



Greetings Principals and Administrators,

Thank you for your interest and support of our historic preservation curriculum. We're delighted you want your students to learn the stories of historic Iowa homes and buildings by enriching your curriculum with the educational series we've designed.

We realize that you may be less familiar with the subject of historic preservation than a more commonplace social studies curriculum, such as civics, politics, and historical time periods. We hope then you'll take some time to peruse the educational resources, materials, and lesson plans available to your teachers through our education and outreach initiative. Some of the highlights of this curriculum include the following:

***ICC Standards***—Learning objectives for each segment have been designed to satisfy the Iowa Core Curriculum's (ICC) standards for social studies education, as well as further recent ICC initiatives to increase the level of cognitive complexity and critical thinking.

***Cross-Curricular Opportunity***—You'll find that many of the recommended activities develop literacy skills through reading and writing activities. The educational theme itself "Reading Old Buildings" encourages students to see the connections between history and literacy. What's more, other activity ideas in the "101 Ideas for Preservation Education" resource feature collaborative activities related to math, science, and art. History and literacy educators are encouraged to extend this subject beyond one classroom and to work with teachers outside their subject area to provide students with a holistic, integrated learning experience.

***Local Learning***—Because this preservation curriculum was not produced by a larger, federal education program, plenty of opportunity exists for your students to learn about their local community, the historic buildings in it and what makes them special, and the ones that are significant but have gone unnoticed. We hope this curriculum fulfills its central mission in getting students excited to learn about history and instilling a sense of pride in them about their community through localized, place-based learning.

***Adaptation and Technology***—The curriculum provided through Preservation Iowa was designed to be adaptable, able to be amended and changed based on the unique needs of your students and your local community. We also realize that some schools have almost unlimited access to technology, making it easy to integrate online activities into the classroom, but others have limited access. As a result, we've designed the lesson plans to be easily adapted so we can meet your teachers and students where they're at and with approaches to learning that are both digitally interactive and traditional.

***Support***—In choosing this curriculum, know that you choose a resource with pedagogical support. First and foremost, Preservation Iowa can help teachers connect with preservationists interested in contributing to the learning experience, but PI's partners at the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Trust for Historic Preservation also offer excellent resources, both in person and online, to assist in getting your preservation curriculum under



way. We've also established connections with other organizations and public offices dedicated to historical education and available for additional support should you need it. To name just a few, coordinators of Iowa History Day, staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa, and other preservationists, architects, and historians are available for reference. (See a complete listing of these support resources in "Section 5: Preservationist Profiles.")

If at any point you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@preservationiowa.org](mailto:info@preservationiowa.org). Finally, we're always interested in hearing the stories your students find, as well as feedback you'd like to offer, so please send your stories and ideas to us. We want to hear how this exciting new opportunity for learning has worked at your school.

Sincerely,

*The Preservation Iowa Board*

Preservation Iowa