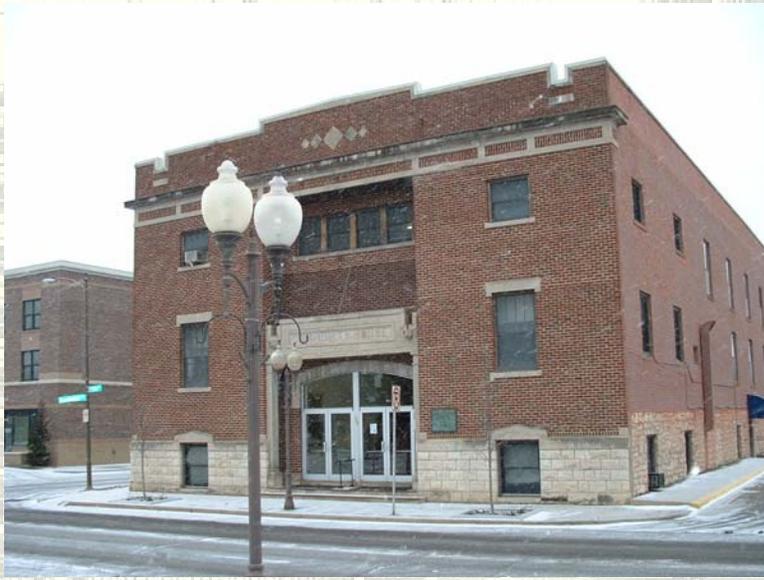


MANHATTAN'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS & DISTRICTS

Community House

Constructed in 1917, the Community House served as a place of refuge for soldiers during World Wars I and II and has since evolved into a recreation center for the citizens of Manhattan.



Community House, 120 4th Street

The influx of soldiers during World War I from the nearby training centers of Fort Riley and Camp Funston necessitated the construction of the Community House, where soldiers would hold dances three times a week along with music concerts and other functions.

Cot rental, billiards, magazine reading and general relaxation were available to the soldiers and their family or friends as well.

Constructed mainly of brick, the building stands unique among the many limestone buildings in its surroundings. The structure also retains a brick fireplace which is still in excellent condition.

Featured on the cover of *The American City* magazine after it was built, the creation of the structure encouraged the government to disburse \$4 million to other cities to

encourage construction of their own Community buildings.

Throughout the long and historic life of this building, the Community House has embraced many soldiers and their families. Still standing after two World Wars, Manhattan's Community House serves as a strong testament to the significance of a community gathering place.

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

