Chapter 4
Affected Environment

The study area for the “Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom” National Heritage Area comprises 12,958 square miles, representing approximately 15.8 per cent of the state of Kansas. One main part of the study area is oriented east and west along the Kansas River west of the confluence with the Missouri River at Kansas City and the other is oriented north and south along the Missouri-Kansas state boundary with additional counties associated with these two main areas. The study area includes twenty-three of the one hundred and five counties in the state.

Currently, this study places the tentative boundaries of the basic Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area as follows. The eastern boundary of the entire Heritage Area is the Kansas-Missouri state line. The northern boundary of the Kansas River valley area runs along the northern border of Leavenworth County, then south to the northern border of Douglas County, and then west along the county boundaries of Shawnee, Pottawatomie, Riley, and Clay Counties. The western boundary is the western border of Clay County.

The southern boundary of the Kansas River valley area runs south along the Geary County line, then east along the Wabaunsee County line, then north to the Shawnee County line, then east to the Douglas County line, then south along the Douglas and Franklin County lines to the northern border of Coffey County. The boundary runs south along the Coffey, Woodson, and Wilson County lines, then east to Labette County and south along the western border of Labette County to the Kansas-Oklahoma border. The southern boundary of the Heritage Area runs along the Labette and Cherokee County lines to the state boundary. (See Figure 4-1. Proposed Basic Boundary National Heritage Area Map.)

Counties included in the Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area at this time.

**Kansas River valley**
- Clay
- Johnson
- Riley
- Wyandotte
- Douglas
- Leavenworth
- Shawnee
- Pottawatomie
- Wabaunsee
- Geary

**Eastern Border**
- Allen
- Cherokee
- Franklin
- Miami
- Woodson
- Anderson
- Coffey
- Labette
- Neosho
- Bourbon
- Crawford
- Linn
- Wilson

**POPULATION**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Kansas has a population of 1,037,891 households. Of the state’s total population of 2,688,418, there are 1,328,474 males and 1,359,944 females. The counties in the study area have an aggregated population of 1,296,441 representing approximately 48.6 per cent of the state’s population. Because the study area includes growing towns and suburban areas as well as declining towns and rural areas, the rate of growth varies from county to county. Overall, the state of Kansas has a positive population growth rate of 8.2 per cent.
Population density in the study area varies considerably from east to west and north to south. The average number of persons per square mile in Wyandotte County, for example, is 1,042.9; Johnson County, 946.1; Douglas County, 218.8; and Shawnee County, 309.0. To the west, the average number of persons per square mile in Wabaunsee County is 8.6; Pottawatomie County, 21.6; and Geary County, 72.6. To the south, the average number of persons per square mile in Miami County is 49.2, Bourbon County, 24.1; and Linn County, 16.0.

Based on the feasibility study, it appears that designation of the Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area designation will not have a significant effect on current and future populations in the study area. However, the organizational and promotional links between counties of increasing population and counties of decreasing population may provide wider dispersion of tourism and investment with a corresponding improvement in the economic and social stability of the counties with decreasing population. In the long term, heritage area designation will protect historic and cultural resources in both areas. Where rapid urban and suburban development is taking place, identification and protection of the resources associated with Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom is essential for their survival. In counties where population is declining or stable, designation will provide recognition and help attract the financial capacity required to protect and interpret these resources. This assemblage of buildings, sites, landscapes, and institutions is necessary to interpret the important stories of Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom in the study area.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Among the residents of the counties in the study area, household income varies considerably. Johnson County in the study area had the highest median household income in the state. Two counties in the study area, Wilson and Woodson, had the lowest household income. Total nonfarm employment in Kansas for 2001 was 1,347,700. Goods producing industries employed 265,500 residents. Service-providing industries employed 1,082,200 residents. Federal,
state, and local governments employed 248,100 residents. The major employment bases in the study area are located in the Kansas City, Lawrence, and Topeka metropolitan areas.

In the study area, the highest property values per capita were found in three counties where regional electrical generating plants are located. These are Coffey, Linn, and Pottawatomie Counties. Other counties with relatively higher property values per capita are Johnson, Douglas, and Miami. The lowest property values per capita are found in Geary, Riley, and Bourbon Counties. The Fort Riley military reservation is located in Geary and Riley Counties. Property tax per capita rates range from a low in Cherokee County to a high in Coffey County. Other counties with relatively higher tax per capita rates are Johnson, Linn, and Pottawatomie. Coffey, Linn, and Pottawatomie Counties have the lowest mill levies. Wyandotte County has the highest mill levy with relatively higher levies in Bourbon, Clay, Geary, and Shawnee Counties.¹

### Table 4.1 Demographic and Socioeconomic Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>-1,269</td>
<td>$32,155</td>
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<td>-1,970</td>
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¹ For property tax information, see [http://www.ksrevenue.org/pvdstatistics.htm](http://www.ksrevenue.org/pvdstatistics.htm).

As in the analysis of the impact on population, the effect is difficult to assess, but it appears that heritage area designation will have a modest positive impact on socioeconomic conditions. Even a small increase in tourism and investment in those counties with static or declining populations will provide greater socioeconomic stability and prosperity. Heritage area designation will provide two general benefits—a better balance between tourism and heritage investment in urban and rural counties coupled with recognition that attracts visitation and investment from outside Kansas. In the long term, heritage area designation will protect and then enhance interpretation of the buildings, sites, landscapes, and institutions related to the Bleeding Kansas and Enduring Struggle for Freedom theme.
LAND USE

The study area is a mosaic of urban centers, suburban communities, smaller towns, and rural areas. The Kansas River valley area lies along the I-70 highway corridor with I-35 cutting diagonally across the northern area. The river valley area includes the major towns of Overland Park, Olathe, Lawrence, Topeka (the state capital), Manhattan, and Junction City. The eastern border area includes the county seat towns of Paola, Ottawa, Mound City, Garnett, Fort Scott, Iola, Yates Center, Fredonia, and Columbus. Both areas, however, encompass a rich array of natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources. The river valley area is more developed with urban and suburban communities. The eastern border area is typical of most of Kansas with development consisting of a county seat town with smaller towns and villages in a generally rural area.

In the counties near Kansas City, Kansas, more of the land is built out while the western and southern counties are less developed. For example, Johnson County has 44.5 percent of the land area in farms. Wyandotte County has 23.1 percent of the land area in farms. Most of the study area has a landcover/land use designation of agricultural land. The counties of Allen, Anderson, Clay, Coffey, Franklin, Miami, Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee, Wilson, and Woodson have more than 75 percent of the land area in farms. The counties of Cherokee, Douglas, Geary, Leavenworth, Linn, Shawnee, and Riley have more than 60 percent of the land area in farms.

Table 4.2 Land Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>% Residential</th>
<th>% Commercial</th>
<th>% Cropland</th>
<th>% Grassland</th>
<th>% Woodland</th>
<th>% Water</th>
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<td>1.96</td>
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<tr>
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<td>*</td>
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<td>2.58</td>
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<td>4.79</td>
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Generally, heritage area designation will help protect the traditional diversity of urban, suburban, small town, and rural agricultural land uses in the study area. As in the analysis of socioeconomic impact, heritage area designation will have a modest positive impact on land use planning. In the long term, by adding a voluntary, cooperative organizational framework for the interpretation of cultural resources in the study area, heritage area designation will protect and then enhance the interpretation of the buildings, sites, landscapes, and institutions related to the Bleeding Kansas and Enduring Struggle for Freedom theme.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Beginning in 1821, increasing in the 1840s and 1850s, and consolidating in the late nineteenth century, the geographical area now known as Kansas has been an important transportation route between the eastern United States and the West. Settlements established around the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers were outfitting centers for westward exploration and migration. The metropolitan area centered on Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas, is still the regional transportation center.

Highways, railroads, and the Kansas City International Airport form a nexus of major transportation routes at the eastern edge of the study area. The highway system within the study area is divided into interstate highways, U.S. and state highways, and local roads. Interstate highways I-70 and I-35 connect the major cities of Kansas City, Lawrence, and Topeka with Chicago, Denver, and other major cities on both the east and west coast as well as Canada and Mexico. These run east and west and southwest-northeast. The interstate highways connect to the interstate system going north to St. Joseph, Missouri, Omaha, Nebraska, and Des Moines, Iowa, south to Wichita, Kansas, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma, west to Denver, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, and east to St. Louis, Missouri. The U.S. and state highways connect communities within the study area and include portions of U.S. Routes 24, 56, 59, 169, and 69. Local roads are most numerous and provide access to sites within these communities. Because of the historic land survey system, these areas typically have a characteristic grid pattern of local roads.

The study area is also accessible by rail transportation. There are four Class I carriers (annual gross revenues of $250 million or more) in Kansas. These are the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern, and Union Pacific System. The volume of freight transported by Class I carriers in Kansas during 2000 totaled approximately 308 million tons. The principal commodities transported were coal, agriculture products, food and similar products, and chemicals and similar products. (See Figure 4-2, Kansas Railroad Map.)

Rail passenger service in Kansas is provided by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, commonly known as Amtrak, a quasi-public corporation. Amtrak was established in 1970. The Amtrak train serving Kansas, the Southwest Chief, operates between Los Angeles and Chicago with daily service in each direction. Boarding/disembarking takes place at two places in the study area: Lawrence and Topeka. While Amtrak usage increased nationally in 2001, passenger ridership in Kansas fell six percent compared to 2000. At Lawrence, ridership increased five percent and ridership decreased six percent at Topeka. Localized rail passenger service via commuter rail had
been investigated in Johnson County, Kansas since 1992. There are two major private inter-city bus lines serving the study area: the Greyhound and Jefferson lines. The Greyhound line follows the interstate highway system while the Jefferson line serves southeastern Kansas.

Kansas City International (KCI) Airport located in Missouri fifteen miles directly north of Kansas City, Kansas provides air passenger transportation for the residents of eastern Kansas. Scheduled commercial service provided at Forbes Field in Topeka and Manhattan Municipal Airport. Although the amount of freight moved by air is not significant compared to that moved over highways and rails, freight can be moved at much greater speed by air transportation.\(^2\)

Heritage area designation will not have a significant impact on future transportation planning in the study area. With minor specific improvements, the existing transportation network has ample capacity to serve the historic and cultural institutions that are represented in the BKNHA planning committee. However, in the long term, there is potential for cooperative arrangements among the BKNHA management entity and bus companies, Amtrak, and the Kansas Department of Transportation to enhance tourism and visitation by telling the stories of Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom.

