

A Newsletter from the Historic Pella Trust

PRESERVE PELLA



An early view of the Aldolphus Waechter home, later known as the Central College Boardwalk house.

WAECHTER/BOARDWALK HOME IS ON THE MOVE

Bruce Boertje

The twenty-mile journey for the 130-ton Waechter/Boardwalk home is a long one. As we write this article the home has begun its four-day journey to its new location. The house mover indicated that this home is not the heaviest structure he has ever moved, but size-wise it will be the largest. Many of the Trust followers recall that the journey to find a new owner to move the home has also been a long one.

Central College had wanted to remove the home from its current location at 300 Broadway Street for some time. Last year the College Board directed that the home should either be moved by summer or it would be demolished. Hearing this, the Trust stepped in and

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COLLEGIATE NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Jennifer VanKooten

A ribbon cutting dedication took place on Saturday, Oct. 13 during the Collegiate Neighborhood Block Party. Opening remarks were made by Bob Zylstra, Jim Mansueto, and Mayor Jim Mueller reflecting on the honor it is for our community to have this Historic Neighborhood designation. Bob and Jim encouraged the neighbors to take further steps on the local level to protect the homes in the historic district by signing a petition to accept a city ordinance for protection from changes to the properties within the neighborhood.

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2018 ANNUAL HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Pella Opera House on Thursday, November 8, 2018
Social Time 6:30 pm | Program 7:00 pm

Please join us for an evening of fun and memories! We will review the past year with Historic Pella Trust! Come to see the preservation awards given to local homeowners. 2018 Historic Landmark of the Year awards will be announced! We are very excited to bring to you our feature speaker Dave Baker, with his presentation on the special things in Pella so many people overlook!

“In the Details” with Dave Baker

For the Historic Pella Trust, Dave will be giving an entirely new presentation called “In The Details,” which will highlight nuances of Pella history and architecture that often times are overlooked or not noticed. He will feature pictures of places that we know but show them from different angles and in a different light. Furthermore, he will explain the importance of these details to Pella, Iowa, and American history as well as highlight why preservation is essential. Dave provides thorough research and will be available afterwards for further discussion.



914 FRANKLIN STREET RESTORATION WORK BEGINS

Bruce Boertje

Almost a year ago the historic property at 914 Franklin Street, believed to have been built in 1849 by Dutch settler Jacob Van Ham, was nearly destroyed by fire. It took many months for city of Pella engineers to declare the structure stable and to give permission for restoration work to begin. Carpenters are now busy installing new rafters and soon the building will be under roof again. This architectural treasure is rare in that it is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Pella, erected when Pella was only two years old. The building features multiple Dutch architectural elements. The structure is divided into living space and working space, all under one roof. In this case the original work space, located in the west end of the building, was a blacksmith shop. Combining living and working spaces under one roof was common in early Pella and often brought comments from those visiting the town.



In addition, the building's bricks were laid in a pattern called "cross-bond" (see photo at right). While there are both English and Dutch versions of cross-bond bricklaying this building features the rarer Dutch method. In a cross-bond pattern rows of longer bricks, called stretchers, alternate with rows of shorter bricks, called headers. While English-style features all the headers lining up with other headers and stretchers lining up with other stretchers, the Dutch cross-bond style alternates lining them up. This is a subtle variation, but a distinctive one, nonetheless.



Robert Klein is a second-generation owner of the Van Ham building. If not for avid preservationists like Robert, and his father before him, one of the last remaining examples of early Pella/Dutch architecture would be lost forever. Thank you, Robert!

IS PELLA'S HERITAGE IN ITS FUTURE?

Bruce Boertje

The Historic Pella Trust's Mission statement is: "To protect and promote buildings, landscapes, and sites important to the heritage of Pella, Iowa."

The best way for the Trust to fulfill this simple yet elegant mission statement is through education. Knowledge is the key to helping people appreciate Pella's heritage, where that heritage came from, and what we can learn from our predecessors to help keep Pella unique.

Today, people come to Pella for multiple reasons: Many visit as tourists, some come to work for our industries, some for educational purposes, some to utilize our medical facilities, and some to retire. Regardless of their reasons for coming, they all benefit from Pella's charm and its clean and neat appearance. Pella's appearance and charm stem directly from its Dutch founders. The Dutch are known for their cleanliness, industriousness, quaint unassuming architecture. That is our heritage.

