

A Colorful History

The City of Shawnee was originally a campsite named Gum Springs. It was later named Shawneetown for the Shawnee tribe that was forced to relocate here in the late 1820's from Ohio.

The Shawnee farmed the area, yet in 1854, they sold most of their allotted 1,600,000 acres to the United States government. This opened Kansas Territory for White settlement and Gum Springs grew rapidly.

The area was platted in 1856 and served as Johnson County's first county seat. In 1859, the Shawnee Town Company began selling lots priced from \$15 to \$100, with those surrounding the public square commanding the highest prices. The Town of Shawnee was officially incorporated in 1860, but conflict between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions plagued the new town.

After the Civil War, Shawnee and the surrounding countryside settled down to peaceful farming, growing from a population of 500 in 1860 to 2600 in 1880. Many area farmers specialized in growing fruits and vegetables that were transported to market in Kansas City, Missouri first by wagon and then by truck.

Shawnee remained a stable farm center and small community well into the 1950s. The town accommodated the growth of local businesses, saw the arrival and demise of a trolley line and the growing use of automobiles. Street names and buildings have changed, but traces of the past remain.



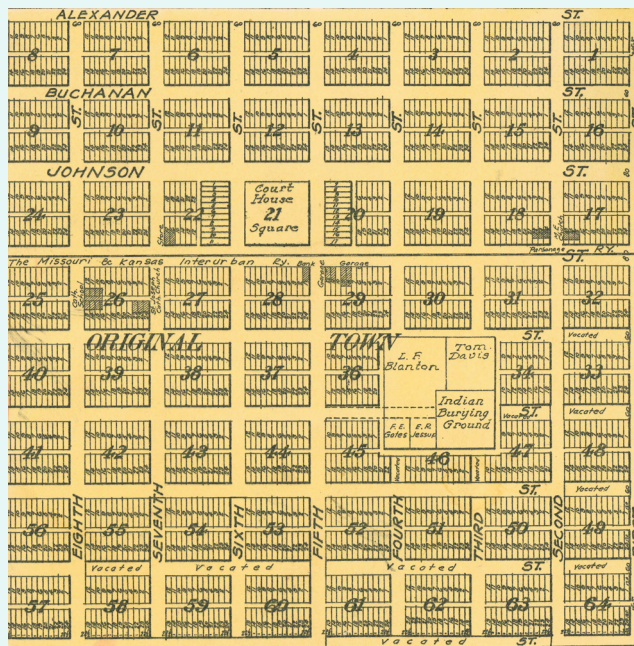
Your Town and Our Town

If you have photos, stories or objects that would help illustrate Shawnee's history, please contact Shawnee Town 1929 at 913.248.2360 or www.shawneetown.org.

All funding, content, and design for this project is provided by City of Shawnee, City staff and museum consultants.

The walking tour is 1.1 miles.

Shawnee Plat Map 1922



Walking Tour Photo Credits

- Town Square Gazebo July 4, 1897 courtesy of Greg Reike
- Shawnee State Savings Bank, 1911 Shawnee Town 1929 Collection
- Tom Davis Store c. 1920 Shawnee Town Collection
- Garrett Grocery, 1930 courtesy of the Garrett Family
- Shawnee Grade School, 1933 courtesy of Clena Wilson
- Chief Charles Bluejacket, c. 1890 Shawnee Town 1929 Collection
- Bousman's Barber Shop, 1922 courtesy of Gary Yantis
- Archer Dry Goods, c. 1860 courtesy Johnson County Museum
- Shawnee Plat Map, Standard Atlas of Johnson County 1922, Shawnee Town 1929 Collection



Shawnee Downtown Historical Walking Tour

1 City Hall
Johnson Drive and Nieman

2 Shawnee State Savings Bank
Tom Davis's Dry Goods Store
Citizens Protective Association Building
Geysels Building
Mission Theater
Bill Gastl
Goddard Electric Company
Gastl Coal and Feed
Johnson Drive from Nieman to Barton Street

3 Quantrill's Raid Marker
SW corner of City Hall parking lot,
Johnson Drive and Barton

4 Garrett Grocery
Shawnee Public School
West along Johnson Drive,
Barton to Flint Street

5 Chief Bluejacket Sculpture Plaza and Garden
Herman Laird Park
Johnson Drive and Cody, NE corner

6 Shawnee Town 1929
Pantel's Mill
57th Street, Cody to King

7 Hollenback General Store
58th Street, Barton to Nieman

8 Dr. Henry and Helen Sullivan's house
George and Mary Bousman
Home Telephone Company
Homer Bousman's Barber Shop
A.J. Blattman's Dry Goods Store
Joseph Yotz's Typewriter Repair Shop
Thomas Archer Dry Goods & Groceries
Clarence "Red" Hartman
Nieman Road, 58th Street to Johnson Drive



Town Square Gazebo - July 4, 1897



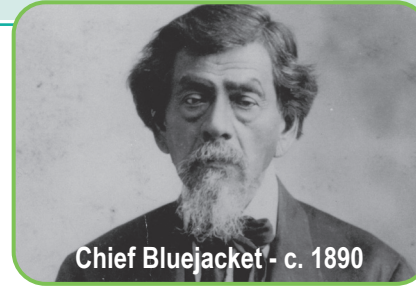
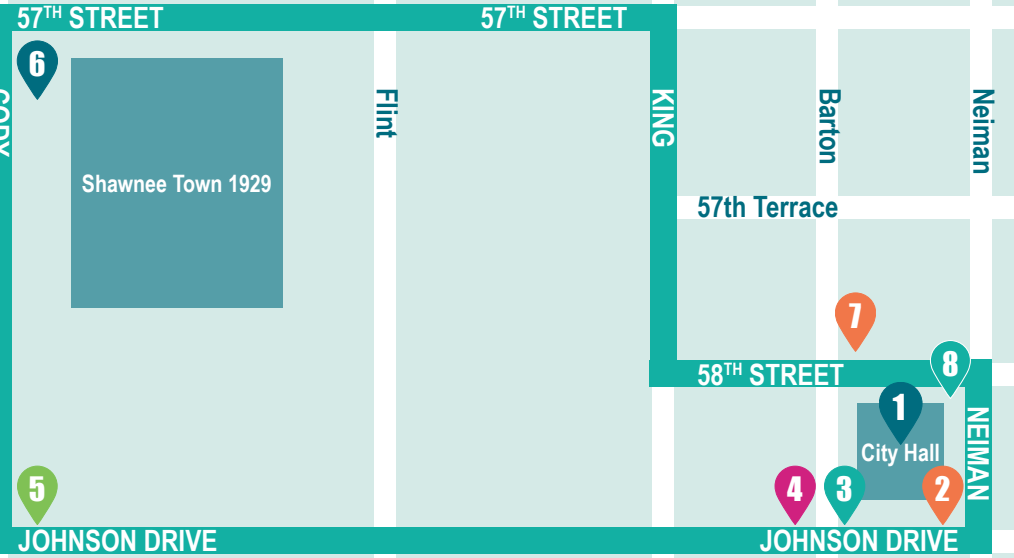
Shawnee State Bank - 1911



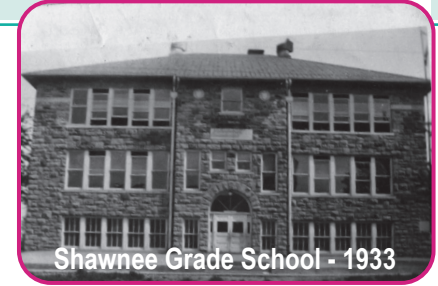
Bouseman Barber Shop - 1922



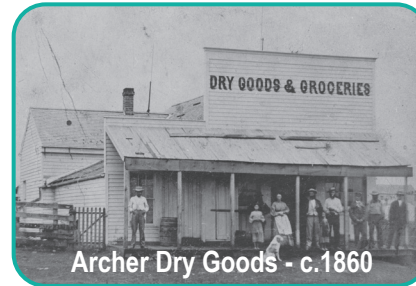
Garrett Grocery Store - 1930



Chief Bluejacket - c. 1890



Shawnee Grade School - 1933



Archer Dry Goods - c.1860



Tom Davis Store - c. 1920