



IOWA HISTORIC PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

Building Partnerships
for Historic
Preservation

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Governor Vilsack Attends Preview

Governor Tom Vilsack attended the October 21 sneak preview of the Van Allen Department Store rehabilitation project in Clinton. In his remarks, the Governor stressed the economic importance of such projects. Also speaking were Clinton's Mayor LaMetta Wynn, Dean Baumgardner representing Heartland Properties, Tom Aller with Alliant Energy Investments and Doug LaBounty representing Community Housing Initiatives. Special guests were two members of the Van Allen family, Mary Jane Case, granddaughter of the founder John D. Van Allen, and Elizabeth Van Allen, wife of John V. Van Allen, the last president of the department store.

After the program, participants toured the building. Listed on the National Register, the Van Allen Department Store was designed by famed Chicago architect Louis Sullivan in 1913. The building contains several "Sullivan-esque" details including terra cotta foliage details and window framing. The street level space has high ceilings and columns with ornamental capitals of molded plaster.

The project will create nineteen one- and two-bedroom apartments and will also include more than 6,000 square feet of retail space. Much of the original mahogany finishes and details in the commercial area will be restored.

Heartland Properties Inc. (an Alliant Energy Company) is working with the Community Housing Initiatives organization on the \$3,175,000 project. Heartland Properties is investing \$1.9 million in the project. Additional financial support is provided by the Iowa Finance Authority, IDED, Federal Home Bank of Des Moines, the city of Clinton, Clinton National Bank and the Save America's Treasures Initiative.



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The four-story Van Allen Department Store in



Dean Baumgardner, of Heartland Properties, points out exterior trim on the Van Allen Building to Governor Vilsack. Also pictured are Department of Cultural Affairs Director Anita Walker (in hard hat to the left of the Governor), and Clinton Mayor LaMetta Wynn (extreme right).



Terra Cotta detail from the Van Allen Department Store



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The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance Newsletter is published quarterly as a benefit to its members.

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Mt. Pleasant, IA 52614

The Alliance is a 501c (3) organization.

President's Message

Iowa Cultural Coalition Important to Historic Preservation

IHPA has taken the lead in an important new group called the Iowa Cultural Coalition. The reason IHPA is involved is that nearly every grant program important to historic preservation in Iowa was not funded or inadequately funded in the current state budget.

We all know that the state is having financial difficulties, but with proper budgeting and reasonable allocation of spending, the Iowa Cultural Coalition believes there would be plenty of funds for the grant programs that the Coalition seeks to restore. As you know, IHPA's mission is to form partnerships that enhance the cultural and economic development of Iowa and that is exactly why we are part of the effort focused on restoring the grant funding. Historic preservation is economic development.

Organizations represented in the Iowa Cultural Coalition include IHPA, Iowa Museum Association, Iowans for the Arts, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa Genealogical Society, Iowa Library Conservation Consortium, Resource Enhancement and Protection Alliance and more.

The mission of the Iowa Cultural Coalition is to work to properly fund all cultural and historic preservation programs to provide Iowa communities with essential economic development, educational and cultural resources. The Coalition's 2003 Legislative Platform is to apply the mission statement to five key areas:

