A Warm Reception for the Field School in Southeast Kansas

See story on page 20.
Historic Preservation Fund

On May 8, 2010, the Historic Sites Board of Review awarded Historic Preservation Fund grants. The 20 requests totaled $238,547, of which 13 were awarded at $126,998.

- City of Garden City – $9,000 for a survey of historic commercial properties in downtown Garden City.
- Gray County Historical Society – $12,000 for the survey of commercial buildings in the county’s five communities and preparation of a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Soule Canal.
- City of Independence – $15,000 to produce construction drawings and plans for the rehabilitation of the Booth Building for use as a genealogy and history research center.
- Kansas Barn Alliance – $4,326 to assist with the costs of hosting the 2010 National Barn Conference in Atchison and Doniphan counties.
- Kansas City Design Center – $15,746 to survey and document properties and sites significant to the Hispanic history of Kansas City.
- City of Lawrence – $4,000 to support a temporary historic preservation planning internship in the city’s planning department.
- City of Lawrence – $2,280 to support the attendance of city staff at the 2010 National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) biannual forum and training of additional staff and the public on local historic preservation issues.
- City of Manhattan – $16,200 to produce a multiple property documentation form chronicling the history of buildings and development in the local African American community and one nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- City of Newton – $13,350 to update and revise local design guidelines for the Newton/North Newton Preservation Commission to help with reviewing changes to historic properties in the Newton Downtown Historic Districts.
- Norton City/County Economic Development – $4,656 to hire a consultant to produce a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Downtown Norton Historic District.
- Preservation Alliance of Leavenworth – $6,341 to host three public presentations with guest speakers discussing the economic benefits of historic preservation.
- Professional Archeologists of Kansas – $3,100 to produce and distribute a brochure educating property owners on appropriate methods for storing and preserving their private archeological collections.
- City of Wichita – $24,999 to survey and document the historic resources in a portion of the South Central Neighborhood.

The State Historic Preservation Office is hosting a public workshop at 1 p.m. October 13, 2010, to outline requirements for the next round of grants. Preliminary applications will be accepted for staff review through February 1, 2011, the final application deadline is March 15, 2011. More information is available at kshs.org/resource/hpinfo.htm or at 785-272-8681, ext. 240; cultural_resources@kshs.org.

Cover: While participating in the field school in Montgomery County, Alyssa Denneler, age 16 from Lawrence, found a chipped stone scraper. Inset, Chris Hord of Lee’s Summit, Missouri, excavated a unit on the river bank.
The Council Grove PRIDE Committee received Historic Preservation Fund grants from the Kansas Historical Society in 2008 to assist with the completion of an inventory of the community’s historic resources and in 2009 to complete a National Register nomination for a downtown historic district. The result was a survey of more than 100 historic properties in Council Grove and development of a local history, the first since 1921. The completed survey forms are available for public viewing at khri.kansasgis.org (search project name by entering Council Grove Downtown Survey). The Council Grove Downtown Historic District was listed in the Kansas Register of Historic Places at the May meeting of the Historic Sites Board of Review and recommended for listing in the National Register. The National Park Service listed the district in the National Register on July 30, 2010. The new district encompasses four-and-a-half blocks in downtown Council Grove, including 71 buildings.
The buildings in the district represent a diverse range of construction dates and architectural styles. The vast majority of district buildings are located in traditional commercial blocks. Twenty buildings retain their Lake Victorian architecture. These include 14 Italianate buildings, mostly dating from the 1880s real estate boom; five Richardsonian Romanesque buildings mostly from the turn of the century; and one Queen Anne building. The district’s most prolific style is the Progressive-era Commercial Style, which can be found in 27 buildings. Examples of early 20th century styles including Spanish Colonial Revival and Neoclassical can also be found in the downtown.

Nine properties within the district were previously listed in the National Register. An additional 38 properties contribute to the significance of the district.

### Featured Properties

**Ledrick and Robbins Mercantile**

Like many of the earliest buildings, the existing façades reflect subsequent remodelings. The building at 119 W. Main was the site of a pioneer outfitter/mercantile business built by Kitty Hays’ brother in 1863. The existing building was in place on the first Sanborn Map (1885) and occupied by a dry goods store. The existing façade was constructed by Payton Jones in 1884, combining the façades at 117 and 119 W. Main. Early uses include J.M. Henson’s Dry Goods, a millinery, and a jewelry store. By 1939 the ground floor was divided into two retail establishments with the Rendezvous...
Restaurant located in the east half into the 1980s. The west half was occupied by Scholes and later Gheres Jewelry.

**Scott and Anderson Buildings**
These twin brick buildings at 208-210 W. Main were built by local builders Scott and Anderson in 1873 and are distinguished by the corbelled brick parapet and arched window hoods. The west side was home to Frank Prittle's Jewelry Store and later the Mutual Telephone Company. The *Council Grove Republican* occupied the east side of the building by 1922 and continues in that location today.

**Council Grove National Bank**
An 1886 fire destroyed the former building on this site. Morris County State Bank was built in 1887 and later became the Council Grove National Bank (1901), which was in operation as a bank in this location until a 1978 fire damaged the building. At that time the bank sold the building to the McClintocks for their law firm and built the existing bank one block south of Main Street (it became Emprise Bank in 1989).

**Auto Sales/Garage Building**
The building at 318 W. Main was constructed as an auto garage in 1919 by Whitaker and Featherston. It later housed a number of car dealerships including Featherston Brothers Chevrolet, Mayo Chevrolet, and McConnell Motors. McConnell Motors closed in 1958. Since that time uses have included a donut shop, auto parts, and a restaurant.

**I.O.O.F**
The International Order of Odd Fellows was founded in Council Grove in 1869 and its original temple was constructed on this site in 1901. The building was gutted by fire in 1923 and the existing building/façade dates to the reconstruction following the fire. Frank Gurtler’s store occupied the ground floor at the time of the fire. Following reconstruction the building continued to house the IOOF Hall on the second floor. The post office occupied this building in 1937-1939 while the existing post office was being built and People’s Food Market opened in this location in 1940.
The building at 10 S. Wood Street was built by White and Young in 1939 for the Flint Hills Rural Electrification Association. The REA remained in this location until it moved to a new building west of town in 1960. The building, distinguished by its gabled roof, tile scuppers, and stucco façade, has apartments on the upper floor and maintains a retail storefront on the ground floor.

Colby’s Toggery and Alspaw Jewelry
The building at 227 W. Main is one of the few post-war commercial buildings in downtown Council Grove. It was constructed in 1950 with twin storefronts to house Colby’s Toggery—a men’s clothing store—and Alspaw’s Jewelry Store. When Alspaw’s closed in 1961, Colby’s expanded into the entire building. The building was converted to the senior center after the closure of Colby’s Toggery.

