

**West Side of  
Pierce Street  
between  
6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Williges Women's Wear and Furs, c. 1970**

Designed by prominent local architect William L. Steele, this building was constructed in 1929 as a factory for furrier August Williges. It later became a women's clothing store.



**Northwest  
corner of 7<sup>th</sup>  
and Pierce**

**Young Men's Christian Association, c. 1910**

This building, designed by Charles P. Brown, was the YMCA from 1893 to 1956. For a time the School of Medicine occupied part of the building. It was razed in 1957 after the new YMCA at 8<sup>th</sup> and Nebraska was built.



**Northeast  
corner of  
7<sup>th</sup> and Pierce**

**Insurance (Exchange) Centre, c. 1925**

Built by the Davidson Realty Co. in 1916 as the Grain Exchange and was later renamed Insurance Exchange as several insurance companies occupied space in the building. It was also used for city offices when the old City Hall burned in 1944 until the opening of the renovated Federal Building as the new City Hall in 1948.

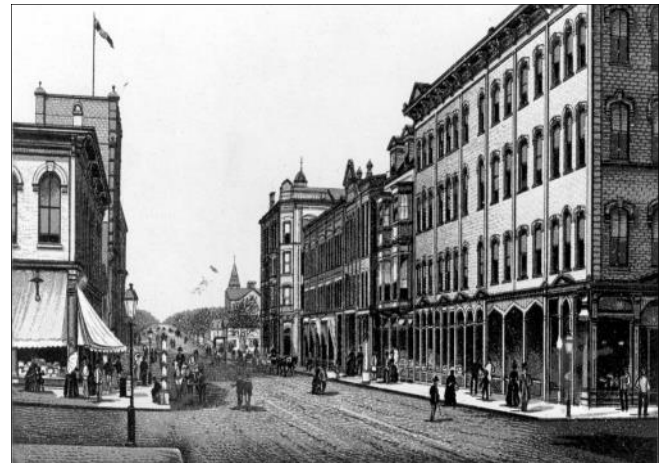
The Pierce Street Walking Tour brochure is one in a series of walking tour brochures funded by Missouri River Historical Development (MRHD).

For more information about these buildings or Sioux City history, please contact the  
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*Take a  
step back  
in time...*

# Pierce Street Walking Tour



**Fourth and Pierce Street  
c. 1885**

**Start** the tour at the Siouxland Senior Center parking lot at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pierce walking north along Pierce Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street.



**Southwest corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pierce**

***Red Owl Grocery Store/Parking Lot, c. 1958***

After the Red Owl Grocery moved out of this building in 1966, Blue Cross/Blue Shield occupied it until 1982 when the Siouxland Senior Center moved in. It was razed to make way for the Stoney Creek Inn.



**Northwest corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pierce**

***Moore & Shenkberg Grocer Company, c. 1915***

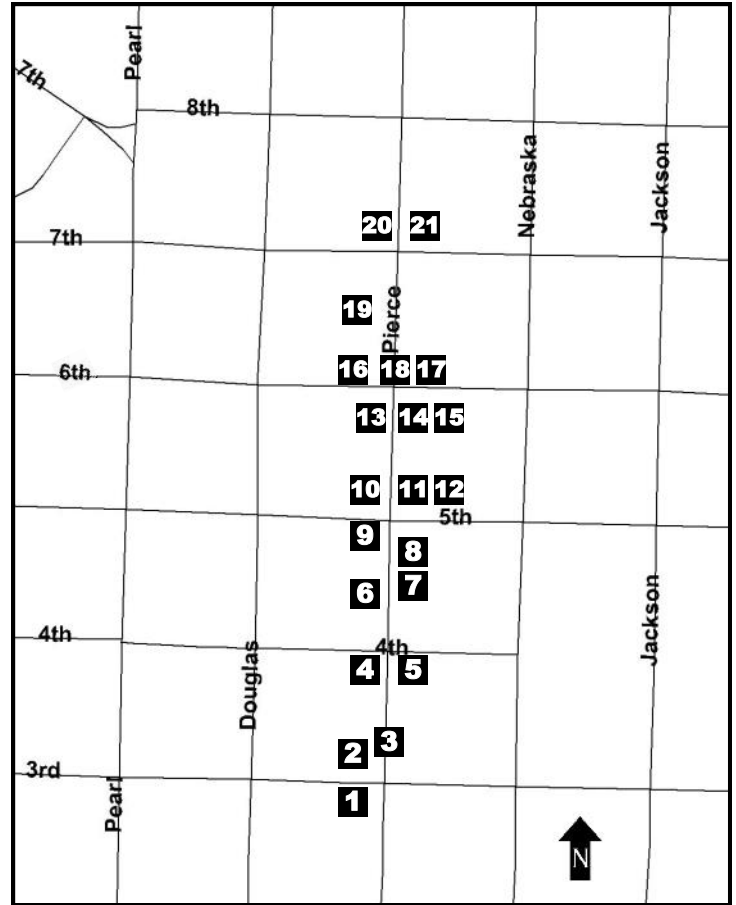
Built in 1892, this wholesale grocery company building was razed in 1982. Third Street was the city's wholesale business district as the businesses were close to the railroad lines.



