OTTAWA HISTORIC FLOODING

Floods have repeatedly impacted Ottawa. The 1951 flood reached above the 1st floor of buildings closest to the Marais des Cygnes River and spurred the need to build a levee and two upstream reservoirs. Floodwaters reached 43.0 feet on the gage and 1.5 feet above the door of the Old Depot Museum. Flood damages were $6.2 million for the 150 city blocks.

At a stage of 37 feet, flooding threatens homes in west and east Ottawa. Floodwater exceeded 37 feet in 1844, 1909, 1951, and 2007. This photo shows the 100 block of Main Street during the April 1945 flood.

This sign is in the leveed area. Levees and reservoirs reduce flood risk but do not eliminate it. Learn more about Ottawa’s flood history and how measures like flood insurance can lower your flood risk at the Kansas weblinks below.

Driving into floodwater is the number one cause of flood related deaths in Kansas. Do not drive into flooded areas!

Photo courtesy: Franklin County Historical Society.

HISTORICAL MARKER

Silver Jackets brings together federal, state, and local agencies to collaborate in reducing flood risk. To learn more about Kansas flood history visit: https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain/resources/historical-flood-signs