

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

DRAFT

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
other names/site number 161-2080

2. Location

street & number 1916 Beck Street not for publication
city or town Manhattan vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Riley code 161 zip code 66502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide
locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Office, Kansas Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the
National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National
Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan,
Kansas

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Late 19th century stone vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Stone: limestone

roof Asphalt composition

other Interior beams of black walnut

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration / Settlement

Architecture

Period of Significance

1867-1922

Significant Dates

1867-1868

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Strong, Henry

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Riley County Museum, Manhattan, KS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Henry and Elenora Strong House (built 1867-1868) is located at 1916 Beck Street on the east edge of Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Although the original homestead consisted of 143 acres, the house currently sits on approximately one-third of an acre of land in a largely post-war suburban neighborhood. The house is set farther back from the street than the surrounding houses, thereby distinguishing it from the rest of the mid-20th century neighborhood.

House Exterior

Located in the Strong Addition at the intersection of Casement Road and Beck Street, the Strong House is a two-story vernacular stone adaptation of the earlier Federal style found in New England. The house is an example of the Center-Hall-Plan, Side-Gabled Stone House type as identified and described in the *Late Nineteenth Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, Kansas* Multiple Property Documentation Form. The original house is a simple two-story box with a side-gabled roof, a center entrance, and doors and windows organized in strict symmetry. Henry Strong drafted and constructed this original portion in 1867, with his New England heritage evident in his craftsmanship. Some of the stones have been hand-dressed, chiseled flat, and the slab of stone on the front door sill was hammered so it sloped down and the water would not come in. Also the windows were all squared.

As with many houses of this typology, entrances are present on multiple elevations. At least two of these entrances, on the west and south elevations, appear to have functioned as the primary entrance at one time. Evidence suggests that the west elevation was originally intended to serve as the primary façade and that the south elevation may have been converted to a primary entrance between the 1870s and 1890s and continuing into the 1950s. The west elevation has functioned as the primary façade since the addition of a garage in the 1950s. With the exception of the south elevation, all windows and door openings on the original block feature rectangular stone sills and lintels. Those on the south elevation possess wooden sills and lintels. Unless otherwise noted, the windows retain the historic wood, two-over-two, double hung sash. The rough-cut rubble stone is laid in an irregular coursed pattern with large square cut corner quoins.

This home was built with limestone from Strong's own quarry at the foot of Bluemont Hill. Strong supplied many wagonloads of stone to various sites in and around Manhattan. The house is supported by a limestone foundation and includes a full cellar under the original part of the house.

The original rectangular block also features two later additions—a single story addition on the rear/east elevation and a single car garage on the northwest corner. Both additions were constructed in the 1950s using stone that was taken from the recently demolished barn. The garage is constructed of concrete block

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS

Section number 7 Page 2

Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

with stone facing on the west and south elevations visible to the street. It features a shallow pitched gable roof that extends beyond the garage, across the west and south elevations of the house to form a wrap-around shed-roofed porch with a concrete floor. Simple wooden posts support the porch roof. The rear addition, which contains the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry room, replaced an earlier clapboard kitchen and milk room addition constructed between the 1870s and 1890s.

The current main entrance to the house is situated in the center of the west elevation, with a window on each side. Directly above on the second story there are two small rectangular window openings. The first and second story windows on the north end of this elevation were covered sometime during the late 19th century when the interior configuration of the house was altered, moving the stairs presumably from the center or rear of the house to the front. The remaining exposed first story window possesses a historic wood double-hung one-over-one sash. The centered entrance on this elevation is surrounded by subtle quoining and retains the original wood screen door and entrance door. Concrete steps, likely added during the 1950s when the porch and additions were constructed, provide access to the entrance.

The south elevation of the home, which may have functioned as the primary façade at some point in the history of the house, has an off-center entrance on the east end with a window to the west and two windows on the second floor directly above the first story door and window. This entrance also retains the historic wood screen door and entrance door. An 1881 rendering of the Strong House shows this elevation with a wooden porch with some ornate Victorian style décor.