Council Grove History
Council Grove is a community that takes pride in its history. Local events like Wah-Shun-Gah Day, celebrate the culture of the Kansa Indians, who called this area home for centuries. Well-known historic sites like the Hays House, Post Office Oak, and Madonna of the Trail statue pay homage to the town’s illustrious early days as a Santa Fe Trail outpost. But downtown Council Grove tells its own story of the growth and development of a community over a period stretching from the 1850s to the 1950s. The story is reflected in the plate-glass windows of the Farmers and Drovers Bank, with elaborate architecture dating to the 1880s boom, but its construction was delayed by the subsequent economic crash. The story is also told by a series of modest one-story buildings constructed to replace buildings lost in a devastating 1903 flood. The history continued with auto-related buildings, lodging houses, and camps that provided for the throngs of tourists that came to Council Grove beginning in the 1910s and 1920s.

Council Grove’s Santa Fe Trail past continues to attract tourists. But once they arrive, it is the architectural diversity of downtown that many find enchanting. The recent National Register nomination for downtown uncovered the broader history of downtown Council Grove and offered the first comprehensive history of the town since 1921.

“Oasis in the Wilderness”
The traditional home of the Kansa, Osage, and Wichita Indians, the Neosho Valley faced a period of rapid change during the 19th century when the area was opened to Euro-American traders, emigrants, and settlers.

During the 1820s and 1830s Council Grove was simply a place with ample natural resources mature trees, plentiful water, fertile grasses, and safe crossings where freighters could meet, rest, and leave messages. As the Santa Fe Trail evolved into an overland highway for American merchants, Council Grove gained prominence as a principal outpost.

The permanent settlement of Council Grove began to take shape in the years between the 1846 Kansa Treaty and the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act when missionaries like Thomas Huffaker and traders like Seth Hays came to fulfill government contracts. The town’s early settlers formed the Council Grove Town Company in 1857.

Unlike many fledgling Kansas communities, Council Grove fared well during the Civil War when the town’s first brick building, Beach and Kilby Dry Goods (1863), was built. The Southern roots of the town’s merchants, some speculated, protected it from guerilla raids.
Trails to Rails
Despite the best efforts of town boosters and predictions of early state leaders, the early railroads bypassed Council Grove. In 1869 the town was finally successful in attracting its first railroad, what came to be the Missouri, Kansas and Topeka Railway (KATY).

The railroad brought elements of both flux and permanence to the growing town. Like many rail heads in the years following the Civil War, Council Grove marketed itself as a shipping point to drovers herding cattle north from Texas. But the transient population was soon supplanted by permanent residents, including a large group of colonists from Ohio.

Despite a devastating prairie fire, financial panic, and destructive grasshopper plague, the city witnessed a period of rapid growth during the 1870s and 1880s. Many downtown buildings were constructed in the years following the 1881 passage of bonds to lure the Topeka, Salina and Southwestern Railroad, later part of the Missouri Pacific (MOPAC) line. Despite a devastating fire in 1886, continuous blocks of commercial buildings stretched east along Main Street from Second Street to the Neosho River by the late 1880s.

Although construction halted during the late 19th century economic downturn, more downtown buildings were constructed in those two decades than in any other two decades in the city's history. Twenty are still extant.

Just as the city began to build again, a month-long rain wreaked its havoc. The 1903 flood left in its wake unfinished buildings and bankrupted businesses. Eight remaining downtown buildings were constructed during the first decade of the 20th century, many of them to replace buildings lost in the flood and a flood-related fire. The flood had not only taken the lives of three citizens, but had forever changed the face of Council Grove.

All Roads Lead to Council Grove
Change also came in manmade form. Like most towns, Council Grove was remade to accommodate the automobile. The city’s first car arrived in July 1901. By 1913, as autos evolved from frivolous novelties to legitimate modes of transportation, there were 228 cars in the county. Liveries were remodeled to garages; and new auto-related businesses, from service stations to auto repair shops, were built.

By 1921 there were “forty-seven miles of permanent hard surfaced roads authorized to be built in Morris County.” Among the highways boosters sought to attract was the New Santa Fe Trail, later U.S. 50. Despite Council Grove's legitimate ties to its namesake, the Santa Fe Trail bypassed the town in favor of the Progressive Era strongholds of Ottawa, Emporia, Newton, Hutchinson, and Dodge City. Eventually, the town attracted the northern branch of the road, now U.S. 56.

It was during the early auto age, when Kansas first had the transportation and leisure time to access the sites interpreting the state’s early history, that Council Grove first began to capitalize on its past. Interest peaked in 1921 when the nation celebrated the centennial of the Santa Fe Trail. To the new brand of auto tourists, Council Grove marketed a long list of attractions: the “Mystic” Padilla Monument, the Custer Elm, the Post Office Oak, and (while still in private hands) the Kaw Mission. A new site, the Monument to the Unknown Indian, was unveiled during the Santa Fe Trail Centennial.

Thousands of tourists and citizens alike attended Council Grove’s weeklong centennial celebration replete with concerts, pageants, and four nights of dances. Advertisements encouraged visitors to “Leave your car with us and go about enjoying the celebration with a feeling of security for your automobile.” The event marked Council Grove’s “coming out” as a full-fledged tourist town.

Other attractions and events followed. In the early 20th century, a Missouri contingent of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) commenced efforts to mark the route of the Santa Fe Trail. By the late 1920s plans included the construction of a Madonna of the Trail monument in each of the 12 states along the National Old Trails Road, an early ocean-to-ocean highway that covered the route of the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri to Santa Fe. The DAR chose Council Grove as the location for the Kansas monument, which was dedicated in 1928. In 1931 the Knights of Columbus dedicated a memorial to Father Juan de Padilla, who according to local lore was killed nearby in 1542. The
monument was “built from the original stones,” which is believed to mark the grave of America’s first Christian martyr.

Auto tourists could choose from a number of lodging options. Some stayed at the Arway Hotel, built in 1857 as the Hays House. Others stayed at the Cottage House Hotel, which was expanded in the early 1910s. For the more adventurous and thrifty visitors, Council Grove offered the Maple Grove campground, adjacent to the historic Terwilliger House, which had been converted to a service station.

Hard Times

By the time Council Grove hit its stride as an early tourist town, the nation was falling into economic calamity. Hard times reached Kansas in the early 1920s, when the inflated war-time crop prices plummeted, leaving farmers saddled with the debt that had been necessary to increase production. Morris County suffered a series of devastating blows both economic and environmental. A flood in May 1929 washed out the Missouri Pacific tracks and left homeowners and merchants scrambling. When the water rose to knee-deep on Main Street, merchants began using boats to “salvage merchandise from stores and save personal property.”

The 1929 flood prompted a series of efforts related to flood control. When federal funds became available through the New Deal, flood control advocates initiated their appeals. In 1934 Kansas groups petitioned the federal government for $40 million to fund a flood water storage facility at Council Grove at the head of the Neosho River. In January 1940 construction began on Canning Creek Lake, now known as Council Grove City Lake. The project was completed, with help from the Works Progress Administration (WPA), in 1942.

Council Grove received federal funds for other public projects. The city built a new water plant in 1933. In 1936 the county received WPA funding to replace the 1890s brick jail with a new concrete building. The federal government constructed the city’s first freestanding post office building, still in use today, in 1939. A new building was constructed at 10 S. Wood Street in 1939 to house the Flint Hills Rural Electrification Administration (REA), a New-Deal program that brought electricity to rural areas.

