

# Kansas Scenic Byways

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# Kansas Scenic Byways

## Fun Facts about Architecture





This booklet is designed to help you see the miles of Kansas scenic byways with new eyes.

Included are photos and brief descriptions of buildings and structures you may come across. It is a booklet that young and old will enjoy whether you are a visitor to the state or a life-long Kansan.

Many publications about architecture are available. However, this booklet will help you look at Kansas architecture in particular.

We hope it helps you see and appreciate the history of our architectural treasures and their special features.

Other booklets in this series are on: **farms and ranches; birds and wildlife; grasses, trees, wildflowers and shrubs; weather; rocks, fossils and the landscape of Kansas; and roads.** Each booklet has a map of the scenic byways of Kansas and a game for kids.

We hope that this little booklet will put a smile on your face as you drive around our scenic byways.



## Visit a Pueblo and other early homes of Kansas!

The earliest structures in Kansas were those of the Native Americans who lived in tepees and earthen homes. Some also lived in pueblos. Get an up-close look at ruins of pueblos built by the Taos in the 1600s at the **El Quartejejo Ruins** in Scott County near the Scott Lake State Park.

The earliest non-Native American settlements in Kansas grew up around the forts established to make passage safe for wagon trains and settlers. Early homes and buildings were made of logs and timber, if enough trees were available. Take a look at an early log cabin, made out of oak in the 1870s, at the **Baxter Spring Historical Museum** on the *Frontier Military Scenic Byway*.

On the plains, where there were fewer trees, the early structures were often made of sod or stone. **The Grassroots Art Center** in Lucas on the *Post*

*Rock Scenic Byway* has a courtyard filled with limestone architectural features from buildings in the area.





### What is the oldest building in Kansas?

It is the **Rookery** on the base at Fort Leavenworth. It was built in 1832 and was the first permanent post headquarters building. Fort Leavenworth, established as the first fort in Kansas in 1827, also houses several other early buildings, including the Suttler's House, built in 1841, where soldiers could get supplies such as tobacco, writing paper and knives, and Memorial Chapel, which was built in 1871.

### See where Frontier Soldiers lived!

Fort Scott, which is located along the *Frontier Military Scenic Byway*, was built by soldiers with the help of a few tradesmen in the 1840s. The structures were designed in the French Colonial style with hipped roofs, wide porches and above ground basements. Greek Revival influences can also be seen in the buildings' many columns.

Most of the buildings on the fort were constructed of nearby trees -- walnut, ash and oak. Today you can visit nine original and 11 reconstructed buildings on the Fort.



Walk through the same door John Brown walked through...

and glimpse what life was like in Kansas leading up to the Civil War! The cabin where

the notorious abolitionist John Brown lived is on display at the John Brown Park in Osawatomie, near the *Frontier Military Scenic Byway*. You'll find it inside a limestone building, which was built around it to protect it.

### On a Mission

In the mid 1800s, missionaries came into Kansas with the controversial goal of teaching Native Americans how to behave and work like the white man. Some of the old missions built at that time are still standing.

You can see three red brick buildings that were part of the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site in Fairway, near the *Frontier Military Scenic Byway*, or visit the mission where Kaw Indian youngsters were taught in Council Grove, along the *Flint Hills National Scenic Byway*. **The Kaw Mission State Historic Site** is a beautiful, Federal-style building that was so well constructed in 1851 that it still has the original mortar around the native limestone blocks that were used to construct it.

The Kaw Mission State Historic Site in Council Grove





### You're a hot and hungry traveler...

Where would you stop to refresh yourself? For weary travelers along the Santa Fe Trail, the **Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site** in Olathe was a fine resting spot. This inn, a magnificent limestone home built by James Beatty Mahaffie in 1865, is the last remaining stagecoach stop on the historic Santa Fe Trail that is still open to the public.

Mahaffie's wife and daughters served as many as 70 people a day in their small basement dining room. Other original buildings on the property are a two-story ice house and a wood peg barn.

### Where can I get a meal in an old historic house?

**At the Terwilliger House in Council Grove.** This restored stone home was built in 1861 and was the last building travelers saw before they crossed the prairie on the Santa Fe Trail. Today it houses the Trail Days Bakery and Café. Also on the property are the Atkinson log house, which is stored inside

a barn, the 1902 Field School, a 1943 Maple Camp tourist cabin and a 1947 grocery store.



