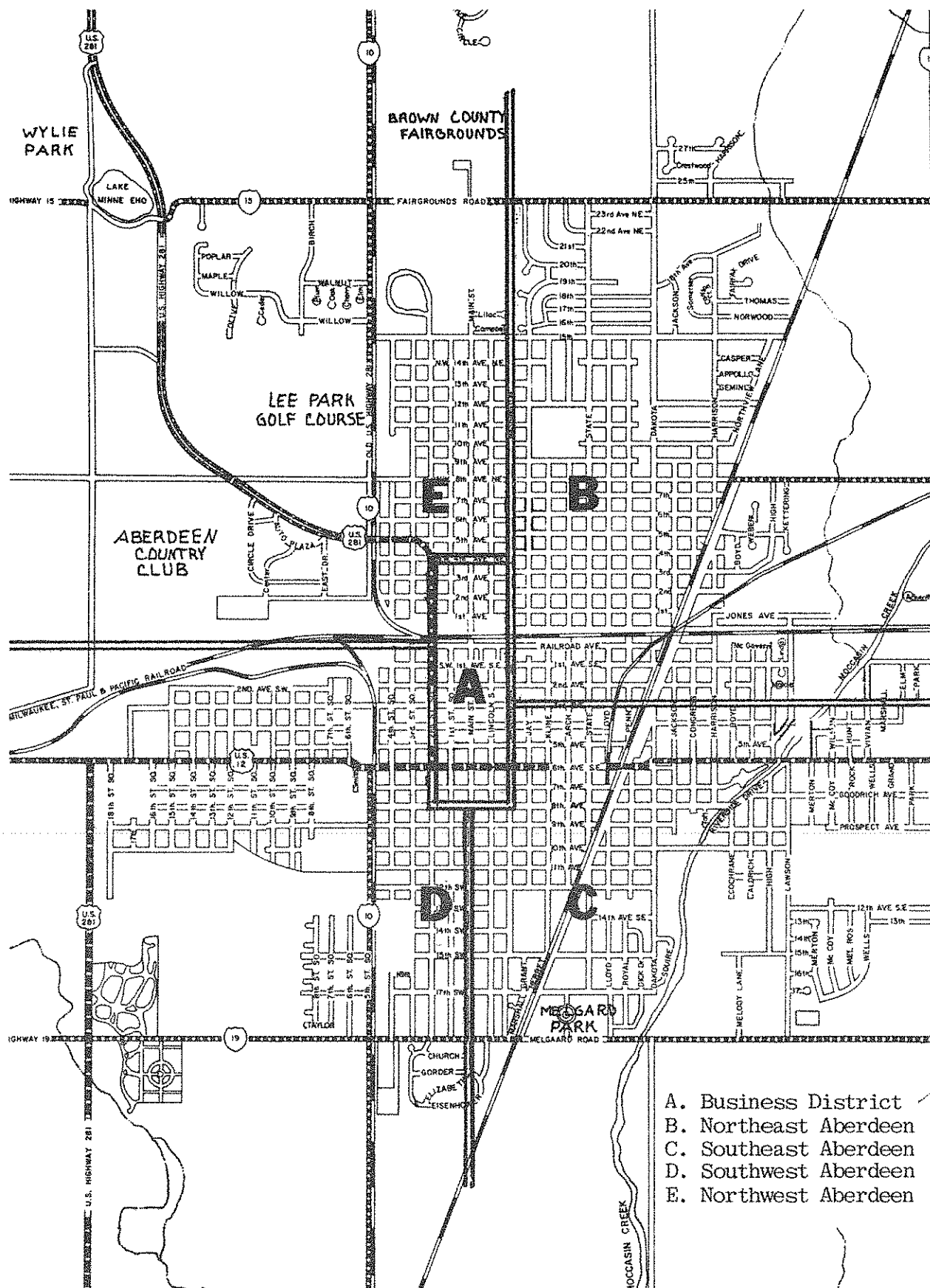


# HISTORIC ABERDEEN

## 1981



by  
Brown County Museum and  
Historical Society  
Aberdeen, South Dakota



## ABERDEEN

The year 1981 completes a century of growth and development for Aberdeen. It is with this thought in mind that the Brown County Museum and Historical Society has prepared this brochure as a self-guided tour of some of the city's historic sites.

Aberdeen is located in the fertile valley of the James River, an agricultural area that has contributed greatly to the growth and prosperity of the city. Located by the Milwaukee Railroad early in 1880, it was named for Aberdeen, Scotland, the home town of Alexander Mitchell, president of the railroad. The first train arrived on July 6, 1881. Postal service was soon established. In 1883, the town was incorporated and in 1890, after several years of rivalry with Columbia, Aberdeen became the county seat.

Early residents came by train, wagon and on foot. They came from eastern states, the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Russia and the British Isles. They brought with them the determination to build homes and fortunes out of this new untamed prairie.

Aberdeen has been called the "Hub City" because it became a railroad center with two lines of Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul tracks; the Great Northern; Chicago and Northwestern; and Minneapolis and St. Louis rail lines running through town. Because of these excellent rail facilities, Aberdeen became a wholesale and shipping center with large warehouses close to the rail lines. Several fine hotels and theaters were built and the city became a cultural center. Chautauqua entertainers, musicians and political speakers came; among them Senator Kyle, Theodore Roosevelt, William Jennings Bryan, William McKinley and later in the days of airplanes Franklin D. Roosevelt. After their various performances they enjoyed the best hotel accommodations between Minneapolis and the west coast.

Education has always been of prime importance. Aberdeen schools have progressed considerably from the first sod building which opened in August 1881 to the present system which includes parochial and public schools, as well as two colleges and a school of nursing.

Churches too, have grown from the first services held in a tent to the many beautiful buildings and large congregations of today.

Industry has had its part in the city's history. Flour mills, a brick factory, wagon factory, foundry, sash and door factory, bakeries and greenhouses were among the many industries of the earlier years. Some of these have continued down to the present time. Now there are also publishing houses, machine shops, a machine tool factory and the industrial complex which houses several large industrial units (3-M, Control Data and Safeguard Industries).

The tiny library consisting of 100 books donated to a reading room in the 1880's has grown into the present Alexander Mitchell Library, founded by Andrew Carnegie, a boyhood friend of Alexander Mitchell. Mr. Carnegie wished it to be named for his friend. This library, together with those of Northern State College and Presentation College libraries serves the community well.

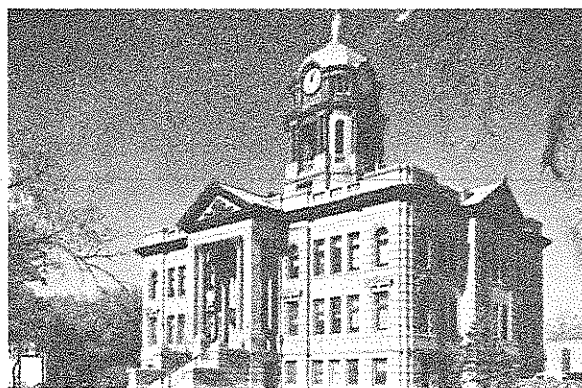
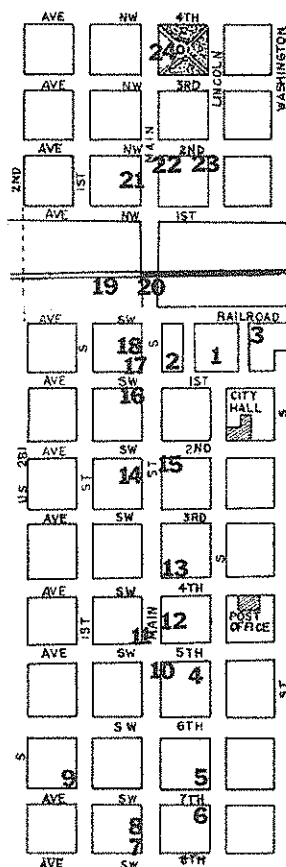
Mr. J. L. W. Zietlow built and operated the first telephone line in Brown County. The original switchboard is now on display at Dacotah Prairie Museum. Mr. Zietlow developed the automatic dialing system for telephones and Aberdeen was the second city in the world to use this aid.

