



MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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A New Future for an Industrial Icon

A fixture of south Manhattan for decades, the industrial building located at 1531 Yuma Street, most recently occupied by Ag Press, was approved for listing on the state register in August 2022.

The building was erected in 1946 by the Viking Manufacturing Company, which decided to relocate its operation from Michigan to Manhattan. William Long, who was the head of the Kansas Industrial Development Commission, knew Viking had outgrown its Michigan facility, and he contacted Viking's president, John A. Erickson, in hopes of convincing Viking to move to Kansas.

Viking manufactured farm machinery, such as hammermills, corn crushers and shellers, and other general purpose farm equipment, and had been considering various locations in Midwestern, agricultural states to relocate the business. Erickson was looking for a community that was small enough that most employees could walk to work and yet large enough to supply sufficient labor, and he preferred a college town with an agricultural program. Long persuaded Erickson that Kansas offered what he was looking for, but Manhattan wasn't automatically a shoo-in, as Atchison, Emporia, and Lawrence were also in the running for the new location.

Manhattan's Chamber of Commerce devised a plan to finance



Above, the former industrial building located at 1531 Yuma Street.

a large portion of the building's construction costs through the sale of preferred stock, which would be purchased by Manhattan residents who regarded it as an investment in the community. Then, Viking would buy back the stock as soon as possible. This arrangement for financing the building's construction along with Manhattan's other aforementioned attractive qualities sealed the deal, and Viking made the decision to relocate to Manhattan ("Big business comes to Manhattan").

The four-acre site selected for Viking along Yuma Street between 15th and 16th Streets was determined in cooperation with Manhattan's Planning Board. At the time, the railroad ran where Ft. Riley Boulevard is today, making it relatively easy to add a spur line to the factory to aid in receiving and shipping materials ("Extension head"). Viking broke ground in July 1945, and by December 1945,

the partially completed building was in operation, utilizing temporary canvas walls while construction continued. Viking's managers had relocated to Manhattan from Michigan, but other employees were hired locally, with the expectation that 250-300 people would be employed when the factory became fully operational ("Products soon at Viking").

Viking hired Homer Harper of St. Joseph, MI, who had experience designing industrial buildings, to design its new factory in Manhattan (O'Brien, 74). Constructed in the Art Deco/Art Moderne style, the building featured light-colored brick, extensive use of glass block, rounded corners, and strong horizontal lines emphasized by bands of black tile and square accents, which all contribute to a modern, streamlined appearance. The 30,000 sq. ft.-building was air-conditioned and was described as spacious and light ("Big business comes to Manhattan").

The Viking building was Manhattan's first major industrial development project following World War II, and it marked the start of a post-war building boom in Manhattan ("Ag Press buys Viking plant").

In 1966, the Viking Manufacturing Company was acquired by Allied Farm Equipment, Inc. of *(continued on p. 2)*

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Chicago, which had purchased other manufacturing facilities in the U. S. and Canada in the 1960s. Viking became a subsidiary of Allied, operations at the Manhattan facility were unchanged, and there were plans to expand (“Viking is sold”). Less than a year later, expansion plans were announced with the plan to add 12,000 sq. ft. to the building. Two additions were planned with one to the east and one to the south. The additional square footage enlarged the finishing and assembly facilities and created space for a new shipping and warehousing system (“Viking plant to expand”).

By the end of 1970, Allied Farm Equipment was struggling due to declining farm equipment sales, and Viking employees were informed the plant might close or be sold (“Viking prospects told”). A few months later in 1971, Allied announced that the Viking location would close June 1. By this time, the Viking work force had reduced to only 37 employees, many of whom had worked for Viking since the company came to Manhattan in 1945 (“Viking’s history”).

In August 1971, Ag Press purchased the former Viking Manufacturing building. Ag Press, which had formerly been located in Aggieville at 1207 Moro Street, engaged in commercial printing, such as trade magazines, catalogs, textbooks, and the publication *Grass and Grain* (“Ag Press buys Viking plant”). Ag Press was a Manhattan institution for decades.

A few months ago, ownership of the building changed hands. It’s now owned by BBX LLC, and Derek Richards is one of the owners. Richards has extensive plans for the building, including pursuing historic registry listing, and the plans were discussed at the June 2022 Historic Resources Board (HRB) meeting, allowing

members to provide feedback.