### What a barn!

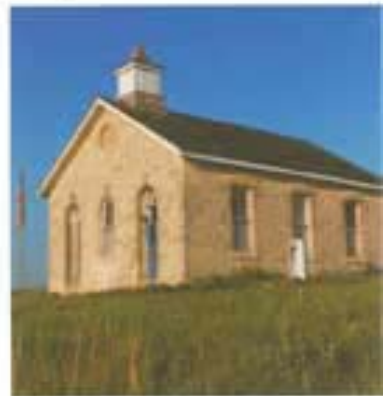
If you like old barns, be sure to visit the **Spring Hill Ranch** at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve on the *Flint Hills National Scenic Byway*. There you will see a massive barn built of local limestone in 1881. It is 110 feet long and 60 feet wide. When it was built, it took 5,000 pounds of tin to roof it!

The ranch also includes a beautiful four-level house designed in the Second Empire style, a sod-roof chicken house, curing house, ice house, carriage house, a summer kitchen, a springroom and a three-seater outhouse!

### Visit a one-room school

Also on the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is the **Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse**, a limestone

one-room school built in 1882. High-quality craftsmanship can be seen in the school's *lintels*, the horizontal stones that span the top of the windows; the *quoins*, the smooth stones that create a pattern at the corners of the building; and the arches above the front doors and window. The school was in use until 1930.



### That's another impressive barn!

Check out the Henry Sump barn located two miles south of Alma on the *Native Stone Scenic Byway*. This huge red barn was built of native stone and lumber in 1905 and is the site of the first man-made, stocked fish pond in Kansas.



## How many architects does it take to design a State Capitol?

For Kansas' capitol, *three*. The first architect was E. Townsend Mix, whose design was approved by the state legislature in February 1866, five years after becoming a state. However, immediately John G. Haskell was hired as the project architect, and he incorporated many of his ideas into Mix's plan.

The central rotunda and dome were designed later by John F. Stanton, the state architect. It took from 1866 to 1903 to complete the building which is patterned after the design of the U. S. Capitol.

## When was the final touch added to the Capitol?

It was **not** until 2002 that the final piece of the capitol -- *the sculpture atop the dome* -- was put in place.

The work is a 4,420 pound, 22-foot high sculpture of a Kansa Indian created by sculptor Richard Bergen. It is named Ad Astra, for the state motto *ad astra per aspera*, which means "to the stars through difficulty." The arrow in Ad Astra's hand is pointing at the north star.

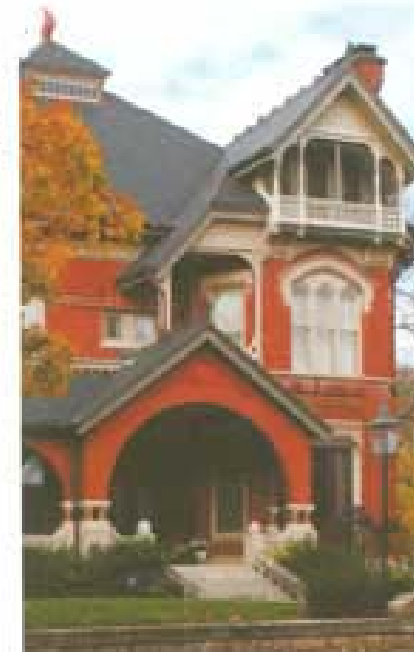


## Is that a Dragon on the roof?

Yes, *indeed!* Dragon-like finials sit atop the B.P. Waggener house in Atchison, near the *Glacial Hills Scenic Byway*.

Victorian homes like this were characterized by elaborate and flamboyant touches. You can see many excellent examples of Victorian homes throughout Atchison.

Atchison grew prosperous in the late 1800s when the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad eastern terminus was established there, and many of its wealthy residents built gracious Victorian homes.