Dacotah Prairie Museum, located in a fine three-storied old building on Main Street has four areas of interest. There is an art gallery with new exhibits every month; a large section of historical items including Indian artifacts; a trophy room with mounted animals from Africa, India and North America; and a research library.

Aberdeen is the trade center of a large territory. Excellent retail stores line Main Street and as city boundaries have expanded, several large shopping centers have been established. Banking, real estate and insurance companies, architectural firms, excellent restaurants, the Federal Building housing the B.I.A. and other government offices, and two excellent hospitals are among the institutions that serve the area.

We look forward to another century of progress for Aberdeen.

## A. BUSINESS DISTRICT



1. The original Brown County Courthouse was built between 1901 and 1904, at the cost of \$65,000, and is an example of Renaissance Revival architecture with a variety of extra decorative elements. The walls are of cut Berea sandstone from Ohio. Two 20' solid granite columns frame the window to the south which contains the seal of South Dakota. Topping this monumental building is an Italianate cupola containing four clocks, each framed by two sizes of

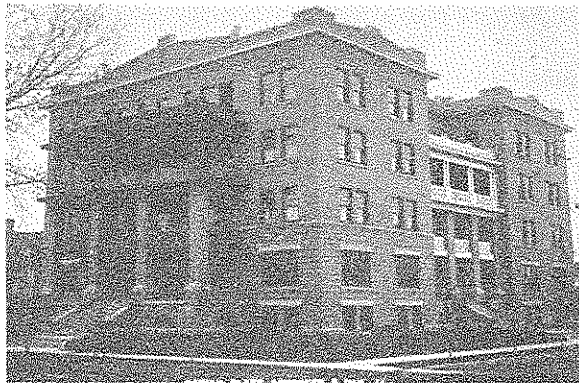
paired Greek Doric columns. A copper statue of Justice caps the cupola. Similar architectural design and materials were used three years later in the construction of the capitol building in Pierre.



2. The Dacotah Prairie Museum building, a fine example of simple Renaissance Revival architecture, was constructed in 1888, for the sum of \$40,000, for the Northwestern National Bank. Originally an ambulatory connected the south and west entrances. Banks, printing shops, a grocery, a hardware store, apartments, offices and Western Union all had a part in the history of the building before it became the home of the Museum. Some of the original oak woodwork, ornate tin ceilings, and the vaults are still intact.
3. The Great Northern Depot at 5 Court Street was built in 1906 and is an example of architectural combinations. Generally the building is Renaissance Revival style; but the gables of the roof are done in Stick style with decorative vertical and diagonal boards over the horizontal siding, and the flared eaves of the roof are reminiscent of the up-and-coming Prairie style. The Great Northern line was actually completed on January 1, 1886, by a crew of 300 men. The city had set this date as a deadline for providing a bond issue in Aberdeen.
4. The First Methodist Church is on the National Register of Historic Sites. The original building is a combination of Byzantine, Renaissance and Mission



architecture, of brick above cut stone, topped with a red ceramic tile roof. Decorations include circular windows, brackets under the cornices, and broad-foot crosses on either side of the parapets and on the dome.



5. The Dorian Apartment building was built in 1909-10, and is of Renaissance Revival style. The five-story brick building has pillared porches three stories high on the east and south, an unusual variation to this style.
6. The Zietlow house, on the southwest corner of 7th and Washington South, is an early Gothic Revival house with beautiful examples of hand carved gingerbread in the gables.
7. The Gannon house, 720 S. Main, was built about 1904 by an Aberdeen banker. Typical of the Colonial Revival style are its twin, two-story Ionic columns framing the front porch and supporting a third floor balustraded balcony.
8. The Suttle house, 714 S. Main, was built about 1904 by a friend and neighbor of Mr. Gannon. The distinctive twin

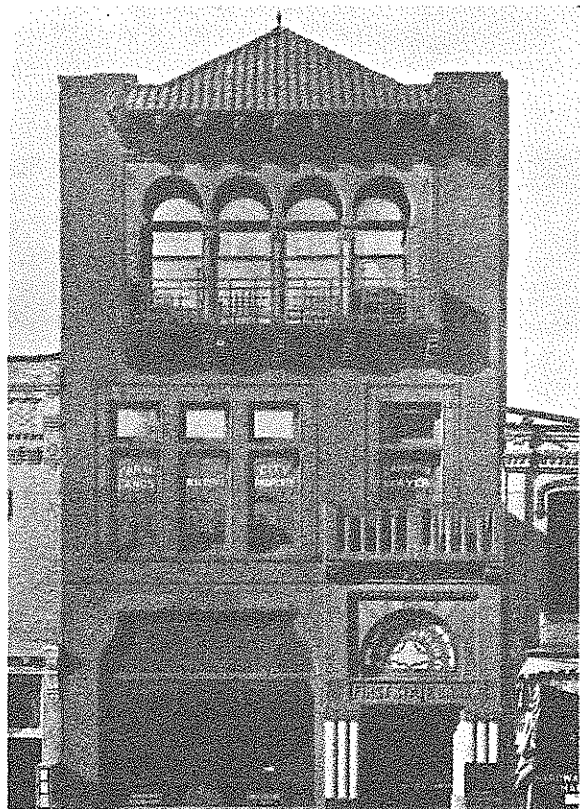


towers, the interesting siding and shingle designs, as well as the intriguing third floor recessed window are typical of Queen Ann style.

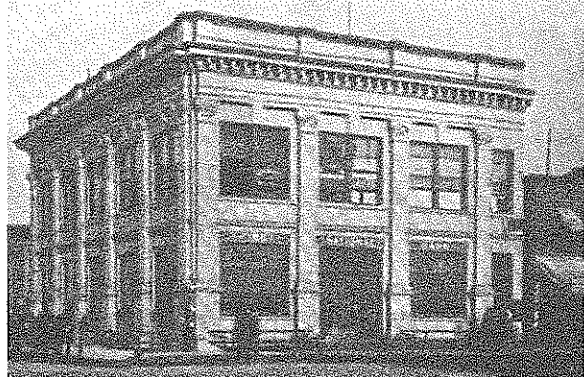
9. The Meda Mason house, a Gothic Revival structure, was built in 1884. Mrs. Mason wanted the house to face toward town but was persuaded to face it toward a large buffalo wallow with the hope that eventually there would be a street in front. Mrs. Mason kept lights in her windows so travelers would not fall into the five foot deep wallow. The house is basically unchanged.
10. The Masonic Temple is a Victorian Romanesque building, erected on Main Street in 1896, and remodeled in 1914. Originally there was an open pillared front porch with a balustrade roof. The marble cornerstone came from the site of King Solomon's Temple in the Holy Land.
11. The McDiarmid-Slater building, now Kitchen Connection and Courtney's, erected in 1910, is a Victorian Romanesque building. It first housed a grocery store, bakery, delicatessen and meat market. The ornamental roof decorations consist of a lighter colored brick than the facade.
12. The Capitol building was erected in 1927 at 415 S. Main. The first floor of this Renaissance Revival building contains a theater, and before the advent of the vitaphone, a pipe organ or an orchestra provided music. The top floors are offices; and this building is joined to the Midwest Office building on the second floor.



