



IOWA HISTORIC PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

**Building Partnerships
for Historic
Preservation**

Volume 14 Issue 3

Fall 2004

IOWA'S MOST ENDANGERED PROPERTIES

The Alliance announced the 2004 list of Iowa's Most Endangered Properties during the annual conference on July 31. The properties are described below and on pages four and five.



The **John Wilson House** in Earlham - The property is the last to remain of five houses built by John Wilson. Resources indicate that Wilson was active in the Underground Railroad in Iowa. The property, built in 1861, is listed on the National Register. A quarry was granted permission to blast as close as 300 feet from the structure, and the house is on the same bedrock as the blasting site. There has already been damage to

the house, and the potential for additional damage is great.

The **Canadian National Railway Depot** - Storm Lake The depot, built in 1915, is listed on the National Register. A local group has been formed and hope to restore the Prairie style structure to be used as a Welcome Center and Museum. The Railway has indicated plans to demolish the depot in order to construct a new building for use as an office and equipment storage facility on the same site. Negotiations between the Railway and the local depot preservation committee are ongoing.



The **Administration Building Naval Air Station** - Ottumwa Built in 1942-43 as part of America's war effort. The building housed Communications, Commanding and Executive officers, Public Information, Personnel and a variety of other offices. It is one of 28 remaining buildings out of about 60 originally constructed. In the 925 days the station was in operation 4,626 students completed training at the facility. The building is currently empty and has been for several years.

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**IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP
CURRENT? Please send
renewals for 2005 to
IHPA, PO Box 814, Mt.
Pleasant, IA 52641**

(Continued on page 4)



IHPA Annual Conference



Conference attendees visiting the Antioch School once attended by artist Grant Wood

In the next Newsletter

Our next newsletter will contain the annual donor's list. It will also contain an article on the recent Country School Conference held in Pella and sponsored in part by the Alliance.

The Alliance held its Annual Conference in Jones County on July 30, 31 and August 1. Friday's events included a Historic Preservation Training Session given by staff members of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, followed by a Barn Preservation Workshop.

Saturday's sessions included presentations on the Underground Railroad and the Iowa Finance Authority. Following a business meeting, attendees toured area sites including the Hardscrabble and Antioch schools, the Penitentiary Museum, Stone City and the Stone City Quarry. Meals were provided at Camp Courageous and the Stone City Barn. The 2004 Iowa's Most Endangered Properties list was previewed. Sunday members had a breakfast tour of Limestone Garden.

This year's Conference had a record attendance. IHPA board member Rose Rohr is to be congratulated on planning a most successful event



IHPA past president Tom Smull and National Trust Liaison Lisa Weissman try out a cell (temporarily) during the tour of the Iowa Penitentiary Museum during the Annual Conference

Alliance Board Members Attend Workshop

Seven representatives of the Alliance joined National Trust Liaison Lisa Weissman at a Better Boards workshop sponsored by the National Trust. The workshop, held in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, focused on fundraising and featured Andy Robinson, a nationally known fundraising motivational speaker.



IHPA attendees at the recent Better Boards meeting. Seated l. to r., Rose Rohr, Cynthia Nieb, Michael Kramme, Jacky Adams, Bill Sherman and George Wakeman. Standing Martha Hayes and Lisa Weissman.

Executive Directors' News Items

Past IHPA Executive Director, Bob Yapp has taken a newly created position of community preservation specialist with Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

Current IHPA Executive Director, Michael Kramme had a book review published in the last issue of *Annals of Iowa*. The review was on the book *Small Town Chautauqua* written by James R. Schultz.

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Burlington's "unveiling" project

Both articles on this page, by Steve Frevert, appeared in *Heritage Happenings*, the newsletter of the Heritage Trust for Preservation and Restoration of Historic Burlington.

Take It Off- Take It All Off!

Too many attractive older homes find themselves shrouded in plain, uninteresting secondary siding. Whether asphalt, cement board, aluminum, or vinyl, such materials have always been advertised as maintenance free, tempting homeowners who are tired of painting their wood siding to spend the extra money. Besides hiding period details, secondary siding can also hide potential problems such as water or insect damage. Sometimes even durable original cladding materials such as stucco, stone, and brick are covered over- a true testament to the persuasive abilities of the siding salesman. The Heritage Trust is bucking the trend by creating a new grant program- "The Great Unveiling."

