

MANHATTAN'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS & DISTRICTS

Goodnow Memorial Home

A leader in the free-state movement, Isaac T. Goodnow (1814-1894) came to Kansas from Massachusetts in 1855 and was one of the founders of Manhattan.

Goodnow was instrumental in establishing Bluemont College, which opened in 1859 as a Methodist institution, became Kansas State Agricultural College in 1863, and is now Kansas State University.

He served in the state legislature in 1862 where his goal was to make Bluemont College the state university. While that effort was unsuccessful, the college became the state's agricultural college and the nation's first land grant college under the Morrill Act.

Goodnow was subsequently elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1862 and 1864. In that position he played the key



Goodnow Memorial Home, 2301 Claflin Ave

role in organizing the Kansas State Teacher's Association in 1863 and served as its first president. For his efforts in setting up local public school districts, he has been called the "founder of the Kansas common school system."

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The home was originally built in 1857. Goodnow and his wife, Ellen, acquired the home in 1859 and periodically had additions made until 1876. He continued to live here until his death in 1894.

*Source: Kansas State Historical Society
National Register of Historic Places - Nomination Form*