**AIR AND WATER QUALITY**

According to the 2000 Kansas Air Quality Report, Kansas Governor Bill Graves recommended that all counties in Kansas, except Johnson and Wyandotte, be designated as “attainment/unclassifiable” for the proposed 8-hour ozone standard. Johnson and Wyandotte Counties were recommended as not attaining the 8-hour standard. In addition, air quality monitors in the Wichita area showed that ozone concentrations were increasing and, if actions are not taken to reduce ozone formation, will eventually exceed the proposed 8-hour ozone standard. Based on results for the

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years 2000-2002, the Kansas City area will again be in violation of the standard.\(^3\)

Based on current information, designation of the Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area will not have a significant impact on the air and water quality of the study area. In the long term, the maintenance of relatively good air quality and improvement in water quality will enhance the preservation and interpretation of the stories represented in the heritage area resources.

**TOURISM**

Tourism’s economic impacts are an important consideration in state, regional, and community planning and economic development. According to the January 2001 National Travel Survey, sixty-five percent of American adult travelers reported that they included a cultural, arts, heritage, or historic activity or event while on a trip of fifty miles or more, one-way, in the past year. Visiting a historic site such as a building, battlefield or historic community remains the most popular cultural activity forty-three percent of adult travelers participating in this activity while on a trip in the past year. Museums are also popular with travelers since thirty percent claim that they have visited a museum while on a past-year trip.

In 2000 domestic and international visitors spent about 3.9 billion dollars in Kansas, which was a 5.4 percent increase over 1999. That activity supported over 57,000 jobs with 887.2 million dollars in wages and salaries. Travel-generated jobs comprised 4.2 percent of the total non-agricultural employment in Kansas. Also in 2000, travel spending generated almost 564 million dollars in tax revenue for federal, state, and local governments. Kansas ranked 38th in domestic travel expenditures and 40th in international travel expenditures among all fifty states and the District of Columbia.\(^4\)

For comparison, a study of the economic impact of tourism in Missouri for the fiscal year July 2001-June, 2002 concluded that the direct expenditures by domestic and international visitors totaled 7.9 billion dollars during that year. Travel in Missouri resulted in the employment of 192,159 people and employment in select tourism-related industries totaled 243,569.\(^5\)

Designation of the Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area will have a strongly positive impact on tourism in the study area. Regional cooperation and comprehensive management for heritage assets will be enhanced as relationships with the heritage area theme and sub-themes provide marketing and investment leverage. Because of the ideals and commitment expressed in the stories of Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom, the interpretation of related resources will become even more important in the future to Kansans, other Americans, and visitors from outside the United States.

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TOPOGRAPHY

The study area has six physiographic provinces: Glaciated, Ozark Plateau, Flint Hills, Cherokee Lowlands, Chautauqua Hills, and Osage Questas.

Glaciated Region

The north-eastern area of Kansas was glaciated, covered by at least two of the eight or nine glaciers that encroached upon much of the northern United States during the Pleistocene Epoch, between 1.6 million and 10 thousand years ago. The first of these covered just the northeastern corner of Kansas. The second, which encroached on Kansas about 600,000 years ago, extended almost to Manhattan and beyond Topeka and Lawrence in a line roughly parallel to the present-day Kansas River. In some places, this ice sheet was 500 feet thick.

Osage Cuestas

Osage Cuesta, a region which occupies nearly all of eastern Kansas south of the Kansas River and is characterized by a series of east-facing ridges or escarpments, between which are flat to gently rolling plains. Cuesta, Spanish for hill or cliff, is the term geologists use to describe ridges with steep, clifflike faces on one side and gentle slopes on the other. Cuesta topography developed in gently dipping, alternating layers of hard and soft rocks. This area is one of abundant limestone.

Flint Hills

The Flint Hills were formed by the erosion of limestones and shales. Unlike the limestones to the east, however, many Flint Hills limestones contain numerous bands of chert, or flint. Because chert is much less soluble than the limestone around it, the weathering of the limestone has left behind a clayey soil full of cherty gravel. Most of the hilltops in this region are capped with this cherty gravel. Because of the cherty soil, the land is better suited to ranching than farming. The Flint Hills province is still primarily native
prairie grassland, the last remaining landscape-scale tall grass prairie in the country.

The tall grasses in this region are mostly big and little bluestem, switch grass, and Indian grass. Except along stream and river bottoms, trees are rare. The streams in the Flint Hills have cut deep precipitous channels. Streams cut in chert-bearing strata are narrow, boxlike channels, whereas those cut in weaker shales are wider, more gently sloping valleys.

Cherokee Lowlands

Occupying roughly 1,000 square miles in Bourbon, Crawford, Cherokee, and Labette counties, the Cherokee Lowlands region is a gently rolling plain that developed on easily eroded shales and sandstones of the Cherokee Group. The landscape is traversed by shallow stream valleys. Isolated sandstone hills offer occasional topographic relief. One of these, Blue Mound, is located just east of Kansas Highway 69 in southern Cherokee County, a half mile north of the Oklahoma border.

The region is characterized by deep, fertile soils. These soils and the relatively flat and well-drained topography make the region good for farming, except where the surface has been disturbed by mining. Generally trees grow only on the slopes of hills, banks of larger streams, and in abandoned mining areas.

Chautauqua Hills

The Chautauqua Hills are a sandstone-capped rolling upland that extends into the Osage Cuestas from the southern Kansas border. Approximately 10 miles wide, these hills extend as far north as Yates Center in Woodson County. Small patches of similar terrain can be found as far north as Leavenworth County.

The Chautauqua Hills formed primarily in the thick sandstones of the Douglas Group. During the Pennsylvanian Period, about 286 million to 320 million years ago, rivers and streams flowed into the sea in this area. Sand and other sediments collected in the estuaries and at the mouths of the rivers in deltas. The sediments were buried and compacted—the sands became sandstone and the muds became shale. Over millions of years, uplift and erosion exposed the sandstone and shale at the surface. Further erosion has dissected the area into a series of low hills, capped by more resistant sandstone.

Because of rock outcrops in this region, the hills are generally not cultivated but are used instead for pasture. The Verdigris, Fall, and Elk rivers cross the area in narrow valleys walled by sandstone bluffs. Topographic relief in the region is never more than 250 feet.
Ozark Plateau

The southeastern corner of the state, in Cherokee County, is Ozark Plateau. As its name suggests, this corner is part of the Ozarks of Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Bounded by the Spring River on the west, the Ozark Plateau covers about 55 square miles and includes the towns of Baxter Springs and Galena.

Heritage area designation will provide a strong incentive for the research, interpretation, and development of a broader public understanding and appreciation of the topography and geographical features of the historic and cultural resources in the study area. Public appreciation of the varied landscapes of eastern Kansas has been undeveloped. By linking the inspiring stories of Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom with the landscape, management of the heritage area will improve the appreciation and protection of these different topographical provinces.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Heritage area designation will have a significant positive impact on the current and future condition of natural resources in the study area. By interpreting the ideals and values associated with the early settlement of Kansas Territory, the comprehensive management of heritage area activities will enhance a broad appreciation of settlement origins and the understanding of environmental change during the past one hundred and fifty years.

Learning to live permanently on the edge of the semi-arid Great Plains of North America was a challenge for Native Americans during prehistoric times and for European-Americans during the territorial period. While that challenge has been met by technological innovation and modernization, the availability of fertile land, abundant water, timber, and other resources (stone, coal, oil and gas) still influences present-day resource development and the socioeconomic stability of communities in the study area.

By visiting the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge and other refuges associated with federal reservoirs and state wildlife areas, Kansans and other visitors can better understand the riparian environment territorial settlers encountered. Examples of the native tall grass prairie environment may be visited at sites managed by the Nature Conservancy and the Kansas Land Trust.

National Natural Landmarks. Presently, there are no National Natural Landmarks identified within the study area. Designation of a National Heritage Area may provide incentives for further research and protection of significant eco-systems.

Heritage Area Landscapes. Landscapes related to the themes of the Heritage Area are generally associated with historic sites, such as Mine Creek or other battlefields. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks oversees the state’s natural resources and works closely with the Kansas Biological Survey and the Kansas Geological Survey. There are no regional agencies.

Within the study area, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, located in
Linn County. This refuge is named after the Marais des Cygnes River which is the dominant natural feature of the region. The name, Marais des Cygnes, comes from the French language and means Marsh of the Swans. Presumably, Trumpeter Swans, which were historically common, use the wetlands adjacent to the river during spring and fall migration. The refuge complements the Marais des Cygnes Historic Site operated by the Kansas State Historical Society. As a natural landmark and resource, the river in northeastern Linn County was significant in history for Native Americans, Free State and proslavery settlers during “Bleeding Kansas” and the Civil War. Other wildlife refuges, such as Tuttle Creek Wildlife Refuge, are associated with the federal reservoirs and state recreational areas in the study area.

Threatened, or Endangered Plant and Animal Species in the Study Area.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listing of federally threatened or endangered plant and animal species within the study area includes the following:

**Flora**
- Threatened – Mead’s Milkweed, *asclepias meadii*
- Threatened – Western Prairie Fringed Orchid, *platanthera praeclara*

**Fauna**
- Threatened – Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
- Threatened – Neosho Madtom, *Noturus placidus*
- Endangered – Pallid Sturgeon, *Scaphirhynchus*
- Endangered – American Burying Beetle, *Nicrophorus americanus*
- Endangered – Topeka Shiner, *Notropis topeka*
- Endangered – Gray Bat, *Myotis griesescens*
- Endangered – Interior Least Turn, *Sterna antillarium*

**Recreational resources** in the study area include a number of federal reservoirs and state recreational areas. Of the twenty-four multiple purpose federal reservoirs, six are located in the study area: Clinton, Hillsdale, John Redmond, Milford, Toronto, and Tuttle Creek. State park recreational areas also are located at Clinton, Hillsdale, Milford, Toronto, and Tuttle Creek Reservoirs. The Hillsdale area had 1,373,444 visitors in 2000. Clinton had 459,290 visitors. Milford had 303,256 visitors. Toronto had 112,161 visitors. Tuttle Creek had 501,744 visitors.