**Looking southeast on Pierce between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets**

***City View, c. 1918***

The city view above shows buildings on the east side of Pierce Street including the Northwestern National Bank, the Plaza Theater and the Sioux City Tribune newspaper building (the building with the columns across the front). Photo taken from the Davidson Brother's Department Store building.



**Map of Downtown Sioux City**

Buildings listed in *italics* are no longer in existence.



**Southwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Pierce**

***Davidson Brother's Department Store, c. 1930***

Ben, Dave, and Abe Davidson arrived in Sioux City from Russia in the 1880s and began a successful retail department store. After merging with Younkers in 1947, the store was known as Younker-Davidson's until 1969 when it was renamed Younkers Department Store. This building was razed in the 1980s to make room for the First Federal Bank building (which is now Great Southern Bank).



**Southeast corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Pierce**

*Northwestern National Bank, c. 1909*

The bank was formed in 1890 and was renamed the Sioux National Bank in 1920. Katz Drug Store later occupied this site.



**Southwest corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Pierce**

*Continental Bank (Iowa Building), c. 1925*

The Iowa Building, designed by Charles P. Brown and built in 1889 housed the Continental Bank, Seney Shoes and other businesses. The building was razed in 1934.



**West Side of Pierce Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets**

*Pelletier's Department Store, c. 1930*

After the devastating fire at the Pelletier's Dept. Store on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in 1904, the business was moved to this location and remained here until 1943.



**Northwest corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Pierce**

*First National Bank, c. 1925*

First National Bank was founded in 1870 by Thomas J. Stone. This building was constructed in 1905 and was a product of a merger of First National Bank with Sioux City's first bank, the Weare and Allison bank which was founded in 1856.



**East side of Pierce between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Hills (Taylor) Block, c. 1916*

The Hills Block was built in 1885 and later became the Taylor Block. In the above photograph it is the building with the pointed architectural motif on the top. The building on the right was at one time the Pierce Hotel. They were remodeled in 1916.



**Northeast corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Pierce**

*Garretson Hotel, c. 1910*

Built in 1884 by Arthur S. Garretson, this hotel was destroyed by fire in 1914. The lot did not stay empty long as the Frances Building was constructed there in 1915.



**Southeast corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Pierce**

*Richardson Block, c. 1916*

The Richardson Block was built in 1885 and housed many businesses including the Sedgwick Abstract & Title Co., Frank's Restaurant and Goldie Brothers Printers. It was razed in the 1940s.



**Northeast corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Pierce**

*Frances Building, c. 1925*

This office building was named in honor of the owner, James Martin's daughter, Frances. Other owners have included Frank Pelletier, who started Pelletier's Department store, and Arthur Sanford, one of Sioux City's most prolific builders.



**Southwest corner of 6th and Pierce**

**War Eagle Building, c. 1923**

Constructed in 1923, this two-story building housed multiple businesses and a bowling alley. It was razed in the early 1970s to make room for the First Federal Savings Bank, which later became the new public library, the Wilbur Aalfs Main Library, in 1990.



**Southeast corner of 6th and Pierce**

**Woodbury County Courthouse, c. 1889**

Built in 1878, this was the county's first courthouse constructed specifically for that purpose. After the new Woodbury County Courthouse was built in 1918, the building was razed. For several years, a small one-story building, the Farley Block, occupied the site. That building was replaced by the Orpheum Theater in 1927.



**Southeast corner of 6th and Pierce**

**Orpheum Theater, c. 1939**

The Orpheum Theater was built in 1927 as a four story building (seen here) and was later renovated by adding four more stories. The theater held live performances until the late 1960s when the theater was converted into a twin movie house. After extensive restoration in the 1990s, the exquisite theater re-opened in 2001 as a premier venue for Broadway shows, the Sioux City Symphony, and nationally-recognized performers.



**Northwest corner of 6th and Pierce**

**Trimble Block (Security National Bank), c. 1915**

Designed by local architects, Beuttler and Arnold, the Trimble Block was built in 1915. It later became Security National Bank and an addition was built on the west side of the building.



**Northeast corner of 6th and Pierce**

**Davidson Office Building, c. 1915**

Local department store owners, the Davidson Brothers, built this office building in 1913. The architect was William L. Steele who became well known for his design of the Woodbury County Courthouse. This corner lot was known in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century as "Corn Palace Corner" because four of the five Corn Palace structures were built on this site.

### **18 The World's First Corn Palaces**

The Sioux City Corn Palaces began in 1887 as a way to celebrate the bountiful agricultural harvest in the area as well as a way to promote the city and businesses. After the first year, the Corn Palaces of 1888, 1889, 1890, and 1891, were all located at 6th and Pierce Streets. The Corn Palace Festival was held in the fall and activities included building a new palace each fall, concerts, parades, sporting activities, speeches, and business booths. After the two-week festival, the Corn Palaces were torn down.



**Spanning Pierce Street on 6th Street**

**1888 Corn Palace**



**1889 Corn Palace**



**1890 Corn Palace**



**1891 Corn Palace**