

The Sites and People of Fort Scott

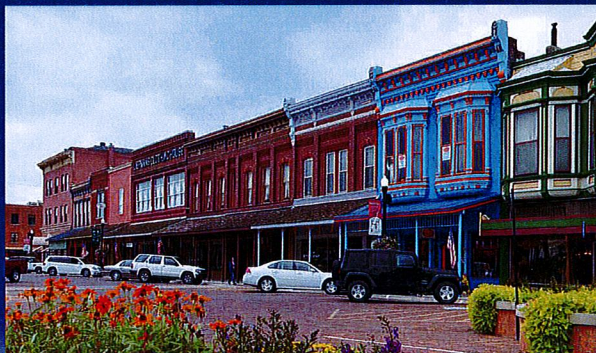
A rich and inviting visit

Downtown Fort Scott

Historic downtown Fort Scott has roots in a time when it was the last stop before the frontier. Initially comprised of former fort buildings, it soon transformed into a lively downtown commercial district. New permanent stone and brick structures were constructed beginning in the early 1860s. With the help of the town's rail line, new people migrated to the area, making it the fourth largest town in Kansas by 1887, prospering through the 1920s.

Today, the downtown's connection to local commercial history, its association with Fort Scott, and its prominent architectural styles make it a particularly engaging destination.

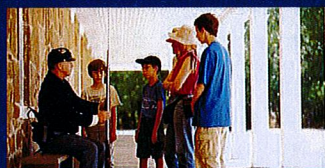
Despite urban renewal projects in the 1970s that removed buildings, 28 acres comprising the historic downtown were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. In addition, the National Historic Site preserves the former fort grounds, and a trolley tour provides another way to explore Fort Scott and its growth and development.



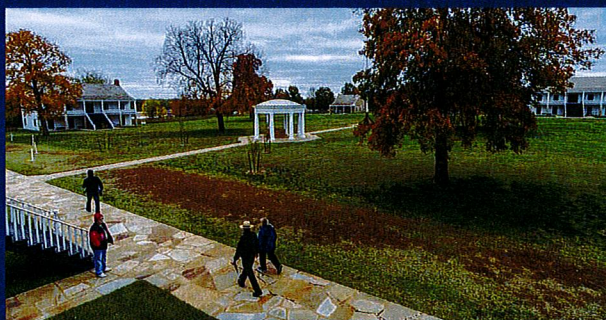
Downtown Fort Scott

Fort Scott National Historic Site

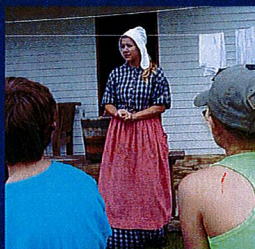
Fort Scott National Historic Site shares the story of the vital role mid-19th century military posts played in western settlement. Boasting 11 original and nine reconstructed buildings, the fort impresses the visitor with authentic examples of Greek Revival elements on French Colonial architecture seen in period military buildings. Designed and built by Captain Thomas Swords, first Quartermaster of Fort Scott, the "crack post of the frontier" looks as it did during its use in the 1840s. The site's historic structures with furnished rooms, wayside and interactive exhibits, costumed interpreters, films, tours, and events explore the complex stories of those who settled the frontier. Fort Scott National Historic Site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964.



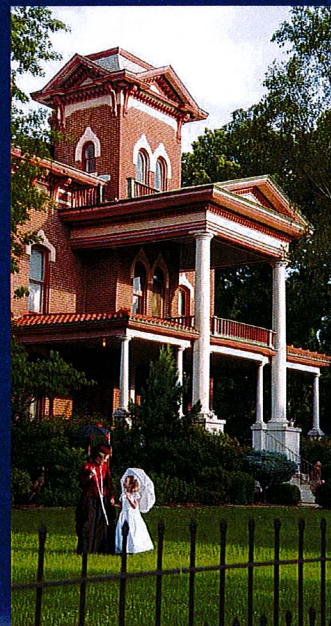
Costumed Interpreters at Fort Scott



Fort Scott National Historic Site



Rose Haven House



Lyons Twin Mansions



Fort Scott National Cemetery

Beginning in the 1840s, Fort Scott had a cemetery for its soldiers, but in 1861 the fort purchased land for a new community cemetery. The death toll of the Civil War led it to be used primarily for soldiers, and in 1862, Abraham Lincoln named it one of the 14 original U.S. National Cemeteries. Soldiers at the old military cemetery were reinterred in the National Cemetery, as were those buried in other small cemeteries at military posts abandoned after the Indian Wars.

The cemetery's notable burials further tell the history of the region. These include, 13 Confederate soldiers laid diagonal to Union graves, signifying their conflict; 63 African American soldiers from the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry, the Kansas regiment suffering the most casualties during the Civil War; and 16 Native American troops from the Union Army's Indian Regiments. The cemetery is also where Kansas poet Eugene Fitch Ware rests under a native sandstone boulder. Ware moved from Connecticut to Fort Scott in 1867 after being stationed at the fort during the Civil War. He practiced law in Fort Scott and became active in Kansas politics. Under his pseudonym "Ironquill," Ware created well-known works including John Brown and The Washerwoman's Song.

The cemetery also contains group graves for flight crews in World War II whose bodies could not be identified and memorial markers for veterans whose remains were not recovered or identified.

Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes

Many heroes are well known, but there are many more who were never recognized. The Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes opened in 2007 to showcase individuals who had a significant positive influence but have often remained unrecognized. Their stories are shared in exhibits, a theater, and other media. Past projects have included Irena Sendler, a social worker who rescued more than 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto in World War II, and Therese Frare, a journalist whose iconic photo helped humanize the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1990s.



Frontier Military
Historic Byway