

# Preservation Update

## Historic Pella

## Trust, Inc.

*Preserving Yesterday with  
a Vision for Tomorrow*

A non-profit preservation group  
founded in 1994

Historic Pella Trust 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 Historic Pella Trust is to protect and preserve Pella's heritage by preserving historic building sites, so that future generations will continue to honor the time and talents of our forefathers.

### **2009 Board Members**

Wayne Stienstra, President  
Ellie Gosselink, Vice-President  
Davis Folkerts Secretary  
Bob Klein, Co-treasurer  
Robert V. Klein, Co-treasurer  
Ellie Gosselink – Newsletter Editor  
Davis Folkerts Past President  
Dody Boat  
Dan De Cook  
Harold & Wilma Den Besten  
Sallie DeReus  
Liz Epperly  
Eunice Folkerts  
Ralph Jaarsma  
Duane Rempe  
Ron Rietveld  
Harold Schnedler  
George Wesselhoft  
Lisa Zylstra

The Historic Pella Trust Office  
615 Main Street  
Pella, Iowa 50219  
(641) 628-8003

*Volume 8 - Fall 2008*



## Letter from the President

Dear Members and future members,

I would like to update you on a few projects of Historic Pella Trust.

I am pleased to announce that the Vander Veer House at 110 Washington (across from Strawtown Restaurant) passed the final review and has been placed on the national Register of Historic Places. It was one of the original settlers' structures built when Pella was founded. We have started work to get the exterior more presentable. There has been some interest in the property as a dwelling, although the current real estate market has put some interest on hold for the time being. It has potential for the right person and will now be eligible for the 20 percent tax credit for a restoration as a commercial property. It is also in the Strawtown Cultural District which would make it eligible for other grants and funding.

The building that houses our Historic Pella Trust office is the old Diamond Oil Station across from Pella's Police Station. It also has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built as a house in 1877 and converted to a gas station in 1928. All of the nomination papers are open for your review at HPT's office.

HPT has been working with the City of Pella to place the old City Hall on the National Register of Historic Places. Historian Will Page from Des Moines is working on the nomination papers and we hope it will be on the National Register during the first part of 2009. HPT is working with the city to place a conservation easement on the property, which would protect the historic elements of the property. Historic Pella Trust would be the "guardian" of the building, to ensure that the stone dogs would remain where they are and the exterior of the building keeps its historic details. Membership funds, along with donations make all this possible.

HPT has started keeping regular office hours in their office located at the old Diamond Oil Station. Hours are: Thursday Night from 6 PM until 8 PM, and Saturday morning from 10 AM until Noon. Our purpose is to be a resource for those wishing to find out more about historic preservation. We have old Pella maps available for research, old house photos, a large copy of an 1869 'birds-eye' drawing of Pella, that shows how much Pella grew in the first 20 years. This map is currently on loan to the Pella Historical Society for the Lincoln-Scholte exhibit currently showing at the Scholte House Museum until November 22, 2008. (Be sure to check out Pella's connection to one of our greatest American Presidents.) HPT's computer has broadband access for research of funding and grant opportunities for historic preservation. Also available are slideshows of Historic Pella Trust Properties and projects.

If any member would like to sign up to help during the hours we are open, please contact Wayne Stienstra at [waynes@iowatelecom.net](mailto:waynes@iowatelecom.net) or 641-780-4650. When we are open we are pleased to have visitors drop in. It is also a good time to do your own research and look at items in our office to assist you in your interests.

HPT's web site is still a work in progress but should be completed by the first of 2009.

I wish to thank Davis Folkerts for his work as our past president of HPT, and thank him for graciously agreeing to be secretary for our organization. We all appreciate his expertise in his use of the computer and mailing lists.

HPT will be getting a new neighbor at the Pella Community Foundation, with whom we share the office. Jim Brandl will be taking over from Ken Weller. We also want to thank Shirley Weller for the beautiful flowers she maintains at our sign in front of the office.

I am hoping this will be an exciting year for historic preservation in Pella. If you have any suggestions for our organization, please contact me or any Historic Pella Trust board member.

