

# VASSAR

Gabe Falmon & Jeremy Gaston  
Herald-Chronicle

Before a town site was selected and platted on the current site of Vassar, Oscar Fairbanks built a store soon after completion of the Ottawa, Osage City & Council Grove (OOC&G) railroad in 1886. The location was designated as Farmersville by the Post Office Department. The location was on former Osage Nation land, which had been served by the Sac and Fox Indian Agency, now known as the town of Quenemo.

On Sept. 21, 1886, the Farmersville site was platted. The post office department's designated site name was Lamont's Hill. The name was changed to Vassar in 1887.

At its peak, Vassar included two grocery stores, a post office, two hardware stores, lumber yard, blacksmith shop, bank, hotel, barbershop, rail depot, grain elevator and school. Since then, Vassar chose to become an unincorporated community, located south of Pomona Lake. An official census was also never taken in the city, because it was never incorporated.

Though not an official city, Vassar remains one of the population centers of the county. The community lies within Junction Township, which holds around 15 percent of the county's population and is the sixth largest township, despite not having an official city within its bounds. Junction Township holds around 1,200 people, with around 750 living in the vicinity of Vassar.

Today Vassar retains its post office and zip code. Its centerpiece is the red



old schoolhouse, which functioned as a school until the 1970s and was the "one room" schoolhouse in Osage County to close. The school now serves as a community building.

The town remains vital through tie-ins with nearby Pomona Lake. The Lamont Hill Golf Course offers nine holes of recreation adjacent to the town, along with a restaurant and hotel. The area is also served by additional restaurants, a gas station, a golf cart shop and an RV park.

Recreational opportunities include everything Pomona Lake has to offer, including the state and federal parks, and a variety of yearly events hosted within, including OKKids and Get Outdoors Day each summer.

Osage County News - All Year Long  
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