13. The Olwin-Angell building, 321 S. Main, now Herberger's, was built in 1903 and is of Renaissance Revival style with a wide decorative cornice just below the roof line. The third floor was added in 1912.



14. The First State Savings Bank building, now Huffman's, was built in the early 1890's. It is a combination of Renaissance Revival, Romanesque and Moorish styles. The first floor was remodeled, but above that remains a Romanesque balcony with a stone balustrade, iron grill work and the Moorish red tile roof.



15. The First National Bank building, now the Stewart School of Hairdressing, dates back to the very early 1900's. This Neo-Classical limestone building style is based on Greek elements such as Corinthian capitals on piers, monumental proportions, large windows and doorways and a heavy decorative cornice.

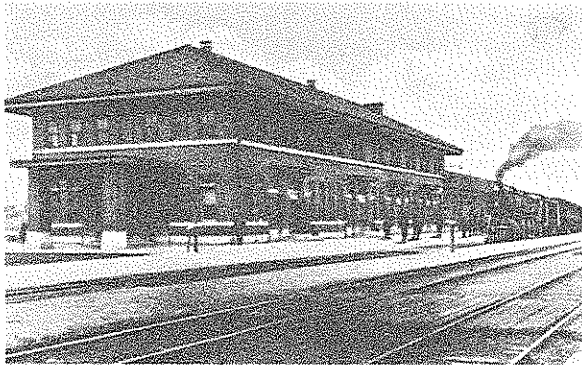


16. The Alonzo Ward Hotel, on Main and First Ave., was built in 1926 to replace the original hotel which burned in one of Aberdeen's worst fires. This Commercial style building has changed little through the years. Fan shaped windows topped with pediments, the swag plaques and wrought iron canopies are the only exterior decorative elements.

17. The Golden Rule Store building, now News Printing, is of Renaissance Revival style. The original exterior can be seen on the second floor.

18. The Hay Furniture building was erected in the 1880's for the J. B. Moore Furniture and Undertaking business. It is of Renaissance Revival style with hints of Colonial Revival in the palladian win-

dows. The original facade can be seen above the first floor.

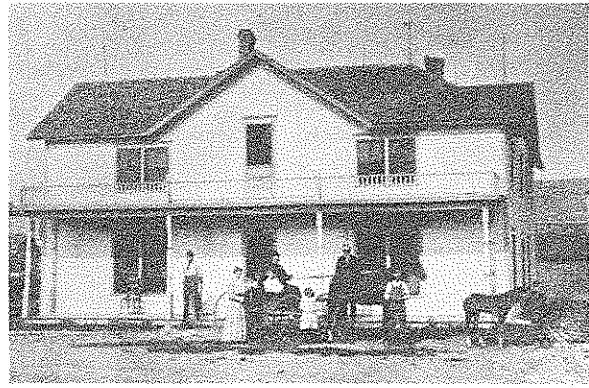


19. The Milwaukee Depot, built in 1911, replaced three earlier wooden structures. This building is Renaissance Revival style, but the roof is reminiscent of Prairie style with its projecting eaves. An odd note to the roof is the Mission style tiles. The depot became famous during World War II for the pheasant sandwiches served to the servicemen passing through Aberdeen on the troop trains. Anywhere from 37 to 40 trains passed through daily on the Milwaukee line during peak years.

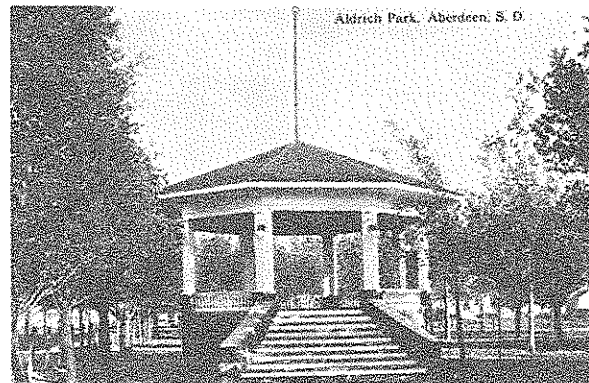
20. In 1883 Aberdeen citizens petitioned to have Main Street opened to the north over the Milwaukee tracks but railroad officials and southside businessmen objected. The controversy brought about fighting with fire hoses, the moving of the coal shed on and off the crossing, and the anchoring of a locomotive with log chains. Though the final crossing was achieved, irritation continued because of delays due to heavy railroad use. In 1959 the Second Street overpass was built.

21. The Burckhard Bakery, 117 North Main, is a brick Renaissance Revival building constructed in 1908 for a bakery. The upstairs was a rooming house, used mainly by railroad men.

22. The Bosley building, 124 North Main, is actually two Early Gothic Revival buildings, a grocery and meat market, joined together to form one store. The original structures have been covered with new materials to the extent that only the high peaked roofs show.

