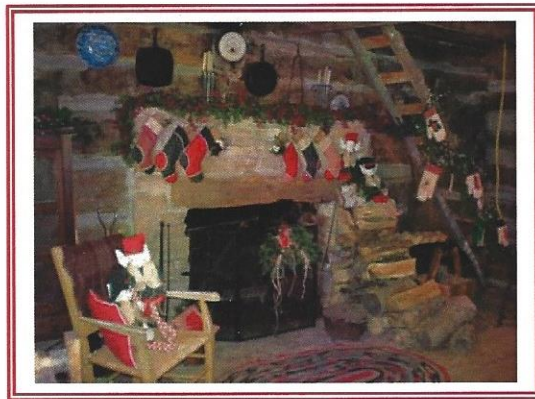


Preservation Update!

Historic Pella Trust, Inc.

Happy Holidays



Holiday decorations in the Zwank log cabin located in Pella's Historical Village

What better way to celebrate the holidays than by looking into Pella's Past and honoring the memories of those days gone by.

Throughout the year it is Historic Pella Trust's charter to help make the citizens of Pella be aware of the importance of preserving historic homes and sites so our rich heritage will not be lost in the aimless tearing down of old structures and replacing them with modern designed architecture.

The Holiday season remind us of holiday traditions that we treasure, many of which come to us from the early 1800's.

The Pella area was settled in 1843 by pioneers from the eastern states, when the land was opened to claim on May 1, 1843, four years before the Dutch Colony settled Pella. Two of these homestead log cabins from 1843 have been preserved here in Pella. One is located on Lincoln Street, just off Main Street, and the other is the Zwank Cabin that has been preserved in Pella's Historical Village.

The frontier settlers did not have room in their log cabins for decorations as we know them in today's world. But celebrating old traditions was an important way for them to honor holidays spent with loved ones before moving into the frontier territory.

When the Dutch Colony settled Pella they brought with them their holiday traditions of St. Nicholas Day, and over the years preserving these traditions has become an important part of Pella's yuletide celebrations.

Preserving the past while moving forward has always played an important role in Pella.

As you read this edition of Preservation Update, we hope you will enjoy the articles of Pella and the folks who are doing what they can to preserve Pella's heritage.

*Holiday greetings from the Board of Directors
For Historic Pella Trust*

Where the Old meets the New
406 E. Independence
By Ellie Gosselink

When you drive past Renae and Ken Oppenhuizen's home located at 406 E. Independence, you will see a major addition jutting up behind the original home, built in 1922 by the Huyser family.

Renae and Ken were married in 2003 and soon after their marriage they purchased this 87 year old home. They loved the home and its location and the large lot it was located on. They soon decided they would need a larger home, so they met with an architect and explored the possibility of adding on while keeping the older structure intact and design all additional living space to blend in with the original home.

When the plans were complete, Ken, co-owner of DeHuizen Carpentry, set to work to build a three car garage with a spacious living area over the garage. This would give them a place to live while they renovated the older structure and began the new addition. They removed the plaster wall in the old house and hired a contractor to install new electrical wiring. Onto the back wall of the original house they began the new addition. A large kitchen-family room was built starting where the old house ended. This large space will accommodate a big new kitchen with a beautiful fire place on the west end of the room.

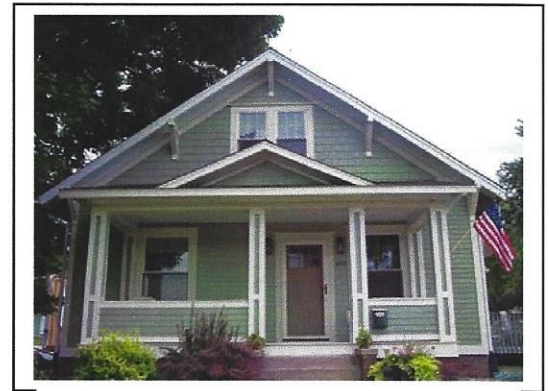
Where possible, Ken and Renae use parts and pieces of the older house and incorporate these items into the new addition. For example, where the older house meets the new add-on, on the second floor they used the original front door where the house transitions into the new bonus room. They are also planning to reuse an old hutch that was built into the original home. It will be incorporated into the new kitchen-family room. Upstairs in the new master bath, they reconditioned the original claw foot tub and placed it in the bath along with new fixtures. They are presently studying a unique furnace vent that was used in the original living room, to see how they can incorporate it into their new design.