The Prairie Spirit Rail Trail, a state recreational area with 52,040 visitors in 2000, is located in Franklin and Anderson Counties. Other resources in the study area include several state fishing lakes and state wildlife areas. These are located in Bourbon, Douglas, Geary, Leavenworth, Miami, Pottawatomie, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Wilson, and Woodson Counties. (See Figure 4-3, Kansas Recreational Areas.)

Presently, there are no comprehensive public/private partnerships to protect the landscape and resources of the Bleeding Kansas Heritage Area. However, the Nature Conservancy is active in Kansas and protects the Welda native prairie in Anderson County. The Kansas Land Trust also manages conservation easements for several protected areas in the counties of Douglas, Linn, Miami, Riley, and Wabaunsee. Protected landscapes are mostly native tall grass prairie sites.

Development can be an issue. Residential

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development recently was proposed on the Black Jack Battlefield site in Douglas County. A local preservation group organized and purchased this significant forty-acre site. The property has been proposed for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, there are “Friends” groups or foundations at some historic sites and institutions. These are volunteers who act as interpreters or assist in local research and preservation of artifacts. For example, the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation is a not-for-profit volunteer organization in Linn County that promotes the significance of the Battle of Mine Creek as well as preserving the land upon which the battle took place.

Educational exhibits and publications

Kansas Museum of History, 6425 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Topeka. Beginning April 3, 2004, the Museum will open a special exhibit, “Willing to Die for Freedom: A Look Back at Kansas Territory,” observing the territory’s 150th anniversary and exploring the Free State heritage of Kansas.

Anderson County Historical Society Museum, 6th & U.S. Highway 59, Garnett. This county museum has exhibits, photos, and artifacts that interpret local history. The museum exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Valentin Gerth Cabin, East side SE Trego Road, Greeley, Anderson County. Typical of European American construction, this log cabin was built for Valentin Gerth’s parents who died in 1856 soon after their arrival in Kansas Territory. The structure may have been used by the Underground Railroad. The Gerth cabin relates to the Kansas
Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

**Baxter Springs Heritage Center & Museum**, 740 E. Avenue, Cherokee County. This is an interpretive and research museum with exhibits interpreting the Territorial Kansas and Civil War period. The exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, African American, and Native American sub-themes.

**Clinton Lake Museum**, 261 N. 851 Diagonal Road, Douglas County. This museum interprets the history of communities in the Clinton Lake vicinity. In 1854 this part of the Wakarusa River valley was settled by many who believed that slavery was wrong. The area was known as the home of the Bloomington Guards, an Underground Railroad safe haven, and a place where both European and African Americans served in the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry. The museum relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography, Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, Underground Railroad in Kansas, and African American Struggle sub-themes.

**Hobbs Park Memorial**, 1004 Delaware, Lawrence, Douglas County. This is a ca. 1867 brick house that has been moved to the John Speer home site. John Speer was a notable newspaper editor who fiercely advocated the Free State cause in Kansas Territory. Speer’s eldest teen-age sons were killed in Quantrill’s Raid on Lawrence in 1863. The building is being developed as an interpretive memorial for the Free State leader and the heritage of Bleeding Kansas. The memorial relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

**Watkins Community Museum**, 1047 Massachusetts, Lawrence, Douglas County. This museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and disseminating the history and culture of Douglas County. The museum has archives and artifacts which interpret the history of Kansas Territory and the Civil War in Kansas. The exhibits relate to the Kansas Territory: Geography, Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, Underground Railroad in Kansas, African American and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

**Dietrich Cabin Museum**, 5th & Main, City Park, Ottawa, Franklin County. This cabin was built by German immigrants Jacob and Catherine Dietrich in 1859 on a site nine miles south of Ottawa. The building form, materials, and construction techniques represent the type of houses constructed by European American settlers in Kansas Territory. The cabin relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

**Old Depot Museum**, Junction U.S. 59 & K-68, Ottawa, Franklin County. This is a county historical museum with exhibits interpreting the local history of “Bleeding Kansas” with an emphasis on John Brown and the emigrant Indians. The exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

**Geary County Museum**, 530 N. Adams, Junction City, Geary County. This museum has exhibits that interpret local history, the history of Kansas Territory, and Native American history. The museum exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

**Johnson County Museum**, 6305 Lackman Road, Shawnee, Johnson County. This is an educational institution that provides information about the county’s history through exhibits, programs, and publications. The permanent exhibit, “Seeking the Good Life,” interprets local history from the early nine-
teenth century to the recent past. Museum exhibits and archives relate to the Kansas Territory: Geography, Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, African American and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

**Frontier Army Museum**, Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County. This museum has an extensive collection that emphasizes military history including the evolution of the Army of the Frontier and the Civil War in the West. The exhibits relate to the Kansas Territory: Geography and the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-themes.

**Linn County Historical Museum**, 307 E. Park, Pleasanton. This museum has exhibits, maps, artifacts, and archives that interpret the history of Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War period. The exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

**Trading Post Historical Museum**, 15710 N. 4th, Pleasanton, Linn County. This museum interprets the history of the Marais des Cygnes “massacre,” John Brown, the Civil War, and other aspects of local history. The exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

**Osawatomie Museum and Depot**, 628 Main, Miami County. This is a community museum interpreting the history of one of the prominent Free State settlements in Kansas Territory. The exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

**Swan River Museum**, 12 East Peoria, Paola, Miami County. This is the center of the Miami County Historical and Genealogy Societies. The documents and exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

**Osage Mission-Neosho County Historical Museum**, 203 Washington, St. Paul, Neosho County. This museum has extensive research materials and artifacts that illustrate the history of Osage Mission. The documents and exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

**Wilson County Museum**, 420 N. 7th, Fredonia, Wilson County. Housed in a historic jail, this museum has research materials, documents, and artifact exhibits that interpret local history. The documents and exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

**Woodson County Historical Society Museum**, 511 W. Wilson, Yates Center. Housed in a historic church, this museum has exhibits interpreting local history including early settlement, the Civil War, and Native American history. The exhibits relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

**Wyandotte County Museum**, 631 N. 126th, Bonner Springs, Kansas. This museum traces the social history of Wyandotte County since 1854. The museum archive has newspapers, photographs, maps, and other records documenting local history. The museum exhibits and archive relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, Underground Railroad, African American, and Native American Struggle sub-themes. (See Figure 4-4, Educational Exhibits.)

**Brochures**

The Territorial Kansas Heritage Alliance has sponsored the research and writing of several brochures, “Bleeding Kansas: A Battle for Freedom and Land,” “John Brown of
Kansas, 1855-1859,” “The Underground Railroad in Kansas.” These brochures present to the public important themes and stories that are related to the Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area.

Events, tours, and re-enactments

For a survey of the many events and tours carried out in the study area that are related to the heritage area theme, see the detailed list in the Appendices.

Reenactors.

1st Kansas Vol. Inf., Co. D & Kansas Women’s Relief Corps. The First Kansas Volunteer Infantry Regiment was formed in May 1861 at Leavenworth and commissioned by Governor Charles Robinson. The regiment served in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri. Members of the Women’s Relief Corps strive to educate themselves and others about the life and events of the Civil War. Participants in these groups portray typical Kansans of the mid-19th century, research the time period and participate in living history events, reenactments, school programs, and parades.

7th Kansas Cavalry. This regiment was formed at Fort Leavenworth on October 28, 1861. The mission of the 7th was to protect the Kansas-Missouri border from border ruffians and guerilla bands operating in that area. Protecting the border and preventing Indians from joining the Confederate cause was a full time job. The 7th also garrisoned several towns on both sides of the Kansas-Missouri border.

Lecompton Reenactors is a volunteer group dedicated to making Kansas Territory History come alive for entertainment and education. In their plays about the Kansas territorial period, Lecompton Reenactors
breathe life and vitality into that history. The group presents original plays such as “Kansas Territory, Triangle of Mistrust,” “Bleeding Kansas,” and “Prelude to the Civil War.”

Commemorative Resources

The following description reflects the geographic range and types of commemorative resources and monuments that have been identified at this time as contributing to the Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area. Because there are many resources of this type in the study area, the following list is not comprehensive.

Pottawatomie “Massacre” site, rural Franklin County. Historical Kansas Road Marker in Lane. At this site near what is now Lane, Kansas, in May 1856, John Brown, some of his sons, and followers, murdered five pro-slavery settlers. The murders were justified as a reaction to the “Sack of Lawrence” and other violence by proslavery bands. On the night of May 24-25, 1856, a small band of abolitionists led by John Brown murdered five pro-slavery men along Pottawatomie Creek. This was one of the most famous events in “Bleeding Kansas.” Brown was later captured after his unsuccessful raid on Harper’s Ferry, (West) Virginia in 1859. Although this site is located on private property and is not interpreted at this time, the environment evokes a sense of the historical time and place. The Pottawatomie “Massacre” site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Pioneer Cemetery, University of Kansas West Campus near the Highway 59 overpass, Lawrence, Douglas County. This cemetery contains burials from the settlement period of the city’s history. New England settlers originally called this cemetery “Oread,” and the first burial was only a few weeks after the first settlers arrived. In 1855, pro-slavery supporters killed Thomas W. Barber, an immigrant from Ohio, and his death was given national attention. John Greenleaf Whittier wrote a poem, “Burial of Barber,” which immortalized the incident. The cemetery was the original burial site of most of the Quantrill’s Raid victims who were buried in a mass grave. The Pioneer Cemetery relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Oak Hill Cemetery, Quantrill Raid Victim Monument, 15th Street and Elmwood, Lawrence, Douglas County. One year after Quantrill’s Raid, Lawrence survivors established a new cemetery in 1864 as a memorial to raid victims. The “Lawrence Massacre” in 1863 was the most dramatic consequence of the Kansas Conflict during the Civil War. Early territorial leaders were also buried here such as James H. Lane, fiery politician and military leader, and Solon O. Thacher, who was chair of the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention.
Charles and Mary Langston, grandparents of Langston Hughes, were buried in this cemetery and George Nash Walker, a famous African American vaudeville entertainer. Oak Hill Cemetery and the Quantrill Raid Victim monument relate to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery, Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County. Established in 1863, this National Cemetery is the first west of the Mississippi River. Several Medal of Honor winners are buried there as well as veterans of the Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Gulf War are buried here. The Fort Leavenworth Cemetery relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, African American Struggle, and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

Buffalo Soldiers. There is a monument to the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Leavenworth. Colonel Benjamin Grierson formed the 10th Cavalry on 21 September 1866 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. It, along with the 9th Cavalry, 24th and 25th Infantry, formed the first all-black regiments in the Regular United States Army. In western Kansas, the Kiowa encountered the soldiers of the 10th as valiant opponents and termed them the “Buffalo Soldiers.” In time, the term designated all of the African American soldiers in all four regiments. The Buffalo Soldiers Monument relates to the African American Struggle sub-theme.

