

# Ennis-Handy house added to historical registry

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*  
A 97-year-old Goodland home has been added to the Register of Historic Kansas Places and may soon be added to the national register.

The Ennis House, owned by the Sherman County Historical Society since the spring of 2001, was added to the state registry May 8, and the state historic preservation officer has nominated it for the national register.

The historic home, also known as the Handy House for its last owners, has been open to tours and has been the site of events including Flag Day cookouts, Victorian high teas and a display of World War II memorabilia.

The society bought the house with help from a \$50,000 state Attraction Development Grant to preserve it and develop it as a tourist attraction. Over the last three years, it has used the house to display and preserve Sherman County history.

The society is raising money for a mortgage burning on the Fourth of July. Leaders say they are near the goal of raising \$20,000 that would be matched with \$10,000 from Marion and Betty Parker's family.

The house is historically significant as an outstanding example of Queen Anne architecture, the application for the registry says, as the work of prominent local builder Fred Hunt and for its importance to



the growth and development of Goodland. The house's construction signaled the advent of an era of stability and prosperity in Goodland, the society says.

Being on the state register qualifies the house for state grants from the Heritage Trust Fund. The house may also qualify for state and federal income tax credits and for architectural evaluation and research by professionals.

The society sent the initial draft of the application over a year ago, did research on the history of the house and had a representative from

the state look at the property. David Branda, vice president of the historical society, said the state critiqued the application and returned it for revision.

"They do everything they can to help you get your place on the registry," Branda said, adding that state officials also verify that candidates for the registry are as they are represented.

A representative from the state society came out in January, Branda said, and took slides and photos of the house.

Historical sites have to be on the

state registry to qualify for the national registry, said Ramona Boyd, a former board member of the Sherman County Historical Society.

Boyd said she sent the initial application for the state registry in November 2002, a the revised version in June 2003, and the final draft in in May. A lot of research was required to document the history of the home and its owners and the architecture of the house.

The Sherman group had to have permission even to apply for the state registry. Evelyn Ward, former

president of the society, got the initial approval to pursue putting the house on the registry, Boyd said, and Lloyd Holbrook, now president of the society, worked on it as well.

"And I got the benefit of their research," Boyd said.

Millie Wright helped with information on Fred Hunt, builder of the house, and on the building, Boyd said.

Carol Baum, a society board member, provided research, and Mark Scheopner, society treasurer, took all the current photos for the applications.

"I got a good history lesson from doing this," Boyd added.

The house is called the Ennis House on official paperwork, Branda said, because it was the Ennis family history that qualified it for the registry. The Handy history was too recent, he said.

Boyd said when she started on the application process, she was basing it on the history of Mary Seaman Ennis, but found out the application needed to be based on the history of the house, rather than on the history of a person.

Mary Ennis' history was icing on the cake, Boyd said, since her story is fascinating. Ennis and her sister Lyda were born in Ireland and came to this country with their family, so Ennis was an Irish immigrant, as well as a pioneer in the West, which was unusual. She and her sisters worked their way across the coun-

try.

Boyd said getting the house on the registry is important for the future of the building.

"This kind of recognition opens the door to all kinds of things," Boyd said, "from grants to evaluations."

Most grants available would come from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Boyd said, and some are available only to sites on the national registry.

Boyd said she is optimistic about the house's prospects for the national registry. By the time the state thinks the application can get through its board, she said, the workers have fine-tuned it to where it usually gets through the national process as well. It may take six months to find out if the house will be on the national registry, however.

Boyd said she moved to Goodland in June 2002 and started helping the historical society a few months later.

She had worked at the Brooks Museum of Art in Memphis, Tenn., updating their information on the African collection, and had worked at the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte, N.C., and the Gaston County Museum of Art and History in Dallas, N.C., just outside of Charlotte. She describes herself as an anthropologist with a museum minor.

"I've had a fun life," she said. "It's a challenge and interesting, too."

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**Couple celebrates 50th wedding Anniversary**

Daniel Dorn and Laura (Pafford) were married June 5, 1954, at the Our Savior Lutheran Church in Greeley, Colo. The couple will celebrate their 50th anniversary Saturday.

Their family has requested a card shower at 6670 Rd. 18, Goodland, Kan. 67735. The Dorns farmed and ran a dairy operation in Greeley until 1977, when they moved to Goodland. The couple continued farming and have since retired here with family and friends. They have four children, Daniel Jr., Donald, Diana and David; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

## matters of record

**Goodland Police**  
The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

**May 17** — Walmart reported the forgery of a payroll check for the amount of \$519.67, at 2160 Commerce Rd.

**May 26** — Medallion Professional Homes Solutions, LLC, from Hays, reported the theft of two hand drills valued at \$580, at 2218 Commerce.

Gerald R. Burkett reported the theft of a Kan. license tag valued at

\$10, at 615 W. 10th St.

Deena M. Hatfield reported the theft of medication valued at \$15, at 110 Clark.

**May 28** — Raymond L. Peck was arrested for driving under the influence and reckless driving resulting in an accident involving damage to

a vehicle, at 1518 Walnut.

Jamie Knox reported criminal damage; Deena Hatfield and Tiffany Urban were victims of and arrested for battery; and Brandon Gordon was the victim of battery and arrested for battery and criminal damage at 1536 Syracuse.

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