



The Iowa

# Preservationist

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## Disaster Recovery Work in Cedar Rapids Continues IHPA Assists Local Commission and Historic Building Owners

The waters may have receded months ago, but the work to rehabilitate and rebuild Cedar Rapids has just begun. The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance continues to work with the Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation Commission and historic building owners who are desperate to get repairs going so they can reoccupy their buildings and get back to work. The active working buildings will provide employment, income, and sales and property tax revenues for the community and state.

Since our last newsletter, IHPA has been working to identify historic properties in the affected neighborhoods. Our SHPO partners agree both the Czech Village and St. James United Methodist Church (built in 1952 in the Time Check neighborhood) are eligible for listing on the National Register. The Czech Village is proposed as an extension to the listed Bohemian Commercial Historic District (BCHD) and the church appears to be the one of three flooded Methodist churches that will be rebuilt. We want to especially thank a founding IHPA member, Jan Nash of Tallgrass Historians, for her assistance in the effort to get the Bohemian Commercial Historic District extension! The new boundaries of the extended BCHD now matches (almost to the property) the state-designated New Bohemian Cultural District.

Additionally, we worked with over half a dozen historic building owners to complete state and federal historic tax credit applications. Two applications have been submitted to the SHPO. All of this activity was accomplished with our now exhausted emergency fund. We need our members and the public to help us replenish this fund as soon as possible

so we can resume our emergency work in the city and throughout the state. We accomplished a huge amount with less than \$1,000! Why not consider an additional donation for the emergency fund this year along with your annual membership renewal?

Our flood recovery legislative advocacy for Iowa was evidenced by the IHPA and the Cedar Rapids HPC-hosted tour of the BCHD for Representative Dave Loebsack and staff. Mr. Loebsack lobbied hard for the passage of expanded federal historic tax credits as part of flood recovery. The effort was successful with the support of Iowa Representatives Bruce Braley and Leonard Boswell.

A study document IHPA produced in August and updated in November outlined the desperate need for a historic rehabilitation tax credit consultant. It has again been presented to the City of Cedar Rapids and the Iowa Departments of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs. This document reviews the

*Continued on page 4*



Congressman Dave Loebsack, IHPA, and Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation Commission visit the Chrome Horse Saloon space in the Z.C.B.J. Hall on a tour of Bohemian Commercial Historic District.

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## President's Report

### News from the Rod Scott

First off, I want to thank all those folks who have sent me cards or e-mails to wish me a speedy recovery from my job accident. The accident has required me to cease work for several months and I'm recuperating at home after several non-elective surgeries and a two-week holiday stay at the grand hotel known as the U of I Hospital.

There is so much for me to catch you up on. I want to thank the membership and Board of Directors for entrusting me with the position of President of our organization. The executive board and the other board members are very excited to continue our growth. During the annual meeting in Sioux City in September, Michael Wagler was voted in as Vice President of the organization, Sheriffa Jones officially became Secretary (a position she has unofficially held since she joined the board), and Martha Hayes was asked to continue her position as Treasurer. Martha informs me we are at a very high renewal rate in membership, we are receiving many new memberships, and we have identified many more possible new members for this next year.

In this issue of *The Iowa Preservationist* we review the state and federal government responses to Iowa's disaster as it relates to historic preservation. We will also present a substantial feature on our efforts as an organization in the post-disaster time period since our last newsletter. None of us in Iowa historic preservation ever thought we would face such an enormous challenge as the flooding and storms have presented. IHPA assisted the Departments of Cultural Affairs and Economic Development in a survey of building damage in storm-damaged communities. We also met with the cultural field staff of FEMA to establish a working relationship.

