

Kansas Preservation

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REAL PLACES. REAL STORIES.



Black Jack Battlefield

See story on page 1



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Kansas Historical Society

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On the cover, Black Jack battlefield in 1888,
kansasmemory.org; **inset**, 2010 Reenactment of
the Battle of Black Jack. Photograph by
Kyle Gerstner.

Heritage Trust Fund Grants Approved

A committee of the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review made its recommendations for the 2013 round of Heritage Trust Fund (HTF) grants on February 9, 2013. The board awarded \$1,136,546 for 18 projects distributed across the state. Forty-five eligible applications were reviewed, requesting a total of \$2,986,100 in funds.

Butler	Augusta Historic Theatre	\$90,000
Crawford	Hotel Stilwell	\$90,000
Ford	AT & SF Railway Depot	\$90,000
Harper	Anthony Theater	\$67,200
Hodgeman	Hodgeman County Courthouse	\$90,000
Labette	Oswego Public Carnegie Library	\$15,531
Labette	Riverside Park Bathhouse	\$35,040
Linn	Prescott School	\$26,430
Lyon	Lowther Junior High	\$90,000
Marshall	Koester House Museum	\$87,072
Marshall	Waterville Opera House	\$89,856
McPherson	1904 World's Fair Swedish Pavilion	\$14,784
Meade	Fowler Pool & Bathhouse	\$82,184
Neosho	Chanute Public Carnegie Library	\$90,000
Reno	Historic Fox Theatre	\$43,390
Sedgwick	Fresh Air Baby Camp	\$90,000
Stafford	Farmers National Bank	\$37,459
Sumner	Bartlett Arboretum	\$ 7,600

Applications for the 2014 Heritage Trust Fund grants are now available at kshs.org/14617.



Black Jack Battlefield

The National Park Service designated the Black Jack Battlefield just east of Baldwin City a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on October 16, 2012. The three-hour Battle of Black Jack, fought on June 2, 1856, led by abolitionist John Brown, marked a culmination of escalating violence in “Bleeding Kansas” and the beginning of John Brown’s war on slavery, which would culminate in his raid on Harpers Ferry three years later.

Then-Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar made the announcement noting, “Each of these landmarks represents a thread in the great tapestry that tells the story of our beautiful land, our diverse culture and our nation’s rich heritage. By designating these sites as national landmarks, we help meet the goals of President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative to establish a conservation ethic for the 21st century and reconnect people, especially young people, to our nation’s historic, cultural, and natural heritage.”

It becomes the third NHL in Douglas County — Haskell Institute in Lawrence and Lecompton’s Constitution Hall also are designated — and just the 25th NHL in Kansas. To read more about Kansas’ landmarks, visit kshs.org/15743.



Reenactors gather at Black Jack Battlefield to remember the event in 2010. Photograph by Kyle Gerstner.

Battle of Black Jack

Black Jack Battlefield, located three miles east of Baldwin City, is nationally significant as the site of the first armed conflict between pro- and antislavery forces in the United States. Though small in scale, the Battle of Black Jack in 1856 had implications far beyond Kansas Territory. The debate over Kansas vividly reflected growing national friction over slavery and the events there clearly marked a turning point in the march toward the Civil War.

The battle further divided the nation’s already-polarized abolitionist and proslavery factions. As politicians, newspapers, and citizens watched the story of “Bleeding Kansas” unfold, hints of a larger potentially violent conflict to come became increasingly evident. Black Jack Battlefield is also significant for its association with abolitionist John Brown. Both the battle and the coverage of the battle in the nation’s newspapers which followed, introduced the nation to John Brown, who called for armed insurrection to end slavery.

National Register Nominations

At its regular quarterly meeting held at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka Saturday, February 9, 2013, the Historic Sites Board of Review voted to forward 14 nominations to the Office of the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C., to be evaluated by its professional staff. If staff members concur with the board's findings, the properties will be included in the National Register. In other action, the board voted in favor of expanding the nomination boundaries of a current National Register-listed property and recommended the removal of one property from the National Register.

by Sarah Martin

National Register Coordinator, Kansas Historical Society

University of Kansas Historic District – Lawrence, Douglas County

The University of Kansas (KU) Historic District and its 52 resources occupy 85 acres flanking Jayhawk Boulevard at the heart of the KU campus about one mile southeast of the civic and commercial center of Lawrence. KU was established in 1864 to provide higher education opportunities in Kansas, with a focus on literature, arts, and sciences. The campus developed on land donated by former Kansas Governor Charles Robinson. The buildings, structures, sites, and objects within the district were constructed between 1878 and 2008 and reflect the primary academic core of the university campus that evolved along Jayhawk Boulevard. The evolution of the campus over a

period of nearly 90 years is evident in the variety of architectural styles and landscape design trends present in the district. The district includes 26 contributing and 20 non-contributing resources. Six resources are individually listed in the National Register. It is nominated for its local and statewide significance in the areas of education, architecture, and landscape architecture.

Woolf Brothers Clothing Company Building – 135 E Douglas Avenue, Wichita, Sedgwick County

The Woolf Brothers Clothing Company location on Douglas opened in 1923 as the newest addition to the Woolf Brothers chain of stores, owned by Kansas City, Missouri, businessman Herbert Woolf, who had taken over



Left to right, University of Kansas Historic District, Douglas County; photo courtesy David McKinney, KU Marketing Communications; Woolf Brothers Clothing Company Building, Sedgwick County.



Left to right, Commodore Apartment Hotel, Sedgwick County; Westside IOOF Lodge, Sedgwick County; John Faris Wayland House, Washington County.

the family business after his father’s death in 1915. The Woolf Brothers business began in 1866 when Samuel Woolf, a former Union Army soldier from New York, and his brother Alfred, opened the Woolf Brothers’ Shirt Depot in Leavenworth. The two men moved their business to Kansas City by 1879. By 1920 Herbert was looking to expand the business into other markets like Wichita, and within a decade branches were located in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The Wichita business was located in the heart of downtown in a three-story building designed by Wichita architect Lorentz Schmidt and built by George Siedhoff. It exemplifies the hallmarks of the Chicago School of Architecture, with its exterior grid, prominent tripartite fenestration configuration, and overall exterior composition with base, shaft, and highly ornamented cornice. The building is nominated for its local significance in the areas of commerce and architecture.

