

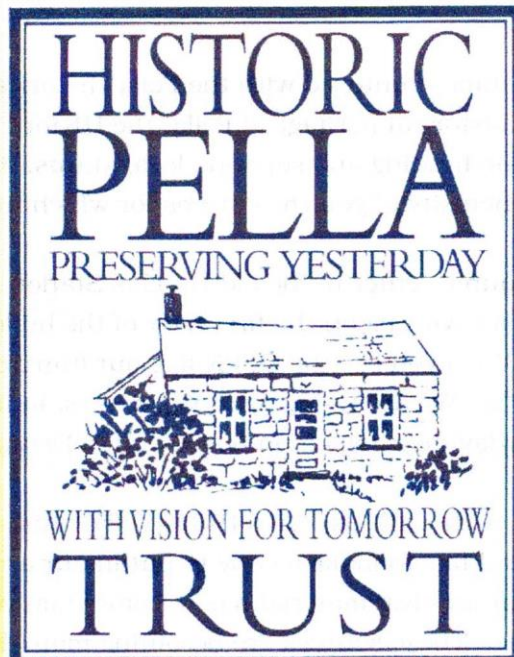
PRESERVATION UPDATE



The Newsletter of

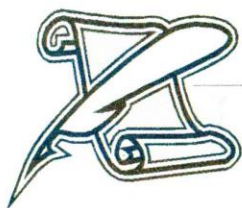
Volume 3 - Spring 2006

Historic Pella Trust, Inc.



"A NON-PROFIT PRESERVATION GROUP FOUNDED IN 1994"

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.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

This could be the mantra of the Historic Pella Trust as we seek to encourage owners of Pella properties to preserve the historical significance of those properties. We are so pleased when citizens of Pella are civic minded enough to maintain the historic look of their homes and businesses. An increasing number of you are restoring and painting your residences while we as an organization concentrate on snatching a limited number of historical houses from the wrecking ball. Thanks to a generous donor, our latest save is the Vande Veer house across the street from Strawtown Resturant and Inn on Washington Street.

Historic Pella Trust is here to offer our services to the community, to educate the public on historic preservation, to offer mini grants to homeowners and at the same time promote team work with property owners and public officials. We realize we cannot save every historic building that comes on the market and we do not care to be in the business of owning property long term, but sometimes quick decisions and landlord status are a necessity to the short term.

Historic Pella Trust is sometimes confused with the Pella Historical Society. While both organizations promote the historical heritage of Pella, the Historic Pella Trust is a separate entity with separate funding and separate legal status. Both organizations, however, depend on the generosity of you the citizens for which we are most appreciative.

We now have an office/resource center in the old DX Gas Station across from the Pella Police Station. Sharing space with us on the first floor of the building is the Pella Community Foundation. When you see the OPEN flag out front, come in and see our old maps and old photos of Pella. We are trying, with volunteers, to have the office open Thursday nights and Saturday mornings from now through December.

DO YOU HAVE old photos with a 1800s, early 1900s Pella house or business in the background? If so, we would like to make a copy to put in our archival files and to use in future displays. Most of our archival material has to come from you and your relatives via attics and old photo albums. These sources are becoming more difficult to access as time marches on and belongings are discarded.

In closing, THANK YOU to the many volunteers who make our organization possible - from the leaf rakers to the cookie makers and the many jobs in-between. We could not exist without you.

Sallie DeReus, President



You are Invited to spend a free evening with

Historic Pella Trust

at their 6th Annual Meeting

7 o'clock Monday Evening

April 17th

at the Pella Opera House!

Wayne Stienstra will present:

"Staying Ahead of the Bulldozer,

It's Hard to Run in Wooden Shoes"

(Dutch Architecture in Pella: (Present and Past)

Join us, and bring your friends, for a grand evening learning about Pella's rich architectural history as you enjoy good food and browse our displays of old Pella's pictures and maps.

Awards will be given to Pella homeowners, to honor their endeavors to maintain their home's historic heritage!

