

The Iowa Preservationist Volume 19 Issue 3

Summer 2009

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Preservation at Its Best!

2009 Awards for Excellence in Preservation

Each year, in partnership with the Iowa Gaming Association, the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance seeks to honor individuals, organizations, projects, and programs whose work demonstrates a commitment to excellence in historic preservation. In doing so, we hope to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect, and promote Iowa's historic resources. We presented this year's Preservation at Its Best Awards during an awards luncheon on May 13, 2009, in Ottumwa, as part of Preservation in Progress: A workshop of Iowa's Historic Preservation Partners.

Wes Ehrecke, president of the Iowa Gaming Association, said "The Preservation at Its Best Awards is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Iowa's outstanding historic preservation efforts and recognize those who work tirelessly to further Iowa's historic preservation ethic."

As always, this year's award nominations were very competitive. We received 24 award nominations in 8 categories, including nominations for every type of project from log cabin restorations to multi-million dollar restorations of prominent downtown buildings. The award winners are featured below and and on pages 4 and 5, as well as at www.iowapreservation.org. All of the nominated projects will be added to our website in the coming months as success stories in Iowa preservation. Congratulations to all those who help preserve Iowa's historic resources!

Adaptive Use Award: Des Moines Western Freight House, Des Moines, Polk County

The Des Moines Western Freight House, located in the East Village of Des Moines, was constructed by F. M. Hubbell in 1902-1903. It originally served as the freight house and passenger depot for the interurban line known as the Des Moines, Iowa Falls & Northern Railroad. Later, it served the Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern Railway Co. The Iowa State Bar Association purchased and rehabilitated the 15,300 square foot property between 2006 and 2008, engaging the expertise of GE Wattier Architecture and historian Will Page



to ensure the project's architectural accuracy. Funding for this \$2.4 million project came from the Iowa State Bar Association and the use of historic tax credits. The project received the award for Adaptive Use, a category that recognizes excellence in projects that convert a historic structure for a new compatible use while retaining the building's architectural integrity.

Awards list continues on page 4.

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"The Iowa Preservationist" is published quarterly as a benefit to members of IHPA, a 501(c)(3) organization.

IHPA

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President's Corner

News from Rod Scott

Greetings to our valued members, elected officials, and potential members!

Since the spring newsletter we have continued to be involved with lots of postdisaster meetings. These meetings in counties and communities affected by last year's disaster involve Iowa Homeland Security, FEMA, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), local government staffs, and historic preservation commissions. The meetings are held to establish the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that outlines the compensation a community proposes to receive in exchange for the loss of historic resources as a result of federally funded activities like acquisition and demolition. If you go to our website at www.iowapreservation.org/flood08.php, you can read all of the community surveys. The surveys and the resulting outcomes in Iowa are about one year ahead of other national disaster recovery timeframes. This process is being watched closely by FEMA and could become a model for the nation. We have asked FEMA and Iowa Homeland Security to present a summary of this effort for the fall newsletter ... stay tuned.

In addition to the architectural and historical surveys of homes affected by flooding, the IHPA has undertaken a simple survey of sacred places in flood-ravaged Cedar Rapids. Church buildings and sacred places are often left out of post-disaster government activities, leaving historic neighborhoods without a big part of their fabric as they recover from a disaster. Our next step for these historic structures is to work with the interfaith council in Cedar Rapids to fund a trip to Iowa from Partners for Sacred Places. This organization, based in Pennsylvania, has a district office in hurricane-damaged Galveston and has assisted sacred places to recovery in New Orleans. With their expertise, they work with the owners of historic sacred places to build capacity, helping the building survive into the future. We especially want to thank Zach Hingst, a master's degree student home for the summer, for volunteering his time to document 28 damaged sacred places. You can find the sacred places survey results, including photographs, online at www.iowapreservation.org/sacred.php.

The IHPA, SHPO, Main Street Iowa, the City of Ottumwa, and Main Street Ottumwa hosted the statewide preservation conference in Ottumwa in May. This conference was well attended and we presented our annual "Preservation at Its Best" awards, featured in this issue.