National-Woodland Cemetery, Civil War Soldiers Monument, Mound City, Linn County. Many important figures of the “Bleeding Kansas” period were buried here including Col. James Montgomery, a leader of Free State men during the border warfare and a commander of U.S. Colored troops during the Civil War, August Wattles, an abolitionist and associate of John Brown, and Lieut. H. W. Curtis, the only Union officer killed in the Battle of Mine Creek. The cemetery has a Civil War Soldiers’ Monument. The site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Marais des Cygnes Martyrs’ Memorial, Trading Post Cemetery, Trading Post, Linn County. This monument was erected in 1886 to honor the eleven Free State victims of the May 19, 1858 “massacre.” Five of the victims were buried near the monument. The monument relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Battle of Osawatomie-Soldiers Monument, 9th and Main, Osawatomie, Miami County. The marker commemorates the Free State settlers killed in the second battle of Osawatomie by pro-slavery forces August 30, 1856. Although defended by a small group of Free State settlers led by John Brown, the town was burned and Brown’s son was killed. The incident helped make
Brown well-known through the nation. Less than two weeks after the battle, a drama called “Ossawatomie Brown” celebrated him on Broadway. The monument relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

John Brown Monument. Wyandotte County. Vicinity of North 27th Street and the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks, Kansas City. This white marble statue is a life size likeness of John Brown and stands atop a 7 foot, 2 inch granite pedestal. The John Brown Monument was dedicated on the Western University campus in June, 1911. Governor John P. St. John and other dignitaries were present for the dedication. The money to have a monument sculpted was raised by donations of a few pennies to ten dollars from African Americans. This campaign demonstrated the emotional link between the Free State heritage of “Bleeding Kansas” and the African American struggle for freedom. This monument relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and African American struggle sub-themes.

Scenic Byways in the Study Area

The Frontier Military Scenic Byway extends roughly 167 miles tying Fort Leavenworth to the north with Fort Scott at the south and then onward to the Oklahoma border. It follows K-5 out of Leavenworth to I-435, and then follows U.S. 69 and Alternate U.S. 69 to the state line. The byway approximates the route of the old Military Road used to transport troops and supplies between the frontier forts, one of the first major roads in Indian and Kansas Territory. It was used by the U.S. Army, contractors, traders and missionaries, thousands of emigrants and settlers during Bleeding Kansas and border ruffians and soldiers from both the Union and Confederacy during the Civil War. This scenic route relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography and the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-themes.

Along the route through Leavenworth, Johnson, Wyandotte, Bourbon, Miami, Linn, Crawford and Cherokee counties, cultural resources include the following:

- Fort Leavenworth
- Adair Cabin
- Marais des Cygnes National and State Wildlife Refuge
- Marais des Cygnes Massacre Site
- Battle of the Marais des Cygnes Site, Trading Post
- Trading Post Museum, Trading Post
- Mine Creek Civil War Battlefield Site
- Fort Scott National Historic Site
- Prehistoric and Osage Indian sites

The Glacial Hills Scenic Byway begins at the intersection of K-7 and K-92 in Leavenworth, Kansas, and extends 63 miles north/south through the Glacial Hills of northeast Kansas. It traverses Atchison, Doniphan and Leavenworth Counties and the communities of Atchison, Leavenworth, Troy and White Cloud along the route. The scenic route traverses a landscape related to the Kansas Territory: Geography and the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-themes.
Other Trails Associated with Study Area Themes

**Trails of Blood on Ice.** This is a self-guided tour in Allen, Coffey, Wilson and Woodson Counties that follows Opothleyahola’s flight into Kansas from Indian Territory at the onset of the Civil War. Opothleyahola, a Creek and long time foe of the pro-southern tribal leaders, led Unionist Creeks and their families into Kansas from Indian Territory. His followers included opponents of the Creek anti-Confederate faction, other Native Americans (Seminoles and a few from four other civilized tribes) hoping to avoid war, and hundreds of African Americans, many of whom were runaway slaves. They were pursued by Confederate troops and attacked three times. After they reached Kansas, the people suffered hardship and starvation during the winter of 1861-62. In 1862 Union soldiers moved the survivors from Fort Row in Wilson County and Fort Belmont in Woodson County to Leroy, Coffey County. More than 1,000 men volunteered to form the First Indian Regiment and marched to Camp Hunter, Humboldt, Allen County. There they were inducted as the first Native American soldiers to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War. This tour relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, African American, and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Cultural resources in the study area include National Historic Landmarks (NHL), National Register sites (NR), State Register of Historic Places sites (SR), properties that have been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and sites that have been listed on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. There are seven National Historic Landmarks associated with the theme of the Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area. These National Historic Landmarks are listed on the National Register. Also, the Kansas State Historical Society maintains and interprets several other sites that are significant in territorial Kansas history.

There are thirty-two properties listed on the National Register that are associated with the Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom theme. The National Register is the official federal list of America’s historic and cultural resources. Districts, buildings, structures and objects of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, culture and engineering on the national, state, and local level are eligible for listing in the National Register. Besides National Register properties, three properties in the study area listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places are associated with the Heritage Area theme. Seven sites in the study area are listed on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. This program was established by Congress in 1998 to tell the story of resistance against the institution of slavery in the United States (and related territories) through escape an flight. Through current and potential interpretation, these sites are directly related to the sub-theme, the Underground Railroad in Kansas. In addition, the American Battlefield Protection Program (National Park Service) identified four notable battlefield sites in Kansas. Only two are listed on the National Register; the others are recognized by historical markers. (See Figure 4-5, Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area Sites.)
In cooperation with the staff of the Kansas State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Office, the study consultants also reviewed an inventory of 291 other cultural resources in the Historic Preservation files associated with the time period of "Bleeding Kansas" from 1854 to 1865. Historic Preservation Office staff helped identify properties that may be relevant to the heritage area and advised the consultants on the physical integrity of properties and sites, the potential for interpretation, and the level of threat to these properties.

List of Essential Sites

The following description reflects the geographic range and types of properties that have been identified at this time as contributing to the Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area. From a survey of public information, consultation with the Kansas Historic Preservation Office, and the review of information provided by members of the BKNHA Planning Committee, more than forty essential sites were selected for the following descriptive inventory. These are noted and described according to their associations with the Heritage Area sub-themes. This selection is based on current knowledge and is subject to future revision.

Kansas Territory: Geography

Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, National Historic Landmark, National Register. Fort Leavenworth, with many historic houses and buildings, is considered one
of the most significant historic military installations in the Nation. The fort is the oldest active army post west of the Mississippi River. From the time of its founding in 1827 until the present, it has served as a front-ranking military installation. Soldiers helped protect westward travelers. For 30 years, Fort Leavenworth was the chief base of operations on the western frontier. When Kansas Territory was organized in 1854, Governor Andrew Reeder set up executive offices on the post and lived there for a short time. Mounted troopers from Fort Leavenworth were instrumental in enforcing an end to the violence that marked the “Bleeding Kansas” conflict.

In 1995 a National Park Service study identified 237 contributing buildings in the fort’s historic district dating from 1832 to the 1940s. The district also includes three historic structures and twenty-two archeological sites. The National Historic Landmark district includes 213 acres and preserves some of the most valuable historic military architecture in the United States. Today the Frontier Army Museum holds collections from the fort’s history and interprets its national significance. Fort Leavenworth relates to the Kansas Geography, “Bleeding Kansas,” African American and Native American sub-themes.

Fort Riley, Geary County, Junction City vicinity, Main Post area, National Register. The early history of Fort Riley is closely tied to emigration and trade along the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. During the 1850s, a number of military posts were established at strategic points to provide protection along these arteries of emigration and commerce. In 1853, a military camp was named “Fort Riley” for Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Riley who had led the first military escort along the Santa Fe Trail in 1829. Fort Riley’s design followed the standard frontier post configuration and buildings were constructed of the most readily available material - in this case, native limestone. Many of the fort’s original buildings are intact and can be visited today.

As the fort grew, troops were drawn into the national debate concerning Kansas, debated not far from the fort, at Pawnee, when the brief territorial legislative session met in 1855. Slavery was an issue within garrison just as it was in the rest of the country. The seeds of sectional discord were emerging that would lead to “Bleeding Kansas” and eventually, civil war. Increased tension and bloodshed between pro and anti-slavery settlers resulted in the use of the Army to “police” the troubled territory. Soldiers continued to patrol the Santa Fe Trail in 1859 and 1860 due to increased Indian threats.
The outbreak of hostilities between the North and South in 1861 disrupted garrison life. Regular units returned east to participate in the Civil War while militia units from Kansas and other states used Fort Riley as a base from which to launch campaigns and offer a degree of protection to trading caravans using the Santa Fe Trail. In the early stages of the war, the fort was used to confine Confederate prisoners. At the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865, Fort Riley again provided protection to railroad lines being built across Kansas. The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments — the famed “Buffalo Soldiers” — were stationed at Fort Riley several times during their history. Fort Riley relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography, “Bleeding Kansas,” African American and Native American sub-themes.

Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Old Highway 54 West, Fort Scott. (1842-1873) National Historic Landmark, National Register, National Park Service Site. Fort Scott was established in 1842 as a base for the Army’s peace-keeping efforts along the “Permanent Indian Frontier.” The fort was garrisoned by dragoon and infantry soldiers. Dragoon soldiers provided armed escorts for parties on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, surveyed unmapped country, and maintained contact with Plains Indians, while infantry soldiers were responsible for most of the routine duties and construction of the fort. Both infantry and dragoons played a major role in the Mexican War and the opening of the West. The U.S. Army abandoned Fort Scott in 1853. The buildings were sold at public auction in 1855 and then became the nucleus for the town of Fort Scott.

In the 1850s, Fort Scott was involved in the turmoil and violence of the “Bleeding Kansas” years. The town was a pro-slavery center during this time period, while Free State settlers occupied much of the surrounding countryside. This division was manifested at the site of the fort where a former infantry barracks served as the Western Hotel (proslavery), while directly across the old parade ground stood the Free-State Hotel, occupying a former officer’s quarters. Incidents of violence compelled the military to return to Fort Scott periodically to restore order throughout this era.

When the Civil War broke out, a new wave of conflict engulfed the area. The United States Army returned to Fort Scott and established a major military complex. This complex included a supply base, a training ground, an army hospital, and a military prison. The town served as a logistical center for troops operating in Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and the Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Fort Scott was also a refugee center for the many people left homeless in this region during the war. The First and Second Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiments, the first African-American troops from a Northern state, were mustered in at Fort Scott. Also present in the region were three regiments of Indian Home Guards, the largest concentration of American Indians to serve in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. Today one can visit eleven historic buildings with thirty-three historically furnished rooms. The site also has three museum areas with exhibits. Fort Scott relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography, “Bleeding Kansas,” African American and Native American Struggle sub-themes.
Lanesfield School, Johnson County, 18745 S. Dillie Road, Edgerton vicinity, Johnson County Museums, National Register. This one-room limestone school is the only building which remains on the town site of Lanesfield, a mail stop on the Santa Fe Trail. Built in 1869, former students remembered attending school and watching wagon trains pass by. Lanesfield School relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography sub-theme.

Mahaffie (J.B.) House, Johnson County, 1100 Kansas City Road, Olathe, National Register. The Mahaffie stagecoach stop & farm is the last remaining stagecoach stop on the historic Santa Fe Trail open to the public. James Beatty Mahaffie and his wife, Lucinda, moved in 1857 to Olathe, Kan. and flourished as a livestock breeder and farmer. During the border wars, the Mahaffies were visited several times by border ruffians. Beginning in 1863, Mahaffie provided livery service and meals for the westbound stagecoach trade. The Mahaffie House relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography sub-theme.

Vermillion Creek Crossing, Pottawatomie County, Oregon Trail, 6 miles northwest of Belvue, National Register. This site also is known as the Louis Vieux Ford. Vieux was Pottawatomie Indian and French. About 1848, Vieux moved to land in what became Pottawatomie County, located on the Oregon Trail near the Vermillion River crossing. The Vieux family built and operated a toll bridge over the river. Vieux served as a business agent and interpreter and occasionally represented the tribe in Washington, D.C. The site relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography sub-theme.

Rock Creek Crossing and Oregon Trail Park, Westmoreland, Pottawatomie County. Because of Scott Spring, a dependable water source near the Rock Creek Crossing of the Oregon Trail, most of the area now occupied by the town of Westmoreland served as an emigrant campground. Presently, there is a park with a walking trail at the crossing. The site relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography sub-theme.

Douglas County Santa Fe Trail Segments, Douglas County Prairie Park, 3 miles east of Baldwin on US-56, National Register. At the junction of the Santa Fe Trail and the Oregon Trail west of present-day Gardner, Kansas, the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails separated after following the same route from Independence, Missouri. In the 1840s, a sign that said “Road to Oregon” was erected at this site. A dramatic set of Santa Fe parallel ruts is located in Douglas County.
County Prairie Park, adjacent to Black Jack State Park, east of Baldwin City. As the National Park Service National Santa Fe Trail map has noted, these ruts are among the finest along the entire length of the trail. The Prairie Park relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography sub-theme.

Hole in the Rock, south of Hwy 56, west fork of Tauy Creek, rural Douglas County, south of Willow Spring 2 miles, 1.5 East. Hole in the Rock is a large deep spring in the eastern Kansas prairie. Native Americans incorporated the site into Kaw and Osage lore. These groups competed for use of the water and the watering place also became a landmark along the Santa Fe Trail. The Hole in the Rock site relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography and the Native American struggle sub-themes. (See Figure 4-6, Kansas Territory: Geography Assets.)

The Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas

Several sites important to the Kansas Territory: Geography sub-theme also are related to the sub-theme of The Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas. These include Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley, and Fort Scott. Because the designation and interpretation of properties has occurred over time without a management plan, the list of essential sites is not comprehensive and equally representative of each of the identified sub-themes. In the development of the heritage area management plan, these imbalances should be addressed. However, sites related to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas are particularly important. The following properties are prominent examples of the public interpretation of this sub-theme.

Constitution Hall, Lecompton, Douglas County, 319 Elmore, Lecompton. (1857) National Historic Landmark, National Register, and Kansas State Historical Society site. During 1857 this building was one of the busiest and most important in Kansas Territory. Thousands of settlers and speculators filed claims in the United States land office on the first floor. Upstairs the district court periodically met to try to enforce the territorial laws. Most Free State settlers refused to obey these laws because they had been passed by the proslavery territorial legislature. This resistance made law enforcement nearly impossible for territorial officials.

In January 1857 the second territorial legislative assembly met on the upper floor. Although still firmly proslavery, this group removed some of the earlier laws that their antislavery neighbors opposed. The Lecompton Constitutional Convention met that fall in this same second-floor assembly room. The document representatives created protected slavery no matter how the people of Kansas Territory voted. This was intolerable for their antislavery opponents, who refused to participate in what they considered to be an illegal government. Eventually the Lecompton Constitution was defeated at the national level.

Free State settlers gained control of the territorial legislature in the October 1857 election. Two months later this new legislature was called into special session to deal with critical territorial problems. Legislators met in Constitution Hall, the same Lecompton...
Constitution Hall has a land office and the room where the Lecompton Constitution was written. Exhibits discuss slavery and the territorial governments. Constitution Hall relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Marais Des Cygnes Massacre Site, Linn County, (1858), Six miles north on U.S. 69, three miles east on 1700 Road of Pleasanton. National Historic Landmark, National Register, Kansas State Historical Society site. During the years of Bleeding Kansas, numerous instances of violence took place between free-state and pro-slavery groups. Men were attacked, beaten, and killed, often for no reason except their views on slavery. In Linn and Bourbon Counties, on the eastern Kansas border, raids were frequently carried out by opposing factions. Tense encounters between free-state and pro-slavery settlers continued through 1858. On one occasion a free-state group leader rode into the town of Trading Post and notified the proslavery people to leave the territory.

A leader of the proslavery faction was Charles Hamilton, a native of Georgia who had come to the border area in 1855 to help make Kansas Territory a slave state. In May 1858, he along with other pro-slavery supporters captured eleven free-state men near Trading Post in May 1858, and killed five, some of whom were his neighbors. The “massacre” appalled the nation, and John Greenleaf Whittier wrote a poem on the murder, “Le Marais du Cygne,” which appeared in the Atlantic Monthly. Locally,
indignation accompanied feelings of shock. John Brown, arriving at the scene toward the end of June, built a “fort” near the site which was occupied until the end of the summer of 1858. This site is not interpreted by museum staff but historic markers interpret the site for visitors. The site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

First Territorial Capitol, Geary County, Pawnee, Exit 299 on I-70, via Huebner Road in Fort Riley, Kansas State Historical Society, National Register. Early in the summer of 1855, members of the territorial legislature journeyed to the town of Pawnee, adjacent to the Fort Riley military reservation, to attend the first session on July 2 called by Governor Andrew H. Reeder.

Most of the legislators who came to Pawnee were sympathetic to the proslavery cause. They had been elected on March 30, 1855, with the aid of Missourians who had crossed the border to vote. The election was contested by Free State settlers, but the fraudulent votes helped to overwhelm them. Because of this illegal selection of representatives, antislavery Kansans called this the “bogus” legislature and the laws it passed “bogus laws.”

Since most of the legislators were from the border towns with interest in Missouri, they wanted the administrative center located in the eastern part of the territory where their strengths lay. On July 4 the legislature passed a bill providing for the temporary establishment of the capital at the Shawnee Methodist Mission. Two days later the governor vetoed it on the grounds that the legislature had overstepped the authority conferred upon it by Congress. Both houses, however, promptly passed the bill over his veto and then adjourned to meet at Shawnee Mission on July 16. The site’s stone building contains exhibits on Kansas territorial politics, as well as river and rail travel, and the story of the early city of Pawnee. The first Territorial Capitol relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Shawnee Methodist Mission, Johnson County. 3403 West 53rd in Fairway near Kansas City. National Historic Landmark, National Register, Kansas State Historical Society site. Shawnee Indians, with other eastern tribes, were part of the Indian Removal. The Shawnee immigrated into Kansas in the 1820s and 1830s. Paschal Fish, a white chief of the Shawnees, requested a missionary in 1830 and Reverend Thomas Johnson, a Methodist minister, was appointed missionary to the Shawnees. He arrived in present-day Turner, Wyandotte County, to begin the first Shawnee Methodist Mission in 1830. The school was in operation at that location until 1839, serving the Shawnee and Delaware tribes. Eventually Johnson became dissatisfied with the school’s operation and proposed to the missionary society that a central school be built to serve many tribes. A site was chosen where a branch of the Santa Fe Trail passed through the Shawnee lands. Building began,
and the boarding school opened at the present Johnson County location in October 1839. Indian children of many tribes were sent to this school to learn basic academics, manual arts, and agriculture. Some of the tribes represented were the Kaw (Kansa), Munsee, Delaware, Ottawa, Chippewa, Otoe, Osage, Cherokee, Peoria, Kickapoo, Pottawatomie, Wea, Gros Ventres, Omaha, and Wyandot. At the height of its activity, the mission had more than two thousand acres with sixteen buildings, including the three large brick structures, which still stand, and an enrollment of nearly two hundred Indian boys and girls.

