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**Southeast
corner of 7th
and Douglas**

The Elks Club, c. 1910

The Elks Club was housed in the former home of lawyer Capt. R. J. Chase at the time this photograph was taken. The house was built c. 1880, at the southwest corner of 7th and Douglas. The club house was razed in 1915 in order to build the new Woodbury County Courthouse.

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**Southeast corner
of 7th and Douglas**

Woodbury County Courthouse, c. 1920

Opening in 1918, the courthouse is one of the best examples of the Prairie School style architecture in a government building in the United States. Prolific local architect William L. Steele served as the supervising architect. Along with Steele, architect George G. Elmslie designed the building.

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**Northwest corner of
7th and Douglas**

Warnock (Benson) Building, c. 1920

Architects Beuttler & Arnold designed this building for William Warnock as an automobile “mart.” At the time it was built in 1919, the Warnock Building had the largest, indoor elevator west of the Mississippi River. This was the first construction project for W. A. Klinger who was Warnock’s son-in-law. Today, W.A. Klinger, L.L.C., is a national leader in the construction industry.

The Douglas 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 Sioux City Public Museum Research Center

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*Take a
step back
in time...*

Douglas Street Walking Tour



**Sixth and Douglas,
1940s**

Start at Second Street and Douglas Street walking north to 7th Street.



Looking north from Second Street

Douglas Street, c. 1876

Along with Pearl Street, Douglas Street was one of Sioux City's main business streets in the city's first quarter century. There were blacksmith shops, banks, grocers, and hotels along Douglas Street in the 1870s when this photo was taken.



Westside of Douglas between 2nd and 3rd Streets

Palmer Candy Company, c. 1906

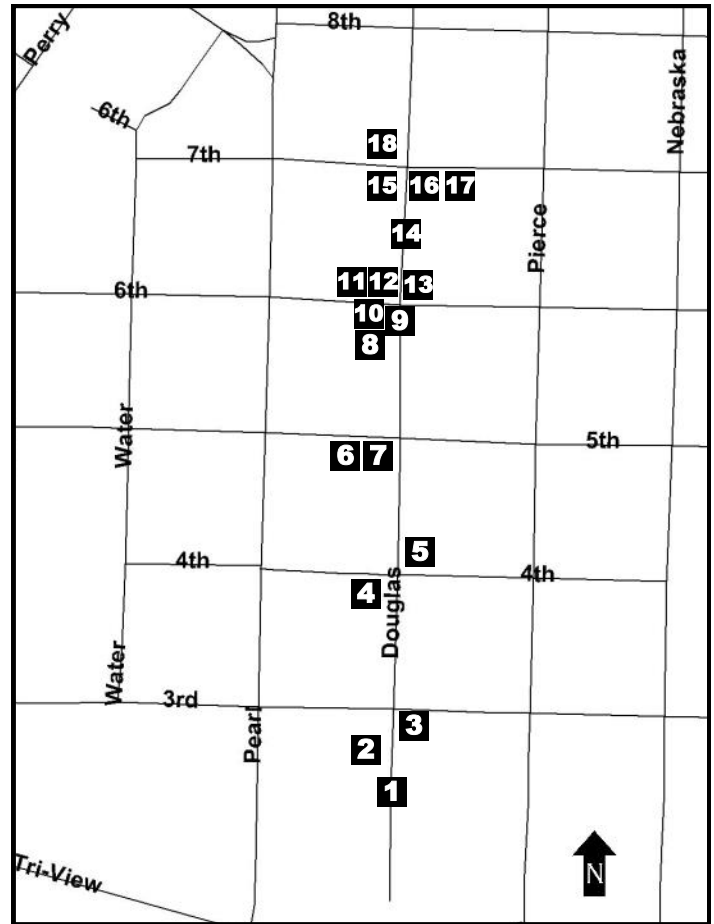
Founded in 1878, the Palmer Candy Company is one of Sioux City's oldest companies. When this structure was built in 1899, the company was considered to be one of Iowa's leading candy making companies. Not only is it one of the country's oldest candy companies, it also has the longest span of family ownership and management of any candy company of its size in the United States. It was razed to make room for the Stoney Creek Inn.



