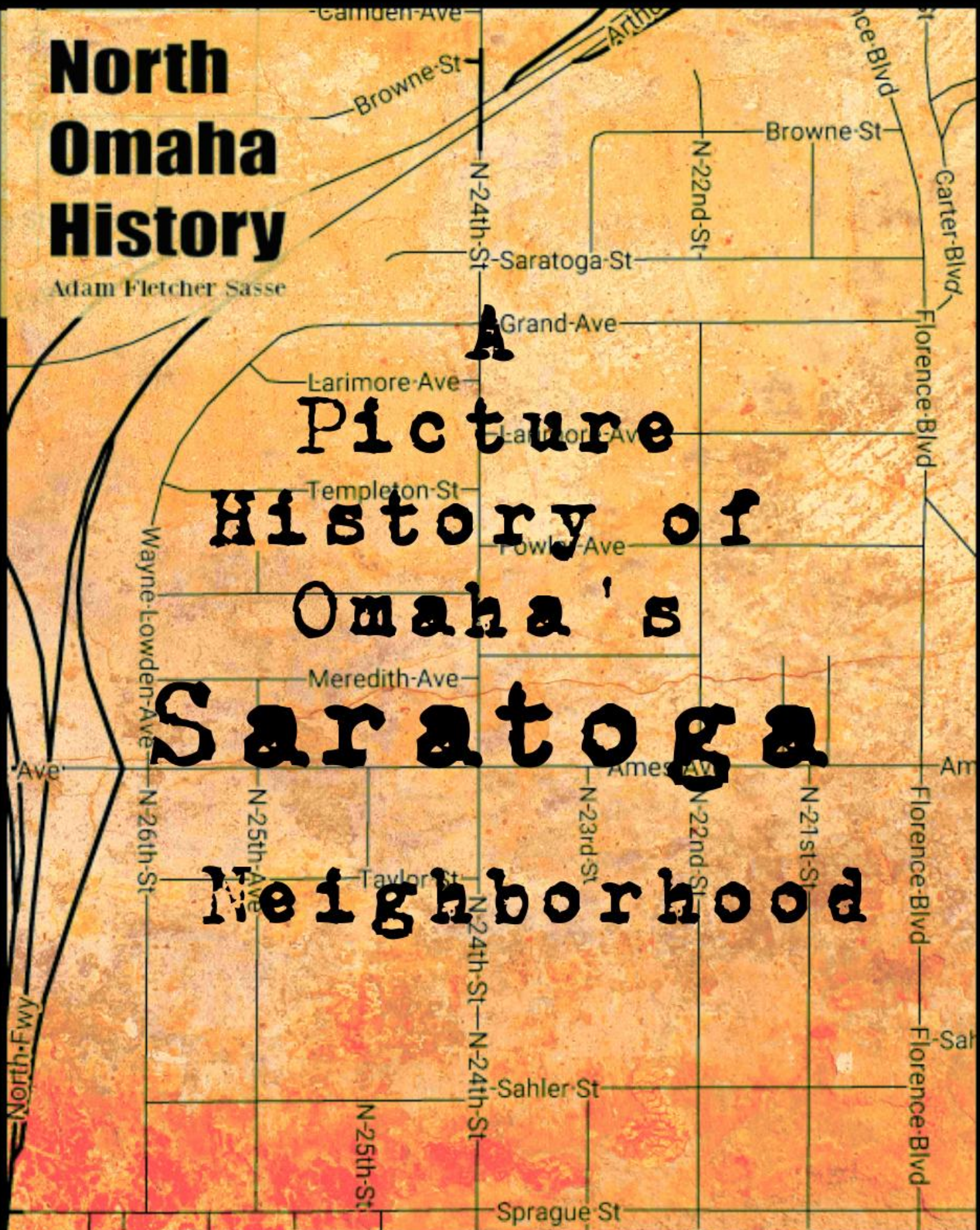


North Omaha History

Adam Fletcher Sasse



A Picture History of Omaha's Saratoga Neighborhood

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Special thanks to Michaela Armetta, Ryan Roenfeld, Steve Sleeper, Roger Brandt, members of the Omaha History Club, and all the countless people who've contributed to my North Omaha History project.

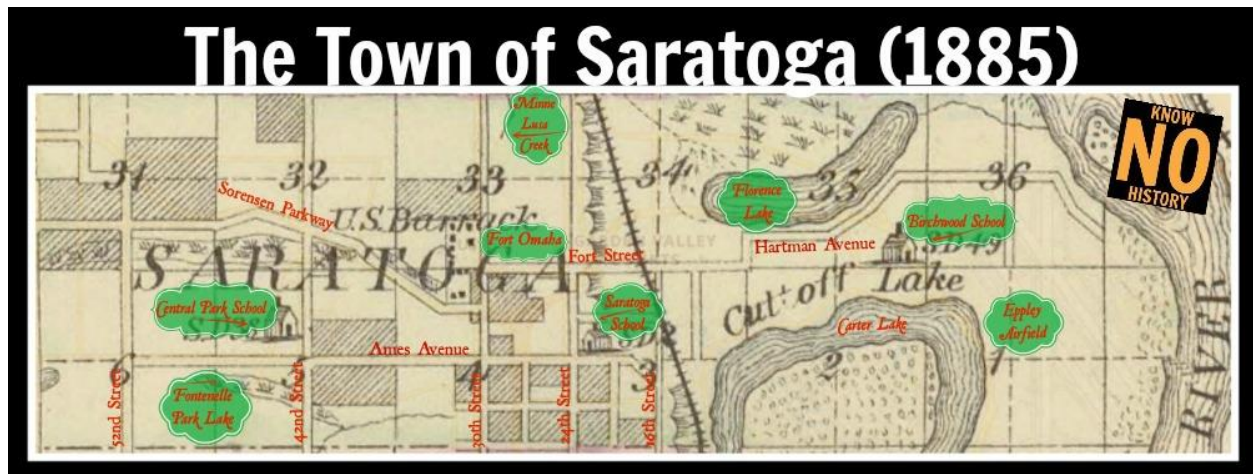
This book is dedicated to Hannah and my mom.

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Introduction



This is an 1885 map of the Town of Saratoga, which originally spanned from the Missouri River to North 52nd Street. This book focuses on the area from North 14th Street to the North Freeway, from Sprague Street to the Arthur C. Storz Expressway.

Saratoga was a town from 1857 to 1890; a suburb of Omaha from 1890 to 1910; and a neighborhood within the city starting in 1910. In 1858, it was home to the first proposal accepted by the Nebraska Territorial Legislature for a University of Nebraska, and in 1917 it became home to the Omaha University Science Hall, with the campus located just south. The Belt Line Railway started serving passengers in Saratoga in 1886 and became a freight railroad for the neighborhood's industries in the 1890s. After the massive Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition was held there in 1898, the Omaha Streetcar Railway opened a massive barn in the community in 1899. The community kept evolving, and started racially integrating in the mid-1960s. After being afflicted by rioting in the late 1960s and early 1970s, by the 1980s nearly every commercial business had left the area. The heavy industrial businesses moved out, and light industry and transportation businesses are moving in. After decades of buildings being demolished, there are signs of some buildings and homes being renovated. In 2022, the City of Omaha took steps to create the Saratoga Belt Line Historic District to encourage historic preservation of the community.

Following are many images from the history of Saratoga. Starting as a Nebraska Territory pioneer town in 1857, Saratoga became a suburb of the larger city around the 1870s, and then was consumed by the city's growth by the 1890s. Some of the places included here were major landmarks in the community; others were just average places.

There are several important historical landmarks that I do not have pictures of and I'm looking for. They include:

- Saratoga Brewery (1858-1870), 16th and Commercial Ave.
- AFRO Academy of Dramatic Arts, 4424 N. 24th St.
- Saratoga Dump (1857-1910), North 22nd and Meredith Ave.
- Paulsen Mill (1857-??), N. 24th and Grand Ave.
- Saratoga Post Office (1857-1858)
- Erastus Beadle house (1857-??), N. 16th and Sprague St.
- Beadle's Warehouse (1857-1870), Sulphur Springs
- First Saratoga School (1866-1885)
- Oak Chatham Depot (1888-??), N. 23rd and Taylor St.
- Saratoga Hotel (1896-??), northwest corner of N. 24th and Ames Ave.
- Sulphur Springs (1857-1870), N. 12th and Carter Lake Blvd.
- Patty-Young Drug Company, 4424 N. 24th St.
- Leslie System Hamburger Stand (1928-1938) 4515 N. 24th St.
- Ames Post Office (1910-1969), 4514 N. 24th St.
- Hotel Saratoga (1898-1920), 2400 Ames Ave.
- Danish American Rest Home (1961-1969), 2232 Meredith Ave.
- Saratoga House (1880s-1913), 2423 Ames Ave.
- Bickel's Meat Center (1966-1995), 4724 N. 24th St.

