



MANKATO HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL TOUR

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URBAN STUDIES FALL 2017 STUDIO
Minnesota State University, Mankato
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Executive Summary

The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour was completed by second-year graduate students Kate Taylor, Situ Chitrakar and Jacob Dada for their Urban Studies Fall 2017 Studio Course. The Fall 2017 Studio Course is a required capstone element requirement for anyone pursuing a Masters of Arts Urban Planning degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato's Urban and Regional Studies Institute.

The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour is a virtual walk-through of historical and architectural sites and buildings. The Tour is intended for anyone interested in learning more about heritage resources located in the City of Mankato, Minnesota. The Tour was completed by researching sites in the City of Mankato, and by using the internet and computer technologies including ArcGIS interactive mapping. The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour is not a comprehensive list of all historically or architecturally significant resources in the City. In other words, this is an opportunity for the project to continue to grow in breadth as more sites are researched and added to the interactive GIS map. The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour contains multiple aspects including the virtual map tour element, an interactive classroom element, an informational brochure and lastly a blog. The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour is accessible online through mobile devices and personal computers.



To access the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour online, please visit <https://sbs.mnsu.edu/ursi/> and on the page's left navigation panel select ***Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour***, which is the sidebar's twelfth selection option.

Introduction

Take a virtual stroll through Mankato, Minnesota using the [Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour](#). Learn about Mankato's history by exploring over 30 sites and architecturally significant buildings including churches, parks, houses of famous Mankato residents over the years and more! Then, learn even more by visiting a virtual classroom where you have the option of participating in a walking tour intended to be done on foot in three-hours or less.

There are many existing tours currently in Mankato including tours put on by the Blue Earth County Historical Society and the City of Mankato. However, there are no virtual historical or architectural tours of Mankato and none that are accessible on mobile devices. The Mankato Historical and Architectural tour originates from The Mankato Walking Tour created by emeritus professor Dr. Janet Cherrington-Cuore (referred to as Dr. J hereafter). Her tour existed during the early 2000's but went down as internet server failures occurred. Dr. J approached the Studio Team with the project of revitalizing the Mankato Walking Tour. The Studio Team consisting of Kate Taylor, Situ Chitrakar and Jacob Dada then created the 2.0 version of the Mankato Walking Tour and renamed it the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour. The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour is virtual, easily-accessible and user-friendly.

Background

The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour originates from the [Mankato Walking Tour](#). In the late 1990's Dr. J began noticing how little her freshman students knew about the city surrounding Minnesota State University, Mankato. As a result, Dr. J drafted and created the Mankato Walking Tour, a three-hour-long tour which focused on navigating through the Lincoln Park historical neighborhood in the City of Mankato. Her tour originated from the efforts of Dr. H Rodger Smith, an Urban and Regional Studies Professor with the University who developed a two-hour walking tour through the older neighborhoods of Mankato in the in 1960's. Dr. J's Mankato

Walking Tour served then as an interactive classroom of sorts for Dr. J and her students. After students would complete the tour, they were required to submit a paper in response about what they learned and thought was interesting. These papers can still be found on the Mankato Walking Tour site.

Technological shifts at Minnesota State University's website during the mid-200's, resulted in the lose of Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour. Multiple years elapsed as Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour's website was down until the Fall semester of 2017. At that time, Dr. J approached Dr. Miriam Porter and Dr. Russell Fricano, the instructors of the Urban Studies Fall 2017 Studio Course, about contracting the services of second-year graduate students Kate Taylor, Situ Chitrakar and Jacob Dada. These three graduate students would then make up the Studio Team. Their task was to repair, archive, and update the Mankato Walking Tour while also creating a new updated version for the modern day. In response, the Mankato Walking Tour evolved into the Fall 2017 Studio final project, which was eventually resulted in the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour. The Mankato Historical and Architectural tour was named this because it specifically looked at historical locations (also known as heritage resources), as well as architecturally significant buildings. The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour features a virtual interactive ArcGIS map element, a blog, a pamphlet, and links to Dr. J's original Mankato Walking Tour which was restored and archived.

Studio Process

The Studio Process was two part, consisting of repairing and archiving Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour and secondly creating a new virtual tour, version 2.0, meant for a general audience. The Studio Team had a total of thirteen weeks to repair Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour and create the new tour now known as the Mankato Architectural and Historical Tour. As Dr. J's tour was intended to be primarily academic, the Team wanted to create a new tour that captured the essence and originality of Dr. J's tour while containing interactive elements aimed towards a general

audience. The content of the Mankato Walking Tour was reviewed and edited so that it related to modern day year 2017 streets, maps and content. With generous assistance from Mr. Bryan Hoffman of Minnesota State University, Mankato's IT department, the links and html were also repaired. Finally, Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour website was hosted and made publically accessible.

