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Omaha Awareness Tours: The Near South Side

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The Near South Side Tour

JACKSON

JONES

LEAVENWORTH

MARCY

MASON

PACIFIC

PIERCE

WILLIAM

PINE

HICKORY

CENTER

DORCAS

MARSHA

CASTELAR

ARBOR

VINTON

BANCROFT
Cross over the bridge... and meet the near south side... its vitality and variety... its past, its present, and what lies ahead... its many fine restaurants... its churches and schools... its little neighborhood grocery stores and bakeries... its people who love their neighborhood and have faith in it and are remodeling some of its lovely old homes and building new ones... a place where Omaha was born and grew and boomed with the railroad and slumped with the railroad and squared its shoulders and started growing again...
2. Nebraska State Historical Society

6.

3. Nebraska State Historical Society

5.
The tour begins at 10th and Jones. Drive south on 10th Street.

1. Butternut Coffee Plant
   Division of Coca Cola
   707 South 10th Street
   Formerly Paxton and Gallagher
   Paxton and Gallagher, which dates from 1879, did a general grocery business, imported large amounts of tea and cigars, and carried heavy hardware items along with the groceries. Until recently, the "P. and G." brand of canned products carried its fame all over the United States.

2. Western Heritage Museum
   801 South 10th Street
   Formerly the Union Station
   The original building was torn down, and the present structure was completed in 1931.

3. Burlington Station
   925 South 10th Street
   An over-the-track ramp or concourse was constructed so that people could walk between the Burlington and Union Stations without having to go outside. The concourse was torn down in the early 70's; however, the remains can still be seen on either end of each building.

4. U. S. Post Office
   10th and Mason
   A branch of the post office built in 1933 is found on the corner of 10th and Mason. The main post office was then at 16th and Dodge where the Hilton Hotel now stands.

5. The Neon Goose Restaurant and Bar
   1012 South 10th Street
   Formerly the Harmony Inn
   Angelo DiGiacomo owned the Harmony Inn and also the Pullman Hotel directly across the street.

The present owners are expanding by adding four buildings to the north.

6. Vallo Della Luciana Restaurant
   1017 South 10th Street
   Formerly Johnny's Cafe and the Pullman Hotel
   Angelo DiGiacomo sold the Pullman to the Ramondi and Genovesi families. Part of the building now houses the Scorpio Lounge.

7. Gassman Pharmacy
   NE Corner, 10th and Pacific

8. Obie's Grocery
   NW Corner, 10th and Pacific

9. Angie's Restaurant
   SW Corner, 10th and Pacific
   Formerly Trentino's
   Prior to being Trentino's Restaurant, Angie's was a string of wooden apartment houses.
   ➤ The First United Presbyterian Church, formed in 1868, had a building where Angie's Restaurant is now located.

10. The Peoria Hotel Apartments
    1109-1111 South 10th Street
    Clerks from the railroad formerly lived here.

11. Dunsaney Apartments
    NE Corner, 10th and Pierce
    Oscar Manger has managed these apartments for years.

12. The Old Street Car Barn
    NW Corner, 10th and Pierce
    The old car barn became a bus garage where city buses were housed.
13. First Methodist Church
SW Corner, 10th and Pierce
This property is currently occupied by a Mobil gas station used for filling semi-trucks. The church was sold to Alfio Caniglia who turned the building into Dome Hall. After being used as a dance hall, the building was sold to Sam Solo who made it into a furniture store which was destroyed by fire. The property was sold, and a combination filling station and garage was built.

14. Charles Dougherty Residence
1215 South 10th Street
Mr. Dougherty was the grandfather of Leo Hoffman, the mortician. Mr. Dougherty's father, John Dougherty, homesteaded in 1855 at 160th and Maple.

15. 1200 Block, South 10th Street (east side)
Sortino Family Residence - 1214 South 10th Street
This family owns Sortino’s Pizza and Sortino’s Fruit Market. The family had 12 children, many of whom sold vegetables, watermelons, and Christmas trees in the Old Market in the late 40’s and early 50’s.

