

Jewell Building

2221-2225 North 24th Street

Omaha

Built in 1923, the Jewell Building is a monument to Omaha's musical, social, and black heritage. The Jewells, an influential black family in the Omaha community, employed John Lof and Sons to construct the building at 24th and Grant streets. It was one of the first commercial buildings constructed in Omaha's black developing neighborhood during the 1920s, and it indicates the beginning of the black movement in Omaha. From the 1920s to the 1960s its Dreamland Ballroom attracted nationally prominent jazz musicians. Among those who appeared on the Dreamland Stage were Duke Ellington, Nat "King" Cole, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Charlie Barnet, Dizzy Gillespie, Dinah Washington, Ray Charles, Sarah Vaughn, Earl Hines, and Louis Armstrong. Since its construction, the Jewell Building has served as a meeting place for Omaha's black community. [CA 7/21/83, 83001091]