

First Impressions

Victoria, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation

The logo for the Dane G. Hansen Foundation features a stylized orange arch above the text "DANE G. HANSEN" in a bold, dark blue serif font. Below this, the word "FOUNDATION" is written in a smaller, dark blue serif font, with each letter separated by a wide space. A second, larger orange arch is positioned behind the word "FOUNDATION".

DANE G. HANSEN

F O U N D A T I O N

Victoria Demographics

- Population – 1,214
- Median Household Income - \$56,300
- High School Education – 97.8%, College Education – 29.4%
- Median resident age is 35.5 years
- Poverty rate is 6.2%

Source: factfinder.census.gov



Web Presence/Google Search:

- www.victoriaks.com
- <http://www.stfidelischurch.com/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Victoria-KS-101620189914182/>



The Basilica of St. Fidelis
"The Cathedral of the Plains"

Victoria, Kansas

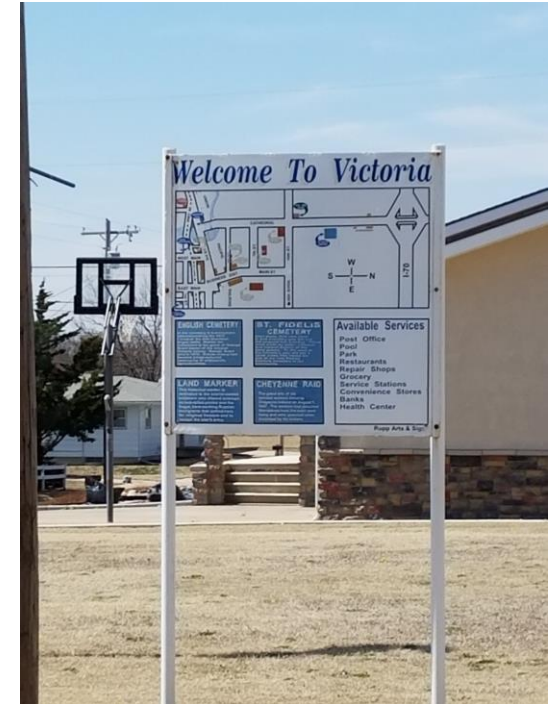
A Catholic Church

The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Nice & clean
- Well kept community



- Did not notice welcome signs coming into the community
- Did see welcome banners on the light poles
- Small welcome sign with a community map



- Areas right off of I-70 and East HWY 40 could use some clean-up
- Many vacant facilities along those areas



Downtown Business Area

- Downtown buildings well taken care of
- Easy to see signs for each office
- Good streets and sidewalks



- Did not see retail businesses
- Mostly service oriented
- Ladies at the thrift shop were stocking shelves and said hello as we entered



- Nice landscaping at the Post Office
- Attractive pots and art work by various businesses



Other Retail Areas

- Victoria Lumber Co. located on old HWY 40
- Convenience Store



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Along HWY 40
- Ballfield Road



- North of town off of I-70

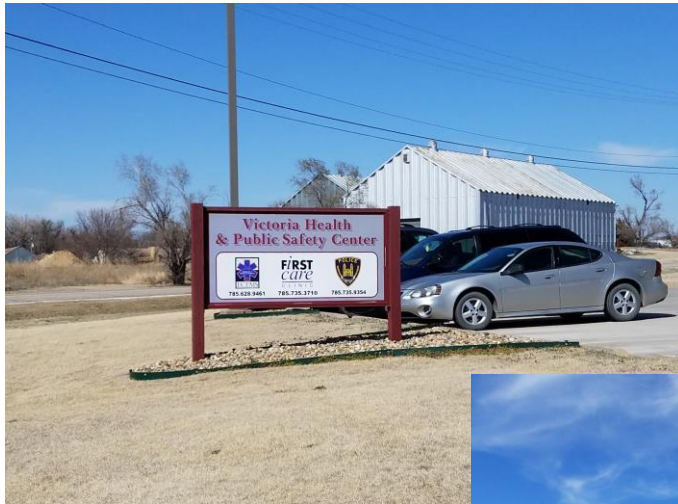


- Ag and Automotive services on the fringe of downtown



Health Care Services

- Nursing home was closed but they still had a sign with directions on how to get to it.
- Visitors did not find the First Care Center



