

# VOTE NOW!

## ON THE ARCHITECTURAL WONDER OF ANDERSON COUNTY, KANSAS

Deadline for voting is 12:00 pm (noon) on March 31, 2008

Vote via email: [tourism@garnettks.net](mailto:tourism@garnettks.net)



\_\_ Anderson County Courthouse, 100 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Garnett

This is the largest structure in Anderson County and on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). With fireworks starting and ending the day, the Anderson County Courthouse was officially dedicated before a crowd of 6,000 people on July 4, 1902.

Designed by George Washburn, the classic Romanesque architecture, three-story, rectangular structure is the focal point of Garnett's downtown square. Complete with a full basement, the structure sits 102 feet long by 66 feet wide and is of red brick laid in running bond with white mortar. The courtroom has been described as the most beautiful in the state of Kansas. Its heavy carved oak, 12-inch ceiling beams, curved wood railing and trim, irreplaceable stained glass windows and original carved oak furnishings, specific for its purpose, show the remarkable taste and beauty of the era in which it was built.

Cornerstone ceremonies were held for the new courthouse on September 26, 1901. In it were placed four local newspapers, history of Anderson County, a Garnett city directory, gold, silver and copper coins, a magazine with an article on the assassination of President McKinley and the inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt.

Standing for truth, honor and justice, upon the roof on the west side of the courthouse, is the Roman Goddess of Justice. In her left hand, "Justitia" raises the scales of justice high in the air. She is made of copper and is eight feet tall and weighs 200 pounds.

The courthouse was "modernized" in 1944, from cellar to garret. The "tin-tinnabulating" chandeliers of the Gay Nineties were removed from the courtroom ceiling and replaced with modern ceiling globe electrical lights.

The courthouse is open daily Monday through Friday. For more information please contact the Anderson County Clerk's office, (785) 448-6841.



\_\_ Gerth Cabin, SE Trego Road, Greeley

This was the first white settler's cabin constructed in Anderson County. Valentin Gerth arrived on March 15, 1854, two months before Kansas was opened legally for white settlement to what would become the town of Greeley. Built for his parents, George and Regine Gerth, who came over from Saxony, Germany, to America to live in 1856. They died within six weeks after their arrival.

The cabin is built with 3 kinds of native logs, walnut, oak and mahogany, cut from native timber that is found in the Greeley area. The cabin was hit with "Minie" Confederate bullets manufactured from 1841 to 1865 in South Carolina, and were extracted during restoration as well as found around the foundation of the cabin.

John Brown kept 11 slaves freed from slavery at Vernon County, Missouri at or nearby this cabin for three weeks, from approximately January 1 to January 20, 1859. A baby, John Brown Daniels, is said to have been born here.

In 1999, a Cabin Preservation Committee was formed and these gallant volunteers relocated and performed restorations to the cabin. The Gerth Cabin has won the Kansas Historical Society 1<sup>st</sup> Place Nyle Miller Award (2000), the Kansas Museum Association 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award (2000), the Kansas State PRIDE Project Star Award in 2001, and featured in *Kansas!* magazine (2000). Tours are available by calling (785) 867-2966.



\_\_ Harris House, 405 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Garnett

Built in 1888 by Peter Barndt and son Peter Jr., the brick structure is comprised of handmade bricks formed from clay from the south fork of the Pottawatomie River located just south of Garnett. The home is of late Victorian design, with special bricks made to trim above the windows. Each of the 44 windows has a tulip-patterned brick trim outside, and a tulip in the woodwork inside. Purchased by prominent physician, Dr. C.B. Harris, Sr. in 1920, the family lived in the home until granting it to the Anderson County Historical Society in 1980. The home can be toured by appointment, (785) 867-2966.



\_\_\_ Kirk House, 145 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Garnett

Known as, "The house that George built", this grand 22-room, 12,000-square foot neo-colonial home is considered the largest home in Garnett. Located near the town square in Garnett, the Kirk House cannot be missed. It is unlike the ornate courthouses designed by Washburn and was one of his last works. It has clean, classical lines. On the interior the dining room adorns murals that were original to the home and painted by Paul Nordstom.