Everywhere you look the house is going through a wonderful transformation, and within a year they hope all the major work will be complete. Renae graciously invited us to come back at that time and take pictures of the finished house. You can be sure we will return to do a gallery of photos showing the completed home.

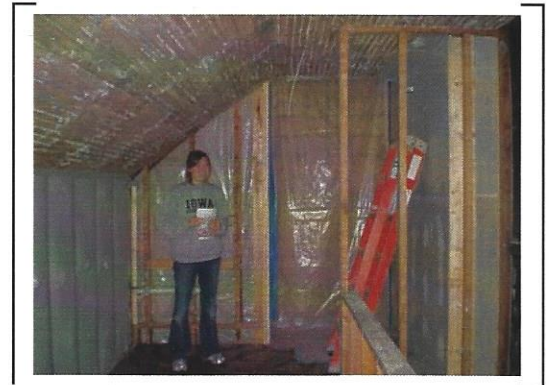
Historic Pella Trust commends Ken and Renae for having the foresight to retain the 1922 structure while creating a home that is as modern and up-to-date as any in or around Pella. It is this dedication by homeowners that keeps the neighborhoods preserving Pella's unique historic past.



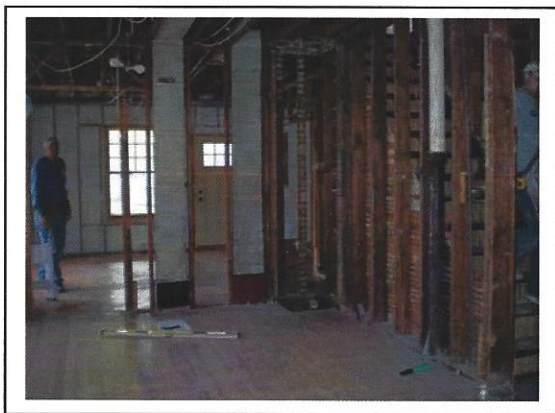
406 Independence = Original plus new addition. Oct.09



Front of original 1922 house

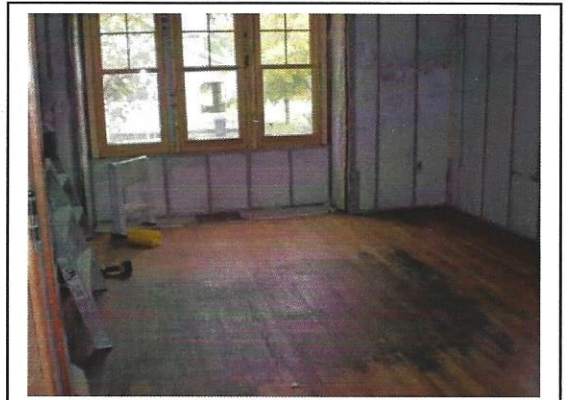


Renae standing in the top left bedroom



Looking towards the front of the original house at the point where the old original back wall and the new addition meet. This is where the new kitchen-family room starts. Ken's father is standing in the left of the photo, He has helped with the transformation since the beginning.

The original living room in the 1922 part – Oct 09



Historic Pella Trust
Invites you to a Self-Guided
**Architectural Tour of
Early Historic Pella**

Pella, Iowa – Founded 1847

This very successful tour guide has become one of the hottest items to be found in various businesses around town.

If you don't have a copy you can pick one up at any of the following Pella locations:

- The Variety Store**
- The Amsterdam Hotel**
- De Pelikaan**
- Boat's Furniture**
- Vande Lune Fabric**
- Cammie's Place**
- Ulrich's Meat Market**
- In't Veld Meet Market**
- Vander Ploeg Bakery**
- Jaarsma's Bakery**
- Holiday Inn Motel**
- Country Inn Motel**
- Baymount Motel**
- Comfort Inn Motel**
- Smoky Row**
- The Historical Windmill and Village**
- The Scholte House Museum**

Please patronize these Pella businesses and when you pick up your copy, stop and say thanks for their generosity.

