
P Manhattan/Riley County, Kansas RESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

Greetings from the President of the Preservation Alliance

Happy Holidays to everyone in the Preservation Community! For some of us, this is a very unusual holiday season because it is the first time in many years we have not sponsored the Home Holiday Tour to raise funds for the Riley County Historical Society and the Union Pacific Depot. I feel so GREAT everyday watching the daily progress on the Depot and I believe that this little fundraising hiatus is one that we all welcomed and deserve. To everyone who has worked so incredibly hard for the Depot by helping with Home Tours, Merchandise Fundraising, Mystery Tours, the Three Dollar Campaign and the other millions of "little things" that have kept us going for the past decade or so, I say a giant Sesquicentennial THANK YOU. Manhattan would not be the same, nay, would not even LOOK the same without all of your efforts. You can feel very proud.

So, having been successful in restoring the Depot, now we have the happy task of starting over, of finding a new project to help strengthen and encourage preservation of Manhattan's built environment well into the next 150 years. We have had several wonderful suggestions. One idea is creating a revolving loan fund to help families get started on the restoration of older structures in Manhattan. Another idea is supporting the financing and restoration of the Washington Marlatt Homestead on the KSU campus.

We have also, from time to time, played with the idea of collectively restoring a building that is in dire straits and using it as a model of how restoration projects work and are financed.

I don't want us to dangle in indecision for too long, but I believe that this group needs a bit of time off for reflection and re-organization, particularly in terms of membership before we take up one of these challenges. And along those lines, I'm happy to report that we have two new members who have taken on a more active role for the Alliance. Sally Lee has taken on the important task of editing our Newsletter, taking over for the indefatigable Marolyn Caldwell, whom we could not have done without these past several years. And taking up the neglected task of memberships, we can all thank new Board Member Debbie Saroff. Of course, we should all show our appreciation for the longstanding service of our board members, particularly the officers, who give of their time each and every week to keep us going and on the level. And I would especially like to thank past Presidents Dixie West and Jim Sherow for their leadership in the face of some of our most daunting challenges.

Ready, Set, Restore!!

Bonnie Lynn Sherow



Seven Dolor's Catholic Church

Manhattan's First Residential Historic District????

This fall in the History Department at Kansas State University, a group of very talented seniors in History have been working to outline, photograph, research and file the information required by the National Parks service for creating the first historic district in Manhattan outside of the downtown Poyntz Ave corridor district created in the mid 1970s. The proposed district, tentatively named, "Ward One Historic District" is bounded by 4th street on the east and Juliette to the west and includes Houston, Pierre and Colorado streets as well as the cross streets of 5th and 6th that connect them.

Neighborhoods are eligible to become Historic Districts if there are enough older buildings that are linked together through architecture and/or significance to create a distinctive feeling, place or character that is recognizable and should be preserved.

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These three blocks are primarily residential, and as anyone who has researched the history of Manhattan already knows, has one of the oldest and most interesting mixtures of high and low architectural styles in the city, reflecting Manhattan's growth and development over time.

One of the many benefits of forming a district is the potential for redevelopment and restoration of those buildings and homes that need updating through tax incentives and credits. Another benefit is overall design review. Residents in historic districts can help create guidelines for the design of new developments considered in their neighborhoods, adding a layer of protection to the value of their homes over time. Finally, an historic district creates a sense of place for its residents that they can take pride in and that other Manhattanites can proudly point to as the place where "it all got started."

The students of History 586, "Historical Thinking and Preservation" have done an outstanding job of making this new district a potential reality. A great deal more work needs to be done, especially by the owners, who will need to come together in their desire to recognize and protect their little piece of Manhattan's history before the district can be formed. Luckily for them, the hard work of research and documentation has already been done.

The students in the class are: Jenna Billings, Chris Boswell, Bill Busenbark, Erika Copeland, Brande Denton, Jesse Franz, Adam Plummer, Lindsay Reiners, Sheila Ruiz, Dan Runge, Shannon Searcey, Leslie Tangeman and Jacob Theis.



Colt House, Houston Street, now
the Morning Star Bed And Breakfast



Colorado Street Bungalow

Attention Board Members!_

- The December general membership meeting will not allow time for business, so let's mix business with pleasure over the holiday. You are invited to the Sherows for a business meeting generously mixed with holiday cheer on Thursday, December 15th at 7:30, 529 Pierre. Regrets only: 565-0086.
- Upcoming events in January: Regular meeting of the MRCPA board and interested members on Thursday January 12, 7:30pm, First Congregational Church. Put it on your calendar now!
- Deadline for newsletter items is **two** Thursdays BEFORE the general meeting. However due to the Holidays January's Newsletter deadline is DECEMBER 26th, 2005. To place an item in the newsletter, contact Bonnie Lynn-Sherow by email at blynn@ksu.edu or write to our newsletter editor, Sally Lee at cat_140203@hotmail.com.
The January Newsletter will feature the Union Pacific Depot restoration project.
- CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON. Andy Glasgow has graciously and generously loaned us both his time and skills with web design and has registered us under a new domain WWW.preservemanhattan.org. This website should be up and running very soon, so check it out! As soon as the website is up and running, we will be able to offer online payment for memberships and donations! Way to go Andy!



The Riley County Historical Society

'THE COMMUNITY BUILDING'

Our newest edition to the Register of Historic places.

MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

Regular Meeting: Second Thursday of each month 7:30 pm

Location: First Congregational Church, Juliette and Poyntz unless noted

President: Bonnie Lynn-sherow

Vice President: Michael Mecseri

Secretary: Linda Glasglow

Treasurer: Barbara Poresky

Newsletter Editor: Sally Lee

The businesses periodically featured in the Preservation Alliance newsletter have helped us defray our mailing and printing costs by becoming sponsors

Membership Information

Dues date from the Annual Meeting in September. Dues paid mid-year confer membership status until the next Annual Meeting. Dues are \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a family, and \$60 for a sponsor. Checks should be made out to 'The Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, Inc.' c/o P.O. Box 1893, Manhattan, KS 66505.

Questions? call Linda Glasgow at 785-565-6490.

If anyone has contributions for future M/RCPA newsletters, please contact Editor Sally Lee (816-529-8676) or e-mail cat_140203@hotmail.com

In Case You Haven't Yet Sent It In!

Membership Form - 2005-2006

Name or Names: _____
Street Address: _____
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Membership fees are \$15 per individual; \$20 per Family.

Sponsor fees are \$60/ year. Please send a business card for display in the newsletter.

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