- 1) **DCA Preservation and Administrative Budget.** The Iowa Cultural Coalition believes that the Department of Cultural Affairs performs valuable services for Iowans. Such services include preservation of the state's invaluable historical treasures, buildings, archives, historical documents and icons, as well as assistance to local arts, historical, scientific and humanitarian organizations through incentive grants and technical expertise. The Coalition is closely monitoring the Program Elimination Committee whose task it is to recommend a 2% reduction in state spending and programs. The Iowa Cultural Coalition believes that any effort to decommission the DCA should be opposed.
- 2) **Iowa Community Cultural Grants.** The Coalition believes that cultural grant programs encourage local communities to invest in their own economic and cultural development, thus enhancing the quality of life in both rural and metro areas. In FY 2002, the Cultural Grant program, which includes the Iowa Community Cultural Grants and the Cultural Enrichment Grants, was funded at \$600,000. Funding for FY 2003 was reduced by half to just \$300,000. The Coalition believes that proper funding for the ICCG and CEG cultural grant programs under projected revenue estimates should be, at minimum, the FY 2002 level of \$600,000.
- 3) **HRDP/REAP.** The Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) provides 5% of an annual appropriation to the Department of Cultural Affairs for funding of the Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP). The HRDP program has been vital for preservation and interpretation of Iowa's historic resources with funding being awarded to local museums, historical societies, genealogical societies and historic preservation projects. At the beginning of FY2002, \$500,000 was allocated to HRDP from REAP. REAP was cut 80% for FY2003 and no funds were allocated to HRDP. The Coalition believes that REAP funding should be restored to the \$10 million level appropriated at the beginning of FY 2002, with 5% or \$500,000 allocated to HRDP so that Iowa can capitalize on valuable tourism and economic development opportunities and enhanced quality of life the program provides.



4) **HSPG/RIIF.** The Coalition believes that the Historic Site Preservation Grant Program has been effective in rebuilding important cultural and civic infrastructure since its inception in FY 1999. In FY 2001, this successful program was funded at \$2.5 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund. In FY 2002 it was funded at \$1,000,000, but was not funded at all for FY 2003. Since the HSPG program began, there were more than \$7,980,000 in non-funded legitimate and important requests that would have been matched in cash at the local level, providing an important economic and cultural boost to communities of all sizes across Iowa. The Coalition believes proper funding for the HSPG program should be restored at the \$1 million level for FY 2004.

5) **The Cultural Trust.** The Iowa Cultural Coalition supports legislation that dedicates a yearly \$1.5 million funding source for ten years to create a \$15 million investment in the Iowa Cultural Trust that was enacted, but not funded in 2002. The legislation created a thirteen member board of trustees appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders that will distribute income from the Iowa Cultural Trust in the form of operating budget grants to local arts, historical, science and humanities organizations. The Coalition believes the legislature should begin proper funding of the Iowa Cultural Trust in FY 2004.

The virtual elimination of the grants in our platform has resulted in a dramatic negative impact on cultural organizations and communities who rely on the positive economic impact of cultural and historic preservation activities. Preservation and cultural activities foster economic development by creating jobs, local investment and an improved quality of life.

The initial actions of the Coalition included a survey to all legislative candidates. Over 75 candidates responded with an overwhelming 95% agreeing with our platform. In addition, several meetings with candidates were held around the state to be followed by meetings with legislative leaders in the next few months.

IHPA board members were among the first to say that something must be done to properly fund the grant programs that are vital to preservation of Iowa's historic resources. Several IHPA board members, including Jim Boyt, Bill Sherman, Rose Rohr and myself, as well as executive director Mike Kramme, participate in the Iowa Cultural Coalition meetings. The IHPA board stepped up even further as we entered the next phase of the Coalition's mission, that being coordinating Cultural Advocacy Day which will be in Des Moines on March 7. The Coalition determined that we need an event organizer to mobilize volunteers statewide and coordinate Cultural Advocacy Day. Toward that end the IHPA board agreed to be the first group to contribute to the cause with a \$1,000 investment.

We need your help in our efforts to restore funding to the grants and DCA budget, as well as to establish Cultural Trust funding. Please talk to your representatives and mark these important dates on your calendar – March 5, 6 and 7. March 5 will kick off Cultural Advocacy Day with the Creative Economic Summit. Author and speaker Richard Florida, who wrote "The

Rise of the Creative Class" will speak at the Creative Economic Summit, culminating a day of exploring how creativity and culture create economic development. March 6 will be Cultural Advocacy Day in which we go to the Capitol en masse and meet with our legislators, among other important activities. On the evening of March 6 or during the day of March 7 we will have an IHPA event with details to be announced. Be thinking about booking hotel rooms in Des Moines (there are no high school tournaments that week) and please be ready to in the Cultural Coalition legislative platform. As always, if you would like to discuss IHPA activities, please call me at 515-280-7234 or send me an email – tsmull@inaneews.com.

