17. RED CLOUD CEMETERY • Here you’ll see the graves of town founder Silas Garber; members of the Sadilek family, prototypes for the Shimerdas in My Ántonia; and Cather’s parents, grandmother, and other family. Marjorie Anderson, the young woman who traveled with the Cathers from Virginia and worked for them, is also buried in the family plot. She was the prototype for Mandy in “Old Mrs. Harris,” Marty in “Poor Marty,” and Mahailey in One of Ours.

18. BAPTIST CHURCH • The Cather family belonged to the Baptist Church, though they later joined the Grace Episcopal church. This church was dedicated in 1884, about the time the Cathers moved into Red Cloud.

19. CATHER SECOND HOME • The Cathers moved into this larger home in 1904 after making renovations. Though Cather no longer lived in Nebraska, she often made long visits. Following the deaths of her parents, Cather made her last visit home in December 1931.

20. METHODIST CHURCH • When Cather’s family lived across the street, this church boasted beautiful stained glass windows, which she describes in My Ántonia. Red Cloud’s first church was built on this site in 1878, replaced by the structure you see today.

21. WEBSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE • Designed by architect William F. Gernandt and constructed in 1914, Cather describes this building in One of Ours, during the scene of the German trials.

22. NINTH AVENUE • Red Cloud’s affluent families built newer, more elaborate homes here. In Lucy Gayheart, Cather calls it “Quality Street,” an expression she may have adapted from local merchant Mrs. Newhouse, who called the neighborhood “Quality Knob.”

23. BENTLEY HOME • M.R. Bentley, prototype for Wick Cutter in My Ántonia, lived in this home before moving to Arkansas, where he murdered his wife much as Cather described in her 1918 novel.

24. WILLIAM CATHER HOME • Willa Cather’s grandparents retired from farming and moved to a house on this site on the edge of Red Cloud. Before the trees planted on Red Cloud’s streets matured, the Republican River was visible from this site.
1. **RED CLOUD OPERA HOUSE**  
   Built in 1885, the Red Cloud Opera House was restored in 2003. The first floor houses an art gallery, a bookstore, and offices; upstairs boasts original floors, support columns, and wooden stage structure. It was on this stage that ragtime prodigy John William “Blind Boone” performed, and budding author Willa Cather gave her graduation oration in 1890.

2. **FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK**  
   Erected in 1889 by former Nebraska governor and Red Cloud founder Silas Garber to house his banking business, this unique building retains its original tile work, Colorado sandstone frontage, Red Cloud brick, its teller cages and other bank fixtures.

3. **CHILDHOOD HOME**  
   This home was rented by Charles Cather for his family from 1884–1904. Willa Cather describes this house, and particularly her attic bedroom, in detail in *The Song of the Lark* (1915). The house was restored in the 1960s and contains numerous Cather family artifacts. The house was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1971.

4. **MINER HOUSE**  
   Built in 1878, the J.L. Miner house is an important setting for Cather’s novel *My Ántonia*, and the Miner family themselves became prototypes for the Harlings in the book. Anna Sadilek Pavelka, who inspired the character of Ántonia, worked for the Miner family as a hired girl, when she met and became lifelong friends with Willa Cather.

5. **BURLINGTON DEPOT**  
   Built in 1897, this is Red Cloud’s third depot. Cather would have arrived at this depot on her visits home after moving to the East Coast. Cather uses the depot as a setting in many of her works, like *My Ántonia*, “The Sculptor’s Funeral,” Lucy Gayheart, and an early play, “The West Bound Train.”

6. **ST. JULIANA FALCONIERI CHURCH**  
   Serving as Red Cloud’s Catholic church from 1883-1903, this church was where Anna Sadilek Pavelka baptized her baby and later married. Cather sometimes visited this church to hear the services spoken in Latin. The church was restored in the 1960s after serving as a family residence for decades.

7. **GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
   Willa Cather joined the Episcopal Church in 1922. Willa Cather and her family were devoted to this church; Cather and her brother purchased two of the Emil Frei windows on the north wall to honor their parents, and the walnut altar rail was given in memory of Douglass Cather. Following her death in 1947, Bishop George Beecher led memorial services for Willa Cather here.

8. **THE MOON BLOCK**  
   Built in 1887 by Senator John Moon of Michigan, the Moon Block housed stores and offices for decades before a $7 million renovation to house the National Willa Cather Center. It appears in *The Song of the Lark* as the Duke Block and as Niel’s office in *A Lost Lady*.

9. **DR. COOK’S DRUG STORE**  
   Across the street from the Opera House is the site of Dr. Henry Cook’s drug store. Teenaged Willa Cather worked here, sometimes taking her pay in books and the wallpaper that still hangs in her childhood bedroom.

10. **STATE BANK BLOCK**  
    Built in 1883 of Red Cloud brick from William Ludlow’s brick yard on Crooked Creek north of town, this building housed several local banks during the turbulent financial times between 1886 and 1930.

11. **MINER GENERAL STORE**  
    In 1883, J.L. Miner and his brother built a new brick general store, the first brick building in Red Cloud according to Miner’s papers. Cather describes it in “Two Friends,” and the Miner family became the Harlings in *My Ántonia* (1918).

12. **CHARLES CATHER’S REAL ESTATE OFFICE**  
    One bay north of the old Miner Store, you’ll see the second floor windows of Charles Cather’s real estate office, where Willa Cather also had her laboratory for dissecting animals.

13. **THE WEINER HOUSE**  
    East of the Miner home, the Weiner house stands at the edge of the Cather’s backyard. The Weiners introduced Willa Cather to French and German literature and are prototypes for Mr. and Mrs. Rosen in “Old Mrs. Harris.”

14. **COTTONWOOD GROVE**  
    Site of William R. “Uncle Billy” Jackson’s grove of cottonwood trees. Cather mentions the grove in *The Song of the Lark*. Red Cloud’s horse-drawn street car drove by as it carried passengers between the Burlington Depot and Red Cloud’s downtown businesses.

15. **DIVISION STREET**  
    Division Street marks Red Cloud’s original southern city boundary. In Cather’s day, several restaurants were located along the wooden boardwalk surrounding the Depot. This working class neighborhood south of Division Street countered “Quality Knob” on the north end of Seward Street.

16. **THE GARBER HOUSE**  
    This cottonwood trees are all that remain at the site of Red Cloud founder Silas Garber’s original dugout and home. Garber served two terms as Nebraska’s governor. He and his wife Lyra were the prototypes for Captain and Mrs. Forrester in Willa Cather’s novel *A Lost Lady*. 