

Beaver Avenue
By: Ken Black

Beaver Avenue was originally called the "old Ft. Dodge Stage Road" when Beaverville was known simply as Northwest Des Moines. A map dated 1889 was found in the Des Moines city directory which described a development proposal listing Beaver Avenue as Oakdale Avenue. It ran only from Forest to what is now 41st Street. Beaver Avenue was listed in a 1915 road atlas as the Panora Speedway. The section north of Hyperion Club was also known as the River Road. In 1917 during World War I the United States Army designated Beaver as one of the official routes to downtown Des Moines, and as such, pavement was required. The paving was done with bricks. The connection with downtown Des Moines is assumed to have been 28th Street.