These federal projects brought some hope and relief to the distressed community. Before the worst was over, many of the area’s banks, including Council Grove’s Citizens Bank, the Parkersville Bank, Delavan Bank, Latimer Bank, and Wilsey Bank, closed their doors. In 1934 the Cottage House Hotel, Council Grove’s most exclusive hotel since the late 19th century, was sold at a sheriff’s sale.

Post-War Years

The years following World War II were a time of significant public investment and interest in Council Grove. Since the 1929, flood Kansans had lobbied for federal funds to control the flood-prone Neosho River. In 1934 supporters had approached the federal government for $40 million in funds for “flood water storage at Council Grove.” But major efforts toward flood control were not made until the post-war years. The Flood Control Act of 1950 included provisions for flood control of the Neosho River Basin in Kansas and Oklahoma. After a decade of delays and planning, construction on the $11.5 million Corps of Engineers project at Council Grove Reservoir, just northwest of town, was finally completed in 1964.
Unfortunately, the flood control project did not begin soon enough. In 1951 the rushing floodwaters spilled over the banks of the Kansas, Neosho, Marais des Cygnes, and Verdigris rivers after record rains in June and July. On July 11, 1951, the Neosho River at Council Grove, the head of the river, was flowing at 121,000 cubic feet per second. The Great Flood of 1951 left $935 million in damage and 28 fatalities in its wake mostly downriver at Iola and Parsons.

Among the Council Grove properties damaged by the Great Flood was the Kaw Mission. During the 1950-1951 legislative session, Council Grove Senator W. H. White and White City Representative L. J. Blythe introduced legislation authorizing $23,500 for the purchase of the property as a state historic site. When the rains came, the site caretaker had “just moved in.” The first floor, the installation in the basement, and the grounds were badly damaged. Repairs could not begin until the state emergency fund board appropriated funds in March 1952. The museum opened in September.

Kaw Mission State Historic Site gave Council Grove’s tourist economy a boost. In 1954 the new site welcomed 5,716 visitors from “thirty-seven states and nine foreign countries.” In 1969 the new Council Grove Reservoir hosted 840,000 people. The reservoir also drew visitors to the area’s other historic sites. Annual visitation to Kaw Mission had topped 9,000 during the 1960s. One indication of the community’s pride in the site was a feature in the local newspaper. The “Museum Scorecard” published weekly visitation numbers.

Through the efforts of its dedicated citizens, Council Grove became one of the state’s first heritage-tourism destinations. In 1963, three years before the National Historic Preservation Act, preservation advocates successfully nominated one of the state’s first National Historic Landmarks, a district that included six Santa Fe Trail-related sites: trail ruts, Council Oak, Post Office Oak, Hays Tavern, Seth Hays House, and Last Chance Store.

Council Grove’s trail history helped create one of the state’s first heritage tourism centers. Today Council Grove’s citizens are working to preserve the downtown buildings that tell the rest of the story.

**Disaster Survival**

Because fires and floods are generally followed by periods of new construction and developments in zoning, public infrastructure, and social services, most downtowns reflect not only economic cycles, but also tell the story of the disasters that shaped them. Fires and floods throughout its history have formed downtown Council Grove.

**1886 Fire**

A devastating downtown fire September 19, 1886, destroyed all the buildings on Main Street between Hays House (then the Arway Hotel) and Neosho Street. Although its gabled roof was lost, the Hays House was saved. Fortunately, the fire occurred during the statewide real estate boom when businessmen had the confidence to rebuild. Two major buildings, the Munsell and McGeorge Building at 126 W. Main and the Council Grove National Bank at 130 W. Main, were constructed to replace buildings lost in the fire. In an effort to better protect downtown buildings from fire, the city constructed a new waterworks, completed February 1888.

*The 1886 fire was reported statewide. This account appeared in the Belleville Telescope, September 30, 1886.*

**1903 Flood/Fire**

After a month of rain in spring 1903, the Neosho River rose “several feet above all recorded high water marks.” The floodwaters stretched west along Main Street as far as Belfry Street, destroying the Main Street bridge, damaging downtown buildings and taking the lives of three people. A flood-related fire, which destroyed “part of the block west of the Farmers and Drovers Bank,” exacerbated the situation. The floods damaged both buildings and the businesses that occupied them. Among the casualties was the Indicator Mercantile Company, adjacent to the Farmers and Drovers Bank, which failed to reopen after the flood. The existing buildings at 207 and 209 West Main were both built to

![Kaw Mission Historic Site opened in 1952.](image-url)
replace buildings lost in the flood. The flood delayed the construction of the Carnegie Library.

1929 Flood
A flood in May 1929 washed out the Missouri Pacific tracks and left homeowners and merchants scrambling. When the water rose to knee-deep on Main Street, merchants began using boats to “salvage merchandise from stores and save personal property.” The flood prompted a series of flood-control efforts that ultimately led to the construction of lakes and reservoirs.

1951 Flood
The Flood Control Act of 1950 included provisions for flood control of the Neosho River Basin. Unfortunately, the project was too late to spare Council Grove from the Great Flood of 1951. The rushing floodwaters spilled over the banks of the Kansas, Neosho, Marais des Cygnes and Verdigris rivers after record rains in June and July. On July 11, 1951, the Neosho River at Council Grove, the head of the river, was flowing at 121,000 cubic feet per second. The Great Flood of 1951 left $935 million in damage and 28 fatalities in its wake—mostly downriver at Iola and Parsons. Among the Council Grove properties damaged by the great flood was the Kaw Mission, which had recently been acquired as a state historic site. After the 1951 flood, construction of standard commercial blocks downtown ceased.

1978 Fire
A 1978 fire damaged commercial buildings and further strengthened the community’s resolve to preserve its historic downtown.
At its regular quarterly meeting held August 14, 2010, at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka, the Historic Sites Board of Review voted to list two properties in the Register of Historic Kansas Places and to forward two 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 they concur with the board’s findings, the properties will be included in the National Register. In other action, the board approved the World War II-Era Aviation-Related Facilities in Kansas National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, which is designed to streamline the method of organizing information collected in historic resource surveys and research for future National Register listing and preservation planning purposes. The board also approved the removal of one property from the National Register and one property from the state register.

**World War II-Era Aviation-Related Facilities of Kansas Multiple Property Documentation Form – Statewide**

This document was produced by Susan Jezak Ford of Citysearch Preservation who surveyed 16 World War II army airfields, two naval air stations, and all known auxiliary fields, and identified and documented 176 associated resources. Of those resources, 43 were determined individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, with an additional 109 resources that could potentially contribute to a historic district.

During World War II Kansas was home to 16 army airfields, two naval air stations, numerous auxiliary fields, bombing ranges, and aircraft plants. These facilities occupied large tracts of land, trained thousands of recruits, and employed many local civilians. The typical base included dozens of buildings to house and train pilots and their crews, maintain aircraft, and guide the aircraft to the Pacific front. The sites and structures documented in this Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) represent the profound impact Kansas and Kansans had on the outcome of the war. The period of significance discussed in the MPDF begins in 1939 with the country’s preparation for World War II and ends in 1945, the year the war ended. The document classifies aviation-related resources into five categories by use: airfield, cantonment, training, recreation and welfare, and hospital buildings. The airfields and their structures were quickly assembled, usually according to pre-determined architectural plans.

