

About Our Complex

The Santa Fe Railway was completed through Lakin in December 1872, and the following spring John O'Loughlin set up a trading post in a dug-out which had been used by the railroad crew. Lakin's first permanent white settler, O'Loughlin was a savvy businessman, banker, rancher and farmer. He and his wife Mary (Farrell) raised seven children and contributed significantly to the establishment of the community of Lakin. In 1974, Jennie Rose O'Loughlin, daughter of John and Mary O'Loughlin, deeded 1/2 block of land to the Kearny County Historical Society to be used for a museum complex. The White House, former home of Jennie's brother William and his family, was also donated with the stipulation that it be restored to look as it did in the early 1900s. Visitors will notice many items throughout the museum which have been donated by members of the O'Loughlin Family.

The museum complex consists of the main museum building and annex, the White House, Columbia School House, Santa Fe Depot, Round Barn, and a machinery building, totaling over 20,000 square feet of historical displays. In addition, the Deerfield Texaco Station and land containing Santa Fe Trail wagon ruts are also properties of the KCHS.



Main Museum

The newly remodeled lobby of the main museum welcomes visitors with a historical timeline of Kearny County, tributes to the O'Loughlin Family and charter members of the Kearny County Historical Society, and pictorial collages of past and present communities. Visitors can view videos about Kearny County's history in the Otis and Mary Lee Molz Theatre, and souvenirs and literature are also available in the lobby.

Adjacent to the lobby is our town square display where visitors can stroll back in time through the general store, dentist and doctor's offices, newspaper print shop, drug store, millinery shop, barber shop and much more.

Staff offices and a library are also located in the main museum. Researchers will find a wealth of information on the history and people of Kearny County. Extensive files are kept in the archives including original documents and publications, photographs and microfilm.



LOCATION

The museum complex is located 6 blocks south of US Highway 50, at the corner of Buffalo Street and Waterman Avenue. Visitors should check in at the main museum building.



HOURS

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday

Open Sundays by Appointment Only
(At least one-week advance notice required)

CLOSED HOLIDAYS

FREE ADMISSION

TOURS

Group tours available by appointment

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call us at 620-355-7448

Or e-mail kchs@pld.com

www.kearnycountymuseum.org

KEARNY COUNTY MUSEUM



LAKIN, KANSAS

*Educating and cultivating
a love of history
while preserving
our precious past*

Annex

When visitors enter the annex, they are transported back even further in time. Mastadon tusks, fossils, and Native American artifacts give visitors a glimpse into the lives of the earliest creatures and humans to call Kansas "home." An 1831 Conestoga wagon, Santa Fe Trail exhibit, blacksmith shop,



military display, replicated trading post, and much more can be seen in the annex.

Columbia Schoolhouse

Our schoolhouse was built north of Lakin in 1893, the same year that the Columbian Exposition was hosted by the city of Chicago. The school's first teacher, Willard Miller, suggested the name "Columbian" which was used until 1912 when it was renamed "Columbia." The school was gifted to the historical society by Maybelle Gropp in 1978.



Santa Fe Depot

Lakin's depot was built in 1882 with an upper story which was used for living quarters. When the depot was remodeled in 1930, the waiting room was moved to the front and the roof lowered since the living area had not been used for many years. The depot closed in 1982, and the historical society purchased the building and moved it from Main Street. Railroad enthusiasts will appreciate the as-



sortment of telegraphic equipment, train memorabilia, Santa Fe calendars, and insulators on display.

The Round Barn

R. B. Glass built the 12-sided barn in 1909 just west of Lakin with stalls for four horses and six cows and a well in the center. The rigging on the windmill was used to access the loft. The barn was restored and moved onto the museum grounds in 2001. Miscellaneous farm and ranch equipment can be found inside with more implements located outdoors in the barn and machinery yards.



White House

Lakin's first station agent, Alonzo Boylan, moved his family here in September 1875, and construction of the White House began soon after. The Boylans opened their home for social gatherings, church services and even the wedding reception of John and Mary O'Loughlin. The oldest house in Lakin originally stood on the railroad right-of-way near Garfield Street but was moved to Buffalo Street shortly after it was acquired by the O'Loughlins in 1916. house in Lakin.



Machinery Building



A grain wagon, fuel wagon, several tractors, farm implements, and a 1964 fire engine are housed in the machinery building. There

is also a one-room soddie created with adobe bricks from the Columbia Grange Hall which stood 10 miles north of Lakin. Miscellaneous collections of antique stoves, washing machines, barbed wire, firefighting equipment, and vintage tools are also on display.

Deerfield Texaco Station

The KCHS purchased the Deerfield Texaco Station in 2006, and the station was placed on the National Register of Historic Places the following year. A vast amount of paper-work and physical labor went in to restoring the 1926 building. It is open to the public for special events only. Travelers on HWY 50 can see the structure by taking the Main Street exit at Deerfield to Old Highway 50. Turn back to the west and go one block.



Charlie's Ruts

Between 1821 and 1880, thousands of wagons traveled the Santa Fe Trail, etching ruts into the earth below. About four miles east of Lakin, just off HWY 50, several sets of grass-filled ruts mark a section of the historic trail. Visitors are encouraged to walk in the ruts, a tradition established by landowner Charles Bentrup. Before his death in 1956, Bentrup made it clear to his son Paul that he wanted these ruts to be kept open to the public for all time. In 1984, Paul donated the 10 acres of land containing the ruts to the Kearny County Historical Society. A parking area with state historical marker is located just west of "Charlie's Ruts." Be sure to sign the guest book!