



The Iowa

Preservationist

Winter 2008

Volume 18 Issue 1

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Call for Nominations

Each year, the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance in partnership with the Iowa Gaming Association seeks to honor individuals, organizations, projects, and programs whose work demonstrates a commitment to excellence in historic preservation.

Do you know an Iowa preservation project completed in 2007 that deserves recognition or an individual or organization or group of preservationists who championed for preservation in Iowa? Nominate them for a Preservation at its Best award. Download this year's nomination ballot and instructions at our website: www.iowapreservation.org

Nominations must be postmarked by March 15th!

Iowa's Most Endangered of 2007

Iowa's Most Endangered is a program begun in 1995 to show Iowans the special buildings and historic sites slowly and gradually slipping away from us. Each year a call is placed for nominations through the IHPA membership, Main Street communities, and historic preservation commissions across the state. Judges consider four criteria in choosing the final list: geographic distribution, historic significance, nature of the threat, and variety of building type. This year, we designate six endangered properties in Iowa and honor two more that have been saved since the list was chosen. Here are Iowa's Most Endangered properties of 2007 (unless noted, images are courtesy the nominator).

Marcus News Building, Marcus, Cherokee County

The *Marcus News* Building, built in the early 1910s, was originally known as the Edmonds Bank Building. It is located at the primary intersection of North Main and West Cedar Streets in Marcus. The building retains its original built-in vaults on the main floor and basement, and much of the decorative woodwork dating back to the original bank. Over the years, it has also been occupied by: Frank's Place (a pool hall and entertainment establishment), the second floor offices of Dr. M. F. Joynt and Attorney Mark Bancroft, a barbershop and beauty parlor, and the offices of the *Marcus News*. The *News* offices are still located in the building.



Although the *Marcus News* Building is structurally sound, the roof is in need of repair. There are a few broken windows on the second floor, which has also contributed to significant water damage to both the ceiling and the walls. With only a portion of the building being used by the *News*, the remainder of the interior is in desperate need of repair. Only the area being used has heat, air conditioning, and plumbing, and there is a great deal of refuse inside the building. The property is currently for sale.

Eldora YMCA, Eldora, Hardin County

The Eldora YMCA, built in 1890, is significant as one of very few YMCAs still surviving from this era. The building is remarkably intact on the exterior. Architectural features include the original cornice, cast iron columns at the entry, and original wood-framed windows. According to Sanborn fire insurance maps, the building was used as a community library from at least 1893 until after 1900. The 1911 map indicates it was being used as a laundry at that time. A restaurant later occupied the space until it became a laundry again in the 1980s. The YMCA is part of a commercial district that is currently being surveyed for listing on the National Register.



Continued on page 4.

Board of Directors

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News from the Co-Chairs

I was an unlikely candidate for being involved in historic preservation. I always had a passion for history, books, and antiques, but that is where it stopped. A friend of mine kept talking about her dream, and then I met another woman who had the same vision. I decided to help them wherever I could; within months I was hooked. I found myself on a board and when no one stepped up to head committees I felt strongly about, I stepped up and was on grants, events, education, and so many more. I really did not know what I was doing, I just knew things needed to be done, and that was my beginning. When we get involved in historic preservation, we aren't given an instruction book that lays out all that is involved. Working in a rural county there are many challenges, the same as there are in bigger cities. It is very difficult to enable citizens to understand the resources they have in their historic structures. Business-oriented people need to see the dollars and cents in a project before they get on board, and others need to open their minds to possibilities. We as preservationists need to pursue building relationships with citizens from all walks of life, because you never know where some really good volunteers might spring up. Saving historic structures is about saving the culture of people. It is important to get your communities invested in your projects. People bring excitement and vision to a project, as well as a solution to maintaining a structure.

