



Everett Neighborhood History

Everett is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Lincoln outside the Downtown area. The northern section of Everett (from G to A, 9th to 13th streets) was part of the original plat of Lincoln set down in 1867. The southern section, from A to South, 9th to 13th, was originally owned and subdivided by two of Lincoln's founders. The portion from 9th to 11th, which was called the South Lincoln Addition, was owned by Captain William T. Donovan. The portion from 11th to 13th was called Dawson's Addition and was owned by Jacob Dawson. **(1)**

Capt. Donovan was originally from Pittsburgh. In 1856 he piloted the steamship "Emma" from Pittsburgh to Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where the Crescent Company was located. This company hoped to discover the value of the Salt Creek Basin as a commercial development (as mentioned in the Downtown page, salt was scarce during these years and could be quite profitable in large quantities. It was later discovered that the Salt Basin was very unreliable as a salt-producing area). Capt. Donovan and his family came to settle in the village of Lancaster, which Donovan also helped found. **(2)** The town was founded in 1859, and probably named by Donovan after Lancaster County in Pennsylvania. **(3)** Donovan then built a house at what is now 9th and Q. **(4)** Later he and Dawson, a surveyor, would assist in locating the ideal site for the future capital city.

Owing to its proximity to Downtown, the Everett neighborhood contains some of the oldest houses in Lincoln. The John L. Miller house at 1029 E Street, for example, was built in 1874, and the Otis Lyons house at 1029 Sumner Street was built a few years later. **(5)** The streets in this area are generously wide, especially 11th street and D street. Both are 120 feet wide, with 11th street providing easy access to the University (originally located at 11th and R), and D street providing broad access to Lincoln's first park, Cooper Park.

Also unique to this neighborhood are the Francine Apartments (also known as the Lyman Terrace), at 1111-1119 H Street. This building was originally constructed in the 1889, and was modeled after the row houses that were common to more crowded areas on the East coast. Since land was plentiful and very inexpensive at the time, it was quite unusual to see an

apartment complex in Lincoln in the 19th century, as these units were ordinarily built to accommodate more high density populations. **(6)**



However, as early as 1900, a trend of replacing single-family housing with high density buildings began. A market crash in 1893 and a generally depressed economy through the 1890s diminished Lincoln's population, leaving many single-family homes in the area vacant. These homes were likely removed after 1900 to build higher density buildings to accommodate a new influx of people into the city.

Today, the neighborhood is one of the most densely, and diversely, populated areas of Lincoln. It is home to a large number of students, as well as families from a wide variety of backgrounds. While many of the original homes in the neighborhood have been replaced by apartment complexes or converted into multiple family units, there are efforts underway to restore some of the most historically significant homes in the area.

Sources

1. City of Lincoln, Department of Urban Development. Focus Area Plan-Everett. 1994.
2. <http://www.livgenmi.com/1889Nelincolnhistory~eleven.htm>
3. Ibid.
4. Sawyer, A.J. ed. Lincoln, the Capital City and Lancaster County Nebraska. 2 vols. (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916), 110.
5. City of Lincoln, Department of Urban Development. Focus Area Plan-Everett. 1997.
6. Junior League of Lincoln. An Architectural Album. (Lincoln: Jacob North Printing Co., 1979), 34.