

HOUSENOVEL

THE STORY OF
4534 BLAISDELL
AVENUE · MINNEAPOLIS

A HOMEOWNER RESIDENT TIMELINE

1903–1963

Six decades of residents, occupations, family connections, and everyday life preserved through historical records.

Prepared for the homeowner by HouseNovel

More than an address.

A home becomes part of a city’s story through the people who live, work, gather, and build their lives there.

The surviving records currently trace residents of 4534 Blaisdell Avenue from 1903 through 1963. Across those decades, the home was connected to electricians, machinists, stenographers, salespeople, clerks, carpenters, accountants, restaurant managers, and entrepreneurs — along with generations of families whose lives overlapped beneath the same roof.

AT A GLANCE

1903	60 years	1963
Earliest resident record found	Resident history traced	Latest record in this timeline

HOW TO READ THIS TIMELINE

Each chapter below follows the people recorded at the property in surviving Minneapolis city directories and, where noted, the 1920 Federal Census. The historical record can be incomplete, and household relationships are only stated when the source material supports them.

1903–1910

Clyde H. Hardacker

At the dawn of the automobile age, the home was occupied by a resident whose career moved between electrical work, machinery, and electric automobile repair.

Clyde H. Hardacker and his wife Millie Hardacker were the earliest residents found recorded at 4534 Blaisdell Avenue, appearing at the address beginning in 1903.

Mildred worked as a stenographer. Clyde's work changed over the years, but remained closely tied to the emerging electrical and mechanical trades. In 1903, he was listed as an electrician working for Gust Lagerquist. By 1904, the directory associated him with the Electric Repair Co., and in 1907 he worked as an electrician for the Ozone Generator Co. He was listed as a machinist in 1908 and again as an electrician in 1909.

By 1910, Hardacker was advertising electric automobile repairing at 618 3rd Avenue South while continuing to reside at 4534 Blaisdell.

Other people recorded at the home during this period included Clarence Skinner, a carpenter who boarded here in 1906; John K. Lane, a solicitor with Continental Casualty Co.; John D. Sanborn, a bookkeeper; and William A. Ivey, a solicitor.

1911

The Lewis Household

In 1911, the directories recorded Carl H. Lewis at 4534 Blaisdell Avenue. Lewis worked as a reporter for The Bradstreet Co.

Also living at the property was Silas M. Lewis, who worked as a salesman. It is unclear from the records whether the two Lewises were related.

Mildred Hardacker was also listed, apparently remaining at the address for a short time after the death of her husband Clyde Hardacker in 1910.

1912–1914

The Curtis Family

By 1912, Frank H. Curtis was recorded as the principal resident of the home.

Frank worked as a salesman for Maurice L. Rothschild & Co. in 1912. The following year he was listed as a clerk for Plymouth Clothing House, and in 1914 as a clerk for The Robitshek Co.

Several other members of the Curtis family lived with him, including George H. Curtis, Mabel M. Curtis, and Susie E. Curtis. Mabel worked as a clerk, while Susie was listed as a proofreader in 1913.

The household also included Raymond E. Davis, who worked as a salesman for L. S. Donaldson Co. in 1912 and as a clerk the following year.

1915–1916

Marcus and Jessie Ball

Marcus Ball lived at 4534 Blaisdell Avenue in 1915 and 1916 and was listed as a laborer.

Jessie A. Ball also lived at the property during both years. She worked as a stenographer for Real Estate Title Insurance Co. in 1915 and Real Estate Abstract Co. in 1916.

1917–1919

Milo and Mary Bancroft

The Bancroft household is one of the places where the timeline is supported by both city directory listings and the 1920 Federal Census.

For three consecutive years, Milo I. Bancroft was recorded at the home. Bancroft worked as a cashier for Cedar Lake Ice Co., an occupation and employer that remained consistent in the 1917, 1918, and 1919 Minneapolis city directories.

The 1920 Federal Census lists Milo I. Bancroft and his wife Mary M. Bancroft as the residents of the home. Living with them was Ella M. Brooks, who is recorded as their niece.

The Allen family represents the longest continuous family chapter found in the surviving records for the home.

Starting in 1920, various iterations of the Samuel and Mary Allen family inhabited the home, including their children and occasionally their grandchildren.

