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Iowa's Most Endangered Properties of 2008

The Most Endangered Property program was started in 1995 and implemented to educate Iowans about the special buildings and historic sites that are slowly and gradually slipping away from us. The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance has designated nine properties for 2008 Most Endangered Designations. The Most Endangered Properties program provides an excellent resource for media coverage and introduces owners of an endangered property to preservation advocates and resources that can help preserve their historic property.

Additional information and photos can be found online at our website, www.iowapreservation.org. All images in print and online were provided by those nominating the properties.

Len Jus Building, Mason City, Cerro Gordo County

The Len Jus Building was built circa 1882 at the north end of main street Mason City. The façade features a sheet-metal façade and components manufactured by the Mesker Brothers Iron Works and George L. Mesker & Company. The cast iron column ornament shows the varying column widths. Wider columns, of greater carrying capacity, were once located at either end of the storefront, with slender columns flanking the entry.

The building was on a tax sale this year. A company who buys up "tax sale" buildings and properties secured a deed in September 2008. Their goal is to resell the property and move on, per contacts with the company.

The City of Mason City is considering condemning the building due to the state of disrepair. If this condemnation is done, it would eliminate a building with one of the last historic Mesker tin façades in Iowa, leaving nothing but an empty "parking lot" for trash to blow through in the middle of an historic façade block.



Fort Madison Archaeological Site, Fort Madison, Lee County

Fort Madison, 1808-1813, is arguably the most significant historic site in Iowa. It was the first U.S. Military post on the Upper Mississippi, the first U.S. sponsored trading post, and the scene of the only War of 1812 battle west of the Mississippi. It was the only fort in Iowa to ever be attacked by either foreign or Indian forces. The attack of the fort was a turning point in the life of the fabled Sauk Chief Black Hawk, who rose to prominence because of Fort Madison. The defeat at Fort Madison led to a change in

Continued on page 4.

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President's Corner

News from the Rod Scott

It sure has been a cold and snowy winter so far. I hope you had a good holiday season. In the months since our last newsletter we have kept very busy helping folks with historic preservation issues and the on-going disaster recovery.

In this issue of *The Iowa Preservationist*, we are publishing the IHPA "Most Endangered List" as well as making our call for nominations for our annual "Best of Preservation Awards," which will be given out at the May joint workshop with IDDED/Main Street and the DCA/SHPO office.

The General Assembly has convened in Des Moines for its annual work on the State budget. As everyone is aware this year and maybe a couple more after this will be difficult years for the state budget. Our legislative platform is simple this year:

- Raise the state historic preservation tax credits to \$50 million per year.
- Hold level funding for the REAP/HRDP and HSPG grant programs.

Our efforts on the historic tax credit legislation will be assisted this year by lobbyist Dave Adelman of Des Moines. He has been hired with money specifically raised by a coalition of communities, Chambers of Commerce, and re-developers. The historic tax credit program is vital for communities trying to keep jobs in their communities as well as redevelop key areas of a community, usually Main Street. Since the floodwaters receded last summer, we have assisted flooded commercial projects that now total around \$3 million in rehabilitation activity!

Our Congressional advocacy effort continues for the \$20 million for historic sites grants that is the same grant program Congress funded for the Gulf Coast after the devastating Hurricanes. There are many important Iowa historic structures damaged by last year's floods needing repair and since they are not public facilities they cannot qualify for repair funding from FEMA.

We have met with FEMA and Iowa Homeland Security as well as the Iowa Department of Economic Development about changing the way we do things in the next phase of disaster recovery. The "mitigation" phase is next. This is where governments buy out flood-damaged housing, demolish it, and put huge quantities of debris into our landfills. We are proposing that Iowa move away from the buy-out and demolish practice that America has used for the last 50 years after floods. Many of these homes can safely be moved and rehabilitated out of harm's way from future floods. Much of this housing is affordable for working class people. The next phase of the mitigation is what we call deconstruction and recycle. It makes a whole lot more sense in today's economic climate with increasing unemployment that we put people to work deconstructing homes and recycling the materials. We estimate we can do this work for the same amount of money that it would cost to demolish and landfill a house.