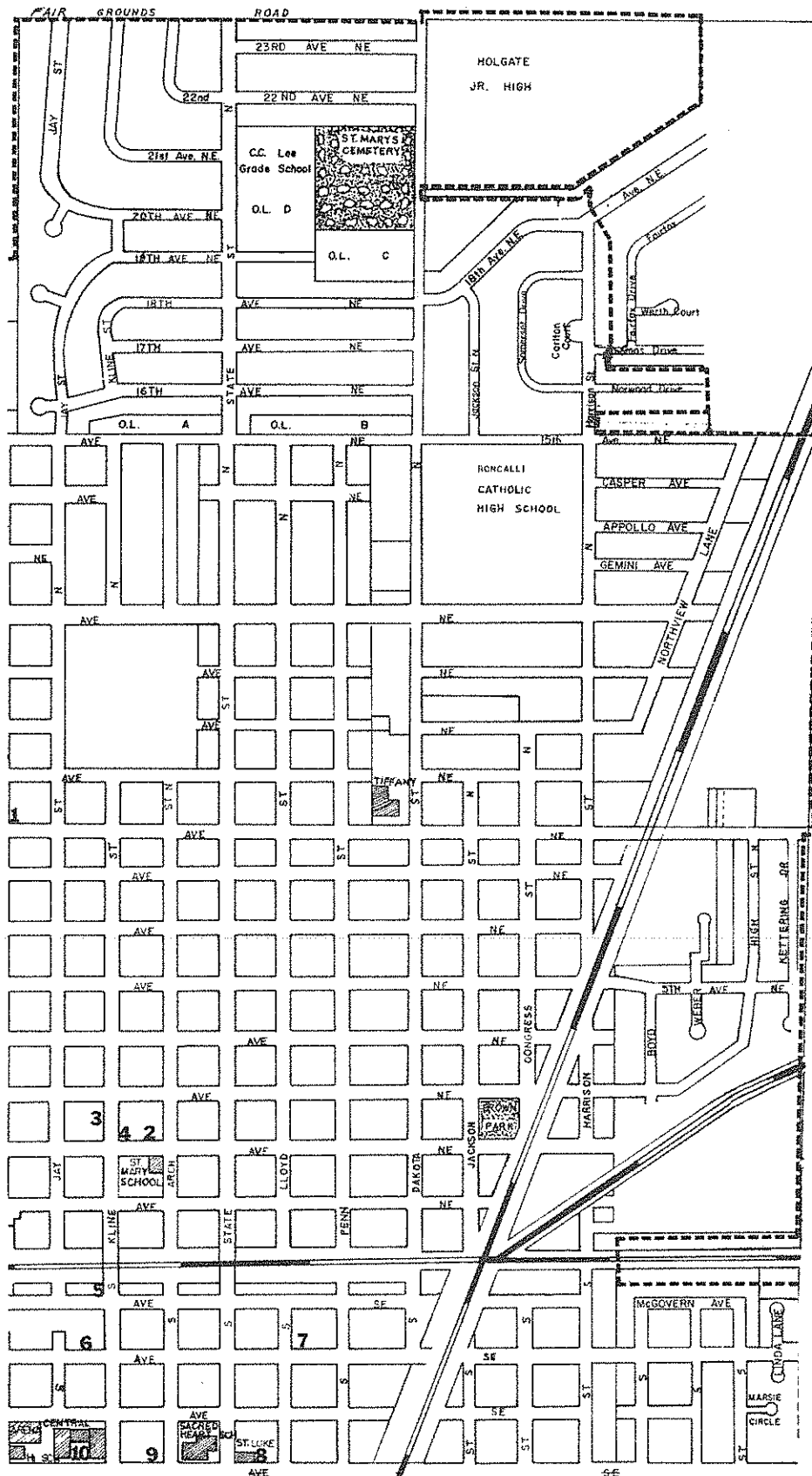


23. The Askew house, 123 N. Lincoln, is an Early Gothic Revival building with white board and batten walls and high peaked roof. It was built in 1886 as the first rooming house in Aberdeen and within a few years was enlarged. In its heyday, it also had a feed barn and buggy shed to the rear and to the south a parking area for wagons.

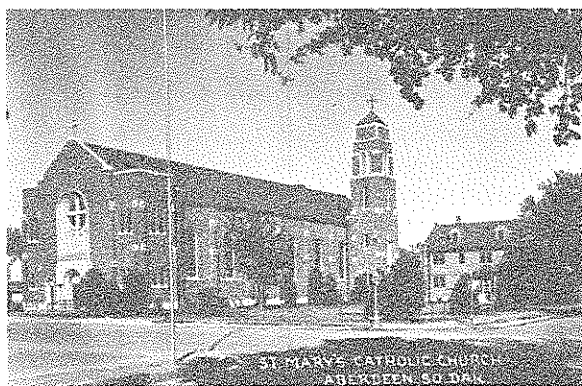


24. Aldrich Park, 300 North Main, was the site of the first Brown County Court-house in Aberdeen. In 1886 Columbia lost the fight for the location of the county seat to Aberdeen and the first wood frame structure was built. In 1904 the building was moved and the area became a park named after an early Aberdeen mayor. The park was dedicated in 1909 and the present bandstand built in 1910. The Kate and Maud marker in the southwest corner of the park commemorates two mules who hauled the city garbage wagon for 31 years. Money was raised by Aberdeen children for the marker, originally placed by the watering trough of the mules at Main Street and Third Avenue North.

## B. NORTHEAST ABERDEEN



1. The Samaritan Hospital, 203 Northeast Eighth Avenue, was built in 1889 by the City. This Early Gothic style building was purchased by the County two years later to operate as the County Hospital. Pioneers and their descendants can remember the Pest Houses at the rear of the hospital, where contagious patients were housed and cared for by their families. In 1911 the County erected a larger hospital east of town and the Samaritan Hospital became the German Baptist Hospital, functioning until after World War I. The building is now an apartment complex.

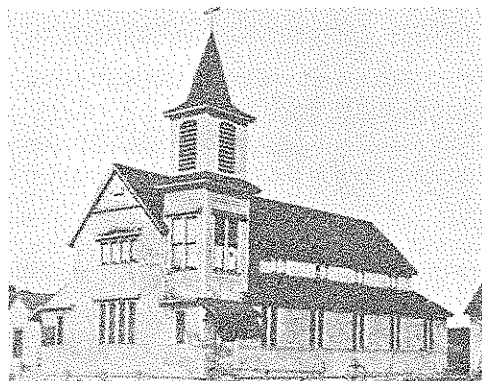


2. St. Mary's Catholic Church, Second Ave. and North Arch, was organized to serve the German Russian residents of North Aberdeen. The present building, Romanesque in style, was erected in 1940.
3. St. Mary's first parish house, 215 North Kline, is an example of simple Early Gothic Revival architecture. An interesting note is that the garage was once used as the Pfeiffer Cigar Factory.
4. The Bnai Isaac Synagogue, Second Avenue and North Kline, was built in 1886, in the Early Gothic Revival style. Originally the Wesleyan Methodist Church, it was sold in 1916 to the Bnai Isaac congregation. Since that time, the original wood siding has been covered and the steeple removed.
5. The Jewett Brother's Warehouse, now Malchow's Furniture Mart, on Kline and Railroad Avenue, was the first wholesale establishment in the Dakotas. When this was built in 1900, the Jewett

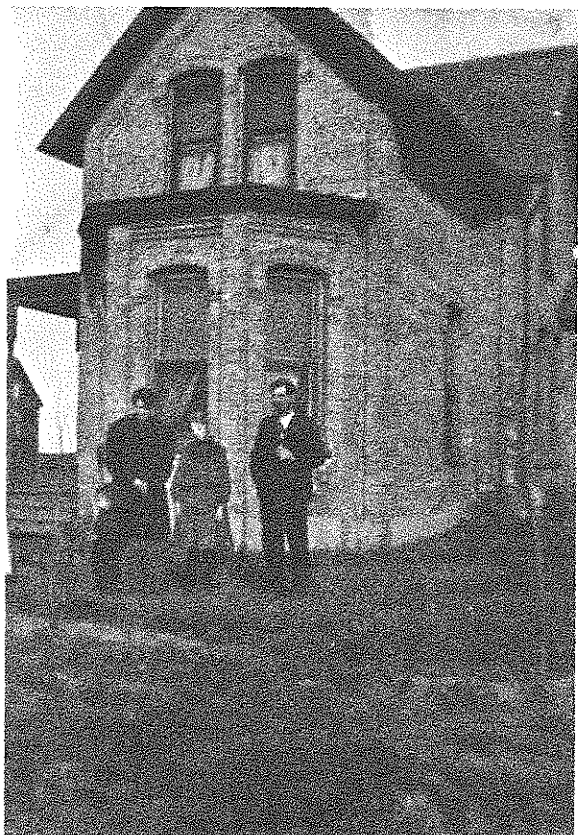


ABERDEEN, S. DAK. JEWETT BROTHERS.

Brothers were supplying 2,600 different items to the area. With its generous supply of windows, this building is an example of the use of the Renaissance Revival and Commercial styles in warehouse construction. Jackson Hardware built a warehouse of similar architectural style just west of the Jewett building on Railroad Avenue in 1906. It served a two-state area with its track-side business.

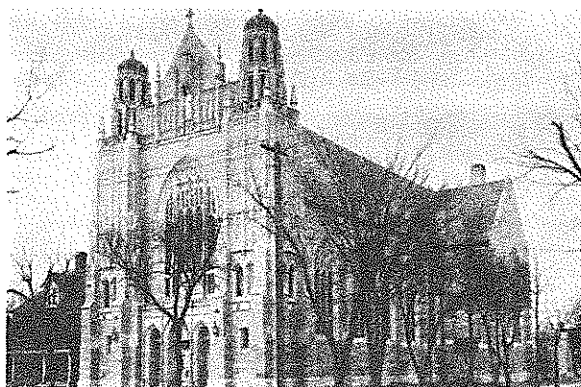


6. The original First Presbyterian Church, 315 East First Avenue, now Spellman's Paint, has had a long and varied history of occupants. This Gothic structure was built in 1882 as Aberdeen's first Presbyterian Church. Later it was sold to the Zion Lutheran congregation, and again sold to J. L. W. Zietlow's Telephone Company. As in all Gothic Revival wood frame buildings, there is a steeply pitched roof, board and batten siding and dentelle trim under the eaves.
7. The Lamb House, 701 First Avenue S.E., was built in 1882. This Early Gothic Revival house shows an unusual use of



brick trim and tall narrow windows with ornamental moldings over each one. The brick was made locally in Mr. Lamb's brick yard a short distance east of the present K. O. Lee plant.