Thank you for being an IHPA member, together we can preserve Iowa's historic resources.

Tom Smull

New PBS Series - American Attic

Imagine discovering that your home played a crucial role in the struggle for American Independence. Perhaps the house you live in was once a bordello, and you're related to a notorious New Orleans madam. Or could the tattered poster you discovered in your basement be a rare photograph of one of the most celebrated criminals in history.

American Attic can find the answer. A group of world-renowned architects, historians and antiquarians - they can unlock the history behind any house or artifact.

Using the latest technology combined with traditional investigative techniques *American Attic* will make amazing discoveries about the homes and possessions of many ordinary Americans. Whether it's a family heirloom or a house with a mysterious past - we will uncover the history on America's doorstep.

Set in a different location each week the *American Attic* team will comb the country in search of artifacts and houses that tell us something new about the nation's history. Our stories will shed light on fa-

mous Civil War battles, they'll offer a fresh look at the New Deal or they'll uncover some surprising facts about resistance to Prohibition.

We're all sitting on a small piece of American History - but we just don't know it. *American Attic* will find the history behind our homes and personal possessions. We'll reveal the extraordinary stories and surprising family histories that make up our past.

Are you sitting on a piece of history?

American Attic is currently in production and we're looking for stories. If you think your house or possessions may have played a part in American history or might reveal a fascinating family story we want to hear from you. Please email Leslie Askew at lesliea@liontv.org or call 212-206-8633 ext. 31. Due to the size of the response we will not be able to reply to every inquiry.

American Attic is a series of 10 one-hour episodes, which PBS is scheduled to air in summer 2003.



BRIDGES

September 3, 2002 - A Bad Day for Iowa Bridges

Fire destroyed two historic Iowa bridges on September 3.

Cedar Bridge was destroyed by a fire set by an unknown arsonist. It was one of the six remaining covered bridges of Madison County. It was built in 1883 and moved to its present location in 1921. The bridge became famous as part of James Waller's 1992 novel *The Bridges of Madison County*. Waller has posted a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the arsonist.

The Cedar was restored in 1998 at a cost of \$128,073. The estimated cost of rebuilding the bridge is approximately one million dollars.

The Rubio Bridge in Washington County was destroyed the same day. A farmer noticed some people fishing on the bridge and building a campfire. The farmer later threw rock and dirt on the fire and assumed it was out. The fire reignited later that evening.



Madison County's Cedar Bridge on the morning after the fire

The 310-foot bridge, which spanned the Skunk River, was seldom used and will not be rebuilt. It was built in 1904 at a cost of \$7,500.

Investigators concluded that the Cedar Bridge was destroyed by an arsonist, and the Rubio Bridge by carelessness. Both bridges were listed on the National Register.



The Rubio Bridge shortly after the discovery of the fire

Brooklyn (Iowa) Bridge Destroyed

Have you ever tried to sell anyone the Brooklyn Bridge? Well, the city of Brooklyn didn't have any luck either.

The city received national attention when it tried to sell the bridge on ebay. The cost of moving the bridge was estimated at \$70,000 which proved too much for potential buyers and the bridge was demolished in August.

Free Bridge

A bridge in Allamakee County is being offered to anyone willing to move it. Contact Bryan Ridenouer at 563-568-4574

"It was a beautiful bridge in a nice location. I was pleased to find out it wasn't arson, anyway, but it was poor judgment."

Michael Zahs

(as quoted in the Cedar Rapids Gazette)

Efforts Continue to Save Hale

IHPA board member Rose Rohr is spearheading the preservation of the Hale Bridge in Jones County. The 296-foot long Hale Bridge was built in 1877/1878. It consists of three bowstring spans.

The bridge is to be relocated to Central Park near Amber in Jones County.



