

RECEIVED **OCT 29 1980**

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Woman's Club House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

900 Poyntz Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Manhattan

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kansas

VICINITY OF

No. 2, Jim Jeffries

CODE

20

COUNTY

Riley

CODE

161

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDEN
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Woman's Club of Manhattan, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

900 Poyntz Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Manhattan

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

66502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Riley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Manhattan

STATE

Kansas

66502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Manhattan Historic Survey

DATE

1980

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Riley County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Manhattan

KS.

66502

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Woman's Club House in Manhattan is essentially a Bungalow, being a rectangular one-story stuccoed building with a side gable roof and a gabled entrance porch facing south on Poyntz Avenue. The building is sited on a corner lot.

On the north side of the building, there is a kitchen bay. Planters are incorporated into the wall/window treatment of the gable ends. The roof is covered with grey asphalt shingles. The wooden trim is painted white. The windows are paired 8-pane casements. There is a central chimney.

Inside there is an anteroom which opens into the large general meeting room. The meeting room was designed so that it could be subdivided by folding doors. A kitchen and restroom are attached to the north. There is a basement for the furnace and storage.

Over the fireplace there is a plaque, "Woman's Mission," sculpted by George Zolnay. It portrays the mother of mankind educating, guiding, and protecting childhood. This was the official emblem of the American Woman's League and few examples have survived.

Alterations

Both the exterior and interior of the Woman's Club House have received only minor alterations. The asphalt roof shingles are not original and the brick chimney was probably parged over some time after the construction of the building. The decorative capitals of the porch piers are no longer polychromed.

Inside, the original coved ceiling has been hidden by a dropped acoustical tile grid ceiling. Some folding doors in the general meeting room have been removed.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1911 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Helpfensteller, Hirsch and Watson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As an Arts and Crafts style bungalow, the Woman's Club House is a design distinctive of the early twentieth century. But more important is the building's association with the American Woman's League scheme which capitalized on the enthusiasm for self and civic improvement during the period. The League's emphasis on supporting education was similar to the goals of the Carnegie Free Libraries. Despite the profiteering that underlay the scheme, Manhattan, and many other American communities, were positively affected by the promotion to develop woman's organizations that played important roles in community life.

Chronology

The Manhattan chapter of the American Woman's League held its first meeting August 30, 1909 at the Riley County Courthouse. In its constitution the group stated that its purpose was to associate the women of Manhattan in intellectual, cultural and civic activities and to create among its members "an unselfish public spirit that could work for the advancement of the interests of Manhattan and the improvement of the condition of its inhabitants." The most immediate concern of the local group, and in fact the catalyst that led to organization of the chapter, was the donation of a completely furnished chapter house to be constructed on a lot provided by the local group. The club house was to be the gift of the E.G. Lewis Publishing Company.

This donation was the basis of business promotion of the Lewis Company which capitalized on widespread popular interest in organizations for women devoted to charitable causes, intellectual development, social interaction, and civic welfare. The company offered membership in an organization called the American Woman's League, which purported to support a university correspondence education program. Local chapters were required to secure 50 to 75 members; each member was then to solicit subscriptions worth at least \$52.00 for some of the numerous publications listed by the Lewis Publishing Company. The company would receive 50% of the subscription sales as a commission from the magazine publishers involved. Local chapters would then be given a clubhouse provided that it could supply a lot upon which to build it. The building site was to be deeded to the League to be held in trust for the local chapter. Thereafter the chapter was to receive an annual percentage of its subscription sales to be used for their expenses.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see attached sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Manhattan

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 709885 4389310
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the south one-half of Lots 225 and 226 of Ward 4, City of Manhattan.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Julie A. Wortman, Architectural Historian
Dale Nimz, Historic Preservation Department

ORGANIZATION Ks. State Historical Society DATE 10-1-80

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th TELEPHONE 913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka, STATE Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Joseph W. Snell

TITLE

Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

10-14-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Kenneth M. ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/28/80

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

STATE	Kansas	
COUNTY	Riley	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 20 1978

RECEIVED
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JUL 31 1978

No. 8

NATIONAL REGISTER

(Continuation Sheet) 1

(Number all entries)

publication also claimed that Ulrich's building expertise was much in demand among wealthy citizens of the town who desired "handsome" and "stylish" residences such as those he built for E.B. Purcell and for Ashford Stingley.

Rather than brick, however, it was limestone that achieved the greatest prominence as a popular and distinctive building material in Manhattan in the late 19th century. Ulrich's own sons, William and Edward, began a stone quarrying business in 1877 which within a decade was being credited by the Manhattan Republic with a large role in developing the limestone business as a substantial economic resource for Manhattan. Still, brick buildings were considered valuable contributions to the town's visual image, for, as one 1881 publication on the community noted, the stone and brick houses gave Manhattan "an unusually solid and thrifty appearance." Ulrich's own house, built in 1868-1869 of brick that in all likelihood was obtained from his own brickyard, is one of the few brick residences from this period still remaining in Manhattan. The Ulrich house was modest in comparison with most of the fine residences Ulrich had a hand in constructing in Manhattan. For example, while the Purcell House (now destroyed) was an elaborate two and one-half story structure complete with impressive tower, Ulrich's own house, which he was constructing at about the same time, was a modest one and one-half story structure lacking pretentious projections. Nevertheless, both residences drew upon the same system of architectural design--that associated with Victorian villa and cottage architecture. The Ulrich house is a valuable illustration of the application of this type of design to conditions in Manhattan.

