

First Impressions

Formoso, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

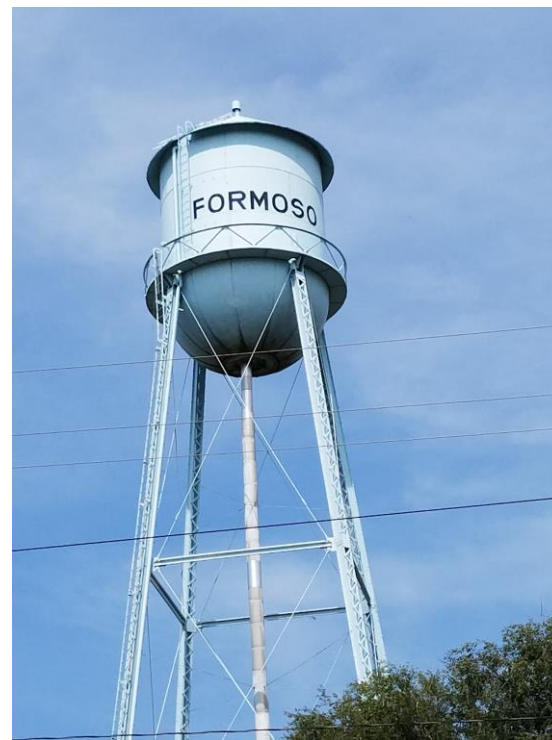
The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



Formoso Demographics

- Population – 93
- Median Household Income - \$29,375
- High School Education –88.3 %, College Education – 8.3%
- Median resident age is 56.5 years
- Poverty rate is 18.0%

Source: <http://factfinder2.census.gov>



Web Presence:

- <http://jewelcountykansas.com/communities/jewell-2/>
- https://www.facebook.com/search/str/formoso+thrift+store/keywords_search



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Nice “Welcome to Formoso” sign on HWY 36
- Nice well painted farmstead to the west before entering town
- An old PRIDE sign



- Nice Nondenominational church sign
- Dated bridge caught your attention



- Mixed housing on North/South entrance road
- Also a variety of ag equipment



- Many old vehicles on unkempt lots
- Number of garden plots



Downtown Business Area

- One block downtown
- Nice plantings in the block south
- Tree city USA



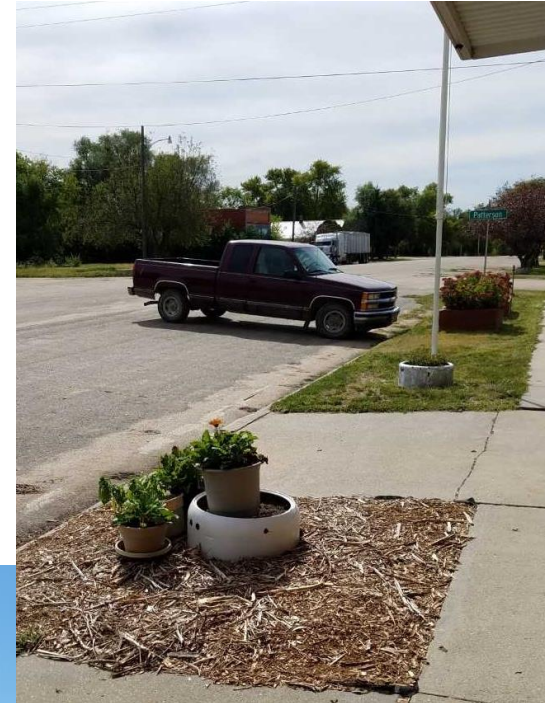
- Formoso Thrift Shop
- Library and City Hall
- Post Office



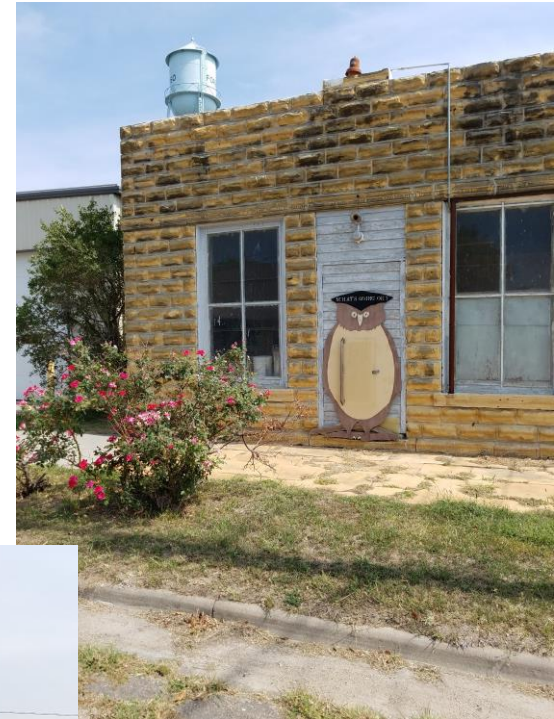
- The Barn Restaurant –friendly with good food
- Recycling trailer



- Two nice mini parks downtown
- Planters to provide streetscaping



- Several empty building
- What is the use of the building with the owl?