A number of recent re-siding jobs in Burlington briefly revealed the original appearance of the buildings. Spurred to action by such tantalizing glimpses, the Trust board initiated a grant program encouraging homeowners to remove their secondary siding and restore their home's exteriors. A number of other communities, such as Rock Island and Elgin, Illinois, have undertaken de-siding projects with dramatic results. Inspired by these examples, the board modeled the Burlington unveiling on its successful porch grant program. Applicants submit work plans and cost estimates for their projects; those who are approved receive up to \$2500 to pay for repairs, debris disposal, and painting, while True Value Hardware generously donates paint in colors of the homeowner's choosing. Trust members are encouraged to assist in the unveiling effort.

The board decided to begin the program with one grant, which was awarded to Don and Gale Lofgren for their home at 1420 Jefferson St. Built in 1892, the frame Queen Anne style home had been re-sided with cement board in 1956. Work on removing the material began on September 4. During the project, a number of curious onlookers came by. Some even wanted to know what kind of new siding the Lofgrens were going to put on! As work progressed, long-hidden details of the exterior emerged- narrow clapboards, diagonal slats, ornamental shingles, and sunbursts. Window hoods and drip caps that were cut flush at the time of the re-siding will be rebuilt, and decorative elements will be repaired. The Lofgrens plan to have the base color of the home painted this fall. Their commitment to restoring the period look of their home serves as an example to other homeowners in the community, and the Trust is looking forward to encouraging future unveiling projects. What is your siding hiding?

Burlington's St. Patrick's Saved



St. Patrick's Catholic Church was on the Alliance's Most Endangered Properties list in 2003.

Following a year of negotiations with representatives of Saints Mary and Patrick Church, the future of the historic Saint Patrick's church building is now in the hands of the Heritage Trust. Aided by attorney and Trust board member Bryan Schulte, the board went through numerous reviews of the transfer documents to ensure a fair deal. The board approved the transfer at its August meeting. Soon afterwards both parties signed the papers, and the parish gave the Trust a check to cover the cost of roof replacement due to damage from a 2003 hailstorm. We have also received a \$2000 grant from Catfish Bend Casino to go towards the building's rehabilitation as a community center. Work on the roof is scheduled to begin in October. Trust President Dennis Wilson deserves special thanks for his tireless efforts in rallying support for saving the building.

The Heritage Trust has never before taken ownership of a property in order to save it, and board members were keenly aware that the limitations on future use outlined in the covenants could hinder the economic feasibility of the building's rehabilitation. However, several members of both the Trust and the Parish have already pledged funds to pay towards needed work, and the Trust will undertake further fundraising efforts. In addition, the Parish has agreed to give the Trust both their deductible and insurance settlement for the hail damage that the structure's roof sustained in last May's hailstorm. At the same time, options are being explored as to what viable uses can be made of the building, with several promising ideas already in the works. Any undertaking such as this carries inherent risks. However, the Heritage Trust board has decided that those risks are worth taking when it comes to saving St. Patrick's. The successful rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of such a prominent and well-loved building will elevate awareness of and respect for the Trust's mission to preserve the historic architectural legacy of Burlington.



Iowa's Most Endangered Properties (Continued)



The Van Brunt Manison

The **Charles R. & Lucille Hannan II house and the neighboring Van Brunt Mansion** - Council Bluffs. The houses were built circa 1900 by Charles R. Hannan and Henry H. Van Brunt. Hannan owned land in and around Council Bluffs. Van Brunt was an early dealer in buggies, carriages, wagons



The Hannan House

and agricultural implements. The two men went into partnership and owned the Hannan-Van Brunt Motor Company located in Omaha. This was the first Ford dealership west of the Mississippi. The properties are now multi-tenant, low-income properties. Both properties have decayed significantly in recent years.

The **Columbia Opera House** – Correctionville Built in 1888, and rebuilt after a fire in 1892, the Opera House was the social center of the community. President Taft spoke there and Lawrence Welk performed there. The building is structurally sound, it needs tuck-pointing and windows need replacing. Currently the City of Correctionville is considering demolition of the structure.



The **Camp Dodge Swimming Pool** – Johnston Started in the late 1910s, the pool is on the National Register. The camp was built to train soldiers for WW I but the war ended before completion of the pool. It was opened to the public in 1922 and has operated continuously since. It is believed to be the world's largest outdoor filtered pool. Ronald Reagan spent many days there when he was a sportscaster in Des Moines in the 1930s. There is an oak tree that locals call the "Reagan Tree" because he parked his car there and courted the ladies under that tree. Previous attempts at adaptive reuse have failed. If assistance is not provided, the pool will likely be filled in and the bathhouse remodeled into a classroom / community center. The pool was also on the 2000 most





The **Badgerow Building** in Sioux City - Designed by local architect K.E. Westerlind, this prominent building was completed in 1933. It is the largest commercial building in Sioux City designed in the Art Deco style. The property is vacant and has been “red tagged” by the City of Sioux City as being dangerous and in dilapidated condition. Some of the upper floor windows are open to the elements.