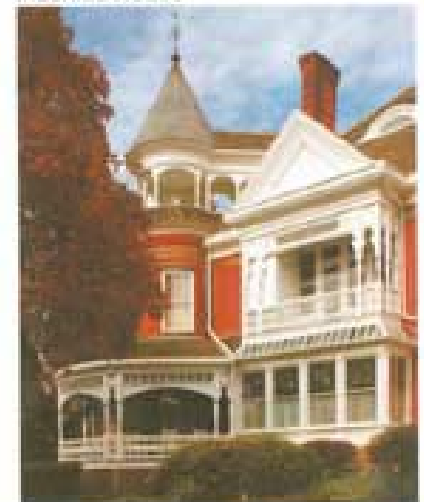


B.P. Waggener House



McInteer Villa

Muchnic House





### Step inside this grand hotel!

The **Midland Hotel** on the *Post Rock Scenic Byway* in Wilson was built in 1899 in the late Victorian style. It has been renovated and continues to serve as a restful stopover for travelers, with 28 guest rooms and a full-service restaurant, all decorated in mission style.

### Are there Prairie style structures on the Prairie?

The Prairie style of architecture was created by **Frank Lloyd Wright** and became popular after an article about it appeared in 1901 in the *Ladies Home Journal*.

The style, which stayed popular until the 1920s, was characterized by low-pitched roofs, overhanging eaves and rows of small windows. Its low profile was created to blend in with the flat prairie. Examples of Prairie style features can be seen in the **Pittsburg Public Library** on the *Frontier Military Scenic Byway*.



### Curtains up!

Kansas is fortunate to have many existing historic theatres. In recent years many have been remodeled and several more are in the works.

The Boller Brothers of Kansas City, Missouri, were influential architects who designed hundreds of theatres throughout the Midwest -- 50 in Kansas alone. Some of the best examples along the byways include the **Crest Theater**, Great Bend; the Granada Theatre, Kansas City; and the Hollywood Theater, Leavenworth.



### Can Prisons be beautiful?

Only from the outside! There are two great examples of



majestic prisons just miles from one another. **The State Prison in Lansing**, was built in 1868 and designed in the Gothic style. The prison was once the site of a productive coal mine that furnished all state buildings with coal. **The U.S. Penitentiary in Leavenworth**, built in 1906, is an imposing structure in the Beaux Arts design. The walls stretch 40 feet above, as well as 40 feet below, the ground.

If you are interested in old jails, take a look at the round limestone jail in Wilson, near the *Post Rock Scenic Byway*. It was built in the mid-1930s as a water tower, but the one-window, one-door building was also used for a time as a jail.



## Take a tour of the "Stucco House Capitol of the Midwest!"

Drive the streets of **Medicine Lodge**, on the *Gypsum Hills Scenic Byway*, and enjoy more than 100 stucco homes that line its streets. Plentiful gypsum rock from nearby mines was used to create the houses in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The houses range from large to small and are decorated in a multitude of colors.

## Are there skyscrapers on the prairie?

Yes — *prairie skyscrapers!* They are the grain elevators that can be seen all along the byways of Kansas.

Early elevators were made of wood and metal, while more recent ones are made of concrete. They are large and imposing and dominate the landscape in many towns, but most Kansans see them as a beautiful reminder of the importance of wheat to the state, even though many are no longer in use. *Smoky Valley Scenic Byway* has elevators at both ends — in Ogallah and WaKeeney.



## Where can you find Adam and Eve in Kansas?

Why, in the **Garden of Eden**, of course. This fantastic house, located in Lucas, was created by folk artist S. P. Dinsmoor over the course of some 22 years, beginning in 1905. The house is made of stone but is made to look like a log cabin.

Surrounding the house is a yard full of concrete sculptures that convey Dinsmoor's political and religious beliefs. You will also find Dinsmoor himself on view in a stone mausoleum!

## Are the Three Little Pigs the only ones who can build a house with straw?

**Not at all.** Take the *Post Rock Scenic Byway* to Wilson and you will find three duplexes, called the **Czech Cottages**, which have recently been built with wheat straw.

These houses were built with bales of straw that are covered on the outside with stucco and on the inside with sheetrock. The walls are 20" thick and provide very good insulation for the houses. *Utility bills average \$54 a month!* Inside they look like any other house, but the windows have larger sills.



## The house America's been waiting for!

**It's a Lustron Home** -- an all-steel, prefabricated home sold after World War II, when all the GIs and their young brides were looking for housing. Great Bend, on the *Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway*, is home to 18 Lustron Homes and is known as the "Lustron Home Capital of Kansas".

Lustron Homes, **made of steel with a baked-enamel finish** on the inside and outside, could be built in as little as three weeks and were outfitted with cabinets, appliances and all the amenities needed for a modern life.



Lustron Home

with cabinets, appliances and all the amenities needed for a modern life.