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ARTICLE: IS PELLA'S HERITAGE IN ITS FUTURE?
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The Dutch are understandably proud of their values. Since its earliest days Pella has promoted itself by inviting guests and tourists to visit our community – our annual Tulip Time festival is but one great example. Our unique and historic buildings play the most visible role in displaying our community's heritage to our visitors.

Sadly, Pella's historic buildings have been disappearing at an ever-increasing rate. This destruction has been ongoing for decades. Over the past half-century hundreds of Pella buildings have ceased to exist. Over the past decade alone over 90 buildings have been demolished. A minimum of 16 more are planned to be removed within the next year.

Many of Pella's vintage and/or historic buildings have been replaced with new, high-end housing - predominantly duplexes or condominium units that do not enhance or preserve our architectural heritage. Other buildings have been taken down to make way for parking lots while still others have been removed for industrial or institutional expansion. As individual buildings disappear they are not always widely missed. But when taken as

a group - such as these 90 buildings – they collectively show what a loss Pella's cultural fabric has sustained.

To be fair, *many of these buildings had outlived their usefulness and needed to go*; others perhaps could have been saved, but many represent an undeniable and irreplaceable loss to Pella's heritage.

Is Pella destined to one day become just another modern city, indistinguishable from hundreds of others? If so, it wouldn't be the end of the city, but it would be the end of our unique and proud heritage.

Before every performance the Pella High School marching band cries out: "Dutch Pride! Dutch Pride!! Dutch Pride!!!" The community of Pella has much of which to be proud, not least of which is our heritage. Whether we decide to embrace and uphold that heritage is up to each of us. The Historic Pella Trust's goal is to help provide the knowledge necessary to appreciate and preserve our community's heritage.

We invite you to follow the Trust on Facebook and to access our newly updated website (www.historicpellatrust.org) as we seek to protect and promote buildings, landscapes and sites important to the heritage of Pella, Iowa. Long live Pella and its unique heritage. Dutch Pride!

Pella Buildings Lost in the Last Decade



GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Van Kooten, Executive Director of Historic Pella Trust

This has been an active year for Historic Pella Trust. Tuttle Cabin hosted several tours and open houses throughout the year. In December guests sipped on hot cider along with a Sinterklaas cookie while watching Helen Boertje braid wool rugs or Janice Cook spinning yarn from wool. The cabin awaited the holiday with handmade decorations and a Dutch country theme. Tuttle Cabin was open for tours during Tulip Time and the 4th of July, entertaining many guests with displays and activities. We featured a vintage wagon at the cabin and in the 4th of July parade that was donated by Sharon Fisher in memory of William and Amy Pfoutz and their children George and Esther from New Sharon, Iowa.

January was our planning meeting and soup supper hosted by Bob and Charlie Zylstra. During the meeting we decided to put a focus toward the Tuttle Learning Walk and the Collegiate Historic District by working towards an overlay ordinance for protection and preservation of the Collegiate Historic District. Our monthly meetings include noting historic homes in danger and taking action to visit with the property owners about preservation. We launched a fund raising campaign called "Taking the Steps to Preserve the Past for the Future". It was very successful, thank you to everyone who contributed!

The old Waechter home located at 300 Broadway, owned by Central College, which named it the Boardwalk house, needed to be either relocated or demolished. The Trust put the word out to find someone willing to take on the task of moving this enormous home. The story went viral with inquires and wishes for preservation of this historic home. Our search was successful! Mikol Sesker took on the task of moving the home southeast of Knoxville.

Our Learning walk project will connect the Tuttle Historic Cabin with Sunken Garden Park, featuring signing telling the story of Pella from the time it was founded until the turn of the century; sharing this information for future generations to remember.

Historic Pella Trust is raising all the funds for this City of Pella project and you can follow the progress on our website under Learning Walk, <https://historicpellatrust.org/learning-walkway/>.

We celebrated the listing of the Collegiate Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places with neighbors during an evening party and presentation by Sara Andre. This gave the neighbors a chance to learn more about the benefits of being in an historic district and the protections needed to keep the historic homes contributing towards the integrity of the district and safe from major changes. On October 13, we held a block party to dedicate the Historic District; along with connecting the community with the beauty and challenges of maintaining a historic district. This event included a walking tour of the neighborhood with signs telling about each contributing home, and open houses at 510 Broadway and 900 Liberty.

