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Preservationists Gather in Red Oak

New Slate of Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

Preservation Iowa again sponsored Iowa's statewide historic preservation conference, held September 17-18, 2010. This year's hosts in Red Oak did not disappoint. With financial assistance from the State Historic Preservation Office's Certified Local Government (CLG) grant program and locally sponsored by the Red Oak Historic Preservation Commission, Montgomery County Historical Society, and many local business sponsors, the conference was developed and guided by Vintage Red Oak, a local committee created to help promote the community and conference. The conference also included two major event sponsors in Morrissey Engineering and Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, both



Jim Hoskinson readies attendees for a fun-filled day at the Statewide Preservation Conference in Red Oak.

of Omaha, who also provided educational resources during the conference.

Vintage Red Oak, lead by Jim Hoskinson and in cooperation with
Continued on page 6.

PI Recognized as a Statewide Partner!

A very exciting announcement was made at the 2010 National Trust Conference in Austin, Texas. Preservation Iowa has officially been recognized as the National Trust for Historic Preservation's newest Statewide and Local Partner!

Our board of directors has been working diligently for the past two years to make this formal recognition possible and is very proud to be included in this coalition of over 100

nonprofit preservation organizations from across the country.

Created in 1993, the Statewide and Local Partner program helps emerging and established state and local nonprofit preservation organizations become more effective. The program provides organizational development assistance, grant support, specialized workshops and training, information resources, and networking opportunities.



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

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President’s Corner

News from Naura Heiman Godar

I am Naura Heiman Godar, the new President of Preservation Iowa. Thank you for allowing me to serve for you during this exciting time for Preservation Iowa. I am the daughter of educators: Dennis and Lou Heiman of Mediapolis. Both my parents work in historic schools; my mom at Jefferson Elementary (1851) in Muscatine and my father at Mediapolis High School (1913). My sister Jenny is the owner and operator of the Grimes Superstars dance studio. My husband Ben, a writer and filmmaker, is the son of Mark and Donna Godar of Grinnell (home to Louis Sullivan’s Merchants’ National Bank 1914). We live in a historic 1939 Cape Cod in the Beavertdale neighborhood of Des Moines, with our three-year-old son, Henry. I am a project architect at StruXture architects of West Des Moines and Waterloo and a preservation enthusiast.



I first became involved with historic preservation after attending a Los Angeles Conservancy (LAC) walking tour through Downtown Los Angeles. It was amazing to see the historic structures nestled between skyscrapers. I was fascinated hearing the stories of how LA had grown and changed in the decades since those structures were originally built. Soon I joined the Historic Theaters Committee of the LAC and served as the Vice President until my husband and I decided to move back to Iowa. I became involved with Preservation Iowa almost immediately after moving back to the state of Iowa in 2006. The emphasis on the preservation of Iowa’s historic resources was right at the heart of an organization I wanted to be associated with. Furthermore, the understanding that partnerships were needed to accomplish enhancing our economic and cultural future convinced me I had found my volunteering home.

Historic Preservation is not just about architecture. Historic Preservation is about saving the craft of builders, the culture from a bygone era, and the history of our community. We as Iowans owe it to the Iowans of the future to preserve our cultural heritage. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but the ability to visit the actual building is immeasurable.

Consider this your call to action. Look around your neighborhood and see if there are buildings worthy of preservation. Get involved with your local preservation organization. Encourage your local government to make preservation a priority.

Here is your warning, members of Preservation Iowa: 2011 is going to be a big year. We need volunteers to help write articles for this newsletter, to serve on event committees, and help lobby our elected officials at Cultural Advocacy Day and beyond. Contact volunteer@preservationiowa.org and please fill out our membership survey (www.surveymonkey.com/s/preservationiowa) to help better serve you, your communities, and all of Iowa.

Partner's Page

Organizing Around Preservation and Renovation

Groups pursue three primary strategies to promote preservation to the broader community: activism, education, and organizing. Activism seeks attention or calls the community to action around specific issues. Education activities spread accurate information from an authoritative source. Organizing, the topic of this article, builds bottom-up support by making connections between people with a common interest.