We almost immediately realized that Cedar Rapids, our second largest city, was the most devastated Iowa community with regards to the number of damaged historic properties. We put volunteer preservation efforts on the ground within one week of the retreat of the Cedar River. The initial efforts included presentations with our partners: the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation Commission. We also performed an initial canvas of the Bohemian Commercial Historic District, the only National Register-listed commercial district in Cedar Rapids. Very quickly we became aware that the Czech Village commercial buildings across the river from the Bohemian District has not been surveyed. It represents the last of the Bohemian influence and experience in the area (learn more in the Cedar Rapids update on page 1).

In other news since the last issue of *The Iowa Preservationist*, the IHPA was a sponsor of the statewide preservation conference held in Sioux City in September. There were many preservationists from all parts of the state in attendance. The education sessions were very informative and a special thanks goes out to George Wakeman, IHPA Past President, for hosting the annual meeting at his lovely historic home. Let's also give board member Bill Sherman a round of applause for his masterful leadership at the annual Country School Conference in Ames on October 10-11. The conference had a large number of attendees and a wide variety of education sessions.

As we prepare for the upcoming year, we are working with Department of Cultural Affairs/SHPO as well as the Department of Economic Development/Main Street Iowa to identify historic preservation initiatives we will support in the upcoming legislative session in Des Moines as well as in the 111th Congress, both starting in January.

Finally, in the next couple of months we hope you will renew your IHPA membership and talk with fellow historic preservationists about joining our exciting efforts to preserve Iowa's irreplaceable historic resources. A membership form can be found on the next to last page of the newsletter and at our website: [www.iowapreservation.org](http://www.iowapreservation.org).

*Contributed by Rod Scott*

## Spot on SHPO

### News from the State Historic Preservation Office

Numerous times this summer and fall I have been asked to explain the State Historic Preservation Office's role in the disaster recovery process. In most cases, those asking the question are not only unaware of our office's role in the recovery process, they are unaware of our office's role in state government. This is true of our sister state agencies, local governments, and Iowans in general. To some, the SHPO is considered the last hope in saving endangered historic properties; but to others, we are merely bureaucrats that get in the way. I like to think that the SHPO stands somewhere between being building-huggers and impediments to progress. We respect Iowa's heritage and want to make sure it is appreciated today and, when possible, preserved for tomorrow.

Before I get too far in an explanation of our office's responsibilities, everyone should be aware that the term "SHPO" can stand for either the "State Historic Preservation Office" or the "State Historic Preservation Officer." The latter is the actual person responsible for the state's historic preservation program; the former is an office of people that implement its programs and mandates. In Iowa, the office is part of the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), a division within the Department of Cultural Affairs. By Iowa law, SHSI's Administrator is also the officer. SHSI has been without an Administrator for many years; during that time, the director of DCA has also served as the officer. However, this fall the structure of SHSI was reconstituted with the naming of Gordon Hendrickson as interim Administrator and State Historic Preservation Officer.

Most of you are probably familiar with our office's involvement in the National Register of Historic Places program. Some of you may also be aware of the guidance we provide to local preservation programs and historic preservation commissions through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. The State Historic Preservation Office in every state follows a federal mandate set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The law and associated regulations outline our responsibilities in several preservation program areas, including the National Register, CLG program, state inventory, review and compliance (a.k.a. "Section 106"), federal tax incentives/grants, and technical assistance and education. In Iowa, our office also plays a role in the Cultural and Entertainment District (CED) program and has a review responsibility for SHSI grants and other DCA programs.

Our office's role in the disaster recovery process has been two-fold: we are providing technical assistance and guidance to individuals rehabilitating historic properties affected by the disasters and we are reviewing federal projects that could affect historic properties. All FEMA, HUD, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding that is dedicated to disaster recovery and has the potential to affect historic properties is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Many of these projects go through SHPO review. Similarly, we review projects needing Army Corps of Engineers permits (e.g., some levee construction and other flood protection measures). As part of these reviews, we help the federal agency understand how their projects could affect historic properties and try to find ways to avoid adverse effects.