During the HRB meeting, Richards told board members, “My wife and I fell in love with the Ag Press building, and we’ve been in love with the project for a long time.” Richards explained the vision is to transform the 40,000 sq. ft.-space into one that could be used by the public for multiple applications. The inspiration comes from similar venues in larger cities where several uses are housed under one roof. Possible uses included a brewery, a wedding venue with catering kitchen, an outdoor stage for concerts and events, a food truck area, yard games, and an incubator kitchen for entrepreneurs interested in starting a restaurant without investing in a full brick and mortar operation.

“It would be a sad story if we didn’t keep buildings like this around.”

Derek Richards

HRB members asked whether there were any plans to alter the building’s iconic exterior, and Richards answered the front of the building would remain the same and would most likely continue to be used for offices. Changes would primarily occur in the rear of the building. The project is in its early stages, and Richards anticipated that it may be two years before anything happens, adding that he enjoys the entrepreneurship side of the project.

Buildings listed on the state or national register are eligible for rehabilitation tax credits, and Richards hoped to qualify for tax credits to help with the cost of the major renovations planned for the building.

Richards envisioned the building will be attractive to families. He said, “It’s a great way to transform



Above, the 40,000 sq. ft. formerly industrial building on a four-acre site on Yuma Street. a beautiful building and bring it back to life with culture and with a place for families to meet, and a place for families to do something different other than downtown and Aggieville.” The property has already hosted a number of outdoor concerts and is described as Manhattan’s “newest rock venue.”

Richards indicated the building may be renamed “The Press” or “The Press District” to reflect its long history as the home of Ag Press.

HRB members were generally supportive of the proposed project and expressed excitement at seeing it come to fruition. The discussion was a work session, so the HRB took no formal action.

As the former Viking/Ag Press building embarks on this new journey, Richards shared there had been other buyers interested in the property with plans to demolish it, and he said, “It would be a sad story if we didn’t keep buildings like this around.”

“Ag Press buys Viking plant.” [The Manhattan Mercury](#). 4 August 1971: 6C.

“Big business comes to Manhattan in Viking Manufacturing Company.” [Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle](#). 23 June 1946: 9.

“Break ground for Viking Company.” [Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle](#). 15 July 1945: 7.

“Extension head to broadcast tonight.” [Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle](#). 26 June 1945: 3.

O’Brien, Patricia J. [The Architects and Buildings of Manhattan, Kansas](#). Manhattan, KS: Riley County Historical Society, 2008.

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“Products soon at Viking firm.” Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 10 December 1945: 6.

“Viking plant to expand.” The Manhattan Mercury. 2 February 1967: 1.

“Viking prospects told.” The Manhattan Mercury. 6 December 1970: A1, A12.

“Viking is sold to Allied Inc.” The Manhattan Mercury. 22 March 1966: 1.

“Viking’s history comes to a close.” The Manhattan Mercury. 16 April 1971: A8.

Demolitions Planned for the KSU Campus

On Sept. 13, 2022, Ethan Erickson, who is Kansas State University’s Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Interim Vice President, announced plans to demolish four buildings: the historic conservatory, the Ahearn Gymnasium and Natatorium, Edwards Hall, and a facilities building on the Salina campus. The buildings were targeted for demolition due to deferred maintenance and minimal usage. Buildings at institutions in the Board of Regent’s system have suffered from deferred maintenance for many years. Erickson’s announcement described the demolitions as helping to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog, allowing limited maintenance resources to focus on a smaller footprint, and improving space utilization as displaced programs are relocated to existing campus buildings.

The oldest of the four structures slated for demolition is the historic conservatory, which took two years to erect and was completed in 1909. The conservatory was described by a local newspaper as being “badly needed for more than 16 years” as it would provide a home for tropical plants (“Around the town”). According to the July 17, 1906, minutes of the Kansas Board of Regents, a bid of \$2,850 was accepted from the New Jersey Greenhouse Company for the conservatory. Stingley Brothers of Manhattan was hired to do the foundation work. The conservatory’s materials were prefabricated in New Jersey and shipped to Manhattan to be assembled on site.