We are working in Anamosa to create a historic downtown district and a possible cultural district also. It is really important to involve the community and have them vested in the outcome. Many rural towns are struggling in their business communities with vacant buildings and businesses struggling for existence. In working with the community, our committee decided to take one more step in this endeavor. We are trying to revitalize our community through visioning and taking further steps to encourage and enhance our downtown for new businesses. Iowa Main Street Program has worked very hard to build their program and revitalize communities. In taking a page from their actions, we believe we can work toward the same goals. We all have communities with many assets; we sometimes need to think out of the box and about possibilities.

Many of you heard about the Hale Bridge Move, but may not know the whole story of its beginning. To sum it up in a nutshell, it started with a plea to save a historic bridge, next to gain support and money, then to move it, and finally to have it become part of the future with a new purpose. This bridge is now part of a trail system in Wapsipinicon State Park. It was the motive to start working on trails, and it is a focal point for Anamosa and the County as a tourist attraction and destination. It is also a place for events and festivals, and let's not forget about the weddings. Last year we decided to hold an "Evening on the Bridge" to give back to the region for all the support and hard work that went into this project. The dinner was an elegant affair with 85 participants. We had linen tablecloths, wine, musicians, and an elegant dinner served by Bistro of Daly Creek, a local business who was one of our great supporters. It stormed that evening and yet, by the end, people asked about next year's dinner, wanting to make sure they could join us again. What an amazing reuse for a structure that was first built in 1877 to be yet another symbol of history and culture that can be retained in all of its glory. It is about opening one's mind to possibilities and then anything can happen with Patience, Hard Work, and Vesting others with the Dream.

IHPA is restructuring, which takes time and thought and a lot of commitment. We want our membership involved. Please send us your thoughts; info about your projects, and anything else you feel would be of interest. This newsletter is for you and needs to be about you. If we are to grow, we need you to step out of your comfort zone and get involved because we need your input and ideas. Please check out our new website and give us comments. Also please keep talking to your friends, neighbors and anyone else who will listen about preservation, because that is what advocacy is all about.

Contributed by Rose Rohr

Spot on SHPO

News from the State Historic Preservation Office

The State Historic Preservation Office wants to let IHPA members know about several initiatives we are starting or continuing in 2008. In the last issue of *The Iowa Preservationist*, you heard about the movie theatre project. Since the project was announced, we received many calls from people wanting to volunteer, and we applied for a Preserve America grant to assist in funding the survey. Hopefully by later this year the project will be fully underway. Be sure to watch the IHPA website for additional information.

One of the most important projects that is gaining momentum this year is our digitization project. In 2006, we were awarded a transportation enhancement grant to digitize all of our archaeological and historical/architectural survey reports, as well as all of Iowa's National Register nominations. The grant contract was signed last year, and we hired one person to begin scanning the nominations. Two more people will soon be hired to begin working on survey reports. This crucial project will allow people all over Iowa online access to our in-house collections.

Our underground railroad project is still going strong. Dr. Lowell Soike continues to work on a manuscript presenting the history of the underground railroad in Iowa, and archaeologist Doug Jones is presenting to local groups on the history of underground railroad activities in their area. In addition, the National Park Service provided funding for our office to complete two more National Historic Landmark nominations: one for the Henderson Lewelling House in Salem and another for the Rev. John Todd House in Tabor. The National Register of Historic Places nominations for these properties were amended last year. As part of the effort to gain Landmark status for the properties, historian John Zeller will conduct in-depth research in Kansas and Missouri.

In 2008, we are intensifying efforts to bring our staff and services to your communities. In addition to Doug Jones's presentations on the underground railroad, Paula Mohr (our Certified Local Government Coordinator) and Kathy Gourley (who now runs the Cultural and Entertainment District program) take their programs and training on the road. Be sure to keep an eye on IHPA's online calendar for information on our Community History Day program and workshops in Des Moines (May 19th); National Register workshops in Decorah, Denison, and Van Buren County; and our statewide preservation conference in Sioux City (September 19th and 20th).

Contributed by Barbara A. Mitchell

Preservation Pays!

Historic preservation makes sense financially according to a recently released study sponsored by the Nebraska State Historical Society. Renovating main street and downtown buildings, designating properties as historic and drawing "heritage" tourists to museums and historic sites had a \$170 million annual impact in Nebraska according to report on the study done by Rutgers University researchers. The \$119,000 study paid for by a National Park Service grant was released on Jan. 11.

