



The Iowa

# Preservationist

Spring 2009

Volume 19 Issue 2

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## Sustainable Communities Through Preservation City of Dubuque Hosts 2nd Sustainability Conference

On February 18, 2009, the City of Dubuque hosted its second “Growing Sustainable Communities” Conference, co-sponsored by Alliant Energy. The mission of this annual conference is to educate the public on the issues that impact the long-term economic health and sustainability of our community and our region. This event is also an opportunity for policy and decision-makers from the tri-state area to come together to discuss ways in which they can enact the most effective change at the local level.

The theme for the 2009 event was “Promoting Historic Preservation as part of the Climate Solution.” The three principal speakers were Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol; Roya Stanley, Director of the Office of Energy Independence for the State of Iowa; and Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Office of Energy Independence provides financial assistance to projects that will improve Iowa’s biofuels, renewable energy, and energy efficiency sectors. The mission of the non-profit National Trust for Historic Preservation is to save the nation’s diverse historic places and create more livable communities for all Americans.

Mayor Buol noted that Dubuque recognizes the importance of historic preservation for achieving sustainability and building a green collar job base. He noted that the most sustainable building is one that is already built. The concept of embodied energy—the energy used

to produce or construct an object—is what makes existing buildings sustainable. Compared to new construction, rehabilitation of historic structures typically involves more labor cost than material cost and the use of skilled trades such as carpentry and masonry. Green collar jobs such as these stay in the community and reduce environmental impacts, provide a livable wage, and restore people, families, neighborhoods, and communities, according to Mayor Buol.

He discussed the need to merge our historic preservation commitment with sustainable development practices, particularly smart energy use and conservation. An emerging opportunity is revitalization of the Historic Millwork District, using sustainable development and energy-efficient practices to create a thriving mixed-use neighborhood that preserves the district.

Mayor Buol called on local leaders to join with other cities across the nation to address the issue of climate change, in

*Continued on page 4*



Richard Moe speaks at the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference. Photo courtesy City of Dubuque.

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## President's Corner

### News from the Rod Scott

The period between the Winter newsletter and this edition has been quite busy for the IHPA. So much so, that updates will continue in the summer edition. I can tell you that the top news item for sharing is the passing and signing into law the legislation which more than doubles the State Historic Tax Credits! The new cap is at \$50 million per year, up from \$20 million. The multiple partnerships that we had working on this for over a year are a testimonial to the benefits our organization can produce for our state. There were champion legislators like Senator Dotzler (D) of Waterloo. Representative Steckman (D) of Cerro Gordo County, and the Senate and House leadership on both sides of the aisle. The Department of Cultural Affairs testified several times to key committees and the Department of Economic Development was a very supportive ally. Then there was our redeveloper and cities alliance that brought together the leaders in the area of historic property redevelopment to advocate for the concept of redeveloping our community's valuable historic resources at a time in our nation where the economy is seriously challenged.

With this new state money that is leveraged more than 4 to 1 with private investment, there will be hundreds of millions of dollars re-invested in our Iowa communities with lots of high quality construction jobs created matched by revitalized commercial and residential spaces that will enable businesses to thrive and people a good place to live and work in the core areas of our Iowa cities and towns. Finally, I want to thank Dick Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and all of the efforts he and the staff at the Trust gave us; Ms. Teri Goodman and the City of Dubuque for uncounted hours dedicated to our efforts; Gronen Properties of Dubuque, IA for their leadership during this effort and to their staff person Jill Connors, Resources Development Director, for her many hours coordinating and communicating with our far flung network of advocates; and Dave Adelman, our lobbyist, who spent countless hours on our project and for bringing home the trophy!

This is the annual membership issue where we acknowledge the many IHPA members that believe in our mission and continue to dedicate some of their resources to our organization. The board of directors is working hard to build the IHPA into a better and more capable organization and your contributions are essential to making that happen. Please consider a small increase in your giving level next year and please ask your friends and associates to join the IHPA soon.