Some of the places listed above excite me more than others. I'm truly yearning to see photos of any pioneer-era buildings in Saratoga from between 1857 and 1890, especially the Oak Chatham Depot and the Saratoga House. That was a four-story boarding house built in the 1880s by 24th and Ames for streetcar workers, and burned down in 1913.

If you have any images of these places or other Saratoga places, please email them to info@northomahahistory.com. If you have other knowledge about the history of Saratoga, please let me know about that too. Thanks, and happy reading!

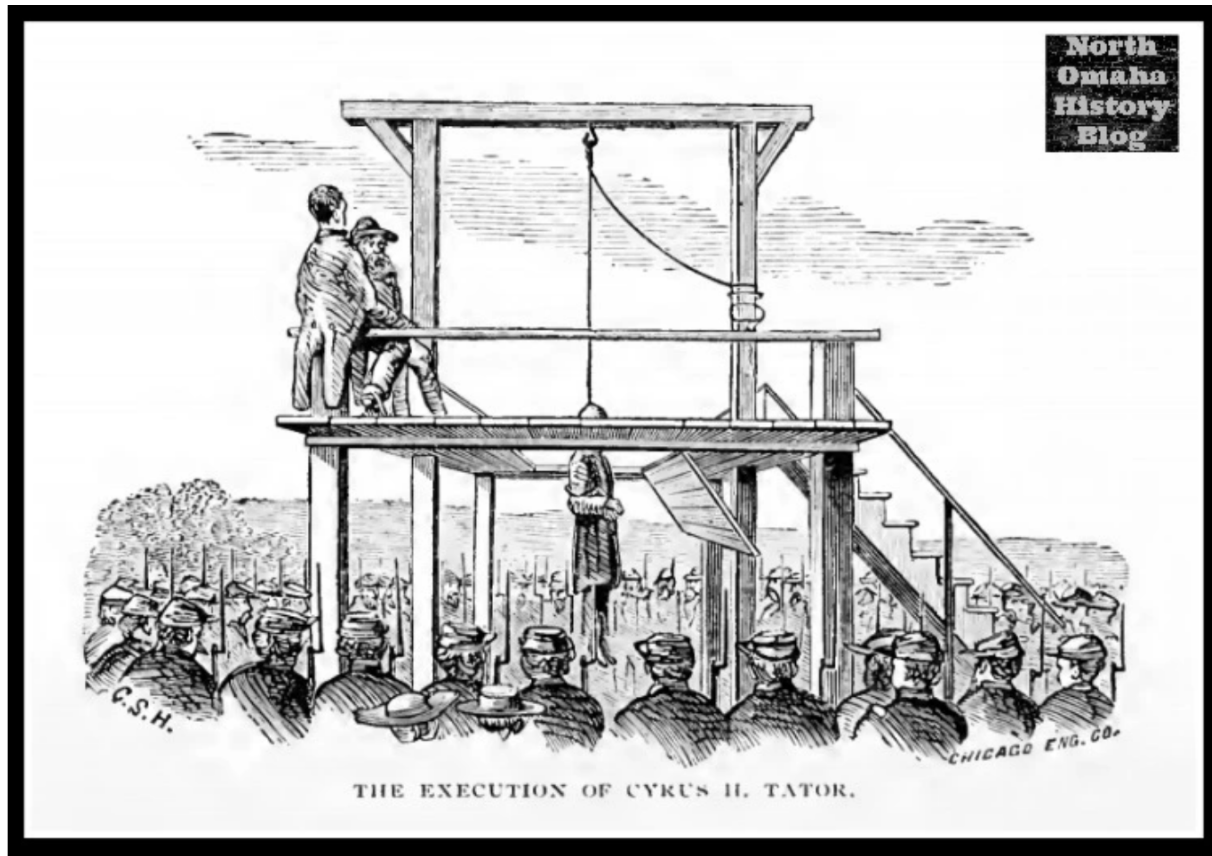
-Adam Fletcher Sasse
NorthOmahaHistory.com

Saratoga Springs Hotel



North 24th and Grand Avenue—Located on the northeast corner, this was one of the most substantial buildings in the pioneer town of Saratoga. Originally home to the Saratoga Springs Hotel from 1857 to 1862, it was the first home of the Brownell Hall from 1863 to 1866, and served as the Grand Hotel from 1866 to 1890. It was a regular coach stop on the road from Omaha to Florence, the location of several important social affairs including balls and festivals, and more. Image from the author’s collection. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2020/05/14/a-history-of-the-saratoga-springs-hotel-in-north-omaha/>

Cyrus Tator Gallows



North 14th and Pinkney Street—The execution of Cyrus Tator happened in North Omaha in 1863. This illustration was made by the Chicago Engraving Company for Alfred Sorenson's 1876 book, "An Early History of Omaha." Image from the author's collection. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2015/10/28/a-history-of-north-omahas-execution/>

Second Saratoga School



Northwest Corner of North 24th and Ames Avenue—Located on the northeast corner of 24th and Ames, the Saratoga School had 5 teachers in 5 classrooms serving more than 40 students from kindergarten through eighth grade. It stood until 1891. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2019/07/14/a-history-of-saratoga-school/>

J.A. Gross Grocery



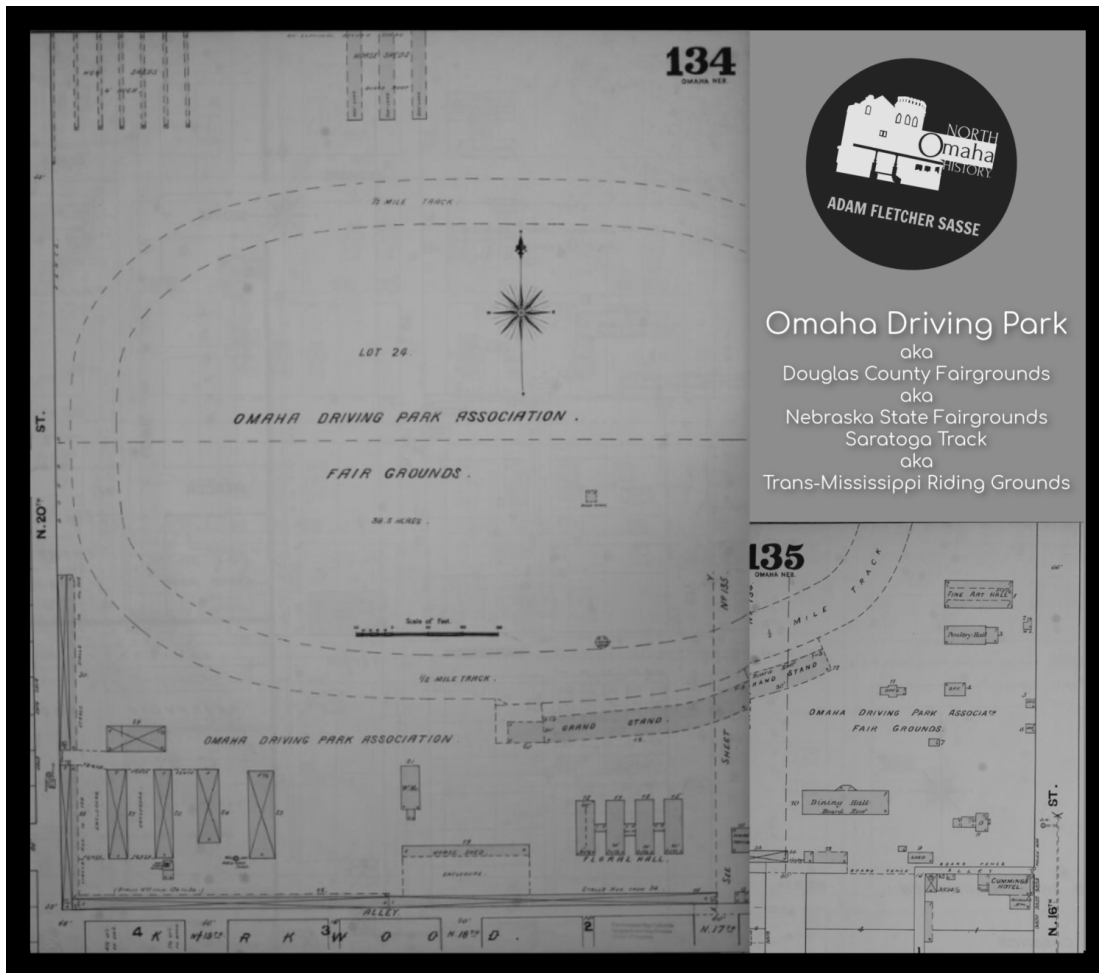
2404 Ames Avenue—The Gross Grocery was on the northwest corner of North 24th and Ames Avenue from 1929 through 1941.

