KANSAS HISTORY

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William Allen White House, 927 Exchange Street, Emporia, Kansas.

"Red Rocks," a national historic landmark since 1976 and now a state historic site, was the home of Emporia editor and politico William Allen White for nearly a half century. White moved back to Emporia, the place of his 1868 birth, after purchasing the Emporia Daily Gazette in the spring of 1895. He first rented a boardinghouse room and then a six-room house, where he lived with his wife of two years, Sallie Lindsay, and his mother, Mary Ann Hatton White, until July 1899, when they moved into the house at 927 Exchange. "It was a ten-room house made of red sandstone from Colorado and pressed bricks," explained White many years later. "It was covered with towers and turrets and fibroid tumors and minarets and all the useless ornaments that an architect in 1885 could think of" (The Autobiography of William Allen White, 323–24).

A fire destroyed the third floor in January 1920, and the Whites started remodeling the house later that year, drawing in part on plans Frank Lloyd Wright had worked up for such a project a few years before. When the Kansas City architectural firm of Wight and Wight finished, the structure had been transformed from a Queen Anne to a Tudor Revival-style house. William Allen and Sallie White live there until their deaths in 1944 and 1950, respectively, and then Red Rocks served as the Emporia residence of "Young Bill," William Lindsey White, who died in 1973, and his wife, Kathrine Klinkenberg White, who died in 1988. Their daughter, Barbara White Walker, gave the property to the Kansas State Historical Society in 2001. The home opens to the public on May 14, 2005. To learn more about William Allen White and the Whites' Emporia home, visit http://www.kshs.org/places/white/red_rocks.htm.

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COVER: A World War II poster illustrating England's plight during the German Blitzkrieg. An article on William Lindsay White's experience in London during this time begins on page 30. BACK COVER: Fifty Years a Detective details the work of the Furlong Secret Service Company, which went undercover to locate cattle thieves in Chase County. An article by Jim Hoy relates the details of this 1899 espisode.

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