The disaster recovery is continuing at a very fast pace. Please review our update in this issue. This newsletter also covers the Dubuque "Sustainable Community" initiative that has really raised the awareness of other towns across Iowa. The community has been successful in getting a commitment from IBM to locate their new Iowa Data Center in a historic department store building and is leading the commitment to redevelop around a million square feet of historic warehouse and manufacturing spaces into residential and commercial areas right in the core of the community. The Iowa Department of Economic Development-Main Street program held their most successful ever, annual awards banquet in Des Moines with over 450 people in attendance. We are so fortunate to have the most successful Main Street program in the nation right here in Iowa. Don't miss the historic preservation conference hosted by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Main Street Iowa, IHPA, the City of Ottumwa, and Main Street Ottumwa the second week of May.

Construction season is at hand. Let us redouble our efforts to rehabilitate as many historic structures as we can this year. Keep working at saving and reusing our valuable and irreplaceable historic resources in Iowa.

*Contributed by Rod Scott*

## Partner's Page

### News from Main Street Iowa

Main Street Iowa, a program of the Community Development Division within the Iowa Department of Economic Development, uses a copyrighted program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation known as the Main Street Four Point Approach®. Since 1986 the program has assisted 56 Iowa communities in their downtown revitalization efforts. Those cities have tracked more than \$700 million in private investment into downtown buildings and reported a net gain of 3,102 new businesses resulting in a net gain of 8,868 new jobs (Source: Iowa Department of Economic Development/Main Street Iowa Cumulative Statistics). Main Street Iowa communities have also logged 1,615,169 volunteer hours, further evidence that downtown revitalization and historic preservation play a major role in economic development in the State of Iowa.

The Main Street Iowa program continues to grow. In January, communities were invited to submit applications to become Iowa's newest Main Street cities. Applications were received from the cities of Ames, Colfax, Fort Madison, Manning, and Sheldon. Following application review and presentations before the Main Street Advisory Council, announcements of new participants will be made.

Another way we are expanding is through the creation of a new Main Street Iowa program that will implement the Main Street Approach in urban commercial neighborhood districts throughout the state. These districts are historic commercial cores that are not the traditional downtowns of larger urban areas. This application period occurred in tandem with the traditional Main Street application process. Three Urban Neighborhood Districts submitted applications for consideration: the 6th Avenue Corridor in Des Moines, Czech Village/New Bohemia in Cedar Rapids and the Hilltop Campus Village in Davenport. Selection and announcement for both the Urban Neighborhood districts and traditional Main Street Iowa communities will be made this spring.

Over the past seven years, Main Street Iowa has been fortunate to receive five Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Grants totaling more than \$2.8 million to support Main Street Iowa initiatives. These monies make it possible for Main Street Iowa to provide bricks and mortar challenge grants to active Main Street Iowa communities. The grants have leveraged an additional \$19.2 million in local, private investment into 41 downtown building projects.

In April, Main Street Iowa announced an additional \$647,000 in challenge grants awards to 14 downtown preservation projects leveraging over \$3.3 million in local, private investment.

For more information about the Main Street Iowa program, please visit our website at [www.mainstreetiowa.org](http://www.mainstreetiowa.org).

*Contributed by Jane Seaton, State Coordinator, Main Street Iowa*

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

**Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Depot, Osceola, Clarke County. Listed 01/08/2009.**

**Suspension Bridge, Charles City, Floyd County. Removed 01/08/2009.**

**Toledo Bridge, Toledo, Tama County. Removed 01/08/2009.**

**Methodist Deaconess Institute—Esther Hall, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed 03/04/2009.**

**Boyt Company Building, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed 03/10/2009.**

**Hawarden City Hall, Fire Station and Auditorium, Hawarden, Sioux County. Listed 03/10/09.**

**Folkert Mound Group, near Steamboat Rock, Hardin County. Listed 03/17/2009.**

**Isaac A. Wetherby House, Iowa City, Johnson County. Listed 03/17/2009.**

## A Note on this Issue's Donor List

This edition of *The Iowa Preservationist* features a list of donors who have joined or renewed their memberships in 2008 (pages 5 and 6). The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance wants to thank all those who continue to support us!

Because of the increase in the cost of paper and postage, after January 1, 2010, we will be mailing hard copies of our newsletters only to those donors whose memberships are current. If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, use the form on page 9 to do so now. Your help has been appreciated and has enabled the Alliance to do many things to further preservation goals in Iowa.