Next, the Team created the virtual tour, known as the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour. This tour was created through site visits and by researching significant historical and architectural resources throughout Mankato City. These locations where added to an interactive ArcGIS map. The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour is multi-faceted, featuring many working components which make the project "whole" in its entirety. The components of the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour are the following:

- An interactive ArcGIS map website featuring 30 historically and architecturally significant sites, accessible at this link
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=d3aef797d8bd450697c4b9041515ee6e>.
- A link contained within the ArcGIS map website that funnels users upon clicking to Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour. Her tour can also be accessed directly at <http://sbs.mnsu.edu/ursi/walkingtour/>.
- A blog (<http://www.mankatotour.blogspot.com>) which contains information about the Fall 2017 Urban Studies Studio Project and a questionnaire where users can "test their knowledge" after exploring the Mankato Architectural and Historical Tour and Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the Fall 2017 Studio Project was determined by the Studio Team to bring awareness to the students and general public concerning the historical and architectural resources located in the City of Mankato. The project also promotes heritage tourism in the community. Heritage tourism is based upon the idea that every community has a unique story to tell. The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour highlights local history, significant sites, and architecturally significant buildings to eventually narrate a story concerning the City of Mankato. According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, visiting historic sites ranks only third behind shopping and outdoor pursuits for travelers in the United States. The City of Mankato has 13 landmark sites located on the National Register of Historic Places as well as two districts, Lincoln Park which consists three-hundred-and-twenty-three sites, as well as the North Front Street Commercial District consisting of eighteen sites in a two-block area. The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour highlights these noteworthy places in the tour. Furthermore, the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour revives and archives Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour which is linked at the end of the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour website.

Methodology

Project Process

The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour's followed a particular procedural process consisting of five-steps: initiation, planning, executing, findings, and creation of a final product.



Figure 1: Procedural Process Overview

The Project Process components consist of individual steps, each done in succession, that were critical to ensuring a timely delivery of the Studio Project.

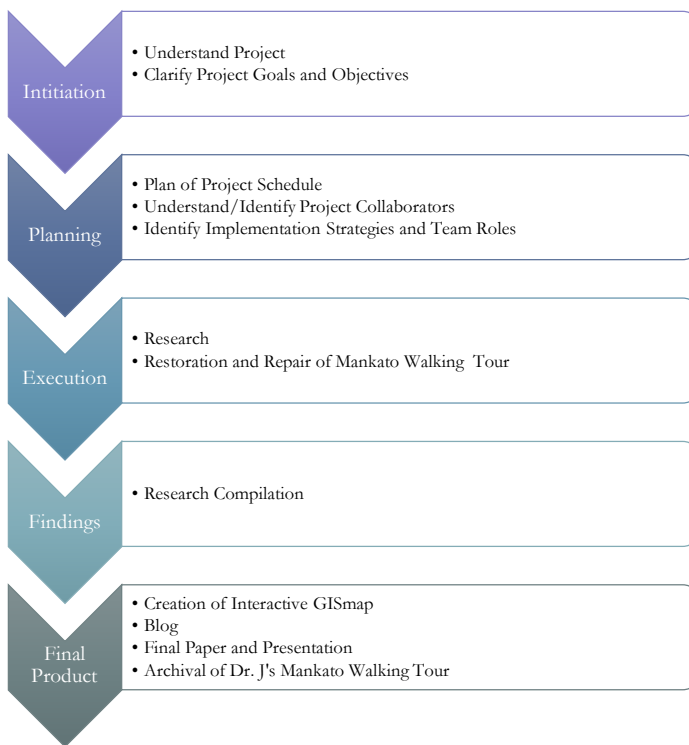


Figure 2: Detailed Process

Initiation

The proposed project was presented by Dr. J, an emeritus faculty member of Minnesota State University Mankato's Urban and Regional Studies Institute on August 22, 2017. The project's scope was then determined to both restore and archive Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour as well as to create a new tour that would uplift Dr. J's existing tour. The new tour was developed based on the Mankato Walking Tour's original conception, but uses interactive ArcGIS mapping and internet technologies. Additionally, Studio Team members Kate Taylor, Situ Chitrakar, and Jacob Dada identified several specific goals for Studio Project, including:

- Repair and Archival of Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour;
- Identification of Mankato's Historical and Architectural Sites;
- Accurate and Precise Research of Identified Sites;
- Preparation of a virtual GIS map which hosts the new tour, the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour and its associated sites, that could also be accessed on mobile devices;
- Creation of a blog to host material related to the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour;
- Creation of a physical handout concerning the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour and how to access it.

Planning

The planning phase of the project clarifies the timing for the project. Due to the brevity of the course, careful attention was made to the planning process. A Gantt Chart was utilized in order to estimate and track the project's timing. Please see Figure 3 located on page 9.

