

Historic Ennis House a city landmark

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News
The Ennis House, 13th and Center, also known as the Handy House, has a southern view overlooking Goodland's oldest park, Chambers. Plans for the Late Victorian Queen Anne-style house began in December 1905, according to an application submitted by the Sherman County Historical Society to get the house on the Register of Historic Kansas Places. Mary Seaman Ennis purchased three city lots and contracted with Fred Hunt to build the 1,768-square-foot, three-bedroom, one-bath home.

She was the widow of William Ennis, who operated one of Goodland's first drug stores and a successful entrepreneur in her own right: as a young woman. She and her sisters Lyda and Margaret managed the Montezuma Hotel in Burlington. In 1894, the sisters came to Goodland to operate the prestigious Palace Hotel. After the hotel burned in 1896, the Seaman sisters opened a millinery shop, which quickly became known for the elegance and intricacy of its designs.

The home was at the forefront of style and technology in Goodland, as it was one of the first in the county to be wired for electricity and telephone service. The kitchen, basement wash room and a large bathroom on the second floor were plumbed for running water.

In the Friday, March 1, 1907, issue of the *Goodland Republic*, the house was described as a two-story composite Gothic structure with four gables, two porches, one one-story and two two-story bay windows and a balcony. It was built on a three-foot brick foundation with a brick basement under half of the structure.

The plans included a covered back porch on the northeast corner of the house and a one-car garage. The garage later was replaced with a larger two-car structure and covered breezeway. An additional out-building served as a chicken coop and today is a storage building.

Exterior features included gingerbread trim around the balcony and wraparound porch, which faces south and east. The trim is the most prominent feature of the original house that is missing.

The home was wired for electricity with a porch light and electric lights in the halls and rooms. Along with an elegant fireplace, the home



Mary Ennis(right) sitting on the porch of the house she had Fred Hunt (left) build for her in December 1905. Hunt's wife was Lyda who was Mary Ennis' sister. Photo from Sherman County Historical Society

had hot water radiators throughout.

A stairway was built in the northwest corner of the house with a door to the kitchen and extended from the kitchen to the second floor without the necessity of entering the main house.

The interior woodwork is finished oak. Two flights of stairs rise to the second level. The entry hall and stairway are decorated with Corinthian columns, railings and banisters.

Hunt had moved west from his native New York to work on the railroad. After working in Goodland as a conductor for the Rock Island Line, Hunt left to become a master carpenter. He built homes, businesses, hospitals, churches and schools in Goodland and Sherman County.

These include the 1905 bungalow which now serves as the administration building for the school district, the 1908 American Foursquare home which is now the Four Sisters

Bed and Breakfast, the 1908 Sherman County High School which was demolished in 1950, the 1911 Methodist Episcopal Church, the 1913 Carnegie Library and the 1927 grandstand and Agricultural Hall at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

The Carnegie Library, now Carnegie Arts Center, is one of the four Sherman County properties already on the state and national registers. The other three are the Kuhrt Ranch, 2725 Road 77, Edson; the Goodland post office, 124 E. 11th; and the John Ludwig Veselik house at Ruleton.

Soon after completing the Ennis house, Hunt married Mrs. Ennis' sister Lyda. The couple lived in the house with Ennis until 1917, when she sold the home to James P. Cullen.

Cullen rented furnished rooms in the house to gentlemen or married couples. In July 1927, he sold the house to Emily A. Stewart, who in

sold it in 1930 to Roy Heston.

Heston, who was the Sherman County treasurer, lived in the house with his wife and two daughters until 1939, when the family moved two blocks north to care for his father-in-law.

From 1939-1944, the Bower Funeral Home rented the house from Heston and operated a funeral parlor in the home. In 1944, the Bower family purchased the house.

In 1956, Hope (Bower) Littlejohn sold the house to Calvin T. Handy. From the fall of 1956 until the death of Edythe Handy in August 2000, the house was home to members of the Handy family. It was then sold to the historical society.