Obviously, I cannot cover all of the office's work in a single column. I haven't even touched on our Underground Railroad project, Hollywood in the Heartland, or our effort to digitize the inventory and develop our Geographic Information System. So, if you want to learn more about the State Historic Preservation Office, be sure to visit our website: [www.iowahistory.org/preservation](http://www.iowahistory.org/preservation). You can also stop by the office. We're located in the "New" Historical Building in Des Moines' East Village, west of the Capitol.

*Contributed by Barbara A. Mitchell*

### Recent Actions on the National Register of Historic Places

**Ten Hagen Cottage-Stegman Store, Pella, Marion County. Listed 07/16/2008.**

**Henry and Johanna Van Maren House-Diamond Filling Station, Pella, Marion County. Listed 07/10/2008.**

**Des Moines Western Railway Freight House, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed 07/10/2008.**

**Sigma Sigma-Delta Chi Fraternity House, Ames, Story County. Listed 07/10/2008.**

**Forrest Milling Company Oatmeal Mill, Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County. Removed 09/10/2008.**

**Bridge on County Road G29 over drainage ditch, near New Sharon, Mahaska County. Removed 09/10/2008.**

**Burtis-Kimball House Hotel, Davenport, Scott County. Removed 09/10/2008.**

**Iowa 1 Bridge over Des Moines River, Keosauqua, Van Buren County. Removed 09/10/2008.**

**East Side Elementary and Middle School, Decorah, Winneshiek County. Removed 09/10/2008.**

**Bowstring Arch Bridge, near Freeport, Winneshiek County. Removed 09/10/2008.**



## Disaster Recovery in Cedar Rapids (continued from page 1)

unique situation in Cedar Rapids: the only commercial historic district in the city was entirely damaged by flooding, the city staff has little or no experience in assisting property owners with historic rehabilitation tax credits, and owners of damaged buildings no longer have the time and/or patience to fill out yet more paperwork (nor do they have the funds to hire a professional due to the high cost of cleanup and sanitizing their buildings).

Another worry for all of us is the fate of the remaining houses in the Bohemian Commercial Historic Dis-

trict. Originally the district had 21 houses dating from 1870-1930; of those, 19 remain. Many of these are now scheduled for health and safety demolitions and others are signing up for buyouts. We will be working closely with the Cedar Rapids HPC, the Iowa SHPO, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to save and reutilize as many of these irreplaceable historic homes as possible.

Finally, IHPA has become a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the millions of Federal dollars in

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that will filter through the Iowa Department of Economic Development for rebuilding. We also have asked FEMA to designate the IHPA as a consulting party for the millions of FEMA dollars now coming into the state. Much of this federal money will be aimed at Cedar Rapids. As a consulting party, we will continue to be a voice for saving and reutilizing as many of our irreplaceable historic resources as possible during the rebuilding process.

*Contributed by Rod Scott*

## Statewide Preservation Conference: Reddy for Preservation!

The statewide historic preservation conference, held in Sioux City on September 19 and 20, was a rousing success, with over 150 attendees from Iowa and nearby states!!

The theme for the conference was “Reddy for Preservation!”, a takeoff on the Reddy Kilowatt icon that Sioux Landmark Chair, Glenda Castleberry, spearheaded the restoration of. (More about Glenda later.) Bob Yapp gave an invigorating opening keynote, and the event was very educational and informative from that point on. There were sessions on terra cotta, wood, and window restoration; information on disaster recovery, surveying historic districts, preservation advocacy, and interpreting burial places; and tours of historically significant areas of Sioux City.

At Friday’s lunch, George Wakeman gave Glenda Castleberry, a local historic preservation icon, an award for all of the incredible feats she has accomplished and continues to do for preservation in Sioux City and across the state. Glenda has shepherded National Register nominations through the listing process, sat on the State Nominations Review Committee, and has been the driving force for saving several significant buildings in Siouxland. One of the most recent battles won with Glenda’s help was the preservation of the nationally significant Williges Building. Glenda is also a member of the IHPA.