An MPDF streamlines the method of organizing information collected in historic resource surveys and research for future National Register listing and preservation planning purposes. The form facilitates the evaluation of individual properties by comparing them with resources that share similar physical characteristics and historical associations. Information common to the group of properties is presented in the historic context, while information specific to each individual building, site, district, structure, or object is placed on an individual registration form. This document simply provides historic context; no properties have yet been nominated as part of this MPDF.

**Coronado Heights – Lindsborg vicinity, Saline County**

Coronado Heights is a 16-acre public park located along the southern border of Saline County. The park’s features were built during the 1930s as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project and include a roadway that winds around the south and east slope of the hillside, a castle shelter house, picnic areas, and a restroom building. The name “Coronado Heights” was applied to the dramatic

**by Sarah Martin**
National Register Coordinator

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Coronado Heights, Saline County
overlook by auto-age boosters who erroneously promoted its connection to Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado. The Smoky Valley Historical Society, which formed for the purpose of developing Coronado Heights, acquired the property in 1919 from two local farm families and began making improvements. Prior to the stock market crash in 1929, plans were underway to improve the driveway up to the overlook, which was routinely rendered impassible by rain. The project was delayed until the early 1930s when Saline County officials secured federal funding to improve the site, and was finished by 1936. The site was highlighted during the Coronado centennial celebrated statewide throughout the summer of 1941. The Smoky Valley Historical Association owns the site.

Phillipsburg Community Building – 425 F Street, Phillipsburg, Phillips County

Through the WPA Kansas realized many new public buildings and recreational facilities, including 58 community buildings like the one in Phillipsburg. The construction of the Phillipsburg Community Building in 1936 and 1937 employed about 150 area residents during the two-year project. Local newspapers promoted this as one of the largest community buildings in northwest Kansas, and it would consist of a large auditorium with bleachers, stage, dressing room, toilet and shower facilities, library, and city hall office. Local architect Owassa J. Jennings worked on the project, Dr. Guy Innes served as the project superintendent, and H. C. Townsend was the foreman. The Phillipsburg Community Building was constructed of limestone from a local quarry using local labor. It exhibits the characteristics of these craftsmen and features a vernacular Collegiate Gothic architectural style. The building was nominated as part of the New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas Multiple Property Submission for its association with the New Deal.

Register of Historic Kansas Places

Richmond Hill School – 149 N Fourth Street, Clearwater, Sedgwick County

Richmond Hill School is a one-story, vernacular wood-frame building from 1875 and reputed to be the oldest surviving one-room schoolhouse in Sedgwick County. The last term at Richmond Hill School was a single semester in 1941-1942. The school district was reorganized in 1946 and unified with the Clearwater district in 1947. It was originally situated on the northwest corner of the intersection of 95th Street South and Tyler Road in the Ohio Township, which is a predominately rural area. The building was saved from demolition through the combined efforts of the Ohio Township residents, the Clearwater Historical Society, the Historic Preservation Alliance of Wichita, and Sedgwick County, Inc. On June 5, 2008, it was relocated to the city.

The National Register of Historic Places is the country’s official list of historically significant properties. Properties must be significant for one or more of the four criteria for evaluation. Under Criterion A, properties can be eligible if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Under Criterion B, properties can be eligible if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Under Criterion C, properties can be eligible if they embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Under Criterion D, 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.
park adjacent to the historical museum in nearby Clearwater. It currently rests on a temporary foundation and awaits rehabilitation. The building was nominated for its local educational significance.

**Bailey, Wells P., House – City Park, Lyndon, Osage County**

Built in about 1870, the Wells P. Bailey House is a one-and-a-half story hewn-log residence that was relocated in 1997 from a farmstead two miles east of Lyndon to the Lyndon City Park. The house is rectangular and measures approximately 18 feet by 27 feet. It features a double-pen plan, which closely resembles the center-hall plan commonly found in mid- and late-19th century vernacular residential architecture in Kansas. By 1896 the house was clad with wood clapboard siding, which was removed prior to the relocation. Bailey was a trained machinist and moved his family to Wabaunsee County in 1866 before preempting a 160-acre claim in Osage County, near Lyndon, in 1870. He farmed and worked as a milling machinist. Bailey was related to Judge L.D. Bailey, one of the founders of Lyndon, and who named the town after Lyndon, Vermont. The house was nominated for its architectural significance.

April 11, 2010. The Kansas State Historic Preservation Office requested the property be removed from the National Register of Historic Places.

**Removal from the Register of Historic Kansas Places**

**Stockebrand, Henry F., House – 211 South Main, Yates Center, Woodson County**

Built in 1911, the Stockebrand House was situated at the northwest corner of Main Street and U. S. 54. The two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne residence was home to long-time local entrepreneur and merchant Henry Stockebrand. The house was listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places in 1986 for its architectural significance, but had fallen into disrepair in the last few years. Pieces of the building were salvaged and sold before the building was torn down in early 2010. The city of Yates Center now owns the empty parcel. The Kansas State Historic Preservation Office requested the property be removed from the state register.

**Removal from the National Register of Historic Places**

**I.O.O.F. Lodge – NW Corner of Nicholas & Mill Streets, Alton, Osborne County (Building collapsed)**

Built in about 1885, the Custer Lodge #166 Independent Order of the Odd Fellows Building was listed in the National Register on May 16, 2002, for its historical association with the I.O.O.F and other Alton lodges. It was also used as a lodge for local chapters of the Rebeccas, Masons, Eastern Star, Knights of Pythias, and Woodmen. The building was also nominated for its architectural significance as a late 19th century vernacular limestone building. The building was not in use at the time of nomination. It collapsed.
Economic Impact of the State Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program Study Completed

After a surprise setback May 9, 2009, a campaign by preservation supporters all across Kansas rescued the State Rehabilitation Tax Credit in 2010. First, in a late night effort to address the state budget crisis, the legislature passed an omnibus bill, which capped the amount of rehabilitation credits that could be redeemed in the next two fiscal years beginning July 1, 2009, at $3.75 million. Tax credits that had been approved but not redeemed probably exceeded that amount at the time when the bill was approved. Although the legislature intended to cut all tax credit programs by approximately 10 percent, the bill actually reduced the state rehabilitation tax credits by up to 70 percent of the allocation in 2008.

The legislation affected both current and new projects. With a backlog of projects competing for scarce tax credits and no assurance that the credits could be redeemed in a particular year, investors and syndicators declined to purchase the tax credits. This immediately reduced the capacity of property owners and developers to finance historic preservation projects. Certainly, the suspension of investment and redevelopment of historic buildings with a loss of construction jobs and tax revenue from rehabilitated buildings was not a positive effect in the middle of the most serious recession since the depression of the 1930s. Meanwhile, a similar crisis was averted in Missouri, where a session-long lobbying effort by preservation advocates finally produced legislation in 2009 that spared current projects and established an annual cap of $140 million in state tax credits for rehabilitation.

