

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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The Historic Pella Trust Office at 615 Main Street is open most Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Call first!
(641) 628-8003.

Volume 4 – Fall, 2006

Davis Folkerts, Vice-President of Historic Pella Trust shares an update on activities being considered by the Board of Directors

Dear Members,

I am writing this update on activities since the last newsletter. Perhaps the most exciting news is that Historic Pella Trust has made its first sale of property! After acquiring the precious old house at 710 West First Street, we did clean-up and repair work, and then put in place the conservation and preservation easements that assure its future as one of Pella's older charming houses. We are happy to have sold it on Friday, October 6, to a family who plan to use it for a business. We wish them the best in this new venture.

During the summer a group of interested citizens from a number of Pella businesses and community organizations, under the very able leadership of Tilly Woodward, began the process of creating an official 'Cultural and Historic District' for Pella. More details will be forthcoming as this project develops, but we are immensely pleased that the City Council passed the proposal to allow its further development. Tilly Woodward needed an organization with a 501-C-3 status to provide a financial umbrella and approached Historic Pella Trust to be that umbrella. We were happy to provide that service. We are excited and pleased about this project.

Memberships in Historic Pella Trust keep increasing! We have passed the 150 mark and hope to reach 200 by the time of our next annual meeting in April.

Meanwhile, there are always new ideas and projects to consider. We have a committee studying how to award older properties of home owners who have enhanced them significantly in sensitive and valuable ways.

Historic Pella Trust Board looks forward to keeping the membership updated on all activities, on-going as well as new projects as we go forward into 2007.

Sincerely,

Davis Folkerts, Vice-President - Historic Pella Trust.

Recent Activities of Historic Pella Trust

1. 710 W. First Street -- Sold! Preservation easement established
2. 1110 Washington -- Seeking listing with National Register of Historic Places
3. 824 Franklin, ("Soul Sleepers' Church") - Accepted for listing on the National Register of Historic Places
4. Supported project to establish a Cultural and Heritage District
5. Contacted *Preservation* magazine to print article on Pella's heritage
6. Began project to obtain photographs of early Pella homes
7. Collected documentation for Fair Haven recognition at state preservation level
8. Solicited members to open our office Saturday mornings and Thursday nights
9. Congratulated Coal Ridge Church on getting listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Featured Home: 1212 West Washington Street

by Ellie Gosselink

In 1860 when you entered Pella from the west, you would first pass a lovely Dutch dairy farm. Then, urging your horses to a lively trot, you would pass a small brick home at 1212 West Washington Street. This red brick home is of the classic style Dutch architecture typical of the two room homes built during this era.

In 1998 Mary Van Wyk acquired the home to house her business, Home Realty. Mary chuckled when she recalled the sorry state it was in, heated by two antiquated coal burning stoves. The only change she made was having the entrance door to her business installed on the side of the house.



Mary made sure that the home, both inside and out, reflected its Dutch heritage of the 1800's. Now it is a model of charm and sophistication that has been thoroughly updated to incorporate 2006 technology. In 2004 the need to expand was pressing and once again Mary undertook to insure that the new addition melded with the original architecture. No detail was overlooked; the woodwork surrounding the windows and

doors is so well matched to the original that if one did not know it was an addition they would think it had always been as it is now. The first room in the new addition is a sitting room with a fireplace so charming and delightful that one is tempted to sit and relax for a spell.

This home has its own unique history for in 1866, forty-two persons from the Dutch Reformed Church met here and formed the True Dutch Reformed Church which later became known as the Christian Reformed Church.

It is commendable that Mary pursued her vision to preserve one of Pella's oldest buildings while at the same time turning this 126 year old home into a beautiful house that is warm and welcoming, with all the modern amenities found in the newest homes in Pella. Mary invites anyone to visit her successful Home Realty business at anytime and enjoy the warm Dutch welcome this home offers to all who enter.



Interior view of new addition

Home Owners Honored for Restoration Efforts

It is important for Historic Pella Trust to honor homeowners who accept the challenge of preserving their heritage homes. Lisa and Harold Schnedler have recently taken on the restoration of 711 W. First Street. Here Harold shares his thoughts regarding their home and restoration efforts.

For some time before purchasing 711 W. First Street, we had been waiting for a small historical home to come on the market. We preferred the 19th century styles of architecture and were

willing to undertake the challenge of restoring a h"ouse whose architecture was worth the effort. 711 W. First Street had an attractive Queen Anne style wrap-around porch and the promise

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of other Queen Anne detailing such as decorative shingles underneath the aluminum siding. It was located on a street notable for 19th century architecture, and was within walking distance of the Square and other places of interest to us.

