

Workers' Houses, Foremen's Houses

At the end of the rue Saint-Pierre, two larger houses were built next to the workers' housing estates. They looked like observation posts giving onto the rue des Usines (now the rue de la Libération) and the railway. They each contained two flats that were reserved for the families of foremen.

Many businesses opened near the factory, and prospered in parallel to its industrial activity: grocers, public houses, butchers. Cafés, places where people could come together and relax, welcomed workers just a stone's throw away from the workshops. The population of the housing estates mainly went to the old village to go to the market, buy bread or clothes, or attend mass.

Since it owned the housing estates, the factory also took care of their upkeep. After it was closed down, the workers were able to buy their homes at a modest price, and to convert them as they pleased.

Legend

Rue Sainte-Marguerite, early 20th century. A cart drove by each week to collect waste. Jacques Gauthier collection.

Legend

The small public baths building, next to the housing estates, at 50 rue de la Libération (formerly the rue des Usines), was in use until 1937. After the War, on Saturdays and Sundays, the workers' families could use the factory's baths. Photograph, H. Lemesle collection.

Legend

A café (which now no longer exists) on the rue des Usines, opposite the public baths, Jacques Gauthier collection.