

Preservation Update!

Newsletter

Historic Pella Trust – Pella's Historic Preservation Organization!
Volume 16 – Fall 2012

We Need You!

Your support as a member of Historic Pella Trust is one of the most important steps you can take to preserve the 'charm of Pella'. Your membership insures that the historic homes and buildings, that are the heart of Pella, will be here for generations to come!

SAVING 1110 WASHINGTON STREET BUILT IN 1853

In the fall of 2005 it came to the attention of Historic Pella Trust's Board of Directors that one of Pella's oldest historic buildings located at 1110 Washington St. was going to be bulldozed. After a discussion with the property owners it was clear that HPT's only option was to purchase the property and the owners gave us a week to come up with funds needed to purchase the home.

A long time supporter of our preservation organization generously agreed to donate half the asking price. HPT's Board of Directors then contacted Marion County Bank and was able to secure a loan for the remaining amount. Built in 1853 this building was the first known general store with living quarters on the upper floor. Located on the first road laid out in 1847, over the years several businesses have operated from this property, including a cigar making business.

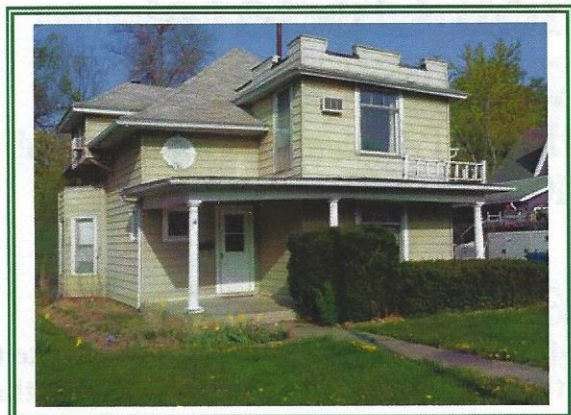
In 2009; 1110 Washington was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historic Pella Trust is currently in the process of raising funds to have work done to bring the building up to code.

This property is for SALE. Please contact Historic Pella Trust via phone: 641-628-8003 or email: historicpellatrust@yahoo.com. for further information.

Pictures of work equity days done by Historic Pella Trust's Board of Directors, with the help of Central College Students on their Community Volunteer Work Day!



We could not Save This One! We Tried!



511 S. Main St., Pella, Iowa – To read how Historic Pella Trust tried to save this building go to our web site: www.historicpellatrust.com and click on 'Lost Properties'!

Pella Books 824 Franklin St. Pella, Iowa

The building's history.

Originally the First Christian Church – Circa 1860-1888

Named 'Soul Sleepers Church', on 1869 Pella map

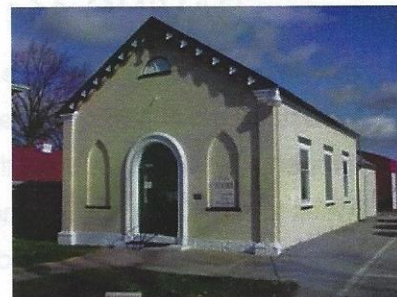
First Reformed Church of Pella – Circa 1888 – 1911

Plymouth Brethren Church – circa 1911-1995

Current owners: Historic Pella Trust!

Purchased this building in 1995, saving it as one of
Pella's Historic buildings.

June 2006 – This building was placed on the
National Register of Historic Places,
by Historic Pella Trust.



2012 view of 824 Franklin St.
Building is owned and
maintained by Historic Pella
Trust as an important historic
building of early Pella.

Your membership continues to
support Historic Pella Trust's efforts
to preserve the historic structures in
Pella.

Historic Pella Trust
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Historic Pella Trust
Pella's only
PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION!

THOMAS TUTTLE CABIN - 1853 - Written by Dr. R. D. Rietveld, Emeritus Professor of History

The Thomas Tuttle cabin is the residence of the first settlers in the neighborhood of Pella. Thomas F. and Nancy Tuttle first arrived in the Territory of Iowa in 1838 and settled in Jefferson County the following year of 1839. They arrived in what later became known as Marion County on May 13, 1843. Without children, and without any other help, the husband and wife together built the cabin on the edge of the timber on the north end of what later became the City of Pella.