The 1950s addition extends across the east or rear elevation of the original block, obscuring the first story fenestration. Two small rectangular window openings are visible on the second story. As on the west elevation, the window at the north end has been covered. The other retains its historic multi-paned sash. The single story gable roofed addition is faced with a tooled ashlar limestone laid in irregular courses with beaded mortar joints. Windows feature stone sills. Quoining is present on the corners of the addition as well as along the sides of door openings. The south elevation contains an off-center entrance with historic wood door and a set of paired historic wood double hung six-over-six windows. On the gable end, or east elevation, are two small, rectangular awning type windows. The north elevation possesses an entrance, just slightly off-center, flanked by small rectangular sliding windows.

Flush with the addition, the north elevation of the house originally possessed an off-center entrance and window on the first story with vertically aligned windows on the second story. All of the openings remain, with the entrance now enclosed by the garage. The second story windows retain the original wood two-over-two double hung sash while the first story window possesses a historic wood double-hung six-over-six sash.

Situated at the northwest corner of the original house facing west towards the street, the single story garage attaches to the north elevation of the house and projects approximately three feet in front of the main façade. The front elevation possesses a single wood overhead garage door. A former pedestrian entrance from the front porch has been covered and converted to a shelf. The side elevation, with exposed concrete block,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS

Section number 7 Page 3

Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

contains two pairs of evenly spaced double hung one-over-one wood windows. The rear elevation of the garage possesses a single off-center pedestrian entrance with wood paneled door as well as a single window.

House Interior

The original portion of the house is one room deep and two rooms wide. Although the interior is generally simple, it retains historic details such as wood baseboards, window and door casings, wood doors, and wood floors. Upon walking through the front door, there is a living room with the original wood floors, with one window and one door on the south side of the room and one window and one door on the west side of the room. To the north of the living room is a bedroom with wood floors, and a door leading outside, which is now a garage. This room also possesses one window with a wide windowsill, similar to those throughout the house. The former window opening on the east side of this room that was covered with the late 19th century and 1950s kitchen additions, remains extant as a built-in bookshelf.

A stairway leading off from the northwest corner of the living room gives access to the three bedrooms upstairs. Evidence suggests that the staircase had been moved from the east side of the house when additions were built on the back sometime prior to 1881. One bedroom with two long windows with windowsills is located to the north and two smaller bedrooms are located to the south of the house. The thick baseboards and doors are still original.

A doorway on the east side of the living room steps down from the original house to the 1950s kitchen addition. There is also a modern bathroom and laundry area, and stone steps leading to the cellar. The cellar has three recesses built in to the basement wall. The purpose of these recesses is not known although they may have been used for ventilation when the cellar was used as the original kitchen. The remains of the old coal-burning furnace still remain. The beams are of black walnut. The stone cellar floors are 28 inches thick.

Changes to the house's interior historic fabric have been minimal and include new carpeting, restoring wood floors, replastering of walls due to moisture damage and key failure, new wiring in some areas, repainting, and installation of new sheetrock in some areas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

Section number 8 Page 4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Henry and Elenora Strong House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The property is nominated as part of the *Late Nineteenth Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, Kansas* multiple property nomination. Built in 1867 and 1868, this house is an example of the Center Hall Plan, Side Gabled Stone House property type as defined by the multiple property document. The property's period of significance begins in 1867 with the construction of the house and ends in 1922 – the year Henry Strong died in his home.

*Architecture*¹

The *Late Nineteenth Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, Kansas* multiple property document outlines common stone house forms found in the area, which include: Gable-Front; Gable-Front-and-Wing; Center-Hall-Plan, Side-Gabled; and Pyramidal Roof. Manhattan's mid- and late-nineteenth century stone houses are classified based upon their form because vernacular construction is more appropriately explained according to materials and spatial arrangement.²

It is somewhat difficult to distinguish the Strong House as Side-Gabled rather than a Front-Gabled. With historic entrances on both the south and west elevations, this house could be classified as either property type as defined in the multiple property document. Only a handful of historic photographs of this house are known to survive and do not provide much clarity on what may have been the intended "front" elevation. In fact, the earliest known image of the property – a birds-eye rendering of the property printed in the 1881 plat book of Manhattan – suggests the house likely had two primary elevations. Specifically, the rendering documents the stone house with a flat-roof porch extending off the south, gable-end elevation, a driveway passing in front of the west-facing elevation, and a small one-story addition on the east elevation. It is likely the west-facing entrance was treated as the formal entrance and the south-facing entrance secondary. It is for this reason the house is classified as a Side Gabled House. It is also possible, as additions were constructed and the interior plan altered, that the primary entrance shifted.