Commodore Apartment Hotel – 222 E Elm Street, Wichita, Sedgwick County

The Commodore Apartment Hotel is located at the north end of Wichita’s downtown commercial district. The rapid development of multiple-family housing in Wichita was essential in the 1920s, when the city’s population nearly doubled. Local leaders attracted the attention of the Hurley-Park Investment Company of Tulsa, a partnership of Secretary of War Patrick J. Hurley and builder and realtor Robert R. Park. Soon Hurley-Park, which was simultaneously developing Tulsa’s Ambassador Hotel, was making plans to build the Commodore Apartment Hotel. The company hired Kansas City-based architect Nelle Elizabeth Peters, who specialized in apartment buildings and hotels, to design the Commodore Hotel. It was completed and opened in 1929. At nine stories, it is the tallest building

in this part of downtown and is constructed of reinforced concrete with brick and terra cotta detailing reflecting the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The building is identified by a prominent rooftop sign that reads “COMMODORE.” The building is nominated as part of the Residential Resources of Wichita multiple property nomination for its local significance in the area of architecture.

Westside IOOF Lodge – 928 & 930 W Douglas Avenue, Wichita, Sedgwick County

The Westside IOOF Lodge is located in Wichita’s Delano district. Now a shopping and entertainment district, Delano was first established in the 1870s and became the city’s vice district; it began a transformation into a suburban commercial district as the city expanded west of the Arkansas River (known as the “West Side”) in the 1880s. Delano was fully developed in the 1910s as the city’s growing population filled bungalows in the nearby Riverside Addition. The Westside International Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) organized in 1888 and added this two-story building at the corner of West Douglas Avenue and Walnut Street in 1911. The Oddfellows used the second-floor space for its meetings until 1983, while various businesses occupied the first floor, including the Farmers State Bank from 1919 to 1933, Ponca Tent and Awning Company, Grotto Recreation, and Kellogg-Buck Furniture. The building is nominated for its local significance in the area of social history for its association with the IOOF.

John Faris Wayland House – 317 E 6th Street, Washington, Washington County

The Wayland House is located in a residential neighborhood three blocks southeast of downtown Washington. The two-and-a-half-story wood-frame



Left to right, Fourth National Bank Building, Sedgwick County; Kibbee Farmstead, Douglas County; Oakley High School Stadium, Logan County.

residence was built in the late 1880s for bridge builder John Faris Wayland, who had moved his family to Washington in the mid-1880s. By 1910 John's son William Claude Wayland was managing the Wayland Bridge Company, which remained in business until at least 1940. Although some anecdotal evidence suggests that John may have constructed the house, this has not been confirmed. Elements of the Queen Anne style are reflected in its complex roof with a high-pitched hipped element and lower cross gables and the wide variety of exterior wood features, which include narrow clapboards, board-and-batten siding, patterned wood shingles, eave brackets, tongue-and-groove eaves and porch ceiling, and decorative vergeboards. The Wayland House is nominated for its local significance in the area of architecture.

Fourth National Bank Building – 100-110 N Market Street, Wichita, Sedgwick County

The Fourth National Bank Building is located in the central business district of Wichita. The building served as the bank's headquarters from 1916 until 1971, when the bank moved to a new building. It was constructed as a six-story building in 1916, and a seventh story was added in 1923 along with a seven-story addition to the east. In 1958 a seven-story rear addition was constructed to the north and the building's exterior was completely redesigned to reflect the Modern style. A local architectural firm, Thomas, Harris, Calvin Associates, oversaw the mid-century design changes, which carried through to the interior. Exterior changes included the installation of vertical panels in pink marble and deep red granite with elongated aluminum-framed windows and aluminum fluted spandrels. These renovations took place during a period of rapid growth and change within Fourth National Bank when its management was restructured to

increase efficiency, computing machines were introduced to streamline accounting and bookkeeping, and new departments were created. Thus, the building was entirely remodeled to create an efficient environment. It is nominated for its local significance in the areas of commerce and architecture.

Kibbee Farmstead – 1500 Haskell Avenue, Lawrence, Douglas County

Walter and Fannie Kibbee developed a small 15-acre farmstead on the outskirts of Lawrence in the early 20th century. They raised small numbers of cattle, milk cows, poultry, and swine, produced butter and eggs for sale, and farmed a few acres in alfalfa and other crops. They sold the farm in 1920 to Conrad and Bertha Altenbernd, who farmed the property until 1947. The property was annexed by the City of Lawrence in 1959. Today, the collection of six farm buildings is now within the city limits amongst mid-20th century development. The buildings include a Dutch Colonial Revival-style residence, gable-roof barn, chicken house, outhouse, garage, and shed. The farmstead displays an abundant use of concrete, a popular building material on Kansas farmsteads in the 1910s. It is nominated as part of the Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas multiple property nomination for its local significance in the areas of agriculture and architecture.

Oakley High School Stadium – 118 W 7th Street, Oakley, Logan County

The construction of Oakley High School Stadium in 1938 was financed through the New Deal-era Work Progress Administration (WPA) and has hosted football games and track meets since its completion in 1939. Lewis Mershon was the lead builder and used a team of unskilled WPA

laborers made up of financially struggling local farmers. The limestone and concrete stadium faces a standard 100-yard football field with natural grass surface encircled by a 400-meter track and includes two locker rooms, restrooms, a tornado shelter, and outdoor bleacher seating. It exhibits symmetry, vertical and horizontal lines, and rounded features, all of which gives it a WPA Moderne appearance. The stadium was first used on October 6, 1939, for the first home football game of the season between the Oakley Plainsmen and the Colby Eagles. Although the local newspaper reminded readers that Oakley had defeated Colby “seven times in the last eleven years,” the Plainsmen were “trounced” by the “powerful” Eagles. It is nominated as part of the New Deal-era Resources of Kansas multiple property submission for its local significance in the areas of recreation, government, and architecture.

