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Nebraska Sociology On The Ground: A Souvenir Booklet To Accompany An Historical Walking Tour Of Faces And Places On The Lincoln Campus

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NEBRASKA SOCIOLOGY ON THE GROUND:
A SOUVENIR BOOKLET TO ACCOMPANY AN HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR
OF FACES AND PLACES ON THE LINCOLN CAMPUS

Tour organized and conducted by
Michael R. Hill

11:00 A.M. — 12:15 P.M.
Friday, November 3, 2006

1. NEBRASKA UNION, CITY CAMPUS

Welcome!

This 1-hour and 15-minute walking tour leaves promptly from the Nebraska Undergraduate Sociology Symposium (NUSS), Regency Suite, Room C, in the UNL Nebraska Union, on the City Campus. The tour includes eight locales of sociological interest (see map on the last page of this booklet) and features brief pauses at the Nebraska State Historical Society and the UNL University Archives. The first 15 participants receive this printed souvenir tour guide and related handouts. The tour will be conducted regardless of weather (rain, snow, sleet or shine) — please dress accordingly.
The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) was founded in 1878. Roscoe Pound’s parents were early supporters, as were George Elliott Howard and his student, Amos G. Warner. Addison E. Sheldon, longtime NSHS Superintendent, earned the Ph.D. in sociology at Columbia in 1919. Sociological novelist Mari Sandoz was an NSHS employee during 1931-32 and 1934-35. The R Street building, constructed in 1953, holds the Library and State Archives. A new museum is located at 15th and P Streets.

Major NSHS archival collections include the papers of sociologist Hattie Plum Williams and many items written by Nebraska’s only botanist-lawyer-sociologist, Roscoe Pound. The NSHS is a large repository of data explicating Nebraska’s social history.
3: Love Library

Love Library, built in 1941, contains not only the University Archives but also many books once owned by sociologist George Elliott Howard, including his early issues of the *American Journal of Sociology* and several other sociological journals. These books and periodicals can be identified today because they still bear Howard’s personal library stamp. During his pre-Stanford days on the Nebraska faculty, Professor Howard instrumentally directed the day-to-day administration of the University library, from 1878 to 1888.
The University Archives hold many important items and collections relevant to the history of Nebraska sociology, including:

- Faculty Bio-Files
- Student Publications
- University Bulletins
- Chancellors’ Papers
- Regents’ Papers

And special materials pertaining to:

- Edith Abbott
- George Elliott Howard
- James M. Reinhardt
- Edward Alsworth Ross
- A. de B. Hollingshead
- Mari Sandoz Papers
- Alvin Saunders Johnson

and many others . . . .

A cart of acid-free Hollinger boxes filled with archival materials.
The Social Science Building opened for occupancy at the end of 1918. It housed the departments of Art History and Criticism, History, Philosophy, and Political Science and Sociology as well as the new College of Business Administration.
The City Campus — 1926

Note: Cross Hatching represents property not owned by University.

5. **Pedestrian/Vehicular Interactions at 12th & R Streets**

In the 1920s, 12th and R were busy cross streets. The *Nebraska Alumnus* reported in 1926 that ".. the traffic department of the City of Lincoln installed safety signals at the dangerous intersection of Twelfth and R streets. . . . The regular center street hanging light system was installed . . . . The need of such a traffic system on R street was increased twofold by the paving and widening of R street . . . . The lights and bells operate during the rush hour from seven thirty in the morning until eight thirty when the traffic subsides. At ten-thirty the signals begin again and operate until ten-thirty at night along with the whole downtown set of signals. New lights were installed at Twelfth and Q streets and Thirteenth and Q streets where the channels of traffic from the University to the center of town [are] the thickest.” By eventually closing 12th street north and R Street west, today’s moderate traffic at 12th and R is easily controlled with a simple “Yield” sign.
Boundary of the Original Campus

R Street
6: Architecture Hall
Formerly the University Library

The “new” library opened for business in 1895. The departments of English literature, European history, English history, Political economy and Fine Arts were housed on the third floor, with the department of Philosophy assigned to the ground floor along with the Nebraska State Historical Society. The reading room only had space for 165 students, but by the 1920s it was utilized by some 2000 students per day.

