobs for blacks in Henderson, Nevada, particularly with the residential color line, BMI would ultimately shut down. Only some essential white employees would remain on site at designated jobs at BMI before the closure of the place in November 1944, "when the War Production board issued a curtailment order, which cut the production by 40%" ("Basic Magnesium, Inc.," 2023, p. 2); (Note 11) which was much to the *chagrin* of many black workers, who were simply laid off. Moreover, the demand for "magnesium" for making bombs and other "weapons of war" essentially *dissipated* along with the expected livelihood that black employees had counted on. Furthermore, the many factory jobs and important work at BMI would never return. Consequently, the city of Las Vegas would become the engine of the local economy, which proved essential for the various black communities in the Clark County valley. Therefore, the hospitality and casino industries, as well as the various service jobs would become even more important and competitive for black workers living in Carver Park, which had become "the evolution of a black community." In fact, the disappearance of the revenue stream for black residents from BMI became a serious problem — almost overnight — for black families that had to feed and take care of their children, as well as pay their rent on time. Unfortunately, some black residents of Carver Park didn't really know what was going on. More importantly, many didn't know that their concerns could be effectively addressed with politicians at the city of Henderson, Nevada. Therefore, "revenue from [local] hotels, gambling [establishments], entertainment, and other tourist-oriented industries" ("Las Vegas," 1975, p. 1535), (Note 12) would become the backbone of Las Vegas and the city of Henderson — and the life-blood for blacks still living at Carver Park.

It is not an overstatement to say that the black residents of Carver Park were caught off guard and suffered mightily as a result of the shutting down of BMI; and the area and development became unstable for black families, as they began to leave the place in droves, seeking better opportunities elsewhere. In the final analysis, Paul R. Williams had envisioned Carver Park as a black community *oasis*, with more than the minimum of standards, particularly for its construction, because he also firmly believed in the building of good homes for black residents or African Americans and their families. To say the least, the great Paul R. Williams played a pivotal role in the construction of Carver Park and other places and homes, like the predominantly black, Berkley Square in Las Vegas and other new homes for "the newly arrived black workers," who "already had settled into mostly substandard housing in the area now known as the Historic Westside" (Erickson, 2019, p. 1). Paul R. Williams was also an architectural genius who was fearless in the face of many obstacles and challenges he faced, as a black man, who inspired "creativity with unconventional yet lasting ideas that have now become iconic landmarks of the valley's interesting and diverse architectural landscape" (Vaknin, 2021, p. 3), like with the *Garden Angel Cathedral* that still stands today and the *La Conche Motel* (Pattillo, 2022, p. 2). Unfortunately, Carver Park's growth and development never happened; but it was not the fault of Paul R. Williams. So, did *race* play a part in the demise of Carver Park? Perhaps. But Denell Hahn of the Henderson Historical Society tells us that Carver Park closed down mostly because of the redevelopment of the place by city officials of Henderson (Hahn, 2023). But we must still reckon with the past and discuss the racism and "redlining" that occurred in Henderson, Nevada, despite words to the contrary. According to professor of history at Simmons College of Kentucky, Jemar Tisby, "Systemic racism does not require the intentions of an individual to occur." Meaning, if a person never experienced racism or "redlining" doesn't mean it (has) never occurred.

Tisby goes on to write: “If the system simply operates as it was set up long ago, then these patterns of inequality will persist” (Tisby, 2022, p. 7A). Nonetheless, the segregated Carver Park development at one time stood out above many of Paul R. Williams’ architectural marvels, as he designed the place with a sensitive touch for black Americans at the now defunct place. Unfortunately, aspects of Paul R. Williams’ extraordinary life as an architect are generally missed by the larger public. So, what exactly can we say about this brilliant black man who was the *master-mind* behind a once thriving Carver Park, which was second to none? Finally, Paul R. Williams’ reliability and complex skills as an architect should be recognized, while providing the world with a greater acceptance of his great works, like with the development of Carver Park. Significantly, it should also be remembered that “Despite his talent,” Williams lived and worked “in an era where the color of your skin mattered” (Pattillo, 2022, p. 2). (Note 13) But Williams always (during his life) focused on the architectural details with nerves of steel, perhaps, and *verve*, as he believed that fortune favored the bold. In this respect, the *enigmatic* Paul R. Williams’s legacy should live on forever.

