

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

OMB No. 10024-0018
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MAY 19 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name E.A. and Ura Wharton House

other names/site number 161-3490-0059

2. Location

street & number 608 Houston Street not for publication

city or town Manhattan vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Riley code 161 zip code 66502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronnie Powers, SHPO April 26, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson R. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register 6/20/95
Date of Action

E.A. and Ura Wharton House
Name of Property

Riley County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century

American Movements

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone; concrete

walls Wood: shingles and weatherboard

Stone: limestone; concrete

roof Asphalt: shingles

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1897

Significant Dates

c. 1897

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

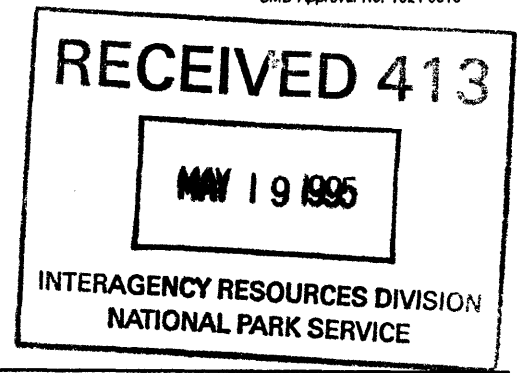
Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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The E. A. and Ura Wharton House (c. 1897) is located at 608 Houston Street in Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas (pop. 32, 644). The two story, rusticated limestone block, shingle, and clapboard house sits on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by an asphalt shingled, hipped roof with hipped, gable and shed roof projections. A mansard roof addition projects from the north elevation. The building maintains a southern facade orientation.

A one story, concrete block and clapboard garage (c. 1907) stands northwest of the house. The building maintains a southern facade orientation. The garage stands on a concrete foundation and is surmounted by an asphalt shingled, gambrel roof. Each gambrel is defined with clapboard. Two garage doors pierce the south facade. The building's elevations are composed of rusticated limestone blocks. Two double hung sash windows and a door pierce the east elevation. The western bay of the north elevation is composed of a sliding door that gives access to the alley.

The E. A. and Ura Wharton house has a rectangular plan, a hipped roof with complex projections, and a symmetrical facade. The first floor is constructed of limestone which is from a nearby quarry owned by William and Edward Ulrich. Each rusticated limestone block has worked edges that create a straight edge allowing the blocks to be put up in a straight line. Rusticated limestone lintels and thresholds surmount and underscore each window respectively. The second story and mansard roof addition are composed of clapboard with the occasional shingle accent. Two massive, square, limestone piers uphold the second story sleeping porch that projects over first story porch providing a roof. The two-story porch spans the central bay of the facade.

In vernacular house examples, such as the E. A. and Ura Wharton House, hipped dormers are common, as are multi-level eaves, two-story bay windows and double hung sash windows. In contrast to contemporary styles, the E. A. and Ura Wharton House does not emphasize decorative detailing at doors, windows, cornices, porches or on wall surfaces. Romanesque influences are found in the rusticated limestone first story, limestone stringcourse at the level of the window lintel, and bay window. The presence of the Shingle style is articulated in the heavy first floor massing, limestone porch, textured shingles, and hipped dormers.

Fenestration on the building is comprised of 1/1 double hung sash windows grouped in singular configurations and one the triple configuration on the south facade of the sleeping porch. A hipped dormer projects from the west elevation and a gable dormer projects from the north elevation. Both dormers are fenestrated with small, square windows. A two-story bay window, fenestrated with 1/1 double hung sash windows projects from the east elevation. The center of the two-story bay window is composed of a chimney. Another chimney rises from the south side of the south hipped roof projection.

A limestone porch composes the center bay of the south facade of the building. Two square piers support the sleeping porch. A limestone railing composed of one horizontal limestone rail

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with limestone blocks alternating with open space between the rail and the foundation spans the space between each pier. Limestone blocks support the porch. The porch is accessed from the east by four concrete steps and southern limestone abutments.

The interiors of the first and second floors retain their original floorplan and detailing, except the kitchen which was extensively remodelled in 1956 when Alex and Helen McManis bought the house. The first and second story floorplans are aligned around a center staircase, which is located on the west wall of the entry hall. The first floor is arranged by having one room lead into another. The second floor is reached by a dog-legged staircase. All rooms on the second floor are accessed by a straight hallway.