## Sustainable Communities Through Preservation (continued from page 1)

part through historic preservation and a green economy. He noted the prevalence of green collar jobs throughout the business community, including construction, manufacturing, agriculture, maintenance, and technology. He emphasized cities must have green jobs for a truly sustainable economy.

Roya Stanley emphasized energy independence, sustainability and smart growth, and the vision to move Iowa forward as a leading state on sustainability. She noted that planning is key, through sustainable growth as part of the Iowa Energy Independence Plan, collaboration with other organizations and State agencies, and having State government lead by example.

She advocated that we use our resources as productively as possible, through energy efficiency and smart growth principles. She emphasized that sustainability begins with preservation, because the preservation of historic buildings maximizes use of existing materials and infrastructure, reduces waste, and preserves character of older towns and cities.

Ms. Stanley advised us to promote smart growth by “making development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective; making the business case, and making it easy, for business leaders to embrace sustainability; providing a variety of transportation choices; making it easier to walk, bike, and take public transportation than it is to drive; mixing land uses; and putting uses close to one another, to make alternatives to driving more viable.”

She highlighted new State initiatives on energy efficiency standards and practices and sustainable design standards. Ms. Stanley urged an integrated approach to “investing in energy as a lasting solution with multiple benefits—the big picture solution to a global concern.”

Mr. Moe acknowledged Dubuque’s leadership in historic preservation and sustainability, and announced new initiatives by the National Trust to demonstrate preservation’s effectiveness as a tool for community revitalization and for sustainable development.

“...SUSTAINABILITY BEGINS WITH PRESERVATION, BECAUSE THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS MAXIMIZES USE OF EXISTING MATERIALS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, REDUCES WASTE, AND PRESERVES CHARACTER OF OLDER TOWNS AND CITIES.”

He noted that few cities “can equal Dubuque in its visionary commitment to sustainability and its recognition that preservation is the cornerstone of sustainable development.” He outlined the challenges inherent in Dubuque’s goal to redevelop the Historic Millwork District with new housing and commercial uses in one million square feet of vacant or underutilized space in an environmentally friendly manner by improving energy efficiency, reducing water usage, and avoiding other environmental impacts.

Mr. Moe reported on the recent Proclamation on Sustainability and Preservation that outlines six preservation-based guiding principles to sustain our built environment:

1. Promote a Culture of Reuse
2. Reinvest at a Community Scale
3. Value the Lessons of Heritage Buildings and Communities
4. Make Use of the Economic Advantages of Reuse, Reinvestment and Retrofits

5. Re-imagine Historic Preservation Policies and Practices as They Relate to Sustainability
6. Take Immediate and Decisive Action.

He described a new Sustainability Program of the National Trust and a key part of this program, the Preservation Green Lab. The Green Lab will undertake demonstration projects to retrofit historic buildings to achieve high levels of energy efficiency and reduce other environmental impacts. The Green Lab will also work in partnership with selected state and local governments to make sure that city plans, building and zoning codes, and “climate action plans” incorporate sustainability principles. He announced Dubuque as one of three pilot cities where the Preservation Green Lab will focus its efforts, along with Seattle and San Francisco.

He noted several opportunities for collaboration in Dubuque—on policy to support the development of the Historic Millwork District, technical assistance in “greening” the historic buildings in the district, and integration of preservation into other elements of the City’s sustainability efforts. Mr. Moe explained Dubuque was selected because we are “demonstrating that besides conserving resources and creating vibrant communities, sustainability is also about economic competitiveness—attracting jobs and talent back to our older industrial cities, as Dubuque has done with IBM. It’s about revitalizing a long overlooked neighborhood—and helping the planet in the process.”

*Contributed by Laura Carstens  
Planning Services Manager  
City of Dubuque*

## IHPA Donor List

November 1, 2007 through April 25, 2009

### Schoolhouse (\$1000+)

BH Equities, Des Moines  
 James Boyt, Des Moines  
 BRE, Inc., Sioux City  
 Christensen Development 1, West  
 Des Moines  
 City of Des Moines  
 Davis, Brown, Koehns, Shors, and  
 Roberts, P.C., Des Moines  
 Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des  
 Moines  
 Iowa Gaming Association, Des  
 Moines  
 New Market Investors, Vienna, VA  
 Rod Scott, Iowa Falls  
 William Sherman, Des Moines  
 James Walsh, Waterloo  
 Lou Weinberg, Weinberg Invest-  
 ments, Sioux City