Cupid Stubendorphe Residence - 1228 South 10th Street
The name “Cupid” was given to Herbert Stubendorphe because he sold marriage licenses at City Hall for many years.

Several residences on 10th between Pierce and William were used as sleeping rooms by trainmen, expressmen, and railway mail clerks.

Miller Mortuary - 1234 South 10th Street
William Johnston is now the owner of this home which was built by Charles Metcalf in 1889 as a present for his bride, the former Miss Anna Virginia Cornish. Every Tuesday, the family would hold “Tuesday Musicals,” and neighboring families were invited to show their talents. The home has 22 rooms and was valued at $50,000 when it was built. There have been five owners: Metcalf, the D.A.R., Salvatore Salanitro, Kenneth Miller, and Johnston.

Order of the Sons of Italy - 1238 South 10th Street
This fraternal organization is housed in what was once the barn adjacent to Bishop Worthington’s home which is now the White House Apartments. At the dedication ceremony on October 17, 1954 the ribbon was cut by Rocky Marciano, then world heavyweight boxing champion.

White House Apartments - 1240 South 10th Street
Originally the home of an Episcopalian bishop named Worthington, the building was converted to a Presbyterian hospital in the 1920’s. Subsequently the hospital was sold and turned into a Lutheran home for the aged. Tony LaPuzza then bought the building and turned it into apartments, and Grace College of the Bible later purchased it.
Christ Child Center - 1248 South 10th Street

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Ihler owned a huge old home here prior to the building of the Christ Child Center. The Ihlers owned the Grand Hotel at 16th and Howard as well as the Ihler Distillery.

The Christ Child Center was first located at 6th and Pierce on the top floor of Salerno's Grocery and later at 7th and William. Miss Sara Shanley was the first director at this location, and Miss Mary E. Flannigan is the second and present director of this fine interdenominational neighborhood organization.

16. Saint Frances Cabrini Church
1335 South 10th Street
Formerly Saint Philomena Church
Saint Philomena was the second parish in Omaha. It was originally located on the corner of 9th and Harney.

> This church and several other homes and buildings in the area are pictured in Omaha City Architecture, published by Landmarks, Inc. Also shown in this publication are the Cornish Apartments, Dietz Methodist Church, Bartell Hall, and the E. E. Bruce Residence at 1427 South 8th. The latter home, built in 1891, has been torn down since Omaha City Architecture was published.
17. The Cornish Apartments
1404 South 10th Street
Built by Joel Cornish as a residence, the house was later divided into apartments. Twelve rooms were on the first floor and twelve on the second plus a small apartment on the third. Each floor was divided into two six-room apartments. One of the tenants was TenEyck Fonda, Henry Fonda’s grandfather. At an early age, Henry and his sister Jane visited their grandfather and often slid down the banister from the second floor to the first.

18. Dietz Methodist Church
NE Corner, 10th and Worthington
Formerly Saint Matthias Church
Saint Matthias Church was started by the Episcopalians. Dietz Church was purchased by the Gould Dietz family with the aid of Bishop Worthington in 1890. A window in the church is dedicated to the Worthingtons, and the street is also named after them. Irene Tauchen was the organist, and her sister, Angeline Tauchen Thompson, was a choir member beginning in the 1920’s. Both ladies did work in the church for years.

19. Ernst Home
1418 South 10th Street
Julius Ernst, who was the treasurer for the Burlington Railroad, had an office in the 100-year old Burlington Building currently standing at the northwest corner of 10th and Farnam.

20. Bartell Hall
1502 South 10th Street
This house is now owned by Grace College of the Bible which bought it from Mr. and Mrs. Perry Hill. Before the Hills owned this home, it had been a treatment center or sanitarium for alcoholics and was called Keely Cure.
Brownell Hall, a seminary for young ladies, opened in Florence in 1863. The land along 10th Street was a gift from Herman Kountze, and the school there was built in 1886 and 1887. After the school moved to Happy Hollow Boulevard and became Brownell-Talbot, the old building was turned into a sleeping dormitory for single working girls and was called Stuntz Hall.

