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Disaster Recovery and Tax Credits

Preservation Incentives Alleviate Devastation

A record flood in the Midwest in 2008 caused considerable damage in many downtown areas. Historically Midwest towns formed near river crossings for good practical reasons ... and suffered the consequences over the decades in terms of periodic flooding. Modern flood control mechanisms and strategies have helped alleviate the worst of the problem in most years, but these "river towns" are still vulnerable and in search of recovery assistance when the rivers periodically win the ongoing battle. Among the more powerful tools we now have to help with recovery are the federal and



Waterloo's Rath Administration Building will receive disaster recovery tax credits.

state historic preservation tax credit programs.

Those with an interest in preserving our history have long

Continued on page 7.

Meet the Board of Directors

New Board Members Join as Preservation Iowa Flourishes

Over the last few years, Preservation Iowa's Board of Directors has been working tirelessly to build Iowa's premier statewide nonprofit preservation organization and to preserve Iowa's historic resources. In that time, the Board has renamed and rebranded the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance and has taken on a more active advocacy role in local, state, and national preservation efforts.

"So, who are the Board of Directors?" you ask. We thought

you'd like to get to know them, too. Here are the individuals serving on the Board of Directors:

♦ **Rod Scott, President.** Rod has served on the board for a number of years and heads up the Barns and Farmsteads initiative. Rod is very active in advocating for Federal and State legislation that promotes sustainable rehabilitation of historic structures, especially those damaged by flooding in 2008.

Continued on page 7.



Board of Directors

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Cedar Rapids

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Ankeny

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Spencer

Martha Hayes, Treasurer
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Barbara Mitchell, State
Historical Society of Iowa, Des
Moines

Jennifer Sandy, National Trust
for Historic Preservation,
Chicago

Dan Tindall, Iowa Advisor to
the National Trust, Grinnell

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President's Corner

News from Rod Scott

Hello Iowa preservationists. May is Preservation Month in America and let us celebrate by recognizing the great work people all over the state are accomplishing by rehabilitating and revitalizing their communities. In this issue we review the ongoing 2008 flood disaster recovery by examining the benefits of the historic rehabilitation income tax credits program on projects in Waterloo.

We are now done with the legislative session and have good news, cautionary news, and bad news from the session. The good news is that the state historic tax credit program has been saved, which only had a small reduction of the yearly allocation as a budget-tightening measure. We again worked with a broad coalition of organizations to achieve this positive outcome. Both the transferability and refundability of the credits have been retained, which are essential components of the program for developers and owners of flood-damaged buildings trying to rehabilitate and revitalize our communities. Please take a moment to consider an additional charitable gift to Preservation Iowa to assist us in completing our fundraising goals for professional lobbying services.

The cautionary news from this year's legislative session is the results of the passing of a last-minute piece of legislation, which has been signed into law and is examined more closely in an article inside this issue. The bad news from this session is the loss of the Historic Sites Preservation Grant fund, which would have resulted in over \$2 million dollars in historic preservation work on historic sites in Iowa. Preservation Iowa is dedicated to getting this money back next year.

The annual Main Street awards event 2010 was a big success with over 400 attendees celebrating great historic building rehabilitations and community revitalization efforts. I attended this year's event and had great conversations with many community and Main Street leaders. The "Downtown Summit" will be in late August this year. Our Preservation Iowa "Preservation at its Best" awards will be held in Clinton the 20th of May and the annual Country School conference will be held October 8-9 in Maquoketa.

We are very pleased to announce that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has awarded three Iowa historic properties planning grants. The buildings are the Davis County Courthouse, The Stockman House in Mason City and the Trinity United Methodist Church in Des Moines. The mid-west office of the Trust was the awarding entity. Thanks to the National Trust for Historic Preservation!

In this issue we take a look at the Preservation Iowa Board of Directors who are donating a few years and their many talents to leading the organization. Please consider how you might volunteer a few hours of time on one of our committees. Contact me if you are interested at: rod.scott@mchsi.com. And finally check out the local preservation organization in Des Moines known as the rehabbers club. They are doing some great stuff in the capital city.

Spring is here, preservation projects are in full swing. Let us all get involved in preservation projects that make a positive difference in our communities by preserving our irreplaceable historic resources. Until next time.

