Ice Storm

January 2005
Introduction

Ice storms are not unusual in Northwest Ohio, but the storm of January 2005 was uncommonly destructive.

Electrical power was lost in Ada for four days, and hundreds of trees collapsed under the weight of the ice.

The university was closed during this crisis, an extremely unusual occurrence.
President Baker informing students that the university will close
The problem.....
The results - Near McIntosh Center
Damage between McIntosh and Weber Hall
West campus from Fraternity Circle – Looking East
Emergency Generator next to Freed Center
West campus looking toward Field House
Front campus outside Lehr Memorial
Ohio Northern University

Henry Solomon Lehr founded Ohio Northern University in 1871 as the Northwestern Ohio Normal School. Its purpose was to train teachers and to provide higher education to the people of Northwest Ohio. In 1885, the school became Ohio Normal University. The name recognizes that the institution drew students from all over Ohio and the nation, and offered courses in many disciplines, including literature, music, business, telegraphy, and law, as well as teacher training. Beginning with 31 students, the institution's enrollment grew rapidly during its first thirty years of existence. Buildings on the early campus included Dukes Memorial (left), built in 1905; the Normal School Building, built in 1871 and demolished in 1915 to make way for Lehr Memorial (center); and Hill Building (right) finished in 1879. The Methodist Episcopal Church (predecessor to the United Methodist Church) assumed control in 1896. Ohio Normal University became Ohio Northern University in 1903. On June 5, 1910, President William Howard Taft delivered that year's commencement address near this spot.

The Country Connection Club
Ohio Northern University
The Ohio Historical Society

1998
14-33
After the damage was cleared – looking west toward Taft
Dukes after damaged trees were removed
South Main Street – deserted after the storm