The white house on the northeast corner of 10th and Pine was owned by Dr. George Shimanek. He was a graduate of Creighton University and became head surgeon at Saint Joseph Hospital. The house has been purchased by Grace College of the Bible and is currently being used as a music laboratory. Nearly all the white buildings with black trim belong to the college.

Fred Astaire was born at 2326 South 10th Street on May 10, 1899. The house is presently owned by Frank Becic.

22. Cascio's Steakhouse
NW Corner, 10th and Hickory
Al and Joe Cascio began their restaurant at this site in 1946. On March 3, 1978, the original building was totally destroyed by fire. The restaurant was reopened in the present structure on May 8, 1979.

23. Bob Paxton Grocery
SE Corner, 10th and Hickory
Orders were filled via telephone calls from patrons, and the groceries were delivered. The property is now a parking lot.

24. Saint Joseph Hospital
10th and Martha
The first hospital to be established in Omaha by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy was St. Joseph, started in 1870. It was located in a two-story frame building at 12th and Marcy. Ten years later it was moved to 10th and Martha. Mrs. John A. Creighton was greatly interested in its establishment and gave heavily to the institution. The buildings are now vacant since the hospital has moved to the Creighton University campus.

Continue south on Tenth to Bancroft. Turn west on Bancroft and north on 13th Street.

Frank Sferrazo, who owned the Francois Beauty Salon in the Brandeis Store at 12th and Farnam, lived at 2722 South 9th Street. He also owned salons in Lincoln, Des Moines (where his general offices and school were located), and in Omaha in the Aquila Court Building.

25. Sokol Hall
NW Corner, 13th and Martha
This is a Czech social gathering place for all sorts of activities, particularly for gymnastics when it was built in 1926. An old Sokol was built in 1870. The word “sokol” signifies a falcon, the hunting and sporting hawk which is a symbol of swiftness, activity, and freedom. The old motto of the sokols founded in 1862 in Bohemia which is a province of Czechoslovakia, was to “train the body and mind to freedom.”
26. Alfred Buda Grocery
2212 South 13th Street
Some of the finest Italian sausage in town is sold here. At least Rosemary Clooney thinks so. She came down to the grocery store by cab after her recent performance at Aksarben and bought some.

27. Andrew and Frank Marino Grocery
1716 South 13th Street

28. Holy Savior Catholic Church
(Byzantine Melkite Rite)
1470 South 13th Street
Bishop Sheehan, current archbishop of the Omaha archdiocese, was once pastor of this little church which was started in 1909 by Father Abboud.

29. Safeway Store
1446 South 13th Street
This is one of the first locations of a Safeway Store in the city.

30. The Bohemian Cafe
1406 South 13th Street
Before becoming the Bohemian Cafe, the building housed the ABC Grocery. It was sold to Amen Hayek who in turn sold to the current owners of the Bohemian. The original Bohemian Cafe was one block north where Domenick’s Donuts is now located.

31. Prague Hotel
SW Corner, 13th and William
Bohemians came to Omaha from small towns in Nebraska and from the eastern United States after a large Slavic emigration from Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They heard that there were job opportunities in Omaha. They lived in the Prague Hotel built in 1898 by Alfred Barley until they got jobs and built homes.

> Although 13th Street was not paved until 1886 and then with granite cobblestones, it was still considered to be on the wealthy side of town.
32. The Golden Goose Tavern  
NW Corner, 13th and William  
The owners of the Golden Goose also owned the Prague Hotel as well as another tavern which was a half block in length on the northeast corner of 13th and William (presently an auto body shop). They lost all three businesses when one caught fire and was not insured. Hanging above the bar for all to admire was a world heavyweight champion wrestling belt belonging to Joe Stecher, a good friend of the owner. The bar is said to have been inlaid with coins of all kinds.

