

Preservation Update

*H*istoric *P*ella

*T*rust, *I*nc.

*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.

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Message from your President!

It's almost time for the Historic Pella Trust Annual Meeting, and we're very excited at the prospects of a unique and valuable meeting on Thursday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m. in the Pella Opera House. At the suggestion of William C. Page, the Des Moines public historian who has done so much to assist us with putting buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, we were successful in getting Dr. Theodore H. M. Prudon to be our guest speaker. His accomplishments are legion – too many to list here, but some highlights are:

- Master of Arts Degree from Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
- Master of Science and Ph.D degrees from Columbia University, New York City
- Partner at Cowley & Prudon Architects (specializing in restoration)
- Member: Royal Dutch Society of Architects
- Faculty Member at Columbia University as Adjunct Associate Professor of Historic Preservation
- Author of at least 19 articles in arts and architectural journals such as:
 - Modern Movement Heritage
 - Old House Journal
 - Society of Architectural Historians
 - Architectural RecordAuthor of *Preservation of Modern Architecture*, Just released (April 11, 2008)
- Member and officer of the Netherlands-America Foundation
- Restoration and renovation projects, including:
 - The Federal Office Building in New York City
 - Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, NYC
 - The New York State Capitol building, Albany, NY
 - Tennessee State Capitol, Nashville
 - Denver Spitalfields Market, London

Yes, he will have a great deal to offer us as an avid preservationist and person with deep Dutch connections. We are lucky indeed, to get his schedule to include our Annual Meeting.

And there's more! As at each of the Annual Meetings we will be presenting awards to owners of properties that have come to our attention as demonstrating the values of historic preservation. There will be entertainment on the Theater Organ and by the Tulip Time Queen and Court. Following the presentations upstairs there will be slide shows, displays and refreshments in the Great Hall downstairs.

We have also been busy with several projects. On April 15, six students from Central College volunteered as part of Central's annual Service Day to help up prepare the property at 1110 Washington Street for a face-lift under Wayne Stienstra's able and expert leadership.

Please mark **Thursday, May 8th at 7:30** in bright red on your calendar and plan to attend HPT'S unique and memorable Annual Meeting!

We hope to see you there!

Yours Truly,

Davis Folkerts, President

Annual Meeting

Thursday evening **May 8th** at 7:30 o'clock
At Pella's Opera House

Special Guest Speaker

**Dr. Theodore Prudon, Adjunct Associate Professor
of Historic Preservation**

Member of the faculty of Columbia University, New York City, New York

He holds M.Sc. in Architecture degrees from both Delft in The Netherlands and Columbia University
A practicing architect he is a partner at Crowley and Prudon Architects, a firm specializing in restoration.

Dr. Prudon has received many meritorious awards for his restoration projects, just to name a few:

Federal Office Building in New York City
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, NYC
Denver Spitalfields Market, London, England
New York State Capitol, Albany, New York
Tennessee State Capitol, Nashville, Tennessee
Woolworth Building, NYC
Town Hall, NYC

Please Join us at our Annual Meeting

AWARDS: Along with our guest speaker, Historic Pella Trust will make presentations of select houses that we recognize for their Architectural Significance and Preservation. Awards will also be made to home owners who have worked to preserve their historic home with the integrity of the era in which their house or building was built.

Refreshments: Join us after Dr. Prudon speaks for refreshments and displays of historic properties Historic Pella Trust has helped save.

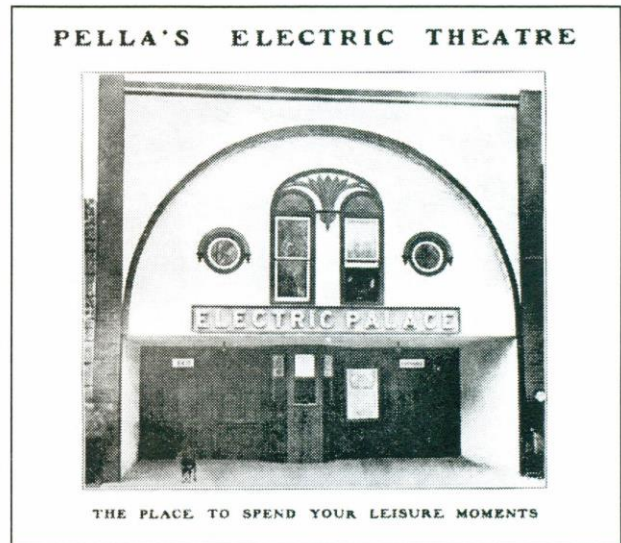
The Historic Pella Trust Board looks forward to seeing you on this special evening. It is our way to say thank you to all our current members as well as prospective members.