2009/2010 Board of Directors

- Wayne Stienstra, President
- Ellie Gosselink, Vice-President
- Newsletter Editor
- Davis Folkerts, Secretary
- Bob and Bobby Klein, Co-Treasurers
- Dody Boat
- Sallie DeReus
- Harold & Wilma Den Besten
- Liz Epperly
- Eunice Folkerts
- Ralph Jaarsma
- Duane Rempe
- Ron Rietveld
- Harold Schnedler
- Liza Zylstra

Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 8, 2010
7:00 P.M. at the Opera House

Mr. Brian Browning of Terrace Hill will be our guest speaker.

Save this date and plan to attend.

Old Photos Wanted

The Historic Pella Trust is embarking upon our Photographic, Archival Project. Thanks to a grant from the Pella Community Foundation, the Trust will be scanning high resolution historic photos of Pella's past.

We are putting out the call to Pella residents and others who may have old photos (or negatives) of buildings, street scenes, and other items of interest. We will scan the photographs and return them. We will also accept original photos and negatives as a permanent donation.

The Trust hopes to build a large archive of digital historic photos that will be available for sharing with interested individuals and organizations.

Additionally, we will be needing individuals who are interested in learning the scanning and editing process and donating their time to help build this archive. Interested individuals do not have to necessarily have experience, as training will be available. What a great way to contribute to historic preservation in Pella!

Pella's Tulip Toren of 1940 Became Pella's Tulip Tower of 1968 Today!

By Dr. Ron Rietveld

An important center for Pella's community life, especially at Christmas time, has been the Tulip Towers of the past and present. Today, it stands as an impressive structure on the south side of Central Park (once called "Garden Square") rising sixty-five feet in the air from a two-level platform. A double faced crest of the Netherlands, linking the two pylons, inspired by the biblical description of King Solomon's temple, crown the tower. The inscription "Je Maintiendrai (I shall maintain)" is the motto of the Dutch Royal Family. It was that way in 1940 and again in 1968, when the present Tulip Toren was presented as a gift to the City of Pella by P. H. Kuyper and his wife Lucille.

In 1940, a wooden version of the Tulip Tower was designed and built by architect, John Lautenbach of New York, whose concept of a theme center for Tulip Time took form. The finishing touches were placed on the "Tulip Toren" [original Dutch title], floodlighted with shafts of colored lights directed upon it. It was an impressive structure, although a temporary plywood form, an ideal center for the activities of Tulip Time, capturing its spirit, majestic and yet with simple beauty. The Tulip Time ceremonies, along with Dutch Psalm singing and Dutch dancers, part of the evening program, were all features of this place in the life of Pella's Tulip Time. During the Christmas season, it became a beautiful tower festooned with Christmas trees and colored lights. The American Legion Post made the Christmas decorations their project, assisted by Pella's city electric department. It was said that "folks in town and visitors to Pella claimed that there was "nothing more beautiful anywhere." "Many Pella people would like to see it rebuilt for permanence," it was reported.

Immediately after the 1940 Tulip Time, there were many requests to preserve the tower throughout the summer and if possible until next year's Tulip Time. In fact, it was used for band concerts that summer. It was estimated that the cost to preserve the tower was approximately \$700, which would include taking care of the loaned lumber in the structure, repainting, repairing, and reinforcing the tower so it could be put in condition to carry over to the next Tulip Time in 1941. The Pella Historical Board made an appeal to "perpetuate this beautiful structure." Contribution could be left at the two banks in town, Finance Chairman, Arie Schilder or Treasurer, Tudor Kempkes. Or, if people were "unable to make personal contact with any of the committee," they could just "simply step to the phone and indicate your contribution and support." The needed amount was funded.

