

# Preservation *News*



Kansas Preservation Alliance, Inc.

1st Quarter 2011



**Preserving the Past to Enrich the Future Since 1979.**

# KPA

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On The Cover: Gene Merry,  
the Downtown Guy,  
old Carnegie Library, Burlington, KS.

# A Message

## from the President

It is an honor to have been selected by the board to fill the unexpired presidential term of Christie Carl who resigned her position at the end of her six years of board service. Fortunately Christie remains in touch and her wise counsel is readily available.

The board met on November 5th in the landmark Wichita Carnegie Library building, now an addition to Fidelity Bank's downtown headquarters. It was a distinct pleasure to hold our quarterly meeting in such beautiful, historic surroundings. The Bank's sensitive rehabilitation of the building was recognized in June of last year with a KPA Award for Excellence rehabilitation medallion award. At the meeting, Joan Nothern of Glasco was introduced as our newest board member. Joan has been committed not only to preservation and economic development in Glasco, Kansas, but also in the communities of the Solomon Valley Highway 24 Heritage Alliance ([www.hwy24.org](http://www.hwy24.org)). Joan brings her love of north central Kansas as well as her small community/big ideas perspective to the board. A more recent addition to KPA's board is Jerry Harper, an attorney from Lawrence who previously served on the board in the 1980's. Jerry provides us with a wonderful blend of energy, enthusiasm, and perspective—not to mention legal expertise.

KPA's former executive director and immediate past treasurer, Janine Joslin of Leawood, has resigned from board service. Janine has been one of KPA's most ardent supporters and will be especially missed. The board wishes Janine well. Barbara Poresky of Manhattan has been persuaded to serve as treasurer, filling out Janine's unexpired term which runs until June. Barbara is a long-time member of the Manhattan/Riley Preservation Alliance, Inc. where she currently serves as treasurer.

Executive director Dale Nimz graciously offered to move from a full time to a part time position in order to conserve funds. The transition, which took place on February first, has been difficult for many reasons. The board thanks Dale for sticking with us at a time when we can neither offer full compensation nor function without his leadership.

Despite this setback, KPA's board is determined to meet our mission. We intend to grow our membership, enlarge our board of directors, engage additional friends and donors, and provide better services throughout the state. As a beginning, we have re-organized our board into a more muscular system of board member committee chairs with committee members located in geographic proximity to the chairs.

For example, the Communications Committee, chaired by board member Kerry Davis of Wamego, has developed her committee taking advantage of nearby Manhattan talent. Her team—in an all-volunteer effort-- has updated the website to provide more organized and complete content. Kerry especially recognizes the website development contributions of team member Rheba Howard, a K-State student who has just celebrated her twenty-first birthday. It is good to know that Kansans of all ages are passionate about historic preservation! And because today's communications go beyond the traditional newsletter, the committee is posting on Facebook and will soon be looking into Twitter and e-Blasts in order to enhance communications options.

Other committees—Nominating, Programs, Finance, Property, Awards for Excellence, Endangered Places, and Membership—have board members as committee chairs. Committees offer opportunities for the general membership to become more involved. Many hands make light work: if you have expertise to share in service to KPA's mission, please contact us at [info@kपालliance.org](mailto:info@kपालliance.org).

Linda Glasgow, KPA President, Manhattan

# **THE** **“DOWNTOWN GUY:”**

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## *GENE MERRY, BURLINGTON*

By Dale Nimz

Many people are working to preserve historic buildings and districts in Kansas, but the “Downtown Guy,” Gene Merry, is one of the most memorable. Merry writes a “Downtown Guy” column for the local Coffey County Republican that describes downtown development in Burlington. As he commented, “progress in downtown is contagious.” Gene is former Coffey County commissioner and mayor of Burlington. He was a 2006 We-Kan Award winner and a Kansas Explorer who has traveled every highway in Kansas. Currently, Merry serves on the board of directors of the Kansas Sampler Foundation and the Kansas Humanities Council.

Since 1990, his practical and persistent efforts have improved the community of 2,800. In 2010, the Kansas Sampler Foundation designated Burlington as the “Restoration Capital and Pressed Metal Ceiling Capital” of Kansas. Nearly eighty-seven percent of the downtown buildings have been fully or partially rehabilitated. Twenty-four of the approximately eighty-four buildings in downtown Burlington have ornamental pressed metal ceilings and twenty-two of those have been exposed and used as the finished ceiling. Art, especially in the form of murals, also dramatizes the rehabilitated buildings and offers information about local history.

