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.
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 Conners, 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.

*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.

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 explained Dubuque was selected because we are “demonstrating 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.”

“...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 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 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.”

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.

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Contributed by Laura Carstens
Planning Services Manager
City of Dubuque
IHPCA 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 Investments, 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 Kutschinski, 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 Development Group)
William Page, Des Moines
Dr. Lois Roets, Des Moines
Rose Rohr, Anamosa
Susan Sargent, Ames
Silos and Smokestacks, Waterloo
Siouxlnd Chamber of Commerce, Sioux City
Skogman Companies, Cedar Rapids
Tom Smull, Des Moines
David Stanley (Bear Creek Archaeology), Cresco
Wayne Stienstra, Pella
Steve Stimmel, Des Moines
Roger and Carolyn Stirler, Altoona
Historic Valley Junction Foundation, 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 Gwisida, 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 Wagner, 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, Duxter
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, Kenwaunnee, WI
Maurice Field, Moorland
Nurit Finn, Anamosa
Debi Flanders, Sigourney
George Glenn, Cedar Falls
Terry A. Goepl, 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 Pfieffer, Washington
Craig Pfanz, State Center
Jennifer Price, Coralville
Robert Prucha, Council Bluffs
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
Jeff Schabillion, Iowa City
Dr. Joan Schreiber, Muncie, IN
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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
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Jim and Marcia Thompson, Ankeny
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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/.

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 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.

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
May 2009

Calendar of Events
May 2009 • May is Preservation Month!

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.


May 15 • Grant Deadline: Historical Resource Development Program. For more information: 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.

May 21 (5:30 pm) • Architecture @ Hand Walking Tours. Heritage Art Gallery, 2nd and Court Avenue, Des Moines. For more information: 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.

June 2009


June 17 (5:30 pm) • Architecture @ Hand Walking Tours. Heritage Art Gallery, 2nd and Court Avenue, Des Moines. For more information: 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.

July 16 (5:30 pm) • Architecture @ Hand Walking Tours. Heritage Art Gallery, 2nd and Court Avenue, Des Moines. For more information: 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.

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

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
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 Smokeystacks 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 Smokeystacks 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 mitigation 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.

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