When the Tuttles' settled here, they were not aware of the existence of another family or white people within twenty miles of them. After being here a month or so, the Tuttles' were in need of re-provisioning their stock of "breadstuff" before it had become dangerously low. It was decided to go to Fort Madison on the Mississippi River for supplies. Mrs. Tuttle could join her husband on the trip or stay home, as she might choose. She chose to remain in their cabin. For nine days and nights, Mrs. Tuttle remained the only occupant of the small log cabin, except for her cat. Wolves howled all through the night along Thunder Creek. She saw no one, except for Native Americans, who passed and re-passed and occasionally entered the cabin without first announcing their presence or uttering some greeting, often requesting food.

After 1843, traffic through this area (to and from Fort Des Moines) passed by the Tuttle Cabin. Among those passing by was Moses J. Post, a Baptist missionary circuit rider traveling between Van Buren County and Fort Des Moines. As part of his work, he also delivered mail on this circuit. With these frequent trips in the area, he knew the region as well as the settlers who lived here, including Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle.

At noon on Thursday, July 29, 1847, after a trip of 65 miles from the Fairfield Iowa Land Office, a Dutch search party of five people traveling in a farm wagon led by Reverend Post, arrived at the Tuttle Cabin for lunch. They were introduced as a Dutch party interested in purchasing a large area upon which their colony of nearly 800 Hollanders could settle. Before they made contact with other settlers located in the area, Moses Post helped Reverend Henry P. Scholte, leader of "De Kolonie", purchase Tuttles' land and cabins.

The Tuttles' built not only their home cabin, but a claim pen log cabin, on what is now known as Central Park, or 'Garden Square', as Scholte called it. Thomas Tuttle agreed to sell his land and log cabin, including the claim cabin, to Scholte. In addition, Tuttle suggested other settlers the search party could visit to talk of purchasing their already established holding in the immediate area, along with those who had settled near the Des Moines River, before word of such sales could spread and raise prices.

By November 1847, Scholte returned with his family from St. Louis, Missouri and settle them in the claim cabin, while he began building their new large house. Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle left their cabins and land, moving to Vandalia in Jasper County.

The claim pen cabin remained in 'Garden Square' for a few years and served as the first school and later a Civil War military recruitment station in 1862.

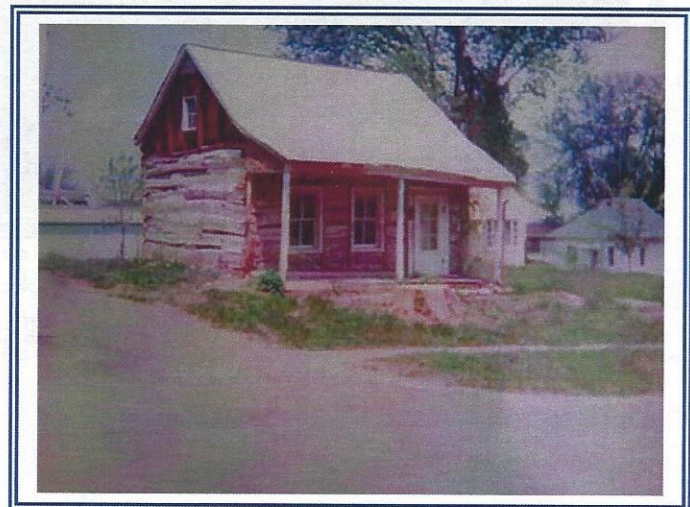
The original log cabin included other structures and surrounding buildings. To the north side of the cabin a 'lean to' kitchen was built through which the cabin was entered on the east side. There was a loft for sleeping, which was reached by a wooden ladder. In winter, no heat reached the loft, except through the hole in the corner of the floor where the ladder ascended. A small porch was added to cover the front door of the log cabin. On the east side of the cabin, there was an entrance to the 'little cellar'. A summer kitchen was built east of the cabin in which washings and bathing were done, with the use of a very small wood burning stove. Close by was the well, and the pump which still exist today. There was also a small woodshed behind the cabin and a privy, which was moved to various sites. West of the cabin was a large barn, with a small road between the cabin and the barn. One of the earliest roads in future Pella, a portion connected with the swamp, with a creek flowing into it (now Sunken Garden), and the walnut woods north of the cabin. The Tuttles had built their log cabin from these same walnut woods

After Pella was platted, the cabin was located on North Street, the most northeastern street in Pella, and later the name was changed to Lincoln Street, in honor of the martyred president.