The Electric Palace

By
Bob Klein

During my lifetime, Pella always had a movie house. I was not old enough to patronize Pella's first movie house located on the south side of Central Park and was called "The Electric Palace". It was run by Mr. De Gooyer, who had operated the Pella Opera House about 1905 until he started the Electric Palace around 1910. It was probably the first building in Pella to be completely electrified with lights all along the front arch. He showed all the old classic silent movies and it proved to be the end of the Opera House's shows.

It continued for about ten years and then the movie house was moved to the building on Main Street that still has the green canopy. In my early years it was called the Alamo Theater because of my great interest in the piano, my mother took me to shows at a very early age of five years old. And I sat in the front row at the railing so I could watch Francis Sheehy play the piano, matching the selections and the tempos to the action of the screen of the silent movies. As far as I know, this location served Pella as a movie house until the Holland Theater (now a law office) was established



The HPT Board want to thank Bob Klein who is now in his nineties for the wonderful memories he shares in each issued of *Preservation Update*.

Bob will write about Pella's beautiful popcorn wagon of the early days in Pella that was built in 1898 in an upcoming edition of *Preservation Update*. Bob claims that if the popcorn wagon was still around today it would be worth a small fortune

Fortunately for us, Bob's memories are priceless.

Central College Volunteer Workday

at the historic Vande Veer house at 1110 Washington Street, Pella, Iowa

A thousand thank you for a long day of hard work. Among the laughter and good humor that went with all the hard work that it takes to scrape away years of old paint by the end of the day the results were truly amazing. New life was put back into the old walls of this historic building. The front section of the building was an old country store during the earliest days of Pella and was built sometime in the early 1850's. It is believed to be in the background of one of Mareah Scholte's early paintings of Pella. Historic Pella Trust rescued this building from demolition a couple years ago and is currently waiting for the final papers to be completed that will officially list it on the National Register of Historic Homes. Many thanks also go to Wayne Stienstra who organized the work day and also to Eunice and Davis Folkerts who provided lunch and encouragement.



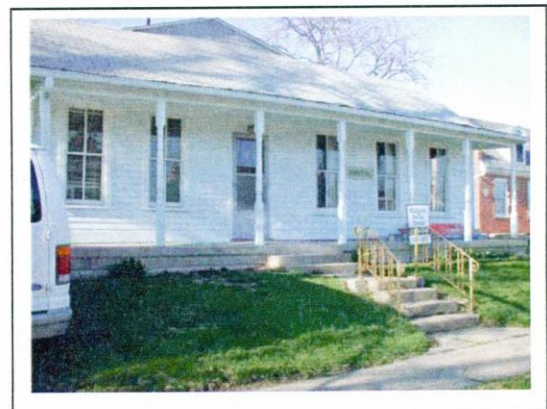
Pictured: Jill Anderson, Audrey Corey, Dena Christian, Wayne Stienstra, Sara Mouw, (in the ladder) Jenna Gillette, Lori Witt, and Josh Steele. Not pictured: Tim Hoekstra and Michelle Ripperger (taking the picture)



A clear but windy day made it a challenge.



The Central volunteers hard at work.



What a wonderful transformation by the end of the day!

Historic Home Highlights by Ellie Gesselink

FEATURED HOME: The Kuyper House, 1003 North Main Street

A favorite walk from the square takes you north along Main Street. As you leave the square you are immediately surrounded by beautiful homes nestled among stately trees that give welcoming shade on any warm day.