When I visited to interview Gene and take photos of downtown Burlington, Gene generously spent more than three hours telling his story and then showing me many of successful downtown projects. I walked through the buildings, met business owners, and admired the architectural details and contemporary improvements.

The best way to learn about the methods used in Burlington is to visit and see the downtown guy in action. Gene Merry and local artist Jim Stuke have led many downtown tours. A number of interested groups have visited Burlington to see the projects and the downtown businesses that occupy these buildings and to learn methods for carrying out similar projects in their own communities.

As Gene pointed out, Burlington “has been blessed with many benefits from Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation.” Major tax revenue and a payroll for nearly 1,000 power plant employees have benefited the local economy and provided many amenities for the local community. At the same time, local



Interior, Masonic Hall, Burlington, Gene Merry, General Contractor

businesses must compete with retailers in larger cities and other forms of marketing.

The headquarters of Merry Investments, a multi-faceted enterprise that manages fifteen of the rehabilitated downtown properties, is located in the former Burlington Carnegie Library, 201 N. Third Street. Purchased early in 2006, the National Register listed building was improved with financial assistance from the state and federal rehabilitation tax credits. The building also houses an art gallery and workroom for “The Quilting Girls.”

Merry Investments is a lean efficient operation with just one employee, office manager, Amanda Boyce. Gene manages the rehabilitation and does much of the necessary work. For example, he draws his own plans and, often, does initial demolition in order to identify the problems and solutions for each individual building project. Merry hires experienced sub-contractors for electrical, HVAC, and structural engineering if necessary. One of his techniques is to keep a good record of each project along with plenty of before and after photos. The records are useful for tenants and new owners.

Gene Merry moved to Burlington in 1976 to operate a local savings and loan company. The town boomed as the Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant was developed. After experience in the lumber business and new construction, the downtown rehabilitation campaign began in 1990. Now, there is a younger generation of Burlington residents interested in developing projects

and Merry has offered them advice, loaned equipment, and even helped with their work.

Although downtown projects are usually financed with local banks, some projects require creative financing to succeed. Another key to success is to recruit tenants for the rehabilitated building. Since it is difficult to recruit retail businesses to downtown, the emphasis has been on services. Merry Investments provides all maintenance for the buildings. Even with careful attention to the needs of tenants, keeping each building fully occupied is a challenge.

Compared to perimeter development, however, downtown property is cheaper to develop because the structures and the necessary infrastructure is already in place. With careful management, rehabilitated buildings will stand for another fifty years. Investment in downtown real estate does not promise a



Everything's Fabulous, (former Haight Hardware) 101 N. 3rd, Burlington

quick return, but the “downtown guy” has committed to the local community and long-term return on investment. In downtown Burlington, the success of Merry Investments benefits other businesses.

## *Local Main Street Program to Assist with Epic Downtown Development*

By Shane Marler, Peabody Main Street manager

Peabody Main Street Association has teamed up with the City of Peabody on a milestone downtown development project. By leveraging historic and housing tax credits, the \$2 million project will rehabilitate six of Peabody's historic downtown buildings, and create 13 upper story apartments.

The six buildings were vacated by Baker Furniture in late 2009. Peabody Economic Development Director Shane Marler worked with Christy Davis of Davis Preservation to prepare an application for housing tax credits. In addition to Davis Preservation, which will assist the city with the development, the project team includes Treanor Architects and Midwest Housing Equity Group.

“We cannot leave our future to chance,” said Tom Schmidt, Peabody City Council member, “we must be proactive in our efforts to ensure the future viability of our community.” “This project will address a number of key issues for the City of Peabody,” said David Scott, Peabody City Council member. “It will address housing concerns, and give Peabody a notable advantage in the recruitment of new businesses to the downtown corridor.”

“We are incredibly excited about this project,” said Shane Marler, Peabody Economic Development Director. “The historic buildings in Peabody's downtown are what make the community unique. Without them, Peabody would be just like every other community. So the redevelopment of downtown is incredibly important not only to the long-term marketing strategies of the community but also for the economic stability of the area as a whole.”

Founded in 1989, Peabody Main Street has been advocating for the preservation of its downtown district for more than twenty years. This new partnership with the local municipality will help the local Main Street program take a massive step toward the preservation of a truly unique Kansas asset.