The Des Moines Rehabbers Club

An example of organizing is the Des Moines Rehabbers Club. The DSMRC is essentially an affiliation of people with a common interest in renovation, preservation, and maintenance of old buildings in Des Moines. There are three main components to the organization: monthly meetings, a web site, and an email group.

Monthly meetings are held at a different location each month. Past topics have included skill-based workshops on reglazing a window sash and repairing a plaster crack. Other months we have "work-in-progress" tours where homeowners will open up their homes to the group and talk about their ongoing projects. The monthly meetings are a great place for people to connect with other renovators. An astounding 65 people showed up to the first meeting! Most draw between 15 and 20 people.

The web site (renovatedsm.com) serves as a clearinghouse for information about renovation in general, local related events, relevant breaking news, and a contractor referral database. Members are encouraged to add to the information on the website by recommending contractors and commenting on articles. The email group, with around 170 members, provides a forum for discussion, advice, support, and commiseration.

Drake Neighborhood Historic Survey

The ongoing Drake Neighborhood Historic Survey is a second example of utilizing historic preservation as a tool for organizing. The Drake neighborhood is a large area developed primarily in the early 1900s around Drake University in Des Moines. This undertaking is more formal than the Rehabbers Club. The Drake Neighborhood, through the City of Des Moines, received \$30,000 in federal grants (a Certified Local Government grant and a Community Development Block Grant) to conduct a historic survey of the entire neighborhood. Because the neighborhood is so large, volunteers are being used to conduct portions of the research and documentation. This is not unheard of.

However, there are two unique elements in this survey. First, a large group of community volunteers is being organized to research and categorize primary-source information. Second, all of the photos, documents, historical records, property data, and historic information will be inputted into a searchable online database. The data points will be cross-linked and made available to the public for individual and scholarly research.

Continued on page 6.

National Register Actions

Iowa Commission for the Blind Building, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed July 1, 2010.

Osceola Masonic Block, Osceola, Clarke County. Listed July 6, 2010.

West Oak Forest Earthlodge Site, near Glenwood, Mills County. Listed June 11, 2010 (Archeological Resources of the Central Plains Tradition in the Loess Hills Region of Iowa MPS).

Kimball Village, near Westfield, Plymouth County. Listed June 11, 2010 (Archaeological Resources of Initial Variant of the Middle Missouri Tradition in Iowa MPS).

Liberty Building, Des Moines, Polk County. Listed July 22, 2010 (Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird in Iowa MPS).

Saint Irenaeus Church, Clinton, Clinton County. Listed September 3, 2010.

Member Highlight: Molly Myers Naumann & Scotney Fenton

Two Longtime Members Give Voice to Preservation Iowa Membership

In a new (and hopefully recurring) column, Preservation Iowa would like you to learn a little bit more about some of our members. If you know a member that should be highlighted, write and tell us why at membership@preservationiowa.org. In our inaugural column, we sat down with Molly Myers Naumann, a past Preservation Iowa board member and Scotney Fenton, AIA, a longtime member of Preservation Iowa.

Molly Myers Naumann

Molly is an active preservationist in Ottumwa. She has lived in all corners of the state, but has called Ottumwa home since 1979. In her 25 years working as a preservation consultant and architectural historian, she has written 125 nominations for the National Register. She has worked with nearly 20 Certified Local Governments on these nominations.

After decades of explaining the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation to clients, Molly decided to renovate a building of her own. She has spent the last several years getting hands-on experience reviving the historic property. Once used as a dry goods store, this double-sided storefront building is three stories tall and will soon house the United Way of Ottumwa as a tenant in part of the main floor.

Molly served on the Preservation Iowa board (then IHPA) and was the first board president of Ottumwa's Historic Preservation Commission. Molly is pleased with the growth of interest in historic preservation. Her experience tells us how important

education and training workshops are to the public at large. Preservation works much better bubbling up from individuals and local groups than as a top-down mandate. She still works on a few National Register nominations and would love to hear from you at mollynaumann@pcsia.net.