We have hosted spring and fall field trips to Tuttle Cabin for the second grade school children from Pella Community and Pella Christian schools. The kids love this event so much and a big thank you to all the volunteers that made this living history field trip possible. They enjoy a fireside story of the birthplace of Pella, Iowa. Afterwards they get to make marbles out of clay and play "world" with marbles...they do laundry with a washboard and talk about planting and harvesting in the 1840's. Once in a while a harmonica would start playing and the kids just naturally started to dance to Old Susanna!

I encourage you to check out our updated website, created by Blake Roosendaal, at <https://historicpellatrust.org>. You may follow our blog page on the website for insight to our preservation efforts. We also continue to grow on our Facebook page by posting history and pictures from our Pella archives. We hope to share future newsletters by email when possible so please include your email address with your membership contributions!



ARTICLE:
WAECHTER/BOARDWALK
HOME IS ON THE MOVE
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posted the availability of the home on our Facebook page early one Saturday morning. The results were immediate and overwhelming. Within a matter of hours the post had reached 500,000 people and caught the attention of a regional television station which came down that very afternoon and filmed a piece that aired later that evening. By Monday two other TV stations had also visited Pella to record news segments. Other radio and newspaper outlets provided additional coverage. Soon our Facebook post had reached 750,000 individuals. The Trust and the College were overwhelmed with people wanting to tour and potentially save the home. Even after requiring a \$5,000 deposit on the home, there was a waiting list of individuals who wanted to acquire and move the home. After a few earnest but false starts an individual was located that had both an available relocation site as well as the means to move the home. Hopefully by the time you read this story the home will have been moved!

The home was constructed in 1914 by Adolphus Waechter, who was a second-generation owner of the Waechter Lumber Company, which was located directly behind the house on the NW corner of Main and University streets. When the home was constructed Broadway was still an unpaved dirt street, and the home featured both a barn/stable for Waechter's horses and a garage to house Waechter's automobile! In 1937, at the age of 80 years, Adolphus passed away in this home. The home remained in the Waechter family for three more decades until Central College professor



Richard Whitaker purchased it in the 1970s. In 1989 Whitaker sold the home to Central College. The College changed its name to Boardwalk after the Monopoly game, because of its majestic presence as well as its prominent location. For several years the home served as student housing and later for storage.

Mikol Sesker is the new owner of the Waechter/Boardwalk Home. She plans to move the home to rural southern Marion County. Sesker noted: "One of my passions in life is the rehabilitation of old homes. I believe that moving the Boardwalk House onto the farm keeps with the idea of minimizing waste and living an eco-friendly lifestyle while also preserving a piece of local history. I look forward to breathing new life into the home while maintaining all the beautiful features that it has to offer". Once the home is on the new location they will wrap it up tight and begin restoration in the spring of 2019.

We are sorry to see the home leave Pella, but we are greatly relieved that it is being saved from the landfill. Thank you Mikol Sesker for rescuing this wonderful building!

ARTICLE: COLLEGIATE NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY
(continued from page 1)

Guests could meander on the closed street and enjoy food from the Hy-Vee grill, look through information booths, and enjoy free popcorn and ice cream. Many people attended in spite of the brisk wind, and enjoyed the vintage tunes from the KNIA/KRSL Big Red Radio while taking a self-guided walking tour of the neighborhood. There was signage stating details of each contributing house. Maps were given out to correspond with signage along with a scavenger hunt game. The most popular activity was the home tours of two historic homes. Guests were able to see restoration in process and ask questions of the home owners including flooring, window repair, patching plaster walls, and painting. A window restoration and weatherization demonstration was given by Historic restoration expert Terry Phillips. Jim Mansueto, Pella Historic Preservation Commission Chairperson showed a power point presentation on the benefits of historic districts, preserving historic homes and how it influences property values!



Cutting the ribbon; Bob Zylstra, Mayor Jim Mueller, Councilman Bruce Schiebout, Rhonda Kermode; Eunice Folkerts; Jim Mansueto; and Jennifer VanKooten.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Current and Prospective Historic Trust Supporters,

It's been a busy time since our last newsletter. Our new executive director Jennifer Van Kooten is bringing good energy and direction to our work as Historic Pella Trust continues its efforts to help maintain Pella's distinctive charm by protecting and promoting our historic structures and architectural legacy. Many of our older buildings provide a special link to our Dutch heritage and give our village a comfortable, gracious feel. We have also enjoyed a large economic development benefit as we welcome countless visitors who come to enjoy our scenic Dutch town.