# Preservation and Sustainability Workshop-Emporia

By Dale Nimz

Nearly one hundred preservation enthusiasts gathered in Emporia on January 13 at the historic Granada Theatre for a series of useful presentations on historic preservation topics. The workshop was an effective partnership between the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office and the Emporia Main Street Program. Casey Woods, Emporia Main Street manager and his board members organized the exciting event with direction and financial support from the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Kansas State Historical Society. Other sponsors were the Flint Hills Technical College, the Emporia Area Local Food Network, and the Green Door, a local recycling company.



Granda marquee, Photo courtesy Danny Boyce, [www.dandesigned.com](http://www.dandesigned.com), Emporia

Eric Corey Freed, LEED AP, of organicArchitecture delivered a dynamic keynote address, "Spills, Sins, and Starbucks: How We Designed Our Cities around Oil," emphasizing the urgent need for and practical application of sustainable principles to reconstructing our built environment. Freed is the author of *Green Building and Remodeling for Dummies* and "GreenSense for Your Home."

In his welcome, Casey Woods briefly pointed out how cities and towns could use historic preservation to keep the local economy going even during a recession. Sarah Martin, National Register Coordinator, SHPO, followed with a summary of how to nominate a property to the National and Kansas Register of Historic Places. Nominations often result from surveys which identify, document, and evaluate the range of significant historic properties in particular communities.

Katrina Ringler and Kristen Johnston, SHPO, led the participants in a discussion of creative ways to save and find money for funding rehabilitation projects. Beginning with the federal and



Panel discussion, Photo courtesy Danny Boyce, [www.dandesigned.com](http://www.dandesigned.com), Emporia

state tax credits for rehabilitation and the Kansas Heritage Trust Fund, they answered a number of questions about funding and how to approach a prospective preservation project.

Following the SHPO staff members, Lynne Zollner, Historic Resources Administrator, City of Lawrence, explained preservation from a governmental viewpoint. From her experience as a preservation planner, she encouraged participants to understand the concerns of local governmental officials when considering the need to preserve and rehabilitate historic buildings.




After the keynote and an informal reception, the workshop closed with a candid panel discussion of what being in a historic district actually means in practice and how communities could benefit from a designated historic district. Panelists Jim Seitnater, Downtown Hutchinson manager, Christy Davis, Davis Preservation, Casey Woods, Sarah Martin, and Katrina Ringler shared stories and examples from their experience and then answered many different questions from the audience.

*ask listen solve*


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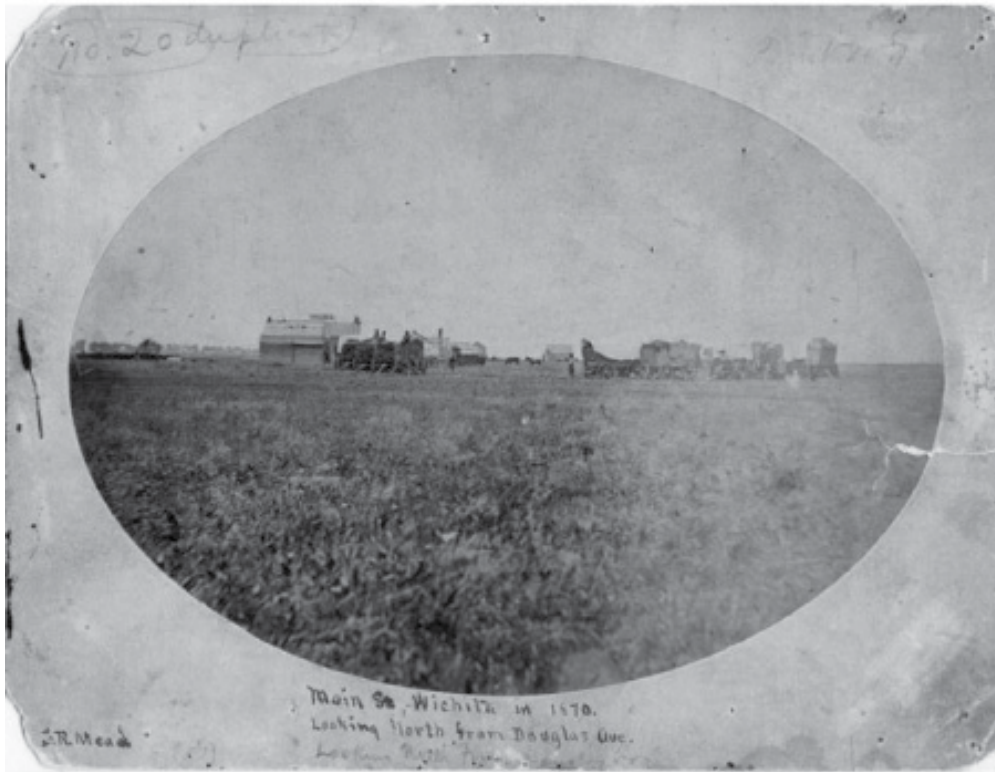
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# Our Piece of the Prairie