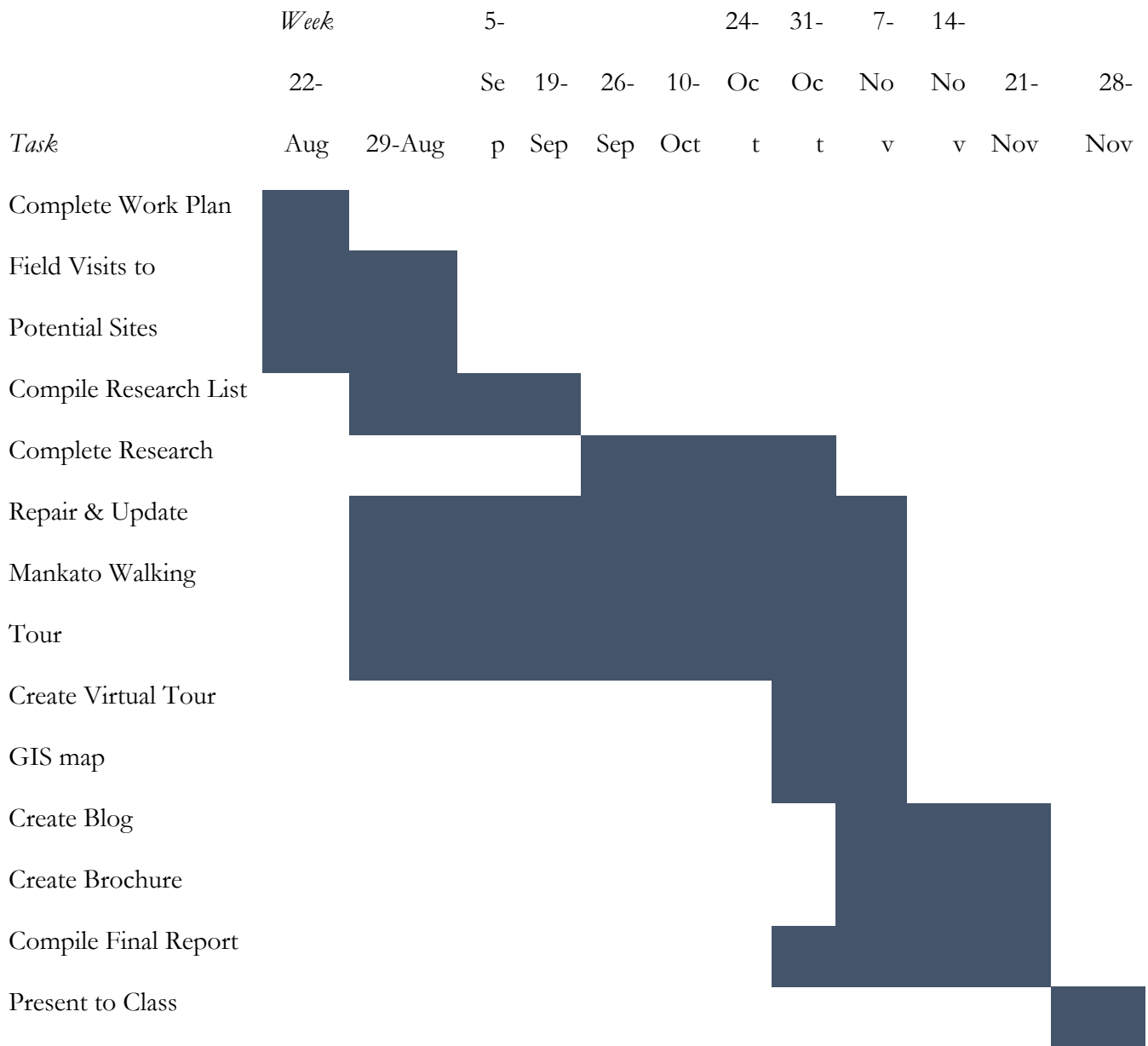


Figure 3: Project Timeline in the form of a Gantt Chart expressing the due dates for selected tasks.

An important component to the planning of the Project involved understanding all the project collaborators. Numerous collaborators were involved in the process of creating the Virtual Mankato Historical Tour such as Dr. Miriam Porter and Dr. Russell Fricano for their advice and feedback throughout the process. Additionally, the Urban and Regional Studies Institute classmates also provided feedback during the course of the Studio Project. Dr. Janet Cherrington-Cucore's insight and opinion regarding the process on her original Mankato Walking Tour and advice concerning the new Mankato Virtual Walking Tour was paramount. Bryan Hoffman's work involving website design, hosting, html, and repair went above and beyond. Special help from Executive Director Jessica Potter and the entire staff of the Blue Earth County Historical Society also made this project possible.

