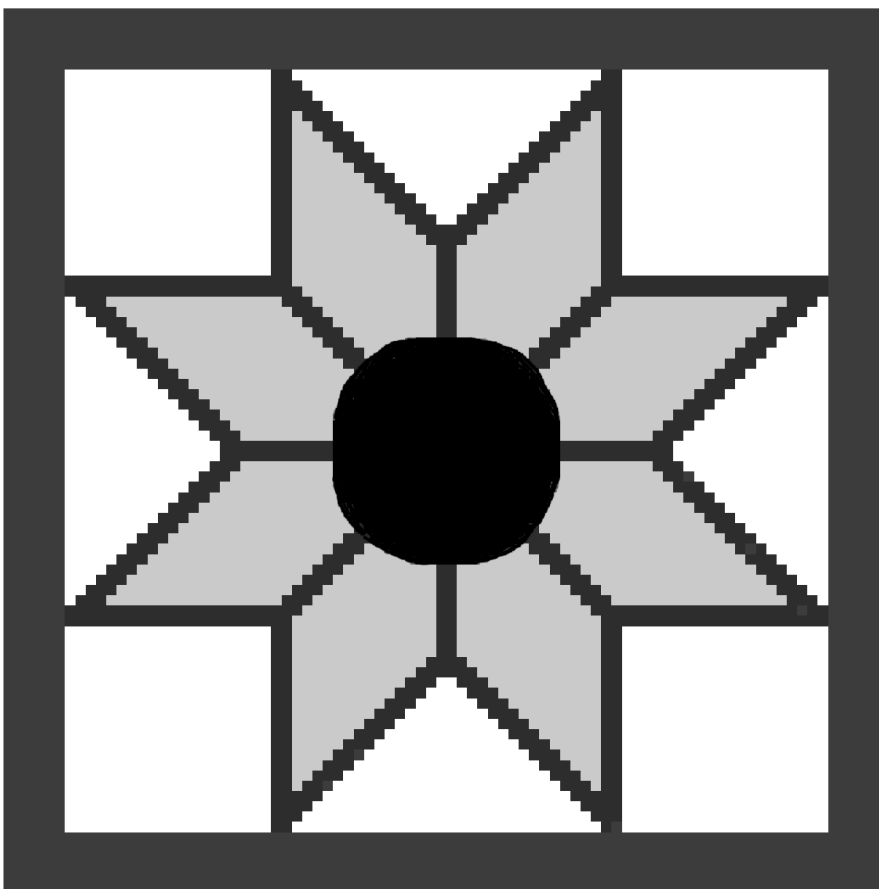


OSBORNE

Established 1871

Kansas Sampler Foundation



Eight Rural Elements

Architecture

Architectural Gems

Osborne has two buildings listed on both the National Register of Historic Places. The Carnegie Research Library at 307 West Main served as the Osborne Public Library from 1913 to 1995 and is now the archives of the local genealogical & historical society. The Richardsonian Romanesque-styled Osborne County Courthouse was erected 1907-1908. It's walls are comprised of both Cottonwood Limestone from Cottonwood Falls, Kansas, and Post Rock Limestone quarried from near Glen Elder.

The Classic-styled red brick-and-limestone former Presbyterian Church at First & Washington was dedicated in 1911. The Renaissance Revival-Influenced brick masonry Bible Baptist Church at 131 South Second Street was built in 1903. The Gothic-style 1906 United Methodist Church at 105 North Third Street is noted for its hand-carved main doors and carillon.

The First National Bank/Walrond, Mitchell & Heren Law Office Buildings at 202 West Main are twin native stone Renaissance-style structures built in 1885 and 1886. The building's exterior has been meticulously maintained and is currently the home of Bloomer, Bloomer, & Bloomer Law Offices & Real Estate.

Art

Carvings & Monuments

Artistic merit can be seen in the 1929 white marble column Old Settlers Monument and the 2000 granite-and-Black African marble obelisk Osborne County Veteran's Memorial, both located on Courthouse Square at 423 West Main Street. On the Osborne County Courthouse itself are unusual carvings of stylized sunflowers and a lion and Medusa, both symbols of justice.