By Randal Steiner

One hundred and fifty years ago, people were much the same as they are now. They had the same basic needs of shelter, food, companionship and a dream of a better life. With these needs and dreams they came to a newly opened piece of the prairie - the 34th State of the Union. Kansas would be a place with every industrial, agricultural, social, and educational opportunity and a place of freedom for all people to live, work and prosper. They came knowing that to gain the rewards of the frontier they would face difficulties. Ad Astra Per Aspera - to the stars with difficulty - the state motto was created by John J. Ingalls in 1861. Dr. Brewster M. Higley, who came to Kansas in 1862, gave a common voice to the settlers' sentiments in the original lyrics to Home on the Range.

Settlers dreamed of their home on the range. Easterners and European immigrants came, strong people that could adapt to prairie life and make something wonderful from little or nothing. Opportunity and resources abounded. The eastern industrial cities needed food crops from our cleared fertile land, beef raised on the abundant grassland, coal, minerals, and ores dug from the earth. Where steam locomotives needed to stop for water, or rivers provided a safe crossing, or commerce created crossroads, the new Kansans settled. Craftsmen of every trade saw an expanding need for their skills. Merchants, industrialist, and entrepreneurs of every type saw the new Kansans and created more opportunities. Towns and cities, small and large, sprang up in response to the opportunities surrounding their piece of the prairie.

In a broad river valley of South Central Kansas and near the confluence of two rivers, there was a natural crossing point of the wide sandy-bottomed Arkansas River. Cattle were being driven overland north to the Flint Hills and railheads to the northeast. Trading posts and simple wood frame buildings dotted the landscape on both sides of the river crossing. A village named Delano was on the river's west side and here the wilder settlers of the Old West could quench their thirst for strong drink and pleasure. Wichita, on the east side of the river, was known for its genteel and proper ways. A rope pull ferry was available to cross the river so well-to-do travelers could remain dry as they moved between the two towns.

The native people that had called this valley home for thousands of years had their permanent villages on the second tier heights above the river. When they looked down the valley and saw the new settlement built on land inundated by nearly annual floods, they must have thought the new Kansans and their foreign culture would soon be washed away. But rather than floods, the fencing of the prairie by land-owning homesteaders ended overland cattle drives, and the diminished demand for buffalo hides used for making industrial machine belts ended the buffalo hide market. Yet the new Kansans had found their piece of the prairie to call home. They would build permanent structures from the fired clay and solid rock of the prairie.

Leaders arose who gathered and inspired the people. They had vision and understanding of the economic possibilities of the new Kansas. Former buffalo hunters, traders, and proprietors

named Jesse Chisolm, James Mead, William Greiffenstein, and William Mathewson invested their new-found wealth in land along the river. More businesses, bankers, and others with knowledge and ideas about real estate and commerce came. Wichita was incorporated as a village in 1870. In 1872 the railroad came with carloads of goods to build a town and a bridge was built across the river. In 1880 Delano was incorporated as part of Wichita. Growth and prosperity was rampant and Wichita boomed until the early 1890's. Wichita became a crossroads of regional commerce and was promoted as the "Princess of the Plains."


Several stone and masonry buildings from those early times remain as well as some historic wooden structures. The old Sedgwick County Courthouse (1888) with its massive hand-worked stone is used daily. The old City Hall (1890) now houses the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum and features several carved faces on its ornate stone facade. Several of Wichita's earliest wooden structures were moved to Old Cowtown Museum, preserved with great care, and furnished with period artifacts. Many early 20th century buildings fill the downtown streets with wonderful homes in nearby historic neighborhoods.

Looking across that broad river valley from the vantage point of Kellogg (US Highway 54), Ridge Road is the western

edge of the river valley and Hillside is the eastern edge. The city has expanded well beyond the valley and become the largest city in Kansas with more than 500,000 people in the metropolitan area. At the confluence of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas River is The Mid-America All Indian Center, an arrow point shaped museum and activity building depicting the Native Americans 5,000 year history at this intersection of the prairie. Directly across the river is Exploration Place Science Center housed in a timeless work of modern architecture.