To demonstrate the economic value of the state tax credit, the board of the Kansas Preservation Alliance (KPA) decided to commission an economic impact study. Members of the board strongly believe that the state tax credit is a valuable investment with ongoing economic benefits beyond individual projects such as increased property and sales tax revenue and increased property values. Neighboring states around Kansas have documented the economic benefits of historic preservation (Colorado, 2002, updated 2005; Missouri, 2002; Nebraska, 2007; and Oklahoma, 2008). To help fund the specific study of the impact of the state tax credit program, the alliance applied to the State Historic Preservation Office and received a Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant early in August 2010. At the same time the alliance began fund-raising to match the HPF grant. Board members were gratified by the quick response of donors and KPA members to the request for contributions. In a little more than three months, KPA raised the needed match for the grant from the preservation office.

by Dale Nimz

Wokott House, Hutchinson.
The alliance sent a request for proposals to selected consultants who had prepared economic impact studies and selected a proposal from a team led by David Listokin, Center for Urban Policy Research (CUPR), Rutgers University. Listokin and his associates were the most experienced consultants in the specialized field of economic impact analysis. For example, the center has conducted such studies for the nearby states of Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas as well as other states such as Florida and New Jersey. The center’s patented economic input-output model produces accurate estimates of the total regional impacts of historic rehabilitation on jobs, income, wealth, and tax revenues. The model also indicates which sectors of the economy benefit from historic preservation activities. Analysts applied the CUPR model to the data provided by the Kansas Historic Preservation Office from its database of projects that have used the federal and state tax credits for historic rehabilitation.

Five case studies of representative historic rehabilitation projects in Kansas are included to provide specific examples for the economic impact study. The case studies were prepared by Deb Sheals, a historic preservation consultant based in Columbia, Missouri. She is a past president and current advisory board member of the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation with experience in utilizing the Missouri tax credit for rehabilitation.

The CUPR team completed a final draft of the Economic Impact Study of Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits in Kansas early in March 2010. The team’s conclusions were summarized in the brief executive summary and full executive synthesis. The Kansas tax credit for rehabilitation of historic buildings was implemented in fiscal year 2002. From that year through fiscal year 2009 the tax credit aided about 540 completed projects with an aggregate estimated total project cost of $245 million dollars. A credit of about $53 million enabled that investment. The credit has been used widely in Kansas in about 50 counties. Many locations in the state have tax credit-eligible buildings that need rehabilitation aided by the tax credit’s financial incentive.

Locations where the Kansas historic tax credits (KHTC) were used for preservation tend to share characteristics such as having a higher density population (relative to the state overall), a population with a lower median household income and higher economic distress (as measured by percentage in poverty and percentage unemployed), and households encountering greater housing affordability issues (as measured by households paying more than 30 percent of income for housing costs).

Implementation of the KHTC has increased preservation investment in Kansas. In the 21 years prior to the implementation of the KHTC (1981-2001), about 50 HTC projects were completed—an average of only 2.4 per year. The projects represented an aggregate $114 million investment in inflation-adjusted dollars (2009). However, in the eight years since the implementation of the KHTC, a total of 542 tax credit-aided projects (an average of 68 per year) were completed. These projects represented an aggregate investment of $271 million in inflation-adjusted dollars (2009).

The overall impact of the KHTC program is substantial. The in-state total (direct and multiplier) economic impact from the $271 million invested in historic rehabilitation included 4,443 jobs generating $323 million in output (total value of economic shipments), $142 million in labor income, $183 million in gross state product, and $56 million in taxes ($41 million federal, $8 million state, and $7 million local). The in-state wealth (GSP minus federal taxes) resulting from rehabilitation expenditures amounts to $142 million, indicating high 78 percent retention.

Economic benefits to Kansans from the cumulative investment in tax credit-aided historic rehabilitation projects are extensive. Payrolls and production increased in almost all
sectors of the state economy. Just under half of the Kansas-based jobs from the investment accrue to the state’s construction industry. This was expected, but other sectors also benefited—services (832 jobs, $27.6 million in GSP), retail trade (605 jobs, $14.4 million in GSP), and manufacturing (500 jobs, $26.1 million in GSP). Because of the interrelated aspects of a state’s economy, other sectors were affected as well such as agriculture, mining, and transportation and public utilities.

One of the most striking conclusions from the economic impact study was the comparison of historic rehabilitation as an economic stimulus with other investments. A $1 million investment in historic rehabilitation in Kansas realizes a distinctly better economic effect than a similar increment of investment in residential and non-residential new construction (including building highways) or a $1 million investment in electrical machinery and automobile manufacturing, wheat farming, and telecommunications.

In summary, an investment of $69 million in inflation-adjusted dollars has encouraged an amount of historic rehabilitation four times larger ($271 million). That in turn has supported more than 4,400 jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in total economic gains to the Kansas economy. Although the economic impact study has documented these impacts, the findings understate the economic benefits for several reasons. There are recurring year-by-year benefits such as enhancing heritage and cultural tourism and appreciating property values, which then increase local property taxes. Similarly, the study does not document how the improved quality of life in areas with rehabilitated historic buildings strengthens the state economy.

To examine the economic impacts of historic rehabilitation in specific local examples, the economic impact study considered a set of five properties in different counties in Kansas. The rehabilitation of the Leavenworth County Courthouse (total project cost: $5,047,103; state historic tax credit: $862,754) improved what had become a greatly underutilized public building. Without the tax credits the county would not have been able to carry out the project. The dollars from the state tax credits allowed the county commissioners to undertake a comprehensive rather than an incremental approach to rehabilitating the courthouse. The project injected more than $1 million into the local and regional economy.

Usable space and overall efficiency were dramatically increased throughout the building (constructed in 1911) and the rehabilitated courthouse once again reflects its important role as the seat of county government. After three years of work, the public areas of the building were restored to their original appearance, while offices and secondary spaces were rehabilitated to meet 21st century needs. County Commissioner Clyde Graeber described the rehabilitation project as a “masterpiece” and noted that the refurbished building has been very popular.

Built in 1916, the Eagles Lodge #132 building was scheduled for demolition to make way for the Sedgwick
County Arena. It had been abandoned for years. With the aid of the Kansas historic tax credit, the architectural gem has been rehabilitated and today anchors a prominent corner near the new arena. As owner Jerry White explained, “if not for the historic tax credits, I would not have renovated the building... it would not have been economically viable to do it.” Instead, the project resulted in more than $1 million in private investment in a formerly vacant property. If the project had not been feasible, the city would have lost not only the historic building, but a long-time downtown business as well. The historic tax credit program has spurred considerable investment in historic downtown Wichita. The Eagles Lodge project is one of at least 20 projects aided by tax credits in or near downtown. According to Kathy Morgan, senior planner, city of Wichita, “the historic tax credits are an invaluable tool for relocating businesses in the downtown area.”

In downtown Salina the former Roosevelt-Lincoln Junior High School complex occupies most of one city block. It served as an important educational facility for nearly 90 years. Despite expansion, student enrollment surpassed its capacity. When the complex was vacated, the Pioneer Group of Topeka purchased the property which, according to the local newspaper, had the potential to become “a conspicuous downtown eyesore” and converted the buildings to low-income senior apartments. Today the 61-unit complex routinely boasts a 100 percent occupancy rate.