The vernacular Side Gabled property type is adapted from a traditional British folk form that was common in pre-railroad America. New England examples of this form often included Federal stylistic references.

¹ For a complete discussion about the Center Hall Plan, Side Gabled Stone House property type, see Sally Schwenk, "Late Nineteenth Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, Kansas" National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2008. On file with the Cultural Resources Division, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS. See: kshs.org/resource/national_register/MPS/Late_Nineteenth_Century_Vernacular_Stone_Houses_Manhattan_Kansas_mps.pdf

² A discussion of the "bewildering variety" of Midwestern vernacular farmhouses can be found in Fred W. Peterson's *Homes in the Heartland: Balloon Frame Farmhouses of the Upper Midwest, 1850-1920* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1992).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

Section number 8 Page 5

Executed in local limestone rather than the wood, brick, and granite variants found in New England, the tooled lintels and sills and the symmetry of fenestration provided a formal dignity. Side Gabled houses feature varying patterns of porches, chimneys, and rear extensions. In Manhattan, many of these houses featured several entrances – an articulated entrance, often with a porch on the primary façade, and a side entrance in the end gable.³ This property reflects the work of the owner/builder, Henry Strong, who responded to the availability of local building materials and utilized practices, forms, plans, and treatments typical of early Kansas settlers from New England. Registration requirements for this property type allow for additions so long as the building retains its original roof form, wall materials, and fenestration patterns.

*Biographical Background of Henry and Elenora Strong*⁴

Henry and Elenora (Strong) Strong, were born in Bolton, Connecticut in 1831 and 1835, respectively. They were second cousins and grew up near each other on their family farms. Both families were members of the Bolton Congregational Church.⁵ Little is known about Henry's education, however, several records exist regarding Elenora's education. In 1840 at age six, she was registered at West School in Bolton, Connecticut. She attended Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1852 and 1853. She had been a member of the class of 1855, but did not stay to complete her three-year degree.⁶ Elenora attended State Normal School in New Britain, Connecticut, which offered a two-year teacher preparation program, however no record of graduation exists. She taught school in Eastbury, Connecticut (present-day Buckingham) in the winter of 1855.

Much has been documented about Henry's young adult life through his elderly years – most of which was spent in Manhattan, Kansas. Henry first visited Kansas sometime between 1855 and 1857. According to family recollections, journals, and ledger notes, he hauled freight traveling from Leavenworth to Santa Fe and Denver for many years. As an unmarried man, Henry passed through Manhattan (originally called Boston), and returned to settle in the area by 1857. He became an active member of the newly organized First Congregational Church on July 12, 1857, transferring his membership from the Congregational Church of Bolton, Connecticut.⁷ Given Henry's strong involvement in the Congregational Church in Connecticut and his early membership in the First Congregational Church in Manhattan, it is quite possible (although not

³ Schwenk., p. E-36.

⁴ A history of the Strong family was researched and compiled by Bonnie Jean Hoerner and published as: *Pioneering on Route 66 and Beyond: The Story of Evangeline Hoerner McCoy* (Clovis, CA: PVA Printing and Graphics, 2005). Evangeline Hoerner McCoy is a descendent of Henry and Elenora Strong. The Strong family biographical information in this nomination comes from this secondary source, which includes notes from various primary and secondary sources.

⁵ The Strong Family Association of America, Incorporated (comp.), *Strong Family History Update III* (Baltimore, Maryland: Gateway Press, 1992), p. xxiii.