## Where can I see a home of the future?

**A 1950s all-electric home** is on display at the Johnson County Museum of History in Shawnee. Built by Kansas City Power and Light in 1954, it was billed as "a home for modern American family living...comfortable and up-to-the-minute in every respect." It featured the new air conditioning, an all-electric kitchen, "moon-glow" lighting and a hidden television -- all operated at the click of a switch.



## Let's look at *new* architecture!

Two new structures along the *Frontier Military Scenic Byway* are examples of very different approaches to contemporary architecture.

**The Lewis and Clark Center** on Fort Leavenworth is a contemporary structure built in 2005-2006 that features traditional Federal, Colonial and Army Quartermaster design, in keeping with the other architecture on the fort. The 400,000-square-foot red brick building houses 96 classrooms.



Canada geese swim on Smith Lake in front of the Lewis and Clark Center at Fort Leavenworth.

The new **Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art**, on the campus of Johnson County Community College, is a 38,000 square-foot building--very sleek and modern in design--that houses galleries, a 200-seat auditorium and a café.



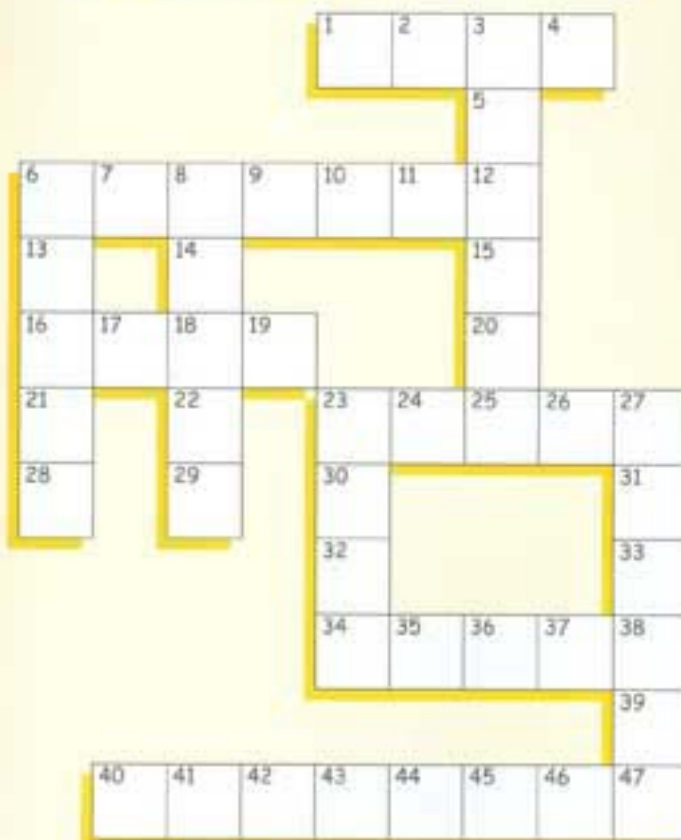


# A fun game for the kids! *Did you see it?*

Place a check  
in the box of the places  
you find and note the date and location.

- 1. Victorian home      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Stucco house      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Log cabin      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Stone barn      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Stagecoach inn      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Historic theatre      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. State Capitol      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Fort      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. One-room school      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Grain elevator      DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

## An Architecture Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

- 1. A curved structure over a window or door
- 6. The State \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Home for farm animals
- 23. Where livestock is raised
- 34. Places where soldiers work
- 40. Small, cozy homes

### DOWN

- 3. A tall round pillar
- 6. A home made of logs
- 8. Structure on the front of a house
- 23. The top of a house
- 27. Places where people live work

ANSWERS  
Across: 1. Arch, 6. Capitol, 16. Barn, 23. Ranch, 34. Fort, 40. Cottages  
Down: 3. Column, 6. Cabin, 8. Porch, 23. Roof, 27. Houses

# SCENIC BYWAYS Etiquette

**K**ansas scenic byways are to be enjoyed by everyone.

Please help us preserve this beautiful land by not picking the flowers and native grasses, and by not straying onto private land.

Of course, please do not litter.

This magnificent scenic land is home to many Kansas residents who welcome you to their communities, shops, and restaurants.

Please stay out of the way of cattle drives.

Do not climb fences or gates.

And please, help keep everyone safe by obeying posted speed limits.

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*Enjoy Kansas Scenic Byways!*