Among the findings:

- More than \$100 million was spent annually by tourists visiting historic sites and history museums. Such tourists stay longer and travel in larger groups and spend more than other travelers.
- For every \$1 spent on downtown renovation through the Leid mainstreet program, \$35 in reinvestment was generated through business and job growth and new construction.

Contributed by Bill Sherman

Recent Actions on the National Register of Historic Places

Marycrest College Historic District, Davenport, Scott County. Additional documentation approved 12/05/2007.

Todd House and Tabor Antislavery Historic District, Tabor, Fremont County. Listing Upgraded 10/31/2007.

Mittvatsky House, Cedar Rapids, Linn County. Removed 10/24/2007.

City Hotel, Wheatland, Clinton County. Listed 10/03/2007.

Most Endangered (continued from page 1)

Today, the Eldora YMCA is in dire need of repair. The middle section of the cornice is missing and the roof is in critical condition. Water damage is occurring in the interior with no attempts to stop it. The threat is not only that this historic building could suffer a roof collapse soon, but that the loss of this building will endanger the connecting buildings on either side and leave a large hole in an otherwise intact commercial historic district. The owners of the building are a defunct corporation and the city is trying to make arrangements to legally assume ownership of the building.

Hotel Charitone, Chariton, Lucas County

The Hotel Charitone is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significant association with the development of Chariton as a county seat and as an excellent example of the work of local architect William L. Perkins. Opening to great fanfare in November 1923, the hotel was equipped with the modern conveniences, including tile floors, a telephone in every room, and the finest in restaurant equipment. The hotel not only provided quality housing for the traveling public, it served as a place for local social affairs.



Today, the Hotel Charitone stands abandoned, mothballed, and in significant decline. Over the last year, a portion of the bricks detached from the facade and fell to the sidewalk below. Although the owner took steps to prevent additional damage, including stabilizing the walls, covering the windows with plywood, and blocking the sidewalk with a plywood fence, the building continues to decline. The community, chamber, city officials, and others are discussing the immediate future of the building. Due to safety concerns, the discussion revolves around demolition. However, the building is an important landmark within the community and should be rehabilitated to create added value to the downtown business district. The owner wants to rehab the building, but is having difficulty with financing the work needed.

Kent Union Chapel, Brooklyn, Poweshiek County

Built between 1907 and 1909, Kent Union Chapel is symbolic of a way of life that has all but disappeared from Iowa's rural farm communities. Located northwest of Brooklyn, next to Kent Cemetery, the building served as a gathering place for occasional church services, weddings, and funerals. The Ladies Aid Society was instrumental in getting the chapel built and for 60 years, supported and maintained the Chapel and Cemetery by raising funds through chicken suppers, ice cream socials, and quilting



Continued on page 9.

Saved!

Henshie-Briggs Row House, Des Moines & Rath Admin Building, Waterloo

The Rath Administration Building and Henshie-Briggs Row House were each nominated to be on the Most Endangered list. However, between the time they were nominated and the time the endangered list was chosen, both buildings have been saved for redevelopment.

The Henshie-Briggs Row House (ca. 1883) is one of the last standing row houses in downtown Des Moines. It will be moved into the Sherman Hill Neighborhood to save it from demolition to make way for Wellmark's new headquarters.



The City of Waterloo was going to demolish the Rath Administration Building (1925) if a developer did not step forward. On Monday, January 7, the City Council voted to approve an agreement with Mako Waterloo Corporation to redevelop the historic building.



Image from the Library of Congress.

IHPA Donor List

November 2006 through October 2007

The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance wants to thank all those who renewed for 2007. Over 70% of last year's members sent in their checks. A number increased their level of giving. Remember to renew for the 2008 year. (If you haven't, please use the renewal form on page 9.)