### Cornerstone (\$500 to \$999)

Downtown Partners, Sioux City  
 George Wakeman, Sioux City

### Cornice Plus (\$200 to \$499)

Doug LaBounty (Community  
 Housing Initiative), Spencer  
 DavenportOne, Davenport  
 Greater Des Moines Community  
 Foundation, (KCM Fund)  
 Martha Hayes, Mount Pleasant  
 Indigo Dawn, Des Moines  
 Raymond Kassell, Nevada  
 Catherine Latham, Independence  
 Mako One Corporation, Vista, CA  
 Barb and Marv Howard, Carlisle  
 Pioneer Communications, Waterloo  
 City of Red Oak  
 Richard Thomas, Mt. Vernon

### Cornice (\$100 to \$199)

Karen Bode Baxter, St. Louis, MO  
 Lowell Doud, Iowa City  
 Mary Mills Dunea, Chicago, IL  
 Kenneth Dunker, Ames

Selma Duvick, Johnston  
 Scotney Fenton, Des Moines  
 Eric Fogg, Des Moines  
 Thomas Gardner, Strawberry Point  
 Peggy Jester, Urbandale  
 Bruce and Marie Johnson, Jewell  
 Robert Klein (Historic Pella Trust),  
 Pella  
 Sonya Kostan, Correctionville  
 David Kramme, Stratford  
 In memory of Dorothy Kutschin-  
 ski, Charter Oak  
 Kevin Monson (Neuman Monson),  
 Iowa City  
 Michael Moulton and Melanie  
 Landa, Blue Grass  
 Dr. Paula Mohr, Des Moines  
 Mount Pleasant Beautiful, Mount  
 Pleasant  
 Blaine Nansel, Iowa City  
 Michael O'Keefe, Des Moines  
 Oskaloosa Main Street (Oskaloosa  
 Area Chamber and Develop-  
 ment Group)  
 William Page, Des Moines  
 Dr. Lois Roets, Des Moines  
 Rose Rohr, Anamosa  
 Susan Sargent, Ames  
 Silos and Smokestacks, Waterloo  
 Siouxland Chamber of Commerce,  
 Sioux City  
 Skogman Companies, Cedar Rapids  
 Tom Smull, Des Moines  
 David Stanley (Bear Creek Arche-  
 ology), Cresco  
 Wayne Stienstra, Pella  
 Steve Stimmel, Des Moines  
 Roger and Carolyn Stirler, Altoona  
 Historic Valley Junction Founda-  
 tion, West Des Moines  
 Dennis Wilson (Wilson Rentals),  
 Burlington  
 Winifred's, Cedar Rapids  
 Robert Wustrow, Keokuk  
 Sandy Yoder, Grundy Center

Don Young, Mount Pleasant

### Front Porch (\$50 to \$99)

Wayne E. Andersen, Council Bluffs  
 Elaine Baxter, Burlington  
 Galen Berrier, Ankeny  
 Thomas and Cynthia Charlton,  
 Wellman  
 Randa Cherry, Cedar Rapids  
 David Cordes, Rock Island, IL  
 Carl Dillon, Waverly  
 James Dresser, Ames  
 John Dresser, Marshalltown  
 Patricia Eckhardt, Iowa City  
 Sam Erickson, Pleasant Hill  
 Ann Fleming, Carlisle  
 Steve Frevert, Burlington  
 Joyce Glasscock (Main Street  
 Keokuk)  
 Greg Guelcher, Sioux City  
 Tom Guzman, Des Moines  
 Roger Gwinnup (Roger Gwinnup  
 Construction) , Iowa City  
 Karl and Barbara Gwiasda, Ames  
 H. J. Heinz Co., Pittsburgh, PA  
 Lyell Henry, Iowa City  
 Kenneth Hubel, North Liberty  
 Carolyn Hunter, Des Moines  
 Michael Hustedde, Davenport  
 Galen Jackson, Rock Rapids  
 Paul Juhl, Iowa City  
 Lori Osmus Kappmeyer, Ames  
 Margaret Kleinwort, St. Ansgar  
 Alex Krueger, Bagley  
 Anne McKeown, Council Bluffs  
 Alexia McDowell, Fort Dodge  
 Marguerite McNabb, Ames  
 John Mahon, Davenport  
 Marcus Main Street (Marcus for  
 Progress)  
 Duane and Virginia Means, Iowa  
 City  
 Mrs. Clifford Meints, Indianola  
 Rose Middleton, Waterloo