The first application deadline for the new state historic rehabilitation income tax credits program closed Friday, August 7th. The SHPO received over 100 applications for historic rehabilitation projects. The applications are sure to exceed the available credits and we want to encourage those who applied and did not get credits reserved for their project on this round to reapply next summer. We are grateful to all of our state legislators who voted for expanding this important community revitalization program, which will have a very positive economic impact in their towns and cities. We will have more on this in the next newsletter, which will feature a listing of the awarded projects.

Don't forget to sign up for and attend the annual Country Schools Conference coming up in October, as well as the National Preservation Conference in Nashville later that same month. We hope you are active this summer with all sorts of rehabilitation projects. We have received many e-mails from communities requesting our support of their historic preservation issues and projects. The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance is here to serve you and your communities—feel free to contact us any time at info@iowapreservation.org. Thanks for your support and remember to renew your IHPA membership for 2010 in the coming months!

Contributed by Rod Scott

Partner's Page SSNHA Offers New Grant Program for Interpretive Planning

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area is offering a new grant program to assist in planning of interpretative projects focused on preserving and telling America's agricultural and agri-industrial stories. For 2009, \$10,000 is available for sites, communities, and organizations to aid in identifying their interpretive significance, story, and/or themes related to agriculture. We hope this new grant program will help organizations discover and develop stories that may have otherwise remained untold.

Eligible grant projects must be located within the Heritage Area and provide a oneto-one match to the grant request, with a maximum request amount of \$2500. Planning funds may be used for professional assistance, consultants, contractors, design fees, and mileage for assistance. Funds may also be used to support research, thematic writing, identification of images, preliminary design and layout of an exhibit or interpretive sign, and other related projects.

Applications are due in the SSNHA Main Office by noon on September 3, 2009. Grant applications are available at www.silosandsmokestacks.org under the Grant section. For more information, contact Candy Streed, Program & Partnership Director, at 319-234-4567 or cstreed@silosandsmokestacks.org.

Contributed by Aaron Steinmann Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America

AmeriCorps VISTA's partnership with the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance has brought a whole new dimension to the quality of work we do in flood recovery as well as enhanced our appreciation for the homes we work on. Soon after flood waters inundated ten square miles of Cedar Rapids, VISTA Flood Recovery has been active in helping the residents of this great city recover. Through staffing and managing the Volunteer Center of East Central Iowa we have coordinated over 6,000 volunteers and completed work on over 800 properties.

It was at the Volunteer Center on one cold February afternoon that we were introduced to the great work IHPA has done. We were asked if volunteers could be supplied to help pull nails from trim and flooring homes that were to be demolished on what was dubbed "an antique wood recovery project." We were able to use the knowledge and skills from that experience, not only how to safely pull nails without damaging the materials, but



VISTA helps IHPA salvage materials from a Cedar Rapids home. Photo courtesy Cortney Schiappa of Green AmeriCorps, Cedar Falls.

also the ability to look at flood-affected properties and see the history that still exists within them. Trim, windows, doors, and flooring materials from six worksites have been safely removed, de-nailed, cleaned, sorted, and stored to be used to refurbish flood-affected homes that are in the rebuilding process.

Recent Actions on the National Register of Historic Places

Clemens Automobile Company Building, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed May 6, 2009.

National Biscuit Company Building, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed May 6, 2009.

Fields Barn, Near Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County. Removed May 12, 2009.

Brady-Bolibaugh House, Osceola, Clarke County. Removed May 12, 2009.

Union Hotel, Burlington, Des Moines County. Removed May 12, 2009.

Eldora Downtown Historic District, Eldora, Hardin County. Listed May 12, 2009 (Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture Multiple Property Submission).

Gilruth District #4 Schoolhouse, Davenport, Scott County. Removed May 12, 2009.

Iowana Hotel, Creston, Union County. Listed May 12, 2009.

Malek Theatre, Independence, Buchanan County. Listed May 21, 2009.

Murillo Flats, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed June 9, 2009.