Scotney Fenton

Scotney was raised in Sioux City, home to the Woodbury County Courthouse. Now an architect with RDG Planning & Design in Des Moines, Scotney was influenced by the courthouse's architectural beauty and determined he would become an architect in elementary school. He has a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Iowa State University and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Ball State University. Involved with the National Trust for Historic Preservation since college, Scotney first joined Preservation Iowa (then IHPA) 19 years ago.

Professionally, Scotney focuses a majority of his time working on projects for Iowa's state capitol building. Fourteen years ago he began work on the capitol as an intern and he has progressed in responsibility over the years. Scotney's great grandfather also crafted buildings as a stone mason. Two of his buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places: the family house and a commercial property. Always the consummate preservationist, Scotney's first job was with the National Park Service in Topeka, Kansas, where he worked to



Molly Myers Naumann and Scotney Fenton are both avid preservationists and longtime members of Preservation Iowa.

nominate the elementary school from the legendary Brown vs. Board of Education to the National Register. In addition to his architectural work in preservation, Scotney is a historic preservation commissioner for the City of Des Moines.

Member Survey

Preservation Iowa is entering a new era. Please help us by completing our membership survey. We would love to hear your ideas and suggestions to make improvements!

With your feedback, we hope to find better ways to engage, retain, and recruit new members.

Take our online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/PreservationIowa.

2010 Country School Conference

11th Annual Conference Held in Maquoketa October 8 and 9, 2010

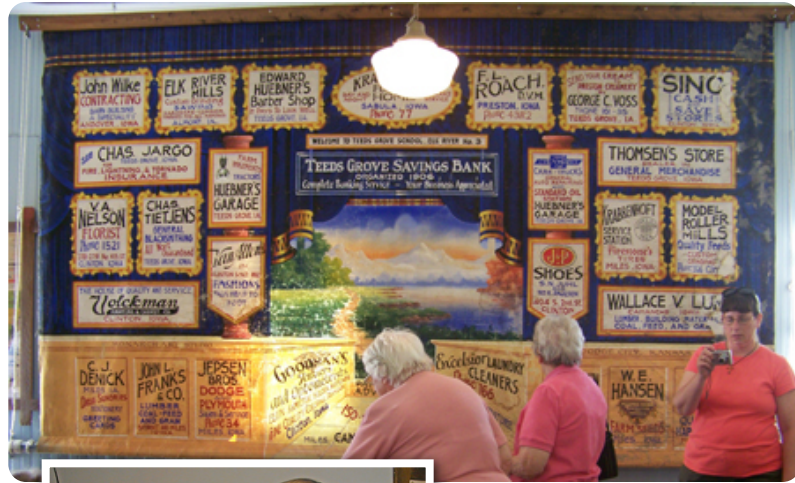
Maquoketa was America's country school preservation capital October 8-9, 2010. That's when ninety some adults met to exchange ideas on how to preserve and program restored one-room schools. The conference was the 11th organized by Preservation Iowa on country schools.

Some of the highlights included a recreation of a one-room school classroom featuring more than 200 school artifacts put together by Judy and Paul Moody from Mendon, Illinois, and a history of arithmetic education taught by a husband and wife team, Ken Clements and Nerida Ellerton, who have a one-room school in Australia but currently teach at Illinois State University.

Participants also had an opportunity to write with quill pens as part of a penmanship lesson taught by Sam Fiuorella, owner of a writing collectibles shop in Fort Madison.

On Saturday, a tour included stops at five restored country schools, a barn, and a church. One of the highlights was viewing a colorful country school stage curtain at the Elk River School in Miles. Another was eating lunch at Potter's Mill in Bellevue, a restored mill that includes a restaurant and four sleeping rooms.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's conference, which will be held at Southwestern Community College in Creston on October 7 and 8, 2011.