*Continued on page 6*

**Front Porch (continued)**

Mark Miller (Bracke-Hayes- Miller, AIA Architects), Moline, IL  
Miller Associates, Kirkland, WA  
James Monagan, Cedar Rapids  
Helen Murphy, Red Oak  
Roger Natte, Fort Dodge  
John Nothnagle, Iowa City  
Scott Olson (AIA), Cedar Rapids  
Paul Rehn, Marion  
Jane Sanford, Wever  
Julie Schmidt, Spencer  
Jane Seaton, Des Moines  
Lavonne Sharp, Chicago, IL  
Bob Soesbe, Clinton  
City of Spencer  
Donna Stratton, Cedar Rapids  
Lynn Swan (Lynn Swan Interiors), Spencer  
John Viner, Iowa City  
Michael Wagler, Ankeny  
Cheryl Walsh, Iowa City

**Pendant (\$15 to \$49)**

Adams Architectural Millwork, Dubuque  
Amsterdam School, Pella  
David C. Anderson, Waukon  
Bob and Joyce Ausberger, Jefferson  
Steven Bartholomew, Davenport  
Martha Bates, Washington (dec.)  
Jeff Batterson, Washington  
Belle Plaine Community Development Corporation, Belle Plaine  
Catherine Bergman (Hamilton County S.E.E.D), Webster City  
Florence Boos, Iowa City  
Bonaparte Main Street, Bonaparte  
Marilyn Boyle, Dexter  
Caroline Bredekamp, Spragueville  
Jim Brown, Iowa City  
Scott Brunscheen, West Des Moines  
Laura Carstens, Dubuque  
John Carter, Sioux City  
David Christiansen, Clear Lake  
Dick Colby, Washington  
Cedar Falls Main Street

Community Revitalization, Charles City  
Tom Dawson, Washington  
Decorah Historic Preservation Commission  
Jean Dissinger, Dexter  
Dubuque Bank and Trust, Dubuque  
Susan Dunek, Keokuk  
Garfield Eckberg, Nicollet, MN  
William Faller, Kenwaunkee, WI  
Maurice Field, Moorland  
Nurit Finn, Anamosa  
Debi Flanders, Sigourney  
George Glenn, Cedar Falls  
Terry A. Goepel, Mason City  
Kathy Gourley, Des Moines  
Frances Graham, West Union  
John Gronen (Gronen Restoration), Dubuque  
City of Guttenberg, Guttenberg  
Debra Haak, Altoona  
Barbara J. Hackfort, Carroll  
Harlan/Lincoln House, Mount Pleasant  
Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Hart, Oskaloosa  
Henry County Heritage Trust, Mount Pleasant  
Marcia Hogan, Williamsburg  
Cheri Huber, Washington  
David Huggins, Council Bluffs  
Rick Hunsaker, Carroll  
Nancy Jacobsen, Boone  
Carole Jensen, Ames  
Sheriffa Jones, Spencer  
Edith Jordan, Fairfield  
Julia Kern (Colfax Take Pride Where You Reside), Colfax  
John and Jean Kottke, Fredericksburg  
LeMars Historic Preservation Commission  
Lewelling Quaker Museum, Salem  
Main Street Mount Pleasant  
Maurice Losey, Clinton  
Doris E. Lyon, Burlington  
Janet McCannon, Burlington  
Rebecca McCarley, Davenport  
Hugh McCoy, Ottumwa