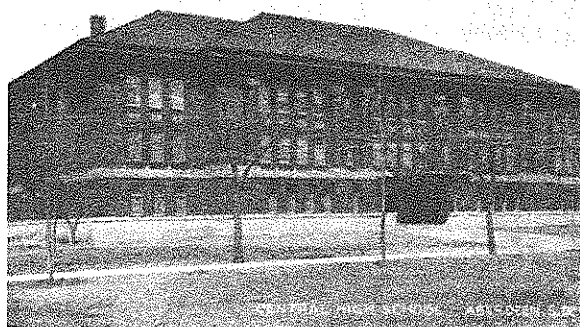
stone or tile. The Annex was built by Dr. R. L. Murdy in 1920 as Lincoln Hospital. It was moved 10½ blocks to its present location in 1940.



9. Sacred Heart Church, on Third Avenue South and Arch, is the area's best example of Victorian Romanesque church architecture. This is characterized by a polychrome finish on the surface and smooth or textured stone or plaster decorations highlighting the exterior. Semi-circular or arched openings are found in doorways and windows, towers often flank the entryway and decorative buttresses rise from the ground. This church is perhaps the closest building Aberdeen has to a true cathedral.

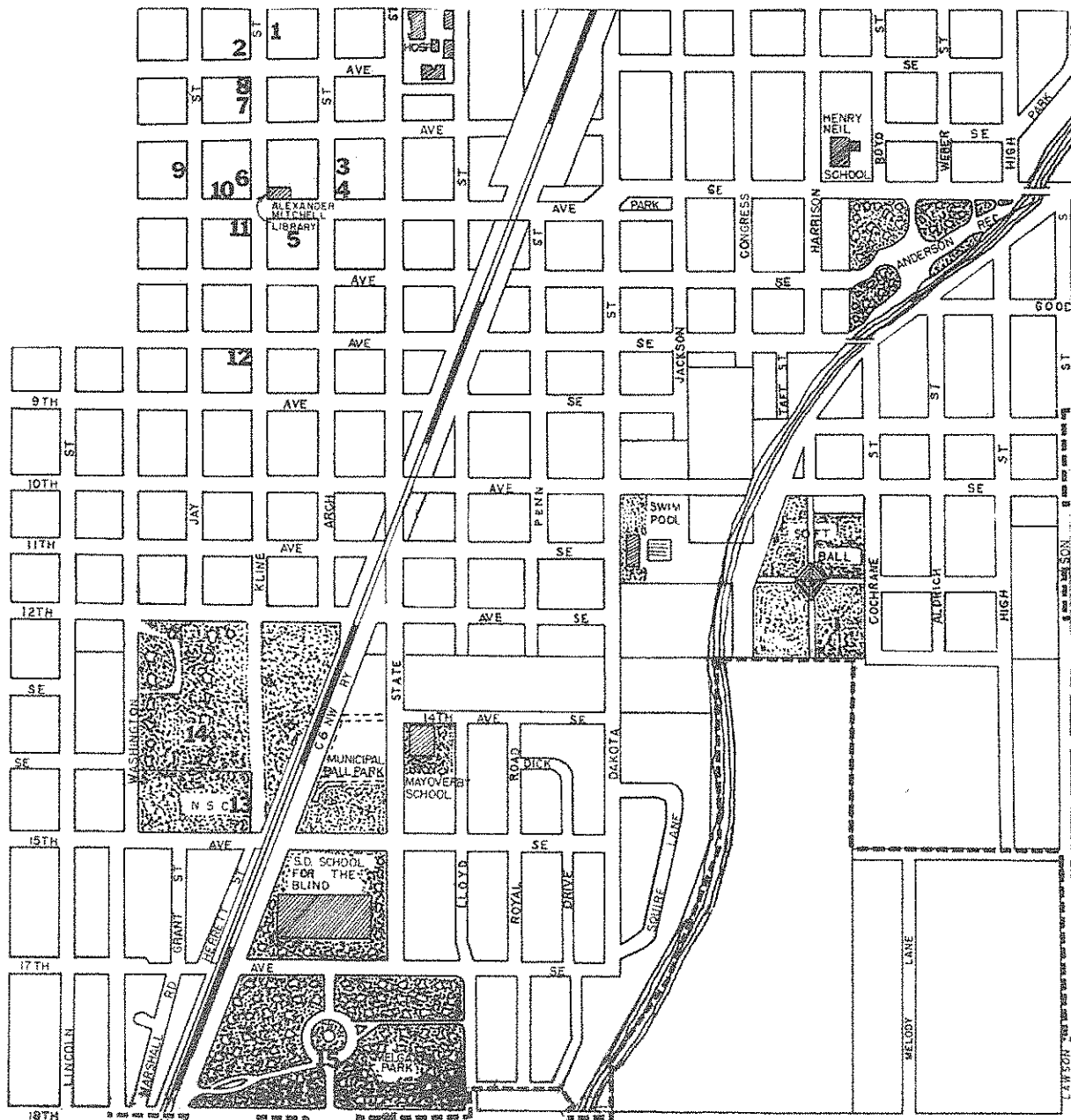


8. The Annex of St. Luke's Hospital is the oldest existing part of the hospital, and is an example of a combination of Renaissance Revival and Commercial architectural styles. Commercial style often is more decorative, with the addition of straight bands of geometric designs created with lighter colored

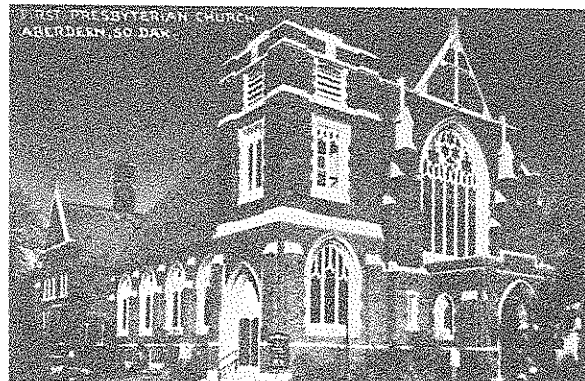


10. Central High School, at Jay and Third Avenue, was built in 1911, in the Renaissance Revival style. Though the interior has been remodeled extensively the exterior retains its basic form, and is still located on the site of Aberdeen's first sod-shanty school.

## C. SOUTHEAST ABERDEEN

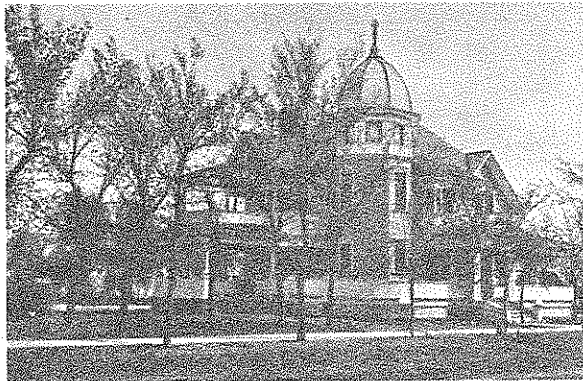


1. Senator Kyle's house, 311 South Kline, in its original form would have been an example of simple Eastlake architecture. Eastlake houses combine a variety of architectural styles: Victorian, Gothic, Stick and Queen Anne. Mrs. Kyle had the house built without a kitchen for she preferred to dine out.
2. The present First Presbyterian Church, Kline and Fourth Avenue South, was built in 1927 and is the fourth Presbyterian church building on this site.