Partner's Page

Rehabbers Club Promotes Renovation in Des Moines

In the midst of a renovation project, owners often gripe that they were crazy to embark on the journey. Indeed, it is easy to get sick of breathing drywall dust and doing dishes in the bathroom sink! To combat this, Des Moines renovation advocates have banded together in a “support group” of sorts to promote renovation, preservation and maintenance of Des Moines’ historic buildings. The goal of the two-year-old “Des Moines Rehabbers Club” (DSMRC) is to provide information and encouragement to anyone who loves old buildings through a variety of educational events and activist initiatives.

The club gathers at monthly meetings to trade ideas and see ongoing renovation projects in progress. Each meeting has a different focus and is held in a different location. Meetings have included a variety of topics such as a how-to workshop on repairing a plaster crack, “works-in-progress” tours, and researching your home’s history using publicly available resources. Typically between 12 and 25 people attend the free meetings.

The DSMRC web site at RenovateDSM.com serves as a public resource with renovation information specifically targeted to Des Moines. There is also an email discussion group where DSMRC members can post contractor referrals, ask for project advice, and discuss renovation in general.

One of the group’s key projects is an annual “Most Endangered” list. The most recent incarnation resulted from a public voting process where almost 800 votes narrowed the full nomination list of 13 buildings down to 7 finalists. The finalists included a former railroad depot, the historic North Des Moines town hall building, several abandoned homes, and a neighborhood hardware store. Also on the list was the former Governor Jackson house, recently promoted to the Preservation Iowa Most Endangered Buildings list. Owners have stepped up to move towards saving at least three of the past year’s endangered buildings—a good success rate!

Future plans for the club include a city-wide house tour of renovations and a classroom series on how to renovate a house. For more information on starting your own “Rehabbers Club” contact Steve Wilke-Shapiro at steve@renovateDSM.com or 515-710-3484.

Corrections to 2009 Donor List

A few errors and omissions were discovered in the 2009 Donor List after the Winter 2010 issue of *The Iowa Preservationist* went to print. The following individuals were inadvertently omitted from the Front Porch level (\$50 to \$99):

- ◆ Marcia Hogan, Williamsburg
- ◆ Heidi Hohmann, Ames

The following names were misspelled:

- ◆ Edith Jordan, Fairfield
- ◆ Lyle Otte, Decorah HPC

We apologize for these errors. If you believe your name was omitted or found other errors in the 2009 Donor List, please contact our membership committee at membership@PreservationIowa.org. Thank you!

National Register Actions

Captain Daniel S. and Fannie L. (Brooks) Lee House, Independence, Buchanan County. Listed January 7, 2010.

Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, near Tipton, Cedar County. Listed February 3, 2010.

Sacred Heart Hospital, LeMars, Plymouth County. Listed February 3, 2010.

Spencer High School and Auditorium, Spencer, Clay County. Listed February 12, 2010.

J. W. Garner Building, Ottumwa, Wapello County. Listed February 12, 2010.

Mini-Wakan State Park Historic District, near Spirit Lake, Dickinson County. Listed February 17, 2010.

Chariton Cemetery Historic District, Chariton, Lucas County. Listed March 2, 2010.

Roosevelt School, Ames, Story County. Listed March 2, 2010.

Roshek Brothers Department Store, Dubuque, Dubuque County. Listed March 17, 2010.

Brown Apartments, Cedar Rapids, Linn County. Listed March 17, 2010.

Schmitt and Henry Manufacturing Company, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed March 17, 2010.

Yunker Brothers Department Store, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed March 17, 2010.

Preservation Planning Grants Start Projects on the Right Path

Iowa Projects Receive Grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

What do a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house, an early 20th century neighborhood church, and an Italianate-style courthouse have in common? They have each been awarded Preservation Funds from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2010!

This year, the National Trust awarded \$85 million in Preservation Funds to projects in cities, towns, and rural areas all over the United States. The grants available in Iowa are primarily for preservation planning and educational projects, like hiring an architect to do a feasibility study to determine if a building can be saved, developing a walking tour brochure or website, or creating a Historic Structure Report to document the history of a building, outline recommended treatments, and estimate the cost of the work.

Planning is a critical step for any preservation project. While it may seem like an unnecessary expense, careful planning will nearly always save time and money later on and may prevent costly mistakes. That's why the National Trust offers grants to help with preservation planning. We know from firsthand experience that the most successful projects have taken the time and effort to plan properly, whether it's through a feasibility study, a Historic Structure Report, or a fundraising plan for a capital campaign.