The **Boeing/United Terminal Building** – Iowa City The Terminal is one of just seven original Air Mail terminals left in existence. Both sides could be opened to permit the aircraft to taxi inside. In inclement weather both doors could be closed, allowing passengers and cargo to load and unload in a climate-controlled environment. The FAA has deemed that the building is too near the runway for modern safety standards. It is hoped that the structure can be moved onto a nearby lot. It is slated for demolition within 24 months.



The **Churches of Clinton**. St. Irenaeus Church (left), built in 1852; St. Boniface Church (center), built in 1908 and St. Patrick Church (right) and Rectory, built in 1905, were listed as a group on our Most Endangered Properties list in 2002. Church officials agree that the buildings are inefficient and too small to serve the needs of the Clinton Catholic population. St. Patrick's was closed in 1997 and St. Irenaeus closed in the winter of 2003, and is now used only in warm weather months. Current plans are to demolish all of the structures and replace them with one new, larger church. The churches were on the 2002 Most Endangered list.

**CLAYTON COUNTY**

PETER STAUER HOUSE, 629 MAIN STREET, MC GREGOR



The Peter Stauer House built in 1882 is locally significant as an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of the patterned masonry subtype, and as an example of the personal style of the architect Elias White Hale Jacobs of McGregor.

CLINTON COUNTY-
SHARON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1223 - 125TH STREET, CLINTON VICINITY



The church is the last surviving building from the community of Burgess-Smithtown and it represents a successful long-term cross-cultural cooperation between two congregations, which shared the same church building throughout its history (1875-World War I).

DAVIS COUNTY

TRIMBLE/PARKER HISTORIC FARMSTEAD DISTRICT, 23981 - 240TH STREET, BLOOMFIELD VICINITY



This farmstead is a well-preserved example of an early twentieth century purebred stock farm in southern Iowa. The survival of so many of its original buildings, including a diverse set of livestock buildings reflecting the varied stock types and operations carried out of this farmstead between 1901 and 1952, is unusual and notable in the current collection of surviving farmstead buildings in Iowa.

2003 National Register Additions

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY
ALLAMAKEE COUNTY COURT HOUSE, 110 ALLAMAKEE STREET, WAUKON



The Allamakee County Court House is significant under Criterion A as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era as part of the federal Public Works Administration and its successor agencies. It is an example of the PWA Moderne style of public building architecture developed during the 1930s and early 1940s. Its design blends Art Deco and Moderne elements.

The Audubon County Court House is significant under Criterion A and C as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era as part of the federal Public Works Administration and its successor agencies. It is an example of the PWA Moderne style of public building architecture developed during the 1930s and early 1940s. Its design blends Art Deco and Moderne elements.

BREMER COUNTY
BREMER COUNTY COURT-HOUSE, 415 E. BREMER AVENUE, WAVERLY



The Bremer County Court-house is significant under Criterion A and C as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era as part of the federal Public Works Administration and its successor agencies. It is an example of the PWA Moderne style of public building architecture developed during the 1930s and early 1940s. Its design blends Art Deco and Moderne elements.

BUCHANAN COUNTY-
BUCHANAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 216 5TH AVENUE, INDEPENDENCE



The Buchanan County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A and C as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era as part of the federal Public Works Administration and its successor agencies. It

is an example of the PWA Moderne style of public building architecture developed during the 1930s and early 1940s. Its design blends Art Deco and Moderne elements.

CASS COUNTY

CASS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 5 W. 7TH STREET, ATLANTIC



The Cass County Courthouse is significant at both the state and local levels under Criteria A and C as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal era as part of the federal Public Works Administration and its successor agencies. Its construction represented a significant public investment of federal and local dollars. It is an example of the PWA Moderne style of public building architecture developed during the 1930s and early 1940s. Its design blends Art Deco and Moderne style elements.

CEDAR COUNTY

CEDAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE AND JAIL, 118 W. 4TH STREET, TIPTON



The Cedar County Sheriff's Residence and Jail is locally significant under Criterion A as the primary correction facility in Cedar County from 1892 until 2001. It is also significant under Criterion C as an unusual example of the sheriff's quarter/jail subtype of a local correction facility, which was the predominant local jail type in Iowa for over a century. It is also believed to have been the last operating residence/jail in Iowa.

APPANOOSE COUNTY
CB&Q PASSENGER DEPOT, 1124 S. EIGHTEENTH STREET, CENTERVILLE



This depot is locally significant as it illustrates the importance of the railroad to community development, and as it illustrates the type of building constructed in county seat towns.