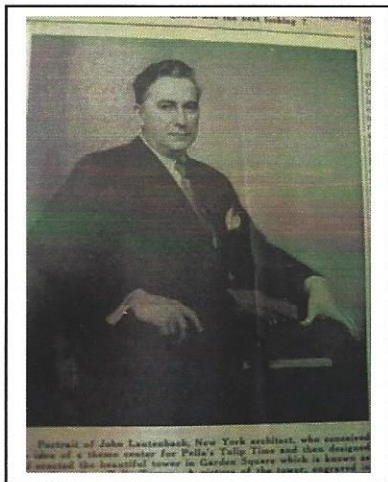
Then in May 1942, after a very successful 8th Tulip Time, Pella hosted a special wartime visit of Her Majesty Princess Juliana of the Netherlands (Later, she served as Queen of the Netherlands from 1948 to 1980). On Monday evening, May 18, Princess Juliana and the Royal Party were invited to a special ceremony at the Tulip Toren, and there she was presented with a gift for the suffering people of the Netherlands during wartime. There was music; a choir sang a Dutch Psalm, and other special speakers. During the war years, the Tower remained a center for community events. But in order to be ready for Tulip Time in 1943, Robert C. Lautenbach and B. F. Vander Linden were appointed to recondition the Tower.

In October of 1943, after great deterioration the Pella Historical Society sold the structure, and it was dismantled. The tower fell at 2:00 p.m., Friday, October 17, 1943. The Historical Society wanted to dismantle it and sell the heavy timbers before they were badly weathered—they could be used well in wartime. There were rumors, too, that "the Toren", would make a great bonfire if Germany were defeated." And, it was added, "an expensive bonfire." "They're quieted now."

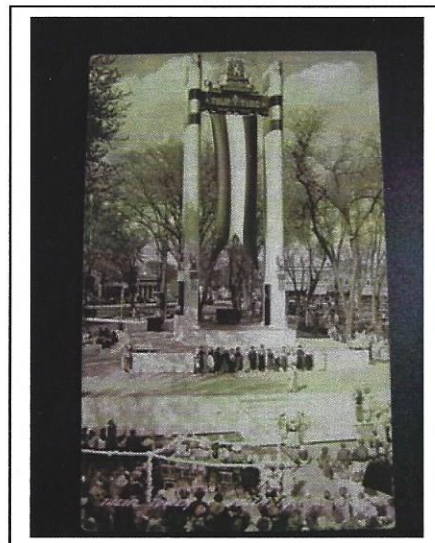
But, in 1968, the "Tulip Toren" (renamed with an English and Dutch word) rose to its 65 feet height once again. At the dedication at Tulip Time, May 11, 1968, Pete Kuyper, who brought the Rolscreen Company 'now Pella Corporation' to Pella in 1926, said that the result was a long standing dream of him and his wife, Lucille. "Ever since 1943, we dreamed of rebuilding the Tulip Tower," he related. "At once time we tried to pass a city bond issue and it failed by a narrow margin. So we started setting aside a special fund ourselves." He concluded: "So, it is with special satisfaction that we see the completion of our dream, and in presenting this tower to the people and community of Pella. We dedicate it in grateful appreciation to the Dutch immigrants and early pioneers who braved the hardships of a wilderness and, in 1847, founded Pella, The City of Refuge, to worship God according to the precepts, to live in freedom of conscience, and to preserve with devotion both these supreme values." The Tulip Toren, with its structure and platform, "beautifully lighted," once again became the center for Christmas activity on December 13, 1968, with Santa taking up his new residence at the base of the Tulip Toren, in order to take orders from youngsters and hand out candy canes. His background music was presented by various choirs singing Christmas Carols.

On December 11, 1977, Sinterklaas arrived in Pella on his white horse, with his Moorish Piets and led a parade, joined by the 1977 Tulip Queen and her Court, various Christmas characters, decorated Peddler carts, and caroling bands, to the Tulip Toren for a brief program of music, songs and words of welcome. "The Pella Historical Society urges children and adults to cheer and clap for Sinterklaas as he passes in the parade," it was encouraged in the Pella Chronicle.