⁶ Jennifer Mullins of Mount Holyoke Archives and Special Collections, South Hadley, MA, interview by Bonnie Jean Hoerner, March 22, 2001.

⁷ Dorothy Bramhall of the First Congregational Church, Manhattan, Kansas, letter to Bonnie Jean Hoerner, March 18, 2002.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

Section number 8 Page 6

documented) that Henry was involved with the New England Emigrant Aid Company, which was responsible for re-locating a few thousand settlers from New England to what is now eastern and central Kansas.⁸

Henry left Manhattan in the spring of 1858 and returned to his family's home in Bolton where he married his childhood friend Elenora Strong on June 1, 1858 in Manchester, Connecticut. They returned to Manhattan shortly thereafter. Elenora became a member of Manhattan's First Congregational Church in September of 1859, the same year that Henry was listed as a registered voter in Riley County. They began a life together in a cabin at the foot of Bluemont Hill where they developed a farmstead, dairy, and stone quarry. The farmstead operation would grow to include one of the largest apple orchards in the area.⁹ Henry continued to haul freight between Leavenworth and Denver during the couple's early years in Manhattan.

On March 26, 1860, Henry purchased John Jacob Smith's pre-emption rights to a parcel of land "with certain buildings and improvements." The Pre-emption Act of 1841, under which Smith had purchased the land, provided for settlers who had established themselves illegally on the land ahead of government surveyors. Henry purchased Smith's parcel of 143 acres, which included lots 1, 12, and 13 in Section 7, Township 10, south of Range east of the sixth principal meridian in Kansas Territory for \$500.00.¹⁰ The property included a stone barn, corncrib, other outbuildings, and a small cabin into which Henry and Elenora moved.¹¹

Henry was away from Manhattan on a trip hauling freight to Denver when his first child Freddie Robinson Strong was born (November 11, 1860). This particular trip took several months and was recorded in letters written by Henry's colleague Richard Kimball.¹² Freddie lived only nine months and died of cholera in August of 1861.¹³ Upon his death, Henry purchased a plot in the Sunset Cemetery for twelve members of his family. These plots are located at the front center of the cemetery to the left of the main entrance.

A second child – Grace Rosette Strong – was born September 10, 1862. Near the end of the American Civil War on May 14, 1864, Henry joined the Kansas State Militia, 14th Regiment, Company B in Manhattan.¹⁴ Just one week later on May 21, 1864, Henry and Elenora's third child, Clayton Noah Strong, was born in South Manchester, Connecticut while Elenora was visiting her father after her mother's death. Henry mustered out of the military on November 1, 1864 and returned to his house in Manhattan.

⁸ Kansas State Historical Society, "New England Emigrant Aid Company Papers," Kansas State Historical Society. Accessed online at: http://www.kshs.org/research/collections/documents/businessrecords/business_records_findingaids/neeac.htm

⁹ "Henry Strong Memoriam," *Manhattan Republic*, 12 October 1922; Henry Strong, "Ledger 1879-1890" (unpublished manuscript, Manhattan, Kansas).

¹⁰ Amy King, "Strong and Hoerner Transactions 1860-1944," Riley County Register of Deeds, Manhattan, Kansas.

¹¹ Historical Plat Book of Riley County, The Bird and Mickle Map co. Chicago, 1881, pg. 50, Courtesy of the Riley County Historical Museum, Manhattan, Kansas.

¹² Richard Kimball, *Log Cabin Days* (Manhattan, KS: Riley County Historical Society, 1929), 31-33.

¹³ "Freddie Robinson Strong Memoriam," *Kansas Express* (Manhattan, KS), 24 August 1861.

¹⁴ "Kansas State Militia Muster Rolls 1861-1864," VI, #LM817, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetStrong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KSSection number 8 Page 7Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

In the spring of 1865, Henry built a larger two-story wood frame house on his property for his growing family. This house was destroyed by fire just two years later in the winter of 1867. The Strong family boarded with a neighbor while Henry began work on a two-story limestone house. Stone for the house was quarried on his property at the foot of nearby Bluemont Hill. Between 1868 and 1871, Henry built a large barn, a horse barn, and a chicken house on the property. Today, these structures are no longer extant and were torn down as the neighborhood developed in the mid-twentieth century.