IHPA Executive Director Mike Kramme, Board Member Rosemary Rohr and bridge inspector Dennis Waugh during the inspection of the Hale Bridge



SCHOOLS

Annual School Conference

Over forty participants enjoyed the annual Country School Conference sponsored by IHPA. Highlights included a math lesson using an ear of corn taught by Elsie Nagley and a presentation on Amish Schools in America by Dr. Mark Dewalt of Winthrop University. The two-day conference also included several sessions in which participants shared ideas useful to country school museums.

Cynthia Nieb of the Department of Cultural Affairs presented information on resources available. Michelle Walker, Western Iowa Tourism Director, and Sue

Schrad, from the Carroll Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation on Country Schools and Rural Tourism.

The group visited the Swedish Cultural Center and several one-room schools in Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri.

Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska hosted a luncheon for the group.

Our congratulations and thanks for the hard work done by IHPA board member Bill Sherman in planning the conference.

Financial assistance for the conference was provided by a grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.



Former one-room school teacher Elsie Nagley conducts a class of School Conference participants at the Goldenrod School.

Cramer School Dedication

The Stanton Heritage and Cultural Center dedicated the restored Cramer Chapel One-Room School on September 20.

The school operated from the 1920s until the 1950s. It was the Douglas Township #3 school and was moved to

Stanton to be part of the Cultural Center's complex.

Dedication activities included an "Old Days Re-enactment" as well as presentations about one-room schools and reminiscences by former Cramer School Students.



Country School Conference participants outside the Hunter School in Fremont County, Iowa

Country School Directory Continues to Grow

The listing for the Country School Directory continues to grow. Currently 155 schools are listed: 46 in the in the Western region, 43 in the Central region and 66 in the Eastern Region.

Recent additions include: the Lancaster School, White Oak and Hayesville in Keokuk County; Pittsburg School in Montgomery County; Clayton Independent, Gard #5 and Plasman in Clayton County; Mann School in Monona County and the Douglas Center School in Clay County.

The complete list and their descriptions may be found on our website.



Participants gather outside of the Cramer School during its dedication ceremonies.

*"Another important impact of Amish Schools is that they serve to preserve a portion of rural public school history."
-- Dr. Mark W. DeWalt*



Donor List Continued

Edwin Madsen - Cedar Falls
 John Maves - Ames
 Janet McCannon - Burlington
 Hugh McCoy - Ottumwa
 Dr. Robert McCoy - Mason City
 Frederick McDowell - Des Moines
 Duane Means - Iowa City
 Mrs. Clifford Meints - Indianola
 Bill Menner - Grinnell
 Metro Plains Development - St. Paul MN
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 Carole Winter - Iowa City
 Melody Witt - Delmar
 Win-Worth Betco - Lake Mills
 Elizabeth Yapp - West Des Moines

Note: The donor list was prepared to the best of our abilities. Please let us know of any corrections.

Thank You

The IHPA Board of Directors would like to give a special thank you to all of the individuals, agencies, organizations and corporations for their memberships, contributions and continued support of the Alliance in 2001 and 2002. We hope for your continued support.

Correction

Terrace Hill was designed by the architect W.W. Boyington of Chicago, not William Foster as indicated in the last newsletter.

Preservation Week Poster Contest

The National Trust for Historic Preservation issued a call for entries for its third annual Preservation Week 2003 Poster contest. Winning designs will be announced and displayed at the National Building Museum during Preservation Week 2003, May 5-12.

In 1971, the National Trust launched National Preservation Week as a way to showcase grassroots activity in communities nationwide. This year's theme, Cities, Suburbs and Countryside, underscores how the preservation ethic is changing, broadening its focus from saving individual landmark buildings to tackling economic and quality of life issues in America's downtown business districts and inner-city neighborhoods, first-ring suburban neighborhoods and historic, natural and scenic landscapes.

Contestants are encouraged to submit creative and original Preservation Week posters with lively and evocative images that celebrate wonderful historic places in America's Cities, Suburbs and Countryside - and how historic preservation helps save that heritage. Submissions must be postmarked no later than January 20, 2003.