Naomi Maahs, Adel  
Michael Maharry (Friends of Muscatine Historic Preservation)  
David Metzger (Klinger & Associates), Burlington  
Jimelle Moreno, Council Bluffs  
Nancy Murphy, Red Oak  
Tim Orwig, Walpole, MA  
Osceola Chamber/Main Street  
Mary Patterson, Washington  
Pella Historical Society, Pella  
Shirley Pfeiffer, Washington  
Craig Pfantz, State Center  
Jennifer Price, Coralville  
Robert Prucha, Cedar Rapids  
Gale Quirk, Waterloo  
James H. Randall, Cedar Rapids  
Carol Ray, Washington  
River City Society for Historic Preservation, Mason City  
Emily Roberts, Iowa City  
Dr. Ivan Salmons, Sioux City  
Dave Shafer (Ottumwa Historic Preservation Commission)  
James Sanders, Burke, VA  
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Dr. Joan Schreiber, Muncie, IN  
Suzanne Senden, Council Bluffs  
Joan Severson, Le Mars  
David Seylar, Estherville  
Kent Sissel, Muscatine  
Dr. Audrey Smith, Cedar Falls  
State Center Development Association, State Center  
Darlene Strachan, West Des Moines  
Katharine Sturdevant, Colorado Springs, CO  
Ginalee Swaim, Iowa City  
Jim and Marcia Thompson, Ankeny  
Alicia Trimble, Iowa City  
Sarah Uthoff, Iowa City  
Roger Wendt, Sioux City  
Geraldine Wester, LaPorte City  
John Whittaker and Susan Oliver, Iowa City  
Norma Wilder, Des Moines  
Linda Zintz, Centerville  
Justine Zimmer, Iowa City

## Two Iowa Opera Houses Awarded Preservation Grants

### Corning Opera House and E. E. Warren Opera House Each Receive \$50,000

Two historic Iowa Opera Houses are one step closer to restoration, thanks to grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Corning Opera House Cultural Center and Greenfield's E. E. Warren Opera House Association each received \$50,000 from the Jeffris Heartland Fund to help make their preservation plans a reality.

This fund targets more than \$500,000 to preservation projects in small Midwestern communities, made available to the National Trust by the Jeffris Family Foundation of Janesville, Wisconsin. "Funding made possible by the Jeffris Family Foundation for the Jeffris Heartland Fund will help towns across the Midwest preserve the historic places that have anchored their communities for generations," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "At a time when the national economy is experiencing profound challenges, funding from sources like the Jeffris Family Foundation is especially critical to ensure that the historic fabric of our smaller towns is not lost forever."

In Greenfield, the grant will help support completion of a Historic Structure Report, a comprehensive document that will guide rehabilitation efforts for the E. E. Warren Opera House. Built in 1886, the Opera House was also home to the Warren Department store and a two-story apartment for Mr. Warren and his wife Eva. The building's beautiful copper turret overlooks Greenfield's historic courthouse square. The Association envisions the building as a regional cultural arts center with educational programming, entertainment, and retail businesses. Through the support of Main Street Iowa challenge grants, Empowering Adair County Foundation grants, community support, and other sources of funding, the Association has been working to restore the Opera House since 1996, when it was generously donated to Main Street Greenfield by Yvonne Schildberg and family. For more information on the project, and to make a donation, visit [www.nod-valley.k12.ia.us/community/operahouse/](http://www.nod-valley.k12.ia.us/community/operahouse/).

The Corning Opera House also received \$50,000 from the Jeffris Heartland Fund for a conditions report, schematic design, and design development. The Opera House provided live stage performances and a community venue to Corning residents from its construction in 1902 until 1934, and served for many years as home to the Adams County Free Press. The Corning Opera House Cultural Center, with the assistance of Main Street Corning and the Adams Community Economic Development Corporation, has been working to restore the building since 1999. The second-floor auditorium retains a high degree of architectural integrity, with original tin ceiling panels, beautiful stenciling, and a decorative horseshoe balcony. A Main Street Iowa challenge grant has also been critical to this project, along with a State



Corning Opera House (top) and E. E. Warren Opera House in Greenfield (bottom). Photos courtesy Barbara Mitchell.

Historical Society of Iowa Historic Site Preservation Grant, and an Iowa Great Places Grant. Additional support has come from the Iowa West Foundation, the USDA Rural Community Development Initiative, as well as private foundations and local funders. When restored, the Corning Opera House will be the arts and cultural centerpiece of Adams County, housing theatrical productions, heritage tours, and cultural events. For more information and a YouTube video of the building, visit [www.corningoperahouse.org](http://www.corningoperahouse.org).

Both projects are critical to maintaining a unique sense of place in their small but vibrant towns. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is thrilled to be able to support such significant restorations, and the communities of Corning and Greenfield should sing the praises of their dedicated local preservationists!

