

PRESERVATION UPDATE

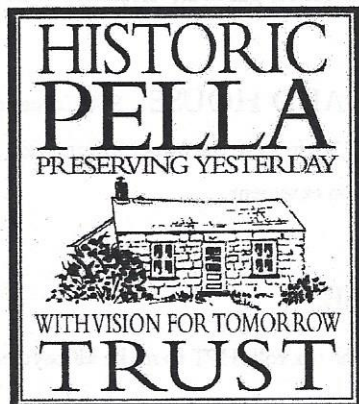
The Newsletter of

Volume 2 - Fall 2005

Historic Pella Trust, Inc.

P.O. Box 1 Pella, Iowa 50219

641-628-4082



A NON-PROFIT PRESERVATION GROUP

FOUNDED IN 1994

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

UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS:

710 W. FIRST STREET

Replace the main water line this fall. Est. \$2000

Painting the outside: Estimate \$4500. Postponed until spring

New roof completed: \$6800.

Board volunteers will mow lawn and address snow removal this winter.

Heat to be turned back on. HPT responsible for payments.

This house is for sale, if interested call 628-4062

OLD CHURCH - BOOK STORE

Building reported in good shape.

Winter budget for gas heat, estimated at \$150/month.

VANDEN BAARD HOUSE: SW Corner of Main & Union

Robert V. Klein gave the owner information on conservation easement.

ROCK HOUSE:

Now on the tax roll. HPT to make all payments.

Keep your calendar open for a work day at the Vande Veer House, 1110 Washington, sometime after October 15th. Time and date will be announced later!

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST SAVES ONE OF PELLA'S OLDEST

BUILDINGS, 1110 Washington Street, Pella, Iowa!

"Vande Veer House"

The following reads like a script from an old movie! The Historic Pella Trust Board learned on September 26th that the home at 1110 Washington Street was to be bulldozed October 4th, clearing the property for unknown development. This structure was an old country store during the earliest days of Pella and was built sometime in the 1850's. It is believed to be in the background of one of Marea Scholte's early paintings of Pella.

After a meeting with the property owner, the Board discussed what options we had to save the building. It became clear that our only option was to buy the property selling for \$100,000. A long time supporter of Historic Pella Trust was contacted and they generously agreed to donate half the amount. Next the Board reviewed our assets and then contacted Marion County Bank to see if we could obtain a loan for the remaining amount. With all agreements in place, an appointed Historic Pella Trust Board member met with the property owner and presented HPT's offer. Needless to say we all breathed a sigh of relief when the property owner accepted our offer. We will now move forward to obtain a conservation easement right on the property, thus saving it from being torn down in the future.

This home features floor joists made from logs, some still with bark on them. On the west side of the upper floor, there is a window built into the house that is of the Empire style (two over four), a window design that was popular in Holland during the 1850's. Food was stored for the winter in a low ceiling cellar covered with brick flooring. The plastered limestone foundation is still in excellent condition. This property is truly a 'diamond in the rough' from Pella's earliest days. We do know that for many years a family ran a country store from this building. Traditionally the early country store was a place to meet and discuss local politics as well as to gossip about local happenings. If only walls could talk, we would get an earful of Pella's earliest history.

Historic Pella Trust Board wants to thank all our members, for it was your generous membership contributions that helped save this historic home.

Historic Pella Trust is looking to hear from anyone interested in this property as a home or business. Please call 628-4082 for further information.

DIAMOND OIL STATION -

615 S. MAIN STREET, PELLA

THW The building was built as a house for Henry Van Maren by Philipus J. Koelman around 1877.

Henry was eleven when his family left the Netherlands and came to Pella in 1847. He worked with his father who was a brick manufacturer. Henry also farmed until the age of 23 when he learned the blacksmith trade. After working as a blacksmith for two years he went into business for himself and became a successful wagon and carriage maker. Henry died in 1923 and left the house to his two unmarried daughters who then sold it to Cordelia Vander Linden in 1928 and it became the Diamond Oil Station. The portico was added to the existing house at this time to cover the gas pumps and the building was painted a cream color with red trim. Around 1950 it became a D-X Station and ceased being a service station.

Early in the 1960's the room above the portico, overlooking Main Street, was added. Since then the building has housed a yarn shop, radio station, travel agent and pottery business. The Main Street location has a wonderful view of the Tulip Time parade while the view facing the Molengracht gives one the feeling of being somewhere in Europe. The first floor is now the home of Historic Pella Trust and the Pella Community Foundation. The apartment upstairs is in the process of being renovated.