Cash prizes of \$2000, \$1500 and \$1000 will be given to the top three winners. In addition, the first-place winner will receive airfare to Washington, DC, to participate in the National Trust's Preservation Week kickoff event on May 5, 2003.

Posters by the three winners and ten honorable mentions will be displayed at the

National Building Museum in Washington.

For more information on the poster contest, please send an email to:

preservationweek@nthp.org or call (202) 588-6037.

Please Remember the Alliance in Your Will

Another way to help the Alliance continue its work to remember it in your will.

As you are working with your attorney or estate planner, consider different options to assist us. The Alliance would be grateful for any bequests of cash, appreciated stock, insurance policies or property.

Also, please remember that since the Alliance is a non-profit organization under the IRS 501c (3) guidelines, any gifts given during your lifetime are tax exempt.

Renewal Time!

It is time to send membership renewals for 2003. Send checks to IHPA at P. O. Box 814, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641.

Please consider increasing your membership level for next year. Any increases in membership levels may be used as part of our matching grant from the National Trust.

IHPA

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 205 East Washington
 Washington, IA 52353
 (Office)

P.O. Box 814
 Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641



DONOR LIST - June 2001 - October 2002

Over \$5,000

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
The National Trust for Historic Preservation

\$1,000 - \$5,000

Sandra Eskin - Iowa City
Federal Home Loan Bank - Des Moines
Iowa Gaming Association - Des Moines
J V Squared - Sioux City
Pioneer Communication - Des Moines

\$500 - \$999

Downtown Partners - Sioux City
Kurt Karr - Vinton
Dr. Michael Kramme - Washington
Sioux Landmarks - Sioux City
Tim Reinders - Des Moines

\$100 - \$499

James Boyt - Des Moines
Clinton Coalition to Save Our Historic Catholic Churches - Camanche
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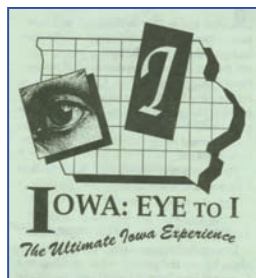
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Kenneth Baughman - Cedar Falls
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IOWA EYE TO EYE - An Outstanding Way to Get to Know Your State



The annual Iowa Eye to I tour will be held June 20-28.

The tour involves intensive immersion in

Iowa history, archaeology, architecture, biology, ethnicity, music, food, geology, art, theater and other aspects of what makes Iowa a unique place to live. The goal of the class is to help Iowans understand the richness of our state's heritage.

First day activities of previous tours have included:

- ◆ A Swedish breakfast at the Sweedsburg Heritage Museum
- ◆ A drive through Crawfordsville, birthplace of the Republican Party

- ◆ An archaeological dig at Gass farm in Grandview
- ◆ Visiting prairie and Indian mounds at Toolesboro
- ◆ Taking an architectural walking tour through Fort Madison
- ◆ An overnight stay at the Mason House in Bentonsport or Hotel Manning in Keosauqua

Prepare for long days, becoming tired, and a large amount of information imparted in a short time.

Activities - Physical activities are part of each day. Everyone is encouraged to participate but activities are optional.

Meals - Three meals are provided daily, including many ethnic preparations.

Lodging - Sleeping accommodations will often be in college residence halls. Single rooms are not always available.

Course instructors are Michael Zahs and Dr. Loren Horton. Zahs is a noted Iowa historian, preservationist and speaker. He is past president of the Iowa Council for the Social Studies.

Dr. Horton is the retired Senior Historian for the State Historical Society of Iowa. He is a well-known author and speaker on topics about Iowa History and Victorian culture. He served on the Board of Trustees of the American Association of Museums and the American Association for State and Local History.

The tour is sponsored by Iowa Wesleyan College, and graduate credit is available.

Cost for the tour, including all meals, transportation, housing and entry fees is approximately \$100 per day. For more information, contact Michael Zahs at 319 653-6250 or Iowa Wesleyan College at 800-582-2383.

Reserve early. Several previous tours have been sold out.

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