A Self Guided Drive Down Memory Lane:
Manhattan Buildings 1917 – 1963

Courtesy of the Riley County Historical Museum

A companion to the Flint Hills Discovery Center exhibit "Flint Hills Forces II: The Shaping of Manhattan, Fort Riley, and Kansas State University 1917– 1963" held September 26, 2014 – February 1, 2015. This driving tour concentrates on buildings and history of the period 1917 to 1963.

Begin at the corner of N. 4th and Humboldt, driving south.
East (left) side of the street:

1

120 N. 4th Street, Manhattan Community House*

Built in 1917 as a recreation center for the approximately 50,000 soldiers who trained at Ft. Riley during World War I. Designed by local architect Henry Winter and funded by Rotary Clubs of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma and the City of Manhattan. During WWII the building again became a social and recreation center for white soldiers. It is now used for City of Manhattan recreation.

West (right) side of the street:

418 N. 4th Street, Telephone Company Building*

Designed in the Art Deco style by K-State graduate architect Charles W. Shaver in 1925. An addition was added in 1962. Harry Wareham founded Manhattan's first telephone company in 1894 and eventually became President of the telephone company that built this building for $250,000. Riley County Offices are now located here.

2

Drive to Poyntz Avenue and turn west (right). Look on the right side of the street.

3

418 Poyntz, Wareham Hotel*

Harry and Will Wareham, founders of Manhattan ice company, telephone company, movie house, and original sewer system among other extensive business interests, built this hotel in 1926 complete with a penthouse for Harry on top. It was for many years the tallest building in town. It was designed by architect Carl Boller. Closed as a hotel in the early 1980's it is today the Wareham Apartments with a couple of fine restaurants on the ground floor.

Go one block west to S. 5th Street and turn south (left). Drive to the intersection of Houston and S. 5th street. Pause to view the Ball Clinic on the northeast corner (left side) and the Lyda Jean Apartment on the southwest corner (right side) before turning west (right) on Houston Street.

428 Houston, Ball Clinic*

Built in the Art Deco style for Dr. Ralph Ball in 1940. Downtown Manhattan traditionally had many doctor offices, upstairs in the business buildings on Poyntz, or in their own buildings like this one. The absence of this type of office is one of the ways in which downtown has changed.

4

5

501 Houston, Lyda-Jean Apartments*

Built in 1930 for Charles Middleton, Manhattan businessman, and named for his wife Lyda and daughter Jean Middleton Goldstein. Designed by local architect Henry Winter, the stone work was done by Charles Howell, Manhattan stonemason and brother of the first African American graduate of K-State Minnie Howell Champ. This building is a good example of early apartment houses built during the transition from boarding houses to apartments.

Proceed to south 6th Street and turn south (left). Between Pierre and Colorado on the west (right) is :

606 Colorado, 2nd Riley County Jail

Designed in 1940 by local architect Floyd Wolfenbarger, son of a former Riley County Sheriff. The building used WPA labor and was built at a cost of around $30,000. The first Riley County Jail stood at this location from 1867 until this building was built. The Riley County Law Enforcement Center, completed in 2000, replaced this jail.

6

Continue on S. 6th Street to Yuma Street. At Yuma Street turn west (right). On the left:

7

831 Yuma, Pilgrim Baptist Church*

The Second Baptist Church was founded in 1880 following the mass exodus of African Americans from the South to Manhattan. This building, designed by Henry Winter, was built in 1917. By the 1920's the church was named Pilgrim Baptist Church. The interior of the original church was rebuilt after a fire in 1942 and an addition was added in 1982.

On right:

900 Yuma, Douglas Community Center

Built with a federal grant of about. $48,000 as the recreation/social center for African American soldiers during World War II and dedicated in 1942. WWII brought a number of celebrities to Fort Riley and the Douglas Center, including Joe Lewis, boxing champion, and Jackie Robinson, baseball player. Since the war, it has continued to serve as a City of Manhattan community and recreation venue.

8

Proceed on Yuma to S. 10th Street and turn south (left). Proceed on S. 10th Street to Fort Riley Boulevard and turn west (right). On the left between S. 11th Street and S. Manhattan Avenue is:

9

Between S. 11th Street and S. Manhattan Avenue, Griffith Field

Griffith Field was constructed in 1936 as a depression era works project and named in honor of Evan Griffith, Manhattan Mayor, businessman, baseball player and baseball supporter. Ft. Riley Boulevard beside Griffith Field was the location of the Rock Island Railroad which ran through Manhattan 1887 – 1980. Look to the south and the Manhattan levy is visible. The levy was built after the devastating 1951 Kansas River flood, credited as the most damaging flood in U.S. history to that point in time.

