



## Merriam Historic Sites & Markers

- **9725 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street** – Former residence of Shawnee Indian, John Silverheels built in 1830. Silverheels was given 800 acres in Northeast Johnson County in a treaty by President Buchanan. The 2-story log cabin is now covered by siding with an additional porch. Original fireplaces have been removed. This home is now owned by the VanNeuvenhouyse family. (no visitors please, but you may drive by).
- **6125 W. 61<sup>st</sup> Street** – Historical Marker: Site of the Shawnee Friends Mission, a school established by the Quaker Church to educate children of the Shawnee Indian tribe. The site was comprised of 320 acres with a main building that was 24 x 70 feet and three stories high. The building was built of walnut cut from the area and milled on the Kaw River. Built in 1845, the Mission existed until 1871 and the building was torn down in 1917 with scrap lumber being used to build various homes in the area.
- **8325 Johnson Drive** – Home of Dr. Loomis who bought most of the land and buildings located at the Quaker Mission. This home was built in 1886 and was added to the National Registry of Historic Places on May 17, 2006.
- **75<sup>th</sup> Street & Antioch (north-west corner)** – Antioch Cemetery which is the resting place of some of the Quakers who were associated with the Mission. The Cemetery dates back to before 1850 and a replica of the original church (Antioch Cumberland Presbyterian, formed in 1850) is now located in the cemetery.
- **9503 Johnson Drive** – Home of David Gee Campbell, the founder of Campbelltown. The original house was moved from Shawnee in 1864 and placed on an 18” rock foundation and basement, made from stone and sand hauled from Turkey Creek. The house burned down in 1890 and was later rebuilt on the original foundation. The house stands today with some changes and is owned by the Merriam Christian Church and currently serves as the office of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau.
- **Merriam Drive Circa 1940 Mural** – Mural by Merriam artist Michael Young depicting downtown Merriam in the early 1940s hangs in the lobby of the Merriam Community Center at 6040 Slater.
- **5820 Merriam Drive** – Merriam School, built in 1872, is the oldest building still standing in Merriam today. Originally constructed of bricks fired and made on site, this two-story building served all eight grades until 1911. Over the years, the building has been occupied by the Merriam Sunday School, two car dealers, gas service company, a garage, music company and Pittman Moving Company.
- **51<sup>st</sup> & Grandview** —Historical Marker: Esther Brown Memorial Park. In memory of Esther E. Brown, a local resident who organized citizen support in the South Park area for litigation leading to the 1949 Webb vs. School District #90 case and ultimately the Kansas Supreme Court’s decision to admit black children to the schools.
- **Philadelphia Baptist Church, 9420 W. 50<sup>th</sup> Terrace** —Historical Marker: Commemorates Walker School, the site of “Walker’s Walkouts.” Originally built in 1888 to house both black and white students, the school district began separating blacks from whites in 1900. New structures were built to

serve the white students while the black students continued to attend school in this one-room building with poor conditions. In 1947, a new South Park Elementary School opened for white students and black students were not allowed to attend. With the aid of Esther Brown, black parents organized a boycott of Walker School and children attended school in private homes, taught by Corinthian Nutter.

- **South Park Exhibit: Merriam Park Elementary School, 6100 Mastin** -- In 2002, the Johnson County Museum, in partnership with South Park Elementary, unveiled an exhibit recounting the struggle for equal education in South Park. This exhibit originally hung in the central hallway at South Park Elementary. It has been permanently moved to the Merriam Park Elementary School (this school is a merger between the former South Park and Merriam elementary schools, which both closed in 2007). In May, 2004, this exhibit was dedicated to the memory of Corinthian Clay Nutter (1906-2004), an inspiring educator and civil rights leader in Johnson County, Kansas.
- **Santa Fe & Oregon Trails** – These trails, along with the Frontier Military Road (now known as the Frontier Military Historic Byway) went through Merriam. Markers are placed throughout the city depicting these locations.
- **City Hall Mural, 9001 W. 62<sup>nd</sup> Street** – A large mural in the community training room depicting much of Merriam’s history including: Merriam Park, David Gee Campbell, covered wagon, Quaker Mission, American Indians, a trolley car, the first permanent school building and many other Merriam homes and businesses from the 1860s to the 1930s.
- **Merriam Historic Plaza, 6304 E. Frontage Road** – Merriam Historic Plaza & Visitors Bureau is a beautification project along Interstate 35 and Shawnee Mission Parkway. This project enhances the entrance to Merriam and provides visitors and residents with an outdoor preview of Merriam’s history from pre-settlement to current day. A paved walking path, 12 historic markers, beautiful fountains and custom-designed sculpture are a few of the features of this site. Merriam Historic Plaza also houses the Merriam Visitors Bureau offices, the historic collection of Campbellton to Merriam, and includes meeting space for up to 30 people, available for weekday rentals.