So there we have it. Another edition of *The Iowa Preservationist* and a very active organization committed to helping Iowa keep and reuse our valuable historic structures and recover from the most devastating flooding in Iowa's history. Thank you for working so hard to protect and preserve historic Iowa resources.

Contributed by Rod Scott

Save the Date!

Preservation in Progress Workshop, May 13-14, 2009, Ottumwa

IHPA is partnering with the State Historic Preservation Office and Main Street Iowa to present a preservation workshop in Ottumwa during preservation month. Keep an eye on www.iowapreservation.org, www.iowahistory.org, and www.mainstreetiowa.org for details! Hope to see you there!

Spot on SHPO

News from the State Historic Preservation Office

We see it in the news everyday: the economy is in rough shape. Locally. Statewide. Nationally. People are getting laid off, businesses are closing, and the stock market is like one of those historic wooden roller coasters going up, down, and wobbling all over. So how do we as advocates of preservation convince others that it's still important to save historic buildings in a financial crisis? How do we get beyond the "touchy feely" aspects that many people think about when it comes to "preservation"? We simply have to remind ourselves that preservation is more than saving a pretty building. Historic properties of all kinds must remain living, breathing things, not something fixed up only to be placed on display. And for that to happen, historic properties must remain vital to the community—not only on an emotional level, but also on an economic level.

When it comes to understanding the economics of historic preservation, there are plenty of books and articles that dissect the subject. Personally, I think it's just common sense. When you consider the jobs created (during construction and afterward), the income earned, the revenue generated, and the ripple effect a rehab has on surrounding infrastructure, the economics of preservation is outstanding. And that's before you even begin to think about the energy savings of recycling existing building stock (a topic that will have to wait for another newsletter).

Consider the case of a typical building preservation project. A property owner hires an architect, contractor, and subcontractors to rehabilitate the building top to bottom, inside and out. Not only has the owner given work to the firms involved, each of those firms passes a portion of that money to their employees. Because of the specialized skills needed, more jobs are created through historic preservation than new construction (Donovan Rypkema estimates 60-70% of a rehab project's cost goes into labor, compared to 50% for new construction). Then consider the materials needed for construction of any kind. Consider the manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors associated with every project. Consider the employees that benefit from each purchase. All of this means jobs that result in personal income partially funneled back into the economy.

Each project also increases and generates revenue streams for local, county, and state government. Consider the workers mentioned above and the income tax they pay. Sales tax will increase during construction for the building supplies and after construction if commercial businesses occupy the rehabilitated space. Property values increase after a substantial rehabilitation and property taxes will increase, even though they may be delayed due to a historic property tax exemption.

Now, consider what that rehabilitated building, or any other preserved historic property, can do for a community's pride and sense of place (this is that "touchy feely" aspect of preservation). One property owner spiffs up their historic building and others in the neighborhood will want to follow suit. We've seen it happen again and again on Main Streets and in historic neighborhoods across Iowa. This ripple effect has a parallel ripple effect in job creation, income earned, and revenue generated. The ripple effect will continue to flow through other aspects of community improvements, heritage tourism, and economic development. More importantly, it will help communities become more vibrant, livable, and attractive to citizens of all ages.

So, when someone asks you what saving a historic property will do for the community, don't just tell them it will preserve the community's heritage or a beautiful building. Yes, it does those things. But also tell them it will help the community, state, and nation out of the financial crisis. Tell them it will generate jobs. Tell them it will generate revenue that the community and state needs to provide basic services. Tell them it will bring workers back to town, businesses back to Main Street, and visitors to the community. Then they, too, will see past the touchy feely aspects of preservation.

Contributed by Barbara A. Mitchell

Recent Actions on the National Register of Historic Places

Hobson Block, West Union, Fayette County. Listed 11/07/2008.

Dubuque Millworking Historic District, Dubuque, Dubuque County. Listed 11/07/2008.