Executing

Hours of research, repair work, and creative thinking went into preserving Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour and creating the next generation Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour. A comprehensive list of historical properties (sites) was first identified through personal knowledge, research of properties contained on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and through field visits. These selected historical and architectural sites were then researched and photographed. Priority was given to sites with higher importance mainly determined by the designation to National Register of Historic Places and locally designated historical sites determined by the City of Mankato and the City of Mankato's Historical Preservation Commission. The NRHP register contained not only historic buildings but also parks and neighborhoods and they were included too. 57 sites were identified to be included in this virtual tour and research was started for those sites. The Studio Team researched the sites and wrote a short description of the site, including information such as date of construction, architectural style, interesting facts and noteworthy inhabitants. The links to the original site information was also listed for further reference.

After research was collected on the selected sites, all the information was uploaded to the ArcGIS Story Map website. The ArcGIS application creates tours that can be accessed online without people having to actually travel to the site. Users can easily access the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour using any mobile device if they have access to the internet.

The restoration of Dr. J's original Mankato Walking Tour was added to the new internet server by Mr. Bryan Hoffman with the Studio Team's assistance. There were many broken and missing links that needed to be repaired. The Mankato Walking Tour was then linked to the end of the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour. Finally, additional information concerning the project was added in the form of a blog, accessible at <https://www.mankatotour.blogspot.com>.

Findings

While studying Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour, the Studio Team found that the tour was targeted to students looking to learn more about the City of Mankato. As a component of the Mankato Walking Tour, Dr. J would require students to first participate in the walking tour then write a final paper. For the general public, the academic points of the Mankato Walking Tour were irrelevant. Therefore, the 2.0 version, directed towards educating and entertaining the general public. The tour would appeal to a general audience, use modern technologies, and would be virtually accessible.

Final Product

The final product of the studio project is multi-faceted, including the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour which contains original research content, original photos, hyperlinks to sites, and a link to a blog which contains supplement information concerning the Studio Project. The final product also involves the creation of a brochure. Additionally, the final product involves the preservation of Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour which is accessible via link at the end of the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour. The final product is also the final report for the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour as well as a final presentation to be held on November 28, 2017.

Research

The City of Mankato has remarkable historical, cultural and architectural heritage sites, especially in the downtown and river basin. As previously mentioned in this report, Mankato has thirteen landmark sites noted on the National Register of Historic Places. There are also two districts on the National Register, including the Lincoln Park Neighborhood and North Front Street Commercial District.

The Studio Team looked at these nationally designated as well as locally designated sites and also drew upon personal knowledge and field visits in order to identify 57 sites deemed historically or culturally significant. Please see Figure 4 on pages 14-15. This list is not comprehensive. Referencing the subsequent bulleted list for future additions to the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour would be beneficial for anyone looking to continue developing this project.

Of those 57 sites, 30 sites were chosen to be extensively researched and included in the Mankato Historical and Architectural tour. These sites were chosen because of their National Register of Historic Places designation and by personal discretion of the Studio Team. A paragraph was written for each of the selected sites based upon collected research. The site research of the 30 selected sites begins on page 16.

Figure 4: Potential Research Sites

- Renessealaer D. Hubbard House
- Federal Courthouse and Post Office
- The Old Hubbard Mill
- Betsy-Tacy House
- Kenney House
- St. Peter and Paul’s Catholic Church
- The George Maxwell House
- Oleander Building
- Masonic Temple
- The Armor
- Mom and Pops
- Wesley Building
- Graif Building
- Calvin P. Johnson Law Office
- Anderson Building
- Immanuel Lutheran
- Bethlehem Lutheran
- Amy Fretz Art Guild
- 307- 415 North Riverfront Drive
- William Irving House
- Pilgrims Rest Cemetery
- First National Bank of Mankato
- Old Main
- Minnesota State University
Highland Campus
- Crawford Residence Hall
- Nelson Hall
- Gage Towers
- Buck and Cooper Halls
- Searing Center
- Science and Arts Building (VINE)
- Lincoln Library
- Intergovernmental Center
- Chatham Square Apartments
- Earl Johnson Furniture Store
- 720 S. 2nd St
- Devine Towers
- Saint John the Baptist
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Blue Earth County Courthouse
- Mankato Union Depot
- Carnegie Library
- Lorin Cray Mansion

- Glenwood Cemetery
- Brett's Department Store
- Mankato Place Mall
- Pioneer Memorial Park
- Sibley Park
- Lincoln Park
- Reconciliation Park
- Tourtellote Park
- First Presbyterian Church
- Eberhart House
- The Lincoln Park Historic District
- Chapman Charles House
- Washington Park
- Highland Park
- Riverfront Park

Figure 4: Sites originally defined as potential places to add to the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour. Only thirty sites were actually added to the tour page as of November 28th, 2017. Future additions could be made and added to the tour and if so, this list should be consulted and even added to.

