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## About The Durham Museum

The Durham Museum is one of the region's premier cultural and educational institutions and is housed in the historic Union Station in downtown Omaha. Union Station was designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood, built for the Union Pacific Railroad in 1931, and was the primary railroad station in Omaha. In 2011, The Durham Museum celebrated the 80th anniversary of this historic facility. Union Station reached its service peak during World War II, when it saw more than 10,000 passengers and 64 trains per day. Union Station closed in 1971 following decades of declining passenger service. For a brief time, Union Pacific considered demolition of the building. Concerned citizens urged the railroad to retain the building, and in 1973, the Union Pacific Railroad donated the building to the City of Omaha. That same year the Western Heritage Society was formed to preserve the building and to establish and maintain a Museum to meet the needs of the community. In 1974 a museum director was hired, and in 1975, the building reopened as the Western Heritage Museum.

In 1995 much needed renovations, including a new parking structure, new exhibit space, infrastructure upgrades, and the complete restoration of the Main Waiting Room, were undertaken as part of the \$25 million "Realizing Greatness" capital campaign. The facility reopened in 1997 as the Durham Western Heritage Museum. Since then, well over one million people have visited the museum. Smithsonian Affiliation was achieved in 2002, and in 2004, the 12,500-square-foot Velde Hall of American History was completed. With these changes came the opportunity to bring selected national treasures to the region from such prestigious organizations as the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives.

In June of 2007, the museum completed a \$1.5 million rejuvenation of its permanent exhibits. Also in 2007, the Main Waiting Room was renamed the Suzanne and Walter Scott Great Hall, and the space including all of the exhibits along the museum's track level was renamed the Trish and Dick Davidson Gallery. In November of 2007, the museum completed the 266-seat Stanley and Dorothy Truhlsen Lecture Hall, in the original 1899 boiler plant at the east end of the museum. This new educational space is equipped with distance learning technology capable of connecting with up to four other venues simultaneously, and represents an exciting new frontier in the museum's educational offerings.

On April 6, 2008, the museum was renamed The Durham Museum. The name change more accurately reflects the museum's broad scope of exhibitions and education programs, which cover subjects ranging from history and culture to science and industry. Recent completion of capital renovation projects at the museum will guarantee the long-term viability of this historic structure and will ensure its place as a learning center for generations to come.

**Hours:** Tuesday, 10am-8pm; Wednesday – Saturday, 10am-5pm; Sunday, 1-5pm. Check the museum's website for expanded summer and holiday hours.

**Admission:** \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$5 children ages 3-12, children 2 and under and members are FREE.