Wayne Stienstra  
e-mail: [waynes@iowatelecom.net](mailto:waynes@iowatelecom.net) or Cell Phone: 641-780-4650



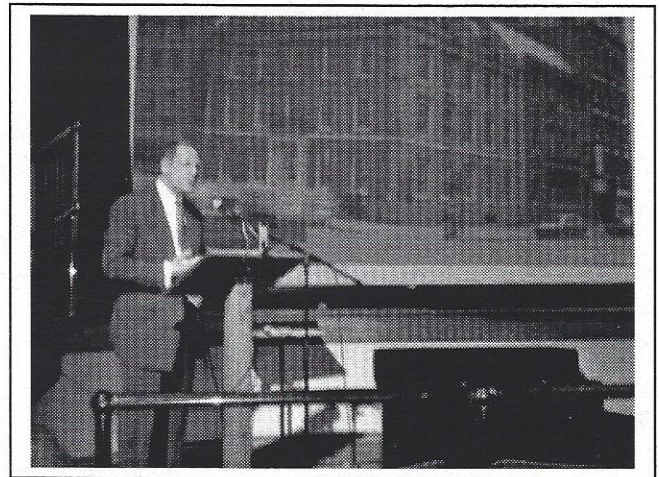
## Historic Pella Trust Annual Meeting May 8, 2008 at Pella's Opera House

HPT was fortunate to have acclaimed architect, Dr. Theodore Prudon, speak to members and guest at our eighth annual Meeting held May 8<sup>th</sup> at Pella's Opera House. Dr. Prudon is a professor of architect at Columbia University in New York City as well as a partner at Cowley and Prudon Architects (specializing in restoration). He was born in Delft Holland and has a Master of Arts Degree from Delft University of Technology. Dr. Prudon, who likes to be called Theo, also received his doctorate from Columbia University.

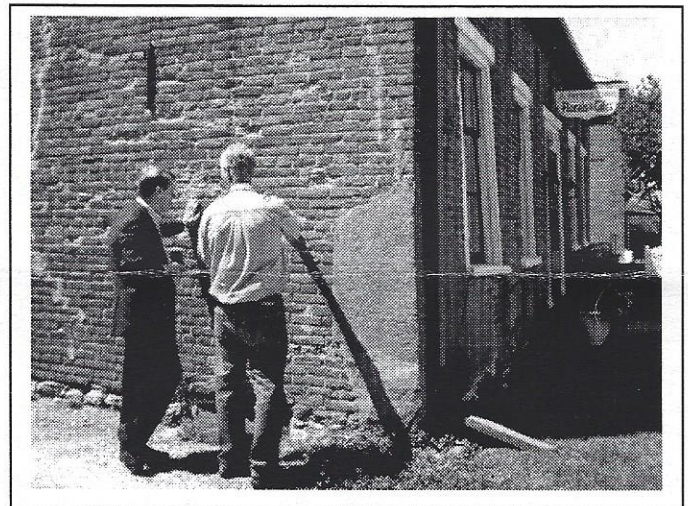
His speech covered a wide range of restoration topics that was coordinated with slides. Dr. Prudon spoke on Dutch architecture, including slides highlighting some of the older style structures built in Pella.

Dr. Prudon is a champion of preservation of modern architecture and talked mainly of structures built in the 1940's and '50's, emphasizing that some of these unique buildings will disappear if preservation plans are not brought fourth to restore the buildings using materials and technology required to insure proper preservation. Dr. Purdon is also the author of, *Preservation of Modern Architecture*, which covers all facets of preservation and restoration of modern structures.

Dr. Prudon is also active with DOCOMOMO (an acronym for "the DOocumentation and COnervation of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of the MOdern Movement. This group was founded in 1988 in the Netherlands to preserve modern buildings that have now reached the age where their futures are threatened. This conservation group is growing in membership in major cities around the United States.



Dr. Prudon speaking at HPT's annual meeting.



Dr. Prudon and Wayne Steinstra discuss the style of architecture used at Strawtown.

## Special September Historic Pella Trust Board Meeting

Historic Pella trust board members and their guests, held their regular September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting by touring the Marion County Historic Village in Knoxville. This historic complex of buildings honors the pioneers and their descendents who settled Marion County from 1846 to the present. Buildings include the Little Red School, Bussey Depot, Stagecoach Inn, Valley Chapel Church along with a country store and museum. A log cabin and machine shed with farm equipment and machinery are also on display. Everyone enjoyed browsing through the museum sighting many unique antiques and artifacts.

Following our tour we met at the home of Eunice and Davis Folkers who graciously hosted a salad, sandwich and dessert supper which was enjoyed by all.



