THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
was organized in 1875 by the newspaper editors
and publishers of the state, and four years later it
became the official trustee for the state’s historical
collections. Since then, the Society has operated both
as a non-profit membership organization and as a
specially recognized society supported by appropria-
tions from the state of Kansas.

The purposes of the Society are the advancement
of knowledge about and the preservation of resources
related to the history and prehistory of Kansas and
the American West, accomplished through educational
and cultural programs, the provision of research
services, and the protection of historic properties.
The Society is governed by a ninety-nine-member
board of directors, elected by the membership, and
is administered by an executive director and an
assistant executive director.

The new Kansas Museum of History will feature
special and permanent exhibits and educational
programs based on the Society’s rich artifact collec-
tions. It is located near the historic Pottawatomie
Baptist Mission west of Topeka, adjacent to Interstate
70. All other Society departments remain at the
Center for Historical Research, Memorial Building,
across the street from the State Capitol in Topeka.

All persons interested in Kansas history and
prehistory are cordially invited to join the Society.
Those who would like to provide additional support
for the Society’s work may want to consider contribu-
tions in the form of gifts or bequests. A representa-
tive of the Society will be glad to consult with anyone
wishing to make such a gift or establish a bequest or
an endowment. Address the Executive Director, 120
West Tenth Street, Topeka. Kansas 66612.

Cover: Spring comes to the Kansas Museum of His-
tory, as shown in this early May 1984 view by Society
Photographer Earl Kintner. With a glass-roofed
entryway and a facade of cottonwood limestone, the
museum was designed to harmonize with the nearby
mission and complement the natural beauty of the
rural setting. Beginning on page 94, Museum Director

Mark A. Hunt provides further details in “The Kansas
Museum of History: A Functional Design for the
Future.” Other articles in this special issue of Kansas
History describe the museum collections, programs,
and exhibits, all discussed within the context of the
history of the Kansas State Historical Society.
Maxine Benson, Editor
Dot E. Taylor, Associate Editor
Bobbie Pray, Associate Editor

Preface 3
A Classic in Marble: The Memorial Building
by Larry O. Jochims 4
The Memorial Building:
A Center for Historical Research 22
The Kansas Museum of History:
A Functional Design for the Future
by Mark A. Hunt 34
Building the Kansas Museum of History 40
Museum Moves, Past and Present
by Mary W. Madden and Maureen A. Hart 46
The Great White Buffalo:
Dedication Remarks, 1983
by Joseph W. Snell, Thomas F. Averill, and William G. Winter 50
Cannons, Spinning Wheels, and a Train:
A History of the Museum Collection
by Mary Ellen Hennessey Nottage 58
Managing and Conserving the Collection
by Martha Durant Kratsas and Robert F. McGriffin 70
Education Programs: Past, Present, and Future
by James Powers 72
Presenting the Past: Exhibits, 1877-1984
by James H. Nottage, Floyd R. Thomas, Jr., and Lucinda Simmons Bray 76
Samples of Our Heritage
by James R. Kratsas, Mary Ellen Hennessey Nottage, and John Zwierzyna 89