33. Other well-known businesses in the 13th Street area were Mr. Kalcik (a tailor), the Jim Kunel Meat Market and Joe Kunel Grocery, Charles Hermanek’s Grocery, Emil Cermak’s Drug Store (now Skoml Hardware), Polan Hardware, Ed Nemec’s Shoe Store, Joseph Masek’s Bakery (begun in 1920 and still in business), Julia Stenicka’s Flat Shop, Mrs. Katy Hynek (a tailor), the Jim Kuncl Meat Market, Maryland Theatre (owned by Charles Napoda and Mary Kuncl), Charles Knezacek Grocery (opened 1916), Anthony Battaglia Printing Company. In addition to the above businesses, Dr. George Drdla, a dentist, had an office at 13th and William.

34. 1200 block, South 13th Street (west side)  
The former first floor of this row of buildings is now below street level as the ravine here was filled in when 13th Street was paved. The building at the north end of this row housed Ladd Prusha’s Chicken Store. He sold chickens dead or alive, cleaned if desired.

35. Pacific School  
12th and Pacific  
Pacific School, a brick structure, opened in the early 1900’s. The area around this school was one of the first black settlements in Omaha. The entire block was purchased by the Federal Government, and homes were torn down so that the new main post office could be built in 1964. Blacks moved north or farther south.

36. Barney’s Night Club  
1001 Pacific  

37. Methodist Church School  
SW Corner, 9th and Pacific  
The building is no longer standing.

38. Tom Bartek’s Studio  
1101 South 9th Street  
In the early 1900’s this building housed a saloon. It was sold to Cirino Oddo who rented it out, first as a restaurant and later to a black Baptist congregation who used it for a church. Oddo sold the property to Tony and Dela Rotolo who opened a steak house called Dela Monico. They in turn sold to Rosario and Lena Delfiore (they also owned the brick house next door), and this couple operated it as Buff’s Bar. When Tom Bartek, the well-known artist, bought the building and made it into his studio, it was being used as a recording studio. Evidence was found that it had at one time been used as a bookie joint.

Mr. Bartek is listed in the International Who’s Who in Art and Antiques, and his work is exhibited and sold all over the United States. He, his wife Gloria, and their four sons live at 402 Center Street. He has taught at Creighton University, the College of St. Mary, and the Joslyn Art Museum but now devotes full time to his work.

39. Little Frank’s Restaurant  
SW Corner, 7th and Pacific  
Before becoming a restaurant owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davilla, the lot held a string of wood two-story apartments called Salerno Flats. The building is now occupied by the Fraternal Order of Police.

40. Orsi’s Bakery  
621 Pacific  
Prior to becoming a bakery, this building housed the Miller Hotel and Saloon. The front part is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Claudio Orsi, and the back part is the bakery which turns out an average of 17,000 loaves of bread a week.
The first Italians to move to this area were from northern Italy. Later they came from Calabria in southern Italy and from Termini, Sicily. Joe Salerno came to Omaha in 1895 and was the first Italian from Carlentini, Sicily. He owned a grocery store and a string of apartments called Salerno Flats on 6th and 7th Streets. His brother Sebastiano (also known as Yano or Art) came to join him and opened a clothing store and a bank on 10th Street between Harney and Howard known as the Banca di Sicilia.

41. Salerno’s Groceries
NE Corner, 6th and Pierce
Joe Salerno’s store sold delicious Italian cheeses tied with strings, meats, salami and pepperoni, and vegetables. Braided strings of garlic and red peppers decorated windows and walls. He often gave food to those Italians fresh from the old country until they could stand on their own feet and provide for themselves. A bakery was located behind the main store.

42. Mangiameli’s Barber Shop
SW Corner, 6th and Pierce
Sebastiano Mangiameli, better known as Shorty, cut nearly everyone’s hair.