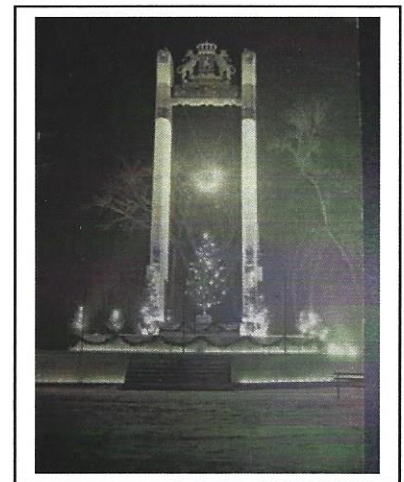
Today, Sinterklaas, the Dutch Santa, still arrives in Pella, usually the Saturday following Thanksgiving. The strolling Volks Parade still forms at the Historical Village and goes to the Tulip Toren for a brief program of Welcome. But Sinterklaas now arrives in a big boat, "coming from Spain," rather than riding his big white horse. The community of Pella still rallies around their Tulip Tower for their well recognized Tulip Festival along with other special community events, band concerts and especially the Sinterklaas Festival in wintry December.



John Lautenbach, designer and architect for first Tulip Toren



Tulip Toren



Tulip Toren decorated for Christmas, night scene

**KLEIN'S HOEK
VOOR
HISTORISCH INFORMATIE
by Bob Klein**



The Visser home, built in 1900.

Now the Otley House

Christmas in Otley

In this issue I would like to tell a story of some of the things we experienced in Pella in years gone by. Considering it is the holiday season, I will relate a story of traveling to my relatives in Otley for a Christmas celebration in 1922.

In the early days there was a lot of visiting back and forth in our family. We all enjoyed each other's company. I remember one Christmas when I was six years old, the folks promised to drive to Otley to visit Uncle Ira and Aunt Sarah Vriezelaar. Aunt Sarah was my father's sister, and we planned to join them for Christmas supper.

This was a real adventure as far as the kids were concerned. I remember the day was very cold. Dad got out the soap stones and bricks and laid them on the oven door so that they would heat up thoroughly and would keep us warm in the car since it had no heater. Dad had a Ford Model T touring car with side curtains, very primitive by today's standards.

About four o'clock in the afternoon, we all piled into the car, and put fur robes around us in the back seat, the soap stones on the floor and our feet on the soap stones. We took off for Otley, which doesn't seem very far now, only eight miles, but in that day that was quite a ways, since we were not able to travel very fast on the rutted, frozen gravel road.

When we crossed Four Mile Crossing, in the distance, to the west, we could see a plume of smoke and steam. Dad said, "that's the Number 4 Rock Island train," and it was coming towards Pella. It was throwing off a great deal of steam all around the locomotive because it was so cold. As the railroad tracks between Otley and Pella ran right alongside the road, we had a close up view as we passed the oncoming train.

When we arrived in Otley, we pulled up on the front yard and dad put a robe over the radiator and we all went into the house. All evening long, about every half hour, dad would go out and start the car, because if he didn't, and it stood there in the cold all night long, it would never start when we were ready to go home.

We had a great supper and it included turkey and all the trimmings and was most delightful. This was quite a primitive dinner, for the simple reason there were no electric lights in Otley at that time. We were using candle light and lanterns. We finished our meal and all gathered around the Christmas tree, and Aunt Sarah lit the candles. This is the way they got lights on the Christmas tree in the early days. It was a very dangerous process because pine trees will burst into flames at the least provocation. We had special holders for the candles which were extended from the branches of the tree so that the flame was kept away from the needles on the branch. There were two buckets of water standing beside the tree and so we were sure that nothing was going to happen.

We kids had decorated the tree that afternoon with popcorn, crepe paper, cranberries and other things that were lying around. It was very festive looking!

Before Santa Claus came to visit us that night we all got our ice skates and walked down the railroad tracks to the pond which was just north of town. The pond belonged to the railroad and they used the water to pump into water tanks so they could fill the engines with water. They required a great deal of water to run properly. We had a fire on the banks of the pond and had a very good time, but I could not skate worth a nickel. My ankles were just not strong enough, I guess. We later traipsed back to the house and had hot chocolate with marshmallows and then Santa Claus came.

Santa Claus, I found out later, was imitated by Jess Vriezelaar, a cousin of mine. We all exchanged gifts and the kids played with the toys and gifts they got. The older people played pitch. Along around ten o'clock it was time to go home and dad warmed up the soap stones again, and we climbed into the back of the car. Since dad had started the car periodically, the car started okay.