Photographs from the 2010 Country School Conference: Thresher's School and Curtain (top), Nerida Ellerton and Ken Clements (left), one-room schoolhouse display by Judy and Paul Moody (below), and conference attendees outside North Bend schoolhouse (bottom). Photos courtesy Don Wentworth and Bill Sherman.



Preservationists Gather in Red Oak

(continued from page 1)

the State Historic Preservation Office, presented a wonderful, diverse agenda, which included everything from the historic preservation basics to form based zoning and commercial revitalization to plaster, masonry, and woodwork repair.

Jacky Adams, former Preservation Iowa board member, past president, and longtime member, was recognized during the opening session by the Red Oak Historic Preservation Commission for Adams' continued dedication and devotion to historic preservation efforts in Red Oak. Congratulations, Jacky!

Keynote speaker, Steve Thomas of the Planet Green Television Network's *Renovation Nation* and past host of *This Old House*, provided a national perspective of "What Does It



Preservation Iowa Board in Red Oak (left to right: Rod Scott, Naura Heiman Godar, Martha Hayes, Michael Wagler, Sheriffa Jones, Jess Phelps, Bill Sherman, and Steve Frevert).

Means To Rehab Green." Thomas added a big name and Emmy award-winning personality to the conference sessions.

In addition to the conference, Preservation Iowa also held our 2010 Annual Meeting. We had a wonderful turnout of board members, board advisers, new

organizational members, and representatives from the State Historic Preservation Office. This year's meeting was held at the Firehouse Restaurant. Located in the historic Red Oak Fire Department, this adaptive use project was a fitting choice for the organization's annual meeting.

As a sign of the organization's growth, Naura Heiman Godar was elected Preservation Iowa's new board president. Sheriffa Jones-Vice President, Martha Hayes-Treasurer, and Jess Phelps-Secretary round out Preservation Iowa's incoming board officers. Naura and Sheriffa's ideas, energy, and leadership provide a great opportunity for Preservation Iowa to continue to grow, strengthen, and expand as an organization.

Partner's Page

(continued from page 3)

An extensive volunteer list was developed by capturing names at history-related neighborhood events such as a public "class" looking up a home's history using publicly available sources. The neighborhood also set up a booth to scan historic photos at the neighborhood house tour.

The Broad View

Many people understand the inherent value of old buildings, but

many do not. Using preservation as a tool for organizing builds a community of people who can be tapped for targeted activism and education activities. In a broader sense, an effectively organized preservation community forms the foundation for spreading knowledge about and respect for our shared historic built environment.

*Contributed by Steve Wilke-Shapiro
Des Moines Rehabbers Club*



Steve Thomas answers questions at the statewide historic preservation conference in Red Oak.

Most Endangered Update

(continued from page 12)

without tears and strife. Two churches were torn down, one was turned into a museum, and another is attached to the local parish school. St. Irenaeus was decommissioned and left as an orphan building with no future in sight. It was to be the next church demolished.

After two years of negotiations, the Clinton County Historical Society signed the necessary papers to have the building deeded over to them. The questions of what will we ever do with this massive, stone building swirl around us every time the name, St. Irenaeus, is mentioned. What are your plans? Our plan is simple, we took a historic building in the city of Clinton and are working to preserve it for the generations to come. We entered this journey with no preconceived ideas of what the end destination for St. Irenaeus will be except it will be saved.

The Clinton County Historical Society has mountains of hopes and dreams that we can make St. Irenaeus into a thriving, vibrant part

of the lives of the citizens of Clinton. What will it require? Everything!!! We started this venture with \$1 donated toward the St. Irenaeus project. We have arranged for St. Irenaeus to be a separate entity from the museum under the society board of directors until it can stand alone. We are proud to announce we have received word that St. Irenaeus has now been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As a determined band of senior citizens, we're plunging ahead into a financial void with our fingers crossed. We work every Saturday morning at St. Irenaeus and welcome visitors to come see what we've done and are working on. We hope they will join us in this exciting adventure!

Many thanks to Mary Ellen Eckelberg for allowing me to use her history of St. Irenaeus as I write about the Clinton County Historical Society's journey with this beautiful building.