Harry Keith Barn – one quarter-mile E of 200th Avenue on M Road, Penokee, Graham County

The Harry Keith Barn is located south of Penokee in Graham County and was built in October 1940 by farmer Harry Keith with the help of his brothers and neighbors. Situated within a landscape of rolling agricultural fields and century-old cottonwood trees along nearby Brush Creek, the barn is built into a hillside and features an iconic gambrel roof. The barn’s lower level functioned as a place to house and feed livestock and milk cattle, and the upper level served as hay and grain storage. The surrounding farmstead includes a few remaining outbuildings. Adjacent to the barn is an Aermotor windmill, likely the 702 model, which was first manufactured by the Aermotor Company of Chicago in 1933, along with a reservoir that holds 4,000 gallons of

water. The Keith Barn is nominated to the National Register as part of the Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas multiple property nomination for its local significance in the areas of agriculture and architecture.

Welborn Community Congregational Church – 5217 Leavenworth Road, Kansas City, Wyandotte County

The Welborn Community Congregational Church is centered on a one-acre hillside plot located along Leavenworth Road, a corridor of mostly mid-century buildings, approximately seven miles northeast of downtown Kansas City, Kansas. The church congregation was established in 1874, which constructed its first house of worship on this same location in 1882. A fire destroyed the house of worship in 1936 prompting the construction of the nominated building. It was built in two phases during the mid-20th century. The church sanctuary is housed in a late 1930s Collegiate Gothic-style building designed by Kansas City architect Ernest O. Brostrom at the end of his career. A Modern-style education wing designed by architect Raymond Meyn was added onto the east side of the church in 1959. Today the church is known as the Welborn Community United Church of Christ. The building is nominated for its architecture.

Boot Hill Museum – 500 Wyatt Earp Boulevard, Dodge City, Ford County

Dodge City’s livelihood has long depended upon its ability to reinvent itself. It was born of the Santa Fe Trail, developed with the coming of the Santa Fe Railroad, and looked to the New Santa Fe Trail—Highway 50—for renewal. While Dodge City was remaking itself, the entertainment industry was capitalizing on its place in



Left to right, Harry Keith Barn, Graham County; Welborn Community Congregational Church, Wyandotte County.



Clockwise, Boot Hill Museum, Ford County; Santa Fe Trail – Ford County Segment 2, Ford County; Dodge City Municipal Building, Ford County.

American popular culture—as the stereotypical Wild West town. While the protagonists of dime novels, movies, and television series like *Guns, Smoke & Matt Dillon* were telling bad guys to “get the heck out of Dodge,” tourists flocked to the legendary town. By the mid-20th century the city’s efforts to live down its rowdy past were overwhelmed by the potential for capitalizing on it. Locals had been advocating for a Boot Hill museum as early as the 1920s, but it wasn’t until after the 1939 world premiere of the movie *Dodge City*, which firmly placed the town within the popular culture lexicon, that the city commission issued bonds to begin construction. The site developed in stages and was largely complete by 1964. Boot Hill Museum is nominated as part of the Roadside Kansas multiple property nomination for its significance in the areas of entertainment and education as a mid-20th century museum that interprets Dodge City’s history as a cowtown and for its association with the local tourism industry.

Dodge City Municipal Building – 501 W Spruce Street, Dodge City, Ford County

The Dodge City Municipal Building was designed by Mann and Company, Architects and Engineers of Hutchinson, and constructed in 1929 by contractor J.N. Parham. Built to house municipal offices, a police station, and a fire station, the building is characterized by a unique design incorporating both Mediterranean and Modern influences. It is centrally located adjacent and north of the Boot Hill Museum and occupies a corner lot in downtown Dodge City. The site also contains three commemorative markers, a statue of a cowboy, and two Corinthian column lamp posts. It is nominated for its local significance in the areas of government, social history, and architecture.

Santa Fe Trail - Ford County Segment 2 (Fowler’s Ruts) – Ford vicinity, Ford County

The Santa Fe Trail – Ford County Segment 2, also known as Fowler’s Ruts, was part of the Wet Route of the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas from 1821 until 1867. During a period of tension between Mexico and the Republic of Texas in 1843, this segment was used by the First U.S. dragoons, under the command of Captain Philip St. George Cooke, as they escorted a Santa Fe-bound caravan. Cooke and the dragoons forded the Arkansas River near this site to accept the surrender of Colonel Jacob Snively and his “Texas Invincibles.” Between 1849 and 1869, this trail segment and its associated spring also saw use by travelers heading to Wyoming along the Cherokee Trail. This trail segment is nominated for its significance in the areas of transportation, military, and commerce and for its potential to yield archeological information.

Scott Spring on the Oregon-California Trail – Westmoreland vicinity, Pottawatomie County

Scott Spring was a reliable water source near the Rock Creek Crossing of the Oregon and California trails. Its location





Left to right, Scott Spring on the Oregon-California Trail, Pottawatomie County; Alcove Spring, Marshall County; former Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House, Thomas County.

near this crossing made it a suitable campground while west-bound travelers waited for high waters to recede. The nominated site contains the location of the spring itself, as well as an intact trail segment that includes at least three distinct swales. This site is nationally significant for its association with the Oregon and California trails and for its potential to yield important archeological information.

**National Register of Historic Places –
Boundary Amendment**

Alcove Spring – Blue Rapids vicinity, Marshall County

Alcove Spring is one of the best known campsites along the Oregon and California trails, as it is featured prominently in diaries of emigrants as they awaited favorable crossing conditions on the nearby Big Blue River. The Donner-Reed party members, who later found themselves trapped by snowy conditions in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, camped here in May 1846. Alcove Spring was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, but the original nomination only included seven acres

around the spring itself. This amendment seeks to include two areas of intact trail segments to the west and north of the spring. Including the spring and trail segments, the amended boundary incorporates 246 acres.