\$1000 and above

James Boyt, Des Moines
Iowa Gaming Association, Des Moines

\$500 to \$999

Humanities Iowa, Des Moines
Michael Kramme, Washington
Pioneer Communications, Waterloo

\$200 to \$499

Dr. Randall and Carol Hanson, Wauke
Kevin Monson (Neumann Monson),
Iowa City
Jack Porter, Des Moines
Tim Reinders, Des Moines
Myron and Esther Wilson, Cedar
Rapids

\$100 to \$199

Jacky Adams, Red Oak
Bear Creek Archeology, Cresco
Stewart Burger, Ames
Phyllis Carter, Washington
Marcia Connell, Clear Lake
Lowell Doud, Iowa City
Abbie Gaffey, Sioux City
Martha Hayes, Mt. Pleasant
Lyell Henry, Iowa City
Bruce and Marie Johnson, Jewell
Raymond Kassell, Nevada
Robert Klein (Historic Pella Trust),
Pella
Sonya Kostan, Correctionville
David Kramme, Stratford
Doug LaBounty (Community Housing
Initiative), Spencer
Catherine Latham, Independence
Metropolains Development, St. Paul,
MN
David Metzger, Burlington

Barbara and Marvin Howard, Carlisle
Mount Pleasant Beautiful, Mt. Pleasant
Mt. Vernon Historic Preservation
Commission, Mt. Vernon
Blaine Nansel, Iowa City
John Nothnagel, Iowa City
William Page, Des Moines
Rose Rohr, Anamosa
Tom Smull, Des Moines
Wayne Steinstra, Pella
Lynn Swan (Lynn Swan Interiors),
Spencer
Richard Thomas, Mt. Vernon
George Wakeman, Sioux City
Gary Whitacre (Martin and Whitacre),
Muscatine
Dennis Wilson (Wilson Rentals),
Burlington
Robert Wustrow, Keokuk

\$50 to \$99

Sally Amlie, Humboldt
Wayne Andersen, Council Bluffs
Ed Basch, Ft. Madison
Elaine Baxter, Burlington
Karen Bode Baxter, St. Louis, MO
Galen Berrier, Ankeny
Ann Campbell, Ames
Thomas and Cynthia Charlton,
Wellman
Jean Dissinger, Dexter
John Dresser, Marshalltown
Kenneth Dunker, Ames
Selma Duvick, Johnston
Mrs. John Ely, Cedar Rapids
Ann Erb, Van Meter
Rand Fisher (Iowa Area Development
Group), West Des Moines
Ann Fleming, Carlisle
Fort Madison Historic Preservation
Commission, Fort Madison
James B. Fox, Dallas Center
Grant Community Preservationists,
Grant
Richard Graeme, Council Bluffs
Shirley Gregg, Fullerton, CA
Karl and Barbara Gwiasda, Ames
Debra Haak, Altoona
Margaret Hanawalt, Hampton

Kate Hawkins, Cedar Rapids
H. J. Heinz Company, Pittsburgh, PA
Heritage Trust for Preservation and
Restoration, Burlington
Nancy Holcomb, Ames
Kenneth Hubel, North Liberty
Scott Jeffrey, Des Moines
Peggy Jester, Urbandale
Edith Jordan, Fairfield
Lori Osmus Kappmeyer, Ames
Keokuk Historic Preservation
Commission, Keokuk
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Judy McClure, Des Moines
Anne McKeown, Council Bluffs
Marshall and Joye Ashton McKusick,
Iowa City
Neil and Barb McMahan, Cedar Falls
Duane and Virginia Means, Iowa City
Mark Miller (Bracke-Hayes-Miller, AIA
Architects), Moline, IL
Helen Murphy, Red Oak
Nancy Murphy, Red Oak
Michael O'Keefe, Des Moines
Scott Olson (AIA), Cedar Rapids
Treva Reimer, Pella
Jane Sanford, Wever
Susan Kretschmar Sargent, Ames
David Seylar, Estherville
William Sherman, Des Moines
Silos and Smokestacks, Waterloo
Audrey Smith, Cedar Falls
Roger and Carolyn Stirler, Altoona
Donna Stratton, Cedar Rapids
West Des Moines Historical Society,
West Des Moines
Bernard Wilder, Des Moines
Win Worth Betco, Lake Mills
Sara Lee Yoder, Grundy Center
Donald Young, Mt. Pleasant
Linda Zintz, Centerville
Everett Zupke, Cypress, CA

\$25 to \$49

Joy Ann Adams, Monticello
Amsterdam School, Pella
David C. Anderson, Waukon
Bob and Joyce Ausberger, Jefferson

Continued next page.