The Avery Theater, Garner, Hancock County. Listed 11/12/2008.

Burlington Depot, Ottumwa, Wapello County. Listed 11/26/2008.

Rath Packing Company Administration Building, Waterloo, Black Hawk County. Listed 12/10/2008.

Stone City Historic District, near Anamosa, Jones County. Listed 11/21/2008.

Ulysses Simpson Grant Elementary School, Oskaloosa, Mahaska County. Listed 12/10/2008.

North Grinnell Historic District, Grinnell, Poweshiek County. Listed 12/10/2008.

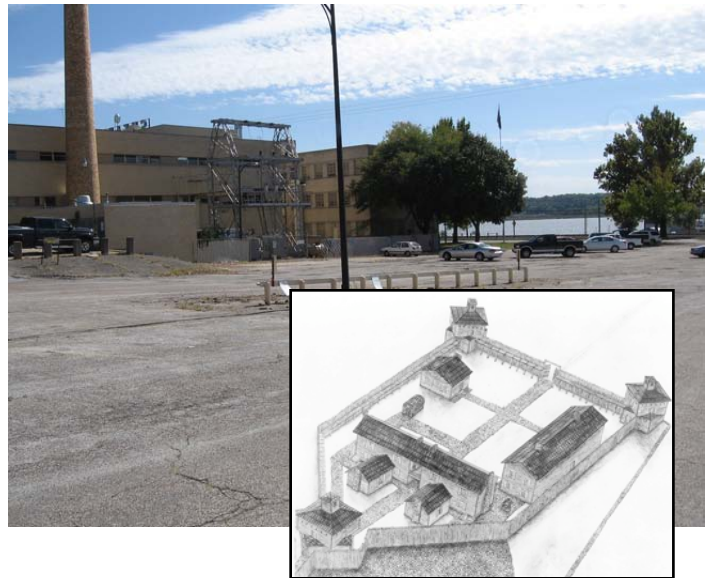
Herring Hotel, Belle Plaine, Benton County. Listed 12/31/2008.

Iowa's Most Endangered Properties of 2008 (continued from page 1)

U.S. policy towards Indians, accelerating the forced removal of Indians from the Midwest.

Partial excavation by Marshall McKusick in 1965 demonstrated that much of the fort remains intact below the surface and that it contains significant deposits of archaeological and historical importance. The core of the fort site is at present well protected under asphalt as part of the Sheaffer Pen Company parking lot. The areas west of the fort core, where the trading factory stood, are protected under a separate, privately owned parking lot.

The adjacent Sheaffer Pen Company has sold its factory as well as the parking lot associated with it to a private developer. This site is in a prime location downtown along Riverfront Park. The parking lot to the west of the 4th Street is already posted for sale, ready to be divided into lots. Destruction of this site would be a calamity to Iowa history and archaeology, and would be an embarrassment and disgrace to future generations of Iowans.



Faeth Orchards/Faeth Farmstead Historic District, Fort Madison, Lee County



The Faeth Orchards were founded in 1832 by Jacob and Elizabeth Faeth, immigrants from Alsdorf and Speyer, in the Rhineland of Germany. The family settled on a large piece of land west of Fort Madison. The Faeth Farmstead Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the oldest orchard west of the Mississippi.

In 2004, 160 acres and the orchards were transferred to Loren Faeth and his brother Lynn. It was necessary to build a new building in order to stay in business. The health department

demanded an enclosed building and new federal regulations required the cider to be made on premises and pasteurization for juice sold off premises. In 2005, Lynn lost interest in the operation. In 2008, he demanded the land be sold and the business be dissolved.

The property was sold at auction in November 2008, and the remainder of the family do not have the resources to buy it back. A mega-casino is planned nearby and development is being planned for the orchards and farmland.

Union Block Building, Mount Pleasant, Henry County

Constructed in 1861 by William McCandless, the Union Block holds a commanding presence on the north side of Mount Pleasant's square. The building has significance architecturally and as the location where in 1869 Belle Babb Mansfield becoming the first licensed female lawyer in the U.S. The building also served as a setting for nationally known speakers, including Frederick Douglass, Bronson Alcott, P.T. Barnum, and Anna Dickinson.

