



Contact Information

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Smoky Hill Museum
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About the Museum

The Museum's collection features over 20,000 artifacts from the 1800s to the present day.

The Smoky Hill Museum inspires a broader understanding of the region's rich history by engaging residents and visitors of all ages through diverse learning experiences.

Visiting the Museum

The Smoky Hill Museum is a Nationally Accredited, regional history museum in the heart of downtown Salina, Kansas, located at 8th and Iron.

- Free admission. Free guided tours. Specialty Tour costs vary.
- 90 minutes north of Wichita on I-135, 90 minutes east of Hays on I-70, 90 minutes west of Topeka on I-70
- Plenty of free parking to the west and south of building. *We reserve parking spaces for tour groups.*
- Wheelchair access on northeast side of building entrance, and museum interior is easily accessible with ramps and elevator

The Smoky Hill Museum building, constructed in 1938, is an Art Deco structure that originally housed Salina's U.S. Post Office. The stylized figures flanking the main entrance, entitled *Communication* (woman and child) and *Land* (man), were sculpted by Carl Mose in the 1940s. The building and sculptures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Museum & Store Hours

Tue-Fri 12-5

Sat 10-5

Sun 1-5

By Appointment



History of the Collections

Families could join the Saline County Historical Society in 1879 by donating an artifact to its collection. Started by town founders William A. Phillips and Alexander M. Campbell, the Historical Society was housed in Campbell's home at 122 South Ninth until 1927 when the collection moved to Salina's Carnegie Public Library. A bathhouse in Oakdale Park was the home of the Smoky Hill Historical Museum from 1956 to 1985. In 1983, work began to create a new museum in the former U.S. Post Office building at 211 West Iron. The Smoky Hill Museum opened to the public in October 1986.

Today, the Museum's collection features over 24,000 artifacts from the 1800s to the present day.

Artifacts found in the collection range from agriculture implements to personal clothing from many different historical periods. The museum's collection includes quilts, medical equipment, toys and games, sewing machines and kitchen appliances. The archival collection houses paper based or two-dimensional artifacts such as books, bibles, certificates, maps and photographs.



What to See

Share the Past...Envision the Future

Crossroads of the Heartland

The newly renovated museum features a full-sized sod dugout, changing temporary gallery and historical exhibits. *Crossroads of the Heartland* tells the community's history in a dynamic and inviting way, interweaving it with experiences, tales, graphics, and artifacts.

From animal paths to Indian trails to interstate highways, Salina is the *Crossroads of the Heartland*. At the heart of Salina is a history rich with ingenuity and idealism, struggle and success, conviction and courage.

We invite you to journey with us through the *Crossroads of the Heartland*. Throughout this exhibit, you will experience the people, places, and events that have left an indelible mark on the fabric of the Smoky Hills region

Among the many exhibits to look at are:

- The Mercantile Store features a façade of an early mercantile with lap siding, wood trim and decorative painting. Inside you will find the *Mercantile Store Learning Center* which provides hands-on activities for role-playing, discovery, and exploration of the principles of buying, selling, and bartering. Utilizing an interactive kit, visitors will learn how supplies were obtained, staples were stocked and sold, and what types of fabric, clothing, equipment, candy and other necessities were available.
- Walk across the porch of a 1920s cottage style house as you head to the *Community Planning Learning Center*. Utilizing a floor map of the City of Salina, visitors will be encouraged to use the web-accessible Geographic Information System to view aerial maps showing any property simply by entering the address.
- Remember *The Good Life* through the decades from 1900 to the present. Marvel at the past and chuckle about the historical items you may still have in your home.
- Salina's central location made it attractive as a site for the Smoky Hill Army Air Field and Camp Phillips during World War II. Built as critical support facilities for the war effort, these facilities still influence the shape and progress of the crossroads as we move into the 21st century.
- The Center gallery features ever changing exhibits put together by the Museum to tell more stories of the region and showcase more artifacts from the Museum's Collections.



For the young and young at heart.
Visit the Museum's One Keepers
Place to solve a history mystery,
play a game of checkers or just sit
back and rest a spell!



What to Do

"Engaging residents and visitors of all ages through diverse learning experiences."

Programs and Events

First Thursdays - each month on the first Thursday the Museum joins with other cultural venues, art galleries and downtown stores to stay open late after regular business hours. The Museum presents adult programming on a variety of topics. The event is modeled after hundreds of others that happen across the country. In addition, many local merchants stay open late.

Kansas Day Activities in January - Celebrate Kansas's birthday at the Museum. Take a look at how the pioneers lived and traveled. "Pack your wagon" for the journey, learn to butter churn and shell corn, and finish the day with some pioneer games.

Week of the Young Child in April - The museum is open special hours for fun and family-friendly activities in celebration of the Week of the Young Child.

Noon Coolers lecture series in July - Come in out of the summer heat and enjoy various talks, demonstrations and workshops during this summer lecture series.

Smoky Hill Museum Street Fair, the fourth Saturday in September - This one-day event at the Museum features a new theme and look each year. Enjoy a parade, historic activities, rides, entertainment, chili cook-off, and lots of special activities just for kids.

Holiday Open House, the first Saturday in December - Enjoy storytelling with Father Christmas, listen to holiday music and sip a warm drink during this annual open house.



Tours & More

Want a tour or programs or both? We can tailor something to fit your needs.

Contact *Nona Miller, Education Coordinator*

785-309-5776

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What We Sell

Become a Friend Local Artwork •Regional Products Wide Selection of Gifts

Museum Store

Complete your visit to the Museum by stopping at the Museum Store for a wide selection of local artwork, regional products, and gifts.



Friends helping Friends...

Join the Friends of the Smoky Hill Museum. Your contributions help us share the past and envision the future.

Name (As you would like it to appear)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email address

Friends Benefits

- The Heritage Express Newsletter, mailed 6 times a year
- A 10% discount on purchases in the Smoky Hill Museum Store
- Special invitations to members-only functions

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | Friend | \$35 |
| <input type="radio"/> | Participant | \$50 |
| <input type="radio"/> | Patron | \$75 - \$199 |
| <input type="radio"/> | Promoter | \$200 - \$499 |
| <input type="radio"/> | Supporter | \$500 - \$999 |
| <input type="radio"/> | Benefactor | \$1000 - \$2499 |
| <input type="radio"/> | Partner | \$2500 - \$4999 |
| <input type="radio"/> | Corporate Sponsor | \$5000 and up |

New

Renewal

All contributions are for one year.
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.