Riley County Properties on the Historic Register

Manhattan Register of Historic Places

Coons House. built 1930

Manhattan Register of Historic Places, 2001

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Significant Person

The house is located near the KSU campus in an area once known as "Dean's Row" because a large number of deans and department heads lived in the area. The house was designed by Paul Weigel, Head of the Department of Architecture at Kansas State, for Mattie Coons. Mrs. Coons wrote "Pioneer Days In Kansas," which she dedicated to her parents who had come to Kansas as part of the Free State abolitionist movement in the 1850s.

Jesse Ingraham House, built 1867

Manhattan Register of Historic Places and
National Register of Historic Places, 2014

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Community Planning and Development

Jesse Ingraham was an early settler in the Manhattan area. His gable-front two-story limestone house was completed in 1867. He was a prominent member of the community, serving as a county commissioner, coroner, and school board member. Ingraham's farm bordered the KSU campus, and some of his donated farmland is now part of the campus.

Register of Historic Kansas Places

Union Pacific Depot, built 1901

Register of Historic Kansas Places, 1978

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Transportation

The 1901 Union Pacific Depot is a characteristic example of Mission Revival architecture and an important remnant of Manhattan's quest for economic progress in the early 20th century.

Manhattan State Bank, built 1906

Register of Historic Kansas Places, 1979

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Commerce

The old Manhattan State Bank is a significant remnant of Manhattan's architectural past. It illustrates the quality of architectural design expertise available to residents in the early 20th century, it reflects a facet of the period's design tastes, and it is a prominent example of Manhattan's limestone architecture.

Washington & Julia Marlatt Homestead, built 1856

Register of Historic Kansas Places, 2006

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement, Education, Agriculture, & Significant Person

The Marlatt House is the oldest stone home in Riley County. When the original Bluemont College building was torn down, Washington Marlatt purchased the materials and constructed the barn shown above. Numbering on the roof timbers used to assemble the barn is still visible. Carved stone blocks with the lettering "Bluemont College" were installed above the barn's west entrance and are now in the KSU Alumni Center.

Henry & Elenora Strong House, built 1867

Register of Historic Kansas Places, 2010

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Exploration/Settlement

Stone for the property was quarried from Henry's own quarry at the base of Bluemont Hill. Stone from Henry's quarry was used to construct many limestone buildings in the area, including Anderson Hall. Family history indicates the Strongs were part of the Underground Railroad, providing shelter to fugitive slaves on their farmstead. The Strongs' granddaughter, Mabel Hoerner, grew up on the farmstead and is known today as "Grandma Hoerner," and her family markets her recipes.

Riley County Fair's Floral Hall, built 1875

Register of Historic Kansas Places, 2017

Area of Significance: Entertainment/Recreation

In the 1870s and 1880s, the Riley County Fair was held in City Park, and Floral Hall served as an exhibition hall for displays of flowers, plants, fruits, vegetables, and household items. After the fair was moved from City Park, Floral Hall was used as a fire station, to quarantine smallpox patients, as city maintenance shops, and for recreation space for youth. It is the oldest fair building in Riley County.

National Register of Historic Places

Goodnow Memorial Home, built 1857

National Register of Historic Places, 1971

Areas of Significance: Education & Politics

Isaac and Ellen Goodnow were strong abolitionists who came to Manhattan in 1855 as part of the New England emigrant Aid Society in an effort to block proslavery influences in Kansas. Isaac was instrumental in establishing Bluemont College, which became Kansas State Agricultural College and the nation's first land-grant institution. The State of Kansas established the Goodnow House state Historic Site in 1969, and the house opened as a museum in 1973.

Robert Ulrich House, built 1869

National Register of Historic Places, 1978

Area of Significance: Architecture

The Ulrich House is significant to Manhattan because of its association with Robert Ulrich, an early resident whose successful brick manufacturing and construction business satisfied desires of residents to build fine and substantial brick buildings. The house is also a significant remnant of Manhattan's architectural past.

Anderson Hall, built 1879-85

National Register of Historic Places, 1980

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Education

Anderson Hall has been the administrative center of Kansas State University since its construction. It's a noteworthy example of high Victorian Gothic design. Conceived as a single design in 1878, the building was constructed in phases as the necessary appropriations were made by the Kansas Legislature. At the time it was completed, it was one of the largest academic buildings in the state. Anderson Hall is a visual landmark that has become a symbol for the university.