First Christian Church of Pella State Historical  
Society Award – May 19, 2008 in Des Moines, Iowa

The State Historical Society of Iowa held their history awards day on Monday, May 19, 2008 at the State Historical Museum in Des Moines. The theme for this years award day was “Celebrate Community History”, an event that celebrates May as National Historic Preservation Month.

Historians, historic preservationists and others gathered for the event, which was created in 1995. The day long event recognized Iowa’s varied and important historic properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007, and the groups and individuals for their work in preserving Iowa’s rich heritage. Cynidi Pederson, Director of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs noted, “We are pleased to recognize the projects and the people who devote their time, energy and resources to ensure our heritage is kept alive for future generations of Iowans to enjoy.”

Ellie Gosselink, on behalf of Historic Pella Trust, accepted the National Register of Historic Places certificate given for the placement of the First Christian Church (also known as the Old Soul Sleeper Church) now operated as a Used Book Store at 824 Franklin Street, Pella, Iowa. Will Page prepared all documentation to establish this historic building being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Pella Trust is a local organization devoted to making sure that historic properties in and around Pella are not destroyed but preserved for future generations. Davis Folkerts is President of the Board of Directors; Wayne Stienstra, Vice-President; Dody Boat, Secretary; Robert Klein, Treasure and Ellie Gosselink – Newsletter Editor. We are a local non-profit preservation group founded in 1994. Our goal is to protect and preserve Pella’s heritage by preserving historic building sites, so that future generations will continue to honor the time and talents of our forefathers. Historic Pella Trust Office is located at 615 Main Street, Pella Iowa our phone number is 641-628-8003.



Will Page and Ellie Gosselink with the Certificate of Award for the placement of the First Christian Church / Old Soul Sleeper Church awarded May 19, 2008.

### HPT's Current Active Projects

- Repair floor of Soul Sleeper's Church
- Monitor action to preserve Pella's old City Hall – Looking for it to be placed on National Register of Historic Places by early 2009
- Maintenance of Vande Veer House and Rock House to be prepared for winter.
- HPT's Web site to be active by 2009

Join Historic Pella Trust or Renew your membership to  
Keep current of activities throughout 2009



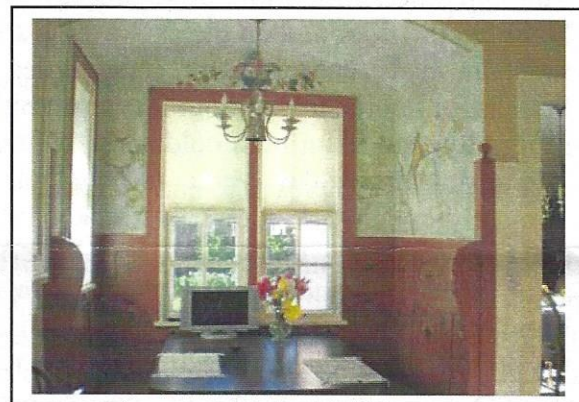
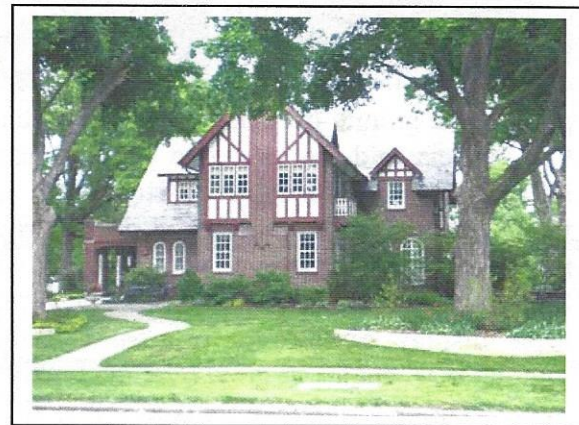
Historic Home Highlights by Ellie Gosselink

