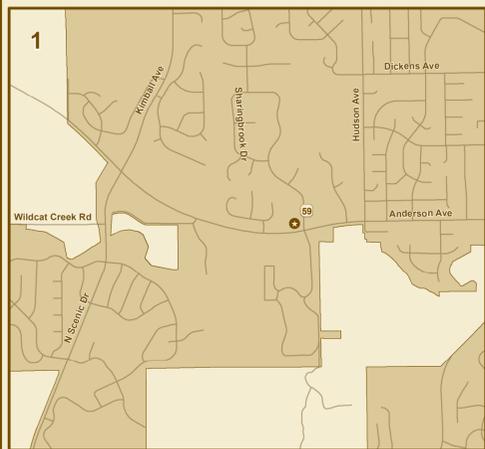
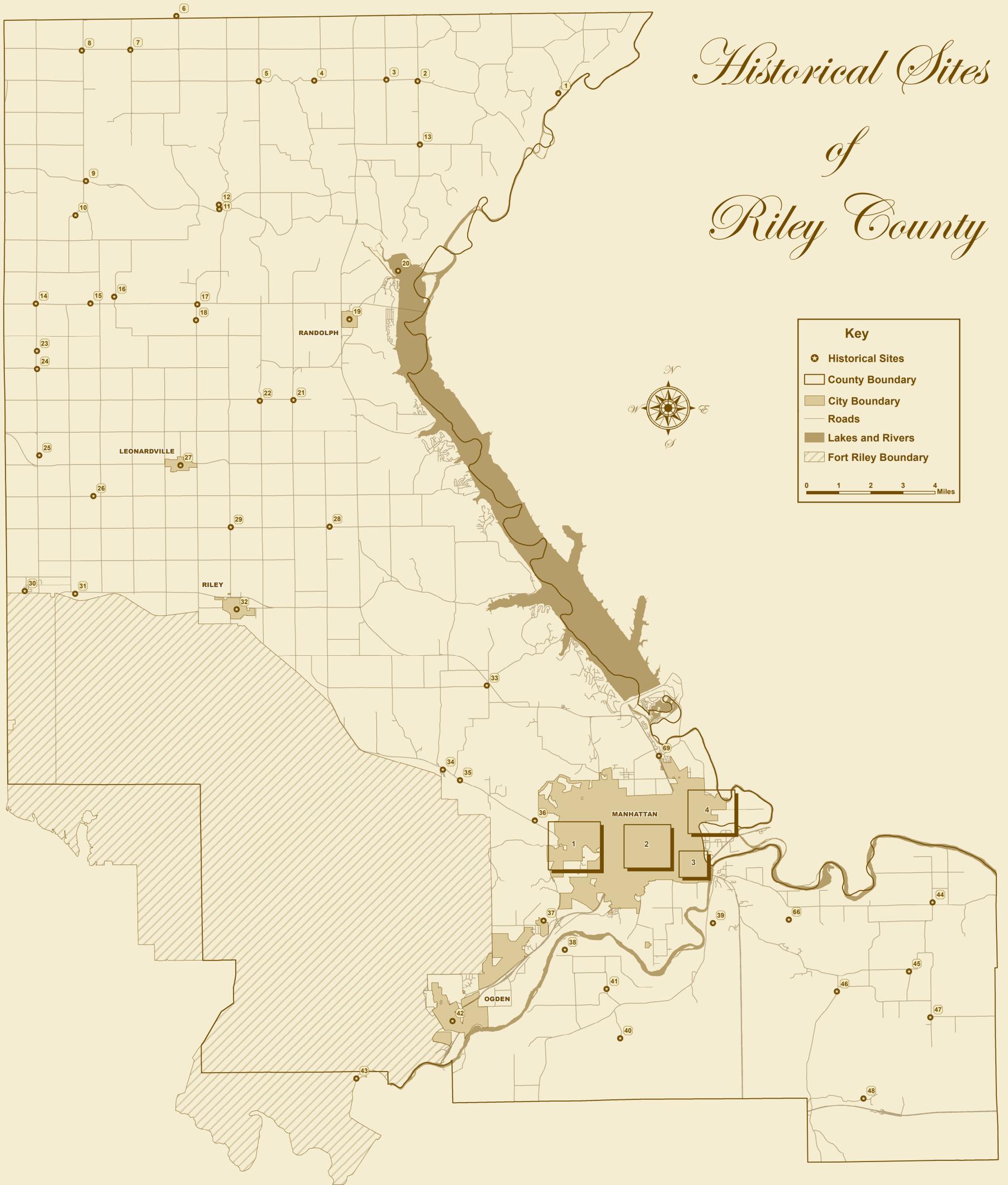