*Contributed by Jennifer Sandy  
National Trust for Historic Preservation*

## Calendar of Events

### May 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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31						

### June 2009

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### July 2009

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### August 2009

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### May 2009 ■ May is Preservation Month!

May 5, 12, & 19 (noon) ■ Architecture Month Lecture Series: A Century of Iowa Architecture. Des Moines Central Library, 1000 Grand Avenue, Des Moines. For more information: Iowa Architectural Foundation, [www.iowaarchfoundation.org](http://www.iowaarchfoundation.org).

May 12, 14, & 15 (6:00 pm) ■ The Nooks and Crannies Tour of Brucemore. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids. For more information: [www.brucemore.org](http://www.brucemore.org).

May 13-14 ■ Preservation in Progress: A Workshop of Iowa's Historic Preservation Partners. Ottumwa. For more information: [www.mainstreetiowa.org](http://www.mainstreetiowa.org).

May 15 ■ Grant Deadline: Historical Resource Development Program. For more information: [www.iowahistory.org/about/grants/hrdp/index.html](http://www.iowahistory.org/about/grants/hrdp/index.html).

May 16-17 ■ Dubuque Old House Enthusiast's 23rd Annual House Tour. For more information: [www.dbqohe.org/tour.cfm](http://www.dbqohe.org/tour.cfm).

May 21 (5:30 pm) ■ Architecture @ Hand Walking Tours. Heritage Art Gallery, 2nd and Court Avenue, Des Moines. For more information: [www.iowaarchfoundation.org](http://www.iowaarchfoundation.org).

May 22 ■ Deadline: Save America's Treasures Grant. For more information: National Park Service, et al., <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/>.

May 26, 28, & 30 ■ Brucemore's Historic Landscape Tour. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids. For more information: [www.brucemore.org](http://www.brucemore.org).

### June 2009

June 9, 11, & 13 ■ Brucemore in Bloom. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information: [www.brucemore.org](http://www.brucemore.org).

June 17 (5:30 pm) ■ Architecture @ Hand Walking Tours. Heritage Art Gallery, 2nd and Court Avenue, Des Moines. For more information: [www.iowaarchfoundation.org](http://www.iowaarchfoundation.org).

### July 2009

July 11 (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm) ■ 2009 Lecture Series: Interior Design. ISU Design West, Sioux City. For more information: [www.design.iastate.edu](http://www.design.iastate.edu).

July 16 (5:30 pm) ■ Architecture @ Hand Walking Tours. Heritage Art Gallery, 2nd and Court Avenue, Des Moines. For more information: [www.iowaarchfoundation.org](http://www.iowaarchfoundation.org).

### August 2009

Aug 8 (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm) ■ 2009 Lecture Series: Green Design, Sustainability and LEED. ISU Design West, Sioux City. For more information: [www.design.iastate.edu](http://www.design.iastate.edu).

Aug 20 (5:30 pm) ■ Architecture @ Hand Walking Tours. Heritage Art Gallery, 2nd and Court Avenue, Des Moines. For more information: [www.iowaarchfoundation.org](http://www.iowaarchfoundation.org).

Aug 25-26 2009 ■ 23rd Annual Iowa Downtown Summit ("Advancing the Marketplace for Entrepreneurship and Sustainability"), Ames. For more information: Main Street Iowa, <http://www.mainstreetiowa.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)



## Disaster Recovery Update

Recovery from the 2008 natural disaster is really picking up the pace now. The historic resource studies required by federally funded projects have documented around five thousand flood affected homes, commercial and public historic structures, many of which were previously undocumented. Iowa has approached this disaster in a whole new way with respect to historic structure survey and identification. Never before in our nation's history have we been this far ahead of the funding for these types of projects. Credit goes to the State Historic Preservation Office and the cultural resources teams at FEMA and Iowa Homeland Security for doing it differently and showing the nation how to do it differently. In past disasters our nation usually didn't even start the historic resource studies until the money was actually in the hands of the applicant communities, which seriously delayed the buy-out process and held people back from moving on with their lives and recovery. Iowa Homeland Security has now published historic structure surveys of over 30 communities and rural sites. Because many historic homes will be removed from the landscape with the FEMA and CDBG-funded buy-outs, communities are negotiating for mitigation projects that will compensate them for the loss of these resources. We want to acknowledge and thank FEMA for inviting us to be a consulting party to these negotiations. The IHPA will work with affected communities to advocate for them receiving the funding for projects that will have a positive future benefit.