The conservatory is an iron-framed greenhouse in the Victorian



The historic conservatory on the KSU campus.

style with glass panels and with lower portions of the glass panels’ framing constructed of cypress wood. It features an arched roof with curved glass panels, decorative iron finials, and a limestone foundation. The conservatory’s style is typical of Victorian greenhouses of the 1890s. Kansas State University (KSU) officials believe the conservatory is the oldest greenhouse of its type in Kansas.

In its original location, the conservatory was next to the Horticulture Building, currently known as Dickens Hall, where it was an important resource for the horticulture department. In the 1970s, the Kansas Legislature appropriated funds for KSU to construct a new building to house the College of Education and other programs. The site for the new building was adjacent to Dickens Hall, and the conservatory and associated gardens were relocated. The conservatory was moved in a delicate operation that divided it into three sections, reassembled it with new glass installed (Colvin), and established the structure on a new limestone foundation in its current location on Denison Avenue (“Conservatory re-opens”).

In 1989, the conservatory was renovated. The project involved removing all the glass panes, replacing framing where necessary, restoring the conservatory to its original appearance, and making it a focal point of the KSU gardens (Colvin). In Erickson’s 2022 announcement about the conservatory’s demolition, unstable glass panels which contain asbestos are cited as one of the reasons for demolition. The 1989 restoration

project made no mention of the presence of asbestos.

KSU requested \$350,000 from the Board of Regents to demolish the conservatory, which is expected to be completed by March 2023. No information was provided about what it would cost to renovate the conservatory. The site will become green space until funding is secured to build a new conservatory.

The next oldest building on the Manhattan campus scheduled for demolition is the Ahearn Gymnasium, which was completed in 1950. The Ahearn Natatorium, built in 1973, will also be demolished. The field house portion of the Ahearn complex will remain.

As with the conservatory, a new field house was much desired long before it became a reality. The push for a new facility began in 1939 and was led by Jack Gardner, head men’s basketball coach; Mike Ahearn, athletic director; and Ralph Lashbrook, head of the journalism department. A petition with 3,000 signatures requesting funding for the facility was presented to the Kansas Legislature in 1940. The Legislature appropriated \$750,000 in 1943 to construct a field house, but World War II delayed the (continued on p. 4)

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project. Materials were scarce as they had been dedicated to the war effort, and labor was not available either. A post-war building boom elevated material prices, making the \$750,000 in funds no longer sufficient to complete the building. In 1947, the Legislature appropriated another \$300,000 to cover the rise in costs (Hilgendorf). With funding secured, the field house project could finally move forward.

As the design developed for the new facility for basketball and indoor track, the plans included seating for approximately 13,000 spectators; a gymnasium with three basketball courts, locker rooms, wrestling room, and boxing room; and offices for the athletic director and coaches. Construction prices were still high, and despite the additional funds allocated by the Legislature, the swimming pool planned for the field house was eliminated from the plans to be able to build it within available funds (“Plans for field house”).

Erected north of the stadium, the field house took two years to build, and according to the 1951 *Royal Purple*, cost \$2 million in the end. The new facility hosted its first basketball game in Dec. 1950 and then served the community by housing Manhattan residents displaced by the 1951 flood the following summer. At the time of its completion, the field house was the fifth largest in the nation (*The Royal Purple*).

In 1955, the field house was dedicated as “Mike Ahearn Fieldhouse and Gymnasium” in honor of Mike Ahearn, long-time athletic director (1920-1946) and multi-sport coach. Ahearn is largely credited for transforming KSU athletics into a vital and beneficial part of the school’s activities.

Ahearn began his long career at KSU in 1904 in the horticulture department where he was the greenhouse foreman. By 1907 when the conservatory’s construction began, salary information from the 1907 Board of Regents’ minutes indicates the horticulture department had 3-4 faculty/staff members, and the small

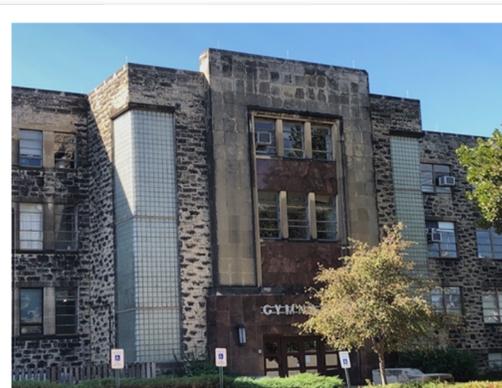
number of staff guarantees Ahearn would have been involved with the conservatory’s daily operations. In 1920, Ahearn resigned his position in the horticulture department to become athletic director.