In 1920 Stanley and Josephine Moore were occupants. Josephine was a daughter of Samuel and Mary. Stanley was the manager of the Masonic Lodge. Also living with them was Carrie Allen, Josephine's sister and another daughter of Samuel and Mary. Apparently having never married, she retained the Allen surname. Her occupation was listed as cashier at the National City Co.

In 1921 Josephine and Carrie's mother Mary Allen joined the household, listed as the widow of Samuel Allen.

Through the rest of the 1920s this core group resided in the home, although periodically other members of the Allen family such as Carrie and Josephine's brother Harry Allen and nephews Samuel Allen and James Allen were also named as occupants.

In 1923 Harry's occupation is listed as stenographer at Paine, Webber & Co.

Samuel Allen's career trajectory can be followed through his listings. Starting in 1924 his listing just says "minor"; in 1925, student. In 1926 his occupation was assistant manager at Maurice L. Rothschild & Co., and in 1927 he was listed as a solicitor working for the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

1930s

The Allen Family Continues

From 1930–1933, James Allen was manager at Langford's Sandwich Shop. Briefly in 1931 he was listed as a restaurant manager at John W. Thomas & Co., but by 1932 he was back at Langford's. After 1933 he no longer appears as a resident of 4534 Blaisdell Avenue, so it is unknown how much time he ultimately spent at Langford's.

In 1934 Stanley Moore passed away. His widow Josephine continued to occupy the house along with her sister Carrie. By 1929, Mary Allen was no longer noted as a resident.

In 1933 Harry Allen, Carrie and Josephine's brother, moved in with his wife Rose. Carrie Allen and Harry Allen both passed away in 1934. The house occupants were then listed as Rose Allen, Harry's widow, and Robert Allen, her son.

In 1937 a boarder named Calvin Blodgett was recorded at the property. In the city directory listings his occupation in 1937 was salesman, and in 1938 clerk for the National Tea Co. Calvin is not listed after 1938.

1940–1950

Rose and Edward Blewett

By 1950, the Allen family's decades-long connection to 4534 Blaisdell Avenue came to a close.

In 1940, Rose remarried, and her name changed to Rose Blewett. She and her husband Edward Blewett moved into 4534 Blaisdell Avenue, continuing the Allen family connection to the home until 1950.

1953–1955

The Knaeble Household

By 1953, Robert H. Knaeble and Lorraine A. Knaeble were recorded at the home.

Robert worked as a clerk for Bemis Bag in 1953 and was listed as an accountant by 1955.

Other residents during this period included Clifford Odden, a carpenter; Leo J. Giesen, a student; and Ole Anderson, also a carpenter.

1956–1963

George and Adeline Rust

For a time in the late 1950s, the home may have served not only as a residence, but also as a business address.

The final household found in these mid-century directory records was George W. Rust and Adeline Rust, who appear at 4534 Blaisdell beginning in 1956.

George's work was closely connected to waterproofing. In 1956 he was identified as a waterproofer, and by 1957 he was employed by Dry Basements Inc. In 1958 he was listed as the company's manager, and the business itself was also recorded at 4534 Blaisdell Avenue, suggesting the home may have doubled as a business address.

By 1959, George was listed as a driver for the Brock-White Co.

A younger George W. Rust Jr. also appears at the property during this period, first as a messenger for Twin City Optical and later as a car attendant. In 1961 he joined his father at Brock-White as a warehouse manager.

A Home With Decades of Stories

From electricians and machinists at the dawn of the automobile age to stenographers, restaurant managers, carpenters, accountants, and entrepreneurs, the historical records reveal more than half a century of everyday life at 4534 Blaisdell Avenue.

The surviving records currently trace residents of the home from 1903 through 1963, preserving not only their names, but glimpses of where they worked, what they did for a living, and who shared the home with them.

Every home has a history. HouseNovel helps make it searchable, understandable, and worth preserving.

ABOUT THIS RECORD

This homeowner timeline is based on the historical records summarized in the research provided for 4534 Blaisdell Avenue, including Minneapolis city directory entries and the 1920 Federal Census where specifically noted. Historical records can contain omissions, spelling variations, address inconsistencies, and other limitations. This document presents the people and details supported by the surviving source material.

HOUSE HISTORY, SEARCHABLE BY ADDRESS