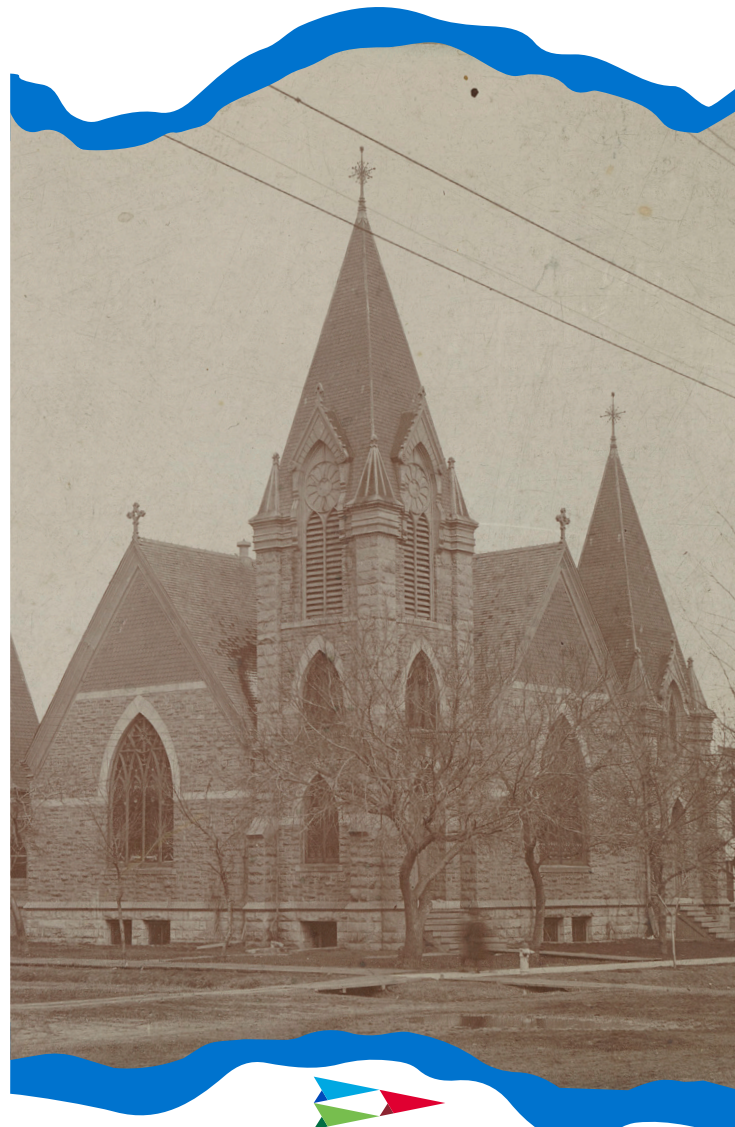


Walking Tour

Western Railside



Grand Island
Tourism
VisitGrandIsland.com
201 West 3rd Street

1 **Liederkranz**
403 W. 1st St.

Liederkranz means "a wreath of songs." The club was organized in 1870 by settlers of German heritage to cultivate German music, literature and culture.



The original clubhouse was replaced in 1912 by the current brick structure which reflects influences of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture. The Liederkranz was built for \$63,000 by architect Otto Kirschke, with Henry Falldorf as contractor—both were members of the Liederkranz.

2 **St. Mary's Cathedral**
204 S. Cedar St.

St. Mary's Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is an outstanding example of Late Gothic Revival architecture and is made of Indiana Bedford Sandstone.

Architects scaled down a model of the Parisian Cathedral La Sainte Chapelle for the church's design.

Work began on the cathedral in 1926, and it was completed and consecrated in 1928.

The main altar, amid four smaller altars, is made of white Italian marble. The rose window at the back of the cathedral came from Italy in its completed form. The church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

3

Pioneer Park
Between 1st & 2nd St., Elm & Cleburn St.

Pioneer Park was the site of Hall County's first courthouse. When the courthouse was razed, the Women's Park Association maintained the site as a memorial to the Hall County pioneers.