Every community in Kansas has a similar story to tell. I hope that during this sesquicentennial of Kansas you will look at your piece of the prairie and imagine how it must have looked when the first settlers came. In our museums we see the portraits of these frontier men and women that shaped our cities and towns. Through the efforts of preservation professionals, we can also know them from their buildings and handiwork. Our lives are still shaped by decisions they made. Their dream of a home on the prairie is now your dream 150 years later.

Randal Steiner is a 4th generation Kansan and architect living in Wichita where he has led a practice for 25 years. He is a fifth year KPA Board Member and current Secretary. His e-mail address is [Randal@RSAarchitect.com](mailto:Randal@RSAarchitect.com).



## *Symphony in the Flint Hills Receives Buildings*

Symphony in the Flint Hills Inc., is working to rehabilitate two buildings in the environs of one of America's National Treasures, the Chase County Courthouse, Cottonwood Falls. The buildings were gifted to the grassroots nonprofit organization by Bill and Maggie Haw. Together, they will be used as an administrative center with exhibition and retail space. An open courtyard will have seating for the public to relax and view the Courthouse.

Exterior plans have been approved by the State Historical Society.

# DOUGLAS COUNTY RECOGNIZES NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

By Dale Nimz

In a far-sighted initiative, the Douglas County Commission authorized the appointment of a Natural and Cultural Heritage Task Force on September 15, 2010. Members of the six-member task force were asked to make recommendations to the Commission on “how to best establish a framework to conserve our natural and cultural heritage for future generations and to enhance economic benefits of tourism, local agriculture, and other endeavors based on such conservation efforts.” Generally, efforts to identify and protect cultural resources have been carried out without regard for significant environmental resources and vice versa.

Like other counties in the Kansas River valley and Kansas City metropolitan area, rural areas and small towns in Douglas County have been developed rapidly in the past few decades. The construction of Clinton Reservoir in the 1970s also has accelerated land use change in the county. Residential and industrial development, expansion of small towns, new transportation routes, and the decline of smaller farm operations have all threatened historic buildings and sites in Douglas County.

Supported by testimony from the Kansas Land Trust, the Lawrence Preservation Alliance, and the Kansas Preservation Alliance, the Douglas County initiative is an innovative and unusual effort to identify and preserve significant natural areas, agricultural land use, and cultural resources such as historic buildings and landscapes. The task force presented their report with recommendations on January 19, 2011 and is now taking public comments. The report and more information about on-going activities of the task force can be found at [www.heritageconservationdouglascounty.org](http://www.heritageconservationdouglascounty.org). Members concluded that “funding is needed for an inventory of irreplaceable resources not yet catalogued.” They recommended that funds be allocated for one or two major projects; a series of target projects; a county-wide inventory of heritage resources, and administrative costs.

Even in Douglas County, with one of the most history-conscious populations in the state, a comprehensive survey of cultural and environmental resources is needed to replace earlier inventories that are incomplete and out-of-date. Currently, 4,084 sites, structures,

buildings, and objects have been surveyed in Douglas County and are included in the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory (KHRI). Most are located in Lawrence with less than 500 located elsewhere in the county. As the task force report stated, “there is no one depository for all the natural and cultural resources in the County that provides the ability to layer these resources in a system that will visually aid in the identification, evaluation, and conservation of significant resources.” A county-wide inventory of heritage resources will “strengthen our understanding of the County’s assets and increase our ability to make decisions with a context of all our heritage resources.”

The task force also recommended that the county award other grants for one or two major heritage conservation projects and a series of smaller projects. The projects could help conserve historic structures, natural areas such as prairie, woodlands, waterways, restore habitat, conserve agriculture, support interpretation of the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area in Douglas County, support interpretation of pre-settlement history.

The task force also supported revisions to the Horizon 2020 Comprehensive Preservation Plan for Lawrence/Douglas County. The revisions would set five main goals: incorporate historic preservation as an important component of the city and county planning processes; conserve the rural character of unincorporated Douglas County in strategic areas; incorporate preservation incentives into the city and county’s economic development policies and programs; incorporate heritage tourism as an economic development program, establish outreach and education programs.

Ken Grotewiel served as facilitator for the Task Force hearings and discussion process. Members of the Natural and Cultural Heritage Task Force included Dr. John Bradley, Scott Campbell, Jamie Knabe, Larry McElwain, Sarah Martin, and Sean Williams. Judy Billings, executive director of the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, and Jason Fizell, executive director of the Kansas Land Trust, served as ex officio members. Lynne Zollner, Historic Resources Administrator, City of Lawrence, and Collin Bielser, public administration intern, Douglas County, provided staff assistance for the Task Force.