In 1854 Kansas Territory was established. Andrew Reeder, newly-appointed territorial governor, had his offices at the mission. Following their adjournment from the first territorial capitol, the legislature met at the mission. During this legislative session, the so-called “bogus laws” were passed in an attempt to perpetuate slavery in Kansas.

In 1858 Reverend Thomas Johnson turned the school over to his oldest son, Alexander, who ran the mission until it closed in 1862. Reverend Johnson was murdered in 1865 by those believed to be Southern sympathizers who apparently were angered that Johnson, a proslavery man for many years, swore an oath of allegiance to the Union at the start of the Civil War. During the war, the grounds became a camp for Union soldiers. The site is interpreted today and has teachers’ living quarters, classroom, and dormitories.

Shawnee Mission relates the Kansas Territory: Geography, Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

Big Springs Stable, Douglas County, Hwy 40 east of E 100 Road, Big Springs. Big Springs was the site of a convention held in September 1855 as one of a series of public meetings to organize resistance to the actions of the “bogus” or pro-slavery territorial legislature. These meetings led to the founding of the Free State Party. The Big Springs Convention endorsed a resolution calling for a people’s convention to be held in Topeka. Delegates at Topeka drafted a constitution calling for admission of Kansas as a Free State. This public commitment to resist the formally elected territorial government made a struggle in Kansas and in Congress inevitable. The old stable, a stone building which sits along US Highway 40, dates from the territorial period. The Big Springs site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Blanton’s Crossing, Douglas County, East of E 1400, Louisiana Street extended, Wakarusa River bridge vicinity. By 1855, Napoleon Bonaparte Blanton had built a toll bridge over the Wakarusa River south of Lawrence and the California Road crossing became known as Blanton’s Crossing. Travelers used the California, or Westport-Lawrence Road, beginning in 1849 and it was a popular route for many years. The crossing played a part in Sheriff Jones arrest of Jacob Branson, an abolitionist, who was eventually rescued by free-state supporters at
the crossing. This crossing was also chosen by Quantrill and his raiders as an escape route away from Lawrence. This site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

**Battle of Black Jack.** Douglas County, (Robert Hall Pearson Park), vicinity of N 175 and E 2000 roads, Palmyra Township. In June 1856, abolitionist John Brown and his Free State militia led an attack on a camp of a pro-slavery militia led by Capt. Henry Clay Pate and his Missouri followers had been looking for Brown and had spent the night at a popular camping ground on the Santa Fe Trail near Black Jack Creek. Though Pate outnumbered Brown, Pate surrendered in what John Brown later called “the first regular battle fought between Free-State and Pro-Slavery men in Kansas.”

Many consider the battle the first in the struggle that would become the Civil War. This site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

**Beecher Bible and Rifle Church.** Wabaunsee County, off K-18, National Register. The Beecher Bible and Rifle church was associated with a colony of Connecticut citizens who gathered to immigrate to the Kansas Territory to support the free soil/anti-slavery movement. Officially known as the Connecticut Kansas Colony, it became popularly known as the Beecher Bible and Rifle Colony after Rev. Henry Ward Beecher raised money to purchase 25 rifles for the colony members and one of his parishioners donated 25 Bibles. Charles B. Lines was the leader of the Beecher Colony. The Beecher Bible Church relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

**Quindaro Archaeological Ruins.** Wyandotte County. Vicinity of North 27th Street and the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks, Kansas City. National Register. The town of Quindaro was one of a number of territorial Kansas river ports established after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Platted by members of the New England Emigrant Aid Society and abolitionist Wyandot Indians, the town was located on a limestone ledge next to the Missouri River; an ideal stop for river boats which provided a safe port for Free State settlers. The town was also an Underground Railroad site. Named for Nancy Brown Guthrie, whose Wyandot name is the source of Quindaro, the town was a boom town until the Civil War. The town left a legacy after the Civil War in a thriving African American community. Quindaro also was the home of Clarina Nichols, a feminist reformer who was the newspaper’s assistant editor. She argued for a Free State and equal rights for women. The park includes the ruins of Quindaro buildings. The Quindaro Archaeological site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, Underground Railroad in Kansas, and the African American Struggle sub-themes.
Lane University, Douglas County, Lecompton, 640 E. Woodson Avenue, Lecompton, National Register. Part of the historic structure was originally planned to become the first pro-slavery Kansas Capitol building. Construction began in 1855, but was abandoned in 1857. Taken over by the United Brethren church in 1865, a building was finished in 1882 and the university named after James H. Lane, United States senator from Kansas. The Lane University structure relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

John Brown Museum, Memorial Park, Miami County, Osawatomie, Adair cabin 1854, National Register, Kansas State Historical Society site. This site is where Reverend Samuel and Florella Adair struggled to survive on the Kansas frontier while maintaining their Abolitionist principles. John Brown was half brother to Florella Adair and five of Brown’s sons moved to the Osawatomie area in 1855 as free-state settlers. Osawatomie was attacked and burned by proslavery forces on August 30, 1856, but the Adair Cabin, located some distance northwest of the town, survived. It is a typical rough cabin with a fireplace used for warmth and cooking, and the room in back is said to have hidden escaped slaves. Frederick, John Brown’s son, died nearby at the Battle of Osawatomie. John Brown stayed in the cabin with the Adairs from time to time. The site has the original Adair cabin with family furnishings and belongings as well as a collection of Civil War weapons. The Kansas career of Florella’s legendary half brother, John Brown, and his Abolitionist efforts is interpreted in an exhibit gallery. The Adair cabin relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Old Stone Church, 305 6th Street, Osawatomie, Miami County. One of the earliest churches in Kansas, this church was constructed by a Congregationalist group and is typical of the church structures built during Territorial Kansas. The building was dedicated to public worship in 1861. Its first pastor was the Reverend Samuel Adair, the brother-in-law of John Brown, the famous abolitionist. The Osawatomie church relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Isaac Goodnow House, Riley County, Manhattan, 2301 Claflin Road, (1861), Kansas State Historical Society site, National Register. After attending an antislavery lecture in 1854, given by Eli Thayer in Providence, Rhode Island, Isaac Goodnow and his brother-in-law, Reverend Joseph Denison decided to immigrate to Kansas to assist in the free-state movement. By March 1855 Goodnow had organized a company of two hundred men and women, who located the town site at present-day Manhattan where the Blue and Kansas Rivers meet. Manhattan grew rapidly as a free-state community.

Goodnow then turned his attention to building a Methodist school, Bluemont College.
In 1861, after returning from a trip East which included a visit with Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, Isaac purchased six acres of land within sight of the new college. Construction started immediately, and he and his family moved into Goodnow house in November 1861. Built in the 1860s and furnished with many family belongings, the Goodnow house reflects domestic life in the late 1800s and the Goodnow family. Eventually, Bluemont College became part of the national land grant college system as the Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science. The Goodnow home has original furnishing and documents related to Goodnow’s activities in Kansas. The Goodnow house relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Mine Creek Battlefield, Linn County, two miles south on U.S. 69, one-half mile west on K-52 in Pleasanton. Kansas State Historical Society site, National Register. Period of Significance: 1850-1874. Near the first lead mines in Kansas, and known for a crossing on the Military Road, Mine Creek was a baptizing and swimming place for local residents. But in 1864, the creek became the site of a major battle in Kansas between the Union and Confederate troops.

General Sterling Price had led a Confederate army into Missouri to help capture the state for the Confederacy. As he faced heavy losses in Missouri, Price turned west to retreat through Kansas. Kansas prepared for Price’s invasion when the governor, Thomas Carney called out the state militia. Fighting began along the Kansas/Missouri border and Confederates won several skirmishes. Federal cavalry troops began pursuing Price who crossed into Linn County and they overtook him October 25, 1864.

The decisive engagement came late in the morning. General John Marmaduke, one of the Confederate division commanders, was forced to fight a rear guard action on the north bank of Mine Creek to protect Price’s fleeing wagon train. He was supported by General James Fagan’s division, which had already crossed the creek. The two Confederate divisions contained about seven thousand men. Although the Union advance under Pleasonton numbered less than twenty-five hundred, the rebels were crushed by a furious cavalry charge.

Continuing his retreat, Price was forced to abandon plans to attack Fort Scott. His troops purposely destroyed most of the wagon train carrying their supplies and booty. On October 28, federal troops handed Price his final defeat at Newtonia, Missouri. The rebel army recrossed the Arkansas River on November 8. For all practical purposes, the Civil War in the West was over. The site has a visitor center with exhibits that describe the Civil War in Kansas and at Mine Creek. There are living history programs through the year and a walking trail that describes the battle site. The Mine Creek Battlefield site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.
Baxter Springs Massacre. Rural Cherokee County. Site marked by a Historical Kansas Road Marker 2 miles north of Baxter Springs. On October 6, 1863, Gen. James Blunt and about 100 men were surprised near Baxter’s springs by William Quantrill and several hundred Confederates masquerading as Union troops. As Blunt’s band was preparing a musical salute, the enemy fired. Although Blunt escaped the attack, ninety percent of his men were killed. The raiders also attacked 95 members of the 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry led by Lt. James Pond who were encamped at the springs. This force was likewise caught off guard but resisted until the enemy retired. Lt. Pond won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions that day. The battle sites are located in the present town of Baxter Springs. Some of the victims are buried in the national cemetery one mile west of town. The Baxter Springs Heritage Center and Museum also has exhibits on the “massacre.” The “Baxter Springs Massacre” site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Bell George and Annie) House, 1008 Ohio, Lawrence, Douglas County, National Register. George Bell and Annie Bell lived at 1008 Ohio in the stone house before Quantrill’s Raid on Lawrence in August 1863. Bell was the county clerk for Douglas County and was killed by the raiders. This gable front stone house sits on Mount Oread, a prominent natural landmark, in Lawrence. The Bell house relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Riggs (Samuel) House, 1501 Pennsylvania, Lawrence, Douglas County, National Register. This house was under construction at the time of Quantrill’s Raid on Lawrence in 1863. Riggs was a lawyer and became a county attorney, district attorney and judge. Judge Riggs prosecuted Quantrill at Lawrence in 1860 for burglary and larceny, and for arson and kidnapping under the name of ‘Charley Hart’. He served as a Kansas senator, and helped revise the Kansas civil and criminal codes. The Riggs’ house relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Miller (Robert H.) House, 1111 East 19th Street, Lawrence, Douglas County, National Register. Miller and his family arrived in Kansas in 1858 and the home was constructed soon after their arrival. The Miller house relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Eldridge House Hotel, 7th and Massachusetts, Lawrence, Douglas County, National Register. This is the original site of
the Free-State Hotel, burned in the sack of Lawrence May 21, 1856. Rebuilt and renamed the Eldridge Hotel, it opened in 1859. That structure was burned by Quantrill’s raiders in 1863, the hotel was rebuilt again in 1865-66. The current brick structure dates to 1925. The site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

House Building, 729-731 Massachusetts, Lawrence, Douglas County, Register of Historic Kansas Places. The House Building, once called the Miller Building, was the only remaining commercial building left along Lawrence’s main street after Quantrill’s Raid in 1863. Today the commercial building still fronts on Massachusetts, Lawrence’s main street although with a twentieth century façade. The building relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme.

