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Recovering from the Floods of 2008

Revitalizing the Historic CSPS Hall in Cedar Rapids

The \$7 million restoration of CSPS Hall in Cedar Rapids really began with the historic flood of 2008. The 120-year-old late Victorian Romanesque-style building was hit hard by flood waters and already threatened by decades of deferred maintenance.

A \$4.8 million flood relief grant from the state of Iowa, followed by fundraising and historic tax credits, allowed for the purchase and full restoration of CSPS and the adjoining historic firehouse.

"CSPS may be one of the most ambitious historic restoration projects to get off the ground in Cedar Rapids since the flood of 2008," Legion Arts executive director F. John Herbert said. "It's an encouraging example of the community treating a



CSPS Hall before rehabilitation.

historic landmark with the care and respect it deserves, especially at a time when so many are being lost or threatened."

Continued on page 4.

A Golden Year

The Rebirth of Iowa Country School Preservation

Since 1998 interest in Iowa's country schools (one and two-room ungraded elementary schools where 5 to 45 students of multi-grade levels were taught by one teacher) has increased. That interest has reached a high point in 2011. Here are some of the things that have happened or will happen this year:

- Six new books about country schooling have been published.
- A new regional (Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas) award-winning historical documentary "Country School: One Room—One Nation" produced by Kelly and Tammy Rundle has received three awards

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Vincent C. Lintz, Des Moines

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Director’s Desk

News from Vincent C. Lintz, Executive Director

I have been on the job for two months now and have had an opportunity to meet almost our entire Board of Directors and many of our partnership organizations. Even though I was born and raised in Iowa, I am learning that there are a lot of interesting things about historic preservation and the state of Iowa that I didn’t know existed. I am excited to visit different projects across the state and meet with the dedicated individuals who are making their dreams become a reality by restoring and saving historic structures.

In the past, I worked from the finance side of preservation, providing grants and loans for housing or infrastructure and funds for new or expanding businesses. Most of my contacts have been with elected officials, housing agencies, bankers, or developers. To get a chance to work with individuals who are bringing back part of the state’s history is quite interesting. These are people who are driven to bring these properties back, even if they are not quite sure how or when, and with what resources or programs to use. Historic preservation brings back memories for the older generations and provides education to the younger ones. This establishes a sense of respect and admiration of how we have evolved over time in style, building materials, design, and building techniques.

There is so much to learn and so many people to meet. I have started by trying to meet with board members, along with other key stakeholders such as our partner organizations and our potential partners. I am establishing a list of experts, so that I can call upon them for advice and direction as questions present themselves. I am totally amazed at the amount of knowledge that is available to draw upon just with the individuals on our board. I also have met with some of our partners such as Main Street Iowa, Iowa Microloan, State Historic Preservation Office, Community Vitality Center, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I still need to reach out to some additional potential partners that have resources that can be brought to the table.

In order for me to serve our members and do my job, I have to get up to speed on how the process works, who the players are, how the financing and construction takes place, and provide the marketing. I see Preservation Iowa as the glue that brings all of these pieces together, and in order for me to be able to bond with our clients and partners I have to develop a strong working relationship. I look at my position as somewhat of a liaison helping make historic projects a reality by connecting the right projects to the right resources.

My goal is to grow the organization and grow the number of successful historic preservation projects. I will continue to search for different and innovative resources by contacting different agencies and applying for grants and donations as the opportunities become available.

We have set up office in downtown Des Moines and will be transitioning our communication and other organizational needs there in the next few months. Our new office can be found at 200 10th Street, Fifth Floor, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309. Please feel free to stop by or contact me at 515.237.0327 or director@preservationiowa.org.