We are working with these communities and the Governor's Rebuild Iowa Office, to not just bulldoze all of these homes and throw all of that material into the landfills, but to salvage reusable materials and provide those materials back into the recovery as well as out to the greater marketplace. For over 50 years demolition is the way our nation has dealt with this next phase of disaster recovery known as mitigation. We have to show our country a new, more sustainable method to deal with this massive amount of material that will come from this next phase of recovery. We are partnering with Habitat for Humanity in Mason City and the established Burlington Salvage efforts. We are attempting to establish regional warehouse spaces in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids, as well as develop inventory control software that all architectural salvage operations in Iowa could utilize to make what we do more efficient. I guess you could call this making lemonade out of lemons. Let us dedicate ourselves to making these alternative solutions work so that we can show our children we really believe in recycling and reuse!

*Contributed by Rod Scott*

## Educational Opportunities

### Statewide Preservation Workshop & Downtown Summit

We hope you are joining Iowa's historic preservation partners in Ottumwa on May 13 & 14 for *Preservation in Progress*, a joint workshop hosted by Main Street Iowa, the State Historic Preservation Office, IHPA, Main Street Ottumwa, and the City of Ottumwa. Workshop topics include the basics of historic preservation, resources of the recent past, architectural styles in Iowa, rehabilitation of opera houses and movie theatres, and much, much more! In partnership with the Iowa Gaming Association, IHPA's 2009 Preservation at Its Best Awards will also be announced at the workshop. More information at [www.mainstreetiowa.org](http://www.mainstreetiowa.org) and a recap in the next issue of this newsletter!

If you missed the workshop, don't miss Iowa's 23rd Annual Downtown Summit on August 25 & 26 in Ames—get inspired, make new connections, and learn basic tools to enhance your efforts to keep your downtown vibrant and competitive! Sponsored by the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Federal Home Loan Bank, Des Moines, the Summit will offer practical information, ideas, and solutions for preservation-based downtown revitalization that is relevant to rural, mid-sized, and urban communities. The theme this year is "Advancing the Marketplace for Entrepreneurship and Sustainability." Details will be announced soon at [www.mainstreetiowa.org](http://www.mainstreetiowa.org).



## 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

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## Take Action! Update Wapsipinicon Mill Recovery Underway

Trillium Dell Timberworks, a Knoxville, Illinois company specializing in heavy timber restoration, first assessed the flood ravaged Wapsipinicon Mill in July 2008 at the request of Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area and the Buchanan County Historical Society. The ground floor of the mill had uplifted and collapsed, and several of the original floor girts had washed downriver.

Having repaired and assessed many historic timber structures in the past, Trillium Dell Timberworks quickly determined that the severity of damage was significantly exaggerated by the loss of the original structural integrity of the floor system. The ground floor of the Wapsipinicon Mill was radically altered in 1906 when the original floor girts and posts were cut short and left unanchored to accommodate new concrete columns carrying building and machinery loads. This configuration effectively interrupted the well-engineered structural matrix of the floor system, leaving timbers free to float down river.

Trillium Dell Timberworks worked with FEMA, in partnership with Silos and Smokestacks and the Buchanan County Historical Society, to obtain funding to return the floor system to its original, flood-resistant design. Given that the 1906 piers are now a part of the history of the Wapsipinicon Mill, Trillium Dell Timberworks designed a mitiga-



Wapsipinicon Mill, Independence. Photo courtesy Trillium Dell Timberworks.

tion plan that effectively restores the structural matrix of the original floor. This plan also calls for all timbers and flooring to be rot-resistant white oak as originally used, effectively ensuring the long-term viability of the Wapsipinicon Mill in terms of both its structural and historical integrity.

This unique partnership demonstrates that honoring historic means and methods not only preserves our cultural heritage, but is also cost effective: With the structural integrity of the floor system restored, future flood waters are unlikely to do more than cosmetic damage.

*Contributed by Tim Narkiewicz  
Trillium Dell Timberworks*