**National Register of Historic Places –
Request for Removal**

**Colby Municipal Swimming Pool and Bath House –
205 E 5th Street, Colby, Thomas County**

The Colby Municipal Swimming Pool & Bath House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 as part of the New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas multiple property submission for its local significance in the area of entertainment/recreation history. The complex, which included an Art Deco bath house, pool, and wading pool, was constructed in 1941 as a Works Projects Administration (WPA) project. Murray Wilson of Paulette and Wilson Engineering of Salina handled design details and construction. It was demolished in 2010 and the site remains vacant.

The National Register of Historic Places is the country’s official list of historically significant properties. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological resources. Eligible properties must be significant for one or more of the four criteria for evaluation. Properties can be eligible if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. They can be eligible if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Distinctive construction can qualify properties for the National Register if they embody the characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Lastly, properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. The National Register recognizes properties of local, statewide, and national significance.

The Register of Historic Kansas Places is our state’s official list of historically significant properties. Properties included in the National Register are automatically listed in the state register. However, not all properties listed in the state register are included in the National Register. The same general criteria are used to assess the eligibility of a property for inclusion in the state register, but more flexibility is allowed in the interpretation of the criteria for eligibility.

National Register of Historic Places: nps.gov/nr • Kansas Historical Society (National and state registers): kshs.org/14638

Strawberry Hill

Originally known as Splitlog's Hill, Strawberry Hill is adjacent to the south of downtown Kansas City, Kansas. Historically extending east down the slope to the banks of the Kansas River, more than 200 parcels along the east side of the neighborhood were cleared in the late 1950s to make way for the Muncie Expressway (present-day I-70). Present-day Strawberry Hill comprises approximately 130 acres bounded by Armstrong Avenue to the north, I-70 to the east, Reynolds Avenue to the South, and 7th Street to the west.

by Kerry Davis, with J. Bradley Munford



Aerial image of downtown Kansas City and Strawberry Hill.

Strawberry Hill is one of several neighborhoods in Kansas City, Kansas, historically settled by immigrant groups and anchored by culturally-specific Catholic parish churches. A large number of current residents are members of the initial immigrant families that settled in this area, with houses having been passed down through the generations. The densely populated neighborhood has seen few tear-downs and some infill housing, with narrow lots, predominant front porches, and stone retaining walls tying the lots together. The neighborhood's overall design is continually studied by planners and emulated by architects in new housing developments around the country.

Survey

In an effort to retain its historic character and to understand the historic significance of the neighborhood, the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Association petitioned the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas (UG), to apply for a Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant through the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) to fund an intensive-level survey. In May 2011, a grant was awarded to the UG, who contracted with Preservation Solutions, LLC (Kerry Davis), to survey properties within two representative areas of the Strawberry Hill neighborhood. These areas were in the vicinity of two

cultural anchors—St. John’s Church (Croatian) and Holy Family Church (Slovenian)—comprising approximately one-third of the present-day neighborhood boundaries.

The primary objectives of this project were to complete survey documentation and evaluation of resources in these two separate survey areas to determine the potential eligibility of buildings, structures, and sites for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Partially funded by the HPF grant, this survey project identified broad historic contexts, individual building histories, functional property types, eligible historic resources, and the boundaries of the geographic area containing the largest concentrations of eligible resources. Additionally, this project was meant to fulfill the UG’s duties as a Certified Local Government (CLG). Kansas City was recognized as a CLG in 1986, and a key requirement of the CLG partnership is that a municipality must maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties. This survey updated information found in the 1978 Strawberry Hill Historical Study.

Neighborhood History

Early Settlement Period: 1830-1864

In 1843 approximately 700 members of the Wyandotte tribe arrived from Ohio and purchased more than 23,000



Survey areas within the Strawberry Hill neighborhood.

acres in the easternmost portion of the Delaware nation’s lands. Among the Wyandotte settlers was Mathias Splitlog, who claimed more than 280 acres. As the largest landowner in the vicinity, the area became known as Splitlog’s Hill; his house, built circa 1870 is located at 251 Orchard Street.

In 1857 three members of the Wyandotte nation and four Euro-Americans together filed a plat for Wyandotte City. The large plat was comprised of 185 blocks and featured a grid system of 31 streets oriented with the cardinal points (N-S). Most of the streets were 80 feet wide, with the exception of the five designated commercial corridors, which were 100 feet wide. Most blocks were approximately the same size, with an alley bisecting the block east-west and featuring evenly spaced lots aligned north-south.

Industry & Immigration: 1864-1900

More than 33 percent of the resources surveyed for this project date to the short period between 1880 and 1893. These resources are directly linked with the growing industry in the Kansas Bottoms, which necessitated large numbers of workers who settled in the adjacent areas, including Strawberry Hill.

Strategically located at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers, Wyandotte City (designated county seat in 1859) stood poised to become a major overland trading center with the expansion of the railroad. The natural landscape of the river bottom area—spanning the state line between Wyandotte City and Kansas City, Missouri—provided ready-made access to primary rail lines, setting the stage for the area to become a national center for livestock and grain trade. The 1869 completion of the Hannibal Bridge over the Missouri River secured Wyandotte City’s access to major national markets. The subsequent movement of cattle through the Bottoms grew rapidly, and new stockyards, large slaughterhouses, and packing facilities were thriving in the Kansas Bottoms.

The remarkable rate of industrial development in the Bottoms during this period prompted substantial waves of immigration that paralleled the growth of the meatpacking industry. The rapid arrival of newcomers more than doubled Wyandotte City’s population between 1870 and 1880. While the majority of the city’s citizens were U.S.-born, a considerable number of foreign-born (German, Irish, English, and Canadian) residents called Wyandotte City home. The influx of people necessitated the development of housing in Wyandotte City, and especially



Left to right, 431 Armstrong; 537 Thompson Street

in the Strawberry Hill area. The 1869 bird's-eye view of the city shows only about fifty dwellings on the Hill clustered primarily along Armstrong and Ann avenues. Among those shown are the extant homes at 431 Armstrong Avenue and 403 Barnett Avenue. By 1873 developers began filing plats to expand and reorganize the city.