Vermilya-Boerner House (Lawrence vicinity), KPA Endangered Places 2009

# Who Does What?

## Preservation Partners--KPA and SHPO

By Dale Nimz

For many people, the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is the face of historic preservation in our state. But as a division of the Kansas State Historical Society, a state agency, the SHPO is limited to administering federal and state programs. Many Kansans care about historic preservation and they act through the Kansas Preservation Alliance, the state-wide non-profit organization dedicated to historic preservation in our state.

Historic preservation professionals in the state preservation office provide assistance at no charge to federal, state, and local governments, planning, engineering, architectural and other consulting firms, local historical societies and other non-profit organizations, private property owners, and any other interested organization, firm, or individual whether or not their properties have been listed in the State or National Registers of Historic Places. The SHPO is supported by state, federal, and fee funds for the purpose of historic preservation.

The SHPO administers several programs that are important in preservation: survey, National Register of Historic Places and Register of Historic Kansas Places, review and compliance, Certified Local Government (CLG) program, Heritage Trust Fund grant program, Partnership Historic Sites program, and the Historic Preservation Fund grant program (see <http://www.kshs.org/p/what-is-the-shpo/15605>).

In addition to these programs, the SHPO is responsible for developing and implementing a statewide strategic management plan that addressed key critical issues in preservation. The plan is updated every five years. The office also provides public education through the publication of a quarterly newsletter, Kansas Preservation which is offered to the public free of charge and hosting the "Preserving Kansas" list-serv. The SHPO is advised by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review, an appointed board of eleven professionals from various fields. The Board of Review meets quarterly and reviews nominations for listing in the State or National Registers.

Unlike the SHPO which administers state and federal programs, the Kansas Preservation Alliance is a member-supported 501 (c) 3 not-for profit organization for preservation advocacy and education. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. KPA depends on memberships, donations, and specific grants; we receive no state or federal funding. KPA members form a grass-roots network across the state. Individual, organizational, and corporate members interested in preservation support a variety of programs and activities.

To maximize the effect of our limited funds, KPA directors and members communicate electronically and rely on our newsletter, website, and Facebook for sharing current information. Currently, KPA does not maintain a public office and our main opportunity to meet face-to-face with preservation constituents is the annual

KPA Awards for Excellence Presentation and KPA annual meeting which will be held on June 2, 2011 during the state preservation conference in Topeka.

These activities make the case for preservation by providing information about and publicizing successful examples of the economic benefits of preservation. KPA also promotes the intangible benefits from preservation for tourism, community identity, and a sense of place. For example, see the recent KPA study to document the economic benefits of preservation in Kansas, "Economic Impact of Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits in Kansas" (2010), prepared by the Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers, State University of New Jersey. This study was funded by a Historic Preservation Fund grant from the SHPO and other contributions from preservation supporters.

Supporters of historic preservation formed the Kansas Preservation Alliance in 1979 to complement the State Historic Preservation Office. Three professors from the Kansas State College of Architecture and Design envisioned a state-wide alliance of local historic preservation organizations with a unifying purpose of promoting preservation state-wide.

With the dedicated contributions of a twelve-person volunteer Board and a part-time Executive Director, the programs of the Kansas Programs of the Kansas Preservation Alliance are limited not by creativity or demand, but only by limited funds and resources. Programs include political advocacy, education, Awards for Excellence, Endangered Historic Places, Preservation Easements, Preservation Opportunity Fund, Preservation News and technical assistance.

KPA sponsors workshops and educational programs for local communities, business and property owners on technical subjects and the economic benefits of preservation. Each year at the state preservation conference, KPA presents awards for excellence in preservation projects and preservation advocacy. Every two years, KPA announces a list of threatened historic places and awards a \$500 grant to one organization or owner of an endangered property. KPA accepts and maintains preservation easements in perpetuity on significant historic properties to ensure their preservation. Owners must contribute an endowment fund to support management of the easement, but owners are eligible for a charitable deduction.

In our quarterly newsletter, Preservation News, we publicize our latest initiatives and promote ongoing and successful preservation projects in communities all across Kansas. At the KPA website, we post past issues of the newsletter, real estate ads, and our Preservation Resource Directory, a listing of experienced professionals, contractors, suppliers, and consultants who provide preservation services. Visit us on Facebook for current announcements of local, state, regional, and national interest as well as commentary and photos of preservation activities. In a depressed economy, re-using our historic buildings is more important than ever. Help us to help Kansans who are working to improve their communities.

