



Bismarck's Great Fire, August 8, 1898

Bismarck after the great fire of August 8, 1898. Photograph is taken near the corner of Third and Main, looking in a northeasterly direction. The building on the right is the Sheridan House on the site of the present Burlington Northern depot. The front of the hotel faced the railroad tracks. Note the bandstand at the corner of Fourth and Main. The old St. Alexius Hospital at Sixth and Main is clearly visible as is the spire of St. Mary's church. To the left is the tower of the old courthouse and the spire of the Methodist church at Fifth and Thayer. The area burned over included from the Northern Pacific tracks up to Thayer Avenue and from the east side of Fourth Street westward. Burning embers carried by a southeast wind caused other small fires over the city. There even was a prairie fire north of the capitol, which was attributed to the big fire.

REF: History of the City of Bismarck, North Dakota
The First 100 Years – 1872-1972.