Partner's Page

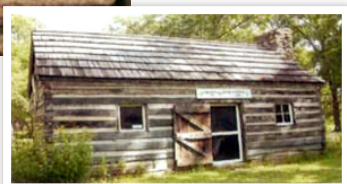
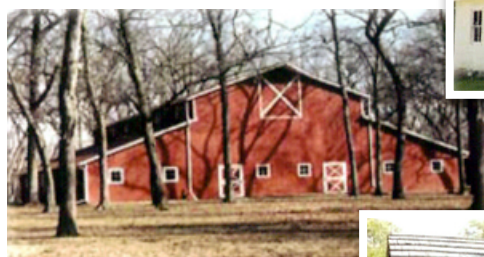
Friends of Morris Park

One of Iowa's great places is a park—a shady and quiet park—south of Fairfield, where you can smell newly mown grass and be transported back to the 19th century. Country School Association of America (CSAA) Service Award winner Marilyn Boley has been serving the park, its log cabin, big red barn, and schoolhouse for more than five decades. At one point in time she and her husband helped finance and build the climate-controlled room that now holds everything from vintage dresses to pipe organs, and everything in between. Marilyn is not the only one dedicated to the park; the Friends of Morris Park was established several years ago to help Marilyn and her husband preserve the buildings and their many artifacts.

Back in the 1960s, the park and the buildings located on it were gifted to the Van Buren County Conservation Board. Friends of Morris Park now exists to help rally the community to put money into the park and preserve these antique buildings. Three buildings stand on the park. A log cabin that was built on the original stone foundation in 1938 to resemble the Morris's 1838 homestead, the Big Barn with its museum of pioneer farm machinery, and the 1868 country schoolhouse, which was in operation until the mid-1950s.

Dorothy Gilbert is seamlessly transitioning to lead the charge to help continue preserving these buildings, so long tended by Marilyn. She is the one that nominated Marilyn for the prestigious CSAA award, in gratitude for all she has done over the decades to preserve their local history, and important Iowa history. Dorothy notes that were it not for Marilyn's hard work and dedication, preserving these buildings would have been significantly harder for the group than it is today, as the years of upkeep slowed deterioration to the structures.

The two women attended June's CSAA conference in New Jersey and came away with renewed energy and a lot of ideas on how to better promote the park, and the one room schoolhouse on site. Expect to see a slate of upcoming events at Morris Park, including ice cream socials, spelling bees, and educational events that transport you back to the mid 19th century. Camping is also available at the park, for those visiting and spending the night. You can learn more at villagesofvanburen.com.



Summer 2011

National Register Actions

I.O.O.F. Hall, Dunlap, Harrison County. Listed June 23, 2011.

Hughes--Irons Motor Company, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County. Listed June 23, 2011.

Hoosier Row School, near Indianola, Warren County. Listed June 23, 2011.

Legislative Update

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

The 2010-11 Legislative session has closed with passage of an FY12 budget bill for the Department of Cultural Affairs. The bill is currently awaiting signature by the Governor and includes a reduction to the Iowa Arts Council as well as a reduction to the State Historical Society.

Funds were allocated for the continuation of the Iowa Community Cultural Grant program and Iowa Great Places program, though both at a lower level than the Governor's recommendation. Battle Flags, Governor's Records, and Historic Sites retained their appropriation at the level recommended by the Governor. No new funds were appropriated for the Iowa Cultural Trust.

*Mary Tiffany Cownie, Director
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs*

Editor's Note: On Wednesday, July 27, Governor Branstad signed the Department of Cultural Affairs budget.

Recovering from the Floods of 2008

(Continued from Page 1)

The former Czech social hall has been a Midwestern cultural landmark since it was built in 1891 by the Czech-Slovak Protective Society. On the National Register of Historic Places, CSPS first served immigrants as a place to socialize, enjoy the arts, gather to improve working conditions, scrutinize political candidates, and celebrate community milestones. Legion Arts began presenting cutting-edge art, music, dance, and theatre at CSPS in 1991. Artist-centered approaches to community and neighborhood building carried on the mission of the original CSPS as well.

In the fall of 2010, project architects Solum Lang learned just how vital the intervention was as initial work uncovered the need for replacement of the roof. Construction Superintendent Frank Watters of Ryan Companies said CSPS has been the most challenging renovation project he's ever worked on. "It was like every time we touched something we found a new issue that needed to be addressed," he said.

Ensuring the historical accuracy of the restoration has been a top priority. Architects studied historic photographs found in places ranging from the local history center to the attics of local residents.

"The building had two major additions early on, and many modifications were made over the years," Herbert said, "so it has taken a lot of good detective work to piece it all together."

