

HISTORY OF WOODWARD

The town of Woodward came into existence when the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad was being built in the early 1880's.

Because the town of Xenia, which was located 1 1/2 miles east of here was built on a steep incline where trains could not stop, it was decided to build the train depot on level ground. Thus the town of Woodward was born and it was incorporated in 1883.

The original name for the town was Colton, but trouble developed as the result of a town in another part of the state already being named Colton. After various trouble with mail and the like, the name was changed to Woodward.

The town grew rapidly at first. Folks who had been the mainstays in Xenia began to move over to the Woodward location. In several cases, the houses and even some of the store buildings were moved from Xenia to Woodward.

The mural was designed and painted by Dennis Adams for our Centennial celebration on 1983. Each image in the collage represents at least one aspect of Woodward's history. The buffalo represents the last buffalo in Dallas County that was killed where Woodward is now.

The Indian signifies the Indians that were present in this area. This Indian is named Two Hatchets and belonged to the Kiowa tribe.

The team of horses signifies agriculture and also the relocation of the community of Xenia to the present site of Woodward.

Two locomotives are pictured. One is a coal burning engine that was commonly used in the 1800's. It not only signifies the railroad's part in Woodward's history, but also the coal mining in the area as well. The newer streamlined steam locomotive was used from the early 1930's to the 1950's.

To bring the town's history up to date, the collage includes the grain elevator in the sunset.

This house was the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Craft and family. It was built in 1893. Mr. Craft was the first Mayor of Woodward and owned the first general merchandising business in town. His store was located where the Woodward Hardware is today. The house has been made into aptments in recent years.

The school is located at the end of this block. The building directly in front of us was built in 1907. The class of 1908 was the first to graduate from the new school. There were four girls and four boys to graduated from the ELEVENTH grade. Three of the boys returned the following year to make the first TWELFTH grade in 1909.

In 1930 a gymnasium and four classrooms were added to the north of the original building.

In 1957 an addition was built to the south of the original building. It houses the elementary, the superintendent's office, the kitchen and a large multil-purpose room. The Woodward and Granger school districts merged in 1964. In 1970 and 71 an addition was built to the north of the 1930 building. This addition included classrooms and a new gymnasium facility.

The Catholic church was originally a Baptist Church that was organized in 1890 and built in 1891. The Baptist Church was dissolved

According to serveral stories handed down through the generations and other written accounts by early settlers of the area, the spot where the last wild buffalo that roamed the prairies of Iowa was killed in the early 1860's is located in Woodward.

The chase started some miles south of Ft. Dodge. The buffalo was pursued by horsemen and was finally shot and killed by a Mr. Cole. The meat was divided among the farmers residing in the area at that time and the hide was also divided into squares and used for cushions for the spring seats of their wagons.

The Mike Feller residence is in the approximate spot where the killing occured.

The beginnings of the Methodist Church date back to 1850 when circuit riders came to the area. Later, a Methodist Church was established at Xenia and later moved to Woodward. The first Methoidst Church was erected at this location in 1882. The original church was used until 1907 when a new brick church was built. The educational and fellowship wing was added in 1959. In 1984, the 1907 church was torn down and this new church was built. The United Methodist Church celebrated its Centennial in 1982 - 100 years in the same location.

If Woodward has a landmark, it is probably the McColl House. The house was built in 1903, the same year that Anthony Milroy McColl married Bessie Craft.

Anthony McColl was probably Woodward's most distinguished citizen. He came with his family to this area in 1877 and started his political career in 1890. He served as Clerk of the District Court in Dallas Couty for six years and in 1910 he was appointed a State Senator.

In 1913 he was appointed to the State Board of Control, a posibtion he served in for 18 years. It was while he was a member of this Board of Control that Mr. McColl gave his biggest lift to Woodward. He

managed, after somewhat of a struggle, to have the State Hospital built at Woodward.

Mr. McColl passed away in 1952 at his home at the age of 94 years. The services were planned to conform with his wishes that the rites be under the trees in the yard that he loved so much. Nearly 500 people from all over Iowa came to pay their respects to A.M. McColl, a former State Senator and longtime Republican leader. Mrs. McColl passed away in 1963. They are buried in the Woodward Cemetery.

Following the death of their daughter, Jean McColl, in 1970, the house has been sold four times. The present owners are Steven and Jan Danielson Kaiser and daughter, Makenzie. The Kaiser's have spent much time and effort to preserve the original character of the house.