Woman's Club House, built 1911

National Register of Historic Places, 1980

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Social/Humanitarian

The Woman's Club House was a gift from the E. G. Lewis Publishing Company to the local chapter of the American Woman's League. The League's emphasis on supporting education was similar to the goals of the Carnegie Libraries. Local chapters were required to recruit 50-75 members, who then had to solicit $52.00 each in subscriptions to the publishing company, and in return, chapters received a percentage of sales for the upkeep of the club house.

Jeremiah Platt House, built 1871

National Register of Historic Places, 1981

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Education

The Platt House is a notable and relatively rare example of domestic architecture constructed in the decade immediately following the Civil War. Jeremiah Platt was a faculty member at Kansas State Agricultural College and was held in high esteem by his colleagues. However, he was very active in the Prohibition movement, and the Board of Regents demanded that he resign in 1889 due to his Prohibition activism.

KSAC Radio Towers, built 1924

National Register of Historic Places, 1983

Area of Significance: Communications

The KSAC Radio Towers are an excellent example of early radio towers built in the U. S. In 1924, they represented the finest radio technology. They are the only remaining towers of their type in Kansas, and one of only a few remaining in the U. S.

Manhattan Carnegie Library, built 1904

National Register of Historic Places, 1987

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Education, & Social/Humanitarian

Manhattan received a $10,000 Carnegie Library grant in 1903, and the Neo-Classical style library was completed in 1904. It's significant for its historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program.

Mattie M. Elliot House, built 1927

National Register of Historic Places, 1995

Area of Significance: Architecture

The house was designed by prominent architect Floyd O. Wolfenbarger for Mattie McNair Elliot. Mrs. Elliot was one of the founding members of the Manhattan Carnegie Library Board in 1903, and her husband founded the W. S. Elliot Clothing Store. The Elliot House is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style of the 1920s and 1930s.

Seven Dolors Catholic Church, built 1920

National Register of Historic Places, 1995

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Religion, & Significant Person

Under the guidance of Father Arthur Luckey, the Seven Dolors Parish grew from 25 families to over 350 members by the end of World War I, and the congregation had outgrown its building and needed a new one. The Romanesque Revival style church was completed in 1920 and maintains a high degree of interior and exterior architectural integrity.

E. A. & Ura Wharton House, built 1897

National Register of Historic Places, 1995

Area of Significance: Architecture

E. A. Wharton operated the New Dry Goods Store in Manhattan, which was well known for its quality merchandise and unique store window displays. Prof. John D. Walters, who started the architecture program at Kansas State Agricultural College, is believed to have been the architect. Romanesque influences are found in the rusticated limestone first floor, which features a limestone porch with a rail composed of alternating blocks. The second story is clapboard with with shingle accents. The second floor sleeping porch is supported by massive limestone piers.

Grimes House, built 1916

National Register of Historic Places, 1997

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Education, Economics, & Significant Person

The Grimes House is an excellent example of the Arts and Crafts style. It features original windows, doors, radiators, and light fixtures; oak-beamed ceilings; and quarter-sawn oak trim. The front lawn is terraced, and features a 55-step stairway to the porch. Dr. W. E. Grimes was a professor in Ag-Econ at Kansas State Agricultural College, and he was an advisor to Gov. Alfred Landon.

Lyda-Jean Apartments, built 1930

National Register of Historic Places, 2004

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Social History

The Lyda-Jean Apartments were designed by prominent local architect Henry Winter. The building is an example of an early 20th century apartment building and reflects the nationwide trend toward urbanization. Apartments served residents who were either unable or uninterested in owning a home at a time when home ownership was a luxury afforded to a small percentage of families.

McFarlane-Wareham Residence, built 1928

National Register of Historic Places, 2004

Area of Significance: Architecture

The house was designed by Prof. Paul Weigel, Head of the Dept. of Architecture at Kansas State, for Dr. and Mrs. McFarlane. The house is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style, and features original leaded casement windows, an arched doorway in the Tudor style, a brick first floor with stucco second floor with half-timbers, a Jacobsen cut stone fireplace mantel, and original oak flooring. The house was purchased by Ralph and Betty Wareham in 1938. Ralph's second wife, Ruth, lived in the house until 1998.