Going home along the tracks, we saw a plume of smoke and steam again, and it was No. 4 coming back from its trip to Oskaloosa and going back to Des Moines. These were very simple occasions, but they provided a tremendous amount of pleasure and we always looked forward to them.

---More About Otley---

The Vriezelaars lived in a house in Otley that was owned by Jack Logdon, a very fine gentleman who had an interest in coal mines which proliferated around Otley. He was one of the wealthier people in Otley and he had a beautiful little Buick convertible. I was in love with this car. He was a great guy, and would take us for rides in the hills and valleys around Otley.

Otley is home of one of the most beautiful Victorian houses in the area. It was built in the early 1900's by Gerrit Visser, who also built several Victorian houses in Pella, and to this day is a very fine looking Victorian mansion. Otley has started to commemorate this house and it is now called the Otley House. Otley was a great town in my early youth because it had the railroad, the stockyards and lot of car loading for cattle. It had two general stores, and my Uncle Ira ran one of them. There was a bank, and a lot of the same things many small towns had, and was a thriving community.

In those days, many people lived in the small towns around Pella. They came to Pella to do their main shopping but they did have a lot of social life in those towns. I was privileged in my early youth to visit often in Otley and get in on the fun.

November 2009 Letter from the President of Historic Pella Trust

Dear Friends of Historic Preservation,

I would like to thank the members of Historic Pella Trust for their support in the past year. One project made possible has been the booklet, Architectural Tour of Early Historic Pella. It highlights Pella's rich architectural heritage of the structures built by the early Dutch settlers and other buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. These booklets are available in many business and tourist sites around town for a \$1.00 suggested donation. They have been well received and the donations will cover the cost of keeping the booklet available.

I have had a race against the colder weather in getting the brick repair and tuckpointing done on the front of the Koelman House at 1005 Broadway. It looks like I will make it, but the porch will have to wait until spring. I really appreciate the encouragement and words of support on the project. It makes the extra effort worth it. Sometimes historic projects are not the most economic, but I have never heard of someone who has put their time and money into making the extra effort to get it right and wish they hadn't. The articles in this issue about the Sanctuary (old City Hall) and Gowns are examples of that. Please stop and thank them for their efforts to keep Historic Pella historic!

Looking ahead to the annual April meeting of Historic Pella Trust, we have set the date for April 8, 2010, and will have as guest speaker, the Administrator of Terrace Hill [Iowa Governor's Residence], Brian Browning. He will talk about the restoration work at Terrace Hill. We will have more information in our spring Preservation Update.

Update on the status of 1110 Washington Street (across from old Strawtown Restaurant), we are working on a plan for the continuation of the restoration in the spring. Hopefully, it will also coincide with a pickup in the economy, as we look for someone to make it a home or business while keeping it historic. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Holiday Season.
Sincerely, Wayne Stienstra, President

Old Pumping Station below Red Rock Dam

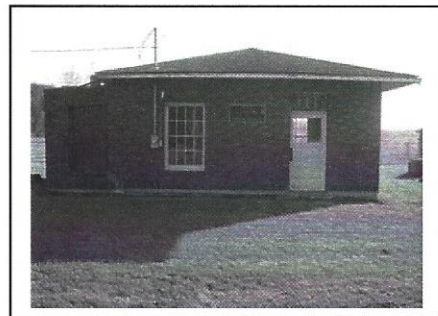
Recently I was contacted by City of Pella's Public works director Denny Buyert, for some input from Historic Pella Trust, about the old pumping station below the dam. I met Denny and some city employees at the site. These employees operated the pumping station before the new one was built. It was a state-of-the-art facility when it was built around 1910 to 1920.

One item pointed out was the 2300 volt open switch which was thrown using a handle of a broom stick, because of the danger.