The building owners would like to rehabilitate the building, but are financially unable to do it alone. Currently, only the areas in use have heat, air conditioning, and plumbing. The remaining interior is in desperate need of repair. Community members, city officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and Main Street Mount Pleasant are discussing the future of this treasure with local, state, and national significance.



Masonic Building (Burrows Block/Bank Block), Osceola, Clarke County

The Masonic Building is a three-story landmark on Osceola's public square. Commissioned by banker A.H. Burrows in 1872, the Italianate building housed a bank and a hardware store on the first floor and professional law offices on the second. The Ancient Free & Accepted Masons (Osceola Lodge No. 77) purchased the 3rd floor and stayed there until the 1960s, when the JCs took over.

Concerns include damage by water leakage on the interior. Other threats include further outside damage to exterior plaster, bricks and mortar plus

cracks in the stone façade due to moisture freezing and thawing in these locations. Roof replacement has been recommended, but a lack of funding for extensive repairs remains a big threat. In addition, although one local owner has expressed interest in rehabilitating the building, the other owner is absentee. A language barrier has also complicated communication with the absentee owner. There has been talk about forming a cooperative coalition to address some of the problems but so far this has not come to fruition.



Gruwell and Crew General Store, West Branch, Cedar County



The Gruwell and Crew building is one of three remaining wood-frame storefronts on West Main Street in West Branch. Built by two prominent businessmen, Mayor S.C. Gruwell and J.C. Crew, the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in September 1982. It is also a contributing resource in the West Branch Commercial District, placed on the Register in April 1987. The building retains most of its 1894 characteristics including false-front façade, and wooden ceiling, floor, and walls.

The building is deteriorating and its contents could be compromised. The Museum is now only open by special request as it cannot be safely heated or cooled. The interior is poorly lit, but this cannot be remedied until the electrical system is upgraded. Since the building is closed, membership in the Foundation is low, making it difficult to raise funds for repairs. It is currently difficult to accommodate visitors and a large portion of the collection is dispersed off-site. While some have proposed selling the building, the site lacks plumbing and holds little attraction for commercial development.

Grant Wood Home, Cedar Rapids, Linn County

This is the house in which Grant Wood spent his childhood years. Wood's life and work are deeply rooted in this Cedar Rapids neighborhood, home to many of his friends and relatives, and an inspiration for his paintings.

Wood's childhood home lies across 14th Street from the current Coe College Campus. Coe College has declared its intention to expand its campus into a 2½ block area of Mound View Neighborhood. Over the past two years, they have demolished more than half of the 60 properties in the target area.

Coe College has stated in the media that the house will not be demolished if acquired; however, every residential property Coe has acquired over the past 20 years has ultimately been demolished. Even if the home survives, it will be stripped of the context of surrounding homes. Mound View is one of the city's few historic neighborhoods not devastated by the June 2008 floods. Its integrity has become even more important to a community that is losing so many historic resources.



Bethel African Methodist Church, Cedar Rapids, Linn County

This brick building replaced an earlier frame church on the same site that had stood here since 1872. The Ely family originally donated the land to Cedar Rapids' African American community to assist in strengthening the group among Cedar Rapids' many ethnic neighborhoods following the Civil War. The church is now a rare surviving element of a neighborhood almost completely wiped out due to medical development.

Mercy Hospital has expanded steadily in past years and is in the process of acquiring properties adjoining its medical campus. Bethel Church sits on a desirable parcel between the hospital and the central business district. It is located in a designated urban renewal area designed to accommodate medical office park development. Historic preservation of acquired properties has not been a consideration in this 16-block area—over 90% of older properties acquired have been demolished.



