

Webster Telephone Exchange Building

2213 Lake Street

Omaha

Built in 1907, the Webster Telephone Exchange Building was constructed as part of the Nebraska Telephone Company during a period of intensive growth partially stimulated by the competition of the independent telephone companies. In 1933 the American Bell Telephone Company donated the Webster Telephone Exchange Building to the Urban League, which converted it into a community center. The community center had a free employment bureau, library, reading room, sewing room, day nursery, medical and dental clinic, adult education center, and theater. The building served as a community center until 1950. In 1952 it was converted to an apartment house, and it is now the Great Plains Black Museum, which has interpreted the black heritage of the area since 1975. [CA 12/5/77, 77000829]