

A Newsletter from the Historic Pella Trust

# PRESERVE PELLA

September 2014

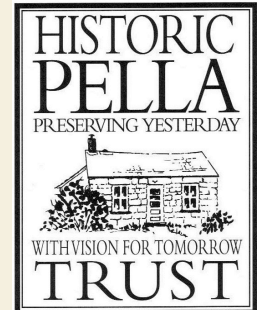
Volume Twenty One

[www.historicpellatrust.org](http://www.historicpellatrust.org)

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## Historic Pella Trust 2014 Annual Meeting & 20th Anniversary Celebration

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The Historic Pella Trust will be hosting the 2014 Annual Meeting and a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, September 11 at the Pella Opera House.

Horse-drawn Trolley Tours of Pella's Collegiate Historic District will be available at 4:00, 4:30 & 5:00 pm. Tours will be led by HPT board member, Rhonda Kermode and will begin at the Pella Opera House. Sign up for a tour by September 8 by calling 641-628-4082 or 641-891-1297.

A buffet will be served from 5:45-7:00 pm in the Ballroom of the Opera House. Buffet tickets are \$15.00 per person. Please call the Opera House at 641-628-8625 to make your dinner reservation by Monday, Sept. 8.

An evening program will begin at 7:00 pm in the Pella Opera House theatre. Bruce Boertje will be presenting "Pella's Past in Postcards" featuring his collection of historic Pella postcards. Will Page, Des Moines historian, will share about the Collegiate Historic District and the Tuttle Log House. Wayne Stienstra will share updates on the restoration of 1110 Washington. The 2014 Restoration Awards and Architectural Significance Awards will be presented to local property owners. The evening program is free and open to the public. Please join us for this memorable evening as we support the ongoing work of the Historic Pella Trust.



*Horse-drawn Trolley Tours of Collegiate Historic District at 4:00, 4:30 or 5:00 pm.*

### *Evening Program-Pella Opera House*

Sept. 11, 7:00 pm

- "Pella's Past in Postcards"
- Collegiate Historic District Update & Tuttle Log House Nomination
- 1110 Washington Update
- 2014 Restoration Awards & Architectural Significance Awards

*Free & Open to Public: Please Join Us*

A quilt commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HPT featuring ten Pella properties will be on display. A drawing for the quilt will be held in mid-October. Tickets are \$1 per ticket (10 tickets for \$10) and can be purchased at the event.

**HISTORIC PELLA TRUST  
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF  
HELPING TO PRESERVE PELLA**

**CALL THE PELLA OPERA HOUSE AT  
641-628-8625 TO MAKE YOUR EVENING  
BUFFET RESERVATION.**

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FROM:

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST

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## ∞ RHONDA RESTORES BY: RHONDA KERMODE

In my past articles, I have explained a little bit of the how-to of restoration. I am beginning to learn the “how-to’s” of caring of an older home. My lack of knowledge in the past led me to make decisions in fixing my first home, that I would not make today. But, I hope that what I have learned will inspire others to restore older homes.

After my husband and I went to hear Bob Yapp speak in Fairfield about window restoration, I was excited to discover that fixing my historic windows was something that I could do and I became excited about restoration in general.

After excitedly telling people about my new found interest in preservation, I was told, many times, that preservation is really expensive. I don’t know how many times I have been told “you know you can build a new house twice that size for a lot less money than it would cost to fix up an old one.” I could almost feel them resist the urge to pat me on the head for my nice, but rather impractical thoughts on preservation.

But, there are many reasons to restore an older home. Many historic homes were made with old-growth lumber.

It is harder and dryer than the lumber used today. There wasn’t the risk that it twisted as it dried. It is also less prone to rot. Most importantly, it is a resource that no longer exists. It is a better environmental practice to restore these homes than to tear them down and start over. In fact, the Iowa DNR notes on it’s website that construction and demolition debris is responsible for 16% (450,000 tons or 900 million pounds) of the material that is put into Iowa’s landfills each year.

Historic homes are full of character, including 9-12’ ceilings in every room, 6” or larger baseboards, detailed trim around the windows and doors, and hardwood floors. All of this was usually built on site, specifically for that home. This is what makes old homes unique and full of beauty, while adding value to our communities.

Like many Dutch people, I like to try to be practical about how I spend money. I’m not always successful and then I can hear my grandpa say, “They have more money than sense/cents.” What I have learned is that historic preservation is not environmentally, historically, or financially impractical, but in the words of my grandpa “It makes good sense/cents”.