Omaha Driving Park



North 24th and Ames Avenue—This was the Omaha Driving Park, located between Laird Street and Ames Avenue, from North 24th to North 16th Streets. It was the driving park from 1858–1877, Douglas County Fairgrounds from the 1860s through the 1890s, Nebraska State Fairgrounds in the 1880s, Saratoga Race Track in the 1890s, and the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition Riding Grounds in 1898. It was called the Sprague Street Driving Park or the Saratoga Race Track until 1915, when it was closed. It was redeveloped for housing and completely gone by 1924. Image from the author’s collection. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2012/01/15/a-history-of-the-omaha-driving-park-and-fairground/>

Omaha Driving Park (continued)



This image shows the breadth of the Omaha Driving Park, which included barns, grandstands, entertainment buildings, and more. Image from the author's collection. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2012/01/15/a-history-of-the-omaha-driving-park-and-fairgrounds/>

Saratoga Stables



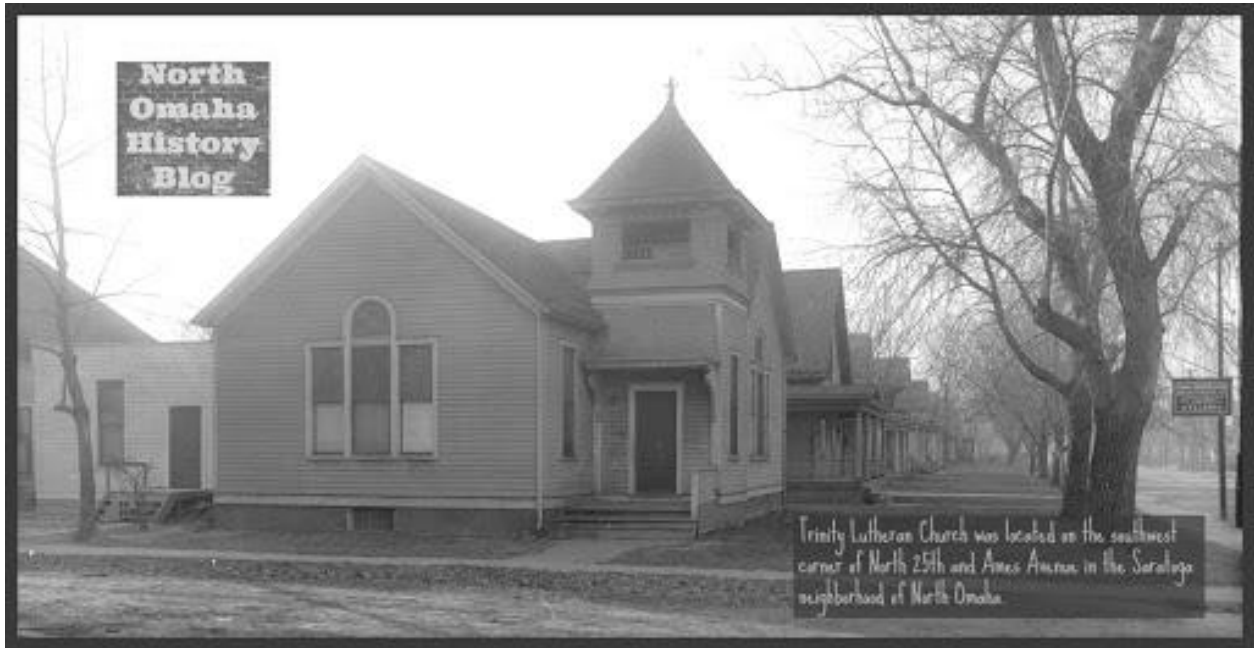
2501 Taylor Street—The building on the right is on the location of a business that was advertised in 1871 as the Saratoga Stables. It still stands today, and may or may not be the original building. Image from Google Earth.

Third Saratoga School



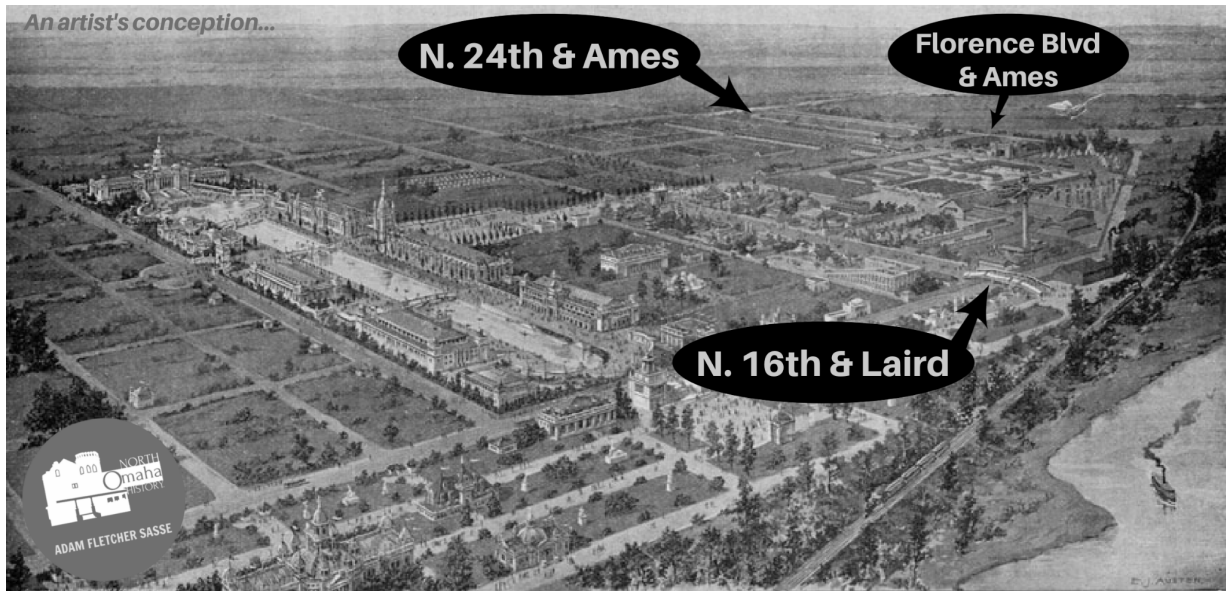
2405 North 24th Street—Shown here is the third Saratoga School building. The YMCA Athletic Park was located on this site, the northeast corner of N. 24th and Ames Avenue, from 1899 to 1915. The third Saratoga School was here from 1916 to 1923, and the University of Omaha Science Department from 1923 to 1937. The Wolfson–Gerber car dealership was here from 1941 to 1967. Image courtesy of the Durham Museum. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2019/07/14/a-history-of-saratoga-school/>

Trinity Lutheran Church



2501 Ames Avenue—Opened as the Saratoga Congregational Church in the 1870s, this building stood on the southwest corner of North 25th and Ames Avenue. It served as home to the Trinity Lutheran Church from the 1890s to 1914. In 1921, it became the second home to the North Omaha Branch of the Omaha Public Library. It was demolished in the 1930s. Image adapted by author, courtesy of the Durham Museum.

Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition



Southeast Corner of North 24th and Ames Avenue—This is an 1898 artist’s conception of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition. Several of the outlying events were held in Saratoga, including agricultural exhibitions and the race course at N. 24th and Ames Ave.

Image adapted by the author from the author’s collection. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2019/05/18/a-history-of-the-trans-mississippi-and-international-exposition/>

Imperial Sash and Door Company

OPEN FOR INSPECTION TODAY
20TH AND BOYD STREETS

3 to 5 P. M.



This property formerly owned by the Imperial Sash & Door Company, located on Boyd Street between 20th and 22nd Streets, two-story brick building, 108x264, has 264 feet of trackage between 20th and 21st Streets and in addition there are four lots between 21st and 22nd Streets adjoining with trackage of 264 feet. All of this property can be bought for \$32,000.00 and on reasonable terms. Here is a real opportunity to buy an up-to-date building in Omaha with plenty of good trackage on the belt line.

JAS. J. FITZGERALD & CO.
4824 South 24th Street

Market 0751 Market 0192

4402 Florence Boulevard—Built in 1919 for the Imperial Sash and Door Company, this large building on the Belt Line Railroad was a longtime home to several businesses. After Imperial went bankrupt in 1931, it became home to the Oliver Farm Equipment Company until 1956. The Lozier Corporation was based there from 1956 to 1967, and kept operating a plant there until 1989. The Omaha Housing Authority operated the space from 1991 until 1998, and several businesses and organizations used it afterwards. In 2021 the building was purchased to become the Ernie Chambers Museum. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2021/10/28/a-history-of-4402-florence-boulevard-in-north-omaha/>

Buffalo Bill's Wild West



Southeast Corner of North 24th and Ames Avenue—Located on the southwest corner of N. 24th and Ames Avenue, the first-ever performance of Buffalo Bill's Wild West was held in Saratoga in 1883. It was held there again during the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition of 1898. Image from the author's collection.