In 1973, the natatorium was added to the Ahearn complex, in part, to replace space lost when the Nichols Gym burned in 1968. The \$1.9 million natatorium included an eight-lane competition pool, a six-lane instruction pool, a diving well, a gymnastics room, four specialized laboratories, and faculty offices (“Dedication”). For many years, the Ahearn Natatorium was used by KSU swimmers, USD 383, and the general public.

A section of the natatorium’s concrete façade crumbled in 2016, crashing to the ground, caused by the failure of the metal mesh beneath that had rusted. The exterior was repaired, and Ryan Swanson, KSU architect and associate vice president of facilities, said the building was structurally sound (Lysen).

According to Erickson’s announcement, the natatorium was closed in March 2020 due to ventilation and maintenance issues. The Ahearn Gymnasium is used less than ten hours a week. The natatorium and gym suffer from a combined \$19 million of deferred maintenance, although it wasn’t specified how much of the \$19 million the buildings need individually for updates. Demolition is estimated to cost \$3.4 million. The gym is scheduled to be demolished in early 2024, and the natatorium will be demolished sometime earlier. The area will become green space, and Art Deco features of the gym will be salvaged and reused in a future project.

Regarding the demolitions of the Ahearn Gymnasium and Natatorium, Craig Harms, Betty L. Tointon Interim Dean and Professor of the College of Health and Human



Top to bottom, Ahearn Gymnasium, Ahearn Natatorium, and Edwards Hall.

Sciences, said, “The Kansas Board of Regents initiated a university building study to assess current building conditions and evaluate space utilization. The Natatorium and Gymnasium were rated poorly. As a result, it was decided to raze these structures because of their maintenance status. It is estimated that the college and university will save over \$300,000 annually as a result.

“The largest impact of this action from the College of Health and Human Sciences is the impact of the Department of Kinesiology. Currently, plans are in place for renovation of existing space in (continued on p. 5)

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Justin Hall for the main Kinesiology office and advising offices. Faculty offices will relocate to Justin Hall and Lafene. Discussions are continuing with regard to the future of the LIFE adult fitness program.”

Edwards Hall, a third building scheduled to be demolished, was built in 1967 for an estimated cost of \$800,000 as a dorm for male athletes. The creation of a dorm exclusively for athletes was proposed by Vince Gibson, who was the head football coach at the time. Gibson’s opinion was an athlete dorm would “instill pride” among the athletes who lived there (Felber) and aid recruiting. Described as “plush,” the dorm featured spacious rooms, quiet study areas, a weight room, a sauna bath, an outdoor swimming pool, carpeting, and phones in every room. The athletic residence hall was viewed as having a positive influence on athletes’ academic performance, although the athletes who lived there felt its location on north Denison Avenue was too far from the main campus (“Athletes check”).

By 1975, the barely eight-year-old dorm had become a financial liability, and the possibility of selling it was considered. The costs of operating an athletes-only dorm versus providing individual student housing for them was examined, as well as whether the dorm was truly essential (Felber). While the dorm wasn’t sold to an outside entity, ownership was transferred from the Endowment Association to the university itself in 1977 (“Panel okays”). A short time later, the Board of Regents approved renaming the athlete dorm “Edwards Residence Hall” in honor of A. Thornton Edwards, who was the director of KSU housing from 1947 to 1974. Beginning with the fall of 1978, the dorm housed a mix of non-athlete students as well as athletes (“KSAC takes”).

Toward the end of 1994, KSU was granted permission from the Board of Regents to convert Edwards Hall to an office facility for non-instructional units. By the following fall, changes

to the dorm were complete, and several offices moved into the building, including Human Resources (“Some K-State offices on the move”). Currently, Edwards Hall is home to Human Capital Services, Environmental Health and Safety, and campus police.

According to Erickson’s information, the building is in poor condition and in need of \$9.4 million of work. A recent article in *The Manhattan Mercury* indicated the building had had a small fire a few months ago attributed to a faulty HVAC unit and had also sustained roof damage during a June storm (Dome). Demolition is estimated to cost \$1 million and is expected to be completed by May 2023. The site will be used for more parking.