Notes

Note 1. To be sure, “With raw materials available, the United States Army ordered BMI to build the magnesium manufacturing complex a minimum of 250 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. BMI selected an area of 18,400 acres southeast of Las Vegas, Nevada, on unincorporated land.” See “Basic Magnesium, Inc. UNLV special collections and archives portal,” <https://special.library.unlv.edu/taxonomy/term/1882>, p. 1 (retrieved 10/16/2023), pp. 1-9.

Note 2. Carver Park was named after the great, black inventor and scientist, George Washington Carver, who was an icon in the academic and science worlds.

Note 3. In this respect, this [racist] housing policy was based on land ownership and residence requirement, which “was underpinned by “white rule,” and the restriction of movement within the black community,” which was certainly *undemocratic*. See the same reference and page number.

Note 4. It should be pointed out that the city of Henderson “was first incorporated in 1953,” when the city “had a population of just 7,400. Today, almost 336,000 residents” have chosen Henderson as their home. It should also be remembered that Henderson “was formed on just 13 square miles,” which has expanded to more than 118 miles. See “Henderson continues to grow into its role as a ‘City of Destiny,’” *Las Vegas Sun*, December 26, 2023, 1.

Note 5. It should be understood that, “Black people had to make do with a ghetto-based market where housing options were limited to older buildings, where bright red lines separated them from mortgages and from especially needed rehabilitation and maintenance loans, and where interest rates on the loans that were available were much higher.” See Nightingale, *Segregation*, 355.

Note 6. “Redlining,” of course, was/is an unlawful rule of housing segregation, instituted by prejudiced white Americans. Therefore, BMI was at the forefront of protecting black plant workers and later black airmen. But it wasn’t until 1948 that President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 that established procedures for desegregating the “military.” See *The Oxford Companion to United States History*, 1st ed., s.v. “Truman, Harry S.” Also, we must keep in mind that, “African American soldiers fought [and served] in segregated armed forces units. After [World War II], most African American veterans resisted efforts to force them back into lifestyles shaped by traditional prejudice and discrimination.” See Lanny B. Fields, Russell J. Barber, and Cheryl A. Riggs, “Pressing against social barriers: The United States,” in *The Global Past: Comprehensive Volume* (Boston, MA: Bedford Books, 1998), 996.

Note 7. In this regard, Carver Park has been almost ignored; and with proximity to several white communities in the city of Henderson, the place now seems isolated and unwelcoming.

Note 8. Paul R. Williams also studied at the *Los Angeles School of Art and Design*, which was the Los Angeles branch of the *New York Beaux Arts Institute of Design Atelier*. In 1957, Williams was also inducted as the AIA’s (American Institute of Architects’) first black fellow, which has an achievement in itself.

Note 9. Avoiding racial controversies, for Paul R. Williams, was the best way to get along with white Americans and others. Perhaps the most meaningful part of Williams’ architectural career was being able to have a positive impact on building in the western part of the United States. For that, Williams was grateful.

Note 10. Another challenge for Paul Revere Williams was for white clients to take him seriously. But as a professional, he was always gracious and kind. Fortunately, as Williams moved forward in his career, many professional doorways opened up to him.

Note 11. It should also be noted that, “In 1947, the War Asset Administration offered the BMI site for sale as war surplus property and the Nevada State Legislature approved a bill granting the Colorado River Commission authority to purchase the complex.” See the same reference and page number.

Note 12. It also should be pointed out that financial things seemed especially bleak for the black residents of Carver Park, who began to seek aid, like welfare checks, food stamps, and even a form of unemployment insurance during this time period.

Note 13. According to author Uri Vaknin, Williams’ “work is enjoying a significant renaissance nationwide” — that is, particularly with his “groundbreaking work [and designs] that promoted African American homeownership in the [Clark County] valley.” See Vaknin, “Black history,” 3.

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EARNEST N. BRACEY is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, with over twenty years of active military service. He was commissioned through Reserve Officer Training (*Distinguished Military Graduate*) at Jackson State University, where he graduated with honors (*Magna Cum Laude*), and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1974. In addition, he received the Masters of Public Administration in 1979 from Golden Gate University, his Masters of Arts degree in International Affairs in 1983 from the Catholic University of America, his Masters of Business Administration in 2009 from California Coast University, and his doctorate of Public Administration (with emphasis in Public Policy) in 1993 from George Mason University. Dr. Bracey also earned his Ph.D. in Education from Capella University in 1999.

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