Historical Sites of Riley County



(1) Old Cleburne Townsite

Magnus and Mathilda Vilander were the first to settle in the area later known as Cleburne. When the railroad came through in 1886 Vilander donated the land for its right-of-way. John C. Cleburne was the railroad superintendent and the town was named for him. The town was later vacated with the coming of Tuttle Creek reservoir.

(2) Swede Creek United Methodist Church

In 1876, a stone building was dedicated to serve an Evangelical United Brethern congregation. The present church was dedicated on the same site and is still in use today.

(3) Center Hill Country School

This school was built in 1877. The school was annexed to Randolph in 1951. The school building is still standing today.

(4) Jerusalem or Jericho Road

This is a road that leads from the Swede Creek community to Peach Grove through the hills. The origin of the name is not known.

(5) Peach Grove Public School

Peach Grove School was a two story school house with a stage in the basement that was used for plays. It was started in 1870. The school was annexed to Randolph/Blue Valley in 1958.

(6) Parallel

Swiss, German, and Scandinavian immigrants settled in this area along the Fancy Creek in the 1860’s. The community was distant from larger towns which kept these pioneers close and congenial neighbors. Personal friendships and common interests allowed the community to develop.

(7) Fancy Creek United Methodist Church

The Germans settled the Fancy Creek community north of the creek. The first church services were organized in 1883. The first church was built in 1889. The mouth of the Fancy Creek is now under the water of Tuttle Creek reservoir.

(8) Bodaville Townsite

William Boda was a farmer in the area that was named Bodaville in 1885. The town never developed to a population greater than eighteen. The last building standing in the town was torn down in 1967.

(9) May Day

As the Fancy Creek area became settled, a need for a town arose. A General Store was established in 1871. Also, that year, a post office was authorized to be opened May 1st. this is where the town got its name.

(10) May Day Springs

May Day Springs was a well-known spot for picnics and camp outs in the 1920’s. Charles Sebring owned the land. The site also was referred to as Sebring springs.

(11) Winkler (Winkler’s Mills)

The village of Winkler was named after its first settler August Winkler. Winkler built a grist mill on Fancy Creek in 1857. The mill operated until 1895. The Winkler school was organized in 1870. A school house was then built in 1876. The town was destroyed with the coming of Tuttle Creek reservoir.

(12) Indian Hill

Just west of August Winkler’s home, who built the grist mill along Fancy Creek, is a hill known as “Indian Hill” because of an Indian burial ground of unknown origin is located on its slopes.

(13) Rose Hill Community

Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Hillstrom, two local farmers. combined their names to create a name for a school “Rose Hill”. The school building was built in 1867. A community began to grow in the vicinity of the school but no real town was developed.

(14) Pleasant Hill Country School and Cemetery

The school was started up in 1872. The school building was built in 1874 by community members. Unification in 1965 caused the school to close, and the district was split between Randolph and Green.

(15) Alert Covenant Church

The first church built on the site was completed in 1874. Unfortunately, a fire destroyed the original church and the present building was built in 1948.

(16) Alert Townsite and Country School

The Alert school was formed in 1870 in the townsite of Alert. The school building was wired with electricity in 1947. The school closed in 1952.

(17) Crooked Creek Cemetery

Ola Olson homesteaded in 1870 along Crooked Creek. He donated land for a cemetery although no church was ever affiliated with it.

(18) Crooked Creek Country School

The school was formed in 1874. The school was built one half of a mile south of the cemetery. The school closed in 1947. It is now used as a private residence.