Pioneer Group assembled an expert team of Kansas-based architects and contractors and secured financing from a Salina bank. In addition to following the requirements associated with low-income housing and historic rehabilitation tax credits, the team met national LEED green building standards for construction.

The project injected more than $8 million directly into the Kansas economy and it is already stimulating business in downtown Salina by supporting existing businesses and encouraging new business creation. The restored auditorium at the former Lincoln School, open to both residents and the public, is becoming a favorite community center. As Ross Freeman, Pioneer Group president, commented, “This was a wonderful economic development project for Kansans. It employed a huge number of Kansans and generated a lot of economic excitement in and around Salina. It also utilized existing infrastructure and has brought more people to live in the downtown area helping further revitalize downtown businesses. We would not have even considered the project if the historic tax credits were not available.”

In western Kansas the rehabilitation of the Philip Hardware store was the first of several preservation projects in downtown Hays undertaken by the Liberty Group, a recently formed development company. The company completed 11 commercial rehabilitation projects in Hays and has another eight projects in planning. Most are located in the Chestnut Street National Register Historic District.

Liberty Group owner Charles Comeau wrote of his company’s decision to invest, “Hays has all the components necessary to bring about the successful renaissance of its downtown corridor and we are deeply committed as developers to bring our vision to reality.” Since 2002 the appraised value of buildings and land in the downtown district has increased by 122.5 percent. From 2001 to 2008 more than $5 million has been invested in downtown Hays creating 25 new businesses. In the same period sales tax collections increased 135 percent. More than 130 new full time and 186 new part time jobs were created. The historic Chestnut Street District now boasts of some 1,425 employees—an impressive number for a town with a population of just over 20,000.

Historic tax credits have become increasingly important in the redevelopment of Hays since the more viable buildings
have been completed and the development company has focused on those that will require more creative plans to be viable. According to Kelli Hansen, Liberty Group, the rehabilitation of many projects in Hays “would not have been possible to date without the tax credit programs. The funds associated with redevelopment costs exceed the amounts that can be justified or borrowed, so the tax credits provide the necessary incentive to continue with the projects.”

While the state and federal rehabilitation tax credit programs have been important for large-scale commercial and housing projects, the Kansas state tax credit is particularly valuable for owner-occupied residences. For example, the 90-year old Frank and Dora Wolcott Hotel house is located near the center of Hutchinson. It was one of the first houses built in Hyde Park, one of the more stable neighborhoods in town. Using the state historic tax credit, owner Doug McGovern has worked over the past several years to take care of deferred maintenance and structural repairs. He modified the house to accommodate his octogenarian mother, rebuilt the front porch, repaired windows, re-roofed, and installed a new HVAC system.

All work done on the house was locally contracted. For each dollar of state tax credits awarded, the owner spent $4, which benefited the local economy. Today the Wolcott House is a neighborhood showplace. It is a stop on the annual holiday tour. The historic preservation tax credits encouraged more investment and accelerated the pace of major repairs to this historic home. The credits helped maintain a landmark house “more accurately described as a ‘presence’ than simply a structure” by Hutchinson Magazine.

Making the state historic tax credit available to homeowners encourages investment in the oldest areas of the community and, since homeowners usually patronize local contractors, keeps dollars in the local economy. Rehabilitation of historic homes preserves core neighborhoods, uses existing infrastructure, and stabilizes property values. Hundreds of Kansas families have used state historic tax credits to leverage personal investment in their historic homes. Although residential projects represent a small percentage of the credits awarded in dollar value (less than 5 percent), they comprise a large number of individual projects. To date, there have been more than 350 historic tax credit projects for residential properties in 30 different Kansas cities.

Senate Bill 430 was signed into law by Governor Mark Parkinson on April 19, 2010, and a ceremonial signing was held June 17. SB 430 restored the state rehabilitation tax credit program to its pre-2009 status. The two-year cap enacted last year under HB 2365 was lifted for state fiscal year 2011, which began July 1, 2010. This means the full amount of the credit can be claimed, and the credits are still transferable. For more information on the state rehabilitation tax credit program, please contact SHPO staff at 785-272-8681, ext. 240.

Dale Nimz is the executive director of the Kansas Preservation Alliance. This article is based on research and writing by David Listokin and the associates of the Center for Urban Policy, Rutgers University, and Deb Sheals, historic preservation consultant.

The executive summary and 40-page report are available separately at kshs.org/resource/taxcredits.htm
My First State Preservation Conference

I was a newcomer to the Kansas Preservation Conference, held June 2-5 on the Bethel College campus in North Newton. As a newbie I came with no expectations about the conference and a limited understanding of what “preservation” meant and what preservationists did. (Isn’t that why you go to conferences? To learn more?)

My first impression was how seemingly unrelated the presentations were. For instance, I attended a session on an affordable housing renovation program in Hutchinson on volunteerism, and on the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program. I took a walking tour of Mennonite architecture on the Bethel College campus. I viewed a slide presentation on three remarkable archeologists who were from North Newton, and then I took a stroll down the Sand Creek Trail, past archeological sites right on the Bethel College campus.

On the surface these were very different, seemingly unrelated topics. Yet, the presentations were united by the theme of protecting and preserving social, historic, and natural resources.

I came to realize that preservation is about recognizing and appreciating what and who has come before us and the traces they left behind, including those of the hunters and gatherers of the plains, the structures created by the Mennonite craftsmen, and the preeminent turn-of-the-century architects who designed them.

I realized that preservationists are not born, they are made. They are made when they learn (and teach others) to recognize the ways in which the environment is rich with markers of our past, our natural and social histories.

At the state preservation conference I became a better preservationist by learning (among other things) to recognize and appreciate different architectural styles and by developing a vocabulary that marries “green design” with historical properties and by being challenged to see the traces of peoples long past.

My acculturation into the world of preservation, however, was not complete until the Friday night banquet at which Charles Phoenix, author of God Bless Americana, amused attendees with his illustrated discussion of iconic American culture.

Dressed in what appeared to be a vintage double-knit red, white, and yellow suit, Phoenix challenged us to appreciate who we are as Americans and not to take for granted the traces we are currently leaving behind for others to appreciate. These traces include our vehicles, buildings, neon signs, clothing, and vacation photos.

I left that presentation in particular and the conference in general with a refocused eye for what is worthy of “preservation.” Indeed, preservation is about much more than saving the old building, environs, and tax credits. Preservation is about protecting and preserving a culture, its physical markers, and the oral accounts of people—our people. To be a preservationist in America is to cherish our American heritage.

Sara Ford Fisher, a member of the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance board of directors since 2008, holds a Ph.D in Sociology from Kansas State University. She moved to the area in 1996 and into an Arts and Crafts bungalow in 2000. She teaches sociology (and sometimes psychology) at Manhattan Area Technical College. She also serves as a researcher for E3 at K-State and she volunteers with several community organizations.