43. Le Cafe de Paris
1228 South 6th Street
Formerly the Italian Gardens, the building was originally owned by Josephine Marcuzzo and later by Louise Salerno. It is now one of the most expensive and exclusive restaurants in Omaha and is owned by Ivan Konsul.
44. Train School
1615 South 6th Street
Built in 1893, this school was named after George Train, a dealer in real estate. Children were taught in a row of wooden houses before the school system tore them down and built Train School out of bricks. Miss Agnes O'Connor was a prominent kindergarten and second grade teacher in the 30's. She had a trick ruler that broke in half when she spanked a pupil with it. She held the respect, fear, and love of students throughout the years.

45. Mexican Community
Between 1st and 2nd Streets along Cedar
In the early 1900's many Mexican families lived near the Burlington train yards at Gibson where they worked. Families such as the Espinosas, Veras, Perales, and Negretes came from Mexico hoping to find better job opportunities and favorable living conditions for their families.

46. Haskins Soap Company
Cedar Street between 1st and 2nd Streets
The big bars of soap produced fit well on washboards.

47. The Pond
6th to 8th Streets along Cedar
Children would fish in the pond for hours. The pond was drained and filled and new homes were built here in the late fifties.

48. 6th Street, Martha to Bancroft
This area was a forest except for a dirt road which led to a ball field in Riverview Park (now Henry Doorly Zoo).

49. Village Green
3rd Plaza and Bancroft
This housing development adjacent to the city balefill is for low to moderate income families.

50. Balefill
Bales of garbage from Omaha are brought to the site by rail and buried in this large, deep ravine. Residents of the area fought to keep this operation out of their back yards.

Go back south on 3rd Plaza to Bancroft and turn west to 4th Street. Turn south on 4th Street, angling south and west to Riverview Boulevard. Turn north back to Bancroft and go west to 8th Street and turn north. Go to Pine and turn east and turn back north on Park Wild.
51. New Homes

4th and Bancroft
This area was once grazing land for Grobeck’s Dairy.

Look south across the Interstate.

- Residents fought the city in its endeavors to make Riverview Park into a zoo. It was one of the few parks with a truly natural setting. People would often walk to the park and have picnics, a band played every Sunday, and individuals from all areas would dance and visit in the afternoon and early evening. A stream and lagoon graced the natural beauty of Riverview Park’s picturesque scene. A swimming pool was added in later years. In the winter a bonfire was built outside near the lagoon, and skaters could also warm cold noses, fingers, and toes over the glow of a wood-burning stove indoors.

52. Bancroft Junior High School
2723 Riverview Boulevard
Bancroft School was built in 1916.

53. Dahlman Park

Between 6th and 8th, William and Hickory
The Dahlman Area Rehabilitation Effort meets every fourth Thursday at the Christ Child Center. The neighborhood group consists of over 100 area residents. The park was named after Jim Dahlman, known as the “Cowboy Mayor” of Omaha.

54. Svoboda Home
1503 Park Wild
Built by the Frank Svoboda family who were owners of Svoboda Monuments on South 13th Street, this home has six bedrooms plus a third floor. The marble in it was imported from Italy.

- Germans, Irish, and Bohemians were the first to settle this area of the city. They first lived along the river which they crossed by ferry. Italians came next, and because of the love of music on the part of all these groups, many dance halls became popular in the 13th Street and in the 6th Street areas. One of the first dance and community halls was at the corner of 13th and Leavenworth.

- A. D. Jones crossed the river in November, 1853 and squatted or made a claim on an area where a beautiful grove of timber stood. The name he gave to this area, Parke Wild, still clings to a portion of it.

- The first white child born in the Omaha area was born in Parke Wild on October 3, 1854. His name was William Nebraska Reeves, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Reeves.

Turn west on William and go one block to 8th Street. Turn south.

55. Gorat Residence
713 William
Netti Gorat of Gorat’s Steakhouse built the home at 713 William and also the house next door west. Prior to that in 1927 she lived in the house at 1402 Park Wild. She sold the Park Wild home to the Sambasile family.