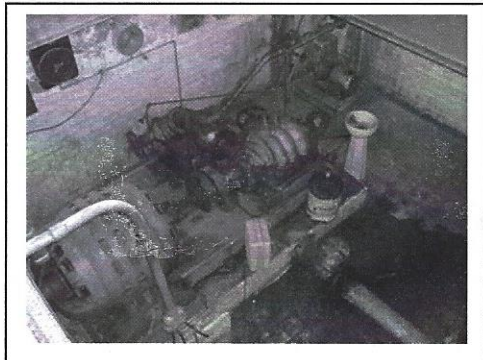
You look down at the pumps in the lower level, through a circular iron railing. The walls are tiled white subway tile. The pumps are powered by huge electric motors, powerful enough to push water to the top of Pella's old water tower. There are still the finger jointed oak cases holding supplies for testing the water, and the ultimate water tester, a porcelain drinking fountain next to the pumps. The original chlorinator has a number of 75.

The following questions arise: does it have value as a part of Pella's history; and/or should it be preserved as an intact example of early water treatment? Would it be of interest to school children? Is it a liability issue for the city and should this building be removed? It needs a new roof and fence around it, as has the new station, next to it, if it is to remain.

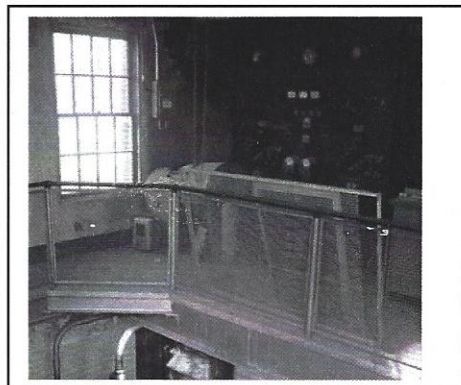
It is up to the City Council to decide. Frankly I am unsure what should be done. Maybe other could weigh in on this and provide input for what should be done. I appreciate the opportunity the city has provided for a discussion on the future of the old pumping station. Wayne Stienstra



Old Pella Water Pumping Station



Two pictures of the inside of the old pumping station.



Historic Pella Trust is grateful to the
TownCrierNews.com for this article written by Marty
Racheter

Ellie Gosselink, Editor



“When we stood next to it, it got a lot bigger!”

What’s happening at 1005 Broadway?

Slowly falling apart for decades, like a stately tree shedding its bark before it bows its head for the final time, this crumbling Pella original is being given new life by Wayne Stienstra, known locally for his interest in restoring and preserving structures with architectural and/or historical significance. It was taken as a good sign by the general public when scaffolding appeared at 1005 earlier this fall. Stienstra readily admits that, “when we stood next to it, it got a lot bigger,” but his goal is to finish the front this fall, including restoring the front porch (“We” refers to his coworker, Orlan Crawford, who Stienstra says he couldn’t do without.)

The house is 134 years old, and is among the original parcels belonging to Henry P. Scholte. Philips J. Koelman purchased the property in 1876 from Cornelius and Andriana Bouman for \$275. Koelman, a native of South Holland, was one of Marion County’s most successful farmers. He helped Scholte lay out the town and survey surrounding areas, designed Mariah Scholte’s English gardens, and planted the first groves in the city.

Koelman married Cornelia DeHaan in 1852. They lived on one of another of their farms until building his home in 1876. He chose this property because it overlooked three blocks of the lovely Scholte Gardens, and, as an experienced carpenter, did much of the work himself.

The original home was the two-story main block with a 1.5 story wing. The main building had a single story small porch (stoop, from the Dutch stroep, the entrance to a home) with a balcony above accessed by the door on the second level. This small porch was later replaced with a longer sitting porch that extended across much of the front. The sitting porch was removed in 2004. The wing was originally the kitchen.

The Koelman House used limestone for both structural and decorative purposes. The shutters are the originals. Most of the original woodwork remains. Windows were double-hung sash, but the vertical mullions were replaced with large panes of glass in the early 1900s.

In 2005, the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places for representing “a turning point in Pella’s residential architecture from the Dutch construction techniques brought by the Pella immigrants from their homeland to the influence of mainline American design on residential architecture then emerging in the community” “detectable in the building 1-house form and the Renaissance Revival styling on some of its architectural detailing.” (National Register of Historic Places, Philipus J. and Cornelia Koelman House. William C. Page, Public Historian).