(19) Randolph

The Old Randolph townsite was destroyed by the coming of Tuttle Creek reservoir. Some houses were moved to the south to this new site where several businesses are still in operation today and a new Randolph Community has developed.

(20) Old Randolph Townsite

Gardner Randolph settled in the mouth of the Fancy Creek. He established a plantation home in 1855. He laid claim to all the land within a five mile radius of his home. However, he failed to prove up on his claims as required by federal law and in 1857, settlers began coming to this area. The town that later developed at the mouth of the Fancy Creek was named after him. The Randolph townsite was forced to move to the current site due to the coming of Tuttle Creek reservoir.

(21) Walsburg Townsite

Walsburg developed along the “Old Cornhusker Road” that was primarily used for business travel from Nebraska to the south. This road is now part of Highway 77. Several shops and businesses formed within the town. With the further development of automobiles, people began to take their business to bigger towns.

(22) Walsburg Lutheran Church

A Swedish population began to settle in the Walsburg area in the 1860’s. A church was later built in 1877. Lightning struck the church in 1918, and the building was entirely gutted. The damage was repaired and the facility was enlarged.

(23) Chaffee Home

After the start of construction in 1910, this farm house was complete in 1912. This house contained several marble finished fireplaces along with other great pieces of workmanship.

(24) Lasita

A Swiss immigrant by the name of Michael Senn settled in the area in 1880 because of the beautiful scenery. The town quickly grew with the building of the railroad in 1881. When the railroad closed in 1936, Lasita soon dissipated.

(25) Laurel Hill Country School

The Laurel Hill School District was formed in 1872. The school building was built in 1884. The building was wired for electricity in 1940. The school closed in 1949.

(26) Monitor Country School

The school was formed in 1884. It was later closed in 1947. The average number of enrolled students was nine to ten.

(27) Leonardville

The settlement of the town began in 1866. The railroad came through in 1881 when the town was known as Alembic. It received its current name for the president of the railroad company, Leonard T. Smith.

(28) Grandview Stockdale Cemetery

Located near the mouth of Mill Creek, a town developed when the railroad came through in the 1870’s. A Methodist church was constructed in 1890. When the community and the church were demolished by the coming of the Tuttle Creek reservoir, the congregation salvaged the bell and built a memorial for the church in the Grandview Stockdale Cemetery.

(29) Fairview Presbyterian Church

This church was established in 1884 for a German community. Until 1923, the church services were presented in both the German and English language.

(30) Bala

The area was settled by Welsh immigrants in 1870. The railroad came through in 1887. Several businesses started due to the railroad.

(31) Old Volcano Sites

Due to glaciers entering the area during the Ice Age, there are still some old volcanoes that can be seen at the intersection of Highway 77 and 82. They are located south of the road and east of a farmstead.

(32) Riley

Some of the first settlers of Riley County developed homes here in 1855. The town went by several names until 1887 when the railroad came through. Such names were Union, Riley Center, and Riley. The town appeared that it would die in the 1880’s when the railroad shut down. However, the Rock Island railroad came along and saved the town.

(33) Sedalia Community Church

The church was built in 1899 by a Presbyterian congregation. It was disbanded in 1948. However, in 1964 the building was remodeled and nondenominational services began.

(34) “Lydia Chapel” Keats Methodist Church

The first church services were held in the home of David and Lydia Ebulblute. The present church building was constructed in 1889. They church was named in honor of Lydia Ebulblute.

(35) Kimble-Peterson House

Francis Byron, son of pioneer Samuel Kimble, built this house using only hand-hewn stone. The house was completed in 1894.

(36) Kimble-Page House

Samuel Kimble first came to Riley County in 1860. He and his family acquired a sizeable amount of land and became prosperous farmers. This big stone house was built by one of his sons in 1864.

(37) I.O.O.F. Home- Eureka Lake

Eureka Lake was located west of Manhattan. C. P. Dewey established a resort here and named it Manhattan Beach in 1899 and it operated until 1903 when a flood devastated it. The Odd Fellows purchased it in 1906 and made it a home for the aged and orphans. In 1916 a fire destroyed all the buildings. All that remains today is a wooded area as the lake has dried up.