As is found even today, arriving immigrants initially settled in low-cost housing close to their place of employment. For those arriving to work in the Kansas Bottoms, many lived in an area of sub-standard, unorganized housing where they lived amongst the packing plants and spanning the railroad grade. During the early- to mid-1880s rapid residential development occurred on Strawberry Hill and its vicinity. George Fowler of the Fowler Packing Plant developed a block of 18 nearly identical brick houses on the Hill. Additional small developers constructed sets of two to six houses on adjacent lots in an attempt to take advantage of the rapid settlement. Evidence in the survey areas of this pattern during the 1880s can be seen at 411-419 and 527-537 Thompson Street.

Early 20th Century Strawberry Hill: 1900-1930

At the turn of the century, the newest wave of immigrants to Kansas City, Kansas, largely hailed from the Balkan Peninsula (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia), as well as Russia and Poland. As with those before them, they initially settled in the Bottoms.

In 1900 a sufficient Croatian population was present on Strawberry Hill to support the establishment of a separate parish church, St. John the Baptist at 708 N. 4th Street. By 1908 sufficient Slovenian settlement had occurred on the

Hill to justify the formation of their own church, Church of the Holy Family, which opened in repurposed cottages on Ohio Avenue between 5th and 6th streets at the south end of the neighborhood.

The meatpacking industry continued to expand at a rapid rate. The Immigration Authority reported that 86 percent of the packing house workers were either foreign-born or the child of a foreign-born immigrant. Croats and Poles made up the vast majority of these workers, with the balance represented by Slovenians and Slovaks.

A prosperous economy and population growth led to significant development on Strawberry Hill. Lots that were vacant in the early 1890s saw new residential buildings go up. Small developers continued to build sets of buildings, including the circa 1903 groups at 713-717 and 805-809 N. 5th Street. By 1908 the residential streetscapes that make up present-day Strawberry Hill were full of one-and two-story wood-framed and brick houses generally reflecting the gamut of working-to-middle-class folk house forms. About 39 percent of the resources surveyed for this project date to the period between 1893 and 1910 and nearly three-fourths of the buildings forming the current streetscapes were in place.

The Slavic residents of what became known as Strawberry Hill established a system of cohesive, permanent community. The formation of cultural and commercial establishments physically bonded the residents to the neighborhood. Though means might have allowed it, many chose to stay near the local parish church and familiar, Slavic-owned businesses. With the small communities formed, it paved the way for and encouraged new immigrants to come and settle.



Left to right, St. John the Baptist, 708 N. 4th Street; 713 N. 5th Street; 807 N. 5th Street.

Little new development occurred in Strawberry Hill during the 1920s. The streetscapes having already been largely filled, only 34 buildings in the survey areas date to the period between 1910 and 1929. However, among the few new buildings that went up were the 1927 Holy Family Church and rectory at 274 Orchard Street, as well as the 1925-1927 St. John's Catholic Club and School at 422 Barnett Avenue.

The Great Depression: 1930-1940

The onset of the Great Depression led to approximately 103,000 Kansans leaving the state during the 1930s. In Kansas, the meatpacking industry was among the only industries that contributed any stability to the state's economy during this time, though four packing plants closed, and the packing plant employee population dropped by over 41 percent. Only two houses in the survey areas date to the decade leading up to the onset of World War II.

World War II and the Post-War Period: 1941-1960

The population in the city increased after the war especially within the Slavic communities of Strawberry Hill. Even so, only six buildings in the survey areas date to the years between 1945 and the mid-1960s. Notable among these few construction projects was the new Holy Family Hall and School at 515 Ohio Avenue.

Property owners in Kansas City, Kansas, chose to "update" their older buildings instead of build new houses. Improved economic conditions allowed property owners to address maintenance deferred during the war. While post-World War II remodeling was common nationwide, a

notably high number occurred in Strawberry Hill. The majority of these buildings suggest a concerted response to the availability of new materials such as steel siding, asbestos shingles, asphalt siding, and Perma-Stone.

In the 1950s two major events drastically affected Strawberry Hill. The 1951 Flood swept through the bottoms and the meatpacking industry, in general, never fully recovered. The remaining plants closed and/or extensively reduced their operations in the 1960s and 1970s. Another setback to the community was the construction of the Muncie Expressway (present-day Interstate 70) along the north bank of the Kansas River. The project cleared more than 200 parcels along the east side of Strawberry Hill in 1957 and 1958, which included the removal of approximately 150 buildings, primarily late-19th and early-20th century single-family residences.

Findings and Recommendations

A significant number of resources within the surveyed area have undergone changes since their initial construction. Many documentable changes, including the addition of secondary siding and the replacement of historic windows, doors, and porch railings, occurred during the post-war period. Changes made during this time reflect the history of the neighborhood, and often were not determined to negatively impact the integrity of a resource. In contrast, several resources have undergone irreversible changes that detract from their historic integrity.

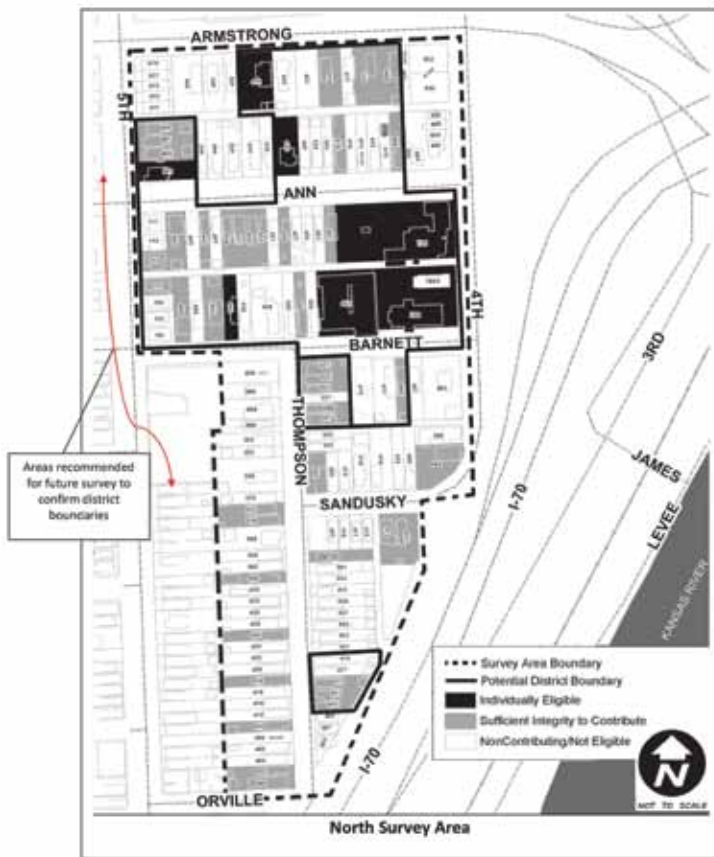
The neighborhood remains largely intact. Few houses have been demolished. The little infill that has occurred has been on historically empty lots and generally defers to the established aesthetic and design of the neighborhood.