Flooded Historic Neighborhoods of Cedar Rapids, Cedar Rapids, Linn County



In the late 1830s, Cedar Rapids was settled along the Red Cedar River. The early European immigrants harnessed the power of the Red Cedar as early as 1842, leading to industry, business, and residential development on both the east and west sides of the river. The community was incorporated officially on January 15, 1849, and given the name "Cedar Rapids." A settlement pattern based on the river and on transportation corridors—the location of railroads, street car lines, and river bridges—resulted in six historic core neighborhoods. Today they are known as Time Check, Edgewood/Ellis Park, Taylor, Czech Village, Oakhill Jackson, Cedar Valley Rompot, and Downtown.

All of these neighborhoods were flooded to varying degrees during the summer of 2008, depending on topography, drainage systems, and direction of currents. Prior to the flood, most buildings were occupied and/or economically sustained. Many neighborhoods were in the process of recognizing their historic architectural heritage and were working to restore their buildings. Now, many buildings sit vacant. Reinvestment by private and municipal entities is visible in all quadrants, particularly in Ellis Park, Taylor, Czech Village, Bohemian Commercial District, and Downtown.

Call for Nominations: Preservation at its Best 2009

Each year, the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, in partnership with the Iowa Gaming Association, 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 historic resources.

Awarded projects will be announced during National Historic Preservation Month in Ottumwa, Iowa, at Preservation in Progress: A Workshop of Iowa's Preservation Partners co-presented by the IHPA, State Historic Preservation Office, and Main Street Iowa. Winning projects will be announced during a luncheon presentation and awarded certificates/plaques from the IHPA and highlighted in the summer edition of *The Iowa Preservationist* and on the IHPA website.

Eligibility:

Nominated projects must have been completed within the geographic boundaries of Iowa and completed within the last two years. Uncompleted projects will not be considered. Nominations can be made by/for individual owners, corporation, developing group or organization. Property owner must be notified before submission of property/project.

Categories:

As in past years, IHPA will present awards to commercial, residential, rural, and public properties. However, we've expanded our awards this year to include several more categories. Additional information can be found online at our website.

Adaptive Use ■ Conversion of a historic structure for a new or compatible use while retaining its architectural integrity.

Commercial (small and large) ■ Rehabilitation/restoration of a historic commercial structure.

Community Effort ■ A community's concerted effort to save a historic structure, district or cultural resource.

Preservationist ■ Individual or group that has championed historic preservation planning, policy or activities over the course of their lifetime.

Public Structure ■ Rehabilitation/restoration of a publicly/government-owned structure.

Residential ■ Rehabilitation/restoration and continued use of a residential structure.

Rural Preservation ■ Preservation or restoration of Iowa rural landscape, heritage or built environment.

Sustainability in Preservation ■ Incorporation of sustainable practices into the rehabilitation/restoration of a historic structure. Project does not need to be LEED certified to be considered for award but nomination does need to demonstrate sustainable practices used in project. Award can be made to any typology of building project.

Judging:

The IHPA invites a jury of preservation experts to review nominations for the Preservation At Its Best Awards. Projects are judged on the degree of historic preservation excellence, community impact, quality of work completed, and thoroughness of the nomination. Multiple awards will be given in a category if there is more than one project worthy of recognition.

Submittals:

Full entry guidelines and the nomination form are available online at www.iowapreservation.org. Nomination packets must include all of the following items:

- Completed nomination form
- A typed narrative, no longer than 750 words, describing the project
- If the nomination is for an individual, please include a short biography
- At least 4 photographs documenting the project, including before and after images

Three (3) copies of the nomination packet, in hard copy format, should be mailed to: Michael Wagler, 200 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309. Digital images may be emailed to michael.wagler@gmail.com. Please denote in nomination packet if you intend to email images to ensure arrival. Submitted materials will not be returned. Submission to the Preservation At Its Best Awards provides the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance permission to include materials in organization promotional materials. Additional questions may be directed to Michael Wagler at 515.242.4792.

POSTMARK DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009

Calendar of Events

February 2009

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February 2009

Wednesdays in February (noon to 2 pm) ■ Black History Month Community Forums. Davenport Public Library, 321 Main Street, Davenport, Iowa. For more information, email ICCCA@live.com.