Featured Home: The ‘Vogelaar’ Home 1000 Broadway

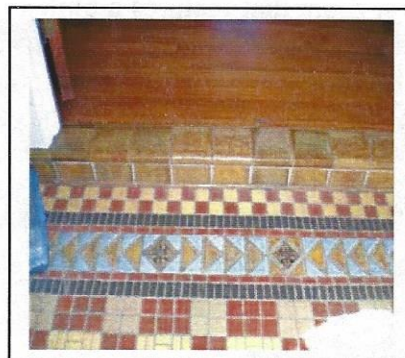
The regal Tudor style home nestled under stately maple trees was built in 1920 by Richard Lautenbach for the Gary T. Vogelaar family, owners of Vogelaar’s Hardware and Implement Store. Larry and Patricia Plate are now the proud owners of this grand home and greeted me warmly as they ushered me into their lovely kitchen. Patricia handed me a steaming cup of rich coffee as we sat down at their kitchen table flanked on both sides by beautiful high back Dutch benches upon which Sallie DeReus had painted Hindeloopen motifs. Surrounding the table on three sides is a beautiful bird mural. Curious about the origin of the mural, the Plates invited Orleath Ingle, who grew up in the house, to tell them the history of the house, and she confirmed that the mural had always been there. Turning towards the west wall, Patricia pointed out a single wall socket located next to a door and placed half way up the wall. This unique placement puzzled her, but Orleath solved this mystery when she told Patricia that her mother would set up the ironing board in the doorway, and the high socket kept the cord out of her way.

As Patricia and Larry talked about the house’s history, it was very clear that it is important to both of them that their home is preserved and maintained as close to its original state as possible. While upgrading the heating, electrical and plumbing systems with modern equipment, it is of prime importance to them to see that the historical significance is not compromised in any manner. They are truly preservationists in the finest sense of the word.

Both Larry and Patricia grew up in Prairie City. Patricia’s Pella roots go back to 1847, when her family ancestor, Huibert Colyn came with his family on the ship Pieter Floris. Patricia and Larry moved to Chicago shortly after they were married. Establishing their own careers, they settled in the Evanston area where they lived for over 30 years. When Patricia retired she desired to own a home in Pella and mentioned it to her sister-in-law, who said that the Vogelaar home was for sale. Her sister-in-law made arrangements to view the house, and Patricia said, “when she stepped inside it was love at first sight.”



Kitchen table/benches and mural.



Sun Room tiles.



Pocket doors leading to living room



Featured Home - The Vogelaar Home - 1000 Broadway (continued)

Taking a tour of the house, when we entered the living room Larry pointed out the craftsmanship of the two pocket door that slide so easily you can close them with the pull of one finger. The room is beautifully decorated with a grand piano to your left but the focal point is the granite fireplace enhanced with a coat-of-arms that Patricia said she was on a quest to learn more about its origin. The splendid quarter-sawed oak hardwood floors are covered with beautiful oriental rugs. As we left the living room I noticed two identical display shelves illuminating Patricia's Hummel collection. Larry said these display cases were original and they added the lighting that sent a soft glow over the lovely objects.

Turning right we walked down the hallway to a sunroom filled with warm sunlight. Lovely Italian tiles highlight the floor and on the east wall is a small working fountain made entirely with Italian tiles. This room Patricia was quick to point out they use year around and is especially wonderful on a cold sunny winter day. But on this warm summer day, you could see their lovely garden through the arched windows that looked out upon a patio that they both enjoy on many warm Iowa evenings.

All the windows and paneling in the home are beautifully cut black walnut and as we climbed the stairs to the second floor I noticed magnificent iron rails that Patricia said were made of Italian pounded copper originally installed when the house was built. The upstairs is large and spacious with a handsome master bedroom suite and a guest room that features a built-in vanity. The pride of workmanship is apparent in the quality and care that went into building each room as they constructed this stately home, for no detail is too small not to be important.

Larry also pointed out other architectural features, such as rainwater that is caught in the house cistern system and was originally piped into the home. They now direct the still working cistern water to their garden and lawn. The garage was built with hot water pipes connected to the house to heat the garage.

Everywhere you look are special features such as the beauty of original tiles in every entrance way, picture rails around the walls, curved windows in a room off the main entrance, and storage closets that are deep and roomy. This is truly a home that reflects the pride of the Vogelaar's who built it and Reverend Norman and Glenys Schouten who lived in the house for over 20 years where they raised their family when it was the Second Reformed Church's parsonage.

Historic Pella Trust wants to congratulate Larry and Patricia Plate for being strong in their conservation beliefs that insures this historic home will always be preserved in the fine tradition that it was built.