Within the two surveyed areas, 15 resources were found to contain sufficient integrity to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, sufficient integrity is present to create four potential historic districts that represent the historic contexts described above:

- St. John’s Croatian Historic District located in the vicinity of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at 4th Street and Barnett Avenue.
- Holy Family Church Historic District located in the vicinity of the Holy Family Church at Orchard Street and Ohio Avenue.
- Thompson Street Shotgun District, a small collection of five shotgun houses at 411-419 Thompson Street built around 1885 as a set by a single developer believed to be Peter Larson.

- Thompson and Barnett Historic District, a small collection of five brick houses at 527-537 Thompson Street built circa 1883 as a set by a single developer believed to be G. Harrison and/or S.E. Lockwood.

The 218 resources that were surveyed were meant to be a representation of the larger Strawberry Hill neighborhood. Future survey work should be undertaken in the entire neighborhood to continue to understand the property types, integrity, and significance of Strawberry Hill. All surveyed resources are on the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory (kshs.org/khri) under the survey name “Kansas City – Strawberry Hill Survey (2012).” The survey report prepared by Preservation Solutions, LLC, is available at kshs.org/survey-reports and contains more indepth history and recommendations.



Maps of recommended historic districts and individually eligible properties.



New Certified Local Government

The National Park Service (NPS) approved Douglas County as the newest Certified Local Government (CLG) in Kansas on January 22, 2013.

The Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council is already hard at work identifying places of natural and cultural significance within the county through organized survey projects in each of the county's nine townships outside of Lawrence. The City of Lawrence is a CLG in its own right. The county's website states that the council's purpose is "to make recommendations to the Douglas County Commission on how to best establish a framework to conserve our natural & cultural heritage for future generations and to enhance economic benefits of tourism, local agriculture, and other endeavors based on such conservation efforts."

CLGs are local units of government that are certified by the NPS after making a commitment to preservation. They demonstrate that commitment by adopting a local preservation ordinance that establishes a preservation commission and a local landmark program. The NPS requires CLGs to maintain a system for surveying and inventorying their local historic resources. Knowing the location of significant resources makes it easier to protect them.

Find more information about the CLG program through the National Park Service's website at nps.gov/history/hps/clg. For more information about CLGs in Kansas, visit ksks.org/14607 or contact Katrina Ringler, CLG coordinator, 785-272-8681, ext. 215; kringler@ksks.org.

Top to bottom, John Brender House, Eudora; farmstead in Marion Township; Coal Creek Library, Vinland.



Lost

Abilene's iconic Kirby House was lost to fire on Wednesday, February 20, 2013. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource in the Abilene Downtown Historic District.

Abilene banker Thomas Kirby built this house in 1885 and lived there until his death in 1905. The Abilene Commercial Club then occupied the building and, in 1913, remodeled the façade with the introduction of a Classical Revival style, full-height entrance portico and the removal of the character-defining tower. The house subsequently functioned as the chamber of commerce and as a boarding house. By the 1980s the Classical Revival porch had been severely deteriorated and was removed. In 1986 then-owner Terry Tietjens restored the façade, tower, and porch configuration to reflect the original Italianate-style appearance. The Kirby House had functioned as a restaurant since that restoration.



Photo courtesy Tim Hamilton, City of Abilene.



The Kirby House in July 2008.

Due to years of neglect the Mathias Splitlog House at 251 Orchard Street in Kansas City, Kansas, was already in an advanced state of deterioration when it was listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places in 2005.

The house was significant for its association with Mathias Splitlog, a Wyandot Indian, who first arrived in the Kansas City area in the 1840s. Because of a treaty between the United States and the Wyandot tribe in 1855, Splitlog received an allotment of 280 acres of land, which would later become much of downtown Kansas City and the Strawberry Hill neighborhood. Through various

business interests and the sale of his allotment, Splitlog acquired a fortune. He built the house at 251 Orchard around 1870 as his last residence in Kansas before moving to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) in 1874. It was demolished in September 2012 by the owner who had been unable to secure financing for stabilization.



Above, Mathias Splitlog House in February 2012; below, in February 2013.



W I C H I T A

ABCs

Aviation

BUILDINGS

Culture

June 14-15, 2013

Current President Barb Morris of Hugoton and past President Paul Buchanan of Wichita will host the 2013 annual spring meeting of the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Historical Foundation. The event highlights the history of people and places in the state's largest city.

Events begin 4 p.m. Friday, June 14, at the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum with tour, program and reception. On Saturday, June 15, activities begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Hotel at Old Town with a program on the preservation of Old Town.



Above, Orpheum Theatre; below, Kansas Aviation Museum, Wichita.

Participants can select from one of two behind-the-scenes tours:

Wichita's Historic Theatres

- 9:30 a.m. Dunbar Theatre tour
- 10:30 a.m. Crown Uptown Theatre tour
- 12 p.m. Lunch and tour, Scottish Rite Consistory
- 2:30 p.m. Orpheum Theatre tour

Wichita's People & Places

- 9:30 a.m. Delano neighborhood tour
- 11 a.m. Driving tour of historic locations: Dockum Drug Store sit-in, Ambassador Hotel, Main and Douglas, Mentholatum and Packard buildings, Wichita State/College Hill area, Allen-Lambe House
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, N & J Café
- 2:15 p.m. Kansas Aviation Museum

For more information contact Terry Marmet or Sally Zogry at 785-272-8681, ext. 221 or at membership@kshs.org.

