



MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER 1994 – 2014

CELEBRATING YEARS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

October 2014

A Message From Our President

Last Thursday was the annual meeting of the M/RCPA membership. As is customary, the directors whose terms had ended were commended for their service and new directors were welcomed. This year, Kathy Dzewaltowski and I traded roles. I became president and she agreed to serve as vice president. My time had come; I have been a director since 2008 and vice president since 2010.

I have decided the Preservation Alliance is good for me. Its mission *"to engage the community in the active preservation of its historic resources by promoting historic preservation in the community and surrounding area, enhancing economic development through historic preservation, and educating the community as to the cultural importance of historic preservation"* speaks to my professional and personal interests. Professionally, I am a student of culture, its artifacts, history and change. Personally, I am an amateur genealogist, inaugurated in family cemeteries by my mother, and a lover of my community, its places and people. The Preservation Alliance has nurtured these interests.

As an active member of the Preservation Alliance, I have learned the details of community history, toured and touched historic community artifacts and have studied its changes. (I like to think

the Preservation Alliance has positively influenced community change.) It is an unfortunate misconception that preservationists are opposed to change and "new." Preservationists *are not opposed* to either. Rather, we are unwilling to accept changes that generically favor the "new" and/or hold no positive regard for the "old."

Some preservationists are storytellers. Like my mother, they delight in the enthusiastic learner and will eagerly tell you tales about people with names like Marlatt, Denison, Seth Child and Claflin. They will help you find and explore old documents and solve the mystery of people who came before you.

I have heard love described as equal parts novelty, mystery and surprise. This being true, the Preservation Alliance has taught me to love my hometown more deeply. My love for community is deepened when the old is made new, when the *novel* character of place is promoted and enhanced, and when I recognize how clever people have been (and are).

My love of home is deepened when I investigate its *mystery*. I am falling deeper in love with my house and my neighborhood as I look through old books and documents in hope of learning about the people that came to this place before me. I want to know what roles they played

in the community, what kind of lives they led, what we might have in common.

Surprise keeps my love for place fresh. My association with the Preservation Alliance has had many surprises. For instance, I was surprised to learn that the Peace Memorial Auditorium was a war memorial. (I think many people at City Hall were surprised to learn this, too.) I was surprised to learn that City Park once included a horse track, a space to graze cattle and 1,400 trees. I was surprised to learn that the man for whom Bishop Stadium was named once lived across the street from my house.

I invite you to get involved in the Preservation Alliance. Attend a board meeting or other event. If not the Preservation Alliance, consider learning more about our local history, the forces and people that came before us. I challenge you to find the same things I have – people who value our shared culture, who delight in promoting its past, and who have a deep love for community.

Monthly board meetings are the second Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Union Pacific Depot. The next meeting is Thursday, Oct. 9th. Meetings are open to all members. I hope to see you there.

Sara Fisher

College Hill School

A One-Room School Still Serving Public Education

At the time that Kansas became a state in 1861, there were 217 school districts, and that number rapidly increased such that there were 9,284 school districts in 1896 (Spencer). Rural school districts, consisting largely of one-room, one-teacher schools, were established every two miles in order for students to be able to easily walk to school (Spencer), which accounted for the large number of districts.

During the 20th Century, however, the number of rural one-room schools began to decline for a number of reasons, including lack of a population base to support school districts in close proximity to one another, the state's inability to provide funding for so many districts to ensure equity in the quality of education (Spencer), and transportation and road improvements that made it easier to bus students longer distances to larger schools.

In 1961, the Kansas Legislature passed legislation to create unified school districts, i.e. consolidation of districts (Spencer). By 1965, most one-room schools had closed, and the last graded one-room school closed in 1990 ("Sunflower").

In the Manhattan area, one of those early statehood school districts was District #7, the College Hill School District. College Hill School, 2600 Kimball Ave., was originally a one-room school, and today, it's a rare example of a one-room school still serving public education.