The parlor, entry hall, and dining room compose the public space on the first floor. Entry into the house occurs on the south wall of the entry hall through a paneled door with a small, upper glass pane. The trim surrounding the doorway has a flat profile. A dog-legged staircase and hallway are aligned directly across from the door. A high back bench surmounted by a wooden, quarter circle with radiating turned poles defines the front of the staircase. Steps to the east provide access to the north/south aligned staircase. A paneled newel post begins the railing up the stairs. The balusters on the railing are turned.

A large square opening to the east of the entry hall leads to the parlor. The east wall is dominated by a bay window. A ceramic tile fireplace defines the center bay. A wooden mantel surmounts the fireplace. Plain ceramic tiles define the hearth. The trim surrounding the doors and windows has a flat profile. The window trim rises from the sill to end at the head casing. A picture molding defines the ceiling line.

A large square opening to the west of the entry hall leads to the dining room. Between the dining room wall and the entry hall is a book case-desk combination built specifically to fit the space. It has a drop down front and a glass book case. The door and window surrounds and picture molding in the dining room have the same design as the woodwork in the parlor. On the east wall is a telephone niche. Below the niche is a unique stool, thought to have been brought from Mr. Wharton's store. Its hinge allows it to be raised for use or folded down against the wall to get it out of the way. A door on the north wall leads to the kitchen. The kitchen has been extensively remodelled.

The kitchen was originally constructed for servants to do the cooking. Before the McManis's remodelled there was no door leading from the kitchen to the dining room. A foot switch under the dining room table alerted the kitchen staff who would come through a door in the pantry, which opened into the dining room. When the McManis's remodelled they closed the door from the pantry to the dining room and installed an entrance from the kitchen directly to the dining room. There are no bedrooms for the servants, so the Whartons constructed the house with the idea of hiring people for the day.

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A dog-legged staircase rises to the second floor hallway. A newel post and balustrade on the landing defines the opening of the staircase. A straight hallway connects four bedrooms and one bathroom. The trim surrounding the doors and windows has a flat profile. Three of the four bedroom doors are surmounted by transoms. All doors have their original locksets and knobs. The rooms off the corridors have the same molding and trim for the doors and windows. A metal tube in the upstairs hall leads to the pantry. The tube provided communication with the kitchen servants. The original small blue and white ceramic floor tile, pedestal, lavatory and bathtub still adorn the bathroom.

Neither the basement nor the attic were finished. Before the house was remodelled in 1956 the basement contained a coal chute, a trash burner and cement water vats for laundry. Many original electrical and hot water heating fixtures, though, can be found in the house. Electricity was first used in Manhattan in 1890 and one or two push button light switches are still in operation. The light fixtures in the dining room and entry hall are original. The house is heated with hot water. The system works by having water heated in the basement and circulated through registers in each room. A water tank is placed in the attic.

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The E. A. and Ura Wharton House (c. 1897) is located at 608 Houston Street in Manhattan, Kansas. The property is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its architectural significance as a vernacular style house. The property maintains a high degree of interior and exterior architectural integrity.

The house has a rectangular plan, a hipped roof with complex projections, and a symmetrical facade. The first floor is constructed of limestone which is from a nearby quarry owned by William and Edward Ulrich. Each rusticated limestone block has worked edges that create a straight edge allowing the blocks to be put up in a straight line. Rusticated limestone lintels and thresholds surmount and underscore each window respectively. The second story and mansard roof addition are composed of clapboard with the occasional shingle accent. Two massive, square, limestone piers uphold the second story sleeping porch that projects over first story porch providing a roof. The two-story porch spans the central bay of the facade.

In vernacular house examples, such as the E. A. and Ura Wharton House, hipped dormers are common, as are multi-level eaves, two-story bay windows and double hung sash windows. In contrast to contemporary styles, the E. A. and Ura Wharton House does not emphasize decorative detailing at doors, windows, cornices, porches or on wall surfaces. Romanesque influences are found in the rusticated limestone first story, limestone stringcourse at the level of the window lintel, and bay window. The presence of the Shingle style is articulated in the heavy first floor massing, limestone porch, textured shingles, and hipped dormers.