One of the most welcoming home stands out in its magnificence is the Kuyper house. First you notice the lovely well tended lawn lined with beds of beautiful flowers and bushes that draws the eye to the stately home standing proudly under the towering trees. A feeling of warmth and welcoming seems to emanate from the building, even the windows have a twinkle that make you feel that this house was built with love and a family dwelt within who enjoyed laughter.

The home was built in 1916 by Pete and Lucille Kuyper, next to the home of Pete's mother. Lucille and Pete were married in October of that year and moved in after their honeymoon in Colorado. Two children were born here, Mary Joan and Stu Kuyper.

It is easy to imagine that amid the shouts of laughter, activity was constant as friends and family came and went. Pete was an extremely busy man spending long hours growing his young company, Rolscreen (now named Pella Windows). He also founded Pella's Chamber of Commerce, was on the Board of Trustees of Central College. Pete was instrumental in organizing Tulip Time as well as many other community affairs.

Will all the commitments he had to his work and community he managed to spend long hours with his growing family. One of his daughter Joan's favorite stories about her father is as follows:



“My father was an active member of the Second Reformed Church. He sang in the choir and was always accompanied by his dog ‘Sailor’ a Dalmatian who sat next to his chair during rehearsals as well as the Sunday service. One Sunday someone accidentally stepped on Sailor and he yelped. The minister immediately commented that Sailor was one of the most faithful church attendees.”

The Kuyper home is now maintained by Pella Windows and is used for special occasions.

Take a minute to stop and view this lovely historic home and as you reflect on its history be assured that it represents a pride of home ownership that will continue to set a standard for many years to come here in Pella.

Historical Preservation Featured House

Historic Pella Trust feels it is an important function of our organization to honor those in our community who make the effort to restore older homes within a framework of the time the home was built. This effort is not always easy and takes a special dedication by the home owner to insure the integrity of its historic history is preserved.

1210 North Main Street, Pella, Iowa

Located north of Sunken Gardens, the owners of this lovely Victorian are Bruce and Kathy Haustein who reside next door at 1214 Main, Kathy's girlhood home for it was purchased by her parents, Bill and Connie Hinga in 1964.

The home at 1210 Main is estimated to have been built around 1915. The hardwood flooring is Birdseye maple and the construction and type of wood used throughout the home are comparable to that era. Bruce and Kathy feel it is important to maintain their old Victorian home with the appropriate paint colors for that time period.

Currently Bruce's mother resides in the house and he continues to upgrade the home to be comfortable with modern conveniences, yet keep the home restored to the era it was built.



Please call Historic Pella Trust office at 641-628-8003 and let us know of anyone who is restoring and preserving their home or building by adhering to historic guidelines.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Following is a list of action items taken by the Historic Pella Trust Board since our last newsletter:

- Met with Kevin Vos and Mike Nardini to discuss HPT's role in saving the old City Hall. Restoration of this old historic building is too big a project for our organization. Where HPT can help is to put a Conservation Easement of the property in support to the city in its program to have the building placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. The City has agreed to wait until the Conservation Easement is in place before putting it on the market.
- Paint the Soul Sleeper's Church (The Used Book Shop)
- Soul Sleeper's floor is settling and a gap was fixed between the floor and the door.
- Storm windows were put on the Rock House.
- Our new Web site is being finalized by Pella Art & Graphics.
- A committee was formed to set up a grant program for homeowners who are in a restoration project on their home or business.
- Put up special plaques on HPT'S historic properties that we have saved in the past.
- Coordinated a work day with Central College volunteers to scrape off old paint on the Vande Veer house 1110 Washington.
- Review properties to be nominated for awards at our annual meeting. Categories are: Historical Preservation Projects and Homes that have architectural significance.
- Organize our Annual Meeting scheduled for May 8th.

If you have questions on your preservation project. Or if you have questions regarding any older historic home or building in Pella, please feel free to call our office. We will do what we can to assist you. Our office number is 641-628-8003. Remember our office is run by volunteers so we will do our best to return your call in a timely manner.

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** _____