\$25 to \$49 (continued)

Kathy Banowetz, Maquoketa
Steven Bartholomew, Davenport
Martha Bates, Washington
Jeff Batterson, Washington
Catherine Bergman (Hamilton County
S. E. E. D), Webster City
Bonaparte Main Street, Bonaparte
Marilyn Boyle, Dexter
Caroline Bredekamp, Spragueville
Jim Brown, Iowa City
Glenda Castleberry, Dakota Dunes, SD
Jim Champion (FEH Association),
Sioux City
David Christiansen, Clear Lake
Jean Cook, Cherokee
David Cordes, Rock Island, IL
Barbara Corson, Waterloo
Tom Dawson, Washington
David Deeds, Waterloo
Mark Dewalt, Gastonia, NC
Carolyn Dischler, West Point
Ruth Draper, Red Oak
James Dresser, Ames
City of Dubuque, Dubuque
Dubuque Bank and Trust, Dubuque
Dubuque Main Street, Dubuque
Susan Dunek, Keokuk
Garfield Eckberg, Nicollet, MN
Beth Enright, Mason City
William Faller, Kenwaunkee, WI
Scotney Fenton, Des Moines
Debi Flanders, Sigourney
Charlotte Fleig, Fairfield
Eric Fogg, Des Moines
Mary Lynn Forst, Clarinda
Steve Frevert, Burlington
George Glenn, Cedar Falls
Terry A. Goepel, Mason City
Frances Graham, West Union
Greg Guelcher, Sioux City
City of Guttenberg, Guttenberg
Thom Guzman, Des Moines
Barbara J. Hackfort, Carroll
Mary Harlan, Des Moines
Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Hart, Oskaloosa
Iris Hemmingson (LeMars Historical
Preservation Commission),
LeMars
Marcia Hogan, Williamsburg
Dennis Holloway, Cedar Rapids
Hometown Perry, Perry

Cheri Huber, Washington
David Huggins, Council Bluffs
Herb Hult, Mt. Pleasant
Rick Hunsaker, Carroll
Carolyn Hunter, Des Moines
Michael Hustedde, Davenport
Galen Jackson, Rock Rapids
Paul and Nancy Jacobsen, Boone
Carole Jensen, Ames
Paul Juhl, Iowa City
Ed Kiedaisch, Keokuk
Shirley Kiefer, Dallas Center
Robert Kinsey, Mason City
John and Jean Kottke, Fredericksburg
Alex Krueger, Bagley
Dorothy Kutschinski, Charter Oak
City of LaPorte, LaPorte
Lewelling Quaker Museum, Salem
Living History Farm, Urbandale
Maurice Losey, Clinton
Doris E. Lyon, Burlington
Sandra K. Lyon, Center Junction
Janet McCannon, Burlington
Rebecca McCarley, Davenport
Hugh McCoy, Ottumwa
Robert McCoy, Mason City
Alexa McDowell, Boone
Margo McNabb, Ames
Naomi Maahs, Adel
John Maves, Ames
Mrs. Clifford Meints, Indianola
Paula Mohr, Des Moines
Ellen Moore, Greenfield
Jimelle Moreno, Council Bluffs
Hal Morton, Burlington
Roger Natte, Fort Dodge
Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City
Tim Orwig, Walpole, MA
Oskaloosa Area Development Group,
Oskaloosa
Mary Patterson, Washington
Pella Historical Society, Pella
Shirley Pfeiffer, Washington
Arthur Pixler, Fenton
James H. Randall, Cedar Rapids
Carol Ray, Washington
Paul Rehn, Marion
Residents for Responsible Renovations,
Decorah
River City Society for Historic
Preservation, Mason City
Dr. Lois Roets, Des Moines