Feb 12-14 ■ Dear Sweetheart: The Letters of Howard and Margaret Hall. Bruce more Visitor Center, 2160 Linden Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information: www.bruce more.org.

Feb 16-17 ■ Not-for-Profit Conference. Marriott Hotel, 700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. For more information: www.infpa.org.

Feb 18 (7:00 am - 8:00 pm) ■ Cultural Advocacy Day. Des Moines, Iowa. Sponsored by the Iowa Cultural Coalition. For more information: www.iowaculturalcoalition.org.

Feb 19 (10:00 am - 1:00 pm) ■ Growing Sustainable Communities Conference: Promoting Historic Preservation as Part of the Climate Solution. Grand River Center, Port of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa. For more information: www.sustainable dubuque.org.

Feb 27-28 2009 ■ Restore Omaha Conference. Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, Nebraska. For more information: restoreomaha.org.

March 2009

Tuesdays in March (noon) ■ March Brown Bag Lectures. Chadwick Library, West Broad Street, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Sponsored by the Friends of the Harlan-Lincoln House at Iowa Wesleyan College. For more information, contact Lynn Ellsworth at 319.385.6320.

Mar 1-4 ■ National Main Streets Conference. Palmer House Hilton, 17 East Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois. For more information: www.mainstreet.org.

Mar 28 (1:00 pm) ■ 2009 Lecture Series: Introduction to ISU Design West/The Core Program. ISU Design West, Sioux City, Iowa. For more information: www.design.iastate.edu/ISUDesignWest/2009lectureseries.php.

April 2009

Apr 3 ■ The 2nd Annual Iowa Studies Forum: Experiencing the Strength of Our Heritage. DMACC, Ankeny, Iowa. For more information: dmacc.edu/iowastudies/welcome.

Apr 11 (1:00 pm) ■ 2009 Lecture Series: Architecture. ISU Design West, Sioux City, Iowa., <http://www.design.iastate.edu/ISUDesignWest/2009lectureseries.php>.

Apr 23 (7:00 pm) ■ Author Jason Emerson on his book, *The Madness of Mary Lincoln*. Heatilator Performing Arts Center, 307 East Monroe Street, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. For more information, contact Lynn Ellsworth at 319.385.6320.

Apr 26 (1:00 pm) ■ Open House and Organ Dedication. Harlan-Lincoln House, 101 West Broad Street, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. For more information, contact Lynn Ellsworth at 319.385.6320

May 2009—Preservation Month

May 7 (1:00 pm) ■ 2009 Lecture Series: Historic Preservation. ISU Design West, Sioux City, Iowa., <http://www.design.iastate.edu/ISUDesignWest/2009lectureseries.php>.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR EVENTS ON THIS PAGE AND OUR ONLINE CALENDAR? EMAIL THE INFORMATION TO US AT EVENTS@IOWAPRESERVATION.ORG

March 2009

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Iowa Loses Passionate Preservationist Glenda Castleberry Championed Sioux City's History

Glenda S. Castleberry Beekley of Dakota Dunes passed away Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at a Sioux City hospital after an inspirational four-year battle with ovarian cancer. Glenda was born March 9, 1951, in Detroit, Michigan, the daughter of Argus H. and Pearl E. (Barnes) Castleberry. She came to Sioux City in 1977 and was employed at First Federal Savings & Loan. Glenda subsequently worked for the city of Sioux City, SIMPCO and the Siouxland Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), where she was currently vice president and loan manager. Glenda married Kenneth A. Beekley on Aug. 9, 1986, at Grace United Methodist Church in Sioux City.

Glenda was a woman of many interests and her interests became her passions. It was in historic preservation that Glenda found much of her greatest pleasure and satisfaction. While serving several terms on the State National Register Nominations Review Committee and repeatedly declining requests to join other state commissions for fear of not having sufficient time to address her local priorities, Glenda developed a passion for the history and architecture of Sioux City. She often remarked that as a transplant to the community she saw structures of significance that, perhaps, lifelong residents took for granted. Consequently, she became a fierce advocate for many of Sioux City's significant structures, especially those threatened by demolition. To that end, she understood the need to educate the community on the benefits of preserving its history as expressed through its unique architecture.