Damon Runyon House, built 1880

National Register of Historic Places, 2004

Areas of Significance: Literature, Performing Arts, & Significant Person

The house is significant because of its association with Damon Runyon, a prominent newspaper columnist, sportswriter, novelist, playwright, and screen writer, and known for musicals, such as "Guys and Dolls." The house was built by Damon's parents in 1880, and Damon was born in the house.

Fitz House, built 1914

National Register of Historic Places, 2005

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Agriculture, & Significant Person

The house was designed by prominent local architect Henry Winter for Leslie Fitz, who was a professor of milling industry at KSAC. The house's exterior features both the Tudor Revival and Arts and Crafts architectural styles. Leslie Fitz also worked for the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, and his research focused on small grains and included growing, disease prevention, and preparation for human consumption.

Riley County Courthouse, built 1905-06

National Register of Historic Places, 2005

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Politics/Government

The Courthouse was designed by architects J. C. Holland and Frank Squires, who also designed three other county courthouses. The Courthouse is constructed of locally quarried limestone and is an example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. The building retains many of the defining characteristics of the architectural style, including arches on squat columns, central bays rising to form a clock tower, and pedimented galbed dormers. Another distinguishing feature is the carved stone details at the entrances, which were carved by craftsman D. R. Penny.

Community House, built 1917

National Register of Historic Places, 2006

Area of Significance: Entertainment/Recreation

The Community House was built during World War I as a recreation center for servicemen. Dances and musical performances provided entertainment for servicemen, and the Community House also provided them with a place where they could relax and sleep. After WW I, the Community House was used by the American Legion and the Chamber of Commerce. During World War II, the building was used again as a U.S.O. Today, the building is owned by the City of Manhattan, and the Parks and Recreation Department uses the space for activities.

Downtown Manhattan Historic District, 1869

National Register of Historic Places, 2007

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Commerce

The buildings in downtown Manhattan reflect the late 19th and early 20th century development of the commercial district. Construction dates within the district range from the 1860s through the 1970s, with the oldest being the Powers' residence on Houston Street, built 1869. Several of the early commercial structures date to the 1880s.

Samuel Houston House, built 1857

National Register of Historic Places, 2007

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Exploration/Settlement, Politics/ Government, & Significant Person

The house was built in 1857, with plans drawn by John Soupine, and is constructed of locally quarried limestone. It serves as an example of the settlement of the Manhattan area prior to the Civil War. Samuel Houston was an early Kansas politician, and he served in the Kansas Legislature and Senate, where he helped to establish Kansas' borders and to write the state constitution.

Hulse-Daughters House, built 1892

National Register of Historic Places, 2007

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Education, Law, & Commerce

The house is a Shingle style and was designed by Herman McCure Hadley. The house is significant because of its having been built during Kansas' progressive era and because it's almost pure in architectural style. The house features a stone first floor with Romanesque arches and chimneys, textured shingles on the second floor, and a lack of exterior ornamentation. David Hulse was a furniture retailer and businessman. Curtis Daughters was an attorney, who was active in the Republican Party and served on the Kansas Board of Regents.

First Congregational Church, built 1859

National Register of Historic Places, 2008

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Community Planning and Development

The First Congregational Church was founded by Rev. Charles E. Blood in 1856, and the Gothic Revival style church building was constructed in 1859. The photo at right shows the original 1859 section of the church, which is the oldest church building in Manhattan. Rev. Blood and other church leaders were abolitionists, and Rev. Blood's move to Manhattan was sponsored by an organization opposed to the spread of slavery to new territories.

Houston & Pierre Streets Residential Historic District, 1866 - 1940

National Register of Historic Places, 2009

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Community Planning and Development

The district is significant for its reflection of the community's residential building patterns associated with Manhattan's economic growth, resulting from its role as a railroad market center, county seat, and college town during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The oldest structures were built in the 1860s. The district includes brick sidewalks and streets, and limestone curbs, which were installed in 1904.

Persons Barn & Granary, built 1860s

National Register of Historic Places, 2009

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Agriculture

Enoch Persons established a farmstead along Zeandale Road in 1855, and the barn and granary were built in the 1860s. The ground floor of the barn is constructed of limestone quarried nearby, and the upper level is board and batten siding. The granary is a one-and-a-half story frame structure with a limestone foundation. The barn and granary are a significant example of a barnyard grouping, established by immigrants who homesteaded in Riley County in the 1850s.