Kansas State Capital, Capital Square, Topeka, Shawnee County. Topeka was named the Free State Capital in 1855 and became the state capital in 1861. Construction of the East Wing of the present building began in 1864 and was completed in 1869. At this time the state government moved from the temporary capital in the State Row office block (which included Constitution Hall, Topeka). An ambitious rehabilitation and restoration of the Kansas State Capital is now in progress. This site relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas sub-theme. (See Figure 4-7, Bleeding Kansas Assets.)

Underground Railroad

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NPS) has recognized seven sites in Kansas that relate to this sub-theme. These include Constitution Hall-Topeka, the John Doy Home site, the Henry and Ann Harvey Farmstead, the Captain William Mitchell Farmstead, Wabaunsee Cemetery, Clinton Lake Museum, and Watkins Community Museum.

“Constitution Hall” was the name given to a two-story building at this site, 427-429 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Shawnee County. In 1855 Free State settlers wrote a territorial constitution (“Topeka Constitution”) and elected a legislature that met in Topeka to demand the admission of Kansas to the Union as a free state and challenge the fraudulently elected proslavery legislature. The Free State constitution prohibited slavery in the territory. This building became known as the Free State capital. On July 4, 1856, federal dragoons dispersed the Free State legislature when it met in session.

“Constitution Hall” served as a center of community activities in Topeka during the Bleeding Kansas period. From 1864 to 1870, the capital of Kansas enclosed old Constitution Hall and extended at each end. The enlarged structure housed all the offices for the state government until a more prestigious capital building (still in use) was constructed. This site is being developed for interpretation. Constitution Hall, Topeka, relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Underground Railroad in Kansas sub-themes.

The Dr. John Doy homesite, Lawrence, Douglas County, is associated with the anti-slavery activities of Doy who was the gener-
al conductor of the Underground Railroad in the Lawrence area. He settled in Kansas in October 1854 and lived with his family in a log structure from 1854 to 1860. Doy was captured by proslavery supporters in January 1859 while conducting 13 fugitive slaves. Then in a daring rescue, he was freed from the St. Joseph, Missouri, jail and returned to Kansas. Doy’s capture and rescue was publicized nationally and aroused wider support for the Free State cause in Kansas and abolitionism. This site relates to the Underground Railroad in Kansas sub-theme.

This is the site of Henry and Ann Harvey’s cabin, Harveyville, Wabaunsee County. Constructed in 1854, the homestead was a station of the Underground Railroad in Kansas Territory. The Harveys were members of the Society of Friends and life-long opponents of slavery. They served as missionaries to the Shawnee Emigrant Indians. The original cabin survived until ca. 1900 when the present wood-frame house was constructed on the property. This site relates to the Underground Railroad in Kansas sub-theme.

The Captain William Mitchell house, Wamego, Pottawatomie County, began as a log cabin constructed in 1855. Mitchell built it with the help of other members of the Connecticut-Kansas Colony, later called the Beecher Bible and Rifle Colony. The members emigrated to Kansas to help insure the territory’s admission as a free state. They sheltered freedom seekers from Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas. Captain Mitchell acted as both station master and conductor on the Underground Railroad. The Mitchell cabin...
relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Underground Railroad in Kansas sub-themes.

Nearby, the Wabaunsee Cemetery, Wabaunsee, Wabaunsee County, is the final resting place of seventeen settlers who participated in the Underground Railroad. The cemetery is located one mile northeast of the historic community of Wabaunsee, home of the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church. The Wabaunsee Cemetery relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Underground Railroad in Kansas sub-themes.

Two other facilities offer particular interpretations of the activities of the Underground Railroad in Kansas Territory. Exhibits in the Clinton Lake Museum, Douglas County, interpret the history of Bloomington and other communities in the valley of the Wakarusa River. Many settlers in this area supported the Underground Railroad. The Watkins Community Museum, Lawrence, Douglas County, interprets the history of this prominent Free State town, a center of Underground Railroad activities.

Joel Grover Barn/ Fire Station, 2819 Stone Barn Terrace, Lawrence, Douglas County. The barn was built from 1857-1858 for the Grover family. They came to Kansas with assistance from the New England Emigrant Aid Company, a group established in 1854 and known for its anti-slavery sentiments. This barn, now incorporated into a Lawrence Fire Station #4, was once part of the Underground Railroad network in eastern Kansas. The Joel Grover barn relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Underground Railroad in Kansas sub-themes.

John Ritchie House, 1116 SE Madison, Topeka, Shawnee County, Register of Historic Kansas Places. This stone house is associated with John Ritchie, a prominent Free State settler. He was a leader of abolitionists in the Topeka area, an associate of John Brown, and a delegate to the Leavenworth and Wyandotte Constitutional Conventions. This building relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas, Underground Railroad in Kansas, and African American Struggle sub-themes.

**African American Struggle for Freedom**

As noted earlier, both Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley relate to this sub-theme. (See Figure 4-8, African and Native American Struggle Assets).

Monroe Elementary School, Topeka, Shawnee County, National Historic Landmark, National Park Service Site. On October 26, 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-525 establishing Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site to commemorate the landmark Supreme Court decision aimed at ending segregation in public schools. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously declared that “separate educational facilities are inherently unequal” and, as such, violated the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guaranteed all citizens “equal protection of the laws.”

The case was initiated by members of the local NAACP chapter in Topeka. Thirteen parents volunteered to participate. In the summer of 1950, they took their children to schools in their neighborhoods and attempted to enroll them for the upcoming school year and all were refused admission. The children were forced to attend one of four
schools in the city, including Monroe School, for African-Americans. For most African American students, this meant traveling some distance from their homes. These parents filed suit against the Topeka Board of Education on behalf of their twenty children. Oliver Brown, a minister, was the first parent listed in the suit, so the case came to be named after him. The legal issue was not that schools had separate but unequal facilities, the issue revolved around separation based on race.

Kansas and Monroe school were chosen for this court case specifically because of the state’s Free State heritage and anti-slavery beginnings. After the Civil War, a number of newly freed African Americans came to Topeka and built homes on land in this area developed by John Ritchie and others. Due to the sizable African American population, the school board decided to establish a school for black children in the neighborhood. The current building is the third Monroe school to sit on the corner of Fifteenth and Monroe streets. The first school was located in a small rented building that was used from 1868 until a permanent structure was erected in 1874. The current building was constructed in 1926 just to the south of the old school. Monroe was the newest of the four segregated schools serving Topeka’s African American community. The other schools were Buchanan, McKinley, and Washington. Washington no longer stands and the Topeka Board of

Figure 4-8, African and Native American Struggle Assets
Education no longer owns the remaining schools. The site is currently being restored by the National Park Service for a visitors’ center, a research center and forum for discussion of the Brown case and the Civil Rights Movement. Monroe School relates to the African American Struggle sub-theme.

Sumner School, built in 1935, is also in Topeka. This school drew the attention of the nation in 1954 because of the *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka* legal case. It was Linda Brown’s desire to attend Sumner School which was in the neighborhood nearest her home. The school relates to the African American Struggle sub-theme.

St. Luke’s AME Church, 9th and New York, Lawrence, Douglas County, Register of Historical Places. This church was organized in 1862 by runaway slaves, ex-slaves, and their children. At the time of Quantrill’s Raid in 1863, members were working on a new church. Poet and writer Langston Hughes attended this church along with his “Auntie” Mary Reed. Langston Hughes, in his autobiography, observed that he heard the rhythms that influenced his poetry in the black churches of Lawrence. This church is representative of several other AME churches in the study area that relate to the African American Struggle sub-theme.

Western University, 27th and Sewell, Kansas City, Wyandotte County. Western University had its beginning in the Quindaro Freedman’s School founded in 1880 by the Rev. Eben Blachley, a Presbyterian minister. The Freedman’s School was intended to provide an education for the children of escaped slaves and black families who had begun to settle in the area. The school received support from the state in 1867 and 1873, but became inactive following the Rev. Blachley’s death in 1877.

The school was revived in 1881 under the sponsorship of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and reopened in 1882. In 1891 the school was renamed Western University and moved from the valley to a new building, Ward Hall, near 27th and Sewell. William T. Vernon, who was subsequently named registrar of the treasury by President Theodore Roosevelt, was placed in charge of the school in 1896. When Vernon retired from the school on 1916, he left behind a flourishing campus with many fine buildings. Western University continued to prosper under Dr. H.T. Kealing, adding a junior college and a school of religion. As with many small schools, Western University was severely affected by the Great Depression and was finally forced to close in 1948. The Western University building relates to the African American Struggle sub-theme.

Native American Struggle

As noted earlier, both Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley relate to this subtheme.

