

Homewood

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The first settlers in Homewood, southwest of Ottawa, on old Highway 50, were German immigrants who came in 1857. The land around Homewood was purchased by speculators who later sold the land to farmers. One of the early business settlers was Captain Abraham Funk of Pennsylvania who bought the small trading post there and added a store of goods valued at \$3,000. The Chippewa Indians often came to the store to trade. After serving in the Civil War and an assignment with General George Custer's regiment, Funk returned to Homewood in 1878 and was appointed postmaster.

Later the town served as a stop on the Kansas City, Burlington and Santa Fe Railroad when it was built. In 1883 Homewood had a population of 100 persons. Today a small number of families reside in old and new homes on the town site. Several old vacant business structures and a church remain.

By Jane Richards, 1992, and Deborah Barker, 2011