The fourth structure scheduled for demolition is a 1955 building used by the facilities planning department on the Salina campus. The building, which needs an estimated \$1.3 million in updates, will be demolished by May 2023, and the area will become green space.

Underfunding of maintenance for Board of Regents’ institutions has been a problem for decades. In the mid-1990s, the Board of Regents issued a report entitled, “Of Aging Campuses and Crumbling Classrooms,” which noted its institutions were in a state of decay and in need of an investment of \$300 million to bring them up to speed. The report also noted that for the previous 20 years, regents had selected only projects of the highest priority for funding because the Legislature responded only to extreme needs, leaving a large list of maintenance needs unfunded.

By 2006, the maintenance backlog on state university campuses had increased to \$663 million as buildings continued to age and construction costs increased. With the latest Board of Regents’ study, the maintenance backlog for KSU alone was \$430 million. Over the years, the Legislature has appropriated funds from time to time in an attempt to address the maintenance



Above, the Mike Ahearn Fieldhouse, which will remain.

backlog but never fully catches up. Various factors have also interfered with efforts to provide better funding, such as the 2008 economic downturn that led to a state level budget shortfall.

The most recent Board of Regents’ study shows that state institutions, whose older buildings were paid for through taxpayer investments, still suffer from a large maintenance backlog, leaving one to wonder which buildings could be on the chopping block next. If one of the criteria used to evaluate buildings’ viability is the cost of their deferred maintenance versus what it would cost to demolish them, then it’s likely numerous buildings across the campuses of the state’s universities are in jeopardy.

“Around the town.” *The Manhattan Nationalist*. 2 January 1908: 9.

“Athletes check dorm’s pros and cons.” *The Manhattan Mercury*. 6 February 1969: 6.

Colvin, Bill. “Lots of good goings-on . . . In KSU botanic gardens.” *The Manhattan Mercury*. 9 July 1989: 1.

“Conservatory re-opens in new surroundings.” *The Manhattan Mercury*. 28 August 1978: 1.

“Dedication to draw many.” *The Manhattan Mercury*. 10 October 1973: A1.

Dome, A. J. “K-State gets final OK to demolish Natatorium, Ahearn Gym.” *The Manhattan Mercury*. 26 November 2022: A1.

Felber, Bill. “KSU sizes athletic dorm for sale.” *The Manhattan Mercury*. 25 June 1975: 1, 10.

Hilgendorf, Bob. “Field house for Kansas State is nearer reality.” *Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle*. 8 April 1947: 1, 8.

Kansas Board of Regents. *Meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents*. 6 April 1907. Kansas Board of Regents records, Morse Department of Special Collections, Kansas State University Libraries, Manhattan, Kansas.

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Kansas Board of Regents. *Meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents*. 17 July 1906. Kansas Board of Regents records, Morse Department of Special Collections, Kansas State University Libraries, Manhattan, Kansas.

“KSAC takes five top slots as educational radio station.” The Manhattan Mercury. 29 May 1977: C2.

Lysen, Dylan. “Occupancy limited after façade crumbles at KSU natatorium.” The Manhattan Mercury. 27 January 2016.

“Panel okays A-dorm change.” The Manhattan Mercury. 18 February 1977: A12.

“Plans for field house at K-State near completion.” Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 12 October 1948: 8.

The Royal Purple. Ed. Catherine Merrill. Manhattan, KS: Kansas State College, 1951. Web. 18 November 2022.

“Some K-State offices on the move.” The Manhattan Mercury. 3 September 1995: C4.

Will the Sexton’s House be Sold?

During the City Commission work session on Nov. 8, commissioners discussed developing master plans for Sunrise and Sunset Cemeteries, which included the possibility of selling the sexton’s house at 2000 Leavenworth Street and the adjacent shops.

The Manhattan City Cemetery, renamed Sunset Cemetery in the 1930s, was established in 1860 when the city purchased a 35-acre tract of land for \$610 at the west end of Poyntz Avenue, which was outside city limits at the time (Correll). In 1909, Judge Sam and Cora Kimble, Jr. donated land to the city for the construction of a house for the cemetery’s sexton. The house was to be built east of the cemetery’s main gate (“For a sexton’s house”).