It is an example of the Romanesque Revival style, in which a carry-over of Gothic features was common, such as the monochrome stone finish and decorative elements in a lighter stone color. Gothic arches and small wall buttresses function more for decoration than structural use. Large stained glass windows, in this case telling the story of the life of Christ, and rose windows are a must in this style.

3. The Maurice Lamont house, 515 South Arch, is of Tudor Revival style. The lower walls are of brick and the upper ones of diagonal and vertical sticks or strap work decorating the stucco finish. This house and its south neighbor show the tendency in Aberdeen to not only mix architectural styles within an individual house, but also to mix architectural styles within a city block; thus providing variety as well as beauty.



4. The former B. C. Lamont house, 519 South Arch, was built by the Easton family in the Queen Anne style. This is one of the most varied and decoratively rich styles to be found. Queen Anne houses are symmetrical with towers, turrets, tall chimneys, large porches or encircling verandas, colored glass panels in the windows, multi-planed roofs, fish-scale shingles, horizontal wood siding, and decorative iron work around the roof gables or on porch and veranda tops.
5. The A. C. DeRiemer house, 416 East Sixth Avenue, is an example of Queen Anne architecture. The house, built by W. H. Brown, shows the widespread

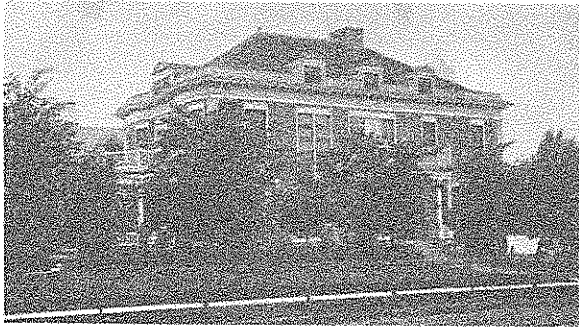
use of Greek Ionic columns and balustrades in this style.

6. The Gage house, 520 South Kline, erected in 1887 by Mr. Sykes, could be termed as modest Queen Anne. It has been changed little since it was built, but the original spiral stairs in the turret corner have been replaced. This is the home of the granddaughter of Matilda Joslyn Gage, an adamant Suffragist. Her son-in-law, Frank L. Baum, the author of the **Wizard of Oz**, lived to the north.
7. The Ackley house, 416 South Kline, was built in 1888 by J. H. Haggerty, an Aberdeen banker and realtor. A brick porch and porte-cochere have replaced the original wood ones. The house is a simple Gothic Revival style with its steeply pitched roof, colored glass window tops, and a monochrome exterior color. The wrought iron fences and gates are of Eastern influence.

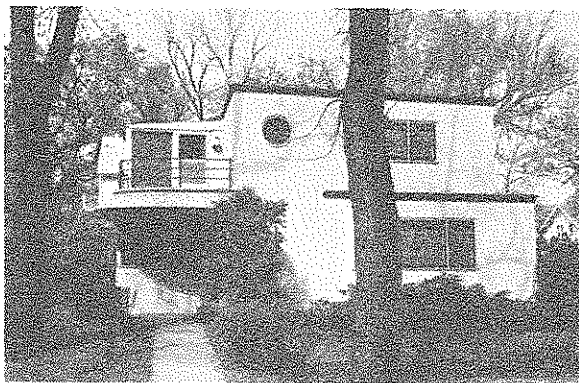


8. The R. L. Brown house, 402 South Kline, was built in 1905. It is a combination of Tudor Revival style characterized by strapwork over stucco in the gables and bay windows, and the Richardsonian Romanesque style characterized by the massive, unpolished rose quartz granite stones.
9. The Goodrich house, 518 South Jay, is an example of the pre-World War I modern trend of building. The overhanging roof eaves, the flared, square pillars and extended porch indicate that the building is of the Bungalow style. The multi-planed roof shows some influence of the Prairie style.

10. The First Church of Christ Scientist, 307 Southeast Sixth, was built in 1928, and is an example of the Neo-Classical style, distinguished by monumental proportions, smooth stone surfaces and colossal columns supporting a triangular pediment.



11. The A. E. Boyd house, 602 South Kline, dating from 1910, is an example of Colonial Revival style. Large entryways supported by columns, slate tile roofs with zinc gutters, large windows and glass paneled doors, attic dormers and smooth louvered shutters, as well as brick or poured concrete walls are characteristic of the symmetrical Colonial Revival buildings.



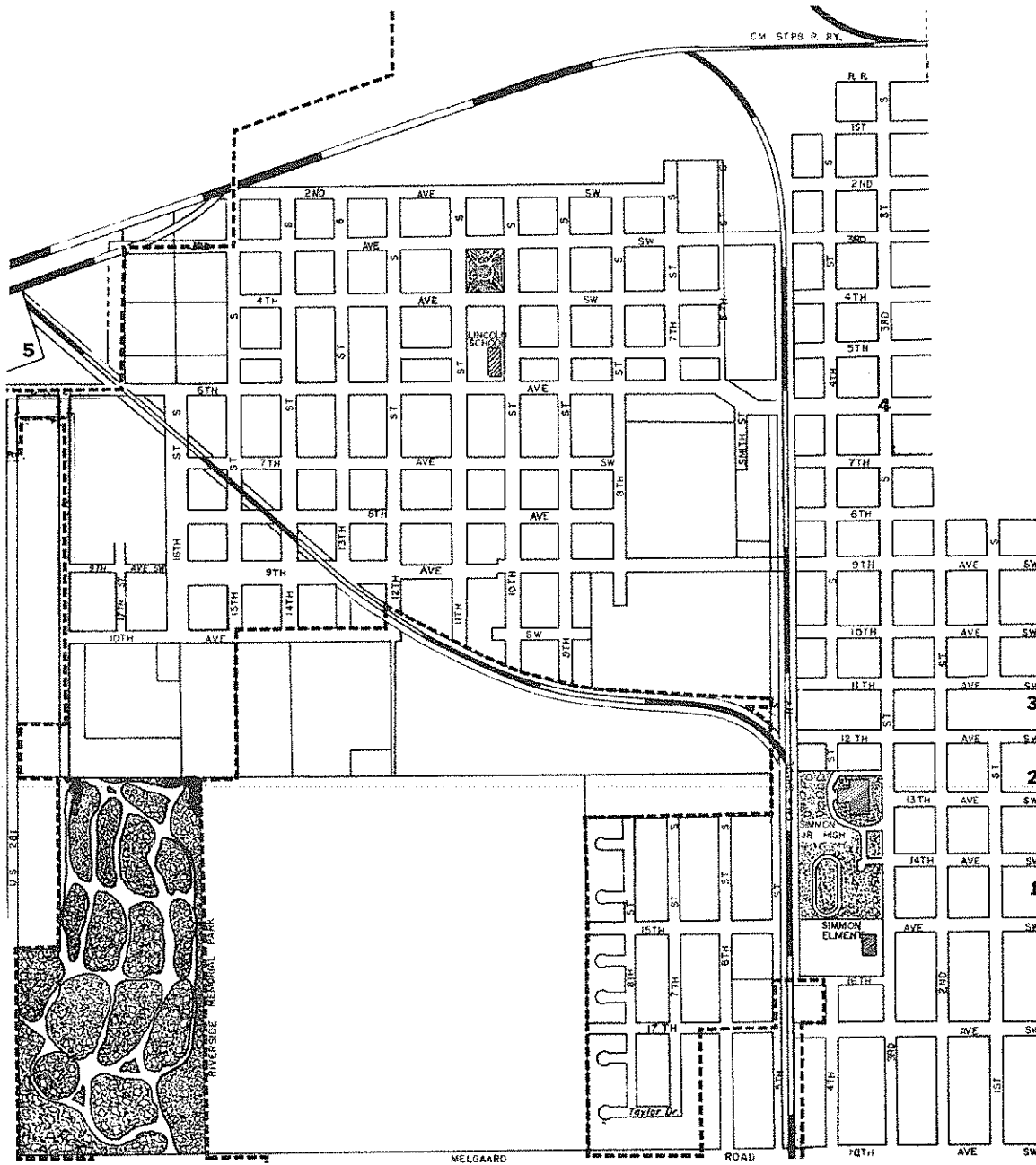
12. The Bell house, 806 South Kline, is an example of Art Modern architecture. The building is streamlined with rounded corners, flat roof and stucco siding. The design is decorative in itself, yet extra accents are added by round windows or wall stripping around the roof line.
13. Northern State College was established as the Industrial School and Institute of Technology of South Dakota by the Ter-



