



REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

BACKGROUND

Kansas Historical Society
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Kansas Museum of History Main Gallery

Stories from Kansas' past and present come together in exciting ways at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka. The Museum is one of four buildings on 81 acres at the city's western edge.

The Kansas Museum of History was built in 1984 at a cost of \$8 million. The 90,000 square foot Museum holds more than 22,000 square feet of exhibits highlighting the state's colorful past. The Museum has two galleries: the main gallery with award-winning exhibits on the state's colorful past, and the special exhibits gallery with changing displays.

Main themes in the main gallery include American Indian history, forts and trails, Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War, settlement, trains and towns, early 20th century, fast food, African American history, and Kansas families.

The centerpiece in the main gallery is a meticulously restored train with an 1880s Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway locomotive. The 100,000 pound locomotive was resting in the Santa Fe Shops in Topeka from 1940 until it was moved to the Museum in 1983 to be restored.

Also featured are a full-sized Southern Cheyenne tipi, a fully stocked covered wagon ready for a trip on the Oregon Trail, a 1950s diner made by Valentine Industries, a Wichita grass lodge, John Brown's pike, a log house from the banks of the Saline River, Carry Nation's hammer, a 1914 Longren biplane, flags from African American Civil War regiments, and William Allen White's printing press.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.

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