View event information online at kshs.org/11415

Wichita ABCs Registration Form

Kansas Historical Foundation 36th Annual Spring Meeting

Registration deadline Friday, May 24, 2013 • Form also available online at kshs.org/11415

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please print guest(s)' first and last names to appear on nametags.

Select tour group: Wichita's Theatres
 Wichita's People and Places

Members

Both days \$95 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

Friday only \$25 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

Saturday only \$80 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

Non-Members

Both days \$145 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

Friday only \$ 40 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

Saturday only \$130 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

Membership

Household: \$50 _____ = \$ _____

Individual: \$40 _____ = \$ _____

Donation: \$ _____

Make checks payable to the Kansas Historical Foundation

Or please bill (check one)

Visa

MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Please detach registration form or print from website and mail on or before May 22, 2013, to Membership Services, Kansas Historical Foundation, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka KS 66615-1099.

For questions concerning the spring meeting or membership, please contact Terry Marmet or Sally Zogry, 785-272-8681, ext. 221; membership@kshs.org.

The Kansas Historical Foundation reserves the right to change or cancel scheduled events based on participation. The Historical Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Foundation does request prior notification to accommodate an individual's special need. Please indicate any special accommodations required:

Lodging: A special room rate for conference registrants is available at the Hotel at Old Town, 830 E. First St. N, Wichita KS, 67202. The rate of \$109 per night applies to a queen studio. Other room types are based on availability and may be subject to a different rate. Make your reservation early to ensure availability—rooms are limited. The room block and special pricing is available through Friday, May 24, 2013. Call 877-265-3869 or 316-267-4800 to make reservations. Be sure to request the Kansas Historical Foundation room rate.

Stock Up On Archeology at the Billy Dixon Trading Post

The Kansas Historical Society, Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA), Ellis County Historical Society, and Fort Hays State University (FHSU) Departments of History and Geosciences are teaming up to sponsor the 2013 Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) field school, June 1 – 16, 2013.

by Virginia A. Wulfkuhle



Representatives of the Kansas Historical Society, Ellis County Historical Society, and Kansas Anthropological Association stand in a dugout depression at 14EL311 during a December 2012 reconnaissance.

The presumed location of the Billy Dixon trading post (14EL311) south of Hays has been selected. Also known as Whisky Ranch, this site presents an opportunity to investigate the history of the immediate post-Civil War era of Ellis County and to advance understanding of the culture and lifeway of buffalo hunter culture.

William “Billy” Dixon was born in Ohio County, West Virginia, on September 25, 1850. He was orphaned at age 12 and set out on his own at 14. He was an oxen driver and mule skinner, a skilled marksman and scout. In 1869 he joined a hunting and trapping venture on the Saline River northwest of Fort Hays. Dixon and his associates established Whisky Ranch as a way station and supply post in 1870.

While providing a stopover location for teams of hunters in the area, the post was a source of basic supplies for hunters and early settlers on the trail from Fort Hays to Fort Dodge. Following this venture, Dixon scouted the Texas Panhandle for the army, hunted buffalo for the train companies, defended the Adobe Walls settlement against Indian attack with his legendary buffalo rifle, and was one of eight civilians in the history of the U.S. to receive the Medal of Honor.

In 1894 Dixon married Olive King, and they had seven children. In later life his occupations included justice of the peace, postmaster, and sheriff. Dixon died from pneumonia at his Cimarron County, Oklahoma, homestead on March 9, 1913, at age 62. On his deathbed he told his complete life

story to his wife Olive, and in 1927 she published *Life of "Billy" Dixon, Plainsman, Scout and Pioneer*. In this book a brief reference was made to the trading post site that will be the focus of the 2013 KATP field school.

We moved south of Hays City about ten miles and came to a boiling spring that flowed from an opening in solid rock. Here we decided to make our permanent camp for the winter, so we built a picket house and a big dugout, expecting to dry a lot of buffalo meat for market, but finally abandoned this scheme. Our camp was on a main-traveled road leading to Hays City. Freighters and hunters urged me to establish a road ranch or store, where such supplies as were used in that country could be purchased in reasonable quantities. Having some spare money, I stocked up with tobacco, whisky and a general line of groceries, and employed a man named Billy Reynolds to run the place for me, while I devoted my time to killing buffaloes. Many a jolly company gathered at the road ranch at the boiling spring. The sale of whisky was a common practice in those days, as whisky was freely used by frontiersmen, and its sale was expected as a matter of course. Other conditions were too hard and too pressing for the question of the morals of the traffic to be raised as it was in later years, when the country became more thickly settled, and an entirely new order of things was established.

I was well acquainted with Reynolds and liked him, having formed his acquaintance on the Custer expedition to Camp Supply in 1868, when he was a mule-driver. He was a friendly, whole-souled kind of fellow, and knew just how to treat men to get their trade. I made good money out of this venture until 1871, when the income abruptly and permanently ceased—during my absence Reynolds sold the whole outfit and skipped the country, without even telling me good-bye. I had been absent two weeks when I returned one day to find only the empty building. I never again heard of Billy Reynolds. I doubt that his robbing me was ever to his final advantage. Money obtained in that way never brought good luck, even in the Plains country, where men were judged by rougher standards than prevailed farther east.

Although a wealth of historical information exists concerning Billy Dixon, it remains to be seen if the current study will reveal any significant new information to add to the historical narrative. The investigation has the potential to contribute to an overall description of the culture and

lifeway, not only of Dixon himself, but also of all area inhabitants. In an effort to develop an understanding of buffalo hunter culture, Principal Investigator Steve Roberts has posed specific research questions:

- Does site 14EL311 represent the Billy Dixon trading post of 1870?
- Based on material culture, what was life like?
- What was the general lifeway of the European-American bison hunters?
- How do the dugouts at 14EL311 compare to others in the Central and Southern Plains?
- How did advances in technology influence the lifeway and market?