ritorial Legislature of 1889 and the State Legislature of 1899. It was not until 1901, however, that it was established with State funding. The three earliest buildings, now standing on the tree-planted quadrangle, are the Administration Building, Graham Hall and the Industrial Arts Building. All were constructed before 1910 and are of Renaissance Revival style characterized by a rectangular formalism, two or more stories, the first floor being of different material or texture than the others, and rounded and rectangular windows used at the same time both with zones of decorative stone or brick above the window tops. Stone of different colors or sizes, called quoins, often mark the corners of the building. The Industrial Arts Building is more simplistic in form than the others, but it has Georgian Revival style dormers and palladian windows, quite an unusual combination.

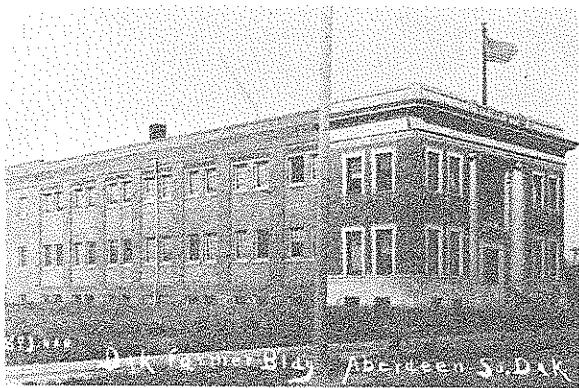
14. The Father Haire Monument on Northern State College Campus commemorates a Catholic missionary priest instrumental in establishing Sacred Heart Parish, St. Luke's Hospital and Northern State College. He was a member of the Farmers' Alliance and the Populist Party, a founder of the Knights of Labor in Aberdeen, and father of the Initiative and Referendum in our State Constitution.
15. Melgaard Park, at the Southeast edge of the city, is 25 acres of Andrew Melgaard's tree claim. Refusing many offers to buy it, he deeded it to Aberdeen as a "beauty spot" in October, 1909, with the stipulation that it must never be used for any other purpose. Additions to the park have been trees planted by several organizations, tennis courts, a band shell, and camping facilities.

## D. SOUTHWEST ABERDEEN

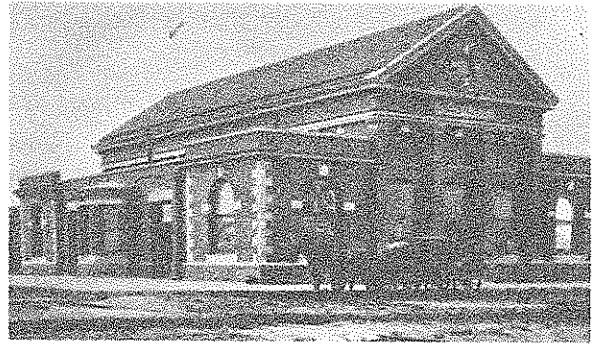




1. The J. C. Simmons house, 1408 South Main, built in 1911, is an example of Colonial Revival architecture. Originally there were balustrades and an open porch to the south. Corinthian columns are a feature of the ever popular circular porch.



2. The Dakota Farmer building, now North Plains Press, was erected in 1910-11. It is of the Renaissance Revival style characterized by impressive columns flanking the entrance to a monumental staircase.
3. The Minneapolis and St. Louis Depot, South Main and Eleventh Avenue, was built soon after the turn of the century. It is a combination of Renaissance Revival and Romanesque styles. There are circular windows surrounded by four keystones in the east and west pediments, a one-story bay window on the