The minutes from the 1862 College Hill school board indicate that the boundaries for District #7

had been set and meetings of area settlers were taking place to organize a school. The College Hill school board consisted of Isaac Goodnow, Chairman; H. Ells, Clerk Pro Tem; and Asaph Browning, Ambrose Todd, and D. B. Himes, Directors. The board originally decided that instead of building a schoolhouse, they would make arrangements with nearby Bluemont College to provide instruction for District #7's school children for the term Sept. 3 through Dec. 17, 1862. Isaac Goodnow, R. L. Harford, and Joseph Denison paid for furnishing

years 1863-67.

In 1865, bonds were approved to build a stone school at a cost not to exceed \$2,500, but instead of stone, a wood frame building was constructed in 1867. It was built on the southeast corner of J. Pierce's land and was later moved on rollers to approximately the current location of Marlatt Elementary (2715 Hobbs Dr.) to accommodate a family living in that section of the school district.

In 1894, board minutes show that John D. Walters had developed plans for a stone school, and the board had accepted the bid of

Harry Hougham to construct a new school building at a cost of \$1,467 (the actual cost ended up being \$1,567). Records in the Riley County Historical Society's archives show that the College Hill school board met in the new school for the first time on Jan. 10, 1894. It seems unlikely that bids were accepted in 1894 and a new stone school was built and ready for use in a span of, at most, 10 days, so one of the dates is likely a typo-

graphical error. Therefore, it's unclear whether the stone College Hill School was completed in early 1894 or 1895.

John D. Walters was a professor at Kansas State Agricultural College (KSAC) (a precursor to Kansas State University) and began the architecture program at the college (O'Brien). Prof. Walters was involved with the design of many buildings on campus and was also the architect for many buildings in Manhattan and the
(continued on pg. 3)



Above, College Hill as it looked when it was a one-room school. The photo is from the Frey Family Photographs web site from the collection of Minnie Grace Frey, 1898-1980, <http://freypics.wordpress.com/2009/07/18/picture-25/>.

a classroom, fuel, and all other items needed to teach school for the term.

Board minutes indicate that in July 1863, voters approved dedicating half of 1% for a building fund. A wood frame building was constructed on the northeast corner of Mr. Browning's land and served as the school for District #7 for the

(continued from pg. 2)

surrounding area, including Douglass School and Deep Creek School (O'Brien), the latter being of similar design to that of College Hill School.

As described in the "Historic Public Schools" multiple property documentation form, a pre-1900 architect-designed school was a rare occurrence. The Multiple Property Documentation Form "Late Nineteenth Century and Early Twentieth Century Residential Resources in Manhattan, Kansas," notes that the presence of architects connected to KSAC resulted in a larger number of modest architect-designed structures in the Manhattan area than what was typical in other areas of Kansas, which explains why the College Hill School was architect designed.

Harry Hougham, the builder for College Hill, was related to Isaac Goodnow through marriage. Harry's wife Ella was Isaac's niece (Pioneers).

The original stone College Hill School included one classroom and four anterooms, which included a boys' cloakroom, a girls' cloakroom, library, and bell room. The stone school was a simple rectangle with a gabled roof with shingles in the upper portion of the gable. Today, the south side of the original section of the building features a pair of hooded windows, and the windows mark the location of the original entrance of the one-room school as indicated in historic photographs. The College Hill grounds include a boot scraper, and College Hill board minutes indicate the board arranged to have boot scrapers added in 1895, but it's unknown whether the boot scraper currently on the grounds dates to 1895.