As the vehicle for her passion she was a cofounder of SiouxLandmark, the community's only private, non-profit historic preservation organization. She took great pride in the development of SiouxLandmark and served as its president at the time of her death. To educate the community, Glenda helped design many of the local historic preservation walking tours and, until limited by her health, was a ready volunteer whenever a tour guide was needed. As another means of education, Glenda was a columnist for *Siouxland Lifestyle Magazine*, contributing articles on many of Sioux City's architectural jewels, both prominent and those less well known. She was most proud of the growth of the historic preservation movement locally from days when she and a few other committed preservationists were viewed as unusual to today when it is considered mainstream and a form of economic development. Glenda took great pride in the collaborations that developed that helped to preserve the Orpheum Theatre, Sioux City Fire Station No. 6 in Morningside, Reddy Kilowatt, the Peavy Muses, and the Williges Building.

In recognition of her historic preservation work, Glenda was the 1998 recipient of the History Maker Award presented by the Sioux City Public Museum as well as the Museum's 2003 President's Award for her "outstanding service promoting historic preservation in Siouxland." She was also the recipient of the 2007 Historic Preservation Week Award given to an individual for their contribution to local historic preservation. The most meaningful to Glenda, however, occurred during the Iowa Historic Preservation Conference in September of 2008 when she was honored "in recognition and gratitude for her immeasurable commitment to historic preservation in Siouxland" by her fellow local preservationists.

Glenda possessed a sweet and gentle soul. She faced death as she faced life—with grace, a smile on her face, and a kind word for everyone she met. Her personality reflected the values instilled in her by her parents and extended family and included many traits she shared with her brothers. Although her passing is a great loss to all whose good fortune it was to know her, the memories of their individual relationships with her serve as a source of comfort to her friends and family and as a testament to a life well lived. To read the full obituary, please go online: www.siouxcityjournal.com.

Excerpted with permission of Ken Beekley.



Become a Member!

Help us preserve Iowa's historic resources by renewing your membership to IHPA or by becoming an IHPA 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

- \$30 Pendant
- \$50 Front Porch
- \$100 Cornice
- \$500 Cornerstone
- \$1,000 Schoolhouse
- \$5,000 Skyscraper

Volunteer

- I'm interested in serving on the
- board of directors
 - communications committee
 - membership committee
 - fundraising committee
 - advocacy committee

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone (am): _____

Phone (pm): _____

Email: _____

Return to:

**P.O. Box 814
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641**



Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance
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www.iowapreservation.org

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Permit NO. 263
Monticello, Iowa

Take Action! Update

IHPA supports State Historic Tax Credit improvements...join us!

Beginning in the Summer of 2008, IHPA joined forces with the business community, municipalities, developers/property owners, financial institutions, attorneys, real estate agents, architects, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and others to encourage improvements to Iowa's State Historic Tax Credit program. In past years, IHPA and their historic rehabilitation tax credit coalition have been successful in increasing the annual aggregate cap to this program from \$4.6 million to the current \$20 million per year. These increases in income tax credits have resulted in over \$150 million worth of economic redevelopment investment in sustaining our communities and making it better for our children to inherit. Now we hope to make further progress, with your help.

Because the Heartland Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2008 has increased the Federal Historic Tax Credit from 20% to 26% in 78 of Iowa's counties, this is the perfect time to strengthen the State program and leverage additional federal funding to help rebuild Iowa. Please contact your legislators and ask them to support lifting the cap on the State Historic Tax Credit. To find your senator or representative, go to www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/legislators.do?&go=83. The State Historic Tax Credit program can make a difference in every Iowa community.



Iowa's barns, homes, and commercial buildings can take advantage of the State Historic Tax Credit program.

If you need help drafting your letter, please see our website (www.iowapreservation.org) for an example of what you might say. Be sure to add your own personal details for more impact!