Rome Miller Mansion



4823 Florence Boulevard—Built for a wealthy hotel owner overlooking the Missouri River Valley in 1898, this fine home was the site for many fancy social events. It still stands today. Image from the author's collection. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2019/10/14/a-history-of-the-rome-miller-mansion/>

YMCA Athletic Park



Northeast Corner of North 24th and Ames Avenue—YMCA Athletic Park was located on the northeast corner of N. 24th and Ames Avenue from 1899 to 1915. The third Saratoga School was here from 1916 to 1923; and the University of Omaha Science Department from 1923 to 1937. The University of Omaha Football Field was here from 1926 to 1937. The corner was a car dealership from 1941 to 1967. Image from the *Omaha Bee* available through the Library of Congress.

Suburban Theatre



4414 North 24th Street—The Suburban Theatre was opened around 1900 just south of North 24th and Ames Avenue. It opened as a vaudeville and was converted to a movie theater within a decade. It closed by 1920. Opened again the next year, it closed permanently by 1926. Today there is a barbecue and liquor store in this historic building. The image shown here is circa 1912. Image from the author's collection. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2015/09/09/a-history-of-20-movie-theaters-in-north-omaha/>

Stroud Company



Florence Boulevard and Ames Avenue—In 1905, Thomas Stroud built a \$20,000 factory at the intersection of Florence Boulevard and the Belt Line tracks. By then he owned patents for grading and ditching, dirt moving and road grading machines that were reportedly sold around the world. Image from the author’s collection. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2016/09/02/the-stroud-company/>

Thomas Stroud Mansion



5100 Florence Boulevard—Built in 1909, the Thomas Stroud Mansion sat on 10 acres covered with oak trees and situated along Florence Boulevard. It was a Classical style mansion with three-story columns in front and a carriage house in the rear. Stroud's mansion made a mark for over 50 years, and was demolished to make room for the Florence Tower, which stands there today. Image from the *Omaha World-Herald* courtesy of the Omaha Public Library. Learn more at

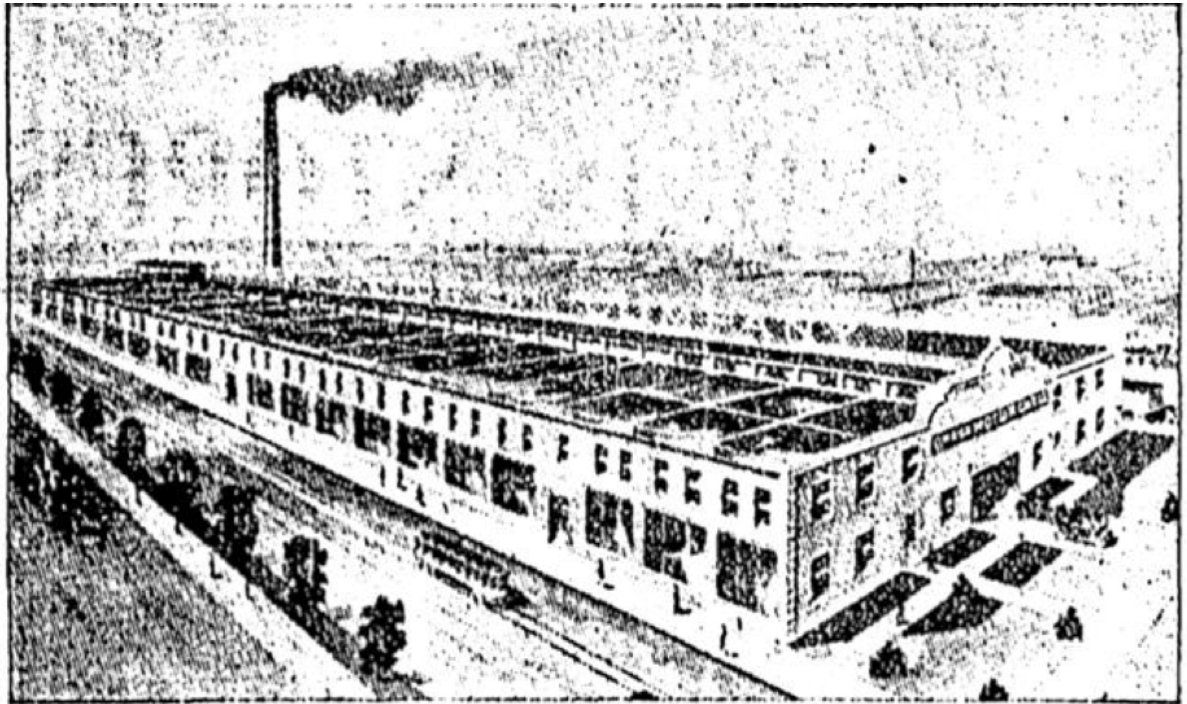
<https://northomahahistory.com/2016/09/02/north-omaha-mansions-10-stroud-mansion/>

Second Omaha Fire Department Station #15



In 1938, the Works Progress Administration built a new fire station at North 22nd and Ames, and its still standing today. Image courtesy of the Durham Museum. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2019/07/16/a-history-of-the-saratoga-fire-station/>

Omaha Motor Company



Showing proposed factory building of Omaha Motor Car company, at Ames and Boulevard.

Southeast Corner of Florence Boulevard and Ames Avenue—This is an architect's drawing of the Omaha Motor Car Company factory that was planned to be built in 1915, but never constructed. The land was eventually obtained by the J.F. Bloom and Company. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2016/09/02/the-stroud-company/>

J.F. Bloom and Company Factory



4321 Florence Boulevard—This image is circa 1940. This building was a production plant for the J.F. Bloom and Company, and stood from 1926 to 2021. They manufactured stone monuments here, next to a railroad spur from the Belt Line Railway, and had a 20-ton traveling crane made Bloom the largest manufacturer of memorials in the Omaha area. This building was demolished in 2021. Image courtesy of J.F. Bloom and Company. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2016/09/02/the-stroud-company/>

J.F. Bloom and Company Showroom and Offices



4431 Florence Boulevard—Built in 1935, the J.F. Bloom and Company moved their offices and showroom here from Cuming Street in 1941. The company moved from this location in 2018.

Image courtesy of J.F. Bloom and Company. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2016/08/19/a-short-history-of-j-f-bloom-and-company-in-north-omaha-nebraska/>

Druid Hall



2412 Ames Avenue—This is the Druid Hall, designed by Joseph Guth and built near North 25th and Ames Avenue. It originally included a bowling alley and gambling room, a large ballroom and women's room, a full kitchen, meeting rooms, and storefronts. In this 1927 pic from the *Omaha World-Herald*, notice the Peterson's Bakery in two storefronts. The Metz Tavern on the east side is now home to the 357 Club. Image courtesy of the Omaha Public Library. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2014/11/28/a-history-of-omahas-druid-hall/>

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer



4757 North 24th Street—The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer was located on the southeast corner of North 24th and Larimore Avenue from 1916 to 2006. Constructed as the first home of Pearl Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, which moved to N. 24th and Ogden, today this building is home to a Spanish-language church. Image from the author's collection.

Metropolitan Building and Loan Association



4508 North 24th Street—One of the few financial institutions located in Saratoga, the Metropolitan Building and Loan Association was opened near the intersection of North 24th and Ames in 1922. Growing until the great depression, they stayed open with 400 members through 1940. In 1966 they moved from North Omaha, and closed permanently in 2016. Image from the author's collection. Learn more at

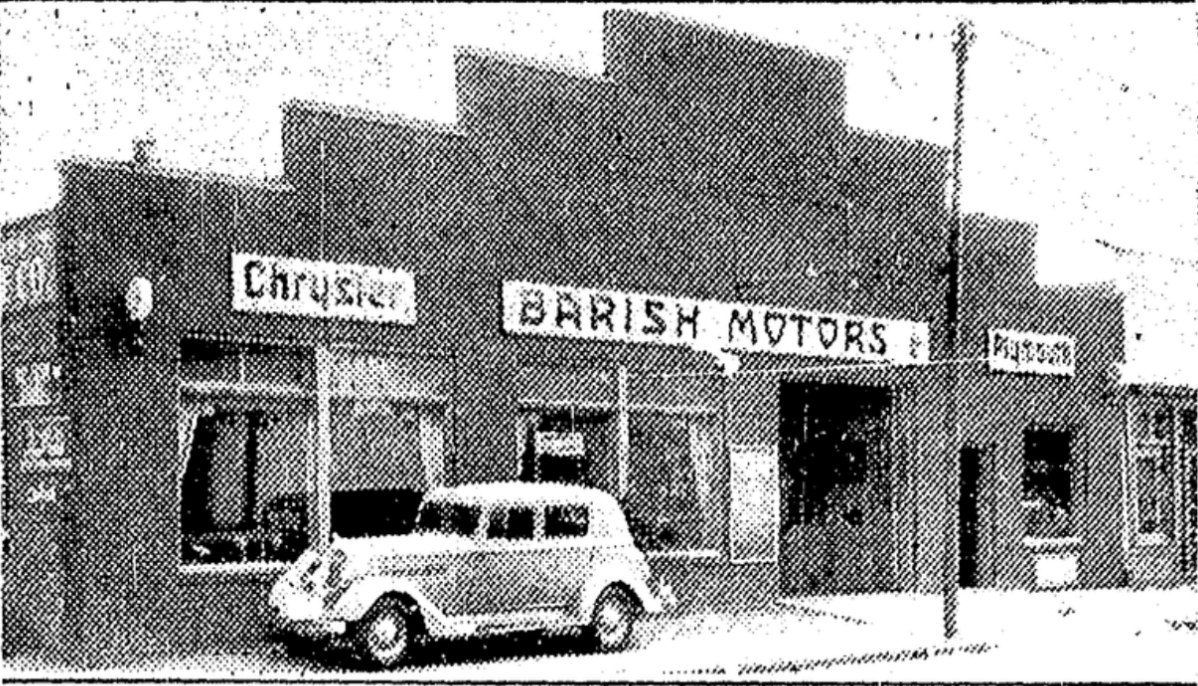
<https://northomahahistory.com/2016/12/12/metropolitan-building-and-loan-association/>

