

PHOTO: DUGOUTS\SOD BLDGS.  
CLASSROOM.

Almost immediately after arriving in Nicodemus the settlers established a school to insure their children a chance at an education. Also a fellow named Zack Fletcher opened a store to supply the new town with necessary supplies.

PHOTO: SOD PLOW.

As soon as a sod plow arrived in Nicodemus the settlers began building sod houses and buildings. Willianna Hickman's husband Daniel was a minister in Nicodemus and was responsible for the building of one of the first churches in town, Mt. Olive Church.

PHOTO: SOD CHURCH.

PHOTO: CHURCHHOUSE.

At first the church was a simple sod structure, but eventually a limestone churchhouse was built.

PHOTO: RAILROAD.

In 1886 the townspeople actively sought a rail line. They recognized how vitally important the railroad was to the survival and success of their town. The town first negotiated with the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company for a rail line. The railroad indicated that it would require \$18,000.00 from the town and land owners would have to be willing to sell land to the railroad company for the right-of-way, at a reasonable price. The town raised the necessary money through a bond issue. However, the Missouri Pacific chose another route west. The Union Pacific also negotiated with the town, the money the town had previously raised would satisfy the railroad. But the Union Pacific ended up passing Nicodemus no closer than six miles away.

PHOTO: UNION PACIFIC.