THW Teune Het Vaas ("Then It Was")

FEATURED HOME:

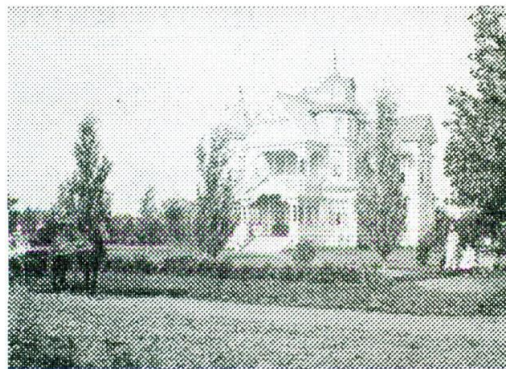
J.D. GAASS HOUSE

(This article was written by Bob Klein, a long time resident of Pella.)

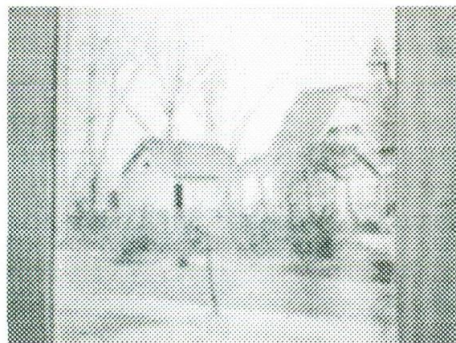
The J.D. Gaass home was one of the beautiful homes of early Pella, circa 1896-1930. It was built by J.D. Gaass in 1896 and was located on five acres of pasture land at the end of North Main Street or Reformation Avenue as it was named in the original plat. It was designed by an eastern architect, George Barber, and built by J. Ver Hey a local carpenter at the cost of \$6000.00, a figure confirmed by Mr. Gaass himself. This beautiful home was graced with beautiful wood work, an open stairway, several fireplaces, and a large reception hall. In the back was a beautiful carriage house. It had a well groomed circular driveway with iron gates; (one of which is still on the property.) It had its own windmill which pumped water for the house and livestock.

J.D. Gaass was a prominent Pella merchant whose store was on the east side of the square. Mr. and Mrs. Gaass were the parents of John, Louise, Love (Mrs. Paul Scholte) and Lucille, (Mrs. Peter Kuyper.)

This Pella showplace was torn down in 1930 and the present home of the Keunings, at 1221 Main Street was built. The rest of the property was divided into lots on both Main and Broadway streets.



J.D. Gaass Home, circa 1896



View of the carriage house

FEATURED HOME:

ROELOFSZ-VIERSON HOUSE:

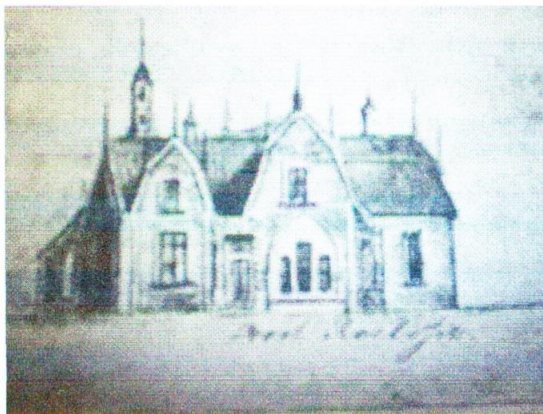
The following information was taken from an article written by Martha Lautenbach in 1988.

One of Pella's most prominent first settlers was Dr. Joose Roelofs, cousin of Dominie Scholte. At the urging of Dominie H.P. Scholte, Dr. Roelofs and his wife and six children joined the group of immigrants sailing on the Nagasaki in April 1847. Dr. Roelofs left a well established medical practice and was the only doctor who came with the settlers to America.

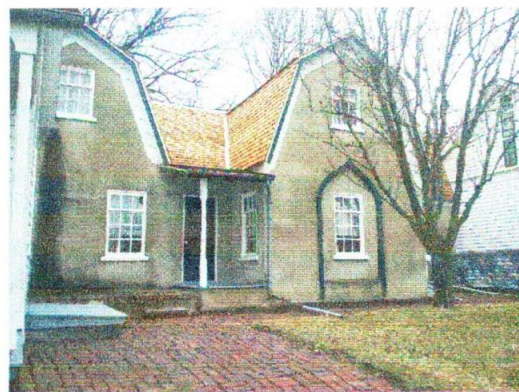
Dr. Roelofs and his family lived in a log cabin the first few months after they arrived in Pella. During this time he designed a home he planned to build when the town was platted. In 1848 Dr. Roelofs supervised the building of his home, the first brick house built in Pella and located on Reformation Avenue, (which is now 1008 & 1010 N. Main Street).