Omaha University Football Field



Northeast Corner of North 24th and Ames Avenue—In 1927, businessmen formed the North Omaha Activities Association in order to redevelop Saratoga School’s playing field into a football field for the Omaha University football team. New bleachers were built for a thousand spectators, and the Saratoga Field was home to OU’s football team until 1941. That year, it was redeveloped for an A&P Grocery Store, which became a Hinky Dinky. Shown in the upper right corner is the backside of Saratoga School, built here in 1916. It served as the Omaha University Science Hall from 1926 to 1937. Image from the author’s collection. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2015/08/02/a-history-of-north-omahas-omaha-university-campus/>

Barish Motors



Open New Branch Store

A new Chrysler - Plymouth sales and service company, opened by Reo-Barish company at 2403 Ames avenue, pictured above, was announced by Max Barish to be operated as a branch to his present store. Bennett Cohn has been named manager.

2403 Ames Avenue—Opened in 1934, the Barish Motors Company was located on the southwest corner of North 24th and Ames Avenue until 1945.

North Star Theater



2417 Ames Avenue –The North Star Theater was located west of the alleyway between N. 24th and N. 25th, and this entrance faced Ames Avenue. The building still stands as of April 2022. This building has housed many businesses, including the North Star Theater (1925–1949), the Ames Theatre (1949 –1958), the Kingsmark Theatre (1958–1960) the Crestwood Grocery Shop (1960–1962), Shavers Supermarket (1962–1966), Weeds Food Mart (1966–1970), King Solomon’s Mines (1970–1972), Run Johnny Run Youth Club (1973), the Black Odyssey Club (c1973–1976), and has been a warehouse since 1976. Image courtesy of the Durham Museum. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2019/08/31/a-history-of-the-ames-theater-in-north-omaha/>

Fourth Saratoga School



2504 Meredith Avenue—In 1926, Omaha Public Schools opened the fourth Saratoga School at 2504 Meredith Avenue, near 24th and Ames. It was made of only the building shown here. The school was converted from an elementary school to other uses in 2018; the building stands today. Picture courtesy of Durham Museum. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2019/07/14/a-history-of-saratoga-school/>

LaRue's Restaurant



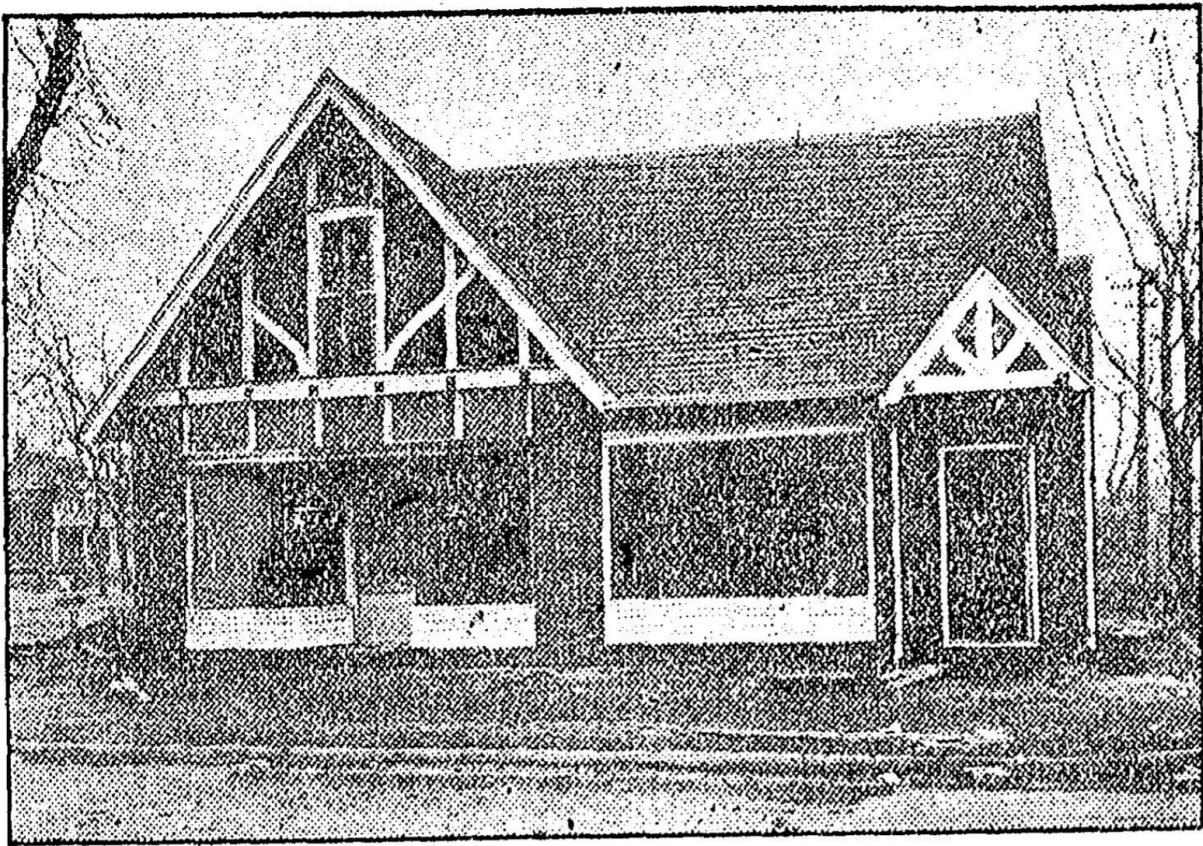
2305 Ames Avenue—Roy Sirland LaRue (1892-1970) opened a restaurant on the northeast corner of North 24th and Ames Avenue in 1916. Specializing in American food including steaks and pork chops, it stayed open until 1942. The building was demolished in the 1980s.

First Omaha Fire Department Station #15



North 22nd and Ames Avenue—At the turn of the 20th century, Saratoga was served by the first Omaha Fire Department Station #15, located 2202-04 Ames Avenue. This photo was taken in 1917. This image is courtesy of the Durham Museum. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2019/07/16/a-history-of-the-saratoga-fire-station/>

