

MANHATTAN'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS & DISTRICTS

Hartford House

The Hartford House is located at 2309 Claflin Road, on the site of the Riley County Historical Museum. It was moved from the corner of 5th and Colorado. The building is significant for its history in exploration and settlement, as well as its example as a prefabricated house which



The Hartford House, 2309 Claflin Road

accommodated settlers in Manhattan. The house was constructed and transported to Manhattan in 1855, salvaged in 1971, and reconstructed at its current site in 1974.

The Hartford House was one of ten prefabricated houses that accompanied the members of the Cincinnati and Kansas Land Company to the Kansas Territory in 1855. First owned by one of the town founders, Andrew Meade, in 1883 the house was moved to a permanent location at 523 Colorado Street south of downtown Manhattan. Soon enveloped by additions that included a second story, the house at 523 Colorado was home to a number of residents for nearly one hundred years. Slated for demolition in 1971 through one of the City of Manhattan's Urban Renewal projects, owners John & Phyllis Meisner offered the house to the Riley County Historical Society. Society members along with

the Riley County Historical Society. Society members along with the Tau Sigma Epsilon Fraternity and the Rotary Club carefully revealed and then disassembled the original one-room structure that served as the living room in the house at 523 Colorado.

The house was reconstructed in 1974 on newly-acquired land on Claflin Road that would become the new home of the Riley County Historical Society and Museum. Like its salvage from Colorado Street, the structure was reassembled by a team led by Dr. Charles L. Hall of Kansas State University's College of Architecture. The house was set on a concrete foundation with stone veneer, and new narrow clapboard siding and rolled asphalt roofing were installed to replicate original finishes. The interior has wood floors, sheetrock ceiling and plaster walls with newsprint used as wallpaper like the original house. The Hartford House

stands aside the main Museum facility and is open regularly to visitors. The House is a rare example of a mid-nineteenth century prefabricated house and the work of Cincinnati firm Hinkle, Guild and Company interpreting one of the few housing options available to Manhattan's earliest settlers. Hulse-Daughters House is a two-and-a-half story Shingle style house designed by Herman McCure Hadley, a Topeka architect, and built in 1892 for client David Hulse.

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