

## DICKINSON

By 1882 the Northern Pacific Railway had completed laying its tracks into the Dickinson area and the little settlement, then called Pleasant Valley Siding, was designated a division point. Spawned by the Northern Pacific and nurtured by cattlemen and buffalo hunters, the settlement soon became a busy trade center.

During one week of July, 1880, it is recorded 4000 buffalo skins were brought in for shipment. Dickinson became the largest cattle shipping point in the N.P., maintaining extensive cattle yards there. Sheep were raised in the area also and the wool shipments boosted the economy. Wool was baled and brought in from 100 miles south and shipped to Philadelphia and Boston during the summer months; it was estimated 2,000,000 pounds of wool were shipped out of Dickinson annually.



Bales of buffalo hides waiting for shipment out of Dickinson piles of construction materials are featured in this 1881 postcard of Dickinson.

Photo credit: Southwestern North Dakota Digital Archive

The town was named Dickinson in tribute to Wells Dickinson, a senator from New York, in 1881. He helped the N.P. Railway get all their land grants and it was through his efforts that so many easterners came out to settle in this new frontier. He had charge of lands and transportation for the N.P. and owned about 3,000 acres of land in Stark County when the town site of Dickinson was plotted in 1882. His cousin, H. L Dickinson, was the first Dickinson merchant.

The rest of the 1880s saw a continued growth and building up of the town in every way: materially, socially, economically and numerically. Schools and churches were built, the population increased, and a sense of civic duty and pride prevailed. By 1885, there were about 25 firms doing business in the town of Dickinson. It was fast becoming the trade center of a 150 mile radius of Dakota Territory.

*Source: Stark County Heritage and Destiny/Frontier Cavalcade*



Businesses line Villard Street in Dickinson, 1888. A church steeple is visible in the background.  
Photo credit: Southwestern North Dakota Digital Archive.



Loads of wheat sacks being transported to Dickinson for shipment, 1904.  
Photo credit: Southwestern North Dakota Digital Archive



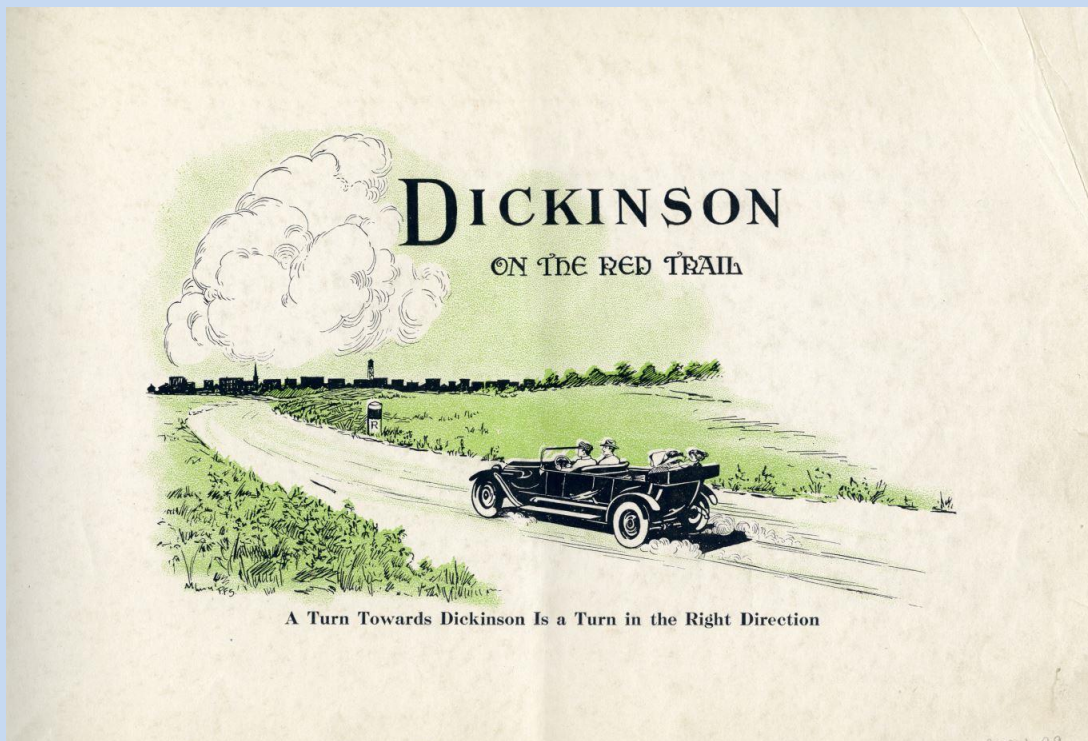
The Dickinson City Hall and Fire Department was built in 1900.  
Photo credit: Southwestern North Dakota Digital Archive



The Northern Pacific Railway Depot in Dickinson, 1900.  
Photo credit: Southwestern North Dakota Digital Archive



The Dickinson Public Library opened in 1908.  
Photo credit: Southwestern North Dakota Digital Archive



Page from a promotional brochure created by the Dickinson Commercial Club, 1915  
Photo credit: Southwestern North Dakota Digital Archive



This linen postcard features Dickinson State Teachers College in 1943. The college was established as a State Normal School in 1918 and graduated its first class in 1920.

The main building, May Hall, was built in 1924.

Photo credit: Brian Belden Collection, Southwestern North Dakota Digital Archive



Villard Street looking west from the St. Charles Hotel. Included in the photo are the United States Employment Service and Stark County Veterans Service Office, St. Charles Hotel, Bineks, Bijou Theater, Beaudoins, Service Drug and Villard Hotel, 1946.

Photo credit: Southwestern North Dakota Digital Archive