One of our newest grant funds, the Jeffris Heartland Fund, was established with just this thought in mind. With larger preservation projects or buildings with a higher



The Davis County Courthouse in Bloomfield (upper left) will have a Historic Structure Report prepared and the Stockman House, a Frank Lloyd Wright design in Mason City, will receive a grant for developing a stucco restoration plan. Photos courtesy Harold Leifer and Bob McCoy.

level of significance, a Historic Structure Report is the gold standard of preservation planning, but many groups with limited resources are tempted to dive right into rehabilitation without completing this important step. The Jeffris Heartland Fund supports creation of Historic Structure Reports and other advanced planning studies, prioritizing properties that are individually listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places with at least state level significance.

This year, the Midwest Office was pleased to award \$35,000 from the Jeffris Heartland Fund to the

Davis County Courthouse Preservation Fund (DCCPF) in Bloomfield. The grant funds will support creation of a Historic Structure Report to guide the DCCPF and the Davis County Board of Supervisors to plan strategically for the restoration of this community landmark, built in 1877 and graced by a tin façade clock tower steeple and Lady of Justice statue.

We also awarded two more planning grants in Iowa, thanks to the Dr. Frank Henry Landes Preservation Fund. In Mason City, the Wright-designed Stockman House will use their \$2,000 for a stucco restoration

Continued, next page.

Iowa's Federal Preservation Funding at Risk

Governor Signs Bill with 11th Hour Amendment Affecting SHPO

Governor Culver has signed the annual appropriations bill that included an "11th hour" amendment HF2531 that might put Iowa's federal funding for our State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in danger. The bill says basically that the SHPO office must be "no more restrictive than the Federal Agency" in its recommendations for section 106 reviews of projects. This is the first known legislation of this type to limit the involvement of the Iowa SHPO office in federal project undertakings in America since the National Historic Preservation Act was implemented over 30 years ago.

National Trust

(Continued from Page 4)

plan, and in Des Moines, we awarded \$1,900 to the Trinity United Methodist Church for development of a preservation plan for their 1910 church building in the River Bend Historic District.

The grant funds administered by the Midwest Office range from \$1,000 to \$50,000 and require a one-to-one cash match. Jeffris Heartland Fund grant applications are due June 1, and our other grant funds have a deadline of February 1, 2011. For more information about our grants, visit www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/nonprofit-public-funding.html or contact Jennifer Sandy, Iowa Program Officer, at jennifer_sandy@nthp.org or 312-939-5547.

Contributed by Jennifer Sandy

First, let's review the reason our nation's SHPOs are involved with review of federal undertakings. When the federal highway projects started to tear into the historic core of our communities, destroying and isolating neighborhoods and downtowns for the purpose of feeding the urban suburb and industrial expansion in the 1940s and 50s, America demanded that federal projects receive an environmental and cultural review as to the effects of the projects and if needed compensation to the communities for the loss of or adverse effects to historic structures.

The Historic Preservation Act, section 106 states that all federal undertakings must receive a review as to the effects of the project on known and potential historic properties. The Iowa SHPO office documents these studies and has a role in advising the federal project as to potential alternatives to any adverse effects. This advisory role balances the potential for altered findings of the federal project reviews, since the consultants are hired by the federal agency. The key to success of this advisory position is the timeliness of the review so that alternatives and/or mitigation/compensation for adverse effects can be negotiated without delaying the project.

Our SHPO has an excellent time record of response/comments for federal projects reviewed. We have one of the shortest turnaround times in the nation. Several federal agencies have what is called a "programmatic agreement" with our SHPO and that agreement

streamlines the process for project review. The USDA has a programmatic agreement with our SHPO, but it doesn't cover rural electric service, which is where the Rural Electric Cooperatives operate. The agency has for the last several years made attempts to negotiate with our SHPO but has broken off the negotiations. Now we have this last minute legislation introduced by the legislature and passed in the 11th hour, without any sort of input from the public and or much debate as it was attached as an amendment to the standings appropriations bill passed the last of the session. The legislation was primarily driven by the rural utilities association, an organization that is well funded and influential.

