

# MANHATTAN'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS & DISTRICTS

## Coons House

The Coons House is a late Colonial Revival style house known as a Cape Cod cottage.



Coons House, 1922 Leavenworth

This style of home, commonly constructed in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s, was “loosely

patterned after early wooden folk houses of eastern Massachusetts” (McAlester & McAlester, “A Field Guide to American Houses, 1993). The Coons House exhibits the typical one-story rectangular form with side-gable roof and center entry.

Located on a private, tree-lined cul-de-sac once known locally as “Dean’s Row”, due to the number of Kansas State deans and department heads who originally lived there, the Coons House was constructed for Mattie Mails Coons (1863-1946) around 1930. Mrs. Coons was a well-known personality in Manhattan who wrote an anecdotal history, “Pioneer Days in Kansas”, dedicated to her parents John and Martha Mails, who migrated from Pennsylvania in 1855 as part of the Free State abolitionist movement. This self-published book is held at the Riley County Historical Museum.

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Paul Weigel, head of the Department of Architecture at Kansas State from 1924 to 1954 and Mrs. Coons' son-in-law, designed the home. Among the other buildings in Manhattan designed by Weigel are Kansas State's Ahearn Field House, Van Zile Hall, the Tri-Delta sorority home, and homes at 1906 and 1918 Leavenworth Street. The home at 1918 Leavenworth, adjacent to the Coons House, was Weigel's family home from 1928 to 1964.

*Source: Manhattan Register of  
Historic Places - Nomination Form*