Residence of H. Van Maren



Diamond Oil Station

Residence of H. Van Maren; Circa 1885

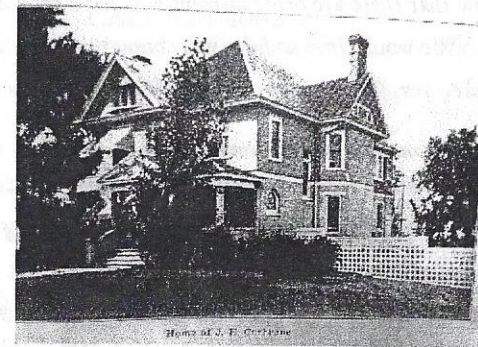
Diamond Oil Station in 1928

COME VISIT US ANY SATURDAY UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, AT OUR NEW OFFICE IN THE OLD DIAMOND OIL STATION, 615 S. MAIN STREET

THW Note the new logo that will be used on articles and stories about Pella's historical past. It was developed by using the first letters of a favorite Dutch phrase and was used by a great Pella historian who told stories of Pella's landmarks, businesses and incidents that occurred during his lifetime here in Pella. We are fortunate that he taught us about old Pella and much of our Dutch language. His name was James Veenman, and when he used the phrase, "TEUNE HET WAS" (Dutch pronunciation; TUNE HET VAAS which means "THEN IT WAS") you knew you were going to hear a great story of Pella's history.

THW HUNKY-DORY HOUSE

One of Pella's beautiful home and showplace in the early days of Pella was the large and impressive home of the J. H. Cochrane family. It was built on 15 acres on the east edge of Pella, at the end of Liberty Street and was called the Hunkey-dory house.



Home of J. H. Cochrane

The Hunkey-dory farm produced milk which was distributed by cart all around Pella. The Cochrane family also had beautiful horses and ponies, sleighs,

.....continued on next page

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HUNKY-DORY HOUSE - (CONTINUED)

and carriages After a snowstorm in Pella it was a sight to see their magnificent sleigh coming down the street with bells ringing, a sight one never forgot.

The best materials and workmanship went into building the house, with quarter sawn oak used on the woodwork and floors. When you entered the house you were greeted to a magnificent grand stairway. To further beautify the home, stained glass as well as leaded windows were used throughout. Each outer door was adorned with solid cast brass hardware. One of the home's best views was from the kitchen windows that looked out over the farms east of town.

Mr. Cochrane was active in business and civic affairs of early Pella. He was president of Farmers National Bank; which eventually became Security State Bank and later the Marion County State Bank. He served as Park Commissioner, was on the board of the Baptist Church and president of the Chamber of Commerce.

The property was sold in the 1940's and later became the site of the Pella Christian Grade School.

NOTE: This article was contributed by Bob Klein a long time resident of Pella. Bob generously shares his historic knowledge of Pella, and we are grateful for his keene insight into Pella's past.

The above article tells of a home that was one of many built during Pella's early past. We know that there are other citizens who have memories of their early years living in Pella. We would love to have you contact us and share your history through words and pictures. Please contact us at 628-4082 if you have a story to tell.

Our Spring Membership Drive was very successful thanks to all our new supporters, without your generous contributions it would be difficult for HPT to move forward. Some of our new members are from Texas, Colorado, Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota as well as other towns in Iowa. Many expressed appreciation that Historic Pella Trust exist as a means to protect and preserve Pella's history. Thanks to everyone who joined. Historic Pella Trust could not protect historic buildings without you!

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YOU ARE INVITED
TO OUR OPEN HOUSE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14 FROM 4 to 7 pm at

615 S. Main Street (corner of Liberty and Main)

See our Historic Pella Trust display of maps and houses from the past while enjoying fresh cider and 'olie bollens'. We want to share with you HPT's current projects, as well as hear from you any comments or suggestions. So please join us at our fall OPEN HOUSE!

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

CALL 628-4082

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

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST, INC

PO BOX 1

PELLA, IA 50219

Single Membership: \$25.00 Business Membership: \$75.00

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

Golden Circle Membership: \$250.00

Special Preservation Donation \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Historic Pella Trust

PO Box 1

Pella, IA 50219

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