Youngerman Block, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed June 10, 2009.

Continued on page 7.

Small Commercial Award: German Bank, Dubuque, Dubuque County

Small only in square footage, the German Bank in Dubuque received one of two awards for Small Commercial projects. Enterprise Zone incentives, the City's Façade Grant and Low Interest Rehab Loan program, Main Street Iowa Challenge Grant, and State and Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits are just a few of the funding sources used in this \$1.6 million restoration project. The Silver Dollar Cantina was hot before Historic Old Main was cool, and its reopening drew interest and a celebration never seen before in Dubuque over the opening of a single storefront restaurant. Dan LoBianco with Dubuque Main Street accepted the award on behalf of Gronen Restoration and Steele Capitol Management.



Small Commercial Award: City National Bank and Glass Block Buildings, Mason City, Cerro Gordo County



The second of the Small Commercial award winners is for the rehabilitation of the City National Bank and Glass Block Buildings in Mason City. This project houses Moorman Clothiers, Scott and Susan Moorman's successful men and women's clothing store. The Moormans moved to this location from the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed City National Bank/Park Inn Hotel located across the street to facilitate the major restoration

of that nationally significant property. The City National Bank and Glass Block Buildings were built in 1885 and 1896 with locally quarried limestone and are two of the oldest standing structures in Mason City. The project was funded through a combination of private funding, city incentives, and historic tax credits.

Large Commercial Award: Security Building, Dubuque, Dubuque County

The Large Commercial Award category recognizes excellence in historic preservation for commercial projects over 5,000 square feet. The 2009 award was presented to Security Investments LLC and Cottingham & Butter for their restoration of the Security Building in Dubuque. This \$4 million project was funded privately and through the use of historic tax credits. Cottingham and Butler employs 300 people, all of which were retained in the building during the entire restoration process. The Security Building, constructed in 1896 and doubled in size in 1907 is one of two examples of Dubuque's terra cotta buildings. This beautiful building, designed in the Beaux Arts style, is a notable, surviving example of the work of architects Fridolin Heer & Son.

Public Structure Award: Karl King Bandshell, Fort Dodge, Webster County

The Karl King Bandshell, originally known as the Oleson Park Music Pavilion, is located in Fort Dodge's Oleson Park and has a long and distinguished history of service as the preeminent regional performance center for municipal band music in northern Iowa. Construction began in 1936 as a WPA project. The Modernist cast-inplace concrete structure was first dedicated and placed in service June 7, 1938. For the restoration, the City of Fort Dodge employed the expertise of architect Cooper W. Norman of Fairfield and Sam Trigilo of Clifford Masonry Restoration in Toronto, Canada. The project funding included Save America's Treasures, REAP/HRDP, and city funds with significant private and corporate support from the region.





Residential Award: Frank Bredow Home, Davenport, Scott County

The Bredow Home was number one on the Davenport's demolition list in 2005 and is now a locally landmarked home in the city's Hamburg Historic District. The efforts of the Gateway Redevelopment Group to restore this home have spurred interest by developers in the area, kick-starting an amazing transformation now being replicated throughout the district.

Immigrant Frank Bredow constructed the home in 1876 and his family lived there until the 1920s. During the 20th century a series of Victorian elements were added to the home, drastically changing the home's appearance. The house was split into small apartments in the 1960s and later boarded up. Its interior was stripped of materials in 1980. This immense restoration offered many challenges to say the least.



Sustainability in Preservation Award: The Durrant Headquarters, Dubuque, Dubuque County



The Sustainability in Preservation Award recognizes sustainable design in the realm of historic preservation. The Durrant Headquarters building in Dubuque was originally built in the early 20th century as the former Adam's Manufacturing Building. The building's simple design consisted of a steel superstructure, concrete floor, and metal skin.

Durrant's holistic design approach stayed true to the building's industrial use roots and was certified LEED Platinum. While the project does not encapsulate the traditional vision of historic preservation, it demonstrates the creativity to modernize and reuse existing structures while maintaining significant elements.