The original Tuttle Cabin of 1843, remains the oldest residence in Pella, Iowa.



Barn removed in the 1930's and is now the site the cabin now sits on.



Rare colored pictures of the Tuttle Cabin taken in the 1970's.
Courtesy of Diane De Boer

Become a Preservationist!

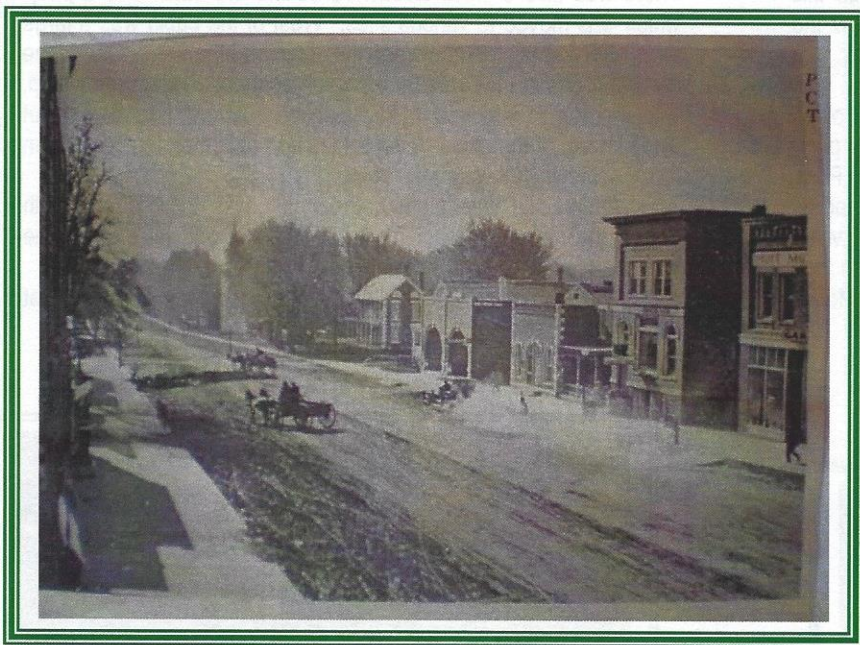
Preservation is a nation wide issue one that is growing as communities come together and focus on the importance of a strong community preservation program.

Historic Pella Trust is Pella's preservation organization!

From the current issue of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Magazine - Fall 2012 highlight the importance communities all across America have on building a strong preservation program.

Some items of interest in this edition: 1) Washington's National Cathedral restorations in the aftermath of the August 2011 earthquake; 2) Zuni Pueblo in New Mexico became the first Native American National Trust Main Street community; 3) 1903 Georgian revival structure at San Francisco's historic Presidio has reopened as the Inn at the Presidio after a five-month green rehabilitation; 4) The Portland Maine Regency Hotel & Spa reopened after being renovated to historic standards; 5) Renovation of Detroit's historic Michigan Bell Telephone Co. as housing for the homeless was made possible with \$26 million in federal historic tax credits and low-income housing tax credits. 6) In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Bruce More's Historic Neighborhood Walk focuses on the social and architectural character of the neighborhood surrounding the 26-acre estate. 7) Before and After - the restoration of the 1856 Greek revival Texas Governor's Mansion. 8) Washington DC's C&O canal now offer visitors a chance to trace history along it towpath or overnight in one of its recently renovated lock houses.

To support the National Trust for Historic Preservation check out their web site at www.PreservationNation.org; or write to the National Trust Headquarters, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036



South Main Street, Pella from corner of Franklin and Main a hundred years ago. ca. 1912



Early ad for Buerkens Wagon
A manufacturer of wagons in
Pella over 100 years ago.

