

Historic Cimarron, Kansas Walking Tour Guide to Main Street

- Hopper General Merchandise Store and Dorean Opera House (on upper floor) at 101 S. Main. Notice the details of the old-time soda fountain and note the patterned tin ceilings.
- Assayers Office at 109 S. Main. Now a Law Office, the interior has been beautifully restored to its original appearance.
- Early Court House at 117 S. Main. This is the site of shooting during County Seat War on January 12, 1889, when men from Ingalls attempted to move county records from this location to Ingalls. Later the Cimarron Library was housed in the upper floor.
- Cimarron City Hall at 119 S. Main. See collection of artifacts and pictures of Cimarron Mayors beginning with J. K. Hopper, elected in 1885.

This first year of incorporation the property tax was five mills. Ordinance 1 was passed on this year on August 20. The City Council ordered sidewalks to be constructed and maintained on Main Street. The lumber used, as specified in the ordinance, was to be an inch thick and the sidewalks were to be ten feet wide.
- Mrs. C. A. Curtis, possibly Kansas' first woman mayor, was elected in 1895. She came from St. Louis in 1894 and opened a small stationery store on Main Street.
- Grocery or Variety Store at 123 S. Main
- Site of future park, former site of Gazebo
- Site of Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad tracks. Take note of original brick walkway.
- Real Estate Office of J. P. Emery, circa 1910, located at 217 S. Main. Many of the original businesses were located on a street which ran parallel to the railroad lines at that time. Several hotels were located in this area near the railway.

- Gray County Court House at 300 S. Main was built in 1927 at a cost of \$100,000. Note the memorial erected in 2006 to recognize Gray County residents who served in the Armed Services since 1860.
- Santa Fe Railroad Tracks, still in use daily. This was possibly the site of the Cimarron Hay Station established in 1866 located north of the Arkansas River before the advent of the railroad.
- Real Estate Office and Restaurants, located from 116 S. Main to north corner. These were built in the early part of the century before 1920. Note pressed tin ceilings or original octagonal-shaped tiles in some of these buildings.
- Building at 102 N. Main. Note design of cement building blocks imitating chiseled limestone on south wall. This block design was manufactured in Cimarron in the early 1900's.
- Building at 106 N. Main. Note the metal work around door and windows.

Originally the Court House in Ingalls, KS, the building was later moved to Cimarron and used as the office of the Jacksonian newspaper when Cimarron became the County Seat. The weekly Jacksonian has been operating continuously since the late 1880's. The location was also the home of Wheatgrowers Insurance, started in 1929.
- Cimarron Library, at 120 N. Main, was built in 1990 completely from funds from private donations at a cost of about \$700,000.

In 1934 a group of young women, encouraged by Mrs. Anna Erskine, started a Read-A-Book Club. Each month one of the group purchased a new book, reviewed it, and then passed it around for others to read. The books were left at the Courthouse or the Methodist Church. Soon the group was given the use of two rooms in the City Building on Main Street. These women kept the library open two afternoons a week.
- First Christian Church, built in 1947, is currently the oldest structure used as a church in the area.
- Forrest Luther House at 109 W. Kansas. This location has a beautiful home, guest house, barn and gardens. In the 1880's a small lake was located to the east of the driveway.

The early town of Cimarron was spread out. Each family required more than the small lot needed for a house today because each family needed a barn for their horse and milk cow, a chicken house and a garden plot. Most of these homes were wooden. One family lived in a dugout to the west near where the golf course is now. The oldest home still in use is on South Birch Street. It was built in 1886. Another house still in use on South Birch had one room with sod walls plastered inside and covered with wooden siding outside.
- Frank & Pearl Luther House at 110 W. Kansas was built by Forrest Luther's brother. This is a Sears's house, so called because it was ordered and shipped by rail with materials and instructions to be assembled on location.
- Leigh & Merle Warner House at 209 N. Main was built in the early 1900's. Mr. Warner's mother was a sister of Frank & Forrest Luther.
- Cimarron Hotel at 203 N. Main was built as the New West Hotel in 1886 by a doctor from back east who enjoyed the city's high altitude, pure air and dry climate for his health. The hotel had 30 rooms and a fine restaurant. Once owned by the Luther family and called Luther Inn, it has been in continuous operation since it was built.
- Canal Street was the location of the Eureka (Soule) Canal, an irrigation project which extended 60 miles from Ingalls to Jetmore. The canal was dug by hand beginning in 1888 and carried water through Cimarron to farms to the north and east of Dodge City for several years.
- Cimarron Insurance Company at 101 N. Main once employed more than 300 people in the area.

The Jacksonian, first called the Cimarron Herald, then the Kansas Sod House, has been the weekly newspaper in Cimarron since 1885.