Preservationist Award: Dr. Richard H. Thomas, Mount Vernon, Linn County

For more than 35 years, Dr. Richard H. Thomas has been a leader, motivating force, and tireless worker for historic preservation. Dick was the first chairperson and continues as a member of the Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission. He has also served in many leadership capacities for the Linn County Historical Society. As chairman of the Historic Brucemore Committee, he initiated the first meeting of the Urban Forum for Historic Preservation and Urban Design. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Linn County HPC and directed the first comprehensive countywide historic preservation



plan. On the state level, Dr. Thomas was the first chairman of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Appointed by Governor Robert D. Ray to be the chairperson of the Terrace Hill Authority, Dr. Thomas established the management policies and opening of Terrace Hill to the public. Nationally, Dick has served as Senior Historian and Chief of Chaplains, and Director of the Oral History Program at the headquarters of the United States Air Force.

Community Effort Award: Washington Neighborhood Association, Dubuque, Dubuque County

The Community Effort Award is a new category this year, recognizing a community's concerted and comprehensive effort to preserve a historic structure, district, or cultural resource.

The Washington Revitalize! Initiative, developed in October 2004, created a 16-point strategy to address the neighborhood and preserve its historic assets. Since this effort began, the neighborhood has accomplished quite a bit, including: the creation of a neighborhood association, rehabilitation of the Dubuque Casket Company building (recipient of a 2008 Preservation at its Best Award), creation of a low-interest mortgage program for home ownership, creation of a lead paint removal program (recognized by DuPont with a best practices award), rehabilitation of numerous homes, and creation of the first alley streetlight program to promote public safety.

Like all community efforts, the Washington Revitalize! Initiative is not a finished project; rather, it's an ongoing effort that will continue to grow. It is refreshing to see a historic neighborhood that recognizes the social benefits of historic preservation!

August 2009

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Calendar of Events August 2009

Aug 19 (noon) • History for Lunch: William William's sketches of 1849. SHSI Centennial Building, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa. For more information, call 319-335-3911 or visit www.iowahistory.org.

Aug 20 (5:30 pm) - Architecture @ Hand Walk-

ing Tours. Heritage Art Gallery, 2nd and Court

Avenue, Des Moines. For more information: www.iowaarchfoundation.org.

Aug 22 (9:00 am) • The Brucemore Garden and Art Show. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information: www.brucemore.org.

Aug 25-26 2009 • Downtown Summit. Ames, Iowa. For more information: www.mainstreetiowa.org.

September 2009

Sep 1 • Deadline: National Trust for Historic Preservation's Dozen Distinctive Destinations. For more information: www.PreservationNation.org/ddd.

Sep 5 (1:00 pm) • 2009 Lecture Series: Graphic Design. ISU Design West, Sioux City, Iowa. For more information: www.design.iastate.edu.

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

Sep 19-20 • Ninth annual All-State Barn Tour. For more information: www.iowabarnfoundation.org.

Sep 19-20 and 26-27 • Doors to the Past: Annual Sherman Hill Walking Tour of Historic Homes. Sherman Hill Neighborhood, Des Moines, Iowa. For more information: www.historicshermanhill.com/walkingtour.html.

Sep 24-26 • 17th Annual West River History Conference. Alex Johnson Hotel, Rapid City, South Dakota. For more information, contact Shebby Lee at (605) 343-4852 or wrhc@shebbyleetours.com.

October 2009

Oct 2-3 • Iowa Country School Preservation Conference. Heartland Acres Agribition Center, 2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence, Iowa. For more information: www.iowapreservation.org/schools.php.

Oct 13-17 • National Preservation Conference. Nashville, Tennessee. For more information: www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/.

Oct 24 (1:00 pm) • 2009 Lecture Series: Community and Regional Planning. ISU Design West, Sioux City, Iowa. For more information: www.design.iastate.edu.

November 2009

Nov 14 (1:00 pm) • 2009 Lecture Series: Landscape Architecture. ISU Design West, Sioux City, Iowa. For more information: www.design.iastate.edu.