A few faculty who taught various sociology courses occupied offices here, including:

- C.E. Prevey  L 301 / L 310
- E.A. Ross    L 301
- C.A. Ellwood L 301
- A. Ross Hill L 109 / L 106
- W.G.L. Taylor L 301

Old Library Reading Room
2. Stalls for the common herd.
3. Politicians' rest room.
5. Feminine room for girls of both sexes.
6. Wire cage and dime museum.
7. You ask for a book. Two results: (1) She tells you to hunt it yourself; (2) Or else she goes away, comes back in about an hour and says it's out.
8. The great unknown!
9. The funny man's private apartments.
11. Spoon holders.
13. ?
14. Barb reception room. Book cases and various other kinds of "cases."

Source: University of Nebraska, Senior Book of the Class of '06, p. 95.
The old University Hall, completed in 1870, was for many years the soul of the institution. Sociologists and closely allied social scientists having various offices in U-Hall at various times included:

Howard W. Caldwell  U207
Lucile Eaves  U103
George Elliott Howard  U 103 / U 206
Alvin S. Johnson  U101
Roscoe Pound  U106 / U207 / U 210 /U307
Edward A. Ross  U206
W.G.L. Taylor U101
Hutton Webster  U103
Harry Kirke Wolfe U 209
Century-old Remnants in Stone & Paper
Until 1908, on the site of Richards Hall (formerly the Mechanical Engineering Building), football games, track meets, and other sporting events were held on Nebraska Field. Especially notable were the Faculty Carnivals (“Faculty Foolishness”) of 1903-1905 in which numerous faculty, including several social scientists, participated in fund-raisers for the College Settlement program (of which sociologist C.E. Prevey was the Head Resident). Students paid 25 to 50 cents to watch, root for, and/or roast their professors as they competed in outlandish sporting contests. The *Daily Nebraskan* advised students: “If you have any grudge against any member of the faculty . . . , [w]henever one of them falls in some dismal fashion you can turn loose and roast him properly.” The 1903 Carnival unfolded on Friday afternoon, November 13th, and featured a weight tossing spoof between sociologist E.A. Ross and historian H.W. Caldwell. The *Daily Nebraskan* reported: “Professor Caldwell was dressed in short trousers and as he marched down the field with Professor Ross the contrast was, well, it simply was ——. The crowd went into convulsions from thence to spasms and then stopped for the lack of anything else into which they might go. Professor Ross threw first, the 12-pound hammer, and made a good throw and the friends of Professor Caldwell were beginning to fear for the outcome. But he was equal to it — he had a set of hammers of his own, and he picked up the 12-pound one and twirling around his head as if it were a feather he threw it almost off the field. Professor Ross then tried hard on the 18-pound hammer, but the result was the same. Finally they came to the heavy weight. Professor Ross threw an 80-pound hammer and Professor Caldwell had a 200-pound one brought onto the field. Even in this throw Prof. Caldwell completely distanced his tall opponent and this closed the contest.” Football games, military drills, and footraces culminated with a marching band in 1905: “the Faculty band of several pieces [was] headed by that peerless leader, Prof. Ross. Just what kinds of instruments they played is not known. The like of them has never been seen or heard in musical circles before — and probably never will be again.”
9: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Oldfather Hall, 7th Floor
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0324
(402) 472-3631
www.unl.edu/unlsoc/

The Department of Sociology is currently housed on the 7th floor of Oldfather Hall. This, the tallest building on campus, was built in 1969 in honor of Charles Henry Oldfather who joined the Nebraska faculty in 1926 as professor of ancient history (then one of only six similar positions in the United States). On 7th floor, remnants of sociologist J.O. Hertzler’s personal library repose in Room 730, and many recent dissertations and theses completed by the department’s graduate students are housed in glass-fronted cases in Room 707 (which also boasts a rogue’s portrait gallery of departmental luminaries). A sign of the times, Oldfather Hall is today outfitted with rooftop security cameras feeding streams of digital imagery to the offices of the campus police.
Sociology on the Ground
Tour Itinerary
1 – Start at Nebraska Union
2 – Historical Society (NSHS)
3 – Love Library & Archives
4 – CBA (Former Social Sciences)
5 – 12th & R Intersection
6 – Arch Hall (Former Library)
7 – University Hall Site
8 – Nebraska Field Site
9 – Oldfather Hall