Southeast corner of 3rd and Douglas

Union Railroad Depot, c. 1920

Railroads played a vital role in Sioux City's development. The Union Depot serviced passenger trains from 1893 to the 1950s. The site is now the parking lot of the Stoney Creek Inn.



Map of Downtown Sioux City

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



Southwest corner of 4th and Douglas

First National Bank, c. 1935

Thomas J. Stone started the First National Bank in the 1880s. The building was later used for other businesses, such as a café, and was razed in 1947. The locally-owned Bomgaars, a farm and home supply store, opened at this site in 1986 and was razed in 2013 for the Hard Rock Casino.



Northeast corner of 4th and Douglas

Hedges Block, c. 1909

The Hedges Block housed the Ruff Drug Store along with other businesses. In June 1918, the building collapsed while under renovation and burned. With 39 deaths and more than 70 people injured, the “Ruff Disaster” is still considered to be one of Sioux City’s worst tragedies.



Southwest corner 5th and Douglas

Lindholm Furniture Store, c. 1894

Designed by local architect William McLaughlin in the Romanesque style, the Lindholm Furniture Store was built in 1894 and burned down in 1912.



Southwest corner of 5th and Douglas

Sioux City Journal Building, c. 1965

Built on the site of the Lindholm Furniture Store, the Sioux City Journal opened here in 1915 and remained in this building until 1972. The Perkins Bros. Office Supply Co. is the small building to the left of the Journal building. The Perkins Brothers, George and Henry, purchased the *Sioux City Weekly Journal* in 1869 and made it a daily newspaper in 1870.



Southwest corner 6th and Douglas

Oxford Hotel, c. 1895

This building began as a one story building in 1880 and was used as a roller skating rink, the Unitarian Church and finally as a hotel. It was razed in 1932 in order to build the new Post Office and Federal Building.

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“Government Corner”

6th and Douglas

Over the years, 6th and Douglas became known as “government corner” because of the concentration of government buildings at the site.

The above drawing was printed on the cover of a booklet produced by the Sioux City Art Center in the 1940s.

The artist’s rendition shows the new Post Office and Federal Building (far left), *City Hall and Library* (left center); Woodbury County Courthouse (right center at 7th and Douglas) and on the far right is the old Post Office and Federal Building – later to become City Hall.

Complete descriptions of each of these buildings are listed on the following page. →



Southwest corner of 6th and Douglas

Post Office and Federal Building, c. 1934

Built in 1933 as the Post Office and Federal Building, the Post Office moved out in 1983.



Northeast corner of 6th and Douglas

Federal Building/Post Office (City Hall), c. 1950

This was the Federal Building and Post Office from 1895 until 1933 when a new Federal building was constructed across the street. In 1948 the building became City Hall. Although the City Hall today looks very similar to this photograph, the City Hall was completely rebuilt in the 1990s using the stones from the original building.



Northwest corner of 6th and Douglas

City Hall and Library, c. 1950

Designed by Charles P. Brown, this building housed the City Hall from 1892 to 1944 and the City Library from 1892 to 1913. After it burned, the lot was used for parking until a new Police and Fire Department Headquarters Building was built in 1986.



Douglas between 6th and 7th Streets

Street Scene, c. 1940

This photograph looking north from the old City Hall (left) to the Warnock Building (now called the Benson Building) was taken around 1940. The traffic on Douglas Street went two ways at the time.



Northwest corner of 6th and Douglas

Police and Fire Department Headquarters, c. 1986

Before the Police and Fire Headquarters moved to this site in 1986, the departments were housed in a building at the southwest corner of 6th and Water.



Southwest corner of 7th and Douglas

Municipal Auditorium, c. 1912

Built in 1909 and used as an auditorium until 1950, the building was then used as the Tomba Ballroom. It was the home of KCAU-TV Channel 9 television station from 1956 to 2017.