The late 1860s and early 1870s is the period when Henry likely developed his successful quarry business. His ledgers, which itemize his business activities from 1879 to 1890, illustrate steady quarry activity. Many wagonloads of limestone were sold to community residents including the Higginbrothins, Balderstons, and Dyers.¹⁵ His stone was used in the construction of many early buildings in Manhattan including Anderson Hall at Kansas State University.¹⁶ (Interestingly, Elenora sang at the dedication ceremony.) The 1881 city directory listed Henry Strong as mining, selling, and hauling stone.¹⁷

It was also during this time that Henry and Elenora's church membership was officially designated as "fellowship withdrawn" from the First Congregational Church of Manhattan. Historical records are not clear as to the reason their membership was withdrawn.¹⁸ Perhaps related to their church activities, family history and oral tradition indicate that Henry and Elenora were involved in assisting fugitive slaves by providing them discreet shelter as part of the Underground Railroad network. This claim, however, is not verified through primary sources or extant resources. Henry makes no mention of this in his extensive ledger notes and Elenora reveals nothing in her journal entries. These claims appear to first surface in written form in letters of their grandchildren and are repeated in subsequent local newspaper articles.¹⁹

Soon after first arriving in the Manhattan area, Elenora took up teaching with her friend Mrs. Charles (Mary) Blood.²⁰ Elenora conducted a private school in her cabin for a few boys that included Wendell Willeston, Albert Todd and Harry Brown.²¹ Henry, too, took an interest in local education, and in 1867, was elected to serve as Director of the School Board for the first Strong School, Riley County, District #1.²² He offered part

¹⁵ Henry Strong, "Ledger 1879-1890" (unpublished manuscript, Manhattan, Kansas).

¹⁶ Anderson Hall was constructed in stages from 1879-1885 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Henry Strong's ledger entries note hauling lime to the college on March 8, 1882. Riley County Historical Society records.

¹⁷ Manhattan Business Directory, 1881. Henry Strong is listed as "Limestone Dealer."

¹⁸ "Members of the First Congregational Church, Manhattan, Kansas and Children Baptized 1856-1867," *Kansas Kin*, XXXV, Riley County Genealogical Society, Manhattan, Kansas, August 1997, p. 47.

¹⁹ Mabel Baxter Hoerner, "A Miscellany of Letters, Handwritten Notes, Diaries and Articles," (unpublished papers, Riley County Historical Society, Manhattan, Kansas, 1962). "Area rich in abolitionist history, Manhattan Mercury, January 2, 1997; A self-guided Tour of the Underground Railroad in Kansas, by Richard Pitts, 2003.

²⁰ Frank Blackmar's *Kansas: A Cyclopedic of State History* credits Mrs. Blood as being Manhattan's first teacher. Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopedic of State History, Vol II* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1913), 213-214.

²¹ Mabel Baxter Hoerner, "A Miscellany of Letters, Handwritten Notes, Diaries and Articles," (unpublished papers, Riley County Historical Society, Manhattan, Kansas, 1962).

²² Miscellaneous handwritten notes from Henry Strong's school board minutes and letters, 1870s. "Strong School District #1," Riley County Genealogical Society, Manhattan, KS.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS

Section number 8 Page 8

Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

of the second floor loft of his barn to District #1 to be used for meeting space until a community school building could be erected. Children met in the loft for classes in the early 1870s.²³ The loft had plaster walls, heat, and benches.²⁴ The district prepared for a new school building in the late 1870s. Land was secured across from the Strong farm, and Henry donated stone from his quarry for the construction of a building. This so-called "second Strong school" served students between 1879 and 1914. In June 1914, voters of the Strong School District #1 passed a school bond for \$5,000 for the construction of a new Strong School - a two-room limestone and concrete structure.²⁵ By 1951, the Blue Valley and Rocky Ford School districts were annexed to the Strong district. The district's last academic year was 1964-1965.²⁶