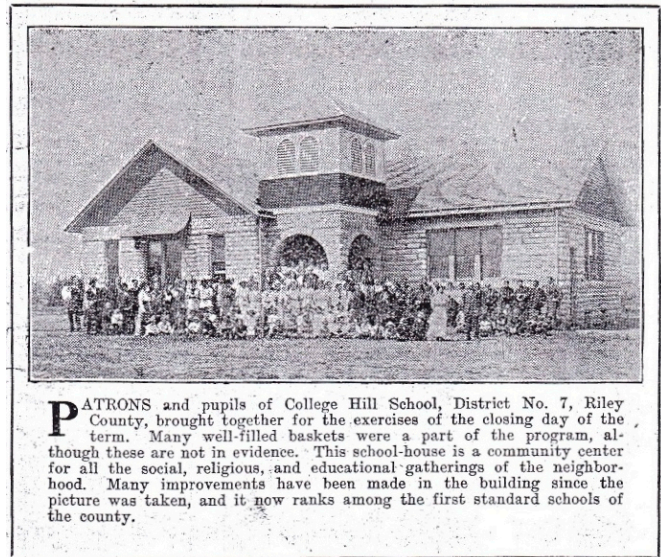
In 1914, a limestone single-

story classroom addition was added on the east side of the building, creating an "L" shape. The addition is of a similar style to the original structure and is a simple rectangle with a gabled roof with shingles in the upper portion of the gable. An arched entrance was added on the south side with a bell tower above with a hipped roof. The arched entrance includes two sets of double doors, and the entrance to the original one-room school section was likely replaced with windows at this time.

The May 21, 1913 edition of "The Western Contractor" notes that plans for the addition were being held at the office of Henry B. Winter. Winter was a student of Prof. Walters and graduated from KSAC's architecture program in 1909 (O'Brien). Winter designed many buildings in Manhattan, including Bluemont Elementary and the senior high portion of MHS East Campus (O'Brien).

The June 4, 1913 edition of "The Western Contractor" states that contracts for the stone addition went to "Messrs. Tom Wiard and Shoaf" for the stone work, and Mr. McCampbell of Manhattan for the carpentry. "Shoaf" is likely a misspelling of "Shofe," as George Shofe was a well-known stonemason with his own quarry and lived in the College Hill area (Pioneers). The stone walls on the east and south sides of the KSU campus were built by Shofe, and portions of the walls are still standing.

Brick additions to the north side of the building were added in 1954 and the 1960s to provide additional classroom space.



Above, College Hill School from a newspaper clipping in the files of the Riley County Historical Society, name of newspaper and date unknown. The one-room school is to the left, and the 1914 addition is to the right. The attire of those in the photo suggests 1910s.

For many years, the College Hill School provided instruction for grades 1-8, and provided high school credit for a brief period of 2-3 years. In 1964, the College Hill School District was annexed into the Manhattan school district (Tippin), and the school was used for kindergarten and grades 1-3. In later years, the College Hill building was used for overflow from Marlatt Elementary, and when a new elementary school was built in 1985 and alleviated the overcrowding, College Hill became a Head Start site. College Hill housed the Head Start program until 2002. Since 2002, the Manhattan school district has used the building for a public preschool program.

In 2008 when voters approved a multi-million dollar bond to improve and expand USD 383's facilities, College Hill was not included in the list of bond projects. Board members have expressed mixed opinions about the long-term use of the facility for student programs while
(continued on pg. 4)

(continued from pg. 3)

wrestling with the broader issue of how best to provide preschool services to district families. In recent months, the board has discussed possible improvements to the building, and during the Sept. 17th board meeting, the board was presented with information for creating a “secure entrance” in the location of the historic bell tower entrance. Board members have also expressed an understanding that the historic school is

important to the community regardless of whether it continues to be used for preschool.

In the decades since one-room schools ceased to be used for education, some have been converted to private residences, museums, community centers, and agricultural storage, and others have been left to decay. The College Hill School continues to survive and serve public education. While the current building represents a melding of additions and remodels over the years, it can

trace its beginnings back to the still functioning portion of the building that was originally a small, one-room rural school.



College Hill School, 2014

O'Brien, Dr. Patricia J. The Architects and Buildings of Manhattan, Kansas. Manhattan, Kansas: Riley County Historical Society, 2008.

Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie. Manhattan, Kansas: Riley County Genealogical Society, 1976.

Riley County Historical Society files on College Hill School

Schwenk, Sally. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, “Late Nineteenth Century and Early Twentieth Century Residential Resources in Manhattan, Kansas.” Kansas City, Missouri: Sally Schwenk Associates, 2007.