(38) Kansas State University Horticulture Farm

Kansas State Agriculture College, now Kansas State University, purchased 57 acres of farm land in 1941 for research use by the Horticulture Department. In 1952, they bought 60 more acres.

(39) Hackberry Glen

Horticulturalists had once found nearly every type of plant that grows in Northeast Kansas located here. People at one time, were able to take hikes and have picnics on this property.

(40) Dewey Ranch

C.P. Dewey arrived in Manhattan in1885 and began buying property in Riley County. He purchased nearly 11,000 acres. He founded the first sewer system in Kansas and was also the founder of Manhattan Beach.

(41) Ashland Community Church

New England settlers formed this congregation in 1857. They later were able to build the church in the early 1900’s.

(42) Ogden

Settlers at Pawnee, the first Territorial Capitol, were ordered to clear room for Fort Riley reservation in 1855. Several citizens of the area picked up and moved to Ogden. The town was named after army officer A.E. Ogden who died of cholera in 1855.

(43) First Territorial Capitol of Kansas

In 1855, the first Territorial Legislature was called by Governor Andrew Reeder to convene at Pawnee. They were in session for four days until they voted to reconvene at Shawnee Mission. The building was refurbished between 1900 and 1928 by the Kansas State Historical Society.

(44) Zeandale Community Church

A Methodist congregation formed in 1887 and later combined with a Cambellites group around 1896. Together they formed this community church.

(45) Pillsbury Crossing

Pillsbury Crossing is a shelf of solid rock six to eighteen inches beneath Deep Creek. It was supposedly used as a crossing for wagons moving up the south side of the Kansas River.

(46) Deep Creek School

Children of the Deep Creek area were gathered by Mrs. Josiah Pillsbury in her home starting in 1855. A school was built in the 1858 and was designed by Professor J.D. Walters of the Architecture Department at the Kansas State Agriculture College (now Kansas State University). The school closed in 1945 and the students were sent to Manhattan.

(47) Tabor Valley School

The school house was built in 1882 and was located a half of a mile from where Horace A. W. Tabor resided. Therefore, the school was named after him. Tabor left Riley County and became one of the richest men in America when he struck silver in some mines he had purchased. He later lost his fortune and died with little money.

(48) Blasing Springs

William Blasing settled in Riley County in 1866. In 1882 he struck two Artesian wells. After examination, the water had more than 100 grains of various minerals in a gallon of the water. Blasing then began selling the water and built a hotel near the wells in 1887. His family operated the hotel until 1943, when a tornado destroyed it and most of the spring operation.

(49) Anderson Hall

Anderson Hall was completed around 1884. It has been the administrative center of the Kansas State University. Many campus related activities have taken place in Anderson Hall such as classrooms and libraries. Anderson Hall has been a symbol of the University showing off the University’s beginning and stability.

(50) Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church congregation was organized in 1879. In 1916, the church had grown in size, and a second frame church was built. The current brick building was built in 1927. The church is the oldest existing African American congregation in Manhattan and is still in operation to this day.

(51) Community House

The Community House was designed by Henry B. Winter, a local architect, and construction began in 1917. The project was a joint venture by the Rotarians of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma along with the City of Manhattan. It officially opened in 1918 and provided housing for the military during World War I and II.

(52) Downtown Manhattan Historic District

The Downtown Manhattan Historic District is about six square blocks featuring historic commercial and civic buildings. The construction of the first business was in the 1860’s. The 66 buildings in this area are constructed in a wide range of styles, from vernacular two-part commercial blocks to 1950’s modern design.

(53) Elliot (Mattie M.) House

This home was built for Mrs. Mattie McNair Elliot in 1927 - 1928. It resembles the architectural style of the English Tudor Revival style. Mrs. Elliot was one of the founding members of the Manhattan Carnegie Library Board in 1903 and remained active on the board until 1929. The house is believed to have been designed by Floyd O. Wolfenbarger who was a prominent Manhattan architect.