Henry and Elenora had three more children: Evangeline Hortense Strong (June 29, 1868), Fairy Josephine Strong (July 28, 1873), and Emory Wells Hyde Strong (June 4, 1875). Elenora Strong died in her home at age 82 on January 2, 1917,²⁷ and Henry died on October 8, 1922 at age 90.²⁸ Generations of Strong family members were born at the farmstead or remember visiting the property. One family member who grew up on the Strong farm was Mabel Hoerner, a granddaughter of Henry and Elenora. Today, she is popularly known as Grandma Hoerner and her family markets and distributes her recipes out of a facility twenty miles southeast of Manhattan along Interstate 70.

In 1944, the Beckenhauer family moved to the Strong farm. Jim Beckenhauer remembers as a child the Strong school in the old barn as having plaster walls. As noted in the July 15, 1954 edition of the *Manhattan Mercury*, the barn was razed in 1954 as the area was developed. Stone from the barn was used to construct a garage that is attached to the north end of the Strong House. Today, the property located within the city limits, consists of just one-quarter of an acre, is surrounded by residential neighborhoods, and is once again owned by a descendent of Henry and Elenora Strong.²⁹

Summary

As young adults, they moved to the Kansas Territory and helped shape the community of Manhattan. Like other pioneering settlers, they suffered hardships in the deaths of three children, the destruction of a home due to a fire, and the financial and emotional ups and downs of farm life. The Strong legacy is evident throughout the city. Their influence in establishing a school to educate area children has impacted generations of students. Henry developed a successful quarry business from which stone was used in the

²³ "Strong School Succumbs to Progress as Barn Razed," *Manhattan Mercury*, 15 July 1954. Also, "Strong School District #1," Riley County Genealogical Society, Manhattan, KS, n.d., p. 2.

²⁴ Doug Tippin, *150 years of Education*, Manhattan, KS: Riley County Historical Society, 2004.

²⁵ "New Building for Strong," *Manhattan Mercury*, 18 June 1914.

²⁶ Doug Tippin, *150 years of Education*, Manhattan, KS: Riley County Historical Society, 2004.

²⁷ "Elenora Harriet Strong" Obituary, *Manhattan Republic*, 11 January 1917.

²⁸ "Henry Strong Memoriam," *Manhattan Republic*, 12 October 1922.

²⁹ "Back in the Family," *Manhattan Mercury*, 15 October 2007.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS

Section number 8 Page 9

Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

construction of many early buildings including Anderson Hall at Kansas State University.³⁰ (Interestingly, Elenora sang at the dedication ceremony.) And, Manhattan's Strong Avenue was named in recognition of Henry and Elenora Strong.³¹ The Strong House reflects Henry and Elenora's significant association with the early settlement of the area and stands as a good example of vernacular stone architecture from the mid-nineteenth century. It is therefore nominated as part of the *Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, Kansas* multiple property listing under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement and under Criterion C in the area of architecture.

³⁰ Anderson Hall was constructed in stages from 1879-1885 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Henry Strong's ledger entries note hauling lime to the college on March 8, 1882. Riley County Historical Society records.

³¹ Manhattan Kansas Street Names, The Riley County Genealogical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

Section number 9 Page 10

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Area Rich in Abolitionist History.” *Manhattan Mercury*, 2 January 1997.

“Back in the Family,” *Manhattan Mercury*, 15 October 2007.

Blackmar, Frank. *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, Vol II*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1913).

Bramhall, Dorothy (First Congregational Church, Manhattan, Kansas), letter to Bonnie Jean Hoerner, March 18, 2002.

“Elenora Harriet Strong” Obituary, *Manhattan Republic*, 11 January 1917.

“Freddie Robinson Strong Memoriam,” *Kansas Express* (Manhattan, KS), 24 August 1861.

“Henry Strong Memoriam,” *Manhattan Republic*, 12 October 1922.

