

# MORLAND

*Established 1886*

## Art

*Welcome to Morland!*

*Kansas Sampler*



*Eight Rural Elements*

Travelers to the area are instantly greeted by the barbed wire-and-stone Morland sign. This example of local art was created for the community by a local artist in the early 1990s. Other points of interest include a unique relief on the front of the Peoples State Bank, which reflects the paleontology of the area. Visit the bank to see paintings by local artists, and to enjoy an unusual collection of comic book covers.

## Customs

*Easy Parking and Pinochle Fun*

The Memorial Day Weekend is ‘old-fashioned fun’ where everyone can get involved or just observe. Activities include a street dance, turtle races, gunny sack races and other kid games in the City Park. A softball tournament is also held throughout the weekend, and you can even enjoy a consignment auction with a variety of items for sale. Several food vendors are also on-hand to allow visitors to sample a wide variety of Morland favorites.

If you’re searching for something to do, come to a meeting of the Pinochle Club. Local citizens meet the second and fourth Saturdays, October through April, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Prairie Junction on Main Street.

Can’t find a place to park? Well, don’t worry -- there’s always the street! With an extra wide main street that used to be North 40 Highway, locals take advantage of the opportunity to park right in the middle of the street. So, when you come by Morland and find there’s nowhere to park, go ahead, and just park in the middle. But when you get back on the road, prepare to wave goodbye — to everyone you pass, that is. Friendly drivers make the journey seem shorter, and many will greet the fellow traveler with a wave of the hand.

## People

*Come on In and Meet Them*

With the fertile Kansas soil and vast area of free land, the area of Morland was a welcoming sight for many settlers to



*Be sure to be in Morland every November for the **Lord's Acre Auction and Supper**, an “all-you-can-eat buffet” of home cooked food and treasures afterwards that you cannot go home without.*



*Historic Antelope Lake has been a fishing and camping destination for decades.*

the area. Originally settled by German farmers, the area was also home to settlers of English and Scottish descent. These groups all left their mark on the community, while the English settlers are particularly known for their contributions in the community of Studley, a short drive west on Highway 24. Today, if you want to get to know the friendly folks who call Morland home, make sure you stop by the Morland Mercantile for some coffee and down-home conversation.

## History

*Shaped by Obstacles:  
Fire, School Closing*

Morland was first known as Fremont, probably named after General John C. Fremont, noted explorer. Fremont had been established as the center of government on February 24, 1881. With the addition of the Union Pacific Railroad running through the community, the railroad renamed the community Kalula, because there was already a Fremont on the line. Soon after the name was again changed, this time to Morland. The community began to grow, but not without its share of hardships.

Several fires left the community constantly rebuilding, discouraging some residents from investing in business. Flooding from Antelope Creek was also a problem until Antelope Lake was constructed in 1935.

Once again, Morland’s society had to adapt when the school closed in 2001. As in many rural communities, the school had served as the heart of the community for youth and adults alike. Fewer than ten students remain, and are now bused to surrounding districts. Through it all, the citizens of Morland remain proud of their small-town existence. With organizations like the Morland Foundation, that remain dedicated to preserving the history and securing the future of the community, the town survives as a permanent part of Highway 24.

## Architecture

*Relics from the Past*

Several architectural points of interest can be viewed during a trip to Morland. The first floor of the 1920s bank building has been fully restored and is designed to be completely fireproof, because the two previous bank buildings were destroyed by fire.

Nestled beside the South Fork Solomon River, City Park contains a playground and a unique Pratt Pony bridge. The

bridge, which was originally built in Norton County and later used in rural Graham County, was eventually transported to Morland and is unique to the area.

## Cuisine

*Community Comfort Food*

During November, make sure you stop by for another great Morland event, **The Lord’s Acre**. The United Methodist Church’s **Lord’s Acre Auction and Supper** is an “All-you-can-eat buffet” of home cooked foods. Handmade toys, Christmas decorations, baked goods, quilts, crocheted items, afghans and other surprises are auctioned after the meal.

The **Mother’s Day Buffet**, sponsored by the Lions Club, is another special event you don’t want to miss. This tradition serves as a good opportunity to mingle with neighbors and enjoy an old-fashioned, barn-raisin’ type of meal.

## Commerce

*Small Town Convenience*

Several entities contribute to Morland’s economics. On Main Street you’ll find a community owned and operated mercantile store with fresh made sandwiches. Next door is “Aunt Faye’s Community Kitchen”, a fully equipped, state certified, incubator kitchen available for rent to area cooks. There are also a local pub, a repair shop, and a beauty shop in town.

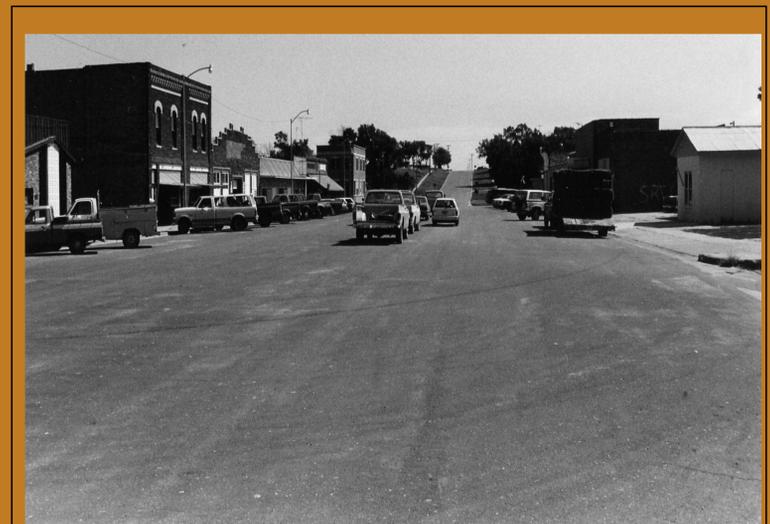
The town is also home to a grain mill and other farm and ranch related businesses, which serves the vast acreage of agricultural land in the area. Several oilfield businesses service the oil wells found in the hills surrounding Morland.

## Geography

*Watch for Antelope*

Morland is located in western Graham County. Amid fertile fields and pastures, the South Fork of the Solomon River flows through town.

Antelope Lake, located two-and-a-half miles west of Morland, has provided fishing and other recreational opportunities since 1934. Walkers and runners can also navigate the road around the lake, in under an hour. The historic WPA-built buildings at the lake are of the area’s unusual green Ogallah Limestone and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



*Looking east along Main Street in Morland.*