

Preservation Update!

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST, INC. PO BOX 1 PELLA, IOWA 50219

Volume 13 - Spring 2011

Farewell to Bob!



Bob Klein

On January 22, 2011 Pella's Opera House was filled with the lively music of "When the Saints Come Marching In", being played by Davis' Dixieland band as family and friends gathered together to say a fond farewell at Bob Klein's last party. While it was cold outside the Opera House was filled with warm laughter as family members and dear friends toasted Bob with love and affection.

Born November 4, 1916, Bob grew up in an era that let small boys explore and find their own adventures, and according to Bob he did this with zest and imagination. There was little about Pella that Bob did not know and he loved to share his many stories with anyone willing to listen. Fortu-

nately many of these stories were recorded by Bob so HPT will continue to publish them in future newsletters.

Bob and his wife Doretha's contributions to preserving Pella's historic past is legendary as over the years they were involved in a variety of activities, all done as they raised three active children, Sandy, Pam and Bobby.

Together they restored older homes in Pella all that remain beautiful today. Both were involved with the first Tulip Time festivities along with all that followed. Bob even found time to sing the lead roles in Pella's annual operetta preformed at Tulip Time.

In 1965 Pella's Historical Society purchased the Wyatt Earp house from Bob's father-in-law, Ben Vogelaar, and this was the beginning of Pella's Historical Village. Most of the buildings in the village bear Bob's mark, especially the 1843 log cabin. Bob organized the moving of this building from its original site in Mahaska County to where it is today.

Bob made sure all parts of the log cabin were marked and labeled as the building was taken apart, then made sure every thing was reassembled properly and for a reasonable sum of money.

In 1970 at the expressed wishes of the Gaass Family, Bob teamed up with his good friend Martha Lautenbach and together they put together plans to restore and preserve the Scholte house on Washington Street what is now the Scholte House Museum and today is a vital part of Pella's Historical Society.

In the early 1990's Bob became concerned that historic structures were continuing to be torn down and he gathered together other community leaders who founded Historic Pella Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving Pella's Historic past.

There was no one that knew and understood how Pella grew and changed over the span of his lifetime of 94 years better than Bob. Right up to his last day he continued to share his stories and urge everyone he met to be aware of the importance of preserving Pella's unique heritage and constantly reminded us it could all be done with careful thought and a lot of laughter.

Ellie Gosselink, Editor

Special points of interest:

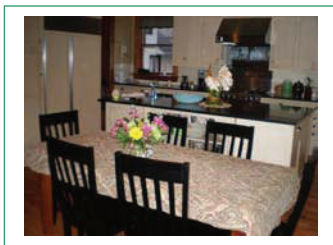
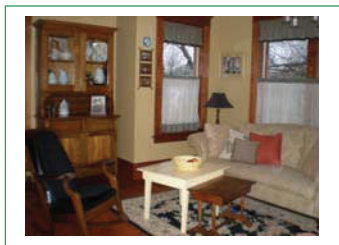
- VISIT TO THE METCALF HOME—510 W. 1ST ST.
- MEETING WITH PAULA MOHR PH.D WITH THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
- ANOTHER STORY FROM THE FILES OF BOB KLEIN
- REVIEW OF HPT'S ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 14, 2011 AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

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Featured Home: Metcalf House at 510 W. First St.

Brian and Lisa Metcalf’s lovely home at 510 W. First Street was built in 1904 by Cornelis and Neeltje de Geus. Eighty-eight years later the Metcalf’s purchased the home and within a couple years undertook the daunting task of restoration. Adding approximately 1200’ to the back of the home gave them a modern kitchen/family room on the main floor, and upstairs a large master bedroom suite. The basement now provides a large game room for their family of four active children.

Everywhere you look you see beautiful Victorian artifacts and outstanding art work that blends the new with the old. Every room is filled with attractive comfortable furniture. During restoration they restored and/or added hardwood flooring that ties all the rooms together with a natural beauty. The finished renovation provides for a wonderful home where the Metcalfs’s enjoy entertaining friends and



Two views of the new kitchen addition that give this active family a great place to gather.

The stately Queen Anne Victorian home has a fascinating history of people who lived and loved this home. The de Geus family sold the home in 1930 to John Buwalda and his family. His wife Emma operated a beauty shop in part of the front room.