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Heavy equipment found throughout town
- Old scale house once used for recycling
- Saw trucks for Smith Harvesting on Main Street



- Appears to be an old shop of some sort
- Telephone service shop? Nice plantings on the south side



Health Care Services

- No health care

Housing

- Total Number of Housing Units – 59
- Median house value in \$16,300
- Occupied – 38
- Vacant - 21
- Home owned – 65.8%
- Homes rented – 34.2%
- Approximately 81.4% of houses were built before 1939



Housing observations

- Mixed housing
- Some well maintained



- A significant number need attention or torn down



- A lot of overgrowth in residential areas



Childcare

- Only a small number of children. Grandparents help out or children go with parents to neighboring community where they work.

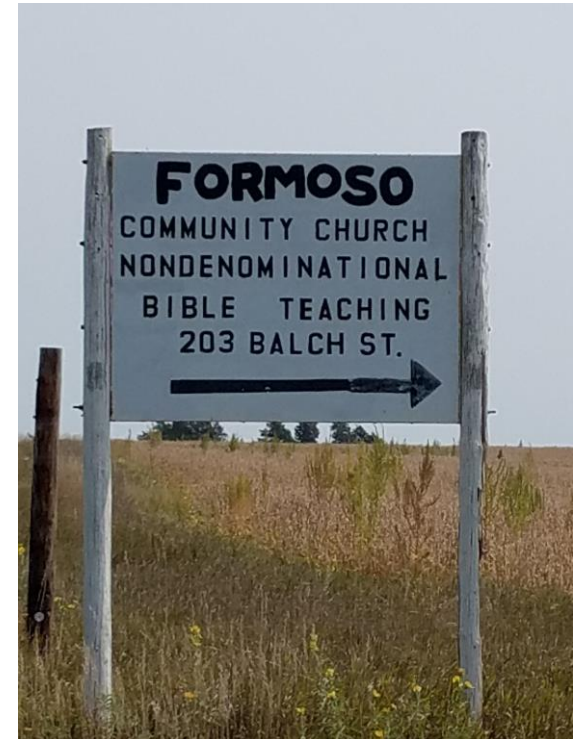
Schools

- No school in Formoso
- Students travel several different directions
- Sign indicating the location of the old school



Faith/Religion

- One church located in the community
- Nice sign off of HWY 36
- Handicap accessible



Civic

- Formoso Garden Club
- Garden Club runs a vegetable stand
- Beautifies downtown



- Donated benches from an area bank
- Memorial tree plantings
- Placque? Significance?



Public Infrastructure

- Streets a mix of paved and gravel
- Some sidewalks



- City Hall and Library in the same building –hours posted on window
- Info on Solomon Valley Transportation
- Very nice rural fire department across the street



- Very nice city park
- County website indicated it was renovated in 2013
- Good playground equipment
- Tennis/basketball court



- Nice shelter
- Public restrooms
- Picnic tables could use some paint



- Small area downtown, could this be cleaned up and once again used as a planter?



Recreation/Tourism

- Skating Rink
- Formoso High School Sign



Restaurants, Specialty Shops or Attractions that would bring you back

- The Barn Restaurant, the skating rink and thrift shop are all possibilities if folks know they are there



Most Positive Observations!!

- The Barn Restaurant, a great community service
- The Thrift Shop, a place for residents to make economical purchases
- The vegetable stand and garden plots



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Location – one mile off of HWY 36
- The number of run down properties and vacant building
- Abandoned vehicles
- Age of population



What will you remember the most in six months from now?

- The Barn Restaurant
- The Skating Rink
- The number of garden plots and the vegetable stand
- The abundance of overgrown and rundown properties



Recommendations:

- Updated information on Jewell County website
- Clean-up of properties/demolition
- Sign on HWY 36 to advertise the restaurant, skating rink and thrift shop

Kansas PRIDE is helping communities create the
type of place they want to call “Home”



- The Dane G. Hansen Foundation wants to help communities in Northwest Kansas become the best they can be and take great PRIDE in who they are and what they can be.



- <http://danehansenfoundation.org/>