That was especially true of the building's front façade. Glass block



Rehabilitation of stage and windows underway.



and glazed brick added in the 1950s were removed to reveal the original open archway, storefronts, and flower-shaped washers above the ground-floor windows. A triangle pediment at the top of the façade, gone missing for at least 60 years, was also replaced. Over 90 of the 118 original windows in the building, filled in with brick or glass block over the years, were restored or replaced.

New businesses will move into the restored storefronts once occupied by a Czech newspaper, barber shop, and wholesale flour seller. A new arts incubator and an art gallery will take up residence in what were formerly the Brosh Funeral Chapel and the home of the original Bohemian-American Hose Company, respectively.

The challenge of bringing a 120-year-old building into the 21st century, while maintaining its historic integrity, brought about a plan to reorient CSPS to the nearby Cedar River with a new entrance addition. Patrons and equipment will now be whisked to the second floor by a large

elevator. Most areas in the building are now handicapped accessible.

The "new" CSPS Hall will feature updated performance and exhibit spaces on the second floor, as well as the retail spaces, studio theatre, and arts incubator on the first floor. The restored firehouse will provide living and working space for visiting artists. New heating and air-conditioning, a courtyard, and additional parking are also part of the project.

"We're planning our grand re-opening to begin on Aug. 26," Herbert said. "We'll have music, theatre, and a big ceramics show opening. It will be a great opportunity to show off the new building and invite the arts and historic preservation communities in to celebrate a job well done."

For more information, go to www.legionarts.org or call 319-364-1580.

*Todd Kimm
CSPS/Legion Arts*

Member Highlights: Bob Ausberger and Rick Hunsaker

In a continuing feature of *The Iowa Preservationist*, we are highlighting two individuals who have been members of Preservation Iowa for many years. If you know a member who should be highlighted, write to us at membership@preservationiowa.org.

Bob Ausberger

Bob Ausberger and his wife Joyce, have been Preservation Iowa members for more than fifteen years. They practice sustainability of both cultural and natural resources in Iowa. The Ausbergers live on the same century farm that Bob was born on. Over the years, Bob's profession as a farmer has allowed him to give back to the community and also to the land on which he farms. Both he, and now his son, grow their corn and beans using a no till method and use both compost and natural fertilizer on their crops.

Over the years Bob has been an integral part of Lincoln Highway projects across the state of Iowa and across the country. He was one of the founding members of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, and served as their board president from 1994 to 1996. Several stops along the Lincoln Highway have been featured over the last twenty years on Preservation Iowa's Most Endangered Properties program. Through his hard work and dedication, awareness has increased and preservation of this historic route has been expedited.

Bob currently serves on the Greene County Board of Supervisors. In addition, he is actively working to upgrade historic bridges, to bring the structures up to modern day standards, and to do so with the goal of preserving the aesthetic and context of the original design. For more information about the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, visit www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa/.

Rick Hunsaker

Longtime Preservation Iowa member Rick Hunsaker first joined us in 1992, only one year after we formed. He was always interested in historic preservation, but when his new job at the Region XII Council of Governments (COG) brought him to Carroll, he learned more about the importance of historic preservation. The Carroll historic train depot was being threatened with demolition, and to help support the cause he joined the Iowa Historic

Preservation Alliance. They saved the depot, and now the Carroll Chamber of Commerce is housed there.

Throughout his tenure as the Executive Director of the Region XII COG, Rick has worked serving western Iowa in grant-writing and planning needs. The organization has grown into the agency that facilitates multi-community collaboration and development of all types, providing initiatives in the region that are needed and otherwise not provided. Rick is a past board member of Preservation Iowa, and has always been a huge advocate of the Most Endangered Properties program, which began while he served on the board of directors.

Rick was recently reappointed by the governor to continue serving on the Alcoholic Beverages Commission for the State of Iowa. In his spare time, he serves as the chair of the Iowa Association of Regional Councils, and the Rural Planning Organizations of America Council of Peers—Iowa, which works on long range plans for transportation and road funds. He is a fan of National Parks, and frequently drives out of the way to visit one near the vicinity of his travels. While traveling, Rick seeks out the historical final resting spots of our nation's presidents and vice presidential grave sites. For more information about the Region XII COG visit www.region12cog.org.