56. Christ Child Center
7th and William
This was the second location of the Christ Child Center (see No. 22).

57. Yano Salerno Residence
715 William
The steps are all that is left of this house that is well remembered by neighbors who can recall the loud explosion and the fire wagons as they rushed up Pine Street to put out the resulting fire. The explosion was reputed to have been caused when a still blew up.
58. Gabriel Barajas Residence
SE Corner, 8th and William
The house on this corner was recently bought by this couple who have done a great deal of work to remodel and beautify it. The redwood deck on the back of the house was built by the current owner.

Continue south on 8th Street to Worthington.

59. Elizabeth Rainey Residence
1425 South 8th Street
Miss Rainey, who started her career in education in 1921 as an elementary teacher in the Omaha Public Schools, was later a principal and elementary supervisor. The home is in perfect condition due to the excellent maintenance by its present and past owners. Notice the garden next door to the house on the north side.

60. The Matthews Home
NW Corner, 8th and Worthington
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Matthews, owners of Matthews Bookstore, had a daughter who played in a large doll house adjacent to the main house. She became very ill and died. The extent of his grief led to Mr. Matthews' death. Mrs. Matthews moved and sold the house to a person who went into debt and could not make the payments. This owner sold the house for $1,800 in 1936. It was made into apartments because it was too big for a family and is still in use for that purpose.

61. Saint Catherine's Nursing Home
1505 South 8th Street
This building formerly housed the nurses working at Saint Catherine's Hospital.

Turn west on Worthington to 10th Street and take it north to Forest Avenue. Turn east, angling southeast to 8th Street.

62. The Carriage Road
Forest Avenue between 9th and 10th
The Carriage Road began as a dirt road surrounded by woods. It was later made into a brick road as it led to the Herman Kountze home.

63. Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Doerr Residence
906 Forest Avenue
Mr. Doerr was a Union Pacific engineer, one of many who lived in the area.

64. Mrs. Marie O'Neil Residence
900 Forest Avenue
This house was moved from the northwest corner of 10th and Pierce by Howard M. Goulding.
Numerous Bohemian families lived on streets between 8th and 10th and between Forest Avenue and Pine.

65. Former St. Catherine’s Hospital
1311 South 9th Street
The house on this site, formerly owned by the Herman Kountze family, was the only home in the area at the time it was built. It was completely surrounded by woods, and wild animals could be seen running in the forest. Mr. Kountze was a wealthy banker who owned land from 8th to 10th Streets and also much land by the river. The building is now part of Grace College of the Bible.

66. Ambrose House
1323 South 8th Street
This house currently belongs to a family who has remodeled it and put in all modern conveniences. It was owned by Frank Ambrose in the early 1900’s.

Turn east on William and go to 5th Street. Turn north to Pierce Street and turn west.

67. Bosco Grocery
NW Corner, 3rd and William
This is another great Italian grocery store.

Many of the area residents were bootleggers, a business not uncommon from 1920 to 1930. In 1933, when whiskey became legal, much of the bootlegging stopped.

68. Sparetime Cafe
1211 South 5th
Sam Nisi opened the first Sparetime on September 15, 1939 in the house where Ross, the current owner, was born. Many famous people patronized the restaurant, Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, Nat King Cole, and Eddie Cantor, to name a few. In 1962 the Sparetime closed. Several establishments were housed in this building after that—Elks Club, Alberto’s Restaurant, The Brewery, and the Tropicana Night Club. The current restaurant reopened on September 28, 1978.

Another eating place known to area residents before the Sparetime was opened was Comento’s on 7th and Mason under the viaduct. The restaurant offered live entertainment. Band members were paid union scale of $1.00 per hour in 1919. They could earn $3.00 per night.

