

Lackman-Thompson Farm (1887)

11180 Lackman Road – Lenexa

Register of Historic Kansas Places

Located at 11180 Lackman Road, the Lackman Thompson House was placed on the Register of Historic Kansas places in 1992 not only as a unique example of a farm residence, but also because of the two families that helped shape the development of Johnson County.



In 1885, William Lackman bought land along the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis rail line and in 1886 constructed his stately farm home. A mixture of the Second Empire and Queen Anne Victorian architectural styles, the house was

The Lackman Thompson home, located at 11180 Lackman Road, served as an inspiration for other residences in the county. In 1891, John Roe, built a similar home that became a landmark of Roeland Park; it was demolished in 1958. One hundred years after Roe, Whitaker Period homes built a modern replica at 10301 W. 140th Street in Overland Park. *Johnson County Museum Collection.*

envisioned from the start to impress. Lackman brought in European artisans to work on home and it featured unusually ornate plasterwork, stained glass windows and a basement wine cellar with a scalloped brick ceiling.

William Lackman, primarily a farmer, also had a dream of starting an interurban railway. Situated between the two largest cities in the area (Kansas City and the rapidly growing Johnson County seat of Olathe) the farmstead was ideally located for this endeavor. In 1901, he started an interurban railway called the Kansas City and Olathe with Shawnee resident and former Johnson County Treasurer, David B. Johnson. According to accounts of the time, two promoters ran off with the company funds, leaving the line bankrupt. Financially devastated, Lackman sold his home, furnishings, livestock, property and buildings to Frank Thompson in 1908 for the sum of \$32,000.

In 1908, the Thompson family sought to move to higher ground after surviving several floods in the Kansas City area. As an established horse and mule dealer from Kansas City, Missouri, Mr. Thompson became an early commuter using the #104 train daily from his new home in Johnson County to his office and barn in Kansas City. Over the years, the Thompsons raised horses and mules at the

farm and sold them throughout the United States, including 1,000 horses for the calvary during World War I.

The original wood barn built by Lackman burned in 1932 and Thompson replaced it with a unique brick barn with an arched steel roof. After many years in the Thompson family, the farm and home was donated to the Johnson County Community College and later sold to a developer. Today, the barn has been remodeled into a state of the art conference center and the home currently serves the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce.

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