On July 4, 1907, the Women's Club celebrated Grand Island's 50th anniversary by placing and dedicating the Three Graces Fountain. However, in the 1950s, the original fountain was destroyed. The original mold was found and a new fountain was cast. On August 6, 2020 a replica of the original Three Graces Fountain was installed thanks to the efforts of the Hall County Historical Society.



Another point of interest in the park is a historical marker about the Lincoln Highway. The park sits along Highway 30, which was formerly known as the Lincoln Highway—the first transcontinental road for automobiles in the United States, dedicated in 1913.

4 **Motor Company Building**
520 W. 3rd St.

In the early 1900s, as the horse gave way to the automobile, Stewart Feed and Livery was replaced by this building, which housed many auto sales businesses. Inside are the same rafters delivered by horse and wagon and by train.

The building was occupied by W.L. Brotherton Motor Company, Norris Motor Company, Killion Motor Company and Oakland Pontiac. Over the years, it also was the site of the S & H Green Stamps redemption center before becoming a used office furniture outlet, an antique store, and a restaurant.

5 **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**
422 W. 2nd St.

This landmark English Gothic structure opened for worship on July 7, 1889. The church was constructed with red granite from Colorado and trimmed in gray sandstone from Wyoming. The stained glass windows were imported from Europe.

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt was seated in the third-row pew as he worshiped with the local congregation after a tour of the western states. During this tour, President Roosevelt also broke ground for the new Carnegie Public Library just down the street from the church.

6 **Labor Temple**
210 N. Walnut St.

In 1911, construction began on what was the first telephone exchange building in Grand Island. The building was designed by local architect Oscar Kirschke. The Nebraska Telephone Company, which had the largest district in the state and employed over 100 people, occupied the building until 1917. Throughout the years, purchases and consolidations eventually led to the phone company selling the building to the Grand Island Federation of Labor in 1957.

Apartments now occupy the renovated space.

7 **Martin Building**
305 N. Walnut St.

The Martin building was designed for J.D. Martin by local architect Oscar Kirschke. The building was completed in 1914 for approximately \$55,000. One of the first occupants was the funeral chapel and morgue of the Buchheit-Loughlin Furniture and Undertaking Company.

Other notable businesses that once occupied the building include: Lee and Daugherty Haberdashery, The Singer Sewing Co., Mode O'Day Frock Shop, and the Lucern Rooms (rentals) on the 2nd floor.

8 **Grand Theatre**
316 W. 3rd St.

In 1911, the theater opened as the Lyda. Due to competition from larger theaters the Lyda became rundown, was sold and renamed the Grand in 1931. Over the years, expansion and renovations took place, and in 1937 it reopened as a beautiful art-deco style theater. 705 people were ushered in to watch the premier of *A Star is Born*, starring Janet Gaynor, Adolph Menjou, and Fredrick March.



The theater changed hands over the years as the industry changed. In the early 2000s, The Grand Foundation acquired the building and set out to renovate it. With the help of donors and volunteers, the foundation continues to maintain and operate the building so that moviegoers may enjoy the atmosphere of a bygone era. Films are shown each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

9 **Kauffman Building**
308 W. 3rd St.

In 1906, a few years after arriving in Nebraska from Germany, David Kauffman rose in the ranks from working for retailer S.N. Wolbach to creating central Nebraska's first five and dime store.



In 1924, he opened his new store at this location. The store had a popular lunch counter and grew to have locations in other communities.

David Kauffman was known as "Mr. Grand Island" for his successful businesses, banking,

movie theater interests, civic involvement, and philanthropy. During the 1930s and 1940s, he also was integral in helping approximately 100 Jewish families flee to America, escaping persecution and almost certain peril in Nazi Germany.

10 **F. Roth Building**
224 W. 3rd St.

Fred Roth trained as a baker and came to Grand Island in 1886. He accumulated enough wealth through business and real estate to buy the land at this location in 1894.

In 1912 he built this two-story building. He rented to a variety of businesses on the street level with the upper level outfitted "with well finished offices particularly suited to the wants of professional men."