A Golden Year

(Continued from Page 1)

and continues to draw crowds throughout the Midwest and as far away as New York and New Jersey.

- A beautiful stage curtain in near pristine condition has been revealed in an abandoned one-room school in Boone County. This type of curtain, most commonly used in opera houses, is very rare in country schools.

- A county school was relocated on June 29 in Kellerton where work is underway to restore the school and establish a museum facility. Other school preservation projects are underway in Sac and Boone counties.

- Dahlonaga, a newly restored school north of Ottumwa in Wapello County, is about to open as restored school museum. Currently Wapello County is the only Iowa county without an established country school museum.

- From August 10 through the 14th, Johnson County Historical Society is sponsoring a five-day country school celebration featuring presentations, sharing by former students and teachers, video showings, and tours.

- On August 16 a ceremony honoring former country school teachers from Clayton County will be held in Elkader. A tribute plaque recognizing contributions of rural teachers will be unveiled at the county courthouse.

- The 12th annual Iowa country school conference sponsored by Preservation Iowa will be held at the Southwestern Community



Preservation Iowa's annual country school preservation conferences continue to draw attendees from across the state and nation.



College Instructional Center in Creston on October 7 and 8.

- A significant new country school painting featuring a montage of nine preserved Iowa schools and titled "Roots of Education" has been produced by water color artist Charlotte Hamity of West Des Moines. This is the most significant country school painting done by an Iowa artist since Grant Wood painted "Arbor Day." A San Francisco area artist recently completed an original ink drawing of Wood's school "Antioch" which has been preserved as a museum facility near Anamosa.

- Marilyn Boley of Birmingham, Iowa, received the Country School Association of America Service Award in New Jersey last month. While serving as treasurer on the Morris Park Board, Marilyn has

devoted her time to raising funds for schoolhouse preservation. "Marilyn has tirelessly dedicated countless hours in the restoration and preservation efforts that have been devoted to the one-room schoolhouse at Morris Park," one nominator stated. Not only did Marilyn tour other country schools in Iowa for ideas and inspiration, she also tackled large and small school improvements, from raising funds for a new roof to painting and cleaning school interiors. An inspiration to her community, Marilyn has worked tirelessly as fundraiser, recruiter, advocate, and educator in the country school movement. Congratulations Marilyn!

Bill Sherman, PI Board Member

Preservation Iowa Recognizes History Day Students

Several years after the first Preservation Iowa-sponsored country school conference, the decision was made to recognize students at the National History Day state level competition whose research projects dealt with country schools. This year, we were honored to recognize Laura Klever and Allison Coe from North Scott Community School District at the National History Day events held at the State Historical Society of Iowa on April 25. Allison and Laura were honored in the “Senior Division Group Documentary” with their project entitled “Rural vs. Urban: Debating Education Equity.”

They selected this topic because of their curiosity about how our country’s education system evolved over time. In the early 1900s, rural and urban school supporters each felt that their method of teaching was the best for their children. A debate ensued and decisions needed to be made. The change captivated them because they plan to become teachers.

The girls’ research encompassed a wide range of methodologies and sources. From a thank you letter to Preservation Iowa, Allison and Laura said that they “started research on the Internet. Next we obtained sources from the Scott County librarians. We used the PrairieCat system to access books from other libraries. We attended the premier showing of “Country School: One Room—One Nation,” in Des Moines, Iowa. We met and have corresponded with the writers/producers, Kelly and Tammy Rundle. While in Des Moines, we also spoke with Bill Sherman, an expert in one-room schoolhouses. He

introduced us to Paul and Jane Moody, who sent us the 1918 Eighth Grade Final Exam which rural students were required to pass. It was interesting to see because as ninth graders, we failed the test. We also met with Mr. Jeff Schwiebert, the superintendent of the North Scott School District, who told us he believes that North Scott has the best combination of rural and

urban ideologies. We researched at the State Historical Library in Des Moines, gathering primary documents on specific Iowa school consolidations. We have seen one-room schools, some renovated and some deteriorating. We visited Butler #2 and Forest Grove one-room schools to experience firsthand the limited space they encompassed.”