Jeff Schabilion, Iowa City
Dr. Joan Schreiber, Muncie, IN
Suzanne Schwengels (AIA Iowa), Des
Moines
Rod Scott, Iowa Falls
Suzanne Senden, Council Bluffs
Joan Severson, Le Mars
LaVonne Sharp, Chicago, IL
Robert Simon, Urbandale
Lowell Smith, Dallas Center
Sherry Snyder (Cedar County
Historical Society), Tipton
Kent Sissel, Muscatine
Bob Soesbe, Clinton
Lowell Soike, Des Moines
State Center Development Association,
State Center
Doug Steinmetz, Cedar Rapids
Steve Stimmel, Des Moines
Darlene Strachan, West Des Moines
Richard Swanson, Marion
Terrace Hill Foundation, Des Moines
James and Joan Tyler, Newton
Sarah Uthoff, Iowa City
John Viner, Dubuque
Cheryl Walsh, Iowa City
Roger Wendt, Sioux City
Geraldine Wester, LaPorte City
Carole Winter, Iowa City
Wright County Historical Preservation
Commission, Clarion
Wright on the Park, Mason City
Michael Zahs, Ainsworth

Special Thanks!!!

The City of Washington has paid for an individual membership for each of the six members of the Washington Historic Preservation Commission. This is a first! Ask your City if they will do the same.

The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance appreciates this type of support.

USDA Counts America's Barns

All barns built before 1960 will be tallied during the 2007 Census of Agriculture

Every five years the United States Department of Agriculture conducts a census of America's farms. It is the only census required by law to be completed. On the 29th of December over 3 million census forms were mailed out to American Farms. A farm is defined by the Federal Government as making or the ability to make more than \$1,000 a year in agricultural sales or operations. Why does this matter to Iowans and the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance?

For the first time since the Census of Agriculture was founded in 1840, it includes a question asking if there is a barn built before 1960 on the farm.

"IOWA HAS GONE FROM OVER 200,000 FARMS IN THE 1920S DOWN TO OVER 80,000 TODAY ... WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF THESE SURVIVING FARMS HAVE HISTORIC BARNs ON THEM."

We know that Iowa has gone from over 200,000 farms in the 1920s down to over 80,000 today. We know that most every farm in the 1920s had at least one barn and that now not every farm has a historic barn left. We don't know how many of these surviving farms have historic barns on them. It is very difficult to work with

public policy makers to develop policy that can assist historic barn owners if we don't even know how many barns are left on our landscape. We do know that Iowa is losing an estimated 1,000 barns every year.

The Census results will be available to the public at the state and county level in January 2009. We have studied how the agricultural special interest groups, such as cattle and

swine producers, work with the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) to do follow-up surveys related to their interests. Because of confidentiality guaranteed the farmers in the census we have to provide the NASS with a survey brochure for each of the farms that have listed a barn on their census and provide postage for the mailing. The NASS mails out the follow-up survey and then produces a report of the data for us.

We hope to work with the Iowa Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to produce the follow-up brochure that will survey the barn owners more in depth about such items as date and style of construction, current and former uses, building materials and condition. We will also provide the farmers with the opportunity to contact the IHPA or the SHPO directly to produce a site inventory form for the farm to be archived by the county and the state for a permanent historic record. The IHPA will be raising funds for this effort, so please make plans for a little extra giving during 2008 to assist us in this great effort.

This truly is a historic event happening in our lifetime and one that will hopefully result in the development of policy at the state and national level recognizing the value of retaining as many of these magnificent structures on our Iowa landscape as possible for future generations to appreciate and continue to provide a definite sense of place for all when we travel the rural landscape. Stay tuned to this topic over the next year as we share with you a few of the Iowa barns and farms listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Iowa ranks as a leader among the states in this area.