The cemetery building committee, whose membership included Cora Kimble, worked to raise private donations to fund the sexton’s house, which the city would match. The house was to be made of stone, have modern features such as heat and lighting, and consist of seven rooms. One of the rooms was to be designated for public use during cemetery visits on cold or stormy weather days (“For a sexton’s house”).

Plans for the sexton’s house were completed by the local architecture firm Winter and Walters (“The committee”). In May 1910, the construction contract was awarded to the Walters Construction Company, which had made the lowest bid of \$2,700 (“To



The sexton’s house at 2000 Leavenworth Street.

Nationalist”). By September 1910, the house was finished, as it was noted in a city commission meeting that the recently completed house needed to be insured (“No jog for them”). The city’s cemetery sextons lived in the house continuously through 2018, but since then, the house has been vacant.

By the late 1950s, Sunset Cemetery was running low on available burial plots, and the city searched for a site for an additional municipal cemetery. In November 1958, Manhattan voters approved the issuance of \$80,000 in bonds to acquire land for a second cemetery (“Both bonds get nod”). A 70-acre tract owned by Claude Shenkel and Dr. E. J. Frick in the Stag Hill area was purchased for \$25,000, with the remaining bond funds going toward development of the site (“Cemetery site is approved”). Shops and a sexton’s house were part of the site improvements, and the new cemetery, named “Sunrise Cemetery,” opened in the spring of 1966 (“New municipal cemetery”).

During the work session, Jason Hilgers, Deputy City Manager, said there have been internal city discussions about the future of Sunset Cemetery’s sexton’s house and adjacent shops, and he was looking for guidance from commissioners. An option discussed would be to sell both the sexton’s house and shops, and then use the proceeds to build new shops inside Sunset Cemetery, possibly on the western edge, which is too rocky to use for burials. Sunset Cemetery is essentially full, which would allow a new shop building to be smaller and house only grounds equipment.

The sexton’s house was previously identified as potentially eligible for historic registry listing. The possibilities of pursuing registry listing prior to a sale and requiring the house to remain on the register as part of a deed restriction were other aspects commissioners were requested to weigh in on.

Commissioner Wynn Butler thought it would be a good idea to sell both the sexton’s house and the shops and use the proceeds to build new shops that would meet the cemetery’s needs. He was not interested in historic registry listing for the sexton’s house prior to selling it, preferring to leave it up to the new owner to decide whether to list it. Commissioner John Matta agreed with Butler’s comments. Mayor Linda Morse wanted to ensure the historic nature of the sexton’s house is made known to (continued on p. 7)

2022-23 Officers & Board of Directors

Officers and members of the Board of Directors were elected during the Annual Meeting of the membership on Nov. 20 at the Douglass Annex (the former Douglass School). Following the business meeting, members enjoyed tours of the Douglass Center, Douglass Annex, and the Douglass Activity Center.

Watch for membership renewal information to be coming soon.

President: Linda Glasgow
Vice President: Kathy Dzewaltowski
Treasurer: Barbara Poresky
Secretary: Dawn Munger

Terms ending in 2023:

Mel Borst
Diana Caldwell
Rex Fowles
Linda Glasgow
Melanie Highsmith

Terms ending in 2024:

Kathy Dzewaltowski
Gary Ellis
Allana Parker
Kevin West

Terms ending in 2025:

Melissa Janulis
Dawn Munger
Barbara Poresky
Sharlin Sargent

Manhattan/Riley County
Preservation Alliance
Linda Glasgow, President
P. O. Box 1893
Manhattan, KS 66505

E-mail: mrcpanewsletter@gmail.com

Website:
www.preservemanhattan.org

The Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of the month via Zoom. Members are welcome to participate in board meetings. Contact the M/RCPA if you would like to participate in a board meeting.

Newsletter editor: Kathy Dzewaltowski

All the articles in the December 2022 newsletter were written by Kathy Dzewaltowski.

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potential buyers. Commissioner Usha Reddi wanted to see more options and cost estimates and also wanted the Cemetery Board to be involved.

Another option mentioned for Sunset Cemetery was the possibility of adding columbariums for placing urns. There would be upfront costs associated with the installation of columbariums, but they ultimately pay for themselves as spaces are sold. Ron Fehr, City Manager, noted that while the sale of spaces recoups the costs of the columbariums, it doesn't cover ongoing care and maintenance, which would need to be taken into consideration.