I hope you saw our float in the Tulip Time parade. This is part of our effort to raise the visibility of our special history and legacy of founders. We hosted many visitors to the Tuttle Cabin (608 Lincoln Street) where we were able to tell the story of how our founding father Hendrick Scholte negotiated the purchase of much of the Pella land in this actual log cabin. Prior to Tulip Time we continued our tradition of having a learning session open to all of the town's second graders where they learned about Pella history and experience life during the early days of Pella.

We are continuing to work with the Pella City Council and Pella city staff in our efforts to formalize the Collegiate Historic District. We worked with the district residents and hosted a block party for the district in October. We have also made progress in creating a learning walkway from the Tuttle Cabin to Sunken Garden. We hope to communicate more details on this project during the next several months.

Mary Van Wyk has completed her renovation of the old Stegeman Store located at 1110 Washington Street. Mary has opened it as an AirBnB called the Strawtown Cottage. You can readily see many of the special touches that Mary is adding to both the old store and the grounds around the store. Mary invited many to a grand opening event in September where we found even more of Mary's special touches than outside. All of this was in the setting of what was one of Pella's very oldest homes and general stores.

The wonderful Waechter home from Central Collage Campus, previously located at 300 Broadway, has moved to the new location south of Knoxville, Ia. Several of our members were very active in helping to promote the visibility of this building and establish a new owner to work with the campus on moving it away. We are also closely monitoring the state of some of Pella's other older buildings in our on-going efforts to protect some of them.

We hope that you see the value of our work to the Pella community. Our board and I trust that you and your friends will find ways to generously support these projects and our general goal of maintaining our special Pella architectural charm.

Het aller beste, Bob Zylstra



RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIPS

Allen Vander Linden
 Arlene Dahm
 Arvin and Pat VanZante
 Bernice Vermeer
 Bruce and Diane Beier
 Chad and Jackie Ray
 Charles Keuning
 Colin and Auburn VanKooten
 Dale and Irma Jansen
 Darlene Wallinga
 Dave and Carol Greving
 David and Ardith Sutphen
 David and Lois Smith
 Delwin and Nancy VanZante
 Dennis and Judy Steenhoek
 Donald (Guy) and Jane Blair
 Dr. Kurt and Carol VanderPloeg
 Elva Doorenbos
 Gary Boeyink
 Helen Boertje
 Henry and Millie VandeKieft
 Ivan and Ruth Mulder
 James and Barb Braafhart
 Janie Hale
 Jennie Pipple
 John and Bev Wisse
 John and Lois Lanser
 Joshua and Jill Payne

Judy Slings
 Karen Heringer
 Ken and Jackie Craver
 Kent and Ranae Oppenhuizen
 Kent and Val VanKooten
 Larry and Karyn Renaud
 Larry and Lil Terpstra
 Les And Marcia Carter
 Lila Turnbull
 Linda Glendening
 Lois and Gary Boeyink
 Marilee Sjaardema
 Marilyn Aldrich
 Mark and Dennis Wing
 Mark and Lori Ellingson
 Marv and Mert Tysseling
 Maxine Verros
 Merlin and Dorothy Vander Leest
 Orleath Ingle
 Paul and Mary Kuyper
 Paul and Susan Brackin
 Paul and Vicki Jones
 Ron And Cynthia Willemsen
 Sandy Rouw Williams
 Sumner and Carol Mapes
 Tami Pettit Rempe
 Tim Hoekstra
 Vernon Terlouw
 Walt and Betty Ellinwood

SUSTAINING

Brian and Lisa Metcalf
 Bruce and Cyndi Boertje
 Cathy Rush, in memory of her daughter,
 Amy Rush Canade
 Cora Thomassen
 Don and Kris Andre
 Elenor Boogaard
 Gary and Maureen Timmer
 Glenn and Shirley Borgman
 Harlan and Bobbie VanVark
 Herbert and Nancy Lienenbrugger
 Jeff and Kris VanMannen
 Jim and Adonna Vermeer
 Jim and Phyllis Danks
 Keith and Treva Reimer-Ratzlaff
 Lowell and John Olivier-Shaw
 Mark and Jill Vandevoort
 Mark and Mary DeJong
 Mark and Nancy Moreland
 Preston Steenhoek
 Randy and Brenda Nugteren
 Rich and Mary Glendening
 Robert and Arlys VanDoorn
 Sallie DeReus
 Stan and Diane Schuring
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BUSINESS