Preservation Iowa and other nonprofit resources organizations as well as others advised the Governor to line item veto the legislation and request that the Department of Cultural Affairs, USDA and the Rural Utilities Association come together and reconcile differences and come to the same programmatic agreement that other federal departments have. We are now in uncharted territory as to the effect this will have on federal funding for our SHPO office and the vagueness of the language effect on the way the process results in advising federal projects about the potential adverse effects to historic resources. We will keep you informed about the unfolding process to evaluate the effects of this legislation and how it affects our irreplaceable historic resources in Iowa.

Disaster Recovery and Tax Credits

(Continued from Page 1)

known that economic assistance directed specifically at reuse and preservation of older structures is required, even when there is no flooding, to keep those buildings in service and prevent their demolition. The cruel hand of economics, urban sprawl, poor city planning, and “modern” building code disincentives have done significant damage to our historic building inventories. Flooding, which often occurs in downtown areas in river towns, adds significantly to the difficulties of keeping our history. The great Midwest floods of 2008 proved this again.

The floods, which came in earnest in June of that year, damaged many, many historic structures in our town of Waterloo, Iowa. Even after the water went down, the area was still by the river and everyone now had doubts about locating or investing in downtown. It looked like even more historical buildings were going to be lost. Just cleaning up the mess would cost huge sums of money and what tenant would now seriously consider downtown historic buildings as future locations? What bank would lend money into an area with so many problems?

Even saying all this, it turned out that Waterloo was somewhat lucky: our dikes held and the physical damage was repairable. We did have to overcome the economic damage and keep the wrecking ball away from our historic buildings. The State of Iowa was fairly quick (other communities down river had even greater damage) to implement state-



The Fowler Building in downtown Waterloo was rehabilitated using historic preservation tax credits. Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Iowa.

based programs to get funds out to local governments and help handle the immediate cleanup. Later, a program of “rental assistance” helped landlords tempt tenants to locate downtown and stay downtown during cleanup and repairs. Business was definitely not “as usual” in our downtown while the cleanup and repairs were underway and lots of help was needed to keep tenants here and try to fill empty storefronts and upper floors. To stabilize and repair historic structures would take longer and require major investments. This is where the historic tax credit programs—both state and federal—were and are essential. Developers put the programs to work quickly.

The State of Iowa income tax credit program had been adequately funded for the first time ever that spring, with a special category for disaster recovery funded the spring of 2009. Waterloo developers submitted

a total of almost 20 applications for historic building rehabilitations in 2008 and 2009. Investment money was hard to find (we were also in the middle of the recession) but some banks and some tax credit investors stepped up and made it possible for a number of projects to move forward.

The Federal rehabilitation income tax credit program boost from 20% to 26%, mirroring the gulf coast “go zone” credit after Hurricane Katrina helped make the projects be more viable economically.

The total value of Waterloo historic building disaster recovery projects so far is over \$13 million. These projects will improve building energy efficiencies, employ contractor trades, and upon completion provide revitalized living and business spaces. What an ideal way to come back after such a horrific disaster.

Contributed by JSA Development, Waterloo

Meet the Preservation Iowa Board

(Continued from Page 1)

♦ **Michael Wagler, Vice**

President. Michael came on the board in 2006 and has 14 years of downtown revitalization experience. As a design consultant with Main Street Iowa, he helps guide preservation at a local level in Iowa's 46 Main Street districts.

♦ **Martha Hayes, Treasurer.**

Martha is a charter member of Preservation Iowa and has served as the treasurer since 1992. A resident of Mount Pleasant, she serves on the local historic preservation commission and is working to set up a county museum. She is also a dedicated volunteer to the local Theatre Museum.

♦ **Sheriffa Jones, Secretary.**

Sheriffa joined the board in 2007 and has served as the secretary for about two years. Her background is in historic preservation and community and economic development. She has worked in those areas for ten years. Currently, she works at the Iowa Lakes Resource Conservation & Development office in Spencer.

♦ **Jim Boyt.** Jim has been actively involved with historic preservation in Des Moines' East Village for many years. He worked to save many of the neighborhood's landmark structures that have helped maintain the East Village's historic integrity.

♦ **Laura Carstens.** Laura is a Planning Services Manager for the City of Dubuque assisting with administration of the city's historic preservation planning and

regulations. She joined the Preservation Iowa board in 2009.