**Preservation of Pella
through the saving of
historic structures, historic
pictures and stories.**

**All important in keeping the
past alive for those who enjoy
Pella today and for those who
will enjoy Pella in the future!**

Featured Historic House

'The Rock House'

The 'Rock' house still stands proudly where it was built in 1856. It is currently owned by Historic Pella Trust. Following is the tiny home's history!

'The Rock House'

by Ellie Gosselink

Dirk Van Loon stood next to his wife Gertje (de Kort) as they quietly surveyed the new plot of land recently purchased from Henry P. Scholte. A prairie breeze gently moved the tall prairie grass as they heard a rustling disturb the grass and a male deer, with large antlers, emerged from the woods and stopped as he surveyed the land around him. Moving cautiously in the grass, a doe and two fawns quietly followed behind. Dirk and Gertje stood quietly, not wanting to disturb the scene as Gertje whispered, "that is a good luck sign. This is where you will build us a strong house to live in."

Dirk smiled as he took his pipe from his mouth and said, "After the long, hard sea journey we endured, I'll build a strong stone house to shelter you and Christina and other little ones that will follow."

A stone mason by trade, Dirk hoped to build not only their stone house, but others in their new home of Pella. He already had contracted to build foundations in Pella and Knoxville. Their plot of land was on the old Pella - Knoxville Road and within a short time Dirk set to work preparing rocks, many 28" long x 15" wide and 12" high, all moved from the quarry south of Pella. A small dirt floor cellar was under the floor of the kitchen and a trap door was made to access the cellar during the long Iowa winter. As the walls were built, an attic was added that was used as a sleeping room, accessed by stairs made of native walnut wood. Snug and warm in winter, yet cooled by summer breezes through the doors and windows, Dirk moved his family into the house in the fall of 1856.

The family lived here for five years, during which Wilhelmus was born in 1857. When they were expecting their third child, the family then moved to a larger house near by.

After his wife died, Dirk and his daughter Christina took homesteads in Kansas, near Oakley, where Dirk spent the rest of his life there raising cattle. He died in 1896 and is buried in the Oakley cemetery.

In 1980's Edith Kuitert purchased the 'Rock House' and began a restoration program. The house was in disrepair and Edith was determined to remodel the house and make it livable while preserving the historic value of the tiny home. After conferring with local experts the first major job was tuck-pointing the house; repair the windows, and re-shingled the roof. A new gas furnace was installed in the attic to replace the original large stone fireplace on the south wall. City water replaced the old well and the building rewired for electric lights. A small room, commonly called a *hokje* built into the east wall of the living room was converted into a bathroom.

While Edith lived in her cozy rock house she continued to add improvements. Then in 1996 she willed the house to Historic Pella Trust. It is currently rented and the rental income is used to keep the house preserved for future generation to enjoy.

In May 2001 Historic Pella Trust was informed that 'The Rock' house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Months earlier we had initiated the paper work and cost of getting it listed. Today it remains one of Pella's oldest buildings preserved for future generations to enjoy.



The Rock House
1401 University
Pella, Iowa



Dirk Van Loon as pictured in his band uniform. Dirk was a talented musician, playing trumpet in the Royal band in Holland. He was instrumental in organizing Pella's first band.

It has been proven that Cultural Districts enhance the historic value in a community. Key to maintaining the historic significance of a town is the establishment of a cultural district. In the future this preservation approach is necessary to insure America's home towns continues to be the charming places they are today, and helps to insure that urban sprawl will not infringe on the historic heart of the town.

2011

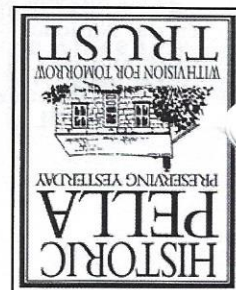
...From a quote in Preservation Magazine June

The following quote is taken from the *Preservation Magazine*: The national magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation: Jan/Feb 2011

“Establishing an architectural legacy is a roadmap to who we are as people...Preserving our buildings and neighborhoods are more than just preserving brick and mortar. It’s about preserving our memories.”

Historic Pella Trust
Pella's only
PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION

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