

PRESERVATION UPDATE

The Newsletter of

*H*istoric *P*ella

*T*rust, *I*nc.

*“Preserving Yesterday with
a Vision for Tomorrow”*

We are a non-profit preservation group
founded in 1994.

The Historic Pella Trust Organization is a group of responsible men and women who have dedicated their time and talents to the preservation of historic buildings in and around Pella. These visionaries know that once a structure is destroyed, it is gone forever.

The goal of HPT is to protect and preserve Pella's heritage so that future generations will continue to be enriched by living and working in homes and buildings skillfully constructed by craftsmen whose architecture is not only sturdy, but pleasing to the eye.

2005 Executive Board Members:

Co-Presidents – Lisa Zylstra, Sallie De Reus

Vice-President – Sue Janssen

Bob Klein, Treasurer

Dody Boat, Secretary

Past President – Ralph Jaarsma

Harold & Wilma Den Besten

Liz Epperly

Eunice Folkerts

Ellie Gosselink

Robert V. Klein

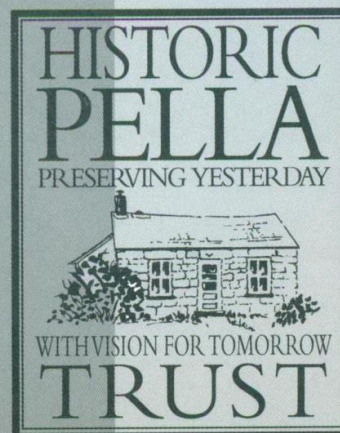
Duane Rempe

Wayne Stienstra

Jack Thomassen

Tim Tripp

George Wesselhoft



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. ROCK HOUSE

Central Drive and University

Built in 1856-57 by Dirk Van Loon, a stone mason from Amsterdam.

Limestone used to build this house was transported from Keokuk, Iowa in wagons each drawn by four horses - a long journey in the 1850s. The basic restoration was done by Edith Kuitert. It was given to HPT in 1999.

Current owner: Historic Pella Trust - Tenant: Dawn Core

Work Status: Caulking is done.
Storm windows are on and screens have been made.
Foundation on southside addition has been redone.
A tunnel was dug to enable installation of a new furnace.
New furnace and air conditioner installed fall of 2004.


2. 710 WEST FIRST STREET

This frame house was built in the 1870s. The architecture is typical of early Pella homes, with the porch placed close to the sidewalk.

Work Status: Overgrown yard debris removed in the summer of 2004.
Roof and shingles are in the process of being replaced.
All rotten wood has been replaced.
Paint was scraped and primer applied for winter protection.
Heat was turned on.

Pictures of summer work project at 710 W. 1st:





Celebrate Historic Preservation Day!
THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 21ST 7:00 PM
Pella Opera House!! Tickets \$5⁰⁰
ENTER OUR LIP-SYNC CONTESTS FOR FUN AND PRIZES!
GREAT FOOD!
Laugh and enjoy good fun with your friends and neighbors!

FEATURED INTERVIEW WITH RALPH JAARSMAN, PAST PRESIDENT OF HISTORIC PELLA TRUST, INC.

Ralph is a native son of Pella. His grandfather, Herman Jaarsma, came to Pella in 1890 from Friesland, Netherlands. Herman began Jaarsma Bakery by using an old-fashioned brick oven in their home at 706 W. First St. Today, Jaarsma Bakery is known far and wide as producing the finest baked goods as they continue honoring the excellent traditions established over a century ago. Over the years, Ralph has seen first-hand many changes in our community.

Q. What are your favorite childhood memories of growing up in Pella?

Ralph: Saturday nights downtown when the stores were open. I sold bags of peanuts that Dad roasted in the bakery oven. Tulip Times were a lot of fun, too. I enjoyed school and especially my classmates.

Q. What have been significant changes to Pella since the 1980s?

Ralph: The Vermeer Mill, the Molengracht, Historical Village, Central College Building projects, Dutch fronts, tourism increase.

Q. What is important to you while serving on the board of Historic Pella Trust?

Ralph: It is important to save Pella's historic homes. It is also important to make people aware of these treasures and to preserve them for future generations. We need to remember how things were in our community's past.

Q. What do you find unique about Pella as a small mid-west town?

Ralph: Many mid-west towns are struggling financially to stay alive. Pella is an economically healthy small town. We have a good blend of industry, retail, and tourism. Industry has given back huge sums of money for many projects in Pella that improve the quality of life here. Not all towns are as fortunate in that respect. Also, there are many, many unpaid volunteers who work for the good of the community.

FEATURED HOMES OF PELLA

The homes featured here are not projects of Historic Pella Trust, Inc., but serve to educate and remind all of us of the rich history that is shared by many homes and businesses in Pella. We honor those citizens who have committed to maintaining and preserving their historic homes.

1. 925 Broadway, Originally built by Phillipus J. Koelman

This cottage was built by Dominie Scholte's gardener about 1850. The quoins on the corners of the original structure were a trademark of Builder/Architect Jacobus VerHey. The home has been lovingly restored by Wayne Stienstra, member of Historic Pella Trust Executive Board.



2. 1008 E. 2nd Street – Current owners Jim and Julie Mueller

The restoration history of this lovely home began in 1950 when Bob and Doretha Klein, with the able assistance of Bob and Martha Lautenbach, rescued this house from total destruction. The site was on the outskirts of Pella when Mr. McClatchy, owner of the woolen mill on the property, built the family home in 1853. It fell into disrepair until Bob Lautenbach was contacted to see if he could restore this home. Bob contacted the Kliens to see if they were interested in buying the home. Indeed they were, and after months of hard but loving work by both couples, the beautiful home came back to life. Today the Klein's granddaughter, Julie, and her family fill it with love and laughter as their young family enjoys growing up in this beautifully restored home.