Housing

- Total Number of Housing Units – 578
- Occupied housing units – 536
- Vacant housing units – 42
- Owner occupied – 79.3%
- Renter occupied – 20.7 %
- Median house value - \$136,000



Housing observations

- Well kept yards and exteriors
- Not many houses for sale



- A set of income based apartments
- Only a few properties which needed some TLC



Schools

- Grade school – old high school



- Junior & High School
- Well Maintained
- Website had good information about academics, athletics and events



- Good community support for the school



Childcare

- No information was noted

Faith/Religion

- St. Fidelis Catholic Church – Cathedral of the Plains
- Saw a second church on a map of Victoria but did not see it on the website or on our visit



- Office and Gift Shop
- The Gift & Thrift Shop



Civic

- Lots of organizations listed on the website
- VFW



Public Infrastructure

- Streets were smooth
- Lack of sidewalks in residential areas



- City Hall is nicely signed
- Fire Protection
- Police



- The swimming pool & park were clean & well taken care of



- No library
- They did not find the ball park or recycling facilities



- A few areas which could use some clean-up

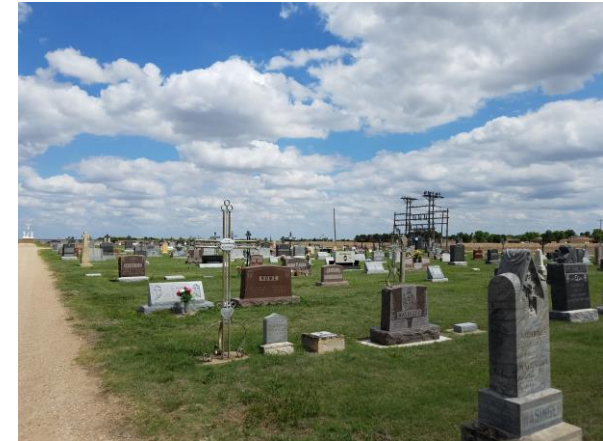


Recreation/Tourism

- The church is Victoria's biggest asset



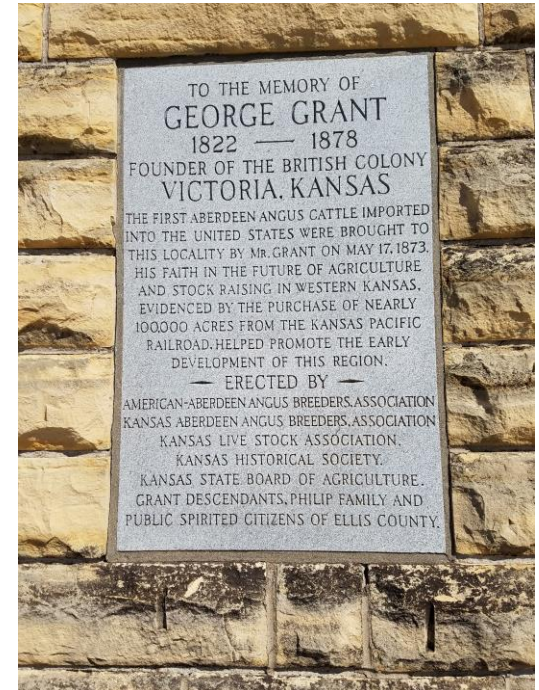
- St. Fidelis Cemetery, original & current
- The metal cross headstones were unique
- The Veterans Memorial