Kaw Methodist Mission, 500 N. Mission, Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas State Historical Society, National Register. When the Santa Fe Trail was the great highway between the Missouri border and the Spanish town of Santa Fe, Council Grove was an important point on the route. Situated on the Neosho River, it was a natural stopping place, well-watered with abundant grass and timber. Here in 1825, the US commissioners negotiated with Osages for passage over their lands. This right of way became the Santa Fe Trail. In 1846, a treaty with the Kansa or Kaw Indians gave them a dimin-
ished reservation twenty miles square that included the site of present-day Council Grove. Traders and government agents soon followed the tribe to the new location. In this treaty, the government promised to make an annual payment of one thousand dollars to advance the education of the Kaw Indians in their own country. In 1850 the Methodist Episcopal Church South, which had ministered to the tribe since 1830, contracted with the government and completed the construction of a stone mission and school building by February 1851. During its use, the school averaged about thirty pupils a year. Instruction was given in spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic to boys only. A treaty with the Kaw Indians in 1859 provided that the reservation be diminished further to an area nine by fourteen miles. These lands were relinquished in the 1870s, and the tribe moved to a reservation in present-day Oklahoma.

The site, the stone mission building, has exhibits about the early “Kanza” or Kaw Native Americans, a photograph gallery, Santa Fe Trail exhibits, and early-day Council Grove artifacts. The Kaw Mission relates to the Kansas Territory: Geography and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

Pottawatomie Baptist Mission, Exit 356 on I-70, 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, Shawnee County, National Register, Kansas State Historical Society property. The mission, part of a complex of buildings, was built in 1847. It was operated as a boarding school for children of the Potawatomi Indians, an eastern tribe which had been forced west by the federal government in the 1830s. Native children struggled to adapt to a strange new way of life. School enrollment fluctuated from week to week. Disease often struck students and teachers. Because a branch of the Oregon Trail passed by the mission, it was almost impossible to keep hired hands from leaving the mission and heading west. The mission closed in 1861. The Pottawatomie Baptist Mission relates to the Native American Struggle sub-theme.

Pottawatomie Indian Pay Station, Mission Street, St. Marys, Pottawatomie County, National Register. The town of St. Marys was founded in 1847 as a Jesuit Mission and tribal headquarters, serving the Pottawatomie when that tribe was moved from the Sugar Creek reserve in eastern Kansas. St. Marys straddled the route of the Oregon-California Trail, the Fort Leavenworth - Fort Riley Military Road and the Smoky Hill Trail. The Indian Pay Station, the oldest building in Pottawatomie County, was built in 1857 by the U.S.
Government as an Indian Agency where the Pottawatomie transacted business with the U.S. government. It was later used to make payments for land taken from the Pottawatomie. The last payment was made from this location in 1870. The Pottawatomie Pay Station relates to the Native American Struggle sub-theme.

Grinter (Moses) House, 1420 South 78th Street, Kansas City, Wyandotte County, National Register, Kansas State Historical Society site. This two-story brick house constructed in 1862 overlooks the historic Delaware Crossing of the Kansas River. After Moses Grinter married Annie Marshall, a Delaware Indian, they operated a ferry at the crossing, a trading post with the Delaware from 1855 to 1860, farmed, and raised livestock. The state historical society acquired the property in 1971. Grinter House is related to the Kansas Territory: Geography, Bleeding Kansas, and Native American Struggle sub-themes.

Huron Indian Cemetery, Minnesota Avenue bet. 6th and 7th Streets, Kansas City, Wyandotte County, National Register. In 1842 the Huron, or Wyandot, Native Americans ceded their lands in Ohio and Michigan and began to immigrate to Kansas in 1843. Illness killed nearly 100 while camped along the Missouri River. The dead were carried to the west side of the river to a ridge overlooking the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. These burials established the Huron cemetery. In 1855, the Wyandots lost their tribal status and the tribe split. Many members moved south to Indian Territory, although some remained in the Kansas City area. These members prevented several efforts to sell or use the cemetery land for other purposes. The Huron Cemetery relates to the Native American sub-theme.

St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park, approximately 10 miles northwest of Mound City on County Road 1427, rural Linn County. During Indian removal in 1838, the Pottawatomie were forced from their homes in northern Indiana to eastern Kansas in the fall of 1838. Sister Philippine Duchesne arrived in Kansas in 1841 to help educate the Potawatomi children. The park occupies the site of the former Sugar Creek Jesuit Mission, around which the Pottawatomie attempted to establish a transplanted culture for the next ten years. The mission closed in 1848. The park is dedicated to the missionaries and Native Americans. Historical markers describe buildings and list those who resided or are buried at the site. The Memorial Park relates to the Native American Struggle sub-theme.

Whitefeather Spring, 3818 Ruby Avenue, Wyandotte County, Kansas City. National Register. The spring is associated with the Shawnee Prophet, Ten-Squa-TA-WA, a noted
leader of the Shawnee along with his brother Chief Tecumseh. The Prophet moved with a band of Shawnee to Kansas in 1828. He died in 1836 and was buried near the mouth of the Whitefeather Spring. George Catlin painted the Prophet in 1832 and the painting hangs in the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. Whitefeather Spring relates to the Native American Struggle sub-theme.

Graham Rogers House, 6741 Mackey, Overland Park, Johnson County, Register of Historic Kansas Places. Underneath the modern sheathing, the original part of this house is the two-story log house of Graham Rogers, a leader of the Shawnee Indians who were removed to Kansas Territory and then moved again to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) after the Civil War. The Rogers house relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Native American subthemes.

Jones (Tauy) House, rural Franklin County, National Register. John Tecumseh “Tauy” Jones was part Chippewa Indian and part white. Born in the year 1800, he came to the area as an interpreter for the Pottawatomie. He joined the Ottawa tribe and became their interpreter, advisor, and minister. He operated a trading post just south of the Marais des Cygnes River, where downtown Ottawa is today. Before the Civil War, Jones helped abolitionist John Brown in his anti-slavery activities. The existing house was built during the Civil War to replace an earlier structure from the territorial period. The Jones house relates to the “Bleeding Kansas,” Underground Railroad, and Native American sub-themes.

Oak Grove Cemetery, North 3rd Street and Waverly Avenue, Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas Historic Landmark. The town of Wyandotte (unincorporated) was chartered on June 8, 1858. At that time, the only cemetery close to the town was the Huron Indian Cemetery which was largely restricted to members of the Wyandot tribe. A ten-acre plot was selected at the crest of a low hill overlooking the Missouri River valley, and the cemetery was established before the City of Wyandotte which was incorporated in January 1859. Oak Grove cemetery relates to the Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas and Native American Struggle subthemes.

Curtis (Charles) House, 1101 Topeka Avenue, Topeka, Shawnee County, National Register. Charles Curtis was Vice President of the United States under Herbert Hoover (1929-1933). He is the only Kansan to hold the office of Vice President, and the only Vice President of Native American heritage. Curtis was one of the first supporters of women’s suffrage, and was influential in passing Native American and farm legislation. Born in 1860, his mother died in 1863, so he lived with his father’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Curtis, in North Topeka and with his mother’s mother, Julie Gonville.
Pappan, on the Kaw Indian Reservation in Morris County. His grandmother Pappan was granddaughter of the Kanza Chief White Plume. The Curtis house relates to the Native American Struggle sub-theme.

Haskell Institute, 23rd and Barker, Lawrence, Douglas County, National Historic Landmark, National Register. Haskell Indian Industrial Training School, a government boarding school, opened its doors in 1884 to begin an educational program focused on agricultural education in grades one through five. The U.S. government founded Haskell in part to fulfill numerous treaties that promised to educate Indians in exchange for their land. For more than one hundred years, American Indians and Alaska Natives have been sending their children to Haskell, and the school has developed from an industrial training school to a university. Haskell football teams from the early 1900’s to 1930’s are legendary. And even after the 1930’s, athletics remained a high priority to Haskell students and alumni. Today, Haskell serves as the home of the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame.

Haskell Indian Nations University, the only four-year Native American university in the United States, has grown over the last century from a school designed to assimilate Indian children into the white culture, to a fully accredited university that celebrates the diversity and culture of the dozens of federally-recognized Indian tribes throughout the country. A new museum has recently opened on the campus for visitors. Haskell University relates to the Native American Struggle sub-theme.

According to the State Historic Preservation Office, at the present time there are no sacred sites documented by NAGRPRA in the proposed Bleeding Kansas Heritage Area. Three sites in Douglas County—the Haskell University Medicine Wheel, a site near Highway 59 south of Lawrence, and a large glacial boulder in the Riverfront Park in Lawrence—have been mentioned as sacred by others. The Prairie Band Pottawatomie and Kickapoo Nations in Kansas have been contacted for comment on this proposed action.

CONCLUSION

The historic and cultural resources of the Bleeding Kansas Heritage Area are threatened by urbanization, neglect, lack of funds, and the lack of public awareness. Particularly in the Kansas River valley, rapid urbanization can result in the destruction of historic structures and historic landscapes. Low density development consumes rural land and therefore accelerates the loss of historic structures and landscapes. In more rural areas, population decline, depressed agricultural prices, and limited economic development can result in deferred maintenance and investment in historic properties. A lack of effective coordination among local and state authorities coupled with widespread public misunderstanding of the benefits of historic preservation contributes to the vulnerability of these resources. Presently, the process of identification, designation, and protection of Bleeding Kansas and Territorial period properties is inadequate to meet the cumulative threats to vulnerable properties. Even after significant properties are identified, they are subject to demolition and demolition by neglect. Recently in Johnson County, for example, an intact terri-
torial home and outbuildings were lost because their history was not widely known.

Many Kansans lack a useful knowledge of their local and state history and do not recognize the importance of their historic structures and sites. Some appreciate the resources, but are unaware of planning techniques and strategies that might help preserve them. Even when the historic significance of a property is recognized, individuals, organizations, governments often lack the funding to preserve such sites. Residents of the Bleeding Kansas Heritage Area do have a basic appreciation for their history, but have not initiated coordinated action to ensure that the landscapes, structures, and sites representing that regional history are protected.

Because of the activities of the Territorial Kansas Heritage Alliance and the Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area Planning Committee, the assets associated with the “Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom” theme have become more visible and valuable to Kansas citizens, city, county, state officials, and visitors. As more formal attention is focused on these assets with Congressional designation, they will become even more important. Thus, the National Heritage Area designation and the development of thematic interpretation will organize and strengthen the broad support for interpretation, protection, and management of these assets for the benefit of future generations of Americans.