

Isaac Goodnow House
Manhattan
Riley County
Kansas

HABS No. KANS-11

HABS
KANS
81-MAN
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ISAAC GOODNOW HOUSE

HABS
KANS
81-MAN

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Street Address: Manhattan, Manhattan Township, Riley County,
Kansas.

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Loyal F. Payne, 1825 College
Heights Road, Manhattan, Kansas.

Present Occupant: Name not recorded. (JPN)

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: This two-story stone house is
one of the earliest houses in central Kansas, dating from
Territorial times.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATIONA. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:
Currier - 1859; Goodnow 1860 - 1940 (his niece owned
the house from 1894-1940); Mr. and Mrs. Loyal F.
Payne 1940 - present (per data sheet filled out by
Mrs. Payne July 26, 1958).
2. Date of erection: 1858 or 1859 (per Mrs. Payne).
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc: No information.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Pen sketches
and references may be found in the letters and
diary. The stone was quarried nearby, and the
black walnut was cut on Wildcat Creek. Other
materials from Leavenworth, Kansas (per Mrs.
Payne). Some original books and furniture are
in Mrs. Payne's possession.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Front (north)
five (5) rooms were added in 1864. A small bedroom
was added in 1876 (per Mrs. Payne).

6. Important old views and references: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, Photograph Division, Riley County Files, No. FK 2.R5.M5D - a copy of a photograph "taken in the 80's" in which no side frame addition appears. Mrs. Payne, present owner, states that she has old photographs of the house (not seen by JPN).

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Isaac T. Goodnow was a pioneer settler. He founded Bluemont College (present Kansas State College) and served as state superintendent of public instruction from 1863 to 1867. During this time many state officials were guests at the Goodnow house and meetings of the Boston Town Association and the Bluemont College Association were held. Goodnow also served as land commissioner of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad.

- C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Mrs. Payne states that the Isaac Goodnow Diary is in the collection of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. Mrs. W. A. McCullough, 6727 Tobias Avenue, Van Nuys, California can give personal experiences about the house (per Mrs. Payne).

Prepared by J. C. Noffsinger date 7/58

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: This is one of the better frontier houses incorporating a simple yet dignified design.
2. Condition of Fabric: The walls are in good condition and the building has fair maintenance.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Not recorded
2. Foundations: Native limestone about eighteen inches thick.
3. Wall construction: The walls are constructed with native limestone and have applied mortar joints to simulate ashlar. Cut stone quoins are used at the corners.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: None.
5. Chimneys: Chimneys exist in the east and west walls of the building and are topped with brick. (One built in 1859, the other in 1864 per Mrs. Payne).
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The doorway has a stone lintel and threshold with a wood frame which employs side lights and a transom. The door is pine and is paneled (not original).
 - b. Windows and shutters: The windows have cut stone lintels and sills with walnut frames. The windows are sash type, are 12 paned, and are of pegged construction. The shutters do not appear to be original.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The building has a gable roof with wood shingles dating from 1941 (per Mrs. Payne).
 - b. Cornice, eaves: A simple molded wood cornice with a snow board return has been utilized.
 - c. Dormers: One in the oldest part of the house dating from 1859 (not seen by JPN).

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor Plans: This building employs a central hall plan. The first floor has a bedroom and a living room at the front with a parlor, another bedroom, and kitchen at the rear. The second floor has two bedrooms. (Did not visit basement - JPN).
2. Stairways: There is a stairway in the central hall which appears to be original. It is of walnut construction and employs lath turned balusters. Another stairway of black walnut leads to the cellar.
3. Flooring: Lard pine construction.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls were finished with lime and hair plaster. Some were painted and others were wallpapered.
5. Doorways and doors: The doorways are of black walnut frame construction of simple design, and the doors are paneled pine and are painted.
6. Trim: Walnut wood with a very plain design.
7. Hardware: Some of the hardware appears to be original.
8. Lighting: No original lighting survives. Electricity and wall outlets date from 1938.
9. Heating: Gas heating units are installed in the fireplaces. Several of the original stoves exist, but are not now used.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building is parallel to the road and is set back about 35 feet on a fairly level site. The original front door faced south. The present main entrance is on the north.
2. Enclosures (fences etc.): A stone wall encloses the east and north sides of the lot. An iron fence is in front of the house. It was designed by Governor Anthony in 1876-77.

3. Outbuildings: There are several sheds and a stone barn on the site. (Barn, granary, carriage house, and an outdoor toilet.)
4. Walks, driveways, etc.: There is a modern walk from the road to the front door using flagstone and some concrete blocks.
5. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: There is a small tree in the north yard.

Prepared by J^c Maffsuiger date 7/58