

MANHATTAN'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS & DISTRICTS

Floral Hall (Round House)

Constructed of limestone in 1875, Floral Hall was built to house floral, crop, textile, and baked good exhibitions for the Riley County Fair. It has since evolved into a dance studio, storage and classroom space for the Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department.



Floral Hall (Round House), 405 N
11th Street

Floral Hall, also known as the “Round House”, was constructed to replace the exhibition hall that had been damaged in a storm. It was used to house exhibits for the Riley County Fair when it was held in City Park in the 1870s and 1880s. The structure is unique due to its octagonal shape.

In addition to Floral Hall, a half-mile track, grandstand, amphitheater, and exhibition hall were located in City Park for the fair. Floral Hall was last used for the fair in 1887. It is the only fair structure still in Manhattan City Park and the oldest fair building in the county.

Throughout its existence, the structure has been used as a fire station, a facility to house patients with highly contagious diseases such as smallpox, a recreation facility for school-

dance studio, classroom, and storage space for the Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department. The structure has had notable alterations and repairs to accommodate the various uses.

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