3. 1218 N. Main Street – Current owners: Brian and Julie Bell and family.

The first floor of this home was once the location of an elegant 1930 Inn and Tea Room. Sunday was one of the most popular days for locals to enjoy a delicious meal here. Wedding showers, baby showers, bridge parties and other occasions were celebrated in these lovely blue and white rooms.

John and Jo Harmeling lived here from 1961 to 2000 and raised their lively family of four children here. Now the Bell family continues the tradition as their children enjoy the warmth and nurturing of this lovely old home.



4. J.D. GAASS RESIDENCE – Corner of North Main and Monroe – Status: Torn Down

This beautiful home was lived in by John D. Gaass born in 1846 to Pieter Gaass and his mother Gerritje Van Gerrevink who immigrated to Pella in 1860. John and his wife Artje Overkamp moved here around 1862. Their six children filled this home with love and laughter while their mother quietly and efficiently managed the home and gave loving guidance to her lively children. Husband John oversaw the operations of his general mercantile store where both groceries and dry goods were sold.

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST

Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2005

7:00 p.m.

at the Pella Opera House

Please join us and have a fun evening as we celebrate Historic Preservation Day.

Learn about Pella history and food and have fun with friends.

Join our Lip Sync Contest!

***Dress up, choose your song
and call 628-4082 to enter.***

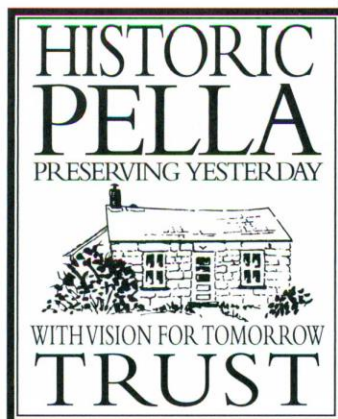
Top 3 winners will receive prizes.
Vote for your favorite act with your dollars.

Sorry! These acts are already booked. (Come-enjoy!)

Reba McEntire "First Wives Club" "The Supremes"

"Mormon Tabernacle Choir"

"Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy"



BECOME A MEMBER!

Future preservation programs will NOT have funds to support them without your help!

Your support will guarantee that Pella's historic homes and businesses continue to witness our heritage. On-going preservation insures that future generations will enjoy the pride we all share living in Pella. Funds are used for: restoration incentive grants; National Historic Register presentations; and needed maintenance and upgrading of currently owned properties.

During its first ten years of existence, Historic Pella Trust has

- Preserved the Soul Sleeper Church on Franklin Street.
- Continued to care for the on-going needs of the Rock House on University.
- Purchased 710 W. 1st St. with the intent to restore and renovate.
- Provided conservation easements for E. 3rd between Columbus and Franklin
- Nominated five structures to the National Historic Register
 - 615 Main
 - 925 Broadway
 - 1305 Washington Street
 - 824 Franklin Street
 - Coal Ridge Church (Marion County)

PLEASE JOIN HISTORIC PELLA TRUST AND BECOME AN IMPORTANT LINK IN PRESERVING PELLA'S FUTURE! WE ARE A 501C3 ORGANIZATION. FOR OTHER INFORMATION CALL 628-4082.

Fill in the following information and mail this with your check to:

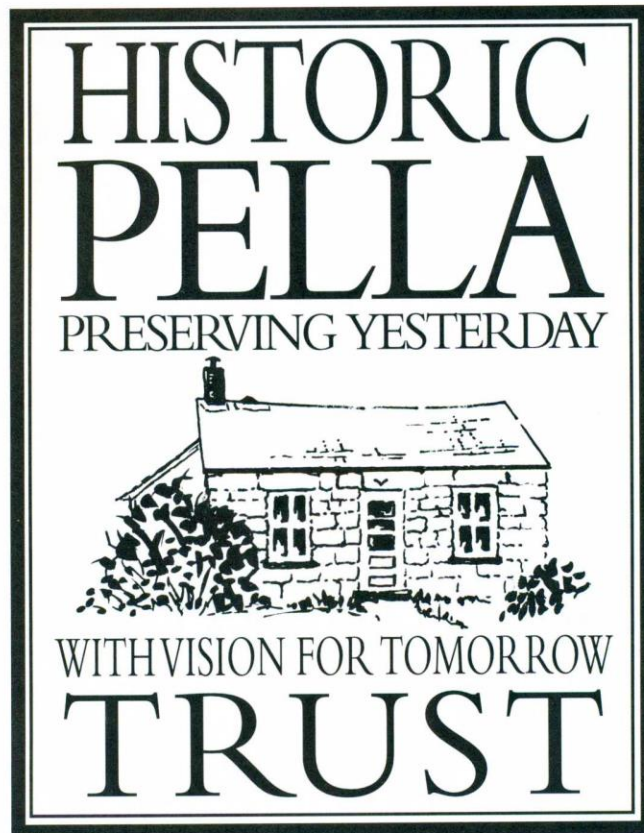
Historic Pella Trust
PO Box 1
Pella, IA 50219

Single Membership: \$25.00
Family Membership: \$50.00
Senior Membership: \$10.00

Business Membership: \$75.00
Golden Circle Membership: \$250.00
Special Preservation Donation \$ _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone number: _____

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HISTORIC Pella TRUST, Inc.

Needs your Support!

Please consider becoming a member.