The historical society is in the final stages of a project to pay off the mortgage and to continue the restoration of the house.

ANNOUNCEMENT

After 43 years of practice in Goodland, Kansas
R. Kay Driver, O.D.
wishes to announce the sale of his optometry practice to
Thomas M. White, O.D.

Office and Records at
110 West 10th St.,
Goodland, Kansas 67735
785-899-3654
Office Hours by Appointment

Accepting new patients

matters of record

Marriage Licenses

The following marriage licenses have been issued by the Sherman County District Court:

Rich Wayne Kuckkahn and Rawndalou Rae Pierce, both of Scotts Bluff, Neb.

David Lee Horinek and Kimberly Ann Adolf, both of Goodland. Heath Edward Dinkel of Hays and Jennifer Lyn Call of Colby.

Edward Leroy Ginn and Lana Gail Jackson, both of Goodland. Darold Lee Schuster and Rose-

mary Kay Sparks, both of Goodland.

Divorces Granted

The following divorces have been granted by the Sherman County District Court:

Michael Mosley of Brewster and Judy Mosley of Edson.

David Hernandez of unknown origin and Sandra I. Hernandez of Goodland.

Steve Dennis Freeland of St. Francis and Lee Anna Gay Freeland of unknown origin.

Jerry L. Armstrong of Goodland and Karen M. Armstrong of Kearney, Neb.

Robert D. Rall and Marilyn R. Rall, both of Goodland.

Michael W. Franklin and Tish Anne Franklin, both of Goodland.

Justin J. Tesmer and Bobbi Jo Tesmer, both of Goodland.

Christopher W. Abbott and Melody M. Abbott, both of Goodland.

Felipe Olivas of McDonald and Maria Olivas of Goodland.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids will be received by the Unified School District No. 105 for the: Band Room Demolition, Removal and Disposal

until 5:30 p.m. on the 1st day of July, 2004, at which time and place the Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud.

The drawings, specifications, and other contract documents are on file and available for public inspection at the following locations:

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 105, 205 North 4th St., Atwood, Kansas
785-626-3236

ZERR ENGINEERING, 1000 E. Fourth Street, Colby, Kansas

A complete set of the Contract Documents may be obtained by a prospective Bidder by sending a cash deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), along with a written request for said set of Documents ADDRESSED TO ZERR ENGINEERING, P.O. BOX 889, COLBY, KANSAS 67701-0889.

Each Bidder that submits a bonafide Bid on the described project may receive a refund of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) after the return of all described Documents in good condition within thirty (30) days after the date of Bid opening.

The character and amount of security to be furnished by each Bidder is stated in the above mentioned Contract Documents. Bidder on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 as amended. Requirements for Bidders and Contractors under this order are explained in the Specifications.

A Bidder may withdraw any Bid he has submitted at any time prior to the hour for the closing of the Bids provided the request for withdrawal is signed in a manner identical with the Bid being withdrawn. No withdrawal or modification will be permitted after the hour designated for closing Bids.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive formalities in considering Bids and to accept the bid which in its opinion is the best Bid.

Principal items of work included in the improvements are:

Demolition, removal, and disposal of the Band Room.

Celebration



"The Celebration" is composed of approximately 60 young people backed up by tape and piano. They range in age from fourteen to eighteen years of age. No auditions are held, and they do their own recruiting of singers. Recruitment is on the basis of friendship and that the purpose of the group is to share Christ's love and deepen the individual faith of each member of the group and the churches they represent.

Friday, June 11
7 p.m.

Goodland United Methodist Church

1120 Sherman, Goodland, Kansas

Those attending please bring a can or two of non perishable items to help restock Gensis Pantry shelves.

Goodland area church families are asked to assist in providing overnight shelter for the singers Friday night. Please call the Methodist Church 785-899-3632 to assist in this community effort.