The Kirk House was constructed for Sennett Kirk, a local banker and his wife, Bertha Mellen Kirk, a former teacher for the Olathe School for the Deaf, and their three children. The home was recently purchased by Mike and Eileen Burns who have almost completed their restoration and is currently booking the home for special gatherings and for use as a bed and breakfast, (785) 448-7514.



\_\_\_ Mineral Point, 27851 NW Barton Road, Westphalia

The 1857 Mineral Point stagecoach house is located on the highest point in Anderson County, southeast of Harris. The sandstone house with stone chimney overlooks a wondrous view of Anderson County. The massive stones used to create this structure were quarried from a hillside on the property. The walnut lumber used to finish the home was hauled by ox-led wagons from Leavenworth. As a stagecoach and mail stop, Mineral Point still adorns the mailboxes, and openings in the sandstone under the porch which was used to shoot weapons, if necessary, to prevent invasion by trespassers or attacks by Indians. A WPA lake is also located on this site.

Built by Samuel Tipton, his family lived on the second story, while the first floor served as a general store and post office. Stagecoach passengers or persons following the trail from Leavenworth to Dodge City would often seek lodging accommodations on the third floor. Mineral Point was given its name during a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in 1857, for the different types of minerals found on the property, including the

sandstone, coal and others. Tipton also noted for bringing the first white-faced shorthorn cattle into this area.

Today, Mineral Point keeps watch over Anderson County and can be toured by appointment. Groups are welcome. David and Erma Hirt, owners, (785) 489-2444.



### \_\_\_ Santa Fe Depot, 7<sup>th</sup> & Main, Garnett

The Santa Fe Depot currently serves as the trailhead for the Prairie Spirit Trail in Garnett.

Opened for business on June 20, 1931, the depot served as one of the stops along the Santa Fe Railway connecting Tulsa to Kansas City. Formerly, the railroad served as the Lawrence, Leavenworth and Galveston (LL&G). The railroad ceased operations at the depot in 1974. In 1995, the City of Garnett applied and received a federal matching grant to restore the depot.

The Spanish design, including roof tiles, long windows and classic depot features make this depot unique to its era. The interior defines what was once the waiting room, ticket office, baggage area and coal supply room. Luggage carts and equipment used at this depot during its operation are on display. The Santa Fe Depot is one of only a few depots in Kansas that still exist for daily public use. Open daily, 7 am to 7 pm, the “baggage area” with its indoor picnic area can be reserved for special gatherings. City of Garnett, (785) 448-5496.



### \_\_\_ Spencer Bridge, 2 mi. NW of Greeley on NE Texas Road

Built in 1885 by Ohio Iron Works, this was the first bridge ever constructed in this area for early settlers to cross. The iron bridge spans the main stream of the Pottawatomie River, approximately 2 miles northwest of Greeley on NE Texas Road. Spencer Bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The bridge was closed for public use in 2000 and then restored by order of the Anderson

County Commission for historical purposes. A new bridge was constructed of concrete just to the west of the iron bridge and opened in 2006.



\_\_\_ St. Boniface Church & Carmelite Barn (Scipio), 32310 NE Norton Road

From the ground to the top of the steeple of St. Boniface Church is approximately 160 feet. Noted as one of the most majestic church in Anderson County, the inside of the church, from floor to ceiling is almost 100 feet high. Three altars inside are hand-carved, painted wood. The church was built in 1881. The parish has provided a monastery, a college for priests to study from 1872 to 1900, and college classes were taught there to area students until 1920.

The land the Carmelite Barn resides on was given to the Carmelite Priests on the condition that they would build a monastery and always keep a priest to serve the St. Boniface Parish. One of the largest wooden barns in the state, construction of the Carmelite Barn was completed in 1902. A group of 25 Carmelite fathers and monks living in the monastery farmed large acreage and used the barn for cattle, for hay, and grain storage. The timber frames of the barn's interior are held together by wooden pegs. The Carmelite Barn is featured in a book, "Barns of Kansas".

St. Boniface Church is open daily or for group tours call (785) 867-6273.