The North Front Street Commercial District

301 to 415 North Riverfront Drive



This district contains 17 contributing buildings of late 19th and early 20th century, brick-and-stone commercial buildings on the edge of the central business district. It is located on the National Register of Historic Places.

Stahl House

301 North Riverfront Drive



Built in 1893, the Stahl House is a three-story commercial building built of North Mankato red brick and trimmed with Kasota limestone. It was the City's second hotel ever built with rates at \$1.25 and \$1.50 per night in 1905, and advertisements in the Free Press newspaper calling it a "1st class hotel, with 2nd class charges." The hotel featured 42 rooms using gas and electricity with steam heating systems. It continued operating as a hotel until the late 1970's. It now houses apartments and independent businesses. The Stahl House is contained within the North Front Street Commercial District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of 1980.

Wenzl Huttl Tailor Shop

329 North Riverfront Drive



This two-story commercial building was constructed in 1891. Wenzl Huttl engraved his name on multiple places on the structure's façade including the upper front façade. The building is an excellent example of typical commercial buildings of the time, featuring a large display window, central entrance, and cast-iron storefront. Mr. Huttl was born in Austria in 1854, married a Mankato native, Ms. Mary Victoria Heinzman and together they had fourteen children.

The Old Hubbard Mill

425 Riverfront Drive



This Italianate brick structure was constructed in 1878 by R. D. Hubbard. It was one of Southern Minnesota's largest flour mills, greatly supporting the agricultural and commerce of Mankato. It was originally powered by a roller mill and was later converted to steam power. The Mill's iconic stack, was once taller but still remains an iconic eye-piece for the City.

The George Maxwell House

816 North Second Street



This house was built by George Maxwell, owner of Mankato's first quarry which began operations in the 1850s. The building served as Maxwell's office and showcased the Mankato and Kasota stone Mr. Maxwell sold. The George Maxwell home is believed to be the oldest building remaining in the City of Mankato, although its exact date of construction is unknown.

Mankato Union Depot

112 South Riverfront Drive



In 1868, railroads came to Mankato making it southern Minnesota's central transportation hub. The Mankato Union Depot is the sole surviving train depot amongst thirteen Blue Earth town sites where railroads played major city developmental roles. The station connected two competing rail lines and was constructed in 1896 by contractor J.B. Nelson and Company. The architecture retains its structural integrity including, but not limited to, the roof, trim, brickwork, and fenestrations. The Mankato Union Depot was added to the National Register of Historic Places on July 28, 1980.

Federal Courthouse and Post Office

401 Second Street



This courthouse was constructed in 1896 in Romanesque style. It was expanded in 1932 and 1965. The original builder/designer was Supervising Architect William Martin Aiken and it was expanded later by James A. Wetmore and Edward W. Novak in the later dates. It is one of the three buildings in downtown Mankato made extensively of local yellow stone. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. It is now used as the Second Division of U.S. District court and post office.

Mankato Public Library and Reading Room, Carnegie Library

120 South Broad Street



The Carnegie Foundation constructed the Mankato Public Library and Reading Room between 1902-03 with a grant of \$40,000. The stone, cement, lime and brick of the building are all locally produced, making it unique. The Renaissance Revival design of the building is a departure from the typical Neo-Classical style of most Minnesota Carnegie buildings. It was designed by New York architectural firm Jardine and Kent. The Library operated until the 1970's when a new regional library was constructed.

Blue Earth County Courthouse

204 South 5th Street



The Blue Earth County Courthouse was designed by the Minneapolis firm Healy and Allen and was built between 1886-1889. It is a fine example of Italian and French Renaissance Revival design featuring locally quarried stones and carved details. The courthouse ran nearly \$50,000 over its original \$75,000 budget. The Blue Earth County Courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places July 28, 1980.

First National Bank of Mankato

previous 229 South Front Street, now part of Verizon Wireless Event Center



The First National Bank of Mankato was designed by Saint Paul architects Ellerbee and Round in 1913. The bank cost \$85,000 to build and demonstrates prairie-style architecture. It was nearly robbed by the James Younger gang in 1876 but was skipped over because a trade fair made the town too busy. In 1973 the bank was added to the National Register of Historic Places and currently serves as an event space for the Verizon Wireless Center.

Sinclair Lewis House

315 South Broad Street



This brick home sheltered the renowned novelist Sinclair Lewis during the summer of 1919 when local businessman J.W. Schmitt offered Lewis his home rent-free. A native of Minnesota, Sinclair Lewis worked on the famed book, "Main Street," while residing here. Lewis was known for his many eccentricities. One such story involves Lewis disappearing and returning wearing the hostess' most fashionable gowns at a party being thrown for him. Lewis was also known to take his horse and buggy into the bluffs to enjoy the views of the Minnesota River Valley. Lewis was the first American to receive, and reject, the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1926.