After World War II Central College purchased the house and it became a rental for faculty families. Don and Barb Butler, with their two children lived in the house from 1959

until 1963. Don was a professor of Economics and Barb taught 6th grade. Barb recalls many wonderful memories of their years living here, as many Central students visited often. Their children loved pets so the house was filled with a dog, two cats, hamsters, frogs, fish and a snake. As some of the animals came to a timely departure there was always a burial ceremony in the back yard accompanied by Don playing taps on his trumpet.

In 1978 Bob Heerema, who had purchased the home in 1970, sold it to John and Susan Miller. The Miller’s remodeled and upgraded the house to keep it current and modern to the time they were living there

All the families who have owned this home, loved the location for it was a short walk to Central, and not very far to walk uptown.

The location and the comfort of living in this grand and stately Victorian has been an important part of the Metcalf’s experience of living in Pella. With plenty of space and all the modern amenities the family loves this home.

Lisa is part owner of *Embellish*, a great store located at 605 Franklin Street that sells gorgeous jewelry, scarves, purses and many unique accessories. Stop in and see the beautiful and distinctive accessories; you’ll find tasteful items for all ages, treat yourself or pick up a gift. Guaranteed you’ll fall in love with *Embellish*.

Without a doubt, Lisa leads a busy life as she balances her business demands with the needs of her four children whose ages range from college age to fifth grade. Brian often travels due to his business obligations so they both appreciate the spacious comfort their home provides, especially on the week ends.

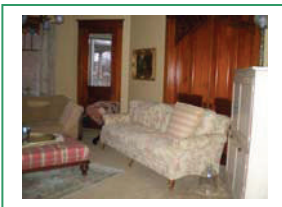
Historic Pella Trust compliment the Metcalf’s for caring enough to put the time, effort, and funds into restoration while adhering to the historic design of their beautiful Queen Anne Victorian. It is their type of vision that keeps Pella’s heritage alive and preserved for future generations.

Ellie Gosselink, Editor

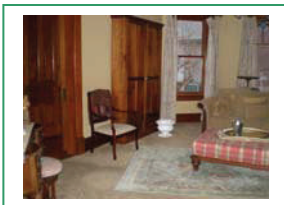
Top left – Sitting room off the family room.



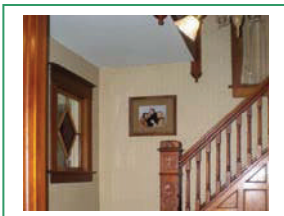
Top Right – View of the living room.



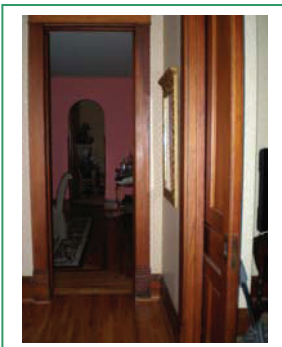
Middle left – View of the living room



Bottom left – Stairs leading to the upstairs area.



Bottom right – Entrance hall way.



THW Teune Het Vaas (Then It Was). Memories by Bob Klein of growing up in Pella.

BARNEY BEURKENS AND THE BEURKENS WAGON FACTORY

When I was young my grandfather worked for Barney Beurkens at the wagon factory. It stood for many years on the corner of Peace and Main Streets. It was a rambling building, and very old, since it was built shortly after the Dutch people came to Pella. It started out in the early days at the east end of the block, at the corner of East First and Peace Streets, before expanding to cover the rest of the block.

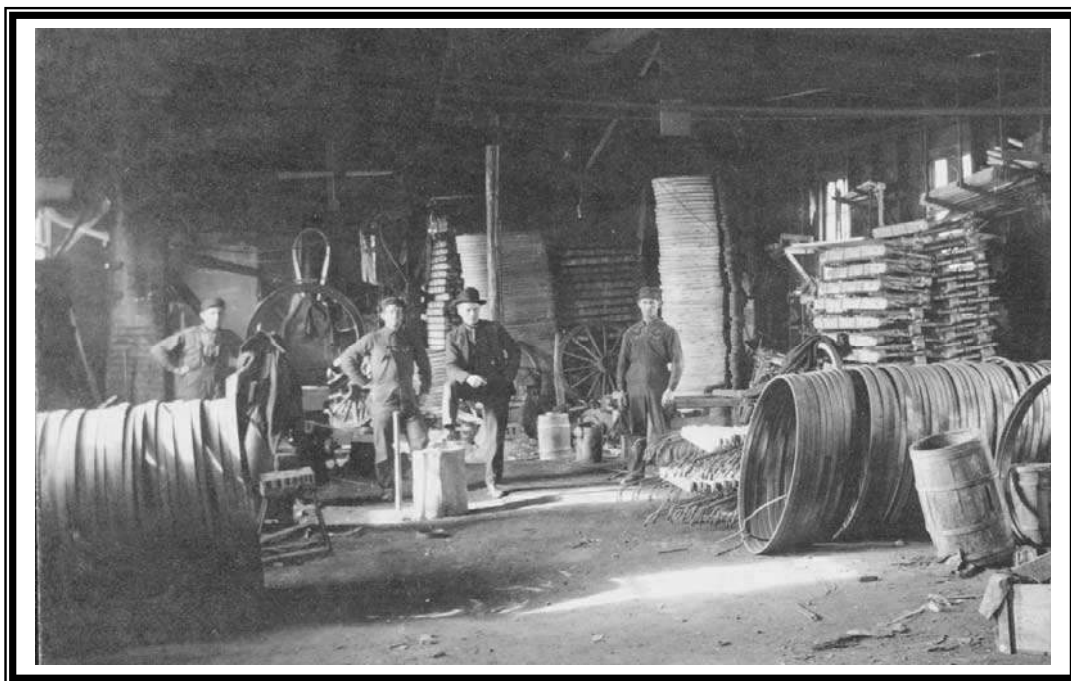
Barney Beurkens had experience with buggies and wagons in the old country and he set up the Beurkens Wagon Factory in Pella to serve the needs of the Dutch colony, and others. It ran for quite a few years at this location before moving to a location at Main and Union Streets.

This subsequent location had been occupied by a foundry and factory which was called Pella Manufacturing Company. Barney Beurkens also had an interest in this business, and it was on his land that it was built. The foundry was one of the first factories that developed a system for casting large metal pieces. You can still see some of the things they cast in the old days if you look at the entrances to various commercial buildings in town that still have the entrance plates that have "Pella Manufacturing Co.", and sometimes the date, cast into them. Ones that still remain are: Dr. Allen's office at 839 Broadway, with a date of 1892; 609 ½ Franklin has "B. Beurkens, Pella, IA" cast into it; Remnants at 619 Franklin; The Pelikaan at 627 Franklin St has an almost worn out date of 1891 (undoubtedly worn down by the many thirsty patrons of the tavern that was located there for many years); and the upstairs entrance at 627 ½ Franklin St.

The Pella Manufacturing Co finally discontinued operations and Barney Beurkens moved the wagon factory into that building which he also owned. It was a very modern factory for its day. It had a lot of specialized machinery and was a lot of fun to watch operate. My grandfather took me through it many times. They had machines that cut the spokes of the wheels at their correct length and made the ferrules for the wheels on a particular machine. On one occasion when I was a little older I had an occasion to use the facilities and a gentleman by the name of De Reus, nickname of Bucky, ran this particular machine and I was making a pony cart and using buggy wheels and bicycle wheel combination. He cut all the spokes to the right length and put the bicycle rims on the spokes so that I could use bicycle tires for the wheels. It worked very well and I was amazed how accurate the product was.

The Beurkens Wagon Factory became very well known all over the state. However, it came to a sudden halt in 1959 in a huge fire which completely consumed the buildings. They burned very rapidly because there were many years of paint drippings and everything all over the factory and also a great deal of wooden wagon parts.

Most Pella residents, who were old enough in 1959, will remember this fire, as it lit up the night. All the Pella Volunteer Department could do was spray water on the neighboring buildings to keep the fire from consuming them as well.



Interior of Beurkens Wagon Factory circo 1900. From left: Bob's grandfather , "Ike" Neels, Barney Beurkens, and two unidentified workers.

*HPT Board Members Workshop with Dr. Paula A. Mohr
From the State Historical Society of Iowa*

On Saturday, February 5, 2011 members of the Board of Directors met at the HPT office with Paula Mohr to learn about programs offered by the state of Iowa that would enhance our efforts to help educate those living in Pella about the vital and important opportunities available to homeowners who either live in an older structure or are planning to purchase an historic home. Dr. Mohr offered the following information about the role of Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) guides to communities with many older homes.

Following are a few of the key issues discussed:

1. National Register program giving information and guidelines as to how to proceed with this process.
2. Inventory of historic resources, they state keeps a data bank on over 130,000 properties.
3. Information on tax credit programs and their assistance in helping a homeowner apply for state and federal tax credits.
4. Information on Grant programs
5. Technical assistance. Personnel who are available for homeowners to contact with their concern on how to approach restoration so it is properly done.
6. SHPO encourage preservation and provide guidelines to develop a preservation plan, starting with identifying, evaluating and registering historic properties.

It is Historic Pella Trust aim to help educate owners of both homes and building to utilize these important resources. *In the future seminars will be offered by HPT with expert personnel from SHPO to give the people of Pella a hands on opportunity to hear of programs that would help them in their restoration project.*

UPDATED HPT WEB-SITE

Look for a “new and improved” Historic Pella Trust web site within the next few weeks.

We are under-going changes to enhance our current web-site ‘www.historicpellatrust.com’. New features will be added, such as:

1. Newsletter on-line.
2. HPT’s ‘Architectural Tour of Early Historic Pella’.
3. Current and coming events.
4. Information on help for homeowners restoring property.



Have you seen this beautiful Victorian home, one of Pella’s original showcase home?

Historic Pella Trust 2011 Board Members

- Liz Epperly – President
- Bob Zylstra – Vice President
- Davis Folkerts – Secretary
- Bobby Klein – Treasurer
- Ellie Gosselink – **Newsletter Editor**
- Dody Boat
- Wilma Den Besten
- Sallie DeReus
- Eunice Folkerts
- Ralph Jaarsma
- Duane Rempe
- Ron Rietveld
- Harold Schnedler
- Wayne Stienstra
- Lisa Zylstra

Review of Properties under HPT’s Careful Watch.

1. 408 Lincoln: Historic Log cabin. Currently working with the owner Gayle Kirby who is interested in having this 1843 log cabin on the National Register. We are actively supporting her efforts as she outlines a plan to start the preservation process.
2. 1006 Washington – A Dutch Colonial that is in foreclosure.
3. 1110 Washington - Owned by HPT – FOR SALE!
4. Soul Sleeper’s Church – currently rented. Monthly income.
5. Rock house at 1401 University – Rented. Monthly income.
6. 400 Franklin - Under HPT watch.

Letter from the President

Dear Members

As Spring approaches we hear much talk directed toward the planning of our annual Tulip Time celebration. It has become a reference in time, such as “after Tulip Time”, or “before Tulip Time”. Indeed it has grown into an event which is nationally recognized. This is quite an honor for it represents our community’s proud heritage and in doing so gives reference to many customs and events which historically chronicle the founding of our city of Pella. These are exciting preparations as everyone is cleaning up the winter residue and polishing off their property for friends and visitors. In reality, we are illuminating the beautiful structures in Pella which exist in commemoration of the history of our founders. We are one of few communities that can truly share their heritage in the architecture and buildings which we see every day.

Each year Historic Pella Trust hosts an annual meeting inviting all members and the public to celebrate our historical heritage together. This year we are planning our celebration on the evening of April 14 at the Pella Opera House. Consider this a “save the date” notice and a personal invitation to each one of you to join us on this evening. This year will be special as there will be a dinner to enjoy. Bring your friends along as we honor properties of restoration, properties which are architecturally significant and properties which hold historical significance. It will be an evening for celebration, education, and social interaction. Simply call the Pella Opera House for reservations. The Opera House phone number is 641-628-8628

Sincerely,
Liz Epperly, President
Historic Pella Trust

ANNUAL MEETING

**Thursday, April 14 at the
Opera House @ 6:00 pm**

“Food for Thought”

**DINE ON A FINE DUTCH DINNER PREPARED BY THE AWARD WINNING CHEF AT
‘STRAWTOWN WEST’. RESERVATION REQUESTED BY CALLING THE OPERA HOUSE
641-628-8628. DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

**PROGRAM: A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON SERVICES THAT HISTORIC PELLA TRUST
CAN HELP HOMEOWNERS IN THEIR ENDEAVOR TO PRESERVE THEIR HOME OR
BUILDING WILL FOLLOW.**

*Awards will be presented to honor home and business owners who have
put forth effort to preserve their structures in the style they were built.*

Brinkhoff Park Windmill

Spring is trying to maintain its presence in 2011. All the signs are surely present with waterfowl heading back North, robins greeting the early morning and days that reach 50 degrees. A common Pella landmark is also presiding over its 80th change to Spring. The Brinkhoff Park windmill has greeted Pella visitors on the west side since the Great Depression and is in dire need of some maintenance of its own.

The Brinkhoff Park windmill was placed on Pella's West side about 1930 by George Heeren, a local wood worker famous for his fine craftsmanship across Iowa. A second windmill greeted visitors to Pella on the Southeast side of town near the southeast corner of what is today's Caldwell Park, but was destroyed when it was hit by an automobile.

Mr. Heeren intended these mills to be models of what typical Dutch mills looked like in the Netherlands. He wanted the mills and their placement at the Pella entrance gateways at the time on highway 63 to welcome visitors with symbols of Pella's Dutch Heritage.

As many of you know, the Brinkhoff mill is in dire need of repair, restoration and protection. The Pella Garden Club in partnership with the City of Pella Community Services Board (formerly the Parks Board) has begun the process of restoring the mill to its original state. Part of the restoration will also be to relocate the mill within Brinkhoff Park, but further back from Washington St. so it doesn't succumb to the same fate as the other mill.

The Pella Garden Club is non-profit and would welcome any monetary, tax-deductable donations to defray restoration costs. Donations can be made to the Pella Garden Club with Brinkhoff Windmill in the memo line. Labor will also be needed to accomplish the restoration in the coming summer through winter months, so if you are interested in volunteering or have any other questions, please contact any of the following: Marlyn Rietveld-Ebbers at 628-3140 – Pella Garden Club
Chad Vande Lune at cvandelune@windstream.net – Pella Community Services Board
Wayne Stienstra at 780-4650 or waynes@iowatelecom.net – Pella Historic Trust



Two photos from 'The Pella Chronicle' – October 30, 1930 featuring George Heeren.



‘SIMPLE TREASURES’ 710 W. First Street

One of Pella’s most charming businesses is *Simple Treasures* located on West First Street. Owned by Shawna and Scot Miller, who purchased this historic home from Historic Pella Trust in the fall of 2006. Shawna and Scot immediately set to work to renovating this home built in 1870. They first new wiring, along with cleaning and painting the walls, and redoing the original hardwood floors as well as a hardwood ceiling. This cottage is a fine example of vernacular design, dating from the Victorian period. The steeply pitched roof and exuberant, full-width porch are its most arresting qualities. This building features a number of architectural details, whose design and preservation elevate the building above the ordinary. These details include corner boards, surmounted with capitals, wide eaves and a narrow fascia, front porch brackets and a transom above the front door.

Once you step inside this delightful business you will be greeted with an array of items such as jewelry, scarves, rugs, candles, charming flower arrangements and unique garden items. All beautiful objects to enhance anyone’s home, or to be given as gifts that reflects unique charm that would be treasured by any recipient.



Top - Outside View of Simple Treasures

Bottom - Inside look at the homes old living room.

Right - View taken of the back room and porch.

Simple Treasures also offers a mixture of old and new repurpose furniture, especially small tables. She laughs as she says she cannot keep up with the demand for these items.

Shawna is adamant that housing her store in this unique house has made her business successful. She attributes the charming ambiance of the home and its location to attracting a loyal following of customers.

It is through *Simple Treasures* success that Historic Pella Trust also enjoys success for this was a home that was scheduled for demolition when HPT stepped in and purchased the home. Volunteers spent hours cleaning up the inside of this neglected home as well as working on the yard. In 2006 HPT was delighted when Shawna and Scott purchased this home, and since then have taken pride in seeing how beautifully the Miller’s restored this home that will continue to delight those who live in Pella along with the visitors who enjoy stopping at *Simple Treasures* and chatting with Shawna.

Please visit Shawna’s website blog at www.simpletreasurespella.blogspot.com Shawna updates this blog weekly with news items of interest to her customers.



807 W. Third Street

Whoa! What is going on! ▲ Home under Renovation!