Friday night, cultural historian Tim Samuelson gave a presentation about the people that are normally not recognized with regard to historic buildings. We all know who designed the Woodbury County Courthouse, but he took us beyond the “front page” and gave very detailed information about the sculptors and other people associated with the icon’s construction. One of the most interesting aspects was the political wrangling that occurred behind the scenes; it



Glenda Castleberry receives a special preservation award from fellow Sioux Citian (and IHPA board member) George Wakeman.

sounded very similar to the way things happen today. We generally do not know or hear how the buildings we see today were originally supposed to look, nor do we usually see the evolution of the process that gives us the structures we now admire. Mr. Samuelson did an incredible job of showing us how one building in Sioux City could have looked, versus how it looks today.

All in all, this was an excellent conference and I am certain all who attended, including those that live here, now have a better appreciation of Sioux City and historic preservation across the state.

*Contributed by George Wakeman*

## Downtown Summit: Sustainable Downtowns, Unlimited Possibilities

Over 250 downtown professionals and volunteers gathered in downtown Charles City on August 26 and 27 for the 22nd annual Iowa Downtown Summit, sponsored by the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Federal Home Loan Bank—Des Moines. Sustainability and “green” philosophies were the emphasis of this year’s conference. Iowa preservationists and downtowners learned about green initiatives, efficiency incentives, sustainable practices, and how they relate to historic preservation.

The conference was set off on the right note by Mike Jackson, Chief Architect with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, who introduced attendees to green building protocols and historic preservation approaches, linking them to the broader subject of sustainable development. The result of this exploration produced the exciting conclusion that “the greenest building is the one that is already built.”

This common thread of sustainability not only focused on the built environment but also emphasized the sustainability of the downtown business community as well as the ideals of rural community sustainability.

The conference was brought to an energizing close by Kennedy Smith, the former director of the National Trust’s Main Street Center and currently a principal with the CLUE Group. Smith raised the question “What should YOU be doing to improve your downtown’s environmental footprint?”, and offered a glimpse of new developments in planet-friendly downtown planning. She concluded by outlining ten tangible things you can do to strengthen your district’s green profile. You can find Kennedy’s list of tangible things as well as additional conference information about



The Charles Theatre, recipient of a 2008 IHPA Preservation at its Best award, welcomes attendees on its marquee.

greening your downtown at the Iowa Downtown Resource Center’s website at [www.iowalifechanging.com/community](http://www.iowalifechanging.com/community).

The 23rd annual Iowa Downtown Summit will take place in late August 2009 in Ames, Iowa. To stay up-to-date with future conference materials, as well as information about green practices and information in Iowa, join the Iowa Department of Economic Development’s email list, which includes the GreenNetwork newsletter at the Iowa Downtown Resource Center website.

*Contributed by Michael Wagler*

## Country School Conference: Perceptions of the Country School

Parents and children had different perceptions of the one-room country school. In her keynote address at the ninth annual IHPA country school preservation conference, Iowa State University Professor Pamela Riney-Kehrberg explained this difference. Parents saw learning and self-discipline as the most important objects of schooling. But for many farm children, it was the entertainment value of school that made attendance worthwhile. Morning and afternoon recesses in addition to free time following lunch were the only regularly scheduled play-times for many farm children.

Other conference speakers discussed topics ranging from program resources, deciding what time period to



Conference participants at the Cole School in Boone County. Photo courtesy Barb MacDougall. Additional photos at [www.iowapreservation.org](http://www.iowapreservation.org).

use for re-enactment activities, writing grants, and creating a website. During the conference, participants also had a

chance to travel along the historic Lincoln Highway and visit restored country schools in Ames, Nevada, State Center, and Marshalltown. Some 64 persons including several from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan attended the conference.

The 2009 conference will be held October 2-3 at Iowa’s newest museum facility: the Heartland Acres Agribition Center in Independence. Participants will be able to visit public and private Amish one-room schools. To receive notification about the conference, contact IHPA board member Bill Sherman by phone (1-800-434-2039) or by email ([wsherman@networkiowa.com](mailto:wsherman@networkiowa.com)).

