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McNally Junction

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McNALLY JUNCTION

Here, the visitors center (First and A Streets) traces this town's unique history. To protect the information copyrighted on their maps, mapmakers often label imaginary places in their renderings. Thus, a quick review of a competitor's charts will reveal whether the whole design has been copied wholesale when the bogus town appears there as if real. Located on the site where a "McNally Junction" was supposed to be, McNally Junction was hastily settled by a colony of cartographers after their company was sued by a rival firm which planted the trap. Nearby, (Second and B Streets) a plaque commemorates the judge's on-site inspection to ascertain the veracity of the claims. By then, the cartographers had hurriedly constructed a clutch of houses, five identical shells each newly painted one of the five colors used to tint countries. The smell of paint drying is, therefore, important to the residents who grow, in their formal map-colored gardens, flowers which produce, when dried, an odious pot-pourri mixture capturing that heady scent. A gift shop is located in The Sienna House (Third and C Streets) where one can also buy a variety of maps of this, now, most mapped spot on earth.