69. Other stores in the area in the early 1900’s included:
Queen Theatre - 607 Pierce Street - owned by Tony Delizzi
Angelo Buda’s Grocery
Stribling Grocery - 7th and Pierce
Vacanti Grocery - 8th and Pierce
Marino’s Grocery - 723 Pierce
Bella Mino Grocery - on the site of the present Little Frank’s at 7th and Pacific
Russo Grocery - 7th and Pacific, across from Little Frank’s
A non-Italian owned saloon - 7th and Pacific

Most Italians could not afford the price of a saloon license so other nationalities owned the bars. Whiskey was sold from barrels, not in bottles. Women were not allowed in these places which opened at 8:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m.

Manganaro’s Drug Store
Joe Castro’s Grocery - 5th and William
Piccolo’s Grocery - Pierce between 7th and 8th
Monaco’s Grocery - Pierce between 9th and 10th
Pistone’s Hardware - Pierce between 6th and 7th
Distefano Grocery - 3rd and William
Volpocka’s Pharmacy - 5th and William
Joe Caniglia’s Dry Goods Store - 1211 South 6th Street
Aletta’s Grocery - south of 6th and Pierce
Prok Vacha’s Pharmacy - NW corner, 6th and Pierce
Bohemian Hotel - 6th Street north of Vachal Pharmacy

70. Turco’s Shop
Pierce Street between 5th and 6th (north side)
The Turco family, Louie, Joe, and Sam, were race car builders in the 1930’s.

71. Caniglia’s
1114 South 7th Street
The present restaurant was built in 1946 by Lou, Yano, Al, Eli, and Ross Caniglia. Since that time many of the brothers have established other fine restaurants throughout the city. Caniglia’s was the first restaurant in Omaha to serve pizza.

72. Santa Lucia Hall
725 Pierce
This building was originally a one-horse stall fire station built in 1891 by Peter Kiewit, one of six in the city. Called Station Number Nine, it was closed in 1922, and a year later was sold to the Italian Athletic Club for $1.00. The Santa Lucia Club, a fraternity for Italian men and a women’s sodality, acquired it in 1924. This group puts on the Santa Lucia Festival.

The tour ends here. For further information about the area, consult the bibliography.

COME AGAIN — AND AGAIN!
On July 27-30, 1979 the Santa Lucia Festival celebrated its 55th anniversary. Santa Lucia is the patron saint of vision. Each year her statue is taken from Saint Frances Cabrini Church to the arch on 6th and Pierce. Don DiGiacomo's Band plays Italian music and is accompanied by various Italian club members as well as numerous community and non-community people who follow the procession or line the streets. Pietro Cosentino's band used to play in the parade, and later Vincent Immanuel's took part. A queen is crowned on Monday evening and reigns until the following year when a new queen is chosen.

Pietro Cosentino's marching band was a legend in the Italian area. He played several instruments including the cymbals, trombone, baritone and French horns, plus other brass instruments. He also taught most of the young men in the area how to play.
Much of the information in this guide is presented as related by people in the neighborhood. Several facts were researched when dates or names were missing. A self-conducted tour of the area bounded on the north by Jackson, the east by the Missouri River, on the south by Bancroft, and on the west by 13th Street is possible by using the enclosed map and referring to the corresponding numbers in the text. Many of the buildings no longer physically exist; however, the memories each building created are left in the hearts and minds of those who lived, worked, and played in these structures.

Many thanks to the Omaha Public Schools Research Department and to these individuals who gave of their time to add colorful highlights and facts pertaining to special events.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baburek
Mrs. Mamie Basil
Mr. Harold Becker
Mr. Angelo A. Buda
Nancy Salanitro Butera
Mrs. Frances Cratty
Leo Ferzley
Don Hempel
Frank Hulac
Mr. Charles LaRosa
Mr. Ross Nisi
Mrs. Marie O'Neil
Mrs. Lupe Romero
Mrs. Louise Romero
Mr. Sam Sambasile
Mrs. Mary Silvio
Sara Salerno Taylor
Mrs. Angeline Thompson
Mrs. Joe Travnicek
Charles Wesson
Mrs. Jennie Wrann

While every effort has been made to ascertain correct information, oral interviews sometimes result in statements that are at variance with those obtained by other research methods.