The native stone WPA Scout Cabin on West Main Street was built in 1938. It serves not only as the home of Osborne's Boy and Girl Scouts but also is available for community gatherings and events.



The Eclipse windmill stood above the town well at what is now the intersection of Second & Main Streets from 1872 until 1878. It served as a symbol of Osborne's community spirit and

Geography

Scenic Views to Amazing Worms

Spectacular views of the South Fork Solomon River valley can be seen from either of Osborne's North and South Hills. The Blue Hills of Osborne County are a haven for Cretaceous Period sea fossils. In 1978 the Kansas Geologic Survey named both Medicine Peak and the Scaphites Gully Site in the county Notable Fossil. Locations after several rare types of *Scaphites*, or armored sea worms, and other remarkable fossils were discovered here. Located southeast of Osborne, both areas are on private land and permission must be obtained to visit them.

History

The Pennsylvania Colony Arrives

Osborne is the only city in the Solomon Valley/Highway 24 Heritage Alliance region to be founded by a colony. A scouting party of 67 people left Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in April 1871 bound for Kansas. On May 1, 1871 the remaining 38 men and one woman laid out a new townsite. It was colony co-leader Colonel William Bear who suggested the town be named Osborne City after Civil War veteran Vincent B. Osborne, and that the surrounding township be called "Penn" after Pennsylvania founder William Penn. The remaining 250 members of the colony arrived later that September.

In July 1871 the colony officially disbanded and the Osborne City Town Company then formed to govern the community. After four general elections Osborne City finally was declared the permanent county seat in November 1872. In 1878 Osborne City was declared a second-class city, with a mayor and city council form of government that continues in place. By the mid-1890s the *City* in the name was no longer used.

The Osborne County Museum Complex at Second Street & Highway 24 preserves memorabilia that reflects the area's heritage.

Cuisine

Something For Everyone

Osborne's eateries are ready to serve you, whether its pizza, subs, sandwiches, or just good plain sitdown dinners.

Customs

Shop & Stay

Farm-related businesses dominate Osborne's economy, but there are many other shops of interest to the traveler. The Hole-In-The-Wall-Gang's Rod Run is a classic car show held on the first Saturday in September in Hardman Park on North First Street.

Commerce

Summer Means Fun

Events in the Osborne area are scheduled around the annual wheat harvest (June-July) and the corn and milo harvest (September-November). Every Wednesday is Sale Day at the Osborne Livestock Commission Company located at the west end of Adams Street. The Osborne County 4-H Fair has been held during the first week of August annually since 1946.

People

From Hunters to Sports Figures

Nationally famous buffalo hunter Jeff Durfey staked out a homestead claim seven miles southwest of Osborne on July 27, 1870. His log cabin still stands and is the oldest building in the county. Blacksmith Frank Hatch built a steam-powered wagon, the first self-propelled vehicle in Kansas, and drove it through Osborne's streets during the summer of 1887.

General Lewis Hanback was a two-term U.S. Representative while he lived in Osborne in 1883-1891. Osborne newspaper editor Charles E. Mann served as both a Kansas State Senator and Representative and was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1923.

Clergyman, newspaper reporter/editor, attorney, author, and politician Calvin Reasoner founded the town of Arlington in 1871, was later mayor of Osborne, and served as state representative. His daughter Elsie became America's first female war correspondent, covering the Spanish-American War in 1898. Elsie then worked for the Associated Press and later took up sculpturing, garnering international attention in the European art world.

Noted surgeon and Osborne high graduate Marvin "Mal" Stevens was named a 1923 Walter Camp All-American at Yale University. Known as "The Kansas Comet," he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1974. David Johnson coached at Osborne from 1963 until 1991, during which time his football teams won 213 games and two state championships.



During construction of the current county courthouse in 1907-08 early-day settler John Wineland would stop by daily and make "constructive" comments. He was told that if he did not stop the stonemasons would carve his face in the stone. He didn't, and they did.