♦ **Steve Frevert.** A longtime preservationist, Steve joined the board in 2010. He has served on many local boards including Past President of the Heritage Trust, historic preservation commission, and the Des Moines County Historical Society. Steve is also the executive director of Downtown Partners, Burlington's local Main Street program.

♦ **Naura Heiman Godar.** Naura moved to Des Moines in 2006 and joined the board in 2008. She first experienced Preservation Iowa through the Hollywood in the Heartland initiative. Naura is a project architect at StruXture architects in West Des Moines, has a love of the built environment and the preservation of Iowa's historic treasures.

♦ **Nathan Kalaher.** One of the most recent additions to the board, Nathan is a partner with M+ Architects in Sioux City. Nathan's work has been published both regionally and nationally in various design publications including *Iowa Architect* and *Metropolis Magazine*. He is also involved in several area boards and committees.

♦ **Jesse Phelps.** Jess has been on the board since early 2010, and is an attorney with Faegre & Benson LLP in Des Moines, Iowa. Prior to joining Faegre & Benson, Jess interned with the State Historical Society of Iowa performing background research on legal issues



Preservation Iowa Board of Directors work with Alan Levy of Goaltrac to create a strategic workplan for 2010.

related to historic preservation. He has a continuing interest in the area.

♦ **Bill Sherman.** Bill joined the board in 2000. He works each year to coordinate Preservation Iowa's annual Country School Preservation Conference. Bill also helped found the Country School Association of America, a national advocacy group working for the preservation of the one and two-room schools, their history, and programs.

♦ **George Wakeman.** George has been on the board since 1998. He lives in Sioux City, where he has restored a number of large historic homes and is active with the local and state historic preservation offices.

If you are interested in serving on the Preservation Iowa Board of Directors, or in volunteering for Preservation Iowa, contact us at info@PreservationIowa.org.

May 2010

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Calendar of Events

May 2010 • May is Preservation Month!

May 20-21 • Historic Tax Credit and National Register Workshop. Ericksen Community Center, 1401 11th Avenue North, Clinton, Iowa. For more information, contact Kathy Gourley at 515-281-3989 or kathy.gourley@iowa.gov.

May 22-23 • Dubuque Old House Enthusiasts' 24th Annual Tour of Homes, Dubuque, Iowa. For more information: dbqohe.org.

May 25, 27, and 29 • Bruce more: Historic Landscape Tour. Bruce more, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information: www.bruce more.org.

June 2010

Jun 3 • S.O.S. Save Our Stuff! Workshop, Des Moines. For More information: web.grinnell.edu/individuals/stuhrr/icpc/.

Jun 10-12 • National Barn Conference, Atchison, Kansas. For more information: www.kansasbarnalliance.org.

Jun 12-13 • Southwest Iowa Barn Tour, Southwest Iowa. For more information: www.iowabarnfoundation.org.

Jun 14-18 • Exploremore—Can you dig it? Bruce more, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information: www.bruce more.org.

Jun 21-23 • 10th Annual Country School Association of America Conference. The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha, Oklahoma. For more information: www.countryschoolassociation.org.

July 2010

Jul 7-8 • Section 106 Essentials. Intercontinental Hotel, 401 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Kansas. For more information: www.achp.gov/106essentials.html.

Jul 29 - Aug 1 • 2010 National Commission Forum. For more information: www.uga.edu/napc/programs/napc/forum.htm.

August 2010

Aug 12-22 • Iowa State Fair. Iowa State Fair Grounds, Des Moines, Iowa. For more information: www.iowastatefair.org.

Aug 24-25 • Iowa Downtown Summit, Davenport, Iowa. For more information, contact Debi Flanders at 515.725.3055, Debi.Flanders@iowa.gov.

Submit your event to
events@preservationiowa.org
for publication online and in
The Iowa Preservationist.

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2010
OCTOBER 27-30
AUSTIN
NEXT AMERICAN CITY
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Most Endangered Properties Update

(Continued from Back Cover)

endowments for both the Gull Point and Mini-Wakan shelter houses. The shelter at Gull Point State Park at West Lake Okoboji was also built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. The endowments will be used for necessary upkeep and repairs to both structures.

Because the DNR is unable to contribute the entire \$1 million needed to accomplish the refurbishment, local and summer residents have been asked to assist with fundraising. This effort is well underway. In 2008, a \$100,000 grant from the Okoboji Foundation and a \$5,600 grant from the Dickinson County Endowment Fund were received.