Strasser House, built 1874

National Register of Historic Places, 2010

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Community Planning and Development

Phillipena Strasser. A German immigrant and widow, built the house in 1874. The house is constructed of locally quarried rough-cut limestone and is an example of a Gable-Front-and-Wing Stone House Property Type. The Strasser House was one of a limited number of residences constructed in Manhattan's Ward 2 at the time of its construction. It is now the last remaining residence on its block, as the rest of the area was demolished to make way for new developments.

Photo is courtesy of the Riley County Historical Society.

Rocky Ford School, built 1903 & rebuilt after fire in 1927

National Register of Historic Places, 2012

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Education

Originally built in 1903, the one-room stone schoolhouse educated the students in District 70 through 1938. It is a characteristic example of a Kansas rural school. The building consists of one large school room with two alcoves and features a belfry.

Bethel A.M.E. Church, built 1927

National Register of Historic Places, 2012

Area of Significance: Ethnic Heritage

The Bethel A.M.E. Church was organized in 1879, which was at the time when a large contingent of former slaves left the South, known as the "Great Exodus," and settled in the Manhattan area to start new lives. The congregation increased over the years, necessitating the construction of the larger, current building, which was built in 1927. The Bethel A.M.E. Church is significant because churches were the only community institutions entirely controlled by African Americans in Manhattan. In later years, the congregation was very active in Manhattan's Civil Rights Movement.

Second (Pilgrim) Baptist Church, built 1917

National Register of Historic Places, 2012

Area of Significance: Ethnic Heritage

The Second Baptist Church was organized in 1880, which was at the time when a large contingent of former slaves left the South, known as the "Great Exodus," and settled in the Manhattan area to start new lives. The church was constructed in 1917 and was designed by prominent local architect Henry Winter. The Second Baptist Church is significant because churches were the only community institutions entirely controlled by African Americans in Manhattan. In later years, the congregation was active in Manhattan's Civil Rights Movement and participated in community discussions about racial barriers in housing.

Daniel & Maude Walters House, built 1928

National Register of Historic Places, 2012

Areas of Significance: Community Planning & Development, Architecture

The one-story limestone structure was completed in 1928 and exhibits elements of the Craftsman style as well as features of Tudor Revival. The house was designed by Daniel Walters, who was also the original owner and was one of the early graduates of KSAC's architecture program. Daniel's father, John D. Walters, had founded the architecture program at KSAC. The house was one of the first built in the emerging neighborhoods of Manhattan's western edge that had been made accessible by the new automobile.

Bluemont Youth Cabin, built 1938

National Register of Historic Places, 2014

Areas of Significance: Entertainment/Recreation, Politics/Government, & Architecture

The cabin is a two-story limestone structure built in 1938 by youth employed by the National Youth Administration, which was a President Franklin Roosevelt New Deal program that employed older teens and young adults. Stone for the cabin was quarried on Bluemont Hill, and 115 youths were involved in the construction. Once completed, the cabin was used by the Boy Scouts and by youth of the National Youth Administration.

Jesse Ingraham House, built 1867

National Register of Historic Places and
Manhattan Register of Historic Places, 2014

Areas of Significance: Architecture & Community Planning and Development

Jesse Ingraham was an early settler in the Manhattan area. His gable-front two-story limestone house was completed in 1867. He was a prominent member of the community, serving as a county commissioner, coroner, and school board member. Ingraham's farm bordered the KSU campus, and some of his donated farmland is now part of the campus.

Young Buck Site, prehistoric archaeological site

National Register of Historic Places, 2015

Area of Significance: Archaeology-Prehistoric

The Young Buck Site is located along Wildcat Creek. Investigations of the site indicate that intact evidence of past human activities remain and hold the potential for yielding new information about how earlier peoples lived in this area. Evidence indicates that peoples from the Middle Woodland Period (A.D. 1 – 600) used the site, and also native peoples from the Central Plains tradition lived in this region A.D. 1000 – 1400.

Francis Byron (Barney) Kimble House, built 1912

National Register of Historic Places, 2015

Area of Significance: Architecture

The two-story limestone Queen Anne style house is a rare example of a residential property that has retained its secondary buildings, which helps residents to appreciate and interpret life in early Manhattan. The house retains its original hardwood flooring, interior woodwork, interior doors and pocket doors, door hardware, plaster walls, and main floor fireplace. Barney and Mary Ann Kimble lived in the house in their later years.