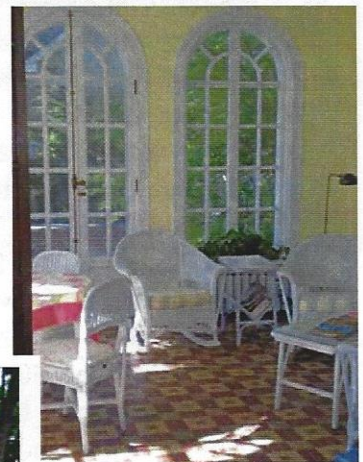


Living Room - 1800's silk quilt is hanging on far wall



Tiled fountain in Sun Room

Sun Room

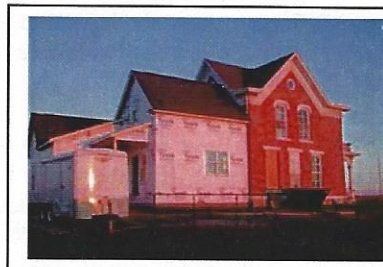


Side entrance to home with covered portico.



### Update of Van Wyke House Restoration

Historic Pella Trust is honored to help in the restoration of this fine old house. In September we presented a grant to help defray the cost of restoring the old windows back to their original design. The recent pictures noted to your right were taken by Wayne Stienstra. This property is located east of Pella on Highway 163.



## ZWANK LOG CABIN - 1833

Original Location: Homestead located west of Peoria, Iowa built in 1833

Current Location: Pella Historical Village

Article written by: Bob Klein

The other day I was browsing through my library and came across one of my favorite books, a gift to me from my cousins Nancy Tonque and Paul Klein of Lake Oswego, Oregon. The book is titled, 'America Wide' and is a series of panoramic landscape pictures by Ken Duncan, an award winning photographer. The book is breathtaking in scope and one particular picture in the book, that meant something to me, is the one of the inside of the Zwank Log Cabin now located in Pella's Historical Village. This photograph brought to mind the interesting story of how this humble log cabin came to have a permanent home in our Historical Village.

One day, in the late 1960's a good friend of mine, Pete Swank, came to me and said, "Bob, there is an old house out in the pasture at our place. It is an old house that was built around the original log cabin. The log cabin was built in 1833. Why don't you take a look at it as I think it would be of interest to Pella's Historical Society."

Indeed I was interested, so I called Nick DeJong and Frank Ryken, who were working at the Historical Village at the time. I told them about the old log cabin and so we drove out to Pete Zwank's farm near Peoria. Pete took us out to see the old house that was built around the original log cabin.





Zwank Log Cabin – continued

Arrangements were made with Pete to move the log cabin to the Historical village. This meant that we had to remove the house from around the cabin and then move the dismantled pieces to Pella’s Historical Village, where we then had to rebuild the log cabin back to its original state.

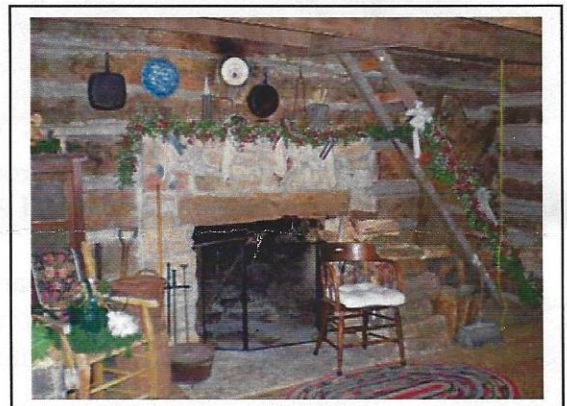
It took many afternoons to remove all the old house siding. Carefully we dismantled the old house marking each of the old roof rafters in proper order. We later used these roof rafters in our rebuilding process, as the original roof of the log cabin had been removed when the house was built around it. Eventually the log cabin was uncovered and everyone marveled that it was in perfect shape. The original owners built the log cabin side walls using the proper procedures to hold the walls together. Each log was chopped with an ax. Each joint was fastened on the corners and slanted away from the interior, insuring that any rain water would drain properly as it came off the roof, thus protecting the joints from becoming water logged or rotten.

As we began dismantling the log cabin, we marked each separate piece as it was removed; #1, #2, #3, etc. We also marked the log placement in the structure, i.e., whether it was on the northeast or northwest corners, etc. Painstakingly we removed log after log, amazed that each log was in perfect shape. We found the cutouts for the log cabin windows were all properly mitered along the door corners that were also perfectly mitered, revealing a marvel of old time carpentry. The skilled craftsmanship originally used to build the cabin was apparent throughout all stages of dismantling. We found that in the attic, when the owners built the house around the log cabin, they used logs to finish off the house attic.