Laura and Allison chose the documentary category because they believed they could “portray a great understanding of how the value and viability of rural versus urban schools’ education was debated and how consolidation has progressed.”

Allison and Laura agreed, “There were educational discrepancies as both rural and urban educators debated the benefits of their education methods. Some rural township governments and parents did not like the concept of consolidating rural schoolhouses because they felt the sense of community that comes from within the one-room schools would be lost. Another concern was the loss of revenue for township governments,



Preservation Iowa board member Bill Sherman with the recipients of the Country School award at National History Day event in Iowa.

impacting the economic development of towns and communities. Resolutions were necessary or children would be negatively affected. This greatly influenced how we learn today. State and federal mandates continue to affect educational systems, curriculum, and practices across the country.”

Congratulations to Laura Klever and Allison Coe for their excellent work. We look forward to their future contributions to Iowa’s educational—and perhaps historic preservation—landscape. Allison and Laura have provided Preservation Iowa a copy of their annotated bibliography of their project, which included seventeen primary and fifty secondary sources. If you are interested in viewing their documentary, arrangements can be made through their teacher Mrs. Chris Green (319.285.3177 or chris.green@north-scott.k12.ia.us).

For more information about the National History Day Program visit the State Historical Society’s History Day website, www.iowahistory.org/education/national-history-day-iowa/nhd-overview.html.

Most Endangered Update: Historic Park Inn Hotel

(Continued from back page)

including a ladies parlor, gentlemen's lounge, billiards room, and the Skylight Room, which has Wright-designed art-glass windows.

Wright, who is considered the most famous architect in United States history, designed the hotel and adjacent bank as additional revenue sources for a law office he was commissioned to design for two prominent Mason City attorneys. The bank and hotel buildings were designed in the Prairie School style, which is typified by flat roofs, large overhangs, and geometric designs. The original hotel was described at its opening in 1910 as a model in cuisine and comfort. "It is a marvelously well-planned hostelry," with all but one guest room facing the outside and featuring French windows, mahogany furniture, brass beds with box mattresses, and lavatories with hot and cold water, the Mason City *Globe Gazette* reported.

The bank fell on hard times during the 1920s farm crisis and, after a bankruptcy sale in 1926, was remodeled into commercial and retail space, drastically altering its original design. The hotel operated under various ownerships until 1972. It was converted into apartments and eventually was completely vacant, ending up on Preservation Iowa's Most Endangered Properties lists in both 1997 and 1999.

For many years, community leaders looked for ways and means to restore the architectural gem. It is one of six Wright-designed hotels. Five were built, but the Historic Park Inn Hotel is now the only one

standing. In 2005, the nonprofit Wright on the Park Inc. was created and began raising funds. The project received \$8.2 million from the Vision Iowa program, and \$3.6 million in state historic tax credits, along with a Save America's Treasure grant and federal historic tax credits.

Crews have been working on the renovation full-time since January 2010. Project architect Martha Huntington of Bergland + Cram in Mason City overcame several unexpected design challenges, such as replacement of foundation on the north and east sides of the bank building. A second floor added in the bank building was removed, and plumbing and mechanical work was complicated by a lack of space. Henkel Construction Co. was the project manager.

The hotel will be run by HPI Partners of Mason City. Interior designers with Bergland + Cram and HPI researched the interior of the original hotel and chose wall treatments, room designs, and furnishings that reflect the original rooms, yet offer as much modern convenience and comfort as possible.

One of the guest rooms is being restored almost exactly as it was originally. The two-room "Historic Room" has a sleeping room with a brass bed and desk simulating the original, while the sitting area will have a couch, chair, and armoire with a refrigerator, storage, and other amenities. The other 26 guest rooms—while adhering to the historic design features—will be more modern, with wireless Internet,

refrigerators, and flat-screen TVs. Most of the rooms will have either a king- or a queen-sized bed. Some will have a sleeper sofa as well, and three rooms will be handicapped-accessible. There will also be a bridal suite (with a whirlpool), and a business suite.