The house was designed with a side entrance that was enclosed with lattice-work and led into a spacious parlor. To the rear of the parlor was a dining room. The kitchen was in the right wing, while the left wing had a private reception area leading to the doctor's office. Roomy bedrooms were located on the second floor.

A studio room was built at the rear of the house and was reserved for the doctor to spend his leisure time working on oil paintings. Dr. Roelofs lived in his home until his death at the age of 93, in 1888. The home was demolished in 1934, but a replica of this house was constructed in 1975-76 and is now an important addition to the Pella Historic Village.



Drawing of Dr. Joost Roelofs home 1848. Originally built on Reformation Avenue later changed to N. Main Street..



Replica of Dr. Joost Roelofs home built in 1975-76 located in the Pella Historic Village.

 MEET YOUR MEMBERS!

*DR. KENNETH AND SHIRLEY WELLER: Shirley and I have been residents of Pella for 37 years. We have a strong interest in preserving Pella's heritage for future generations. We're honored to support Historic Pella Trust in their efforts to preserve the integrity of the homes and businesses that make up Pella's unique history. It is important to stay vigilant to insure that historic structures do not disappear. Pella is a wonderful place to live, a community that embraces the future while it preserves the past.

*JO HARMEILING: John and I raised our family of four children here in Pella and cherish the values that our community instilled in each of them. It is important to live in a town that takes pride in its historic past. It is vital that we support Historic Pella Trust to insure that our historic heritage remains intact for future generations. We need to encourage the younger generations to take pride in volunteering to support all historical preservation programs to insure Pella's historic heritage continues on into the future.

*FRAN DE JONG: Having grown up in the Pella area, and having all four of my grandparents (Tyseling, Ten Bosch, De Jong, Van Gorp) immigrate from Ede, the Netherlands in the 1860's, I have a special interest in the history of this community. While it is wonderful to see all the new developments around the city, it is vital that historic homes, businesses and landmarks be preserved to keep the historic integrity of the community. I left Pella in 1957 after graduating from Central College, and returned in 1977 to work as a Chaplain at Central. In those 20 years, and since, many of the historic homes - some of which were homes in which my friends and family lived - have disappeared. It is unfortunate when these historic homes, which are such an important part of Pella's history, are destroyed. Restoring these structures instead would help preserve an essential part of our past. This is the goal of Historic Pella Trust, and which is why I support the Trust. I feel strongly that what the Pella community has to offer our visitors and residence alike, is in large part dependent on the uniqueness of its history. The more of this history that can be preserved the more authentic will be the attraction of this community to all who visit here.

UPDATE ON PROPERTIES SAVED BY HPT:

1. 710 W. First St: This property will be FOR SALE as soon as the water line into the house has been replaced and the outside has been painted. A conservation easement will be put on the house. Conservation easements require long term preservation of a building's historical exterior.
2. 110 Washington St. - Vande Veer House. Volunteer work crew cleaned up the property last fall. We're still waiting for final purchase documentation to be signed.
3. 834 Franklin: Old Soul Sleeper Church - Now used book store. Heat and cooling systems have been checked. Building is in good condition.

NEW BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS:

1. A computer and printer will be acquired for our office through a Community Foundation grant. The computer and all hardware will be installed in our office at 615 S. Main by the end of March. We want to thank the Community Foundation for the grant to purchase this equipment.
2. HPT is now a member of the Historic Preservation Alliance organization, and the David Finley Society of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
3. Bids are being reviewed to insure all insurance needs have adequate coverage.
4. Committee's were selected for our upcoming 6th Annual Historic Preservation Day celebration to be held at the Opera House, Monday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m.