First Presbyterian Church

220 E Hickory St



This church is built in high-style Richardsonian Romanesque architectural design by renowned architect William H. Hayes in 1896. The exterior of First Presbyterian Church is constructed of locally mined buff-colored Mankato stone. The interior church features an “Akron plan” layout, in which the main sanctuary rotunda is surrounded by 2 levels of rooms. The church features a square corner bell tower with an octagonal spire and still houses the original Ladies Auxiliary bell purchased in 1857.

The Lincoln Park Neighborhood

The Lincoln Park neighborhood was the city's most high-style housing of the time. The majority of the area's 224 buildings remarkably well-preserved. The neighborhood was also known as the city's "silk stocking district" where the wealthy businessman, merchants and their families resided. Housing styles within the neighborhood include Greek Revivals, Italianate, Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival. The Lincoln Park neighborhood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 as a district.

Lincoln Park

200 Lincoln Street



This is the first ever public park in Mankato, located in one of the city's original first annexes the Lincoln Park neighborhood. The pie-shaped piece of land is known for its distinguishing fountain topped with "The Boy in Blue" bronze Union soldier statue, and a cannon from the Spanish-American war. The heritage Lincoln Elm was removed from this park in 1980 after dying from disease and was estimated to be over 315 years old.

Kenney House - Tacy Kelly's House

332 Center Street



This is a simple Victorian vernacular home, but is significant as it is also known as Tacy Kelly's house in Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley *Betsy-Tacy* books. Frances Vivian Kenney was born in 1891 in Minneapolis and was Maud Hart Lovelace's best friend. In the 1920's Illa Flatters an English teacher purchased the home. It was later acquired in 1995 by the Betsy-Tacy Society and it now serves as the office and gift shop for the society.

Maud Hart Lovelace House (Betsy Ray's House)

333 Center Street



This is a modified homestead, simple in architectural form. Maud Palmer Hart was born in 1892 at 214 Center Street but the family later moved up the road to #333 in October 1892. This is the Center Street home Ms. Lovelace described in the Deep Valley books. The home was purchased by the Betsy-Tacy society in 2001 for \$60,000. Ms. Maud Hart Lovelace's gravesite is located in Glenwood Cemetery at 711 Glenwood Avenue, Mankato.

Lorin Cray House

603 South Second Street



Lorin and Lulu Cray commissioned local architect Frank Thayer to design their mansion in 1898 for \$13,000. The house is built of Chaska buff brick, pink rock-faced granite, and the foundation is Kasota stone. The style is Queen Anne with Romanesque and classical details. A circular corner tower was built for architectural flare and entertaining purposes. The mansion contained three guest bedrooms and a ballroom on the third floor. Lorin Cray was born in 1844 in New York, and came to Mankato in 1859. While he served in both the Civil War and the Dakota Conflict of 1862, his career was in law and he became a renowned judge later in life. It is said that the couple built the home to compete with their neighbor R.D. Hubbard's grand French Second Empire home. The Cray's were renowned as community philanthropists, with their main beneficiary being the YWCA. Upon their deaths, they left the house and its contents to the YWCA. The YWCA sold it in 2008. The Cray Mansion is currently listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places.

R.D. Hubbard House -606 South Broad Street



The Hubbard House is one of Mankato's most famous historical structures and one of Minnesota's finest examples of French Second Empire architecture. The home was built in 1871 with further remodels occurring throughout Mr. Renessealaer D. Hubbard's lifetime. The carriage house on property was built in in 1890. The exterior and interior of the home are in immaculate condition featuring expensive amenities such as indoor plumbing, Mankato's first telephone line (which connected the Hubbard Mill to Mr. Hubbard's office near the mill), and gas lighting powered from an on-site gas plant. The house features imported marble fireplaces and stained glass fixtures including a Tiffany light fixture. Hubbard was one of the wealthiest men of Mankato, with his milling company becoming the largest milling operation in southern Minnesota. Hubbard built his home to reflect his opulent lifestyle. The property is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is owned and operated by the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Private tours of the property are offered.

J.R. Brandrup House

704 Byron Street



This house is of Classical Revival architectural style, constructed in 1904 for J.R. Brandrup. Mr. Brandrup was the owner of the Mankato Commercial College and also helped with other educational institutions in Mankato. Brandrup lived in the house until his death in 1944. The house is situated on the edge of one of the earliest platted additions to the city in the Lincoln Park neighborhood.