Allen and Neumann Family Dentist
 Dr Warren DeHaan
 John Lanser and Sons
 Recker Dental Care

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 Larry Plate
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BENEFACTOR

Cory and Sandy Veenstra
 Dave and Kristi Balk
 James VerMeer
 Matthew McCulla
 Ralph and Elaine Jaarsma

PRESERVATIONIST

Dody Boat
 Duane Rempe
 Larry and Rosie DeVries
 Mary F Griffith
 Roger and Janice Brown

PROTECT & PROMOTE PELLA'S HERITAGE WITH YOUR 2019 MEMBERSHIP

The Historic Pella Trust, established in 1994, is a non-profit preservation group who helps to preserve Pella's architectural resources so that future generations will continue to be enriched by the historic legacy of Pella's Dutch heritage and culture. **Mission Statement: To Protect and Promote Buildings, Landscapes, and Sites Important to the Heritage of Pella, Iowa.** We appreciate your 2019 memberships and partnership contributions for protecting the architectural resources of Pella, Iowa.

KEEP IN TOUCH

EMAIL: To receive timely Trust updates via email, please provide your email address on the attached form, or send it to: office@historicpellatrust.org.

Please visit HPT on the web and Facebook for local history, information and photos.

historicpellatrust.org



Follow us on Facebook.

I would like to be a 2019 member of the Historic Pella Trust.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

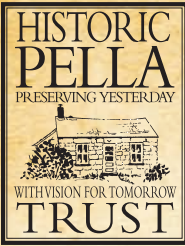
Membership Level: Single \$35 Sustaining \$100-\$249
 Senior \$30 Patron \$250-\$499
 Family \$50 Benefactor \$500-\$999
 Business \$150 Preservationist \$1,000 and above _____

If you would like your donation to remain anonymous please check this box.

Memorial Gifts in memory of _____

You may submit you membership payment via our website, donate by Facebook or

MAIL TO: Historic Pella Trust | PO Box 1 | Pella, Iowa 50219

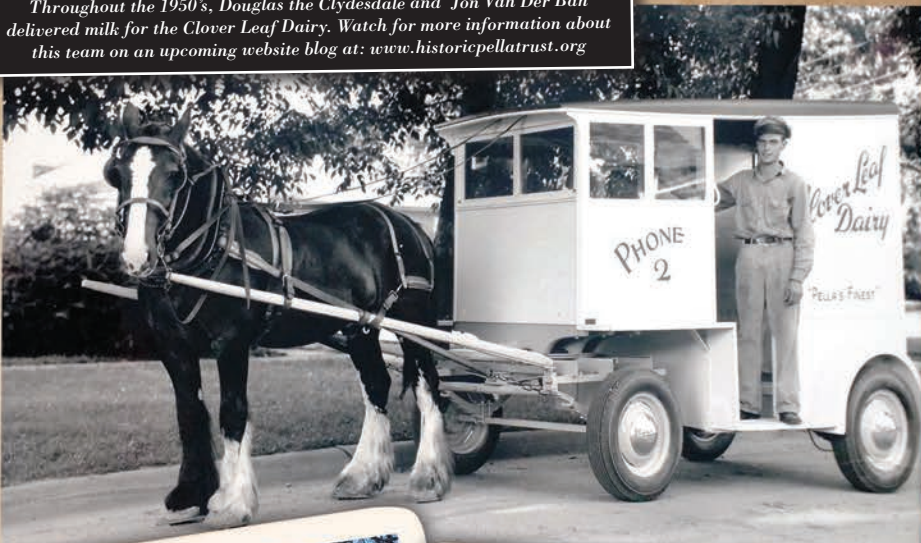


HISTORIC PELLA TRUST
608 Lincoln Street, PO Box 1
Pella, IA 50219

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Throughout the 1950's, Douglas the Clydesdale and Jon Van Der Ban delivered milk for the Clover Leaf Dairy. Watch for more information about this team on an upcoming website blog at: www.historicpellatrust.org



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