The SLPA's Historic Site Preservation Grant (HSPG) application for \$100,000 was approved for full funding in 2010, according to Kristen Vander Molen, Grants Manager at the State Historical Society of Iowa. The SLPA's submission was one of 31 applications requesting over \$2.4 million during this annual grant cycle.

A number of fundraising events have been held over the last few years. At the 75th Anniversary celebration of Mini-Wakan State Park on August 12, 2009, approximately 100 attendees pledged or gifted \$26,000 to the restoration effort. Grand Ole Opry-style music revues have also been well-received and supported by the public. The first "Opry at the Sami" was held January 24, 2009 in the 1000-seat Sami Bedell Center for the Performing Arts in Spirit Lake, Iowa. It raised approximately \$12,000. The "Opry at the Sami 2" was held on January 23, 2010, and tallied another \$7,000 in spite of a blizzard and ice storm that weekend. The Mini-Wakan Committee is planning to hold "Opry at the Sami 3" in January 2011.

Fundraising continues throughout 2010. In June, a Mini-Wakan-Athon fun run and walk will be held at Templar Park on the west side of Big Spirit Lake. Mini-Wakan Committee members will staff a rest stop at Mini-Wakan State Park during the annual Bike Ride Around Spirit Lake (BRASL) on July 10. In return for the committee's work at the refreshment stand, BRASL sponsor Spirit Lake Mainsail will make a donation to the Mini-Wakan project. On July 31, Twetten's Interiors of Spirit Lake is sponsoring a Parade of Homes. Tickets priced at \$10 per person will allow participants to visit homes in the Iowa Great Lakes area. And, on August 29, a fundraising brunch will take place at the Gull Point State Park shelter house. At this event there will be an auction of original works of art depicting Mini-Wakan, Gull Point, and other Iowa Great Lakes area sites. Lakes memorabilia also will be offered for sale.

More information on the Mini-Wakan project may be obtained at the Spirit Lake Protective Association website, www.miniwakan.theslpa.org.



Become a Member!

Help us preserve Iowa's historic resources by renewing your membership to Preservation Iowa or by becoming a Preservation Iowa 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:

- ☐ \$20 – Door (*Students*)
- ☐ \$30 – Pendant (*Individuals*)
- ☐ \$50 – Front Porch (*Families & Organizations*)
- ☐ \$100 – Cornice (*Businesses & Consultants*)
- ☐ \$500 – Cornerstone
- ☐ \$1000 – Schoolhouse
- ☐ \$5000 – Skyscraper

I am interested in:

- ☐ Getting more involved with Preservation Iowa.
- ☐ Planned giving

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone (am): _____

Phone (pm): _____

Email: _____

Return with check to:

P.O. Box 814

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Or, join online at

www.PreservationIowa.org



Preservation Iowa

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Most Endangered Properties Update

Fundraising for Mini-Wakan Shelter House Preservation Underway!

Earlier this year, Preservation Iowa named the historic Mini-Wakan shelter house one of Iowa's Most Endangered Properties. A committee of Big Spirit Lake residents is spearheading a campaign to rebuild and renovate the historic building before it disintegrates into a pile of rubble. Work to list the shelter house and the entire 11-acre Mini-Wakan State Park on the National Register of Historic Places began in 2007 and came to a successful conclusion when the park was listed in February 2010.

At the suggestion of Kevin Szcodronski, Chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources State Parks Division, the Spirit Lake Protective Association (SLPA) created the Mini-Wakan Committee in 2007 to determine whether to renovate or replace the shelter house. The committee decided to create a more functional Mini-Wakan shelter by saving and renovating the existing structure. When the project is complete, the Mini-Wakan shelter will be available to reserve for special functions, such as weddings and reunions, from April to October. The renovated shelter will contain a kitchen and catering area located between two meeting rooms and will also have parking



Located at Mini-Wakan State Park on the north shore of Big Spirit Lake in Dickinson County, the shelter house was erected in a rustic stone and beam style by Company 778 of the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934 in the midst of the Great Depression. Photo courtesy Sheriffa Jones.

access to the kitchen for caterers, indoor restrooms, one roofed picnic patio, an outdoor patio over which a tent can be erected, and an all-weather, year-round vault latrine.

It is expected \$1 million will be necessary for the restoration and renovation of Mini-Wakan. This includes funds for

Continued on page 9.