Reprinted with permission from the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance.
Snapshot of Preservation Education in Kansas

Attendees to this year’s State Historic Preservation Conference in Newton were asked to contribute ideas about improving preservation in Kansas. A common theme quickly emerged—Kansas lacks broad public preservation education and post-secondary preservation training. Conference goers pointed to successful education and trade programs in other states and called for the establishment of K-12 programs and public workshops. Doing so, they argued, would bolster existing preservation efforts and introduce new people to the preservation community.

To try my hand at reaching a new audience, I agreed to teach a five-day class on preservation at the 2010 Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) in Neodesha. Held annually for the past 35 years, this two-week archeology event is augmented with classes that teach participants the methods of both working in the field and in the lab. In addition to classes about archeological fieldwork, mapping archeological sites, Kansas prehistory, and cultural reconstruction, participants could sign up for From the Ground Up: Preservation Basics. Twenty-three students enrolled in my class more than doubling the number of participants in the field school class last year. What was even more surprising was the wide range of backgrounds of the students: a combination of high school students; college students from various Kansas and out-of-state schools; professionals from as far away as California, Colorado, Nebraska and Illinois; and retired enthusiasts.
With such a variety of backgrounds, my first challenge was gauging how familiar the students were with preservation basics, which came quickly into focus when one student said, “I actually took this course under the mistaken belief that this was about preservation of artifacts (not specifically buildings), so that’s more what I was expecting—debates about cleaning or plastication.” And she wasn’t alone. After this was clarified, we began our discussions about architectural styles and construction technologies and how these might help date buildings. Students learned about the National Register of Historic Places and the various types of Kansas properties listed in the register. Students learned how to document and photograph buildings and then left the classroom to go on a building component scavenger hunt and to complete survey inventory forms of buildings.

“...I didn’t even know houses and buildings had different styles and special features that could actually date the house to certain eras. Now, all I can look at is the different styles of houses and roofs and try to date the house. I now appreciate old houses and buildings that used to just be junk to me because I understand that houses are part of history, not just homes. It is almost like every house has a story now, and by restoring the house, the story could still be told.”

— Lawryn Edmonds, Valley Falls

One session was devoted to a discussion of complex preservation issues, such as the restoration of primary building materials, battling sprawl, finding and raising funding for projects, and sustainability, and then asking the students for their ideas on how to solve these challenges.

Another well-received discussion was called “Think, Pair, Share,” which involved dividing the class into three groups and assigning each a structure type: agricultural barns, bridges, and railroad depots. Each group studied the history of its assigned property type, discussed public perceptions of the property type, and inherent preservation challenges associated with maintaining them. Each group then presented to the class its creative solutions on how to address these preservation challenges and how it would rehabilitate these resources.

Toward the end of the last class, I asked students what they would do with the information they had learned about preservation. Some would more fully appreciate their surroundings. One student, Rebecca Chase, said, “As silly as it sounds, most of my immediate application of this will probably be trying to identify house styles along my routes in my city.” Deb Aaron of Hebron, Nebraska, noted an increased awareness of what historic preservation is all about, “It seems such a waste to see the detailed majestic old buildings just torn down.” An increased awareness was echoed by Lawryn Edmonds of Valley Falls. “I didn’t even know houses and buildings had different styles and special features that could actually date the house to certain eras. Now, all I can look at is the different styles of houses and roofs and try to date the house. I now appreciate old houses and buildings that used to just be junk to me because I understand that houses are part of history, not just homes. It is almost like every house has a story now, and by restoring the house, the story could still be told.”

Others wanted a more active role shaping their hometowns. Lindsey Zeller of Eskridge said, “I realize how much significance the antique commercial buildings hold in my town. They are historic and should be treated and noted as such. My focus will now be on getting the buildings in Eskridge on a form of registry, and to then share the knowledge of preservation and the historic significance of the buildings to other members in the community.”

Volunteerism was another idea put forth. Perhaps Beverly Goode of Independence said it best: “My first step will be to volunteer and ask: ‘What can I do?’”

This experience confirmed the need for preservation outreach and education and showed me that positive results could come from a long-term education initiative. New people with fresh perspectives are eager to join the preservation community in Kansas, and we need to bring them into the discussion and harness their willingness to volunteer.

Julie Weisgerber recently left the Kansas Historical Society to further her historic preservation career in Burlington, Vermont. We wish her the best of luck.
A Warm Reception for the Field School in Southeast Kansas

The humid heat in Montgomery and Wilson counties posed a challenge for Kansas Archeology Training Program field school participants, but the warm welcome of the southeast Kansas communities, as well as the exciting archeology, made the 2010 project a positive experience.

By Virginia A. Wulfkuhle
Public Archeologist, Kansas Historical Society

This was the 35th year of the field school, sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) and Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA), and its first time in deep southeast Kansas. Over the 16-day period, June 5-20, 167 volunteers donated 7,859 hours to field, lab, and classes. Eighty-two people were newcomers, many of these from the local vicinity. Other participants came from Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, California, and Australia, as well as every region of Kansas.
The focus of the archeological project was the Eastep site (14MY388) in Montgomery County. The landowner, Dr. Philip Eastep, and his employees did everything in their power to assure the project's success. Eastep is committed to preserving as much of the site as possible.

USD 461 allowed the KSHS and KAA to use North Lawn Elementary School in Neodesha for the project headquarters. Here classes, the lab, and a number of evening programs were held. Campers were permitted to stay on the school grounds and in the gym and use the shower facilities at the new municipal swimming pool next door.

Each morning KSHS Public Archeologist Virginia Wulfkuhle taught the required orientation session for arriving volunteers and the Principles of Archeology class for first-time participants. Formal classes, which could be taken for college credit, KAA certification credit, or just for the information, were much in demand. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Archeologist Tim Weston and Highway Archeologist Tricia Waggoner had 19 students in Mapping; SHPO Federal Tax Credit Coordinator Julie Weisgerber had 20 in From the Ground Up: Preservation Basics; State Archeologist Bob Hoard had 24 in Kansas Prehistory; and Don Rowlison had 13 in Cultural Reconstruction. Five students earned 17 hours of college credit through Emporia State University.

Under the direction of KSHS Lab Archeologist Chris Garst and Mary Conrad, lab volunteers worked on collections from the in-progress survey and excavation and from a number of other sites. Workers cleaned 159 bags and cataloged 175 bags of artifacts from 14MY388. The flotation station, which has become a standard part of lab procedure, processed approximately 75 bags of soil samples. Collections from 14CO1, 14JO367, 14MY407, 14MY408, 14MO701 and several donations were cleaned, sorted, and cataloged.
Evening programs—all free and open to the public— included a variety of talks (Recent Research on the Preclassic Maya by John Tomasic, Current Investigations of the Scott County Pueblo by Sarah Trabert, and Cache of Greatly Oversize Sedalia Bifaces from a Kansas City Area Site by Jim Feagins) and tours (Norman #1 Oil Well Museum, Ralph Mitchell Zoo, Independence Historical Museum, and Historical Homes of Independence).

Two events were held at the Neodesha Civic Center/City Hall. Perhaps 125-135 people attended Collectors Night on June 9. Many people got answers to questions about their artifacts, and archaeologists were able to see collections from the area. The Neodesha Rotary and Lions Clubs served a hot dog picnic for resume, followed by certificates of appreciation and a review of the project activities and findings.

