



Hartley Neighborhood History

The first development in the Hartley neighborhood was platted in 1885 as the Sunnyside Addition. This addition included 27th to 30th and O to R streets, just east of the Malone district. The rest of what is now designated Hartley neighborhood was set down fairly rapidly; most of the neighborhood had been platted by 1890. Although the boundaries of the area were set down quickly, for about 40 years, the development of Hartley stopped at the intersection of Vine and 35th Street. This was considered the eastern edge of the city for many years (24; 3). **(1)**

Still, by 1892, there were 640 established households in the neighborhood. Doctors, carpenters, lawyers and teachers all lived in the area, as well as a good number of store-owners. 27th Street from O Street north was a unique business district that held a number of specialty shops, including a grocery store that made deliveries to anywhere in the city of Lincoln (not an easy feat in 1892!). **(2)**

Hartley also includes the State Cemetery, which was established in 1869 and moved to its current location—between O and Vine streets from 36th to 42nd—in 1890. The original name of the cemetery, "Lincoln State Cemetery," was soon changed to Wyuka Cemetery. A fitting name for a cemetery, "wyuka" is the Sioux word for "place of rest." **(3)** The fence that surrounds the cemetery once bordered the UNL downtown campus.

In the early 20th century, the establishment of several educational institutes spurred Hartley's growth past its boundary at 35th and Vine. The College of Agriculture, built in 1909 on UNL East Campus, created a building boom in Hartley, including the Jordan school, which was located at the northwest corner of 45th and Vine. At the time it was considered a rural school. As Hartley continued to grow, another school was finished in 1921.

This school, called Hartley Elementary, was named for Ellis T. Hartley, who was the Superintendent of Schools from 1883-1890. **(4)** Mr. Hartley retired in 1890 and went on to grow a large fruit orchard on a tract of land he owned. The orchard was quite successful, but it died away soon after Hartley's death in 1914, as no one had an interest in continuing it. Ellis Hartley is

buried in Wyuka Cemetery. The grave marker is a huge, rough boulder with the name Hartley carved into it. **(5)**

Hartley has retained its largely residential character up to the present, as well as the specialty shops along 27th Street. There is even a small shop at 3221 W Street called Blue Heaven, where one can find custom silver, gold or gem work. The back yard of the shop is beautifully landscaped with a pond and has been the site of several weddings. **(6)**

Sources

1. Hartley Neighborhood Plan. (Prepared by the City of Lincoln Urban Development Department, Office of Neighborhood Planning and Development, 1981), 3.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., 2.
4. Callaghan, Mike. How the Lincoln Public Schools Were Named. (Lincoln, 2000), 13.
5. Ibid.
6. <http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/urban/comdev/heart/hartley.htm>