The cottage/villa system of architecture had been most persuasively discussed and promulgated in America by A. J. Downing, whose publications on villas and cottage design in the 1840's and early 1850's were the first of a rash of similar publications by numerous like-minded authors that would dominate the popular architectural press through the 1880's. These books provided a great variety of plans and elevations of "approved" designs as well as model specifications. Through the designs and accompanying discussions, these books, a ready source of ideas for builders throughout the country, communicated the essence of the architectural theory Downing formulated. The major thrust of Downing's theory was that domestic architecture should reflect, in form, structure, materials and siting, the owner's economic circumstances as well as the application of rational and picturesque principles. Thus, if the differences in scale and decoration between the Ulrich and Purcell houses reflected the differences in owners' economic status, both structures demonstrated a taste for the picturesque and rational-looking effects of varied massing, contrasts in both light and shade and open and closed elements, as well as ornamentation confined to

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STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Riley	
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No. 8

(Continuation Sheet)

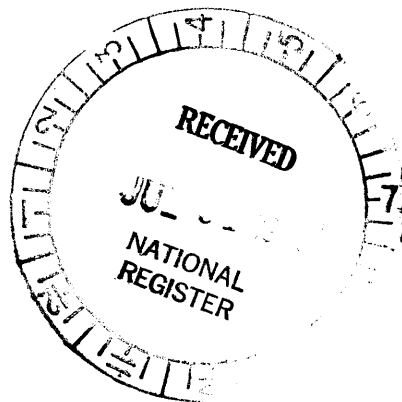
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structural features. Both also utilized Anglo-Italian detailing. The easily achieved gradations in scale and elaborateness and the numerous designs available in the villa/cottage system recommended it to architects and builders throughout America during the second half of the 19th century, including builders like Ulrich.

Also important to this system of design was the relationship of building to site--the most expansive site possible was desirable in order to reap the benefits of Nature's influence. The Ulrich House still occupies its original generous three-lot site and thus is fortunate in retaining the character of the original building site relationship.

Note: the above statement reflects present understanding of the nominated property. Should additional information become available or should changes in the state of historical learning occur, this statement may require re-evaluation and, possibly, modification.



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COUNTY Riley	
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Charlson, Sam C., "Old Houses in This Area," Centennial Year Programs of the Domestic Science Club of Manhattan (n.p., 1961), p. 125.

An Illustrated Sketch Book of Riley County, Kansas (Manhattan, The Nationalist, January, 1881), p. 95.

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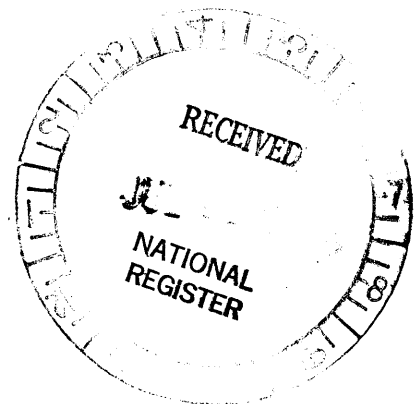
"Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas," (New York, Sanborn Map Company, 1930), p. 9.

Manhattan Standard, September 26, 1868.

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Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie (Manhattan, Riley County Genealogical Society, 1976), p. 476.

"Planners Split on Landmark Home's Fate," Manhattan Mercury, February 16, 1978.



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Manhattan Nationalist. 9-7-1911.

"Terms on Which Chapter Houses Will Be Built," circular, American Woman's
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After the Manhattan group was organized in 1909, it was given two years to secure the subscriptions and purchase a building lot. The group purchased a lot in Manhattan in 1910 for \$1500. Construction of the chapter house began early in 1911.

Six standard plans and elevations were used by the American Woman's League for chapter houses. The building in Manhattan is basically a class 3 design (building to cost \$4000 for towns of 3000-5000; chapters of 75 members). The design was provided by the firm of Helfensteller, Hirsch, and Watson of St. Louis, Missouri. From correspondence between the League's head office and Mrs. Lydia Willard, president of the Manhattan chapter, it appears that the standard plan was modified to fit the smaller dimensions available on the lot which was purchased in Manhattan.

While the chapter house was being built in 1911, government prosecution forced the Lewis Publishing Company to suspend its business activities. The company was charged with disobeying the law and flooding the mails with periodicals. When it was suspended, the company owed \$1000 to be paid on the Manhattan contract.

Trustees of the chapter arranged a mortgage for this amount and took in ten member whose dues paid for installation of the furnace and light fixtures. Chapter members also had to pay for the club house furniture. Total cost of the club house came to \$6,651. Closing fees, furnishings, and interest charges added almost \$1000 to the price of the "free" building.

Despite these developments, it was reported that the group enjoyed its first meeting in the new building August 24, 1911. Since the American Woman's League collapsed along with the Lewis Publishing Company, the Manhattan group changed its name in 1913 to the Woman's Welfare Association. In 1920 the name was changed again to the Woman's Club.

At the present time the club has only 48 members, mostly senior citizens. Although the church next door occasionally uses the building, the income and resources of the club are declining even as the costs of utilities, maintenance, and taxes increase.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO FUTURE AMENDMENT.