At one point in time, if a husband needed to make up for too much time spent at Schweiger Pool Hall, he didn't have to go far to pick something up at Jolls Jewelry. They were neighbors in the same building.

11 **Vogue Building**
209 W. 3rd St.

As early as 1908, this building was a women's clothing store. The Vogue, ladies apparel store, was the most well known of these. For generations, it was the place for fashionable women to buy suits, furs, dresses and coats.

The decorative work on the building façade reflected the fashion inside.

12 **Dolan Building**
221-223 W. 3rd St.

According to the 1907 city directory, the "New" Dolan building housed several businesses, including dry goods and sporting goods shops. However, the most notable business was Greenberger's men's clothing store. In 1998, Greenberger's men's clothing store closed after 91 years in business.

13 Majestic Theatre
216 W. 2nd St.

The Majestic Theatre opened in September 1913. In 1915, the building had a seating capacity of 487 seats and boasted having 12 exits. The theater hosted numerous vaudeville acts and silent films, promising patrons' money back if they didn't feel the show was worth the price of admission. The theater closed in 1938. Since then the building has been occupied by the VFW, Jazzercise, an antique store, and other retail establishments.



occupied by the Kunze hardware and paint store. Today it's still home to a hardware store (as in jewelry) and a paint store (as in creative art).

16 McCann Building
313 W. 3rd St.

Although it wasn't the first tenant, The Grand Island Candy Kitchen may have been this building's most notable. This was the third location for the Valonis' family business which opened in 1906.

Over its long run, thousands of people enjoyed the hand made candies, soda fountain and fresh produce found here at the Grand Island Candy Kitchen. It closed in 1993, leaving behind a long history in the community.

180 artifacts from the Candy Kitchen are now at Stuhr Museum.

17 Carnegie Public Library
321 W. 2nd St.

In 1902, community members sought Andrew Carnegie grant funds for a library. The grant



stipulated that the city support a library and site for a building to be donated. The city provided for an annual levy for maintenance, and community members donated the site so that a \$20,000 Carnegie grant could be obtained.

On April 27, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt broke ground for the construction of a new Grand Island Public Library. Complications plagued construction of the two story, Neoclassical Revival structure built on a high basement, so the dedication did not take place until 1907. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Another notable building

18 Elks Building
205 W. 1st St.

On July 12, 1900, Grand Island Lodge Number 604 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was chartered. Their first meeting was held at the G.A.R. Hall on East 3rd Street.

In 1916, a building committee was formed to raise money and oversee the construction of a permanent home, and in 1917 construction was underway. When the lodge opened in 1918, they had a membership in excess of 500.

A number of owners have had high hopes to renovate the building, however it has remained vacant for years. In 2024, renovations began to convert the building to event space.

14 Mangelsen Building
208 N. Wheeler

Built in the 1890s, the most notable occupant was Paul Mangelsen's Home Furnishings, which was here from 1938 until the later 1950s. Mangelsen worked for Wolbach's Department store for over 30 years before opening his own store. In speaking of his store, Mangelsen asserted, "there is no good reason why any ambitious man with a normal income should not live in a home furnished attractively in every detail."

His son, Harold, moved to Omaha in 1961 to open his own store, simply named Mangelsen's. The store has thrived there ever since.

15 Cleary Building
303-305 W. 3rd St.

In 1870, James Cleary opened his first hardware store in Grand Island. Due to illness, he sold his business. As early as 1914, the Cleary Building was

Information obtained for this tour was provided by various sources and is as close to historically accurate as we could determine. Our thanks to the Railside Business Improvement District, Hall County Historical Society, and Stuhr Museum.

More information about Grand Island history may be found at:

- ArriveRailside.com/building-history
- HallNEHistory.com
- StuhrMuseum.org

Download this brochure at VisitGrandIsland.com.

If you are interested in other self-guided tours, contact Grand Island Tourism at 308-382-4400.

Grand Island
Tourism

The streets in Railside — Grand Island's historic downtown district — were originally platted to parallel the railroad tracks. As the city grew, planners decided new roads would point true north. City lot parking is free.