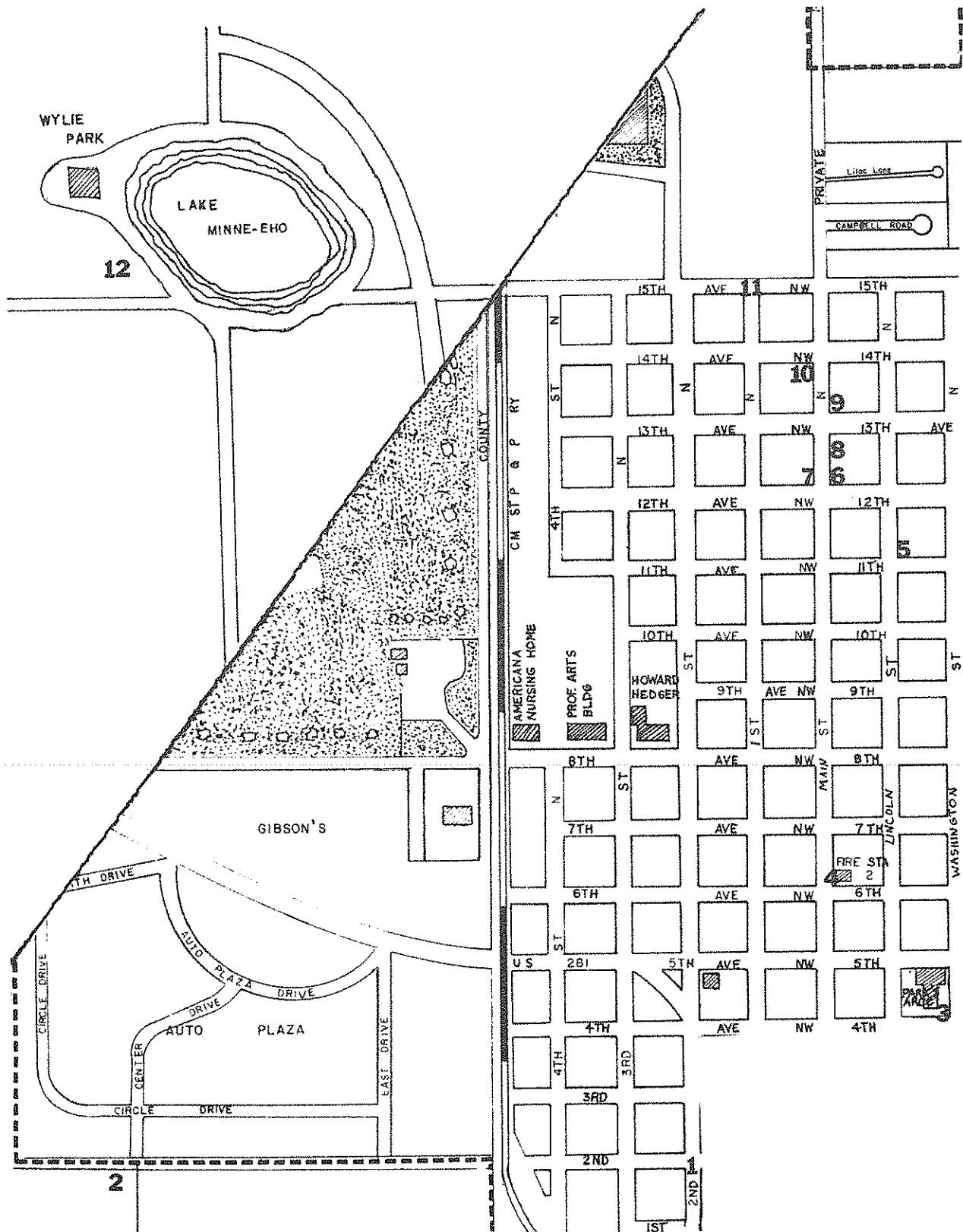


south side and quoins at the corners of the building.



4. The Yellowstone Trail Association was formed in October, 1912 and was responsible for the naming of the highway from Yellowstone Park to Minneapolis. Included in this road is the J. W. Parmley Highway from Ipswich to Aberdeen, named for the man who promoted the Yellowstone Trail. After each rain Mr. Parmley dragged the road from Ipswich to Mina with a tractor made of old Buick parts. The Yellowstone Trail was marked with yellow bands painted around all of the telephone poles. With the numbering of highways the Yellowstone Trail became U. S. No. 12.
5. The Milwaukee Stock Yards were immediately west of the city. In the early 1920's, 195 pens were built. A sheep yard addition was constructed in 1933 with 130 pens for 5,400 sheep. Livestock buyers from Armour, Swift, Morrells, as well as several independent buyers built or moved small offices into the area. During peak periods in the fall, as many as 200 carloads would be handled in a 24-hour period.

# E. NORTHWEST ABERDEEN





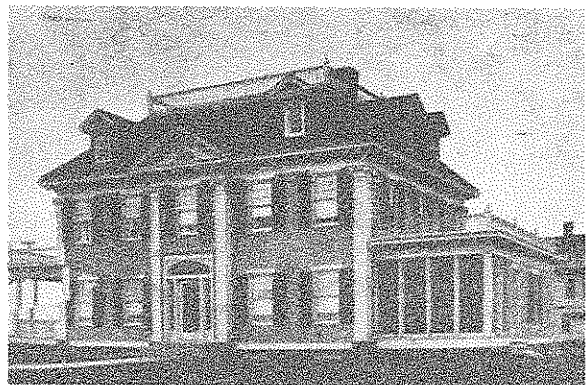
1. A large slough, stretching for several blocks east and north from the present Second Street overpass, first supplied Milwaukee engines with water. Before long this supply was found unsatisfactory and an artesian well was drilled east of the depot. Not to be outdone, Aberdeen drilled a city well, flooding Aberdeen when the largest well in the Dakotas blew in. Water is part of Aberdeen's history and in wet years this area north of the overpass still floods, a reminder of the slough.



2. Easton's Castle, on First Avenue N.W., built in 1889-90, is bricked-over Queen Anne style. Distinctive features include a three-story tower on the southeast corner which once had a conical roof; a balustrade with a keyhole opening on the third floor east; gabled roofs with parapet eaves; an Eastlake porch; and lintels, sills and eaves of red sandstone.

The later-added moat inspired the local use of "castle". A two-story Stick-style carriage house can be seen to the west.

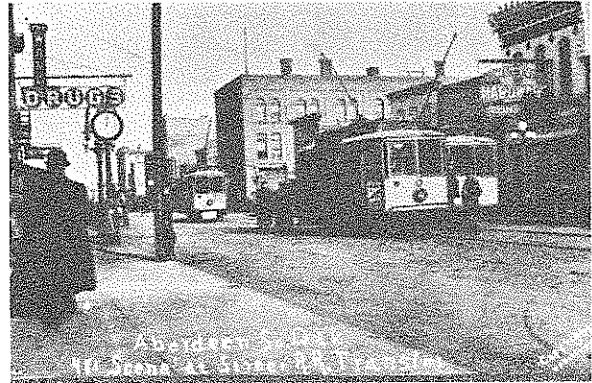
3. The Monroe School, Fourth Avenue North and Washington, erected in 1909, is of Renaissance Revival style. No longer in use as a school it has become the Aberdeen Recreational and Cultural Center (ARCC).
4. Fire Station No. 2, 604 North Main, was built in 1930 to replace the Keegan frame barn which had housed the original horse-drawn equipment. The original bell, dating from 1885, was used to call the volunteer firemen and warn the residents; it now hangs in the yard.
5. The Bassett house, 1104 North Lincoln, was built in 1912 and has been changed little through the years. It is an example of Colonial Revival style, with a beautifully pillared entrance. An exception to this style is the shingle siding.



6. The Longfellow house, 1206 North Main, was built in 1909 by W. D. Swain. It is a replica of the Longfellow home in Cambridge, MA, and is considered the most truly Georgian Revival structure in Aberdeen. Pilasters run the height of the front facade and are surmounted by pediments, and balustrades are seen on the roof. No bits and pieces from other architectural styles mar the exterior of this house.
7. The Howard house, 1201 North Main, was built in 1907 in the Colonial Revival style. Samuel Hedger built an identical house across the street to the south.



Though many changes have been made on both houses, the Howard house retains its Colonial beauty even to the hitching post at the front. The carriage house of wood and brick is unchanged.



from Northern State College to the Country Club and Wylie Park to the north, with the barns and turn-around at Fifteenth Avenue and North First Street. All traces of this historic transportation system are now gone.

8. The Alonzo Ward house, 1216 North Main, built in 1909, is in the Prairie style. The horizontally tiled first story, stuccoed second story and dormers, sets of windows, and the projecting eaves emphasize the horizontal lines of the house. The carriage house to the east, uses the same design complete with dormers and extending eaves.



9. The Styles house, 1306 North Main, was built in 1911. The first floor of hollow tile and rose tapestry brick, the second floor of grey stucco, and the roof and wooden trim are all typical of the Tudor Revival architectural style.
10. The Agor house, 1323 North Main, built by Dr. R. D. Alway in 1910, is of Italianate style. The rectangular shape, stucco finish, wide eaves, sets of tall narrow windows and low pitched hip roof are characteristic of this style.
11. Electrical street cars ran in Aberdeen from 1910 to 1922. The system extended from Northern State College to the Country Club and Wylie Park to the north, with the barns and turn-around at Fifteenth Avenue and North First Street. All traces of this historic transportation system are now gone.
12. Wylie Park, on Highway 281 North, is a 25-acre early day tree claim, purchased from Mr. Wylie for use as a park. The street cars brought townspeople out for recreation and stopped at a small depot southwest of Lake Minne-eho (Indian for Water Behold). The lake is man-made, has a bathing beach on the north side, and is often stocked with fish for young anglers. The Wylie Pavilion is on the Historic Register and is now a well-maintained example of early day pavilions. It has a stage on the west side of the dance floor, and a balcony on the east side. Dance tickets were once sold for "3 for 25" and Lawrence Welk played here many times. The park also maintains a zoo with buffalo, deer, small animals and many birds; a Story Book Land; and picnic facilities.



**ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA**