

A Newsletter from the Historic Pella Trust

PRESERVE PELLA



STEGEMAN PROPERTY AT 1110 WASHINGTON

Bruce Boertje

Good news! The Historic Pella Trust is proud to announce another successful preservation, and soon-to-be-completed, restoration project. As many of you know, the Trust has been in possession of the property at 1110 Washington Street, often referred to as the ten Hagen/Stegeman Store. What you may not know is the full story behind the property, its acquisition, and its wonderful future.

Before Pella was 10 years old Adrianus Jan Cornelis ten Hagen and his wife Charlotte built the home, either in 1856 or 1857. The home was constructed from native timber, the

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SAVE THE DATE

**Historic Pella Trust's Annual Meeting
and Dutch Dinner**

*October 19th at 5:45 pm
at the Pella Opera House*

Tickets for the meal are \$15 and available exclusively at Pella Opera House, 611 Franklin Street until October 17th, reservations required 641-628-8625.

At 7pm we will have a free program in the Opera House Theater. Please join us for awards, meeting and a presentation by Lisa Oetken on the restoration of the Mt. Pleasant's once devastated by fire downtown Union Block Building.

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flooring was built from planks measuring up to 20" wide, the wood siding was walnut, and some of the floor joists (logs) still have bark on them.

In time, Mr. ten Hagen passed away, but Charlotte continued to live in the home until she sold the property in 1876 to Garret and Catharina Stegeman. Garret, then 49, proceeded to build additions to the west and north, more than doubling the size of the home. With the added space he turned the southeast room of the home into a store. Little is known about the store, but it is said to have operated for several years. Mr. Stegeman passed away in 1887 after a two-year battle with throat cancer, but Catherina continued to live in the home until her death in 1903. Following her death the home had several different occupants.

In 1920 Mrs. H. de Booy sold the home to Will and Dora Koopmans for \$1,500. In 1926 it was reported that 36-year-old William Vander Waal, who was living at that address, was killed in St. Joseph, Missouri. William had been temporarily working in that city when he attempted to jump a train to return to Pella. In 1935, Arie Teseling, aged 73, died at his residence, which was 1110 Washington. And in 1938 J. Klootwyk was reported to be living at the same address. However, it was in 1940 that the home took on its longest

occupants: Clarence and Mabel Van Der Veer. For the next 62 years the Van Der Veer family made this property their home. To give a feel for the time, in 1940 Clarence advertised that he had "Full Blood White Jersey Giant Roosters for sale". In 1943 he advertised a milk goat for sale and noted that he also wanted to purchase a small building to be used as a chicken house. In 1945 he was selling "Rabbits and Hutch: 1 buck and six doe with some young". By 1948 he had graduated to advertising a "1934 Plymouth coach with good tires, reasonable price", and in 1950 it was a "V-8 Ford motor in A-1 condition".

Clarence worked 29 years at Rolscreen Company, retiring in 1972 and passing away in 1985. Mabel had variously been employed at the Frundt Seed Corn Company, the Pella Canning Factory and Central Park Café. She lived in the home until 2002 when she moved into a care facility and passed away in 2003. The Van Der Veer family's experiences were truly a wonderful representation of life in mid-20th century Pella.

It was following Mabel Van Der Veer's death that the property went into limbo for several years. It ultimately came to the Trust's attention that the home was imminently slated for demolition and upon inquiry the Trust was told that the home could be theirs, but only if they came up with \$100,000 in one week! The bulldozer was literally standing by. Scrambling, the



A view to the east from the corner of Washington and West Fourth Street, c. 1880. The Stegeman Store can be seen at the extreme left of the photo. To the extreme right is the future Strawtown complex.

Trust was able to secure a generous donation of half the required money and then obtained a loan for the remaining amount.

Having safely secured the property, the Historic Pella Trust engaged Iowa historian Will Page to add the property to the National Register of Historic Places, which was completed in 2009. In the meantime, work was begun to stabilize the home. Wayne Stienstra and Ed Sprague spent many hours removing and installing new rafters, fascia and soffits; installing new cedar shake shingles; returning the rear of the structure to its original configuration; removing and reconstructing a side porch; and having a rock foundation placed under the 1876 addition. The Trust was also able to preserve the well and had the exterior of the house painted.

