

# Kansas Quilt Walk & Great Bend Mural Project

Downtown on the Historic Santa Fe Trail • Great Bend, Kansas

**Visitors** will find what they're looking for in Great Bend, Kansas. Natural beauty, small-town charm, history, culture, and a wide variety of activities and attractions make Great Bend the perfect place to visit. When settlers came to this beautiful setting beside the Arkansas River, they immediately knew how to name their settlement. They nestled their little town in the big bend of the river and called it Great Bend.

Before the white settlers came with their railroads, schools, and settlements, the big bend of the Arkansas River was home to a melting pot of Native American tribes who settled, camped, or roamed through the area.

The Wichita, Pawnee, Comanche, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Apache, Osage, Kiowa and Sioux were drawn by a river of fresh water, firewood, fish, small game, large herds

of bison, and a huge marshland rich in wildlife.

The first and most exotic of America's great trade routes, the Santa Fe Trail, ran right through the town's present-day Courthouse Square. The Trail opened in 1921 and for more than 60 years it was an important two-way avenue for commerce and cultural exchange.

## Kansas Quilt Walk

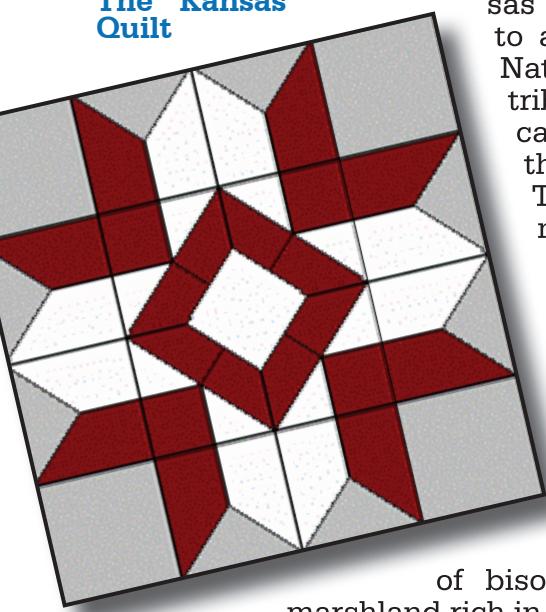
Located in downtown Great Bend, the Barton County Courthouse was built on the ruts of the famous Santa Fe trail. In 1906, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the State of Kansas placed a marker on the trail site. In the sidewalks surrounding the Courthouse

Square, you will find the Kansas Quilt Walk. Quilts kept our ancestors warm and allowed our great grandmothers to express themselves with beautiful fabrics, fine needlework and meaningful patterns. Great Bend's Quilt Walk is a tribute to those women and their creations. The Rocky Road to Kansas pattern is the oldest pattern shown in the quilt walk and dates back to the Santa Fe Trail.

*The Barton County Historical Museum and Village* has over forty quilts. Several quilts plus photos of all of the quilts are always on display. With several days' advance notice, visitors can view the full quilt collection (minimal additional charge). The earliest quilt is a goblet pattern pieced in Tennessee during the Civil War. Another particularly interesting quilt is a crazy quilt pieced by Fannie Wood in Barton County around 1895. Among the many silks and velvets used in the quilt's construction are political ribbons and a souvenir handkerchief of the 1890s. Contact the museum by calling 620-793-5125.

## Great Bend Mural Project

You don't have to visit an art museum to find art in Great Bend! Murals decorate the walls of many buildings in the downtown area. Painted by high school students, community volunteers, senior citizens, professional artists, and children, the murals are tied together by themes relating to Great Bend past and present.



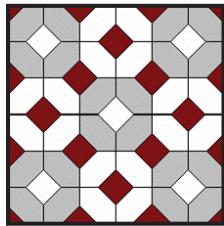
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# KANSAS QUILT WALK



## Kansas Dugout

Although the name of this pattern conjures up images of the hardy pioneers living in their homes which were literally dug into hillsides, it is, in fact a fairly recent pattern. It first appeared in the 1930s under this name introduced by Aunt Martha's Studios in Kansas City, Missouri.

Aunt Martha's Studios began as the Colonial Pattern Company in the early 1930s. When the pattern company began publishing Workbasket magazine, the patterns were marketed under the Aunt Martha's name.

A box of quilt patterns at the Barton County Historical Museum south of Great Bend yielded a Kansas Dugout pattern clipped from an unknown newspaper. It was noted that, "The design comes from Miss Gertrude Skeen, Eskridge, KS." The dugout pattern was shown as a two-color design.

Although there are no other patterns known by Kansas Dugout, there are several similar designs that vary through use and placement of color. The earliest similar design, Mosaic Patchwork, was introduced in the The Dictionary of Needlework by Caulfield and Saward in 1882. It differs in that two colors of fabric were used and that there was an extra pattern piece.

The same pattern as the one in Lafayette Park using only two colors was introduced as Five Cross, Lattice Block, Church Windows, and Ogden Corners by various sources in the mid-1930s.

Additionally, there were two Kansas City Star patterns which used three colors but placement of the pieces changed the design. These designs were Old Fashioned Quilt and Ozark Tile Pattern.

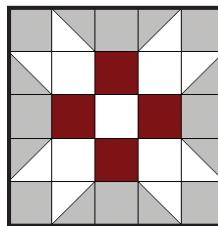
The Kansas Quilt Walk pattern forms a non-square block and is an allover design which is entirely pieced.

## Kansas

Though the exact date and origin of this pattern is largely unknown, it appeared in Hearth and Home magazine which was published in Augusta, Maine from 1868 to 1933. This publication asked readers to submit their favorite quilt designs, this being one of them. Whether the sender called the pattern Kansas or whether it was given that name by the editors is purely speculative. Perhaps the person submitting the design was from Kansas, hence the name.

The pattern may have been printed during the 1920s or early 1930s since this was a time when there was a nation-wide renewal of interest in quilt making. This design is one of the many star designs and is very simi-

lar to one which appeared in a Ladies Art Company catalog called Star of Many Points. The design used here appeared in Quilter's Newsletter Magazine (January 1987) accompanying an article by Barbara Brackman on Kansas quilt patterns.



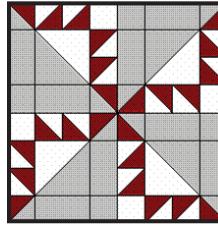
## Farmer's Daughter

This pattern is an appropriate choice for this agricultural region as many of the families who came west to the Heart of Kansas came for land and a chance to earn their living as farmers.

At first glance one might classify this pattern with the many star designs or wonder why the word "star" was omitted in the name.

There are two nearly identical patterns with the name Farmer's Daughter; their differences lie in the way the colored pieces are used. The design used here appeared in the Ladies Art Company catalog of 1898 and was number 419. (The many quilt patterns presented in these catalogs were assigned numbers rather than names.) The same pattern was introduced by Nancy Cabot in the 1930s with the name Two Crosses. The other Farmers' Daughter design used the same pieces and was constructed the same, but the way the colors were set differed.

The Kansas Quilt Walk Farmer's Daughter pattern was introduced by Clara A. Stone, author of Practical Needlework: Quilt Patterns. It may have appeared as early as 1910. There were four other names for the basic design. Rolling Stone, Jack's Blocks, Corner Post, and Flying Birds.



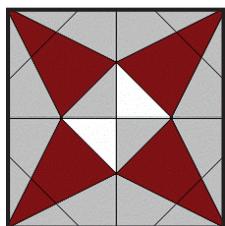
## Kansas Troubles

Difficult early years of Kansas settlement inspired this pattern choice. Though documented quilts using the design exist from settlement time, it is unknown what quiltmakers may have called the pattern. It wasn't until thirty years later that the name Kansas Troubles became associated with the design. The earliest publisher of this pattern may have been Farm Journal, founded in 1877. It is not known, however, when the pattern first appeared in print.

The Lafayette Park design of Kansas Troubles appeared in Ladies Art Company catalog in two variations, the differences being in the set of the center square, and the name, the other of which was Irish Puzzle.

There are two other very different designs using the name Kansas Troubles and there are two nearly identical designs with fifteen different names. In addition, the design seen in our local sidewalk is an adaptation of the chosen Kansas Troubles pattern due to technical difficulties in the use of stone as a medium.

It is also interesting to note that the Rocky Road to Kansas pattern featured in the Quilt Walk was called Kansas Troubles by Ruth Finley author of Old Patchwork Quilts and The Women Who Made Them published in 1929.



## Rocky Road to Kansas

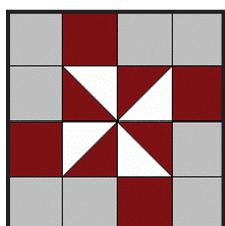
Kansas history centers, in part, around roads since well-known historic trails criss-crossed its territorial boundaries. Most important in the development of Great Bend was the Santa Fe Trail, which passed through Great Bend where Lafayette Park and the Barton County Courthouse are now located.

Even today swales and "cut outs" in hills mark the passage of hundreds of wagons. The term "Rocky" refers not so much to the actual nature of the road surfaces as to the difficulty in traveling them during the state's early settlement period.

This pattern as it appears in the sidewalk is an adaptation of a pattern first thought to have appeared in 1889, over ten years after the Santa Fe Trail was last used. The actual pattern is a string—or crazy-pieced design developed, some believe, to use up long narrow strips or strings of fabric left over from other sewing projects.

The Rocky Road to Kansas pattern was chosen as the official logo for the Kansas Quilt Project because of its relevance to the early history of Kansas, although the pattern itself is not of that period. The time of "Rocky Roads" saw many families coming into Kansas bringing, among other things, their quilts—many of which survive today.

There is another design, also called Rocky Road to Kansas, that is completely different. This pattern, which looks something like links of a chain meeting in the middle of a block is the older of the two patterns with a string of names, the first of which may have been Job's Tears.



## Windmill

Soon after people began to settle down, build homes, and begin their farming and cattle raising operations, windmills could be seen dotting the horizons in every direction. Just as there were many different designs for windmills, the quilt patterns also showed great variety. The exact origins of this particular pattern are unknown. Because of its simplicity, it may well be an early pieced design, one the pioneer women brought with them.