*Contributed by Bill Sherman*

## Calendar of Events

### November 2008

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### January 2009

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### February 2009

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### November 2008

Nov 7-19 ■ Building a Modern Campus: Eliel and Eero Saarinen at Drake University (Exhibit), Des Moines, Iowa. For more information: [www.drake.edu/friends/](http://www.drake.edu/friends/).

Nov 13-15 ■ The Second Wave of Modernism in Landscape Architecture in America, Chicago, Illinois. Sponsored by: The Cultural Landscape Foundation. For more information: [www.tclf.org/secondwave/index.htm](http://www.tclf.org/secondwave/index.htm).

Nov 28 - Dec 31 ■ Welcome Home to Bruce more for the Holidays, Bruce more, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information: [www.bruce more.org](http://www.bruce more.org).

Nov 30 (5:30 pm - 7:30 pm) ■ Santa, Snacks, and Stories, Bruce more, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information: [www.bruce more.org](http://www.bruce more.org).

### December 2008

Dec 2 (5:30 pm - 7:30 pm) ■ Santa, Snacks, and Stories, Bruce more, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information: [www.bruce more.org](http://www.bruce more.org).

Dec 3-18 ■ A Douglas Family Christmas, Bruce more, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information: [www.bruce more.org](http://www.bruce more.org).

Dec 5 ■ 2009 America's Most Endangered Historic Places® Deadline. Sponsored by: the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For additional information: [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org).

Dec 7 (2:00 pm - 5:00 pm) ■ Holiday Home Tour, Adel, Iowa. Sponsored by: Adel Historical Museum Committee. For additional information, contact Jan Price at [donprice555@msn.com](mailto:donprice555@msn.com) or 515.993.1032.

Dec 9-10 ■ Learning from the Past/Planning for the Future: the Iowa Disaster Recovery Conference, Coralville, Iowa. For additional information, view the registration information online at [www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=667587](http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=667587).

### January 2009

Jan 2-5 ■ 123rd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, New York, New York. For additional information: [www.historians.org/annual/2009/index.cfm](http://www.historians.org/annual/2009/index.cfm).

Jan 15 ■ Deadline: Special Round of HRDP/REAP (Document Collections Only). A special round of HRDP grant applications for historic document collections has been announced by the State Historical Society of Iowa. For additional information, visit [www.iowahistory.org](http://www.iowahistory.org) or call 515.281.5111.

### February 2009

Feb 1 ■ IHPA's Most Endangered announced. For additional information: [www.iowapreservation.org/endangered.php](http://www.iowapreservation.org/endangered.php).

Feb 18 ■ Cultural Advocacy Day, Des Moines, Iowa. Sponsored by: the Iowa Cultural Coalition. For additional information: [www.iowaculturalcoalition.org](http://www.iowaculturalcoalition.org).

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



## After the Floods: Rebuilding the Heritage Area

In recent months, the sites and communities of Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area have weathered Mother Nature's worst. Just weeks after an F-5 tornado ravaged portions of the Heritage Area, historic floods devastated countless communities during the floodwaters' slow trek across the Heritage Area.

While volunteers spent countless hours sandbagging and moving artifacts, in many areas the rising waters could not be tamed. Now that the floodwaters have receded, the true extent of the devastation continues to be uncovered. With all 37 counties of the Heritage Area being declared a Presidential Disaster Area, it's estimated that one-third of the 106 Silos & Smokestacks partner sites were impacted.

Over two months have passed since the floods and business as usual seems like an unfamiliar concept to many affected by the floods. As some begin the long and challenging process of rebuilding, others sit in limbo unsure of what the future holds.

At Ushers Ferry Historic Village in Cedar Rapids, 34 of the 36 buildings were submerged, with the log cabin being washed downstream. While three buildings have been deemed completely destroyed, limited resources and manpower have hindered full assessment of the damage. Though there is hope to rebuild the village in some capacity, the future currently remains uncertain.