Deep Rock Filling Station



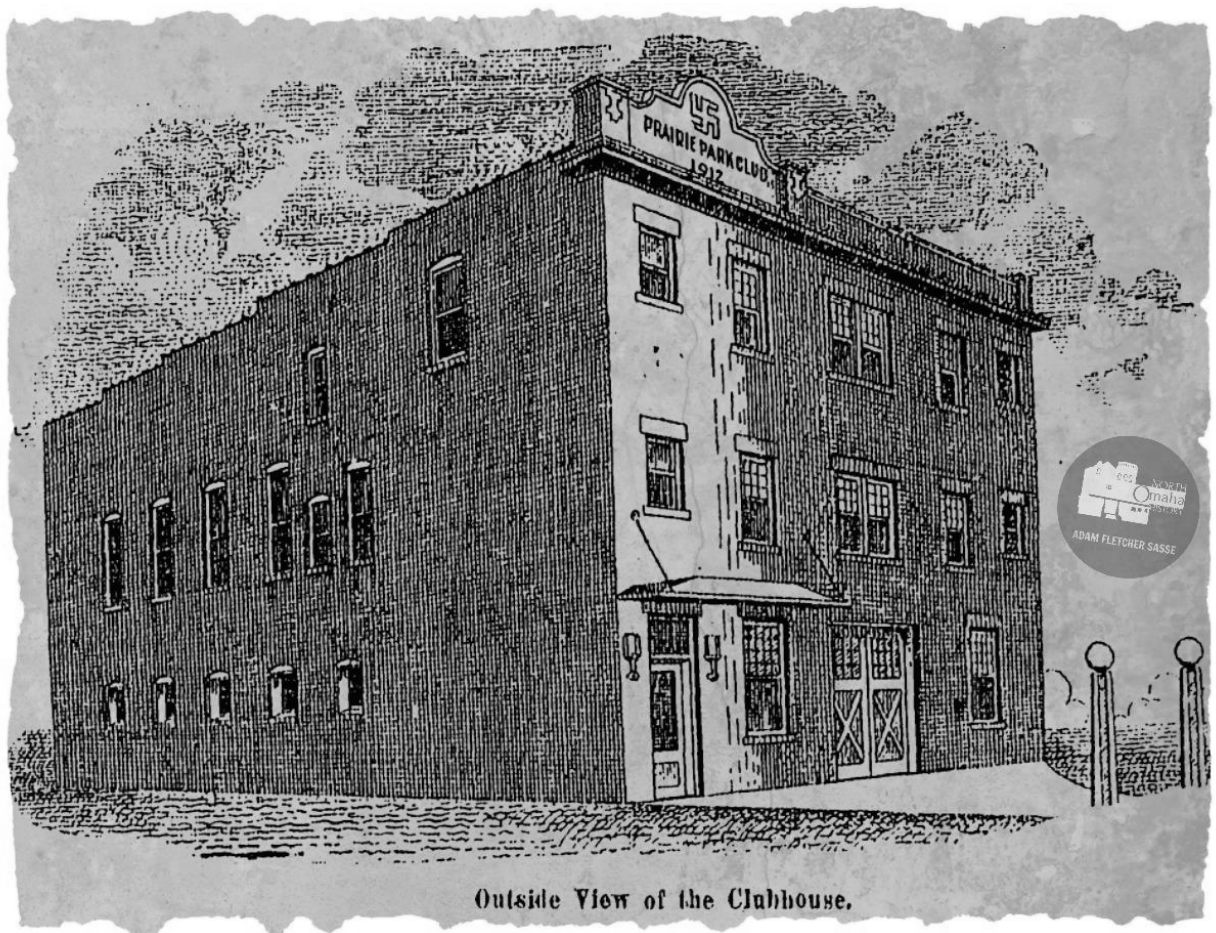
4615 North 24th Street—This station was constructed in a “new style” when it opened in 1927. While serving as a Deep Rock Filling Station for several years, it was owned by the U.S. Oil Company. Featuring other brands, it was a gas station into the 1960s. The building is still standing and serves as a childcare center today.

Third Church, Christ Scientist



2118 Browne Street—The Third Church, Christ Scientist acquired a lot at North 24th and Fowler for a new building. However, it wasn't built there and took until 1950 for their building to be constructed nearby at N. 24th and Browne. After the Christ Scientists moved out in the early 1980s, this building was home to the Bathiohom Baptist Church for several decades. It was demolished in 2021.

Prairie Park Clubhouse



2605 Taylor Street—Built in 1911 as a social club, this building originally sat on a 10-acre block for its own purposes. Owner H.J. Scannell wanted a dance hall for social clubs, community groups, and recreational events. The land included tennis courts and golf putting greens. The club closed in 1924 and the building was converted to apartments, and its block was developed. It was torn down in the early 1980s to make room for the North Freeway. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2018/04/30/a-history-of-the-prairie-park-club/>

Ames Theater



North 25th and Ames Avenue—Renamed from the original North Star Theater, the new Ames Theater was located at N. 25th and Ames Avenue from 1949 to 1958. This building has housed many businesses, including the North Star Theater from 1925 to 1949 and the Ames Theatre from 1949 to 1958. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2019/08/31/a-history-of-the-ames-theater-in-north-omaha/>

Lane's Drug Store



North 24th and Ames Avenue—This was Lane Drug, located on the northeast corner of N. 24th and Ames Avenue for 70 years. Also visible is the J.A. Gross Grocery Store and the first Max I. Walker Dry Cleaners. Image courtesy of the Durham Museum. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2017/04/26/lanes-drug-stores/>

Max I. Walker Dry Cleaner



2410 Ames Avenue—The original Max I. Walker Dry Cleaner was located just west of N. 24th and Ames Avenue from 1917 to 1969. The building was demolished in the late 1990s. Image courtesy of Max I. Walker. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2021/11/23/a-biography-of-north-omahas-max-i-walker/>

King Solomon's Mines



SOUL WEEK-END

Once again the "SOUL SENSATIONS" return to Omaha with their soul, sensational music. They will be getting it together, with you at the Mines, Saturday night, September 18th. The Soul Sensations are better known as the "DYNAMIC FIVE". Dynamic describes them best.

The Soul Sensations will be doing it at KING SOLOMON'S MINE. Spend your Saturday night with "THE SOUL SENSATION".

CAN YOU HANDLE IT!!!

North 25th and Ames Avenue—King Solomon's Mines nightclub was located at N. 25th and Ames, and an entrance faced Ames Avenue. The building still stands as of April 2022. This building has housed many businesses including King Solomon's Mines from 1970 to 1972, Run Johnny Run Youth Club in 1973, and the Black Odyssey Club from c1973 to 1976. It has been a warehouse since 1976. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2018/01/03/a-history-of-king-solomons-mines-in-north-oma-ha/>

Shaver's Grocery

A black and white advertisement for Shaver's Food Marts. At the top is a large oval logo with the word "Shaver's" in a cursive script and "FOOD MARTS" in a bold, sans-serif font below it. Underneath the logo, the text "25TH and AMES" is centered, followed by "—GROCERIES—" with horizontal lines on either side. Below this, four items are listed in a vertical column. Each item consists of a brand name, a product name, a quantity, and a price. The items are: "VET'S Dog Food 1 Lb. Cans 12 FOR \$1", "HELLMANN'S Mayonnaise Quart Jar 49c", "SHURFINE Flour 5 Lb. Bag 33c", and "VAN CAMP Pork & Beans 2 1/2 Can 19c". The advertisement is enclosed in a double-line border with a decorative wavy pattern at the bottom.

North 25th and Ames Avenue—The Shaver's Grocery was located at N. 25th and Ames Avenue, with an entrance that faced Ames Avenue. The building still stands as of April 2022. This building has housed many businesses, including the Crestwood Grocery Shop from 1960 to 1962, Shavers Supermarket from 1962 to 1966, and Weeds Food Mart from 1966 to 1970. It has been a warehouse since 1976. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2018/01/03/a-history-of-king-solomons-mines-in-north-oma-ha/>

Pederson Dental Office



2523 Ames Avenue—Originally built in 1900, it was 1940 when Dr. T.V. Pederson added a dentist office onto the front of this large house on the southeast corner of North 25th Avenue and Ames Avenue. Designed in the Art Nouveau style, this house became apartments and later, a halfway house. The storefront was used as a beauty shop and supply store for some time. Image from Google Earth.

Run Johnny Run Youth Club

Omaha World-Herald, Friday, June 29, 1973



Teen Center Off, Running

Kim Britt, 18, left, Kim Hogan, 17, and James Holmes, 17, try a card game in a new teen center, "Run, Johnny, Run," at 2425 Ames Avenue. The center, the brainchild of former University of Nebraska football star Johnny Rodgers, will hold an

open house from 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday to explain its program to the community. Hours for the non-alcoholic club are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, with live entertainment from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

North 25th and Ames Avenue—The Run Johnny Run Youth Club was located at N. 25th and Ames Avenue, with an entrance that faced N. 25th. The building still stands as of April 2022. This building has housed many businesses, including the North Star Theater (1925-1949), the Ames Theatre (1949 -1958), the Kingsmark Theatre (1958-1960) the Crestwood Grocery Shop (1960-1962), Shavers Supermarket (1962-1966), Weeds Food Mart (1966-1970), King Solomon's Mines (1970-1972), Run Johnny Run Youth Club (1973), the Black Odyssey Club (c1973-1976), and has been a warehouse since 1976. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2018/01/03/a-history-of-king-solomons-mines-in-north-omaha/>

Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Barn



Southeast Corner of North 24th and Ames Avenue—This circa 1970 image shows the streetcar barn once located on the southeast corner of N. 24th and Ames Avenue. Built in 1899, it burned down in 1983. Image by Richard Orr. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2015/03/12/a-history-of-streetcars-in-north-omaha/>

Standard Oil Company Station



Northeast Corner of Florence Boulevard and Ames Avenue—There was the Standard Oil Company station on this corner from 1916 through the 1950s. A gas station continued to serve the intersection in the early 1980s.

Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership



2406 Fowler Avenue—Originally home to the Gruenig Mansion, there was a large home built here in the Spanish Colonial style in the 1890s, long before it was in fashion. The Bott Convalescent Home opened there in 1943, and in 1947 the Earl Rest Home was there. It operated into the 1960s, when the Prairie Park Nursing Home bought the facility. Built in 1971, today the building is home to the Eastern Nebraska Community Action Program, or ENCAP. They work to "reduce the power of poverty in Eastern Nebraska through direct service and results-driven partnerships. ENCAP provides emergency rent and utility assistance; hunger relief; senior wellness initiatives; utility assistance; behavioral health services; and wrap-around case management." Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2022/04/06/a-history-of-the-gruenig-mansion/>

Borden's Ice Cream Parlor



2415 Ames Avenue—Borden's Ice Cream Shop was located by North 24th and Ames Avenue, serving malted milk, ice cream flavors, and sundaes. It was open from the 1930s through the 1950s. This building was demolished in the 1980s.

Belt Line Railway



North Freeway to North 14th Street along Boyd Street–The Omaha Belt Line was a 15-mile (24 km) long railroad that circumnavigated early Omaha, including Saratoga, starting in 1885. This is the Belt Line Railroad looking east towards Saratoga from N. 28th and Taylor St. circa 1983. It was dismantled by 1990. Image courtesy of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Fan Club. Learn more at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2016/05/28/a-history-of-the-belt-line-railway-in-north-omaha-nebraska/>

Saratoga Hotel, Johnson Hardware, Lane Drug Building



North 24th and Ames Avenue—This is the northwest corner circa 1941. This building was home to the Saratoga Hotel (c.1896–c.1930), Johnson’s Hardware (dates unknown), Saratoga Drug (1896–1901), and Lane Drug Company (1901–1971). Image is from the author’s collection.

Horseshoe Bend



Florence Boulevard and Carter Boulevard—Originally a wagon road leading to the town of East Omaha, this roadway led to the Levi Carter Park starting around 1900. The area at the bottom of Horseshoe Bend was a known natural spring for thirsty travelers during the pioneer era, and American Indian tribes were known to encamp there before 1860. Today it is included as part of the Bluff View Park, one of the only parks in Omaha to have private homes within its boundaries.

JFK Rec Center



4514 North 24th Street—In 1965, a private community advocate named Beverly Blackburn opened a youth center with her own money near the intersection of North 24th and Ames Avenue. The neighborhood had been integrated in the previous decade, and young African Americans didn't have a safe place to play and have fun. With businesses fleeing the district, she opened a youth center and eventually called it the John F. Kennedy Recreation Center. The City of Omaha obtained it from her in 1969, and closed it the next year. The building was demolished in the 1990s. Image from Google Earth. Learn more at Located at

<https://northomahahistory.com/2016/10/26/beverly-blackburn-and-the-jfk-rec-center/>

Weaver Pres-Kloth Company



4426 Florence Boulevard—Built in 1926, this building was home to a dry cleaners, a bakery, a drug store, and a dairy store until 1946. That year, the Weaver Pres-Kloth Company moved in and stayed until 1973. T.B. Weaver manufactured special cleaning cloths there, selling products across the United States.

<https://northomahahistory.com/2021/10/26/a-history-of-4426-florence-boulevard-in-north-omaha/>

A&P Super Market



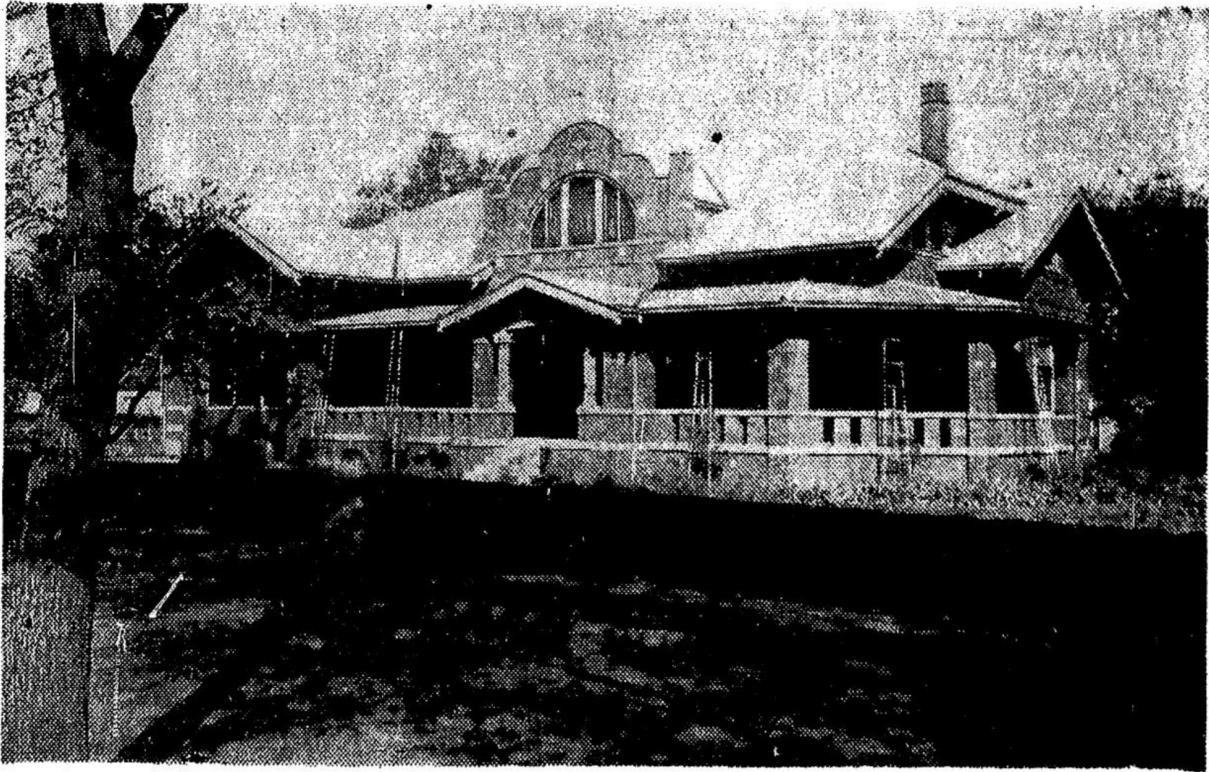
4515 North 24th Street—Built in 1941 as an A&P Super Market, this building was designed in the popular Art Nouveau style. It was remodeled by A&P in 1946 and 1951, and closed in 1957. Hinky Dinky opened a grocery store there in 1957 and closed it in 1968. It is now part of a complex operated by Trans-Motion Trucking, Inc.

Saratoga Laundry



4314 North 24th Street—The Saratoga Laundry sat at North 24th and the Belt Line Railroad for almost 50 years, and employed a lot of people. Opened in 1911, the business eventually merged with Emerson Laundry in 1930, then ran until approximately 1959. Image courtesy of the Durham Museum.

Gruenig Mansion



2406 Fowler Avenue—Charles Gruenig was a wealthy pioneer Omaha real estate mogul who owned much of the Saratoga area before 1890, including his own 10-acre estate on the northwest corner of North 24th and Fowler Avenue. After his 20-room castle burned down, he had this 15-room mansion built. In the 1920s, Mrs. Gruenig sold part of the estate to the Omaha Public Schools for a new building, which became the fourth Saratoga School. After she died in 1943, the mansion became a nursing home which stood into 1971, when the building was replaced with the current facility that belongs to ENCAP. Learn more at <https://northomahahistory.com/2022/04/06/a-history-of-the-gruenig-mansion/>

Adam's Timeline and Map



Map key follows on next page.

Map Key

- **1854: Native American encampment (7)** at Horseshoe Bend existed before and after European settlers arrived.
- **1854: Saratoga Brewery (8)** Richard Simeon opened the Saratoga Brewery at 16th and Commercial Ave. After turning over several times, in 1891 this became the Storz Brewery.
- **1856: Saratoga Dump** – A dump was started on a creek that ran along Meredith Ave. It stayed there until
- **1857:** Erastus Flavel Beadle arrives.
- **1857: Paulsen Mill (1)** was built along Saratoga Creek at N. 24th and Grand Ave.
- **1857: Saratoga Post Office (1)** opens. It closed in 1858.
- **1857: Beadle house (26)** was built near N. 16th and Sprague St. He left by 1858.
- **1857: Beadle's Warehouse (10)** was built for steamboats stopping at his docks at Sulphur Springs. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1857: Saratoga Springs Hotel (1)** built at 24th and Grand Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1857: 30th and Ames** had two businesses started there when the intersection was called Janetta and Butler Street. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1858: Douglas County Fair (6)** began on the site of the future Saratoga Race Track. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1861: Brownell Hall (1)** was opened in the old Saratoga Springs Hotel and stayed until 1865, when it moved downtown. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1863: Gallows (9)** were built in Saratoga for the hanging of Cyrus Tator. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1866: Saratoga Race Track (6)** advertised horse races for the first time. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1866: Grand Hotel (1)** opened in the former Brownell Hall after it moved to Omaha. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1866: First Saratoga School (3)** opens. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1866: Omaha Barracks later called Fort Omaha (21)** was opened less than a mile from Saratoga. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1868: Saratoga Race Track (6)** hosts the first Douglas County Agricultural Society fair. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1869: Saratoga Race Track (6)** advertises two seasons of the Omaha Clippers baseball team. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1871: Second Saratoga School (3)** built. [Learn more here »](#)