Earlier this year the Trust voted to sell the property to Mary Van Wyk in order to complete the project and finish returning the home to its full glory. Mary has the time, knowledge, resources and (most importantly) enthusiasm to complete the renovation in appropriate style. Her plans for the home to become an Airbnb featuring a rental with two bedrooms, each with their own bath. The decor is furnished with the history of Pella and antiques.

Mary has already completed extensive landscaping to the property and the exterior of the home is nearing completion. The interior has been taken down as far as necessary, preserving the essentials but adding needed updates including a new HVAC system and electrical and plumbing upgrades. She will also be reconfiguring some of the rooms. Mary has been busy making plans, overseeing the restoration, and purchasing appropriate period pieces that will accent the completed property.

Her enthusiasm is extremely contagious. She stated that when the Airbnb lodging opens next year that she intends to return



some of the profits to the Historic Pella Trust. And so it comes full circle. The goal of the Historic Pella Trust is to aid in preserving Pella's architectural history. Now that preservation – with help from Mary - will help perpetuate other properties.

This is one wonderful example of how we can make a difference. The Historic Pella Trust can't do it alone – but with help from you we DO make a difference!

OCTOBER 19TH ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION CONTINUED

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Please join us for this memorable evening! Our Guest Speaker, Lisa Oetken will present The History and Revitalization of The Union Block Building in Mount Pleasant Iowa. Lisa was the driving force for this successful restoration. This three story building dates to 1861. There was a fire in January 2011 that left it in very bad shape. Many people felt that it was too far gone to attempt restoration. Lisa will recount how the group Main Street Mount Pleasant was able to overcome a host of obstacles to save this landmark.

The Union Block building is a Federal type of architecture which can be found west from the Mississippi River about as far as Mount Pleasant, Iowa. After the Civil War, the veterans and families were treated to a meal on the building's large

open 3rd floor. The first woman lawyer in the United States practiced law with her brother in the Union Block building. The people that spoke in this building are Who's Who for that time period. It was a center for women's rights.

It was hoped that the restoration of this building would spur interest in saving other buildings around the Mt. Pleasant square. This has since happened with the old Brazelton Hotel. Today the Union Block building holds businesses, offices, and on the third floor a large room for parties, weddings and community events.

We believe you will find Lisa's presentation interesting and motivating as we consider the many restoration opportunities in Pella.

GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Van Kooten, Executive Director Pella Historic Trust

After a short time working with the board of the Historic Pella Trust, I have a huge appreciation for what this organization is about. Executive Director seems like a glorified title for a team captain of this unique and effective history group. I am honored to accept this position to implement and follow up on the activities and projects that are part of preserving Pella's past along with encouraging more activities in the future.

I am at a time in my life when I wish I had recorded more of the lives and activities of my parents and grandparents. The stories were always rich and interesting; even their lifestyles are treasures that should not be forgotten. We tend to discount our past as just routine, yet now, I am the older generation... It is now or never to record and pass on this rich heritage.

History has always been a part of my lifestyle, as has a passion to preserve it. My family can often be found demonstrating crafts in a historical setting. Many would describe us as modern day homesteaders, enjoying farming, gardening and traditional craftsmanship such as blacksmithing and woodworking. My parents enjoyed

restoring older homes and furniture, and they passed that passion onto me. Professionally, my background is in floral design and decorative painting arts, which lead nicely into decorating and restoring furniture and vintage houses.

You may own one of my creative projects, I was the designer of the Lincoln School souvenir bricks. I was on the parent teacher organization board at the time and was challenged by Merlin Vander Leest to do something with the bricks from the school after it was torn down. I created many versions of this idea before I decided to have the bricks sliced, allowing the souvenir to be more compatible with everyone's decor. I soon realized hand painting each brick would not be feasible and enlisted the help of Jim Emmert's art class with screen printing each one of them, a much faster process! The biggest task of this project was recruiting volunteers for each process, cleaning the bricks and moving them through the stages of production.