AUDUBON COUNTY
AUDUBON COUNTY COURT-HOUSE, 318 LEROY STREET, AUDUBON





2003 National Register Additions

DES MOINES COUNTY

DES MOINES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 513 N. MAIN STREET, BURLINGTON



The Des Moines County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A and C as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era as part of the federal Public Works Administration and its successor agencies. It is an example of the PWA Moderne style of public building architecture developed during the 1930s and early 1940s. Its design blends Art Deco and Moderne elements.

DENNIS MELCHER POTTERY AND RESIDENCE, 22981 AND 22982 AGENCY ROAD, DANVILLE



The Dennis Melcher Pottery and Residence is significant under criterion A as a rare example of a commercial/industrial facility along an early territorial/state road with a nearby owners residence. It is also significant under criterion C as an excellent and rare example of vernacular design of the period.

FLOYD COUNTY

FLOYD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 101 S. MAIN STREET, CHARLES CITY



The Floyd County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era as part of the federal Public Works Administration and its successor agencies. It is an example of the PWA Moderne style of public building architecture developed during the 1930s and early 1940s. Its design blends Art Deco and Moderne elements.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

HAMPTON DOUBLE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT, BOUNDED ROUGHLY BY W AVE. NW ON THE N, 1ST AVE. SW ON THE S, THE ALLEY W. OF 1ST ST. ON THE W, AND ALLEY E OF FEDERAL ON THE E, HAMPTON



The Hampton Double Square Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A under Community Planning and Development as a rare example of an unusual town plan: The Double Square. It is significant under Criterion C as buildings within the district represent the best of both

the commercial and public architecture during high points of the community's development.

HENRY COUNTY

JOHN AND LAVINA BANGS RESIDENCE, 2759 OLD HIGHWAY 34, NEW LONDON



This residence is significant under Criterion C as a fine, well preserved example of the Italianate style executed in brick.

HENRY COUNTY

MC CLELLAN'S GENERAL STORE, 107 EAST MAIN, NEW LONDON



McClellan's General Store is significant under Criterion C, as an example of Italianate design used for a commercial building.

SMITH AND WELLER BUILDING, 100 EAST MAIN, NEW LONDON



Locally significant under Criterion C the Smith and Weller building is a very good example of Italianate design used for a commercial building.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 203 MAIN STREET, DAKOTA CITY



The Humboldt County Courthouse is significant under Criterion A and C as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era as part of the federal Public Works Administration and its successor agencies. It is an example of the PWA Moderne style of public building architecture developed during the 1930s and early 1940s. Its design blends Art Deco and Moderne elements.

JEFFERSON COUNTY-

LOUDEN, R. BRUCE AND MAY



W., HOUSE, 501 WEST ADAMS AVENUE, FAIRFIELD

This single-family dwelling is historically significant under Criterion A, because it calls attention to R. Bruce Loudon for his leadership of the Loudon Machinery Company through a critical period in the firm's history. Loudon served as the company's third president from 1940 until his death in 1951. During that time, the company foresaw, prepared for, and successfully supplied vast quantities of overhead handling equipment to American industry during World War II.



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Dubuque Named a Preserve America Community

Dubuque recently was honored when Mrs. Laura Bush designated it among the nation's newest *Preserve America* communities, the first such designation in Iowa.

"*Preserve America* communities demonstrate that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment," Mrs. Bush said. "This new community designation program, combined with the *Preserve America* Presidential Awards and federal support, provides strong incentives for continued preservation of our cultural and natural heritage resources. I commend you for your commitment to preserving an important part of our nation's historic past for visitors, neighbors,



received a letter from Mrs. Bush notifying them that the city is now a *Preserve America* Community. The *Preserve America* initiative is a White House effort to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include: a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of communities.

Communities designated through the program receive national recognition for their efforts. Benefits include use of the *Preserve America*

and, most importantly, for children."

Dubuque officials

logo, listing on a government web-based directory to showcase preservation and heritage tourism efforts, and eligibility for proposed *Preserve America* grants that will begin in Fiscal Year 2005 if enacted by Congress.

Dubuque is Iowa's oldest city, founded in 1788 on a land grant from Spain by Julien Dubuque, the first European to settle in Iowa. Its location on the banks of the Mississippi River had already made it a center for fur trading and lead mining, and it remained a commercial port throughout its history. Dubuque contains one archaeological district, four historic districts, and 36 individual structures already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including two National Historic Landmarks.

For more information visit the following websites: www.dubuquechamber.com/visitors/index.html, and www.PreserveAmerica.gov.