- **1874: Saratoga Congregational Church** built on southwest corner of N. 25th and Ames Ave.
- **1877: Saratoga Bend and Sulphur Springs (10)** flooded; Cut-Off Lake created. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1877: Saratoga Race Track becomes Omaha Driving Park (6)** and management is assumed by an association led by lawyer John Redick and others. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1875: Saratoga Stables** at 2501 Taylor St. were advertised in an Omaha newspaper.
- **1880: 2527 Ames Avenue** might have been built this early.
- **1883: Belt Line Railway (14)** is built through Saratoga along the former Boyd Street south of Ames Avenue by the Missouri Pacific Railroad. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1883: Omaha Driving Park (6)** hosts the world premier of Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West show. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1884: Cummings Hotel (27)** was opened at N. 16th and Laird St.
- **1888: Oak Chatham Depot (14)** was built at N. 23rd and Taylor St. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1890: Saratoga Hotel (4)** moved into a new building on the northwest corner of N. 24th and Ames Ave.
- **1891: Third Saratoga School (3)** built. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1894: Trinity Lutheran Church** opened in the former Saratoga Congregational Church.
- **1895: Omaha Driving Park (6)** hosts the Nebraska State Fair for the next five years. The Omaha Driving Park Association built paddocks, grandstands, fencing around the entire park, a floral hall, dining hall and more. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1895: Stroud Company (15)** was started by Thomas Stroud in Saratoga to build road grading machines at Florence Blvd. and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1898: Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition** was partially located on the southeast corner of Saratoga, including the return of Buffalo Bill's Wild West on the southeast corner of 24th and Ames Avenue. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1898: Rome Miller mansion (13)** is built by a rich hotelier at 4823 Florence Boulevard. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1898: Covenant Presbyterian Church** opened at N. 27th and Pratt St. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1898: Saratoga Drug (4)** was opened by Harry Lane on the northwest corner of N. 24th and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1899: Omaha and Council Bluffs Streetcar Company barn (13)** was built on the southeast corner of 24th and Ames Avenue. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1899: YMCA Athletic Park (3)** opened at the northeast corner of N. 24th and Ames Ave. with a quarter-mile bicycle and running track, a baseball diamond, trap shooting,

handball, quoits and cricket, as well as tennis courts. There were showers, baths, rubbing tables and dressing rooms, too.

- **1900: Suburban Theatre (11)** opened as the first vaudeville not located in downtown Omaha at 4414 North 24th St. It showed movies after 1907. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1900: Belt Line Railway (14)** passenger service completely ended and it was used exclusively for light industrial shipping to the mainline railroads downtown. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1900: Douglas County Fair (5)** held at the Omaha Driving Park again. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1902: Omaha Driving Park (6)** was taken care of by the newly formed Tri-City Amateur Driving Club. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1903: Omaha Driving Park (6)** hosted the second season of racing that was managed by the Tri-City Amateur Driving Club.
- **1904: Omaha Driving Park (6)** was officially closed.
- **1905: Stroud Company (15)** built a major factory at Florence Blvd and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1905: Pearl Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church (2)** was built at 2377 Larimore Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1909: Thomas Stroud mansion (29)** was built at 5100 Florence Blvd in the Saratoga neighborhood. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1910: First Omaha Fire Department Station #15 (22)** opened at N. 22th and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1910: Suburban Theater (11)** closed. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1912: Stroud Company (15)** factory burned down and was rebuilt. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1913: The Omaha Motor Company (15)** opened within the Stroud Company factory. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1914: Omaha Motor Company (15)** went out of business.
- **1914: J.F. Bloom and Company (15)** built a production factory and display room at Florence Boulevard and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1915: The Druid Hall** was designed by Joseph Guth and built at 2412 Ames Ave. It originally included a bowling alley and gambling room, a large ballroom and women's room, a full kitchen, meeting rooms, and storefronts. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1915: Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer (2)** moved into the former Pearl Church, which moved to N. 24th and Ogden Ave.
- **1916: The Saratoga Creek** where the dump was along Meredith Ave. was cleaned and capped. [Learn more here »](#)

- **1917: Omaha University Science Department (3)** moved into the former Saratoga School located on the northeast corner of N. 24th and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1917: Omaha University Football Field (3)** opened behind the Science Department. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1917:** Omaha Public Schools chooses a site at North 24th and Fowler to build the new North High School. The plan falls through and the school is later built elsewhere.
- **1917:** Third Church, Christ Scientist acquires a lot at North 24th and Fowler for a new building. It isn't built there and takes until 1950 for their building to be constructed nearby at N. 24th and Browne.
- **1919: Druid Hall** hosted Maceo Pinkard's Saxophone Orchestra. Pinkard would go on to compose "Sweet Georgia Brown," the theme song of the Harlem Globetrotters.
- **1919: Holy Angels Catholic Church** was opened at N. 28th and Fowler. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1921: The Omaha Public Library North Branch** opened on the southwest corner of N. 25th and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1924: The Metropolitan Loan and Building Association** opened at 4508 N. 24th St. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1926: The North Star Theater (12)** building was constructed at 25th and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1926: Fourth Saratoga School** built. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1932: Stroud Manufacturing Company** went bankrupt and closed. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1938: Second Omaha Fire Department Station #15 (22)** got a new building constructed by the Works Progress Administration at N. 22nd and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1938: The Omaha Public Library North Branch** moved to a new building at N. 28th and Ames Ave.
- **1946: The Druid Hall** was operated by an American Legion Post. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1950: Covenant Presbyterian Church** moved from Saratoga. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1950: The Third Church Christ Scientist** opened at 2118 Browne St.
- **1950: The North Star Theater (12)** reopened as the Ames Theater. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1954:** The State of Nebraska and the City of Omaha proposed a \$2.5-million north-south expressway through Saratoga which became the **North Omaha Freeway**.
- **1957: Omaha Fire Department Station #15 (22)** was integrated.
- **1960: The Ames Theater (12)** closed permanently and became a grocery store. [Learn more here »](#)

- **1963:** Neighborhood activists from Miller Park and Minne Lusa stop the North Freeway from demolishing their neighborhoods; without successful advocates, Saratoga was treated as a compromised stopping point.
- **1964:** White flight from Saratoga begins after the passage of the first Civil Rights Act. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1964: Metropolitan Loan and Building Association** moved away from 24th and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1964: The John F. Kennedy Recreation Center** was opened at 4514 N. 24th St. by Beverly Blackburn. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1965: The Druid Hall** was bought by the Prince Hall Masons of Nebraska. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1969: The John F. Kennedy Recreation Center** was closed by City of Omaha. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1970: Lane's Drug Store** on the northwest corner of N. 24th and Ames Ave. was closed by Harry Lane's daughter. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1970: King Solomon's Mines**, a nightclub, opens in the former Shaver's Grocery, which was Ames Theater. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1971: Florence Tower** was built on the site of the Stroud Mansion. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1973: Run Johnny Run Youth Club** was opened by North Omaha football legend Johnny Roger in the former King Solomon's Mines building. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1976: The former North Star Theater (12)** became a warehouse and continues as that today. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1979: North Freeway Demolition** begins on Saratoga, which does not include an exit to the neighborhood.
- **1982: Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Barn (13)** on the southeast corner of 24th and Ames, which closed in 1955 and was converted to a warehouse, burned down.
- **1983: Omaha Fire Department Station #15 (22)** was closed by the Omaha Fire Department. Today it is a storage facility. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1984: The Belt Line Railway (14)** was completely abandoned and rails are removed from near 24th and Ames Ave. [Learn more here »](#)
- **1989:** The **North Freeway/Sorenson Parkway/Storz Expressway convergence** is completed, isolating the Saratoga neighborhood from the highways that obliterated the neighborhood.
- **1993: The former Saratoga Hotel/ Johnson Hardware/ Lane Drug building (4)** on the northwest corner of 24th and Ames Ave.

- **2014: The Druid Hall** was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today it houses the 3-5-7 Club and the Prince Hall Masons of Nebraska. [Learn more here »](#)
- **2018: J.F. Bloom and Company (15)** moved away from Saratoga. [Learn more here »](#)
- **2022:** The City of Omaha designated the area around North 24th and Ames Avenue as the Saratoga Belt Line Historic District in honor of its historical role in Omaha. [Learn more here »](#)
- **2019: Saratoga School** closed by OPS. [Learn more here »](#)