Guided tours will be available to the public, with special appointments available for motor coach groups. For more information call Wright on the Park at (641) 423-0689. For room reservations, call (800) 659-2220. To learn more about the community, visit www.VisitMasonCityIowa.com or contact Visit Mason City at (800) 423-5724.

Editor's Note: On July 15 preservation architect Martha Huntington passed away—just two months shy of the grand re-opening of the Historic Park Inn Hotel.

Martha's dedication to the restoration of the Frank Lloyd Wright hotel will always be remembered by those who knew her and will clearly be evident to all who visit the historic property.

In addition to serving as a project manager and vice president with Bergland + Cram, Martha served on the State Nominations Review Committee and on many other community boards.

She was a tireless preservation advocate who will be dearly missed.

Granger House Receives Preservation Gift

According to Granger House Director Barbara Feller, Board members and Granger House staff members were present June 25 to welcome visiting descendants of the Arthur Granger family: David Granger of Colorado, and Pam Granger Marks and her son, Jeff Marks of Hawaii. David and Pam shared memories of visiting the Granger House when they were young. Their brother John of Seattle was not able to attend. At the end of their visit David and Pam presented Barbara with a check for \$30,000.00. The money was from the estate of

Tom Costello and given in the names of John, David, Pam and Tom the four grandchildren of Arthur and Katharine nee Van Nuys Granger, to be used for future preservation and restoration to the Granger House and grounds. The generous donation will be put into the preservation fund, and the Board will determine how it will be used.

The Granger House in Marion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The American



(L to R) David Granger, Jeff Marks, Barbara Feller, Granger House Museum Director, and Pam Granger Marks. (Photo courtesy of Granger House)

Victorian era house is the only restored middle-class home in the area and it has been preserved along with diaries and photos.

Preservation Iowa Volunteers Honored

Many of Preservation Iowa's dedicated volunteers and board members were recently honored for their accomplishments and we would like to pass the good news along.

Preservation Iowa board member, Jim Boyt, was profiled on the front page of the *Des Moines Register's* Iowa Life section on Sunday, July 10, 2011. Mr. Boyt has spent over four decades working to revitalize Des Moines' East Village. He was an early east side urban pioneer by saving and restoring the Studio Block, a significant building at the corner of East Grand and East 6th Street.

Preservation Iowa Board President Naura Heiman Godar participated in the 2010-11 West Des Moines Leadership Academy for emerging leaders in West Des Moines. She completed a yearlong training program designed to help tap

leadership abilities for the betterment of the community.

William Sherman was elected to serve a three-year term on the State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees. He has organized our annual conference focusing on country school preservation since 2000. He joins fellow Preservation Iowa board member, Dr. Richard Thomas, on the State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees.

Three Preservation Iowa volunteers were honored with Governor's Volunteer Awards in June. Sheriffa Jones and Naura Heiman Godar were honored for their leadership to Preservation Iowa. Marv Howard received a well-deserved honor for his dedicated work developing and updating Preservation Iowa's website.

Congratulations to all of Preservation Iowa's volunteers!



August 2011

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Calendar of Events

August 2011

Aug 5-6 • Annual Preservation Workshop: Turning Clamshells into Pearl Buttons. Muscatine Riverview Center and Downtown Muscatine. For more information: www.preservationiowa.org.

Aug 5 (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm) • Village Walking Tour. Amana Heritage Museum, 705 44th Avenue, Amana. For more information: amanaheritage.org.

Aug 7, 14, & 28 (3:00 pm - 4:00 pm) • Hoggart Country School Sunday Programs. Hoggart Country School, 18th Street and Burnett Avenue (Meeker School grounds), Ames. For more information: www.ameshistoricalsociety.org.

September 2011

Sept 9 (9:00 am - 12:30 pm) • Green & Main Renovation Workshop #5. Mickle Neighborhood Resource Center, 1620 Pleasant Street, Des Moines. For more information: icosc.com.

October 2011

Oct 1-29 • Brucemore: Nooks and Crannies Tour. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids. For more information: www.brucemore.org.

Oct 1 (1:00 pm - 5:00 pm) • Tabor Home Winery 15th Anniversary Festival. Tabor Home Winery, 3570 67th Street, Baldwin. For more information: www.taborhomewinery.com.