Contributed by Rod Scott

IHPA Attends 2008 REAP Congress

The 2008 REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) Congress was held January 5 in the House of Representatives chamber at the capitol in Des Moines. IHPA members were on hand as regional delegates to organize, discuss, and make recommendations to the governor about resource enhancement and protection.

This year, discussions included full funding of the REAP program, public education about the program, and involving young Iowans in the program. Additional information about REAP and the REAP Congress can be found online at www.iowadnr.gov/reap.



Left to Right: Rod Scott-IHPA board member, Rebecca Lawin McCarley-IHPA member, Ross Harrison-DNR, Martha Hayes-IHPA board member, Sheriffa Jones-IHPA board member, Rose Rohr-IHPA board member, Jenny Ammon-Dubuque County Conservation Board, Sandi Walton-Jackson County, Mark Wagner-Dubuque Mississippi River Museum. Photo courtesy Rebecca Lawin McCarley.

Calendar of Events

March 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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April 2008

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May 2008

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June 2008

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March 2008

Mar. 3-4 ■ Iowa Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers Association Conference: Sailing into the 21st Century, Storm Lake, Iowa. Learn the ins and outs of running a bed and breakfast. IHPA board member Sheriffa Jones, a historic preservation consultant, will also be presenting on what historic preservation means to the bed & breakfast industry. For more information: www.iabedandbreakfast.com/Conferences/

Mar. 10-11 ■ Beyond the Velvet Ropes: Successful House Museums for the 21st Century. Two-day workshop in Wausau, Wisconsin. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Wisconsin Historical Society. For more information: www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/workshop/

Mar. 15 ■ Preservation at its Best Award Nominations DUE. For more information: www.iowapreservation.org/awards.php/

Mar. 20 (8:00 am - 4:00 pm) ■ Tri-State Tourism Conference: Bridging the Tri-State Connection, Dubuque, Iowa. For more information: www.tristatetourism.com

Mar. 31 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm) ■ Disaster Response: The First Critical 48 Hours, Des Moines, Iowa. Sponsored by the Iowa Museum Association. Learn what to do with historic collections in an emergency. Registration deadline is March 21, 2008. For more information: www.iowamuseums.org

April 2008

Apr. 1 ■ Iowa Arts Council Major Grant deadline. For more information: www.iowaartscouncil.org

Apr. 4-6 ■ Rediscovering Our Rivers: Greenbelts, Habitats, Clean Water and Fun, Iowa Falls, Iowa. For more information: www.iowarivers.org

Apr. 15 ■ State Historical Society of Iowa Research Grant deadline. For more information: www.iowahistory.org/grants/shsi_grants/research_grants.html

May 2008 - Preservation Month!

May is Preservation Month! Be sure to watch the calendar at www.iowapreservation.org for information about activities across Iowa.

May. 9 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm) ■ National Register of Historic Places Workshop, Decorah, Iowa. For more information: www.iowahistory.org

May. 19 ■ Community History Day, Des Moines, Iowa. For more information: www.iowahistory.org

June 2008

Jun. 6 ■ Save Our History grant deadline. For more information: www.history.com/minisites/saveourhistory

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR EVENTS ON THIS PAGE AND OUR ONLINE CALENDAR? EMAIL THE INFORMATION TO US AT EVENTS@IOWAPRESERVATION.ORG

Most Endangered (continued from page 4)

projects. The women also supported the community and, during World War I, rolled bandages and did sewing projects for the Red Cross. The Kent Chapel Ladies Aid Society disbanded in the 1970s due to their declining membership. The building is in the process of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, Kent Union Chapel has suffered due to many years of abandonment and lack of maintenance. Raccoons have infiltrated the building and there are holes in the roof, broken windows, and rotting floor boards. Although the limestone foundation is in reasonable condition, the exterior needs painting, and the trim is rotting and needs to be repaired or replaced. The building owners would like to see the building rehabilitated, but are not able to do it on their own.