Hilgers described neighbors and preservation groups, which included the Historic Resources Board, as Sunset Cemetery's stakeholders, and he anticipated people would have strong opinions. Stakeholder groups will be engaged, possibly beginning in January 2023, and tours of the properties will be made available. Morse pointed out the city's cemeteries serve the whole community and not just the immediate neighborhoods.

Sunrise Cemetery was also discussed and was described as where growth would occur. Sunrise Cemetery has columbariums and a natural burial area, and in terms of space, is well set for the future. A concern, though, was the office in Sunrise Cemetery, which was described as feeling more like a shop and isn't very inviting to the public. The facilities in Sunrise Cemetery were described as "tired," and concepts for a new office and alternatives for the shops will be developed. Commissioner Mark Hatesohl asked if the current location for the office and shops is a good one or whether a different location is preferred. Fehr answered that the current location is not ideal, and a location on an edge would be better. The ability to easily connect



Top, the rear (north) side of the Sunset Cemetery's sexton's house. Bottom, the Sunset Cemetery shops.

to utilities in a new location would also need to be considered.

Mike Mohler, cemetery sexton, anticipated that work on master plans for the cemeteries would be a nine-month endeavor, and city staff was primarily looking to commissioners for permission to move forward with investigating options. He also recommended that commissioners tour the cemeteries' facilities.

Commissioners expressed general support for moving forward with investigating options and with a process that engages the public.

"Both bonds get nod; new cemetery; aged home." [The Manhattan Mercury](#). 5 November 1958: 1.

"Cemetery site is approved by body." [The Manhattan Mercury](#). 22 April 1959: 1.

"The committee that has charge of collecting funds." [The Daily Mercury](#). 4 May 1910: 1.
Correll, Prof. C. M. "A history of Sunset Cemetery." [The Manhattan Mercury](#). 17 February 1936: 5.

"For a sexton's house." [The Manhattan Mercury](#). 28 October 1909: 1.

"To Nationalist." [The Daily Nationalist](#). 4 May 1910: 1.

"New municipal cemetery set to open Monday." [The Manhattan Mercury](#). 25 May 1966: 1.

"No jog for them." [The Daily Nationalist](#). 21 September 1910: 1.

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M/RCPA Membership Roster

\$35 Historic Level

Barbara G. Anderson, Steven Brewer, Dede Brokesh, Charlene Brownson, Bruce McMillan Architects, Preston & Diana Chapel, Margaret Conrow, Randi Dale, Mike & Jan Danenberg, Nancy Danner, Calvin & Genie Emig, David & Jana Fallin, Wanda Fateley, Sara Fisher, Rick & Judy Glowiak, Richard Harris, Katharine Hensler, Debra Hiatt, Jean Bigbee Hill, Marianne Korten, Melissa Janulis, Claudia Jones, Steve Lee & Nancy Raleigh, Brad Logan & Lauren W. Ritterbush, Dawn Munger, Larry & Sandy Murphy, Philip Nel & Karin Westman, Bill Pallett, Allana Parker, Barbara Peck, Jerry & Martha Powell, Gloria Juhl Raney, Mary Beth Reese, Roger & Virginia Reitz, Linda Rice, Tom & Karen Roberts, Catherine Roy-Tremblay, Sharlin Sargent, Richard & Kimberly Smith, Brenda Spencer, Elizabeth Stevens, Alicia Stott, Ronald E. Wells, Ron & Dixie West, Nancy B. Williams, Judith Willingham

\$100 Preservation Level

Phil & Dawn Anderson, Mimi Balderson, BBN Architects, Borst Restoration, Diana Caldwell, G. W. Clift, Gary & Paula Ellis, Joe & Janette Gelroth, Ann Kosch, John & Karen McCulloh, Dori Milldyke, Linda Morse, Debbie Nuss

\$125 Corporate Preservation

Colene Lind & Rex Fowles

\$250 Landmark Level

David & Kathy Dzewaltowski, Larry & Linda Glasgow, Mark & Ann Knackendoffel, Barbara Poresky, Kevin West & Alyn Pennington West/SNW Gallery and Custom Frames

Honorary Lifetime Members

Mel Borst, Enell Foerster (in memory of Bernd Foerster)