



# MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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## National Historic Preservation Act Turns 50

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was signed into law on Oct. 15, 1966, by Pres. Lyndon Johnson and will turn 50 years old in 2016. The opening words of the NHPA read, "The Congress finds that the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage."

In the years leading up to the NHPA, historic structures were being destroyed across the country as the result of two government programs: the Urban Renewal Program and the interstate highway system. The Urban Renewal Program of the 1960s was intended to revitalize cities, but it resulted in the loss of many historic buildings in downtown areas. The construction of the interstate highway system also caused the demolition of many historic structures. Both were federally funded initiatives, and the desire to develop a mechanism that would protect historic properties from harm caused by the activity of the federal government led to the development of the NHPA.

One of the components of the NHPA is what's known as the Section 106 review. Sec. 106 requires that any project assisted by federal funding shall take into account the impact it will have on a historic building, district, site, structure, or object that is listed in the National Register or is eligible for listing. If a project may potentially have an adverse impact,

interested parties are given the opportunity to provide comments and to agree to strategies that will avoid or mitigate the impact.

Another outcome of the NHPA was the creation of state historic preservation programs and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The responsibilities of the SHPO include to conduct and maintain a statewide survey of historic properties, to identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register, to prepare and implement a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan, to cooperate with local governments in the development of local historic preservation programs, and to consult with federal agencies.

One of the main features of the NHPA was the creation of the National Register of Historic Places; the process to review, add, and delist properties, sites, objects, and districts to the National Register; and the process that protects listed properties. There are currently more than 80,000 properties listed in the National Register across the country. Riley County has a total of 37 properties, historic districts, and archaeological sites listed in the National Register or the Register of Historic Kansas Places. The first Riley County property to be listed in the National Register was the Goodnow Memorial Home, 2301 Claflin Road, which was listed in 1971, and the most recent additions are the

Francis Byron Kimble House, 720 Poyntz Ave., which was listed in October 2015, and the Prehistoric Sites of Wildcat Creek Watershed, Riley County, Kansas, which was added to the state register in November 2015 (see pg. 5).

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the NHPA, the M/RCPA will be featuring locally registered properties in the newsletter in 2016.

### Winter Social

The M/RCPA Board of Directors is planning a relaxing, stress-free post-holiday social event for all members in early 2016. Details to follow.

### Holiday Concert to Benefit Auditorium

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a music fraternity at KSU, in partnership with the Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium, will present the Third Annual Holiday Music Spectacular on the stage of Peace Memorial Auditorium, 1101 Poyntz Ave., on Tuesday, Dec. 15th, 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public with donations appreciated for the future restoration of Peace Memorial Auditorium.

Donations may also be sent to the Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium, P. O. Box 265, Manhattan, KS 66505. Checks should be made payable to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation.

## Ogden's Historic General Store & Brewery

One of Riley County's early settlers was entrepreneur Theodore Weichselbaum. He was a German immigrant who came to America in 1856 and lived for a brief time in New York City. Friends from Germany who owned a business in Ohio provided Theodore with goods and paid for him to travel to Leavenworth to serve as their sales agent. Instead, he ended up in Kansas City, but after only a few months, he left and headed west, arriving in Ogden in 1857, where he opened a general store in a log cabin ("Statement").

In Riley County's early days, Ogden was a bustling community, serving as the county seat and the location of the U. S. land office. However, the election that had led to Ogden's selection as the county seat later proved to be fraudulent. As a result, the county seat was moved to Manhattan, and the land office moved to Junction City ("History").

Fort Riley's proximity to Ogden led Theodore Weichselbaum to become interested in establishing "sutler" stores. "Sutler" was the term used for a civilian merchant who sold supplies to the military. The sutler established a store near a military base, or the merchant might travel to more remote locations and sell wares from a wagon. The sutler was licensed by the base's commander to serve as the civilian merchant, meaning the merchant had an exclusive contract.

Theodore established financial interests in sutler stores along with other business partners at five military bases, including Fort

Larned, Fort Dodge, Fort Harker, and Fort Wallace, which were in Kansas, and Camp Supply, which was in Oklahoma.

Theodore would travel to St. Louis to

purchase goods that he would then haul by wagon to Ogden and the sutler stores ("Statement"). He also traded with Native Americans for buffalo robes and antelope skins (Higgins).

In Ogden, Theodore's general store started out in a log cabin, which included a loft where he slept. In 1859, he built a limestone building, located at 102 South Walnut Street, to house the general store, post office, living space above, and an attached stable with a shed roof. The stable is also still standing. The general store is a two-story rectangular structure with a prominent belt course of stone separating the two stories and once featured four stone chimneys, of which, three remain. The stable is on the west side of the building and is also constructed of limestone.