(54) First Congressional Church

The congregation of The First Congregational Church was formed in 1856. In 1859, the simple gable-roof rectangle church was built. The church has grown and three additions to the church have been added in 1879, 1904, and 1989. The building resembles the Gothic Revival style which was popular in the mid 1800’s originating in England.

(55) Fitz, Leslie A., House

The Fitz, Leslie A., House was built in 1914 by Professor Leslie Arthur Fitz. The house resembles both the Tudor Revival and Arts and Crafts architectural styles. The interior is an excellent example of the Craftsman Bungalow architecture style. The Tudor Revival archtecture was popular in the 1920’s and 1930’s as was the Craftsman Bungalow.

(56) Goodnow Memorial Home

Construction on the Goodnow Memorial Home began in 1857 and completed in 1876. Isaac T. Goodnow acquired the house in 1859. He helped establish Bluemont College in 1859 which later became Kansas State Agricultural College in 1863 and is now Kansas State University. Goodnow also set up local public school districts and is referred to as the “founder of the Kansas common school system.”

(57) Grimes House

Originally built in 1916 in the Arts and Crafts architectural style, Dr. and Mrs. W.E. Grimes bought the house in 1924, where they raised their four children. Dr. Grimes was involved with the Kansas State Agriculture College. He was an associate professor of Farm Management. He later became a department head for the Agricultural Economics, Economics, and Sociology.

(58) Houston & Pierre Streets Residential Historic District

The Houston and Pierre Streets Residential Historic District is a residential district with late 19th and early 20th century residences. There is a wide variety of architectural styles used with these homes. These styles include Italianate, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Tudor, and Craftsman. Throughout the district, the streets are lined with brick sidewalks and have several historic garages.

(59) Houston, Samuel D., House

The Houston, Samuel D., House was built in 1857 in the National Folk tradition, which was popular at the time. The limestone used, was locally quarried. This house is associated with the early settlement of Manhattan, pre-Civil War, and also with Kansas Politian Samuel Dexter Houston. He helped establish the boundaries of Kansas, and helped write the State Constitution.

(60) Hulse-Daughters House

The Hulse-Daughters House was built in 1892. It has an association with community leaders in Manhattan. The house was home to David C. Hulse who was a local builder and furniture retailer. Then, it was owned by Curtis B. Daughters, a leader in the local and state Republican Party politics.

(61) KSAC Radio Towers

The KSAC radio towers were built in 1924 and were an example of the best radio towers available. During their operation they were affiliated with KFAB, WSUI and WIBW. Both towers became non-functioning in 1947 when a new tower was built.

(62) Lyda- Jean Apartments

The Lyda-Jean Apartments were built in 1930. This was at a time that great population growth was happening in the city of Manhattan. The need for single family homes was also rising. The interior has the Craftsman architectural style while the exterior resembles the twentieth-century commercial style.

(63) Manhattan Carnegie Library Building (old)

The Manhattan Carnegie Library Building, constructed in 1904, is one of sixty-three Carnegie funded libraries built in the state of Kansas. The grant for \$10,000 was received in 1903. The building was built in a Neo-Classical style. This library is the community’s first library building.

(64) Manhattan State Bank

The Manhattan State Bank was organized in 1906. It was the first State bank in Manhattan. The bank was made possible by the Kansas banking legislation passed in 1897. In 1931, the bank was shut down. The building is an example of turn-of-the-century commercial architecture. The use of the limestone shows the prominence of the local limestone industry.

(65) McFarlane- Wareham House

The McFarlane-Wareham residence was built in 1928 for Dr. and Mrs. McFarlane. It is a prime example of the Tudor Revival architecture style that was popular at that time. The house has had several owners. In 1938, it was purchased by Ralph and Betty Wareham. Ralph was the nephew of Harry P. Wareham, a famous entrepreneur in the Manhattan community.

(66) Persons Barn and Granary

Enoch Persons obtained the property in the 1850’s. and has been in the family for five generations. There is a gable-roof barn constructed of native limestone that was likely built in the 1860’s. There is also a granary and a corral with six-foot limestone walls that are dated to 1939. Along with the other buildings, a clay tile silo dates to 1919. The farm buildings are rich in history.