*Contributed by Jan Hansen
Clinton County Historical Society*



Interior of St. Irenaeus Catholic Church and detail of leaded glass windows.

Recycling History

New Homes for School Items

Preservation Iowa recently helped recycle 3 important country school items. A 23-inch diameter tower bell was returned to Tama County to be used in Carroll #8, a school moved from a cornfield to Clutier. For the past 20 years the bell had been in the backyard of a family in Des Moines.

A swing set called the Ocean Wave has been relocated to Boone to be placed in the yard of the Cole School, which is being restored. For the past 20 years the swing set had been stored in a garage in North Central Iowa.

During the tour at the Iowa country school conference, a pull-down map of Iowa was found in an abandoned school. That map will be placed in a Jackson County school that is being restored.

If you know of items from a country school whose owners are willing to donate to a country school museum, please contact Bill Sherman at wsherman41@gmail.com or 1-800-434-2039.



Ocean Wave with family who donated it to Cole School in Boone.

The Clark Museum of Okoboji Area and Iowa History

A Family Legacy Lives on in Historic Buildings and Collections in Northwest Iowa

Have you ever met a walking, talking history book? We have in the person of Jerry Clark at the Clark Museum near Milford, Iowa.

Every summer we manage to camp a few days at Gull Point State Park on the shores of West Lake Okoboji. We come to see family in the area, go to Arnolds Park, eat a Nutty Bar, and admire Lake Okoboji. This summer we heard about the Clark Museum near Milford. We had a free day and decided we would go to the museum. My husband likes museums, but not as much as I do. So it was agreed that we would spend an hour or two there. We ended up spending the whole day and made many interesting discoveries.

The Clark Museum is located one mile west and one-half mile north of the Catholic Church in Milford. Upon arriving, we found a very pleasing scene. The museum sits on the front of the property. In the rear, there is a large farmhouse full of antiques for sale. An old-fashioned windmill stands in the yard. There are also several other buildings filled to the brim with collections of artifacts and signs from the lakes area and surrounding towns. Many are from Arnolds Park amusement park.

When we entered the museum, we looked at each other and wondered how we could see everything there in an hour or two. Jerry was talking to someone else when we entered, so we busied ourselves with looking at pictures of the old days. Jerry had done extensive research on the pictures and



*Jerry and Irene Clark in the Clark Museum of Okoboji Area and Iowa History, near Milford.
Photo courtesy Gary Arp.*

had written a caption under each one, so it was easy to browse on our own. However, Jerry soon came over to give us a tour.

He made it clear that he and his wife Irene are co-curators of the museum. Irene came out and visited with us also. They have always worked together on collecting, researching, and displaying the items they have acquired. Jerry retired several years ago after 49 years of operating Clarks Septic Tank Service. Irene was a homemaker and worked for the Milford School System for 7 years. Married in 1961, the Clarks have 5 children, who are all proud of what their parents have accomplished with the museum.

They started the Clark Museum in 1985 and added Clarks Antique Acres in 1991. They originally began collecting picture postcards from collectors and sellers from all over the

country in the 1970s. They bought postcards and memorabilia from antique shops and flea markets and some were purchased by mail. Irene started to collect items a few at a time and now they have an inventory of 14,000 postcards and memorabilia. Today Irene buys and sells antiques on EBay and through her on-location antique business.

Our tour and visit continued until lunchtime. We went into Milford for lunch and decided we would return to the museum after visiting two other historic locations in the area Jerry told us about.

One of the locations was a stone house. Jerry Clark's great grandfather, Garonne Clark, came from New York with his family to other locations in the Midwest and then was an early settler in Dickinson County near Milford, Iowa in 1864.

Continued next page.

The Clark Museum

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According to Jerry, “He bought a farm not far from the Clark Museum and started to build a stone house on the property in 1865.” Jerry says, “The house took two years to complete. When the house was finished he brought his family there from Faribault County, Minnesota. When he was 60 years old, in 1870, he walked 104 miles to Sioux City, Iowa in the dead of winter to get land papers. Upon returning home, he and his wife Lovina became aware that he was given the wrong papers, he then made a return walk to Sioux City to get the correct ones.”