I was driving by and had to see for myself what was going on at 807 W. Third Street. Until recently, when I walked my dog past this home it was obvious that this house was falling into a state of disrepair, a real eye-sore. Well not for long because Josh and Marla Visser purchased this beautiful 1916 Craftsman home recently and immediately set to work renovating and expanding their home. Upstairs they enlarged the roofline so this space now accommodates three bedrooms and a full bath. New stairs were built and Josh opened up the downstairs by removing walls to make way for a full modern kitchen which will open into a large great room and added a full bath. He also plans to restore all the hardwood floors and the windows so they remain true to the historic time this home was built.

Josh and Marla are doing all this remodeling in their extra time as Josh teaches high school math in Knoxville and Marla is a Kindergarten teacher at Lincoln School. As I was leaving I asked if I could return when they have finished their renovation project and do a follow-up article on how the home looks then, and Josh said he would like that. Marla and Josh have a lot of work ahead of them and Josh is adamant that there will be no changes to the outside of his home and plans to stay true to the Craftsman architect style. There is no doubt that this home will be a show place, so look for a follow up article later this year.

Historic Pella Trust applauds the dedication and effort that the Visser's are putting into preserving a piece of Pella history and hope they will be a shining example to other young couples purchasing their first home.

Ellie Gosselink, Editor

Historic Pella Trust hopes that the Visser's, as well as others doing preservation renovation, will turn to our organization in assisting with information on historic preservation. If HPT cannot answer your question(s), then we can advise who they can contact. Call: 641-780-6398

Historic Pella Trust's Photographic Archival Project

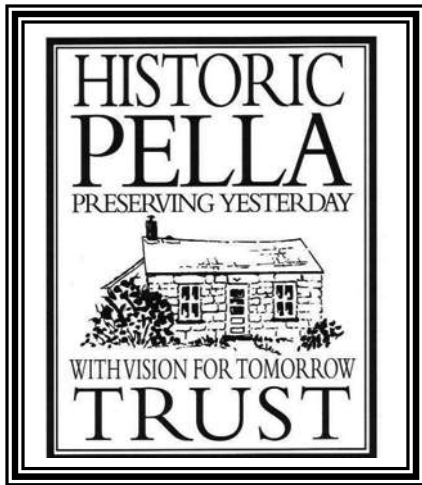
Do you have old photos of Pella that you aren't sure what to do with, but would like to see them preserved?

Let the Historic Pella Trust scan your old photos for posterity with our high-resolution scanner, and they will be returned to you promptly.

Or, if you prefer, we can scan them while you wait, and you can take them home with you!

We plan to make our collection of old photographs available for viewing on our website, for the public to enjoy. These photos will be an aid to historians, archivists, and writers for generations.

Thanks to all those who have allowed their old photos to be digitally preserved.



Have you seen this beautiful Victorian
The answer is NO. This stately home owned
by J.D. Gaass at 1221 N. Main was a Pella
landmark for many years. It was torn down
in 1930.

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST MEMBERSHIP

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

PH: _____ E-MAIL _____

LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

_____	FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$50.00
_____	SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	\$25.00
_____	SENIOR MEMBERSHIP	\$20.00
_____	BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP	\$75.00
_____	SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP	\$100.00
_____	PATRON MEMBERSHIP	\$250.00
_____	BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP	\$500.00
_____	SPECIAL PRESERVATIONIST	\$ _____

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

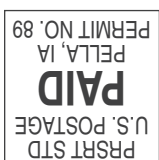
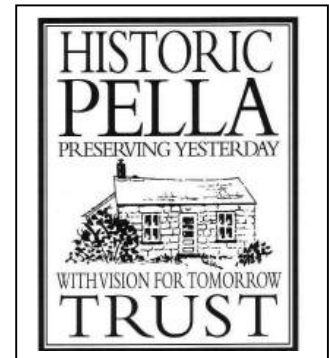
PLEASE CHECK IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER! _____

Historic Pella Trust
is 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 structures. Once a historic structure is destroyed, it is gone forever and thus changes Pella's historic landscape of the past.

Our goal is to assist owner's who undertake restoration of their older structures by answering their questions, or advising who they can consult in regards to their restoration project. HPT also offers meetings and seminars to the general public on historic restoration.

Historic Pella Trust is made up of volunteers who value saving the historic architecture of structures built by our forefathers since 1847.



Historic Pella Trust
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Pella, IA 50219