The exterior restoration, which is still underway, began with removing the aluminum siding and painting the house in a Victorian color scheme. The wood siding has been drilled for the installation of insulation, but we decided to scrape and repaint the whole before replacing the damaged siding.

Our initial focus, financially, was on making the house livable. All the plumbing and wiring had to be replaced, floors needed to be refinished, uncompleted sheetrock needed to be finished, light fixtures needed to be replaced, and the interior needed to be repainted. We are just now completing the interior work as we continue with the exterior restoration.

Historical information on the house is sketchy. We estimate from its architectural style that it was built in the late 1890's. The builder seems



to have put up other houses in that neighborhood using the same basic floor plan and identical decorative materials.

Our interest in purchasing Pella property was due to wanting our children to experience the amenities which make Pella such an attractive community for families: the small stores and restaurants, the library, the recreation center, the theater, the bicycle trails, and the college, all within walking distance of our house. We have fine neighbors, and we are happy to be part of the Pella community.

Historic Home originally at 806 Lincoln Street

by Bob Klein

A farm home situated on the land that is now 806 Lincoln Street, was originally built in 1847-48 and made of bricks manufactured in Pella. The original design was a two room house. Later a 'T' was added to provide space for the growing family. The original

1847 name for Lincoln Street was North Street and was outside Pella's city limits.

As late as 1920 Peter Vander Werf owned this home. He was a Pella contractor and laid most of the cement walks in Pella. There are a few sidewalks where the wooden stamp he used to imprint his business logo can still be seen. One of them is at the corner of West Lincoln and West First Street like and looks like this:



As a young boy, I would walk past the Vander Werf farm on my way to Lincoln school. At that time there was a large barn and additional farm sheds near the brick home. Peter Vander Werf's transportation was a beautiful small spring wagon cart pulled by a matching team of four small ponies. One of my greatest thrills was when Mr. Vander Wert would give me a ride!

Unfortunately the house deteriorated over the years and was eventually torn down. I had a personal pride in this home as my grandparents, the G.T.H. Kleins, owned this house until they died. Charles Klein then lived there until Ed Wesselink, followed by Glen Van Zee, bought the house. These families were all related to me.

Meet Your Members: Liz and Tom Epperly

Both Liz and Tom support the historic aspects of our community. Tom volunteers as a miller and conducts tours at the Vermeer Windmill. Liz, a Historic Pella Trust board member, serves as a tour guide at the governor's mansion, Terrace Hill, in Des Moines. She has done this since it was first opened to the public in 1973. Liz is a School Guidance Counselor for Pella Elementary Schools and is quick to remind everyone that the future of our community dwells with our children. When Liz was asked why she and Tom support Historic Pella Trust, she wrote the following: "Pella has not only a rich history but a unique history. The roots of its forefathers are embedded into every aspect of our way of life. The Dutch who arrived here in 1847, when the area was unsettled prairie, built

the community enriching it with their Dutch culture. This is apparent everywhere and some of the most obvious indications are the structures and buildings. It is astounding to realize that many of the very structures these brave immigrants built are still in use today. These are marvelous symbols of the origin of our community.

As research on these structures reveals the history of each, one realizes what treasures we have along nearly every street. If one of these is lost we all experience a loss. This is important to remember as we slowly save and restore them, for they are more than, 'just buildings', they are the heritage of our community. Their design, presence, and history speak of the proud people who settled our Pella!"

Membership Renewal Time

*Become a New Member!

*Renew your Membership!

*Give a Membership as a Gift!

*Become an important link in preserving Pella's future!

Clip here and mail to **Historic Pella Trust, P. O. Box 1, Pella, IA 50219**

_____ Single Membership:*\$25.00
_____ Family Membership:*\$50.00
_____ Senior Membership:*\$10.00

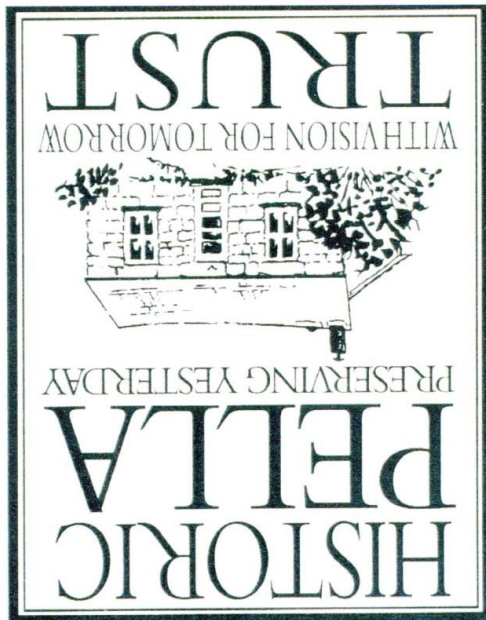
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