Although the current generation of the Clark family made attempts to preserve the homestead grounds, their efforts did not materialize. The house is now in disrepair but we could envision what a sturdy house it would have been when new, and what an effort it would have been to haul all the rocks to the location where the house was built. Jerry posed for a photo holding a picture of the house when it was still intact.

We remarked to Jerry that his love of history was obvious and that it seemed to us we took priority over anything else he had to do that day. He responded that he had several loves. “I love to talk and I love to be involved with our museum in any way possible. I feel that in giving visitors a

“*We try to make the museum interesting to keep the history alive...*

”

—Jerry Clark,
Clark Museum

tour I am helping them to further understand and perhaps remember some of the history Irene and I have preserved. We try to make the museum interesting to keep the history alive regarding peoples names, businesses, and locations of the past.”

The Clarks have worked with the town of Milford informing groups about their museum by giving talks and showing pictures. They also have some of their larger old Arnolds Park

and area memorabilia displayed at the Maritime Museum in Arnolds Park.

The Clarks are very pleased they were able to attain 501(c)3 nonprofit status for their museum. They have a six-member board whose role will be to enhance the museum experience and to seek financial help both now and in the future.

Will the Clark Museum be preserved? The Clarks wish is for the preservation of their museum collection for future generations. The family hopes that all of the work they have done will be the Clark Family Legacy. They are currently working toward the possible relocation of the Clark Museum of Okoboji Area and Iowa History to a larger facility so the collection can expand.

We encourage everyone to pay a visit to the Clark Museum! Find out more about the Clark Museum online at www.okoboji.com.

*Contributed by Marjorie Davis Arp,
Marion, Iowa*



Garonne Clark Stone House near the Clark Museum rural Milford. At far left, Jerry Clark holds a photograph of the house. Photos courtesy Gary Arp.

November 2010

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Calendar of Events

Ongoing Events

Through Jan 31, 2011 • Exhibit: Native American Artifacts. State Historical Museum, 600 East Locust, Des Moines. For more information: www.iowahistory.org.

November 2010

Nov 15 • Deadline Extended: Nominate an endangered historic property in Iowa to the 2011 Most Endangered Property List. For more information: www.preservationiowa.org/programs/endangered.php.

Nov 15-16 • Iowa Nonprofit Summit. Scheman Building, Ames. For more information: inrc.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu.

Nov 16 (5:00 pm) • Van Buren County Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Van Buren County Courthouse, Keosauqua, Iowa. For more information, contact Pat Shaw at 319.293.3899 or patshaw@netins.net.

Nov 19-21 • Movie Premier: *Country School One Room - One Nation*. State Historical Museum, 600 East Locust, Des Moines. Showtimes: 6 pm and 8 pm on Friday; 2 pm, 4 pm, and 7 pm on Saturday; and 2 pm on Sunday. For more information: www.countryschoolmovie.com.

Nov 26 - Dec 31 • Brucemore: Holiday Mansion Tours. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids. For more information: www.brucemore.org.

Nov 28-30 • Brucemore: Santa, Snacks, and Stories. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids. For more information: www.brucemore.org.

December 2010

Dec 1-16 • Brucemore: A Douglas Family Christmas. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids. For more information: www.brucemore.org.

Dec 11 • A Holiday High Tea. Davenport, Iowa. For more information: davenportgoldcoast.org.

January 2011

Jan 8 • SAPIC Meeting. Chickasaw County, Iowa. For more information: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iasapc/.

Looking for a free place to advertise your preservation or history-related events? Why not on Preservation Iowa's online calendar?

Submit your event to events@preservationiowa.org for publication online and in *The Iowa Preservationist*. Please include start and end dates and times for the event, location, sponsor, contact information, a brief description, and a website, if applicable.