Hoerner, Bonnie Jean. *Pioneering on Route 66 and Beyond: The Story of Evangeline Hoerner McCoy*. Clovis, CA: PVA Printing and Graphics, 2005.

Hoerner, Mabel Baxter. “A Miscellany of Letters, Handwritten Notes, Diaries and Articles.” Unpublished papers, Riley County Historical Society, Manhattan, Kansas, 1962.

Mullins, Jennifer (Mount Holyoke Archives and Special Collections, South Hadley, MA). Interview by Bonnie Jean Hoerner, March 22, 2001.

Kansas State Historical Society, “New England Emigrant Aid Company Papers,” Kansas State Historical Society,
http://www.kshs.org/research/collections/documents/businessrecords/business_records_findingaids/neeac.htm

“Kansas State Militia Muster Rolls 1861-1864,” VI, #LM817, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

Kimball, Richard. *Log Cabin Days*. Manhattan, KS: Riley County Historical Society, 1929.

King, Amy. “Strong and Hoerner Transactions 1860-1944,” Riley County Register of Deeds, Manhattan, Kansas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

Section number 9 Page 11

Manhattan Business Directory, 1881.

“New Building for Strong,” *Manhattan Mercury*, 18 June 1914.

Peterson, Fred W. *Homes in the Heartland: Balloon Frame Farmhouses of the Upper Midwest, 1850-1920*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1992.

Riley County Genealogical Society. *Pioneers of Bluestem Prairie*. Manhattan, KS: Riley County Genealogical Society, 1976.

_____. “Members of the First Congregational Church, Manhattan, Kansas and Children Baptized 1856-1867.” *Kansas Kin*, XXXV. Riley County Genealogical Society, Manhattan, Kansas, August 1997.

Schwenk, Sally. *Late Nineteenth Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, Kansas* National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2008. On file with the Cultural Resources Division, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS. Accessed online at: kshs.org/resource/national_register/MPS/Late_Nineteenth_Century_Vernacular_Stone_Houses_Manhattan_Kansas_mps.pdf

Strong, Elenora. “Partial Diaries, 1892-1914.” Unpublished manuscript, Manhattan, Kansas. 1914.

Strong Family Association of America, Incorporated (comp.), *Strong Family History Update III*. Baltimore, Maryland: Gateway Press, 1992.

Strong, Henry. “Ledger 1879-1890.” Unpublished manuscript, Manhattan, Kansas.

“Strong School District #1,” Riley County Genealogical Society, Manhattan, KS.

“Strong School Succumbs to Progress as Barn Razed,” *Manhattan Mercury*, 15 July 1954.

Tippin, Doug. *150 years of Education*, Manhattan, KS: Riley County Historical Society, 2004.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 12

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located in Section 7, Township 10, Range 8E on Lot 111, Less N 60 FT, Strong Addition, Manhattan, Kansas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the residence and the remaining parcel still associated with the Strong House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS

Section number Photos Page 13

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Photographer: Caitlin Meives
Date of Photos: July 14, 2009
Location: Strong House, 1916 Beck Street, Manhattan, Riley Co, KS
Digital Negatives: On file at the Kansas Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division

- Photo 1: Exterior, West elevation (current front elevation)
- Photo 2: Exterior, South elevation
- Photo 3: Exterior, South elevation, 1950s addition at right
- Photo 4: Exterior, detail of mortar joints and stonework on 1950s addition
- Photo 5: Exterior, North elevation, addition at left, garage at right
- Photo 6: Exterior, North & West elevations, garage
- Photo 7: Exterior, historic screen and entrance door on West elevation
- Photo 8: Interior, historic entrance door, South elevation
- Photo 9: Interior, living room
- Photo 10: Interior, detail of living room floor
- Photo 11: Interior, second floor bedroom door
- Photo 12: Interior, second floor bedrooms
- Photo 13: Interior, kitchen in 1950s addition
- Photo 14: Interior, stone steps from basement

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Page 14
Documentation

Strong, Henry and Elenora, House
Manhattan, Riley County, KS
Late 19th Century Vernacular Stone Houses in Manhattan, KS