Spencer, Brenda R. “Historic Public Schools of Kansas.” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, 2005.

“Sunflower Journeys: Rural Schools and Changing Times.” KTWU. 7 February 2002. Web. 20 January 2012. Transcript.

Tippin, Doug. 150 Years of Education Manhattan, Kansas. Manhattan, Kansas: Riley County Historical Society, 2004.

The Western Contractor, editions dated 6/4/1913, and 5/21/1913

Manhattan's Cemeteries & GIS Grave Locator

by Jared Tremblay

Cemeteries are a direct and personal link to the past. Unfortunately, despite tombstones and family histories, records and maps, some information gets lost to time. The city owns and maintains two large cemeteries: Sunset and Sunrise.

Sunset, whose first blocks were plotted out in 1860, is 45 acres in size and home to almost 19,600 graves. Sunrise was plotted out in the 1960s after further expansion of Sunset was no longer feasible. Sunrise is 76 acres in size, and currently home to approximately 10,300 graves (of which over 7,000 are still open).

For the last 25 years, Mike Mohler has served as Sexton. In that time, he has had innumerable requests for locating gravesites. This past winter Mr. Mohler approached me to see if using GIS (geographic information systems) could help in some way. His hope was to consolidate the last 150 years' worth of records and maps into one simple to use and simple to track GIS map database. Through many meetings and hours of work, we were able to create just that. For me personally, this was a very rewarding project. Not often are you tasked with creating a completely new dataset, with the

ability to see the project from beginning to end.

The project was not without its problems, however. One hundred fifty years has brought about many differing standards and formats, as well as quality of record keeping. Many secrets and idiosyncrasies were also brought to my attention by Mr. Mohler. He truly has a wealth of knowledge about the cemeteries, and without him, there would be many more holes in our data, and that history would likely have been lost forever. For example, “Grave ‘X’ was moved here at this time,” or, “This map (continued on pg. 5)

2014-15 Officers & Board of Directors

Officers and members of the Board of Directors were elected during the Annual Meeting of the membership on Sept. 25th.

President: Sara Fisher

Vice President: Kathy Dzewaltowski

Treasurer: Barbara Poresky

Secretary: Catherine Roy-Tremblay

Terms ending in 2015:

Kathy Dzewaltowski

Gary Ellis

Allana Parker

Alyn Pennington West

Catherine Roy-Tremblay

Terms ending in 2016:

Debbie Nuss

Marina Pecar-Krstic

Barbara Poresky

Sharlin Sargent

Terms ending in 2017:

Sara Fisher

Linda Glasgow

John Neill

The Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of the month at the Union Pacific Depot at 7:00 p.m.

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

E-mail:

mrcpanewsletter@gmail.com

Web site:

www.preservemanhattan.org

Facebook: Visit our web site and click the Facebook "Like" button at the bottom of the home page.

(continued from pg. 4)

labeling actually is wrong and refers to this area over here." Below are several bits of information that were brought to my attention during this project.

- Sunset was officially named "Manhattan City Cemetery" until 1935 when an official name change was approved. *The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle* declared the name, "softened death's maudlin associations and end of course symbolism and inferred a time of rest and a ceasing of cares."*
- Girl Scout Park was originally owned by Benjamin F. Miller, who willed the property to the city for cemetery purposes. However, a vein of rock running southwest to northeast made burials impossible. The land was used as an access and service area for the cemetery and is likely the reason the stone wall does not extend along the northern side of the cemetery.
- With interest in beautification of the cemetery around the turn of the 20th century, a public design competition with a \$10 prize was held for the ravine located just west of Blocks 5 and 6 (just west of the W. J. Fortune crypt). No record exists of the prize being paid.*

• Sunrise Cemetery was laid out by a City of Manhattan engineer. If you look closely at a map, the street layout of the cemetery matches the layout of the residential Howenstein Addition (Virginia Dr. and Oregon Ln.) that was under development at the time.