Visitors were encouraged at the lab and site. Groups of Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts were given extra tours, including flintknapping demonstrations. Media coverage included public radio, several newspapers, and a TV station.

At the end of the field project, about 50 bags of soil were hauled back to Topeka for later processing. To eliminate this backlog, KAA volunteers were invited to a Summer Spree on August 7-8 at the Historical Society. Despite sweltering weather, all samples were processed using water screening and flotation methods. Lab workers sorted the samples that had been washed during the field school. The 47 volunteers added 371 volunteer hours to the project total.

Principal investigator John Tomasic’s review of the results of the survey and excavations at 14MY388 will follow in the next issue of Kansas Preservation.
Attending staff development can sometimes be rather boring. Finding something that not only peaks your interest but also inspires you to change what you are currently doing is an uncommon occurrence.

When I was invited to participate in the first-ever Project Archaeology training academy, I was, to say the least, hesitant. As it turned out, though, what I learned and discovered truly affected the way that I will teach in the future. Held on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman, this academy brought together a select group of teachers to learn the Project Archaeology curriculum model and how best to disseminate that curriculum within their home states. The group spent many of our eight- to 10-hour days in class learning the nuances of the curriculum and brainstorming the most effective ways to teach other teachers. Our evenings were spent reading and working on homework in our dorm rooms, attending field trips, or discussing the curriculum in a more leisurely setting, like the dorm lobby. In between we found time to grab a bite to eat and make a quick call home. It was an intensive week of study and discussion, aimed at creating new knowledge based on the principles of archeology.

The designers of the Project Archaeology curriculum started by asking two questions: “What is an archeologist?” and “What does an archeologist do?” Most members of the general public might answer that an archeologist goes out and digs up old things—like dinosaur bones or pieces of pottery—studies them, and puts them in a museum. In these common responses lie the two biggest misconceptions that the curriculum dispels. First, archeologists do not spend most of their time digging. Secondly, they do not dig up dinosaur bones; they leave that work for the paleontologists. Archeologists do spend a fair amount of time digging, but most of their time is spent analyzing artifacts and other data and trying to piece together a story of the people who left the objects behind. In a simplistic, almost devilishly underhanded way, this curriculum seamlessly blends together science, math, reading, and history by having the student first learn the role of the archeologist. Then placing the student in the role of an archeologist, the curriculum casts off the previously unmotivating idea of simply looking at old stuff and guides the student to retell the story of past lives, using only the artifacts that people left behind.

Stories are the heart of the curriculum. These stories, told by the students through their discovery, analysis, and location of the artifacts, give something that very few curriculum models can boast: ownership. The students are the owners of their learning, and therefore they take the learning personally. This personalization surfaces in a variety of ways but is most apparent in the final assessment when student groups are asked to take on the roles of archeologists, land developers, American Indians, and families relocating to a community. From diverse perspectives students confront the potential destruction of an archeological site and must decide the best ways to preserve the site and why it is important to do so.

With my time in Montana at an end, I boarded my plane back to Kansas. So what is the next step for the state of Kansas and me? The archeologists at the Kansas Historical Society and I are currently planning a variety of ways to get the Project Archaeology materials into the hands of teachers: workshops, education conference sessions, and in-service training, as well as an online course to be offered this winter in partnership with Montana State University and Southern Utah University. We hope that these distribution methods ultimately will result in opportunities for Kansas schoolchildren to acquire and practice critical thinking and civic responsibility skills.

Nathan McAlister recently won the Gilda Lehrman Institute of American History award: Preserve America History Teacher of the Year.
In April 2010 seventh graders at South Middle School in Liberal learned about El Cuartelejo, the unique archeological site located in Scott State Park northwest of Scott City. Their instructor Bonnie Raff, a retired middle school teacher, was introduced to the Kansas Historical Society’s Project Archaeology curriculum in a May 2009 workshop, Digging for Understanding: Using Archaeology and History in the Classroom, that was spotlighted in the Summer 2009 issue of Kansas Preservation.

Raff was excited about the materials and persuaded her former school district to let her present “Migration of the Pueblo People to El Cuartelejo” to the seventh grade class. She primarily used the student magazine (a reading source) and the student journal (a workbook), as well as selected activities from two other books from the national Project Archaeology office, Project Archaeology, Investigating Shelter and Intrigue of the Past.

For one hour each of five days, Raff covered the five sections of the magazine. In her evaluation of the experience, Raff reported, “The students felt proud of themselves for discovering information and making inferences from that data.”

The final day of class was spent on the lesson, “Preserving Archaeological Resources Is a Civic Responsibility.” According to Raff, “As a former student in the Digging for Understanding class myself, I enjoyed this part the most because it was something that I had never thought about before. My students were not familiar with the concept of civic responsibility, so we talked about personal responsibility and the responsibility of others. The activities illustrated that they can be civic-minded even as seventh graders.”

A special visitor to the class was Kansas Honorary State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Sammy Cope, who has worked to preserve the ruins of El Cuartelejo. Raff herself is regent of the Cimarron River Valley Chapter of the DAR.

Raff said, “I would like to thank the Kansas Historical Society for developing and making available free of charge the Project Archaeology in Kansas materials. I would like to teach this class again next year.”

Bonnie Raff with Project Archaeology materials.

Students working on their Project Archaeology: Investigation Shelter quadrant activity.
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
Craig Crosswhite, Ness City, chair
J. Eric Engstrom, Wichita, governor’s designee, vice chair
John W. Hoopes, Lawrence
Nancy Horst, Winfield
Leo Oliva, Stockton
Billie Marie Porter, Neodesha
Daniel Sabatini, Lawrence
David H. Sachs, Manhattan
Jay Price, Wichita
Margaret Wood, Topeka

Cultural Resources Division
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Zollner</td>
<td>Division Director &amp; Deputy SHPO 785-272-8681, ext. 217 <a href="mailto:pzollner@kshs.org">pzollner@kshs.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONTACT US
Happenings in Kansas

January 22, 2010 – November 28, 2010
*Cars: The Need for Speed* • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

September 1, 2010 – October 31, 2010
*The Power of One: Elizabeth Johnson* • Pawnee Indian Museum, Republic

October 1, 2010 – October 3, 2010
Museum Store Fall Open House • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

October 2, 2010
Kansas Ancestor Fair • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

October 3, 2010
Sundays on the Porch Series • William Allen White House, Emporia

October 9, 2010
Fall Festival • Shawnee Indian Mission, Fairway

October 16, 2010
Autumn Storytelling • Grinter Place, Kansas City

October 23-24, 2010
KAA Fall Fling • Winslow Site, Saline County

October 24, 2010
Fall Program • Pawnee Indian Museum Republic

October 30, 2010
Graveside Conversations • Fort Hays State Historic Site, Hays

November 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010
*No Trespassing: The Segesser II Paintings* • Pawnee Indian Museum Republic

November 5, 2010
135th KSHS, Inc., Annual Meeting • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

November 11, 2010
State Holiday – Veterans Day

November 20, 2010
Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review Quarterly Meeting • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

November 25 – 26, 2010
State Holiday – Thanksgiving

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