To address these questions, the investigation will focus on two general research domains: archeological and historical. The archeological domain, undertaken by the KATP field school, will collect and analyze data relevant to the site, including extant structural features, extramural features (such as fire hearths, middens, corral, privy, check dams or trincheras, and storage caches), and artifacts. Documentary research will be conducted with assistance from the FHSU Department of History. The general historical narrative of the area will encompass geography, economics, technology, and Native American relations.

Components of the 2013 KATP field school will include a block excavation of dugouts and other features at 14EL311, a survey of Smoky Hill Trail-related sites, an artifact processing lab, classes, and associated programs. KATP headquarters for classes and the lab will be on the campus of Fort Hays State University. Classes, which can be taken for college credit through Emporia State University, to fulfill KAA Certification Program requirements, or simply for the information, are Archeological Fieldwork, Mapping, Kansas Prehistory, and Cultural Reconstruction. Access to the excavation site will be restricted to project participants, but the following evening programs will be free and open to the public.

Read more about Billy Dixon

- T. C. Richardson, "DIXON, WILLIAM," Handbook of Texas Online (tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fdi22), accessed January 18, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Dixon
- montyrainey.wordpress.com/2012/06/15/the-battle-of-adobe-walls/

Programs will begin at 7:30 p.m. except for the project summary, which will start at 6:30 p.m.

- June 4 – Talk: Dynamic Distributions by Rob Channell, FHSU Professor of Biological Sciences
- June 5 – Collectors Night
- June 6 – Tour: Ellis County Historical Society Museum
- June 7 – Talk: Billy Dixon Collection at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas, by Michael Grauer, P-PHM Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs/Curator of Art
- June 8 – Talk: Buffalo Hunters by Dave Chalfant and Lyle Hutchins, collectors of memorabilia, equipment, rifles, ammunition, and more
- June 9 – Tour: Sternberg Museum of Natural History
- June 10 – Tour: Fort Hays State Historic Site
- June 11 – Tour: Stone Gallery
- June 13 – Talk: Billy Dixon and Bill Cody: Scouting for Similarities by Juti Winchester, FHSU Assistant Professor of History
- June 14 – Project Summary

Details are included in the registration packet posted on the Historical Society website at ksks.org/14622 and also available in hard copy upon request. The KATP 2013 link contains the project goals and requirements, project description, list of recommended equipment, instructions for enrollment in classes, details about the KAA certification program, map of pertinent project locations, schedule of accompanying activities, options for lodging and camping, and emergency contacts. The other links are forms required for registration.

Registration forms submitted by May 1 will qualify for a participation fee of \$20 for KAA and Kansas Historical Foundation members and \$80 for nonmembers. After May 1 the participation fee will increase to \$30 for members and \$90 for nonmembers.

Although field and laboratory activities continue without stopping for the 16-day period, volunteers may participate for a single day or for the entire time. Participants must be at least 10 years of age, and those younger than 14 must plan to work with a parent or other sponsoring adult at all times. A legally responsible adult must accompany participants between 14 and 18 years of age.

The Historical Society and KAA do not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation

of their programs; please make prior arrangements to accommodate individuals with disabilities or special needs with the Historical Society public archeologist at 785-272-8681, ext. 266.

The KAA Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 20, 2013, at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka offered an excellent preview of the 2013 KATP field school. Several presentations focused on the history of the site and the nature of the fieldwork to be undertaken:

“Dugouts on the Plains: Evidence of Form and Function from History and Archeology” by Gina Powell, Historical Society archeologist

“Whisky Ranch 14EL311, Billy Dixon and the Buffalo Hunters” by Steve Roberts, principal investigator of 2013 KATP field school, Roberts-CRM, Wichita

“Surveying the Smoky Hill Trail” by Nancy Arendt, KAA president, Colby

“From Toy Box to Tool Box: The Need to Engage Children in Kansas Archeology” by Lynn Gentine, director of development, Kansas Wildscape Foundation, Topeka

“Potential Finds at Billy Dixon’s Whisky Ranch: 1870-1871 Period Artifacts” by Marsha King, historical archeologist, Topeka

“Preview of the 2013 KATP Field School” by Virginia Wulfkuhle, Historical Society public archeologist

Below, 48 people attended the meeting, hosted by the Shawnee Chapter of the KAA.



Historic Sites Board of Review

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review is a group of 11 professionals from various fields that meets quarterly to review and recommend nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places, and award preservation planning and rehabilitation grants. As prescribed by the Kansas Historic Preservation Act of 1977 (K.S.A. 75-2719), the board is comprised of the following members: the governor or the governor's designee, the state historic preservation officer or such officer's designee, and nine members appointed by the governor for three-year terms. At least one member must be professionally qualified in each of the following disciplines: architecture, history, prehistoric archeology, historical archeology, and architectural history.

Jennie Chinn, State Historic Preservation Officer
J. Eric Engstrom, Wichita, governor's designee
Toni (Brouhard) Stewart, Topeka
Sharron Hamilton, Salina
John W. Hoopes, Lawrence
Joseph Johnson, Wichita
Samuel Passer, Overland Park
Beka Romm, Lawrence
David H. Sachs, Manhattan
Gregory Schneider, Topeka
Margaret Wood, Topeka

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Happenings in Kansas

Online at kshs.org/events

Through September 22

Furnishing Kansas exhibit • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

May 19

Kaw Councils 2013 Educational Series • Kaw Mission State Historic Site, Council Grove

May 27

Memorial Day • Kansas Historical Society sites will be closed for the state holiday

June 1

Rendezvous with Republican Valley Muzzleloaders • Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

June 1 – 16

Kansas Archeology Training Program • Kansas Historical Society, at a Hays archeological site

June 16 – 22

Historic Window Preservation and Weatherization Workshops • Highland

July 4

Independence Day • Kansas Historical Society sites will be closed for the state holiday

July 11

Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board meeting • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

July 13

Lewis & Clark: A Dog's Eye View • Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

July 24 – 28

Archaeology and the Common Core • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

Through September 28

Edward S. Curtis Photographs: a Sacred Legacy • Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

August 10

Historic Sites Board of Review meeting • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

Join the Preserving Kansas listserv under Historic Preservation at kshs.org.