# Executive Director's Report

One of the chapters in Stewart Brand's remarkable book, *How Buildings Learn* (1994) is entitled, "Preservation: A Quiet, Populist, Conservative, Victorious Revolution." Brand described how the historic preservation movement swept the nation in the 1970s and 1980s and became a broad mass movement engaged in an effort to preserve Main Streets, urban districts, and even whole towns. As he concluded, "it used to be that old buildings were universally understood to be less valuable than new. Now it is almost universally understood that old buildings are more valuable than new."

That point is reinforced in one of the main conclusions of the recent "State of Preservation" report by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), "Preservation for a New Century" (2010). See at <http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/preservation-for-a-new-century/future-directions.html>. The authors noted that preservation is a powerful tool for economic development, but all too often it is unacknowledged. All preservation supporters must do a better job of making their case. Preservation "cannot be a 'stand-alone' movement working in isolation." The authors insisted that preservation advocates address the critical issues of our day and be seen as positive contributors to solutions that improve the livability of our communities.

The NTHP report identified three central themes that characterize preservation today and into the future: preservation is about saving places that matter to all Americans; preservation is undercapitalized; preservation is increasingly mainstream yet unrecognized. The final theme is relevant to furthering the mission of the Preservation Alliance in Kansas.

As our experience in Kansas suggests and the report confirms, "despite being a leading actor in boom and bust economies, preservation

remains an underutilized tool". Preservation is the ultimate stimulus activity. Rehabilitating historic buildings and investing in downtown revitalization produces measureable economic benefits that often outperform other types of economic stimulus activities. Studies looking at the economic impacts of historic preservation demonstrate the clear benefits to local and state economies." In 2010 KPA commissioned and completed a study of the Economic Impact of Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits in Kansas. That study documented economic benefits to our state, but the results are still not widely known.



In economic recessions, historic preservation has been pivotal in job creation and community revitalization. Since 1976, more than \$85 billion in historic rehabilitation projects has occurred in all parts of the United States. Federal and state tax credit programs have done more than support rehabilitation of buildings, but have also improved low-income neighborhoods and created low-and-moderate-income housing. In Kansas, as in the rest of the country, preservation supporters must work to gain full support at the federal, state, and local levels.

Preservation will play a greater role in sustainability in the future. The reuse and retrofit of existing buildings is increasingly recognized as an important activity that advances sustainable development. Energy efficiency, weatherization, and renewable sources of energy will be important objectives of governmental policy in order to address the issue of climate change. We can all agree that re-investing in existing buildings and established communities is more efficient than developments on the fringe of urban areas that are dependent on the automobile. Preservation supporters can offer a constructive strategy to improve their communities and that deserves to be recognized.

Dale Nimz, Executive Director, Kansas Preservation Alliance, Inc.

## Announcements

The Preservation Alliance of Leavenworth invites you to join Bob Yapp on March 19 in the South Wing of the Riverfront Community Center for two seminars: "Passive Wood Floor Restoration & Repair," and "Old Windows Aren't A Pane—They're A Goldmine." Make your reservation by March 11, 2010. Send name and number of reserved seats to [presallianceofleavenworth@yahoo.com](mailto:presallianceofleavenworth@yahoo.com) or call Sue at 919.682.6757 or Sally at 913.682.8790.

Applications for 2011 Historic Preservation Fund grants are due March 15, 2011. Contact the Grants Manager, Cultural Resources, Kansas State Historical Society, 785.272.8681 x 240 or see [www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org).

We Kan! Conference 2011  
PowerUp and PowerOn for Rural Kansas!  
Wednesday, March 23, Webster Conference Center,  
Salina, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

The We Kan! Conference is a gathering of passionate community doers and advocates who want to help their community thrive. The conference is a project of the Kansas Sampler Foundation. It features functional grassroots ideas, resources, and contacts as well as best practices as told by those who have made it happen. For more information, see [www.kansassampler.org](http://www.kansassampler.org).

# Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members!

## Individual/Family

Betty Alderson, Lawrence  
Ken & Katie Armitage, Lawrence  
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Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, Atchison  
Butler County History Center, El Dorado  
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The following museums and historical societies are Participating Member-Partners. Present your KPA membership card and receive a 10% discount on either the entry fee or in the gift shop. Check our website: [www.kpalliance.org](http://www.kpalliance.org) as we continue to add additional sites to the list of Participating Member-Partners.

### Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum

223 N. Terrace Street, Atchison, KS 66002  
913.367.4217, [aemuseum@att.net](mailto:aemuseum@att.net)  
[www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org](http://www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org)

### Butler County History Center

383 E. Central, El Dorado, KS 67042  
[www.kansasoilmuseum.org](http://www.kansasoilmuseum.org)

### Clearwater Historical Museum

149 North 4th, Clearwater, KS 67026  
620.284.2444  
Email: [museum@sktc.net](mailto:museum@sktc.net)  
[www.clearwaterhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.clearwaterhistoricalsociety.com)

### Coffey County Historical Museum

1101 Neosho Street, Burlington, KS 6839  
620.384.2653  
Email: [director@coffeymuseum.org](mailto:director@coffeymuseum.org)  
[www.coffeymuseum.org](http://www.coffeymuseum.org)

### Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation

409 N. Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762  
620.235.9622  
Email: [info@colonialfox.org](mailto:info@colonialfox.org)  
[www.colonialfox.org](http://www.colonialfox.org)

### Dickinson County Historical Society

412 S. Campbell, Abilene, KS 67410  
685.263.2681  
Email: [heritagecenterjrs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heritagecenterjrs@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.heritagecenterdk.com](http://www.heritagecenterdk.com)

### Franklin County Historical Society & Record Center

1124 W. 7th Street, Ottawa, KS 66067  
785.242.1232

### Old Depot Museum

135 W. Tecumseh Street, Ottawa, KS 66067,  
785.242.1250  
Email: [history@olddepot.museum](mailto:history@olddepot.museum)  
[www.olddepot.museum](http://www.olddepot.museum)

### Glasco Community Foundation

P. O. Box 572, Glasco, Kansas 67445  
785.568.0120  
Email: [jnothern334@usd334.org](mailto:jnothern334@usd334.org)

### Historic Adobe Museum

P.O. Box 906, Ulysses, KS 67880  
620.356.3009 Email: [Ulyksmus@pld.com](mailto:Ulyksmus@pld.com)

### Independence Historical Museum

123 N. 8th, Independence, KS 67301  
[www.independencehistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.independencehistoricalmuseum.org)

### Johnson County Museum

6305 Lackman Road, Shawnee, KS 66217  
913.715.2550  
Email: [jcmuseum@jocogov.org](mailto:jcmuseum@jocogov.org)  
[www.jocomuseum.org](http://www.jocomuseum.org)

### Kansas Aviation Museum

3350 S. George Washington Blvd.  
Wichita, KS 67210  
[www.kansasaviationmuseum.org](http://www.kansasaviationmuseum.org)

### Lyon County Historical Society

118 E. 6th Avenue, Emporia, KS 66801  
620.340.6312

### Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site

1200 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS 66061  
[www.mahaffie.org](http://www.mahaffie.org)

### Morton County Historical Society Museum

370 E. Hwy 56, P.O. Box 1248  
Elkhart, KS 67950  
[www.mtcoks.com/museum](http://www.mtcoks.com/museum)

### National Orphan Train Complex

P. O. Box 322, Concordia, Kansas 66901  
785.243.4471  
[www.orphantraindepot.com](http://www.orphantraindepot.com)

### Rush County Historical Society Museum, Post Rock Museum, Nekoma Bank Museum

P. O. Box 774, LaCrosse, KS 67548  
785.222.2781  
Email: [Reynolds2@gbta](mailto:Reynolds2@gbta)  
[www.rushcount.org](http://www.rushcount.org)

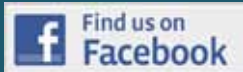
### Stanton County Museum

P.O. Box 806  
Johnson, KS 67855  
620.492.1526  
Email: [scuse@pld.com](mailto:scuse@pld.com)  
[www.scmuse.org](http://www.scmuse.org)



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## Congratulations

to KPA Board member Kerry Davis and Communications Committee member Rheba Howard for their fine work to re-design the KPA website and give us a “brand-new look.” Visit us at [www.kpalliance.org](http://www.kpalliance.org) and send us your photo for Kansans and the Places We Love.

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If you have received this newsletter and you are not a current dues-paying member of the Kansas Preservation Alliance, please send your annual membership check to: Kansas Preservation Alliance, Inc., 12120 State Line Road, Suite #128, Leawood, KS 66209. You can join/renew at our secure website. KPA is a member-supported organization and we rely on our members and sponsors to support our mission.