A one story, concrete block and clapboard garage (c. 1907) stands northwest of the house. The building maintains a southern facade orientation with another primary elevation on the north. The extant location of the garage is interesting to note because it represents the transition from carriage to car. The south facade of the garage is pierced with one garage door. A straight concrete drive gives the car easy access from the street to the garage door. Another door facing the alley also gives access in to the garage. This large sliding door pierces the north elevation and provided entrance for the carriage, until it was replaced by the car.

The house was built for Edward Augustus (E. A.) Wharton (d. 1938) and Ura Burgoyne Wharton (1865-1941) in c. 1897, on land sold to her by her uncle on May 12, 1892. Ura Wharton's name is the only one that appears on the deed. On June 10, 1897, the Manhattan Nationalist reports that "Mrs. E. A. Wharton's new house on Houston street is nearing completion and adds very much to this already fine residence street."

Ura Wharton, daughter of Uriah Higinbotham, was born and raised in Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. She married E. A. Wharton on August 25, 1885. (Manhattan Nationalist, August 25, 1885) E. A. Wharton came to Kansas from Pennsylvania in 1880 and on April 1, 1887, he opened the New Dry Goods Store in Manhattan.

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Wharton's mercantile was well known in the community for its quality merchandise and unique window displays. "The show window of E. A. Wharton is one of the most tasty displays in town. Many a passerby is attracted by it and of course is disposed to investigate." (Manhattan Nationalists, September 18, 1891) On September 26, 1901, E. A. Wharton placed a mounted tiger muskellunge in his show window. This was such an atypical display for a mercantile that the Manhattan Nationalist noted that "the fish was caught by Mr. Wharton in Plum Lake...It took over an hour to load this specimen which is the largest of its kind ever caught in Northern Wisconsin. The mounting was done by N. Slatkin of the Atlantic & Pacific Bird Co., Chicago, Illinois."

E. A. Wharton and his mercantile became synonymous with quality. "Wharton's store is one of the very finest dry good stores in the state and quality of the stock is probably not surpassed in half a dozen store in Kansas." (Manhattan Republic November 30, 1909). Mr. Wharton owned his mercantile for thirty years and sold it to Chas. Lantz in 1909, with the formal transfer taking place January 1, 1910.

In addition to owning the local mercantile, E. A. Wharton was elected one of three trustees of Manhattan Institute on January 15, 1903. When City Council elections were held on March 26, 1903, E. A. Wharton was elected from Ward IV.

The architect and builder of the house are unknown. It is speculated, though, that J. D. Walters, a professor of architecture at what was then Kansas State Agricultural College, built the house. No evidence has been found that he designed any homes other than his own, which he built in 1978, hiring students to help him. In addition to his own home, Walters designed several churches, and Kedsie Hall, Horticulture Hall and the Auditorium on the campus of Kansas State University. The evidence of his involvement with the Wharton home stems from an article in the 1902 issue of the K.S.A.C. Industrialist which states that Prof. J. D. Walters took his class in home architecture to show them the "model residence of Mrs. Wharton's. The students were delighted with the perfect arrangement of modern conveniences of the beautiful home, and voted it the best arranged home they had ever see."

The Whartons lived at 608 Houston until their deaths, E. A. in January 1939 and Ura in March 1941. The house was willed to Mrs. Lillian M. Greene, a sister of Ura Wharton, with the stipulation that it was to go to the Christian Science Church after Mrs. Greene's death. Mrs. Greene die July 14, 1955. The Christian Science Church used the house for services while they built a new facility. When the facility was completed, they put the Wharton house up for sale. Helen and Alex McManis bought the house in the fall of 1956. Helen continues to live in the house.

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abstract of Title, No. 24150.

K.S.A.C. Industrialist, 1902.

Manhattan Mercury, March 15, 1992.

Manhattan Nationalist, 1883-1910.

Manhattan Republic, November 30, 1909.

McManis, Helen. "E. A. and Ura Wharton House." National Register Nomination draft. April, 1994.

Riley County Courthouse, Appraiser's Office.

Streeter, Martha. "Wharton-McManis House."

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located in Ward 1 on the west half of lot 610 and lot 611 in Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the south by Houston Street, to the north by an alley, and to the east and west by adjacent property lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains all property historically associated with the nominated building.