I take pride in being "Pella Dutch." Dad was from Friesland and mom's heritage from Gelderland. I also married into a Dutch family 38 years ago. My parents, Frank and Greta Westra, built a home on Elm Street across from Calvary Church - my first home. We lived a couple years at 400 Franklin Street, and my grandparents Gerrit and Kate VandeVoort lived there the rest of their lives. We moved to an acre south of Red Rock Dam around 1964, and this is where my husband Kraig and I still call "home." My folks moved to 800 Hazel Street the summer we got married, keeping me rooted in the Franklin Street area.

Selling an older home to make way for something new often is a practical and wise financial decision. From my own experience, it is not without regrets later on. Years later, I find I appreciate the location, quality and beauty of the homes my family parted with, especially an apartment house across from the historical village and the home at 800 Hazel. It seemed so clear at the time, but now I realize the real value in strong structure, large yard and personality. These homes are gone and to most residents forgotten, but there are still many historical homes to appreciate and preserve.

I look forward to promoting the preservation of Pella's history and serving this organization in their mission to establish respect of historical Pella before it is just a memory that fades away. The best way to communicate with me is to email me at office@historicpellatrust.org. Thank you!



HPT Office located at, 608 Lincoln St.

TUTTLE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Jesse Vos and Jan Vandenberg

When the Trust acquired the Tuttle Log Home two years ago, Jan Vandenberg knew that it was something to get excited about. "I felt [the home] had to become something important to our community and our children," she said. After seeing her granddaughter's enthusiasm for the Tuttle story, Jan realized that the best way to get the kids of Pella involved was through annual field trips to the Log Home. By working with the various elementary schools, including Madison, Lincoln, and Pella Christian, the Tuttle Educational Program began in the spring of 2016. "The hands-on experiences in the small group setting are just perfect for second graders," said Anna Dykstra, teacher at Pella Christian Grade School. "They came back to school and wrote so much in their journals about the experience!"

Preparation for each visit includes meetings with volunteers, collaboration with teachers, and setting up the Log Home for an entire class of second graders to come through. On the day of the visit, the students participate in five stations. At one, they make clay marbles and learn about pioneer children; at another, they wash clothes on a washboard and hear about taking a bath when there was no running water. At the third, they learn about how the Tuttles would grow food, as well as what the Native Americans taught the couple. The other two stations are inside the home, where the students learn about pioneer cooking and what it would have been like to live in a one-room log cabin. At the end of the program, each student takes home a coloring book telling the story of the Tuttles. With each class taking approximately an hour and fifteen minutes, the volunteers can get through every class in about a week's time.

The positive effects of this educational program can already be seen. "Parents come back with their kids to visit because they want to show mom and dad what they learned here. It's so good for our community – more people know about the existence of Tuttle because of the program," Jan said. Through many hours of dedicated work, the Tuttle Log Home has hosted nearly 500 students.

Jan would like to thank Lynn Hinga Branderhorst, Carol Hoeksema, Glenda Noordsy, Lil Terpstra, Bertha Terpstra and her grandson Griffin, Susan Brackin, and Jan Chapman for their invaluable help with the program. If you would like to volunteer in the future, please contact the Historic Pella Trust office at 641-628-2935 or office@historicpellatrust.org.



HPT SUPPORTS HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

Approximately three years ago under the leadership of board member Eunice Kuyper, the Historic Pella Trust began the process of establishing Pella's first historically designated neighborhood. Iowa historian, William Page, was hired to begin the research of the area known as the Collegiate Neighborhood Historic District. The District is an area roughly bounded by Main Street and West 1st Street running north and south, and Independence Street, Union Street, and Liberty Street running east and west. Although Main Street borders one parcel in the historic district, it is not included in its boundaries.

The neighborhood, part of Pella's original plat laid out in 1848 for Dominie Henry P. Scholte, contains about 70 single-family dwellings, garages, and brick streets—most dating from the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries and contributing as National Register resources. The Collegiate Neighborhood Historic District possesses a locally significant collection of architectural designs with Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles predominating. The incidence of buildings of such fashionable quality is noticeably higher than in many surrounding neighborhoods of comparable age, where folk vernacular dwellings are more in evidence. The level of integrity within the

Collegiate Neighborhood Historic District is high and with few intrusions. Properties have been well maintained, and residents obviously take pride in them.