- Community map
- Historical Landmark sign



- Angus Memorial
- Grant Cemetery



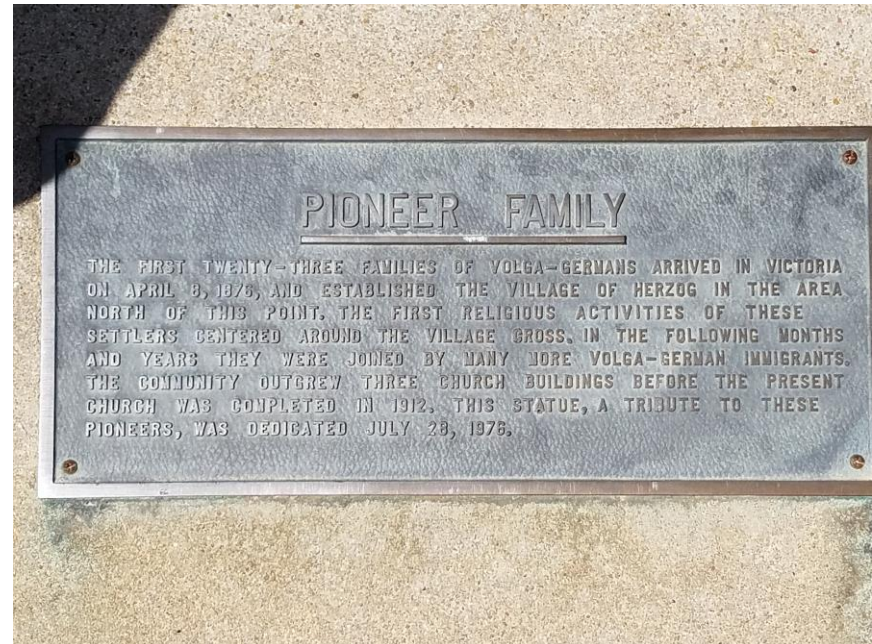
- Seth Family Memorial



- Don Weber yard!



- They did not mention or find Vernon Berens' Antique Machinery Shop or
- The German Immigrant statues



- There are several annual events but none were mentioned
- Did not find the golf course



Most Positive Observations!

- The tidiness of downtown and the residential areas showed a pride of community
- Beautiful church, nice school, beautiful cemetery. Loved the old crosses.



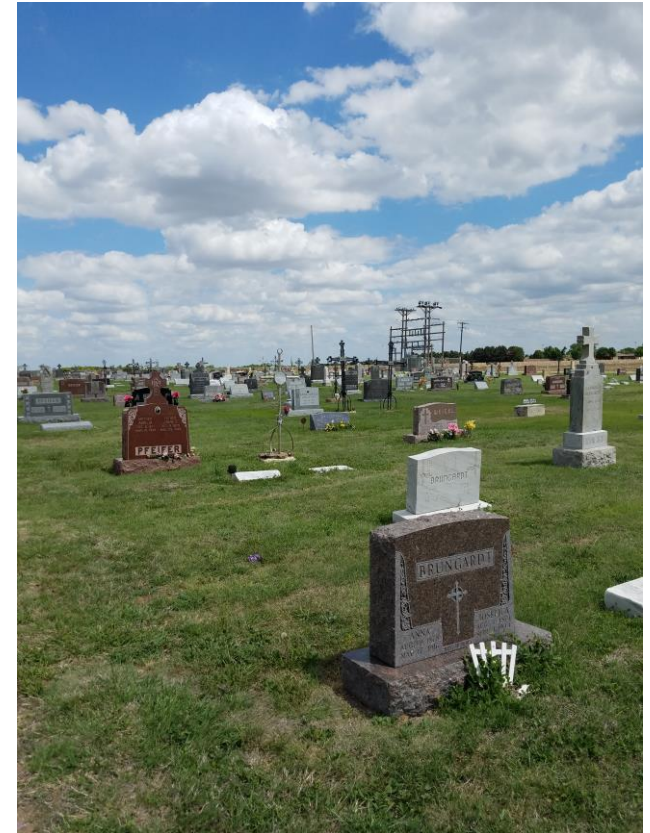
Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Need for signage in the community
- Not very many businesses



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

- The church
- Cross headstones
- A lot smaller than I thought



Recommendations:

- Community welcome signage
- Updating the welcome sign by the church
- Historical way finder signage
- Updating the community website
- Improving entrance appearance to the community



- 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/>