Further downstream in Cedar Rapids, the African American Historical Museum & Cultural Center of Iowa and the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library set on opposing banks of the Cedar River, yet suffered much the same fate. While buildings were secured and artifacts moved, neither were fully prepared for a crest of 19 feet above flood stage. They join countless others like the Ice House Museum in Cedar Falls in the long process of developing a plan to rebuild.

Nestled along Iowa's Rivers, the mills of the Heritage Area are no stranger to floods, though 2008 has proven especially tough. To help with assessments and restoration planning, Silos & Smokestacks and the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance hosted Trillium Dell Timberworks of Knoxville, IL on a tour of Wapsipinicon Mill, Independence; Motor Mill, Elkader; and Potters Mill, Bellevue. Like many historic structures, the Wapsi Mill had never had the opportunity for an expert in timber framing to evaluate the mill. It's hoped this will provide a starting point for continued preservation for these remnants of Iowa's history.

During and after the flood, the unity of the Heritage Area has continually been shown as partner sites work to help each other. The unaffected Brucemore Historic Site in Cedar Rapids set up their Garden House as preservation headquarters for teams of out-of-town professionals, and the Iowa Masonic Library & Museum is currently housing staff from the African American Historical Museum along with a mini exhibit. While buildings have been devastated and many artifacts lost, the true story of the Heritage Area, which lies in the communities and people of the region, will continue as we rebuild.

*Contributed by Erin Steinmann, Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area  
Reprinted with permission)*



Tour of the flood-damaged Wapsipinicon Mill (left to right: Norma Gates, IHPA's Rod Scott, Lynn Beier, and Tim Narkiewicz of Trillium Dell Timberworks).



### Become a Member!

Help us preserve Iowa's historic resources by renewing your membership to IHPA or by becoming an IHPA member for the first time. Simply fill out the information below and send it to us with your check today! Any amount over \$10 is deductible.

### Membership Levels

- \$30 Pendant
- \$50 Front Porch
- \$100 Cornice
- \$500 Cornerstone
- \$1,000 Schoolhouse
- \$5,000 Skyscraper

### Volunteer

- I'm interested in serving on the
- board of directors
  - communications committee
  - membership committee
  - fundraising committee
  - advocacy committee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (am): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (pm): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Return to:

**P.O. Box 814  
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641**



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## Take Action! Update

### Advocacy Needed in '09 for Historic Preservation Fund Grant and SHPO Funding

The IHPA has led the charge in Iowa for federal disaster funding, working with National Conference of Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), Preservation Action, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Iowa Congressional offices. We have had some success: the federal historic tax credits have been increased for storm or flood damaged properties. The credit for certified historic properties has gone from 20% to 26% of qualified rehab costs. And, the credit for non-historic properties has increased from 10% to 13%. This increase is valid until 2011. We are also working to ensure that Federal funding coming to the state (both CDBG and FEMA) will work with historic structures.

But, Congress has forgotten Iowa and the need for Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants. The Gulf Coast received \$45 million after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Midwest states asked for \$35 million for all of the disaster-affected states. The other Midwest states had nowhere near the damage that Iowa suffered and when our sister states were mum on supporting the proposed legislation, the IHPA and NCSHPO began advocating for \$20 million for Iowa. This funding was to be dedicated for grants to disaster-affected historic properties and to assist the Iowa SHPO with their increased workload in disaster recovery.

Because the current Congress would not consider the legislation, it is now up to all of us who care about historic preservation to voice our support for this \$20 million legisla-



Historic Matyk Building in the Bohemian Commercial Historic District in Cedar Rapids.

tion to our Congressional representatives. We should all feel encouraged to ask for fairness in historic preservation funding to help us recover from one of the worst natural disaster this state has recorded in modern times. Funding for historic homes, commercial buildings, and historic museum properties will have a positive impact on our communities as we rehabilitate and rebuild a better Iowa!