When we reached the lower section of the walls we found a tongue and groove floor, which was too modern for a log cabin. The original flooring had disappeared. I knew of an old livery stable, that was a part of a corner building, that was being torn down behind Vogelaar’s Hardware. When we check the boards we were pleasantly surprised to find the livery stable boards in the attic were the same as what would have been typically used as flooring, in buildings of the 1830’s. These boards were removed and reassembled as the floor in the log cabin.

As we continued to mark the items and remove them, we discovered a small fruit storage cellar that had been built out of rock. We decided to salvage the rock for the foundation. We also discovered that the fireplace opening was still intact, (it had been made into a closet). The rocks from the fireplace went together with the salvaged rocks from the old fruit cellar. Each stone was marked and set aside to be reassembled once they were moved to Pella.

Bucky Waechter of Waechter Lumber in Pella, lent us their flatbed truck to transport all the disassembled log cabin pieces to their new home in the Historical Village. Once everything was relocated to Pella, we started to reassemble the log cabin. All the marked pieces went back together perfectly, which we all found to be quite remarkable.

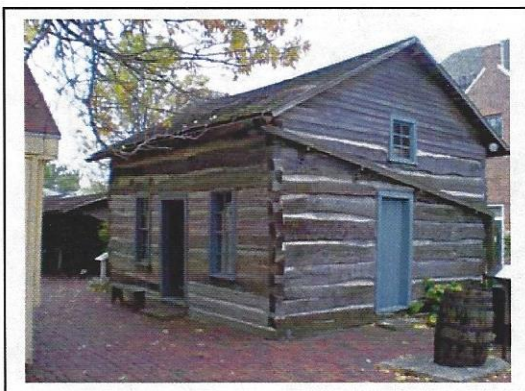


When we began to reassemble the fireplace, we called upon Virgil Ten Hagen, a local mason, to help assemble the fireplace. All the stones matched perfectly and it was refreshing to see it come together as it was originally built in 1833.

New shingles were installed on the roof to protect the structure from the Iowa climate.

The original ladder, used to reach the log cabin’s attic from the main floor was also found. In the old days, people slept in the attic and we assume this was also done in this cabin.

The coal oil lamp hanging over the table came from Pete Vander Sluis’ farmhouse located on what is now East Independence Street in Pella. It is on a cast iron bracket done in a local shop. This lamp is typical of lamps used in homes in this era. Also found was an old meat grinder that came from Slob Grocery in Pella. This meat grinder was most likely assembled in someone’s farm shop, because it is wood and has little pieces of metal that would grind to a fine point. An auger inside was used to feed the meat into the grinder, with the ground meat emerging out the other end. The washstand came from an old house in Pella that I had in my barn and is also of the style used in the early days. There would have been a bowl and pitcher on the washstand. Outside the cabin we placed a limestone rock that had been used for leaching lye used in the making of soap.



This original log cabin is a marvelous addition to Pella’s Historical Village, as it preserves for generations to come, the opportunity to see first-hand the skills used by our pioneer families as they settled the Iowa Territory in the early to mid-1800’s.



## Why your MEMBERSHIP is IMPORTANT!

Some Examples of building Historic Pella Trust has preserved:

Saved: Old Soul Sleeper Church – 824 Franklin Street

Saved: 710 W. First Street- Estimated this home was built within ten years of Pella's founding.

Saved: 1110 Washington Street – Estimated this home was built in the early 1850's.

Saved: Rock House on University Avenue

HPT has supported others who have saved properties:

Coal Ridge Church – Now on the National Register of Historic Places

Wayne Stienstra has saved: 925 Broadway (former Koelman/VanZante house)

615 Main St. – former DX Station now houses our office.

1305-1/2 Washington (Fox Farm Building)

15560 Main – VerPloeg acreage and apple barn.

**We must be ever vigilant to insure historically significant homes or buildings are not destroyed!**

Clip this portion and send it with your contribution. Thank You!

Please fill in the following information and mail this with your check to: Historic Pella Trust

P.O. Box 1

Pella, Iowa 50219

Single Membership: \$25.00

Business Membership: \$75.00

Family Membership: \$50.00

Gold Circle Membership: \$250.00

Senior Membership: \$10.00

Special Preservation Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_