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Location History of the Santa Lucia Italian Festival

The Santa Lucia Italian Festival has been located in 9 different locations around the metro, mostly in eastern Omaha and the downtown vicinity. Each festival relocation was due to different circumstances. The first move out of Little Italy in 1982 was controversial. The festival was outgrowing the narrow streets and neighborhoods, and city officials were trying to lure more events to the newly constructed Central Park Mall, and provided a number of incentives to move. While successful in the early days of the move to downtown Omaha, the festival's time there eventually ran its course, setting the table for future moves, making it really difficult to again establish its ties to Little Italy, as the neighborhood demographics changed.

1. **1925 to 1981** – 6th & Pierce Streets (Little Italy)
2. **1982 to 1987** – Omaha's Central Park Mall (10th - 13th Streets on Farnam) Moved here due to expanding festival and encouragement from city to help growth in Central Park Mall.
3. **1988 to 1996** – Rosenblatt Stadium (10th St to 13th St on Deer Park and adjoin parking lots)
4. **1997 to 1999** – Aksarben Parking lot (near present day 64th & Center Streets) Moved here due to complaints from neighbors in Omaha's Little Italy prior year.
5. **2000 to 2002** – 6th & Pierce Streets (Little Italy) Moved here after Aksarben was deemed an unsuitable location and dwindling attendance.
6. **2003 to 2004** – Downtown's Central Park Mall (11th Street between Harney & Farnam)
7. **2005** – Qwest Center parking lots (Present day CHI Health Center)
8. **2006 – 2019** Lewis & Clark Landing – Moved here as it became a better opportunity than a big parking lot. More festival friendly with electrical accommodations, etc..
9. **2020** – Limited festival due to worldwide pandemic. Mass at Cabrini, small gathering at Sons of Italy following mass.
10. **2021 to Current** – 10th & William Streets (Little Italy) Moved here due to Riverfront Revitalization construction on Lewis and Clark Landing.