The Christian Church was built in 1886. Prior to that, services were conducted in various places in Woodward. In 1916 a complete basement was dug under the church and in 1923 new oak pews and the beautiful stained glass windows were added. Several improvements have been made over the years, the most recent being the painting of the CUP in the circle above the doors. This was painted by Dennis Adams who also painted the Centennial Mural.

As previously noted, the bell which hangs in this church originally came from the Baptist Church in the early 1930's after that congregation dissolved.

The Christian Church recently celebrated their centennial observance.

The first schoolhouse in Woodward was located in this block. It was a two story brick building that was built in 1883. Classes were held for first through the tenth grades. The first graduation was held in 1887 with 9 girls in the class. In 1906 the eleventh grade was added. The building was torn down when the new schoolhouse was built in 1907.

On this corner is one of the oldest buildings in Woodward. It was originally the office and pharmacy of Dr. D.J. Brookings, who moved to Woodward from Xenia. Dr. Brookings received his medical degree in 1869 and was a very noted pioneer physician throughout Iowa and the United States. He was especially noted for his research and study with both typhoid and scarlet fever.

The Assembly of God Church was the last to occupy this building. The congregation was formed in 1944 and the building was remodeled to meet the needs of the church. In the summer of 1986 the Assembly of God congregation dedicated their new church building which is located on South LaRue Street.

This corner is the location of where the first house was built in Woodward. The house was moved to make way for the Siglin Apartments. Its present location is 201 Jackson Avenue, northwest of the new schoolhouse addition.

Also located on this property is a Chestnut Tree which is extremely uncommon in the midwest. The tree is the first one on the parking east of the apartment building.

On the opposite corner is the site of the old Victorian mansion, commonly referred to as the Naiden House, that was a landmark in the area for 75 years.

Construction of the "Sanks Palace" began in 1882. The spiral staircase from the basement to the 4th floor was just one center of attraction inside the house. Another was the tower that rose from one corner and the city of Des Moines could be seen from the top of the tower.

The walls were of three brick thickness, with a vacuum between two of the layers. The bricks for the house were kilned right on the site. Stones that were used for footings and decoration came from the

same quarry along the Des Moines River that provided stone for the capitol building in Des Moines.

The five story mansion served as a home for the Sanks' and their daughter Carrie and her family, as well as office and clinical rooms for Dr. Sanks. An operating room was located on one of the upper floors. The mansion attracted horse and buggy tourists from up to 50 miles away.

Dr. Sanks passed away in 1891 and Mrs. Sanks in 1904. The home then became the property of their daughter, Carrie and her husband, Henry Naiden, a local businessman. It was during this time the house became known as the "Naiden House."

Henry Naiden died in 1925 and Carrie disposed of the property and moved to Des Moines. After the house passed from the Sanks' heirs, the mansion started on its downward path. In the early 1950's the house was condemned and the city ordered it torn down.

In 1958 the house was torn down, but by this time the marble fireplaces and walnut staircase had been stolen out of the house. About 400,000 bricks were salvaged and some of them were used to build the small brick house on the rear of the lot.

Thus, after 75 years, the life of the most magnificent building in the area was ended. For those who ever saw the house, no matter how deteriorated its condition, the memories still longer on.

This is the athletic field for the Woodward-Granger School. East of the field is the Hass housing addition which was platted in 1977.

In 1951, five acres of land were donated to the city for a park. The park was named The Anthony M. McColl Park as a memorial to Woodward's most distinguished citizen.

The shelter house is the original depot on its original site that served the Interurban Railway that connected the rural communities with the city of Des Moines.

The Interurban began service in 1906 and both freight and passengers were carried on this rail line. Passenger service ended in 1941 and the Woodward branch of the Interurban was abandoned in 1946.

This house is also one of the older homes in Woodward. It was built by Abner Harlow a pioneer of the area and a prominent businessman. The home is presently owned by Robert Hemming. His wife, Betty, was the granddaughter of Abner Harlow.

The City Jail built in 1896 once stood where the City Hall stands today.

Just west of the jail was the old Engine House for the Woodward Volunteer Fire Company. The Engine House was built in 1892 and housed the hand drawn hose cart that was purchased in 1911 for \$95.00.

Also in this general area was the first of many gas stations to be built in Woodward.

One of the notable buildings on Main Street is the Woodward State Bank building, which is at present a law office for attorney, Everett Albers. This is not one of the older buildings as it was not built until 1922. However, it does have a unique architecture that has been well preserved.

Just north of the State Bank building is the Woodward Public

doctors, lawyers, realtors and a photography studio. It currently houses the grocery store and apartments upstairs.

The Fire Station, still being used today, was built in 1915. For many years the upstairs of the building served as city offices and was the home of the Woodward Public Library from 1946 to 1969.