There are fifteen windmill patterns listed by Barbara Brackman. In addition, there are two more called The Windmill, three with the name Wind-



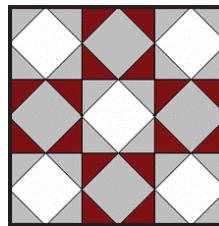
Broadway



Kansas Dugout

mill Star, one Windmill and Outline, one Amazing Windmill, one Broken Windmills, three Double Windmills, one Flashing Windmills, one Four Windmills, one Lemoyne Star and Windmill, one Missouri Windmills, one Nebraska Windmill, one Old Windmill, and the Radio Windmill.

There are undoubtedly regional or family windmill designs which researchers have never discovered let alone printed.



## Kansas Star

Somehow the stars seem to be brighter and more numerous when viewed across the wide sweep of the night sky above vast rolling plains. There are probably more star designs than any other type of quilt design except maybe flowers. There are two patterns called Kansas Star, both published in the 1930s.

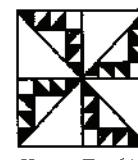
The one chosen for Lafayette Park was printed in the Kansas City Star in 1932. It was designed by one of their illustrators, Eveline Foland. It is an illusionary design that fools the eye, sometimes making it difficult to see the star in the center of the block.

Another quilt design using the same pieces but with a different color set was called Montpelier and published in Hearth and Home magazine which was in print from 1868 to 1933.

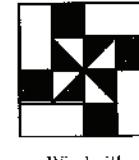
The other design with the name Kansas Star appeared in Carrie Hall's book, The Romance of the Patchwork Quilt in America, in 1935. It is a very different design composed basically of a four point star within a four point star.

**Location Map:** The seven patterns set in the sidewalks around Lafayette Park were chosen because they reflect the early settlement history of Great Bend which was founded in 1872.

Kansas Street



Kansas Troubles



Windmill

## Kansas Quilt Walk

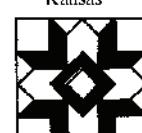


Barton County Courthouse

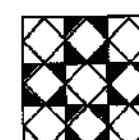


Rocky Road

Lakin Street



Kansas Star



1400 Main Street (U.S. Hwy. 281)

# Great Bend Mural Project

**1 Sign of the Times** ~ This mural is a fun and colorful view of what the “good ole days” might have looked like in Great Bend. Located on the corner of 7th & Main.

**2 El Baile/The Dance** ~ Diversity is the theme of this mural. The many cultures which enrich Great Bend are shown kicking up their heels in traditional style. Located on Main Street between 10th & 11th.

**3 Migration** ~ In 1997, this mural was conceived and completed by local high school art students in conjunction with D. Loewenstein, and depicts elements of Great Bend's culture along with a spectacular representation of water fowl in flight over a quilt pattern of farm land. Comet Hale-Bopp also makes a cameo appearance in the mural since it was visible while the mural was being painted. Located on the corner of Main & 16th.

**4 Clara Barton** ~ This “postage stamp” mural honors both the building which it decorates – the United States Post Office and Clara Barton, the woman for whom Barton County was named. Clara Barton was a civil war nurse and organized the American Red Cross. Located on the corner of 16 & Williams.

**5 Something for Everyone** ~ This mural is a tribute to the agricultural history of the area and the Barton County Fair held every July at the Expo area just west of town. Located on Williams between 16th & 17th Street.

**6 Santa Fe Trail** ~ This mural decorates the Senior Center and is a memorial to Howard Quigg who was one of their most dedicated volunteers. This 1999 mural is an intergenerational project which brought together the services of many talented volunteer seniors at the senior center and over 60 Park Elemen-

tary School children. Located on Kansas Street between 20th & 21st Streets.

**7 The Lions Mural** ~ In 1998, a total of 56 youths ranging in age from 5 to 16 years joined with the Great Bend Recreation Commission (GBRC) staff to create this mural. The children were charged with the task of designing their own African masks. They transferred their masks to ceramic tiles that now adorn the corners of the Lions Mural. This mural is dedicated to the children of Great Bend. Located in Brit Spaugh Park.

**8 The North American Mural** ~ In 1999, the Recreation Commission Summer Program enrolled 55 children to paint this mural which features a variety of North American animals. Located in Brit Spaugh Park.

**9 The Tiger Murals** ~ In 2001, the children of Great Bend through the GBRC created these four tiger murals. This project was done in cooperation with the City of Great Bend and the Park Department. Located in Brit Spaugh Park.

**10 Happy Trails** ~ The American Cowboy has a full and rich history which spans from the early days of settlement in the western frontier to the Hollywood movie set and all are featured in this mural. Located on the corner of 10th & Washington.

**11 Farm Scene** ~ This mural was commissioned by local business owner. Located on the corner of Williams & Forest.

**12 Delgado's Mexican Restaurant** ~ Commissioned by Delgado's Mexican Restaurant. Located on the corner of 10th & Stone.

**13 The Bistro** ~ This mural was commissioned by The Page, An American Bistro. Located at 2920 10th.