Theodore became a prominent citizen of Ogden. He served as Ogden's postmaster, having received his commission under the administration of Pres. James Buchanan, and served as the postmaster for several years. After Ogden was officially organized as a city in 1870, Theodore served as one of Ogden's early mayors. He was also a candidate for state



Theodore Weichselbaum's brewery in Ogden. The photo is courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society.

treasurer in 1880. When General George A. Custer and his wife were stationed at Fort Riley, Theodore entertained them in his home ("Statement").

Though Theodore Weichselbaum was a successful merchant, he became interested in other ventures, including brewing beer. In 1871, he built a large stone brewery in Ogden, located at 409 Riley Avenue. A 50-ft. well in front of the brewery provided the water, with the pump powered by a horse. The beer was brewed in a large sheet metal vat, which was accessible through an opening on the second level, and the floor of the second level was galvanized iron ("Cool Things").

Theodore employed four to five German brewers to make the beer, and they wore wooden clogs while brewing the beer because they could be easily cleaned ("Cool Things"). Barley used to make malt was purchased from area farmers, and the hops came from St. Louis ("Statement"). Beer kegs were stored in tunnels dug in  
(continued on pg. 3)

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the adjacent hill (Higgins).

Theodore sold his beer to local drinking establishments and hauled it to the surrounding area, doing much of the work himself. His beer was shipped as far away as Hays ("Cool Things"). By his own account, he made \$1,000 a month in beer sales ("Statement").

Theodore Weichselbaum was so successful with his brewery that a Manhattan brewer claimed Theodore had put him out of business. At the time, Anheuser-Busch was shipping beer to Junction City, and Theodore's brewery was able to hold its own and compete with the large-scale brewer ("Cool Things").

The brewery operated for 10 years until Kansas' alcohol laws changed. In Kansas' territorial and early statehood years, communities had the option to permit or ban alcohol, but the temperance movement gained momentum after the Civil War and expanded its influence across the state. The Kansas Legislature passed a constitutional amendment to prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcohol, and voters ratified the amendment in 1880 ("Prohibition"). The prohibition of alcohol went into effect on Jan. 1, 1881.

Theodore and other brewers attempted to receive compensation from the state for the loss of their businesses, which he estimated to be valued at \$15,000 ("Statement"), but he never received any compensation.

After the brewery was shut down, Theodore used the building's cellars as a stable to shelter livestock and used the upper floors to store grain ("Statement"). He continued to

operate the general store, which stayed in business for over 50 years (Higgins). His financial interests in land and cattle also provided him with income after the loss of the brewery.

Theodore had built a two-story stone home in 1860, but it was demolished over 25 years ago. The general store and attached stable still stand and currently house apartments, a restaurant, and a hair salon. Both have been determined to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The brewery had originally been an L-shaped structure, and the front part of the "L" was removed and the remaining portion converted to apartments in the 1950s (Higgins). Remnants of the brewery's stone wall are still visible adjacent to the apartment building. The remaining portion of the brewery has not been evaluated for registry listing.

Theodore passed on the management of the general store to his son and daughter, and he continued to live in Ogden until his death in 1914 (Higgins).

"Cool Things – Brewers Clogs." Kansas State Historical Society. Web. 13 November 2015.

Higgins, Cindy. *Kansas Breweries and Beer: 1854-1911*. Eudora, KS: Ad Astra Press, 1992.



At top, Theodore Weichselbaum's general store and attached stable. Bottom, the remaining portion of the brewery, which is now apartments.

"History of Riley County." Riley County, Kansas. Web. 13 November 2015.

"Prohibition." Kansas State Historical Society. Web. 13 November 2015.

"Statement of Theodore Weichselbaum, of Ogden, Riley County, July 17, 1908," *Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society* 11 (1910).

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## Historic School Tour

In every membership year, the M/RCPA offers a special tour of a historic property as a benefit for providing financial support to our organization. This year's special event was held at the former Keats High School, which has been converted to a private residence and a design business.

The brick school was built in 1916 and was originally three floors with the gymnasium on the top floor. The noise caused by activities in the gym led to the third floor being removed and a new gym added to the rear of the school in 1937. The building functioned as a high school through the late 1950s, and then served as an elementary school through the 1970s.

The main school building is now the home of Jeff and Eryn Smith and their family. The gym has been divided into multiple spaces to house the design firm AsterHouse Design, which is owned by Eryn and her business partner Amanda



The historic Keats High School.

Purdum. The stage portion of the gym serves as the design firm's showroom, and the back half of the gym functions as a warehouse and delivery area. A loft area was created for the business office, and a locker room was converted to an employee break room and restroom.

The Smiths purchased the historic school in 2009. Eryn says Jeff always wanted to create a home in an unusual space, and she joked she was glad he hadn't come across a silo first.