Continue on Fort Riley Boulevard to S. Manhattan Avenue. Turn north (right) on S. Manhattan Avenue and proceed to Poyntz Avenue. Pause at the corner and look at the southeast corner:

10

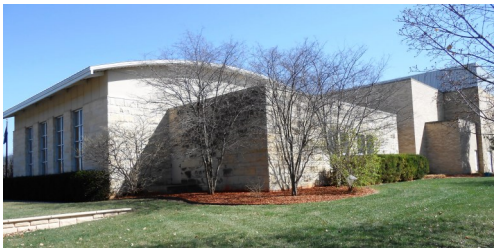
1231 Poyntz Avenue, Free Methodist Church

The Free Methodist Church was organized in 1894; this limestone building was constructed in 1923.

Turn east (right) on to Poyntz Avenue and proceed to S. 12th Street. Turn south (right) on to S. 12th Street. Look to the east (loft).

1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan City Hall and Peace Memorial Auditorium

Manhattan City Hall and Fire Station was built in the early 1950's and dedicated in 1955. The Peace Memorial Auditorium was also dedicated in 1955. The auditorium recognizes the 101 Manhattan servicemen who gave their lives in World War II. From 1957 to 1977 the basement of Manhattan City Hall was the home of the Riley County Historical Museum. In 1998/99 and again in 2015 additions were made to City Hall.



11

Continue on S. 12th Street to Pierre. Turn east (left) on Pierre Street and continue to S. Juliette Street. On the southwest corner:

12

306 S. Juliette, Seven Dolors Catholic Grade School

Manhattan Catholic Schools began as Sacred Heart Academy at this location in 1907. Sacred Heart Academy was in the former home of J.B. Anderson, uncle of K-State President Anderson. In 1955 the first 4 rooms of the present Seven Dolors Catholic Grade School were built. The Sacred Heart Academy was razed when additional rooms and auditorium were built in 1961. A further addition was built in 1993.

220 S. Juliette, Manhattan Catholic School Monsignor Luckey Building

Built and dedicated as Lucky High School in 1952, this building has been used in various ways by Manhattan Catholic Schools since the closing of the high school in 1986. It was designed by Floyd Wolfenbarger and constructed by the Green Construction Company.

13

14

731 Pierre, Seven Dolors Catholic Church*

Designed by K-State graduate architect Henry W. Brinkman and built by Manhattan contractor Mont Green Sr. in 1920. Henry Brinkman designed over 125 churches during his career. The adjacent rectory was built in 1925.

At S. Juliette Street turn north (left). Proceed on Juliette three blocks to Leavenworth Street. At Leavenworth Street turn east (right).

15

312 N. Juliette, Woodrow Wilson School

Woodrow Wilson School, opened in 1924, is on the site of the second public school building in Manhattan, the Central School. Woodrow Wilson's architect was Thomas W. Williamson and the builder was Mont J. Green. Additions were completed in 1951 and 1983. The school was renovated in 1996 and 1999.

500 Leavenworth, Manhattan Post Office

Built in 1963 as Manhattan's second purpose-built post office. The first post office was built in 1909 on the southwest corner of S. 4th and Houston.

16

In 1963 Kansas State University celebrated its 100th anniversary as a State University. 1963 was chosen as the closing date for the Forces exhibit because by that date, Ft. Riley (1953) Manhattan (1955) and Kansas State University (1963) had all commemorated their centennials.

The exhibit "Flint Hills Forces II: The Shaping of Manhattan, Fort Riley and Kansas State University 1917 – 1963" and its accompanying educational programs, including this driving tour, were partially funded through a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit culture organization promoting the understanding of the history, traditions and ideas that shape our lives and build community.

For more information on the history of Manhattan and Riley County go to:
www.rileycounty ks.gov/museum or visit the Riley County Historical Museum at:
2309 Claflin Road Manhattan, Kansas 66502 (785)565-6490.

Further information is available on the City of Manhattan web site:
www.cityofmhk/207/Historic-Preservation

**National Register property- for more information go to www.kshs.org and see the National Register listing.*

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