 Congratulations to Wayne Stienstra, Hall of Fame Award Recipient

Wayne Stienstra recently received the 'Historic Preservation Hall of Fame' award presented by Pella's Chamber of Commerce. Wayne was honored for his commitment through research, meticulous workmanship, and dedication to preserve and restore many Pella structures. The Diamond Oil Station, 615 S. Main; which houses the Historic Pella Trust office and also the Pella Foundation office is one of Wayne's most recent restorations. The home at 1305 Washington, and behind it the Fox Farm barn, which houses Van Wyngarden Financial are among his restoration projects. Wayne also received the '2005 Preservation at Its Best Award', presented by Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance for his work on 925 Broadway.

BECOME A MEMBER!

Future preservation programs will NOT have funds to support them without
YOUR HELP!

Historic Pella Trust has accomplished the following:

Saved: Old Soul Sleeper Church - 824 Franklin St.

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

Saved: 1110 Washington St. Estimated this home was built in the 1850's.

Saved: Rock house on University Avenue.

Additional historic properties in that have been saved by others, include the Coal Ridge Church, recently nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Local preservationist, Wayne Stienstra has saved; 925 Broadway, 1005 Broadway (former Koelman/Van Zante house), 615 S. Main St. (the former DX station), 1305 Washington, 1305-1/2 Washington (Fox Farm Building, 15560 Main - VerPloeg acreage and apple barn.

Become an important link in preserving Pella's past for future generations. Historic Pella Trust is a 501C3 organization. Visit our office at 615 Main Street, or phone: 628-8003. **YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE. WRITE THE AMOUNT OF YOUR SUPPORT HERE \$ _____ AND KEEP THIS WITH YOUR RECORDS.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT (ATTACH THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION).

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

P.O. Box 1

Pella, IA 50219

Single Membership: \$25.00

Business Membership: \$75.00

Family Membership: \$50.00

Golden Circle Membership: \$250.00

Senior Membership: \$10.00

Special Preservation Donation \$ _____

Name: _____

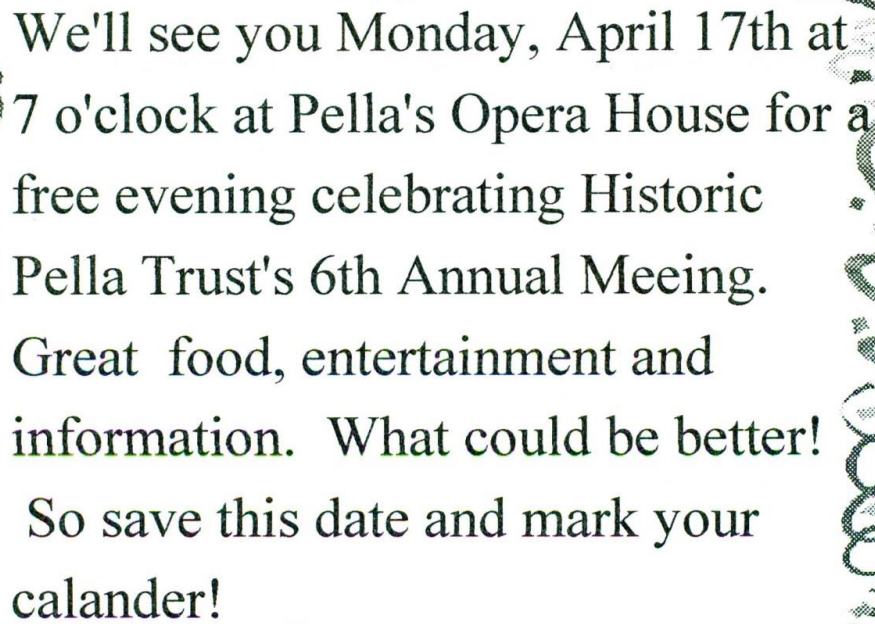
Address: _____

Phone number: _____

e-mail address: _____

2006 Historic Pella Trust Executive Board
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Vice-President: Davis Folkerts
Treasurer: Bob Klein
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Past Presidents: Ralph Jaarsma
and; Liza Zystra
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Duane Kempf
Wayne Stenstra
Jack Thomassen
Tim Tripp
George Wesselhoff

Historic Pella Trust
PO Box 1, Pella, Ia 50219
Ph: 641-628-8003



We'll see you Monday, April 17th at
7 o'clock at Pella's Opera House for a
free evening celebrating Historic
Pella Trust's 6th Annual Meeting.
Great food, entertainment and
information. What could be better!
So save this date and mark your
calander!