Preservation Iowa Marks One Year

Preservation Mission Continues into Our 20th Anniversary

November 2010 marks the first twelve months for Preservation Iowa. We have rebranded, renewed, and reinvigorated the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, stepping up to serve as the state's premier nonprofit organization dedicated to historic preservation. For those that have been with us for more than a year, you know that our organization has been assisting historic preservation efforts throughout the state for much longer ("new name, same mission"). The Preservation Iowa Board of Directors would like to personally thank you for your loyalty and membership as we move into the organization's 20th year in 2011.

Our organization was created in 1991 to forge partnerships in historic preservation and provide advocacy, education, and recognition to Iowa's historic preservation activities. Over the years, Preservation Iowa has expanded its programs and initiatives to grow and evolve with the changing world of preservation in the state. We hope to continue our work and strengthen this organization with your assistance. Please recommit your support to Preservation Iowa today and together we will preserve Iowa's "Places that Matter."

As you renew your membership for 2011 (use the form at right or join online at www.preservationiowa.org), think about how you might get more involved with preservation efforts statewide. Perhaps you could volunteer your time by serving on a board committee, writing articles for the *The Iowa Preservationist*, or by working at one of our events? If you'd like to learn more, email us today at volunteer@preservationiowa.org. And, don't forget to fill out our member survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/PreservationIowa!

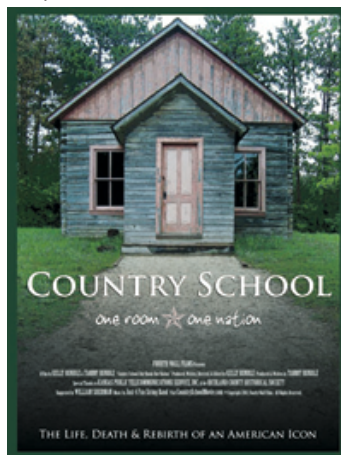
One Room - One Nation

Documentary Premier November 19-21, 2010 in Des Moines

A world premier of a new hour-long documentary describing how the one-room school helped shape America will be held in Des Moines the weekend of November 19-21, 2010.

The documentary, *Country School: One Room - One Nation*, was produced over a three-year period by Fourth Wall Films, an award-winning independent film company operated by Kelly and Tammy Rundle of Moline, Illinois. Fourth Wall Films also produced *Lost Nation: The Ioway* (2007) and *Villisca: Living with a Mystery* (2004).

Preservation Iowa is proud to be a sponsor for the *Country School: One Room - One Nation* premier at the State Historical Museum auditorium in Des Moines. Showtimes are posted on our calendar to the left and www.preservationiowa.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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Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Most Endangered Update

St. Irenaeus Catholic Church in Clinton Saved!

Editor's Note: St. Irenaeus and other Catholic churches in Clinton were included in Iowa's Most Endangered Properties lists in 1998, 1999, 2002, and 2004. The Clinton County Historical Society has worked non-stop to preserve them. Although some have been lost, this is the story of a preservation battle won.

During the time Abraham Lincoln was president of the United States, the catholic population in Lyons, Iowa decided they needed a bigger church than the small brick building they were using to worship in at the time. On May 1, 1864, the cornerstone of a massive, gothic, cathedral-type building was laid by Bishop Smythe of the Dubuque Diocese and the construction of St. Irenaeus Catholic Church was begun.

All the work on this new church was done by the members themselves. Native stone was hewn from bluffs north of the city and hauled to the work site by horse drawn wagons. The main body of the church was finished by 1869 and the steeples were then added. By 1871, the building had been completed at a cost of \$45,000. Not one pillar or brace was used to support the roof. A buttress type of brace was used.



St. Irenaeus Catholic Church in Clinton, Iowa, in May 2010.

During the years, St. Irenaeus Catholic Church went through many trials and tribulations of its own while sheltering devout Catholics through life from birth to death. Around 1995, the Diocese of Davenport decided to combine all five of the churches in the city of Clinton into one parish and to build a new church in celebration. Building a new church was not

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