As AsterHouse Design grew as

a business, it needed more space for furniture, fabric samples, and other wares. Although Amanda was hesitant about allowing the business to encroach upon Eryn's home, the former gym provided the space they were looking for to work with clients, store materials, and manage deliveries. The end result is a beautiful showroom with the stage as the focal

point.

The M/RCPA would like to thank AsterHouse Design for sharing the historic school with our members and would like to thank Hazel Hill Chocolates for providing delicious chocolates for the event.

AsterHouse Design was recognized with a Historic Preservation Building Award in 2015 for its design work on the Francis Byron (Barney) Kimble House (now Katie's Way), 720 Poyntz Ave.

At left, M/RCPA members learn about the renovations of the former school. At right, the stage is the focal point of the design showroom.



## Added to Nat'l Register

The Francis Byron (Barney) Kimble House was recently placed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places. Its nomination was forwarded for consideration for the National Register of Historic Places, and the property was approved in October and has been added to the National Register.



## Added to Kansas Register

The Prehistoric Sites of Wildcat Creek Watershed, Riley County, Kansas, was recently added to the Register of Historic Kansas Places, and the nomination was forwarded for consideration for the National Register.

Significant sites within the watershed provide windows into the various periods of human occupation of this region, and as a set, allow understanding of the cultural dynamics of the native peoples of this region over thousands of years. Evidence of Paleoindian (11,000 – 7,000 B.C.) activity in the Manhattan area is significant and sufficient to demonstrate remains of that general period may be found in the Wildcat Creek watershed, making the area worthy of historic registry listing.

## Riley Co.'s First Registered Property

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was signed into law in 1966 and established the National Register of Historic Places, among other features affecting historic preservation. The first property in Riley County to be added to the National Register was the home of Isaac and Ellen Goodnow, 2301 Claflin Road, and known as the Goodnow Memorial Home.

The Goodnows were strong abolitionists and came to the Manhattan area in 1855 as part of the New England Emigrant Aid Society in an effort to block proslavery influences in Kansas. Isaac spent several months each year back East, raising funds to establish a Methodist college, which would become Bluemont Central College, and later Kansas State Agricultural College, the nation's first land-grant institution.

The original section of the house was built in 1857. The Goodnows purchased it in 1859 and made a number of additions to it over the years, with the last being completed in 1876.

The limestone house is two stories over the main block and includes a one-story wing. The limestone is rough cut with smooth quoins at the corners. The interior stairs, window casings, door trim, and the majority of the woodwork are made of walnut. Also included on the property are the original stone stable and carriage house.

The Goodnows had no children, and they adopted Hattie Parkerson, who was a niece. After Isaac's death in 1894, Hattie inherited the house. When Hattie died in 1940, ownership of the house passed to Mary Payne, who had been a friend of Hattie's. Mary donated the house, which contained many of the Goodnows' possessions,



The Goodnow House in 1958. The photo is courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, KANS, 81-MAN, 1-2.

to the Kansas Historical Society.

The State of Kansas established the Goodnow House State Historic Site in 1969. While the state was in the process of renovating the house, the property was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, with the areas of significance listed as education and politics. The Goodnow Memorial Home was added to the National Register on Feb. 24, 1971, and was the first property in Riley County to be added to the National Register.

Following interior renovations, the house opened as a museum in 1973.



The home of Isaac and Ellen Goodnow in 2012. It was the first property in Riley County to be listed in the National Register.

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## *M/RCPA Membership Roster*

### **\$35 Historic Level**

Richard & Sylvia Beeman, Dede Brokesh, Charlene Brownson, Sandra Chandler, Margaret Conrow, Clark & Nancy Danner, Dean Denner, Michael L. Dodson, Calvin & Genie Emig, Beverly Fink, David J. Fiser, Mary Ann Fleming, Joe & Janette Gelroth, Kelly & Jeremy Gilkerson, Tom Giller/Commerce Bank, Joann S. Goldstein, Corina Hugo, Jean Hulbert, Lowell & Stacy Kohlmeier, Camille & Phillip Korenek, J & C Imaging/John & Cindy La Barge, Prof. Robert D. (Bob) Linder, Richard & Marge McKittrick, Tony & Janet Nichols, Bill Pallet, Allana Parker, Jerry & Martha Powell, Gloria Juhl Raney, John & Mary Beth Reese, Linda Rice, Tom & Karen Roberts, James E. Roper, Catherine Roy-Tremblay, Tim & Marcia Rozell, Sharlin Sargent, Bill & Donna Schenck-Hamlin, Karen Sheffield, Richard & Kimberly Smith, Carolee Stark, Gary Stith, Bria Taddiken-Williams, Chris & Olivia Toomajian, Tyler Traxson, Ronald E. Wells, Ron & Dixie West, Nancy Williams, Judy Willingham

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