Historian Will Page did extensive historic research on each home in the neighborhood. The process to become a designated historic neighborhood requires an exhaustive write up on each home in the area and its historical significance, which in this case is based upon the architectural significance of the homes. The write-up is then submitted to the State Historic Preservation office for review. These reviews are conducted twice a year. After making recommended changes by review board, the write-up is resubmitted and eventually presented orally.

The review is now in its final stages of approval. With its approval, homeowners have a unique and substantial financial incentive to maintain the historic quality of their homes. If a homeowner conducts renovations that follow the Department of Interior Standards, they can recoup up to 45% of the costs of renovation. The financial aid acts as an incentive to encourage quality restorations.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Current and Prospective Historic Trust Supporters,

Historic Pella Trust is continuing its efforts to help maintain Pella's distinctive charm by protecting and promoting our historic structures and architectural legacy. Many of our older buildings provide a special link to our Dutch heritage and also give our village a comfortable, gracious feel. We have also enjoyed a large economic development benefit as we welcome countless visitors who come to enjoy our scenic Dutch town.

Earlier this year we sold the property at 1110 Washington that we had saved from demolition. This is a building that dates back to the early 1850's and was one of Pella's first general stores doing business under the name the Stegeman Store and others. Historic Pella Trust did substantial work on the property that included adding a new roof, rebuilding portions of the foundation and doing selected structural repairs. Mary Van Wyk has purchased the property and has committed to complete its rebuilding and to maintain it as an historic property. She plans to eventually convert it to an Airbnb lodging.

We are continuing to work with the City of Pella and its Historic District Commission on a project to establish Pella's first historic district. The area is the wonderful older neighborhood generally bounded west of Main St., east of West 2nd St., Union St. on the north and Independence St. on the south. Historic Pella Trust had arranged to do a detailed inventory of the properties in the proposed district and hope to have it formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places later this year.

Since our purchase of the Tuttle Cabin at 608 Lincoln, we have been focused on using it as a location for educating both our young people and adults on the early history of the Pella area and the arrival of the Dutch band led by Dominie Scholte. We are continuing to work with our members, neighbors of Tuttle, and others in our search for better ways of using this very special resource.

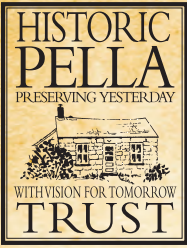
Earlier this year our Executive Director Lynn Branderhorst resigned. We will miss Lynn's enthusiastic and energetic leadership. Our board of directors recently hired Jennifer Van Kooten as our new Executive Director. Jennifer is already off to a fast start in her new assignment.

We hope that you see the value of our work to the Pella community. Our board and I trust that you and your friends will find ways to generously support these projects and our general goals of maintaining our special Pella charm.

Het aller beste, Bob Zylstra



Duane Remppe driving the 4th of July float.



HISTORIC PELLA TRUST
608 Lincoln Street, PO Box 1
Pella, IA 50219

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018

Historic Pella Trust Membership Renewals for 2018 are underway now. We'd love to keep you updated on the current activities of the Trust. Your support is crucial for us to continue the work of preserving and protecting the rich architectural resources of Pella. We deeply appreciate your support. Please complete the form below and mail it with your contribution to the Historic Pella Trust office.

Historic Pella Trust | PO Box 1 | Pella, IA 50219

I would like to receive information on Historic Pella Trust and become a member.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Membership Level: ___ Single \$35 ___ Sustaining Family \$100
 ___ Senior \$20 ___ Patron \$250
 ___ Family \$50 ___ Benefactor \$500
 ___ Business \$75 ___ Preservationist amounts over \$500

I would like to volunteer. Please call me at _____

If you are giving the above named person a gift membership, please include your name and address.

MAIL TO: Historic Pella Trust | PO Box 1 | Pella, Iowa 50219

KEEP IN TOUCH

EMAIL: If you would like to be added to our email list so you receive current updates, please send your email address to us at office@historicpellatrust.org



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