Crescent Park Log Cabin, Lake View, Sac County

The log cabin in Crescent Park was originally located five miles east of Lake View, and was built in 1872 by the David W. Belt family. In 1926, the Belt Family sold the building for \$1 to the Lake View Park Board, with the stipulation that the cabin be moved to a public park as a memorial to the early pioneers. It contains several relics and antiques furnished by residents of the Lake View area. Located near the city historical museum and an old country schoolhouse in Crescent Park, teachers and tourists have enjoyed it over the years.

Today, the Crescent Park Log Cabin is in tough shape. The ceiling beams sag, the back wall is collapsing, and the stairs are structurally unsafe. The building has been closed to the public for several years, and a significant amount of debris adds to the hazardous conditions of the building. Several of the relics and antiques need to be repaired or replaced. If the cabin is not restored and maintained as stipulated by the Belt family, it will be removed and no longer available for public use. Although the mayor and city council appreciate the value of the building as a tourist attraction and educational tool, there has been little action to hire a consultant or budget for any repairs to the structure.

Hose House #5, Sioux City, Woodbury County

Built in 1894, Hose House #5 was used by the Sioux City Fire Services Division as Hose Company #4 until 1911, and then Hose Company #5 between 1912 and 1954. Since the mid-1950s, the building has had several tenants, the most recent vacated the building in 1984. The building has been evaluated as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, Hose House #5 stands empty and neglected. Although the building is secure, there has been no upkeep or maintenance for over 25 years. The roof is 25 percent gone and the interior is losing plaster walls and ceilings due to moisture damage. Although the owner wants to see the building restored and put back into service, the city has “red-tagged” the building for demolition. There is a limited amount of time to rehab the structure before the city moves forward with their plans.



Image courtesy Sioux City Assessor's website.



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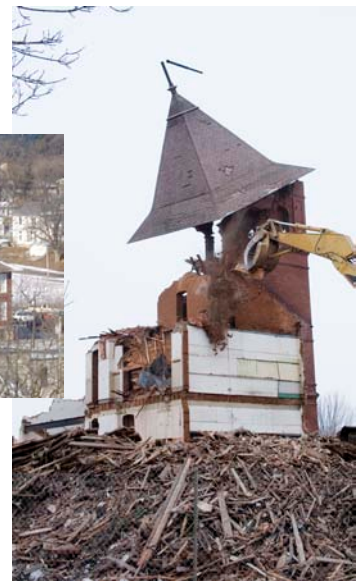
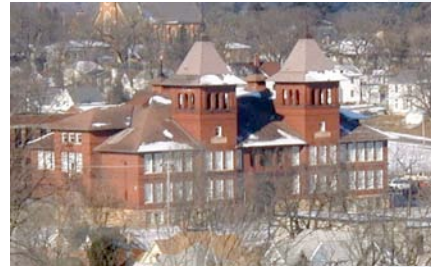
Take Action! Update

Decorah's East Side School Demolished Despite Valiant Effort

East Side School was designed by Orff and Joralemon Architects and opened its doors to students in 1897. Its prominent towers gave the brick and stone building a presence on Decorah's cityscape that could hardly be matched by any other structure. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 and designated as one of Iowa's Most Endangered properties in 1997 and 2003. It was also named one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Places.

In 2003, the school district established the East Side School Study Committee with a mandate to study possible reuse of the empty school building. The committee surveyed residents, held public meetings and design charrettes, and consulted with preservation experts. The East Side School Development Committee picked up where the Study Committee left off in 2004 and began fundraising to convert the building into a community education and arts center. Plans included using it as a showcase for "green" design.

Unfortunately, the school district set one very difficult goal for the committee: raise \$3.24 million in 9 months. Despite raising 40 percent of the amount, the committee didn't meet the school district's challenge. In September, it was left up to the citizens of Decorah to decide, and a narrow vote paved the way for demolition in January.



Decorah East Side School. Demolition photo courtesy Kyril Henderson (www.kyrl.com)

IHPA applauds those who fought for the historic school's preservation. Despite the ultimate loss of the school, your efforts serve as a superb model for preservationists across Iowa. From your fundraising to your website, your ability to build community consensus for preservation and sustainable design were remarkable.