Oct 1 (6:00 pm - 9:00 pm) • An Evening Like It Used to Be - Preservation at Its Best Awards. Windsor Theatre, Hampton. For more information: www.preservationiowa.org.

Oct 7-8 • 12th Annual Iowa One-Room School House Conference. Southwestern Community College, 1501 W. Townline Street, Creston. For more information, contact Bill Sherman at wsherman41@gmail.com.

Oct 7 (9:00 am - 12:30 pm) • Green & Main Renovation Workshop #6. Mickle Neighborhood Resource Center, 1620 Pleasant Street, Des Moines. For more information: icosc.com.

Oct 11-12 • Growing Sustainable Communities. Grand River Center, Port of Dubuque, Dubuque. For more information: www.gscdubuque.com.

Oct 15 (10:30 am) • Seasonal Landscape Hike. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids. For more information: www.brucemore.org.

Oct 19-22 • National Preservation Conference: Alternating Currents. Buffalo, New York. For more information: www.preservationnation.org.

November 2011

Nov 25 • Holiday Mansion Tours. Brucemore, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids. For more information: www.brucemore.org.

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



Call for Nominations: 2011 Preservation at Its Best Awards

Each year, in partnership with the Iowa Gaming Association, Preservation Iowa 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 places that matter. Winning projects will be awarded certificates and plaques from Preservation Iowa and highlighted in the *The Iowa Preservationist* and on the Preservation Iowa website.

The postmark deadline is August 31, so nominate a project today! For more information go to www.preservationiowa.org/programs/awards.php.

An Evening Like It Used to Be

Celebrate Iowa's Preservation at Its Best Awards October 1

On October 1st, Preservation Iowa is teaming up with the Windsor Theatre Development Corporation, Franklin County Tourism, the Franklin County Arts Council, and the Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce—a Main Street Community, to host “An Evening Like It Used To Be.” The evening will showcase Hampton's Windsor Theatre and take guests back in time to relive an authentic silent movie experience complete with accompaniment.



The Windsor Theatre in Hampton will host to the 2011 Preservation at Its Best Awards as part of “An Evening Like It Used to Be.”

Since 2007, Preservation Iowa has partnered with the State Historic Preservation Office to document Iowa's movie house history with a project called “Hollywood in the Heartland.” This project will result in a National Register Multiple Property Document Form outlining the historic context of Iowa's movie theaters, as well as an interactive website featuring the results of the study. As a means to roll out this wonderful information as well as to promote Iowa's historic movie houses and history, Preservation Iowa hopes to host many similar future events throughout the state.

In addition to the evening's events, Preservation Iowa will also present the 2011 Preservation at Its Best Awards in Hampton. For more information about the Preservation at Its Best Awards, nomination form, and coming details of this wonderful evening, keep an eye on Preservation Iowa's Facebook page and website (www.preservationiowa.org).

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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.

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- ☐ \$100 – Cornice (*Businesses & Consultants*)
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Most Endangered Update

Historic Park Inn Hotel Opening in Mason City

The Historic Park Inn Hotel, included on Preservation Iowa's Most Endangered Properties lists of 1997 and 1999, will reopen mid-July in downtown Mason City following an \$18 million renovation. The 27-room hotel is the only remaining hotel in the world designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright and is expected to draw architecture fans from around the world. Besides restoring the exterior of the building and renovating public areas to their original appearance, guest rooms are now equipped with modern conveniences to accommodate business and other pleasure travelers. The hotel's grand opening will be September 10—101 years to the day that the original Park Inn opened. A series of events leading up to the big day is planned.

"It's going to be spectacular," said Jean Marinos, president of Wright on the Park Inc., which owns the property and has overseen the renovation. "This is one of the biggest community projects ever completed in Mason City. We're looking forward to reopening this beautiful building for everyone to enjoy."

The renovated hotel will have larger guest rooms and many more amenities than the original. It comprises not just the



The Historic Park Inn Hotel as restoration began.

original Park Inn—so named because it is across from Central Park—but the adjacent City National Bank building, which was also designed by Wright. There will be about 8,000-square-feet of conference space, including a ballroom, restaurant, and bar, as well as many of the original features built in by Wright,

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