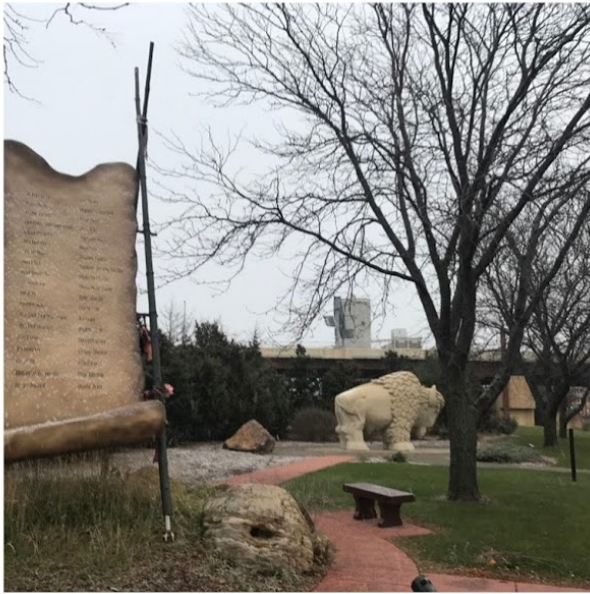
Eberhart House

228 East Pleasant Street



The Adolph Olson Eberhart House is a two-and-a-half story wood frame house of Georgian Revival architectural style constructed in 1903. Mr. Eberhart served as a state senator from Blue Earth County before he became the first Lieutenant Governor and then the Governor of Minnesota. Adolph attended Gustavus Adolphus College after emigrating from Sweden in 1870 at the age of 11. Adolph is known for abolishing capital punishment, formal party designations, legalizing state income taxes and consolidating many rural school districts. The Adolph Olson Eberhart House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of 1980.

Parks



There are more than 600 acres of park and recreational areas in the City of Mankato, rich in natural and historical nature. Washington Park, Reconciliation Park, Sibley Park, and Pioneer Memorial Park are particularly historical.

Washington Park

215 North Fourth Street



When the Fourth Street Railroad vacated the area in the early 1900's to relocate closer to the Minnesota River, this land was converted into the park we see today. The space was officially dedicated in 1915 and was once dominated by a large fountain located at the center of the park which has unfortunately been lost to time.

Reconciliation Park

100 North Riverfront Drive



This park was dedicated in 1997 to honor the Dakota heritage of the area from the efforts of Dakota leader Amos Owen and Mankato businessman Bud Lawrence. The buffalo and “Winter Warrior” statue across the street are both made of Kasota stone. The United States Dakota Conflict of 1862 was one of the area’s most tragic historical events. The city of Mankato sits on land purchased in an 1851 treaty between the United State Government and the Dakota Nation. The U.S. Dakota Conflict was provoked when the U.S. skipped and delayed payments. During the conflict nearly 486 white settlers and an unknown but large number of Sioux were forcibly removed and killed. 303 Dakota prisoners of the conflict were convicted and sentenced to death by President Lincoln who is said to have personally reviewed the files each prisoner. The prisoners were held at

Camp Lincoln near Sibley Park. Mankato Bishop Henry Whipple fought for the prisoners and saved all but 40 of them from execution. Of the 40 remaining, 38 men were executed near Reconciliation Park on December 26, 1862 on what remains the largest mass execution in United States history. Today, Dakota horse-back riders traverse over 330-miles through the prairie to Mankato with the intention of bringing reconciliation to all peoples.

Sibley Park

900 Park Lane



This park was purchased for \$13,000 in 1887 and was named after General Henry Sibley, whose trading post had stood on the site prior to the city's settlement; General Sibley also defeated Little Crow's Dakota in 1862. Sibley's log trading post is located approximately where the Ott Cabin now stands northwest of the mound. The Sibley site was first used as a horse and bicycle track. In the mid-1890's the racetrack was disassembled and a new zoo, lake, wading pool, tennis courts, ball grounds, open greens, extensive flower beds, and picnic sites were created. The zoo has ranged from a deer park, to housing for monkeys, bears, and native buffalo. During the Mankato flood of 1965 many of the Sibley Park Zoo animals drowned. Those animals that survived relocated to Como Park in Saint Paul and the rest of the bison were transferred to Blue Mounds State Park near Luverne, Minnesota. The zoo is now re-branded as a farm exhibit.

Pioneer Memorial Park

1400 North Sixth Street



This is one of the City of Mankato's oldest cemeteries, also known as Pioneer Cemetery. This location was the site of two nineteenth century burial grounds including a Masonic cemetery and Roman Catholic cemetery. The land was purchased by Mankato Lodge No. 12 Free and Accepted Masons in 1858. At one time there were around 60 gravestones, including veterans of the Civil and the U.S. Dakota War conflict. There are approximately 40 headstones that remain but are much less than what used to exist on site. Many original graves were moved to places such as Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Judge Lorin Cray and Dr. Julius Hielscher were main activists in preserving the land and pushing it into city park status in 1935.