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

AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America Continued from Page 3

Volunteers come away with a deeper appreciation for the work they have done because they have learned something more about the properties they worked on and know that history will be saved. In one instance, volunteers on a mission trip were gutting a small house on 3rd Street SE. As the volunteers worked, they began noticing the house possessed unique characteristics such as twenty-inch gaps between ceiling joists, a second floor attic with a shadow of the former staircase leading up to it, and walls that were a combination of brick, mortar, and wood. While checking on the work at the house, IHPA's Rod Scott stopped and informed the crew that they may be working on one of the oldest houses in Cedar Rapids. The revelation that the house may have been built in the 1850s made the volunteers stop and think about the history of the place, who may have lived there before, how many people were in the family, and where the bathroom was. You can't learn that sort of stuff in school! It deepened their appreciation in the work they had done and, as a result, established a stronger connection to the community.

From lessons on wood recovery, to referrals of projects to work on, to being able to see history in our work, the partnership we have created with the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance has given us a new appreciation and understanding of the work we do mucking, gutting, and rebuilding houses in Cedar Rapids. The history of this city is what makes it such a vibrant and interesting place. I am glad we are able to view floodaffected properties as still possessing worth and not as something that should be demolished, because you never know what you're going to find behind those walls.

Contributed by Jimmy Kelly, AmeriCorps VISTA

County Endowment Fund Program

Preservation Projects Among Those Eligible for Grants

The County Endowment Fund Program was authorized by the Legislature in 2004 to provide a percentage of the state's gaming tax revenue to support a broad range of projects including those related to the arts, culture, historic preservation, and education. This program is available in the 85 counties that do not have any gaming facilities.

Local or regional community foundations administer the County Endowment Fund Program. Application deadlines and rules vary from county to county. Since the program's inception, more than \$21 million has been granted to charitable projects.

For a list of local and regional foundations participating in the County Endowment Fund Program go to www.iowacounciloffoundations.org/county-endow-table.htm. You can also contact Angela Dethlefs-Trettin at the Iowa Council of Foundations office in Des Moines (515.537.6956; adtrettin@iowacounciloffoundations.org).

IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN IHPA FOR 2009, NOW IS THE TIME! MEMBERS WHO HAVEN'T RENEWED THIS YEAR WILL NOT RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS AFTER JANUARY 1, 2010! SIMPLY SEND IN THE FORM ON THE RIGHT WITH YOUR CHECK.

Those of our many 2009 members who would like to be ahead of the game can renew for 2010 now.



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
- \Box communications committee
- □ membership committee
- □ fundraising committee
- \Box advocacy committee

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
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Phone (am):
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Return to:

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Celebrating 10 Years of Country School Preservation! IHPA Country School Conference to be Held October 2 - 3, 2009, in Independence

The 10th annual country school preservation conference will be held October 2-3 at the Heartland Acres Agribition Center in Independence, Iowa. On Friday, October 2, several speakers will discuss issues related to country school preservation, programming, and rural tourism. Keynote speaker Leidulf Mydland of the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research will discuss efforts he has undertaken to preserve one-room schools in Norway.

Participants will tour the Heartland Acres Agribition Center museum facility and visit the Wapsipinicon Mill, the Little Red Schoolhouse Antique shop, and one of the few remaining WPA murals in Iowa. The cost of Friday's sessions and activities is \$30, which includes a noon luncheon and materials, as well as the tours.

On Saturday, participants will have an opportunity to tour preserved country school museums, Amish schools, and stores. The tour will conclude with a lunch and wine-tasting event at the Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast. Cost of the Saturday tour program is \$15.

The 10th Annual Country School Conference is sponsored by the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, the Eastern Iowa Tourism Office, Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area, and the Buchanan County Historical Society. For additional information and to download the registration



Participants at the 9th Annual Country School Conference in 2008 tour Taylor No. 4 School in Marshall County. Photo courtesy Susan Fineman of the Country School Association of America.

form, visit www.iowapreservation.org/schools.php or contact Bill Sherman at wsherman@gmail.com or 1-800-434-2039.