(67) Platt, Jeremiah, House

The Platt House was built around 1871. It is a representation of domestic architecture that was common after the Civil War. The house was built for Professor Jeremiah Platt. Jeremiah Platt help found Lincoln College, which is now Washburn University. In 1864, he joined the faculty of the Kansas State Agricultural College, now Kansas State University.

(68) Riley County Courthouse

Construction on the Riley County Courthouse began in 1905, and was finished in 1906. The appearance of the building is identical to three other courthouses designed by Holland and Squires. Locally quarried limestone was used in the construction of the building. Over the years, the use of the space has changed, but the integrity of the building has not changed.

(69) Rocky Ford School

Rocky Ford School is a one room schoolhouse made of limestone. It was constructed in 1903. It was later rebuilt in 1927 due to a fire. It served first through eighth grade until it was consolidated with District 1 in 1938 and students were then routed to Manhattan.

(70) Runyon, Damon, House

The Damon Runyon House is the birthplace of Damon Runyon, a prominent newspaper columnist, sportswriter, novelist, playwright and screenwriter in the first half of the century. The author of well-known musical works such as Guys and Dolls, he is regarded as the father of “Broadway” in New York City. His birthplace can take credit for why Manhattan is sometimes called “The Little Apple.”

(71) Second Baptist Church

The original congregation was organized in 1880. The brick building was constructed in 1917. It was not only a center for religious worship, but served the greater community by hosting education, social, and charitable activities.

(72) Seven Dolors Catholic Church

The Seven Dolors Catholic Church was built in 1920. It is associated with the growth and development of the Catholic Church in Manhattan, Kansas. It also displays the architectural work of a Romanesque Revival style. Through the years the church has been associated with several prominent people with the local and catholic community.

(73) Strasser House

This home was constructed in 1874 for Phillipena J. Strasser, a German immigrant. The original house was built as a two story gable front limestone house. The house was sold in 1876. The two story intersecting wing was added in 1885 by a later owner. It is an example of 19th century Vernacular Stone House architectural design.

(74) Strong, Henry and Elenora, House

Drafted and constructed by Henry Strong in 1867 for him and his wife Elenora. It was built with local limestone from Bluemont Hill and resembles the popular mid-nineteenth century vernacular stone style house. The houses is associated with the early settlement of Manhattan.

(75) Ulrich, Robert, House

The Robert Ulrich House was built by Robert Ulrich in 1868-69. Robert Ulrich was a prominent brick manufacturing and construction business owner in Manhattan. This house has a significant resemblance of Manhattan’s architectural past.

(76) Union Pacific Depot

Built in 1901, the Union Pacific Depot is an example of Mission Revival architecture. It also is a remnant of Manhattan’s quest for economic progress.

(77) Walters, Daniel and Maude, House

Daniel and Maude Walters house was built in 1928. It reflects the popular Craftsman style architecture. The location of the house resembles the growth and expansion of Manhattan at that time period. It has significance in the area of community planning, development, and architecture.

(78) Washington and Julia Marlatt Homestead

The Washington and Julia Marlatt Homestead was bought by Washington Marlatt in 1858. The core of the house remains the oldest structure in Riley County with stone work that cannot be reproduced today. Washington Marlatt played a significant role in the community, as he was one of the founders of Bluement Central College.

(79) Wharton (E.A. and Ura) House

The E.A. and Ura Wharton House was completed in 1897. It has architectural significance as a vernacular style house. E.A. Wharton ran a prominent mercantile in Manhattan. In 1903, he was elected one of three trustees of Manhattan Institute.

(80) Women’s Club House

The Manhattan Chapter of the American Women’s Club was established in 1909. The organization was given two years after their establishment to purchase a building lot. In 1910, they purchased this lot and construction on the house began in 1911. The organization has changed its name twice since being established. They changed to the Woman’s Welfare Association in 1913 and in 1920 they became the Woman’s Club.