Education

Mankato became the site of Minnesota's second Normal school in 1868. Normal school is a term for college's that train teachers. Higher educational facilities grow the community of Mankato from a population of 40,000 to nearly 1000,000 people during the academic year (2010 census.gov). Mankato is currently home to multiple higher educational facilities.

Highland Campus

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Due to the landlocked nature of the valley campus, Mankato State College moved uphill to the Highland campus in the 1950's. All classes were moved and held on the Highland Campus by fall school year 1979. Crawford Residential Hall was the very first residential hall to open in the Highland campus on 1958. Nelson Hall, also known as the industrial arts building, was the very first academic building to be opened in the Highland Campus in 1958 as well. In 1998, the school took on the name it is known as today --- Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Old Main, Mankato State Teacher's College

301 South Fifth Street



The original Old Main burnt down in 1922 and was replaced by the brick and limestone Jacobean Revival styled structure we see today in 1924. It was designed by architect Clarence H. Johnston and features a rectangular auditorium with a H-shaped floor plan. Reinforced concrete was used to construct the building and it was faced with variegated brown brick. Two limestone cartouches are featured above the main entrance's door. These carvings are architecturally termed grotesques. The first grotesque embellishment is of a studious student with a quill pen and other is a dunce with holding a slate engraved with "2+2=5".

The Kato Ballroom

200 Chestnut Street



The Kato Ballroom has been an important concert venue for Mankato ever since its 1945 grand opening. The current structure dates back to 1954. The deco mid-century modern styled building has hosted thousands of bands. Some of their more famous entertaining visitors include the Six Fat Dutchmen, Chubby Checker, the Everly Brothers, BJ Thomas, Johnny Holm, Louis Armstrong, Glenn Miller, Guy Lombardo, the Beach Boys, Clem Brau, and Buddy Holly.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul's Catholic Church

105 North Fifth Street



St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church is considered the oldest congregations in Mankato, which starting their services in 1854 at Kron's Hotel. The congregation was mainly German immigrants. They acquired land and built this church in 1871-73. A grade and high school followed. This religious institution became an important part of the city's social and cultural life. The structure is of Gothic revival architectural style and is an iconic landmark in Mankato's skyline.

William Irving House - 320 Park Lane



The William Irving House is located on the edge of the Sibley Park Area and at the time of its construction its street its built on was actually known as West Front Street. The architectural style of the home is French Second Empire, with brick walls and a foundation made of rock-faced stone. The interior of the house is well preserved too. William Irving was born in Liverpool, England in 1821 and settled in Mankato in 1856 operating a tailoring business. The second-generation of Irving family lived in the residence until 1965.

Chapman Charles House - 428 McCauley



This home was constructed in 1858 from plain ashlar buff-colored Mankato stone from the George Maxwell quarry. The structure is significant as it was one of the earliest and best preserved stone structures in the area. Charles Chapman was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts and educated at Harvard. He moved to Minnesota in 1857 and along with several other individuals purchased farm land from Noah Armstrong, and laid out the town site of LeHillier. Chapman also served as the City of Mankato's first city engineer and secretary to the Mankato Board of Trade.

Conclusion

The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour is the final product of the Fall 2017 Urban and Regional Studies Studio Course. This project was created by Kate Taylor, Situ Chitrakar, and Jacob Dada who are pursuing their Masters of Arts in Urban Planning. It is the Studio Team's pleasure to have created a virtual tour for Mankato, Minnesota. Now academics, community members and visitors of Mankato alike can learn more about the City's history and architecture from the comfort of their own homes or through physical visitations of the selected sites while accessing the map on their mobile devices.

Future Recommendations

The Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour has great potential for future growth. There is an abundance of historical sites and architectural sites located throughout the City that could be added to the Mankato Historical and Architectural over time. The blog could also be expanded with more content. Additionally, while the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour is primarily intended for a general audience, the Tour could be applied to a classroom setting just as Dr. J's Mankato Walking Tour was. A course involving historical preservation or even an introductory Urban Studies course could greatly benefit from the Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour. Students could research a selected site, write about it, photograph it, and have a Professor add it to the interactive. map. It is the Studio Team's intent to gift the Tour to someone interested in nurturing it and adding more sites to the map. The Studio Team created a bundled folder package containing all the photos, information, spreadsheets, coding, and login information for the Mankato Architectural and Historical Tour. This way, the tour can be passed on to an appropriate person, such as a Historical Heritage Architectural Professors, who could continue to add content to the virtual Mankato Historical and Architectural Tour.

Additional Tour content is currently hosted on a blog at <https://www.mankatotour.blogspot.com>. It is a future recommendation that the map, blog content, and other external links from the tour be transferred to a privately hosted website with its own domain name.

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