- Portions of Sunset Blocks 4, 5, and 10 were segregated for the African American population.
- Sunset has several large infant sections in Blocks 7, 10, and 16. These graves

are dated from the 1860s up through the 1960s.

In addition to the GIS project, I created an open-to-the-public, searchable online cemeteries map, called "City of Manhattan – Grave Locator." This web application lets you search for anyone's grave by their first or last name. Once a desired name has been selected, the map zooms to the exact location with a pop-up window displaying the name, date of death, date of internment, and lot information. This map is currently on the City of Manhattan's web site and can be found by typing "cemeteries" in the search box. The application works best on desktop and laptop computers, and it does also work on mobile devices, although users may encounter formatting issues.

Jared Tremblay is a GIS analyst with the City of Manhattan.

*The historical information was confirmed and clarified with the use of "Sunset Cemetery – Manhattan, KS: From Beginnings to Preservation Outlook" by B. C. Van Dyke.

Below, Isaac Goodnow's tombstone in Sunset Cemetery, which is easy to find with the GIS grave locator application.



M/RCPA P.O. Box 1893 MANHATTAN, KS 66505-1893
--

.....

M/RCPA Membership Roster

\$35 Historic Level

Charlene Brownson, Diana M. Chapel, Wayne (Mick) Charney, Margaret Conrow, Michael & Janet Danenberg, Clark & Nancy Danner, Dean Denner, Michael & Ann Dudek, Glee Eggers, Michelle Elkins, Beverly Fink, Mary Ann Fleming, Joe & Janette Gelroth, Tom Giller/Commerce Bank, Joann Goldstein, Corina Hugo, Jean Hulbert, Pat & Rita Keating, Lowell & Stacy Kohlmeier, Camille & Phillip Korenek, Ann Kosch, Prof. Robert D. (Bob) Linder, Robert & Elaine Mohr, Ed & Kay Olson, Bill Pallett, Lawrence & Mary Pollack, Jerry & Martha Powell, Gloria Juhl Raney, Linda Sue Rice, Lauren W. Ritterbush, Tom & Karen Roberts, James E. Roper, Catherine Roy-Tremblay, Allana Saenger-Parker, Sharlin Sargent, Deborah Saroff, Geri Simon, Richard & Kimberly Smith, Steve & Kris Springer, Maurice & Carolee Stark, John & Joan Strickler, Bria Taddiken-Williams, Donald & Brooke Ukena, Walter Remodeling Inc., Tim & Adena Weiser, Ron & Dixie West, Nancy Williams, Judith M. Willingham

\$100 Preservation Level

Action Pact Design, Barbara G. Anderson, Phil & Dawn Anderson, Mimi Balderson, Mel & Jan Borst, Bowman Bowman Novick Inc., Jacqueline Brewer, Forrest G. Chumley, D. Cheryl Collins, Melvin & Randi Dale, Lincoln Deihl, Frances Ellis, Gary & Paula Ellis, David & Jana Fallin, Larry & Linda Glasgow, Debbie Nuss & Brad Fenwick, Troy & Sara Fisher, Ralph Fontenot, Bert Harrop, Marjorie Heyne, Prof. & Mrs. Robin Higham, Jean Bigbee Hill, Nancy Holmes, Mark & Ann Knackendoffel, Master Landscape Inc., John & Karen McCulloh, McCullough Development Inc., Dori Mildyke, Miriam H. Milleret, Linda L. Morse, Marina Pecar-Krstic, Ernie & Barbara Peck, Schrum Rentals LLC, John & Mary Beth Reese, Dr. Verlyn Richards, Brenda Spencer, Bob & Mary Stamey, George & Julie Strecker, Barbara E. Withee

\$250 Landmark Level

Mary Dean Apel, David & Kathy Dzewaltowski, GJL Real Estate, Barbara Poresky, Gwyn & Gina Riffel, Chuck & Marsha Tannehill, Kevin S. & Alyn Pennington West

Honorary Lifetime Members

Rose M. Bissey (in memory of Charles Bissey), Enell Foerster (in memory of Bernd Foerster), Dr. Patricia J. O'Brien,