Without children, the Koelman’s lived in the house until their deaths in 1895, some undetermined time following Cornelia’s death, Philip, then 66, married Pieterella Groenenboom, 26. They had two daughters before he died in 1901. Pieterella remained in the house with her second husband, Geurt Van Haaften, until her death in 1925, at which point the house became that of the daughters – Wilhelmina, married to Gary Vogelaar in 1919, and Philepina, married to Herman Lankelma in 1920. Wilhelmina sold her interest to Philepina in 1925 for \$1, and thereafter there was a succession of owners. (Vogellars built the Tudor style home across the street and lived there.)

Happily, the newest owner has begun to restore 1005 Broadway to the same grandeur created by Philip and Cornelia Koelman. We are hopeful that, when all is completed to his satisfaction, Stienstra will, as he has done with other restored properties, host an open house for the public.

This article has been written from the stack of information provided by Wayne Stienstra. While we do not guarantee our ability to read deeds and documents with 100 percent accuracy, we are confident we have conveyed the gist of the matter.

Marty Racheter 100809, TownCrierNews.com

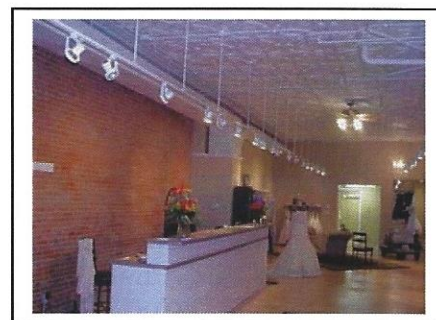
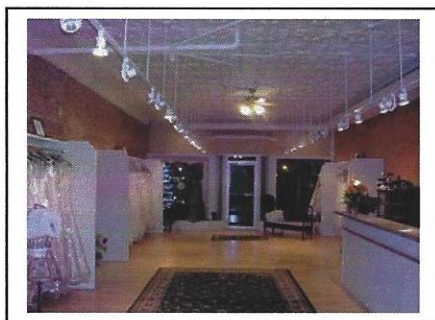
Historic Building Improvement – 731 Franklin Street

The building at 731 Franklin Street, on the south side of Pella’s square has seen a dramatic transformation as it has become the home of **Gowns**, a bridal and prom dress store. Jill Vandevort, owner and Whitney Klinkenborg, manager, have worked since mid-summer to renovate the interior of their new store. Their renovation started with a low drop ceiling, paneling and old worn and glued down carpeting.

The store still had the original tin ceiling, hidden for many years, high above the suspended grid. It needed repairs, paint and some rerouting of electrical wires along with duct work. The results were amazing. It is now complimented by the newly revealed brick sidewalls which were stripped of painted plaster and given just a hint of a finish to give them a glow. The original wood floor was too damaged by glue and staples to be saved, so it was covered with a laminate flooring which looks like wood and will provide a smooth surface for the wedding dress train to glide on.

Jill and Whitney have done a wonderful job of bringing back a bit of the past in this old Historic place. Stop in and visit their business and while there check out the items highlighted in this article.

Historic Pella Trust wish the new **Gowns** shop the best of success.



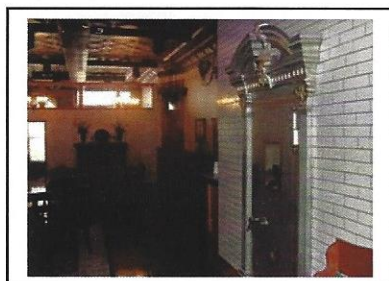
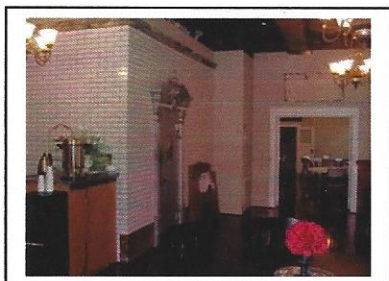
The Old City Hall is now **The Sanctuary** - A non-denominational ministry

The old City Hall of Pella at 717 Main Street, has recently been opened as **The Sanctuary**, a non-denominational ministry for men, woman and couples. The building was purchased by Neil and Angela Wilson in March of 2009 and they and their children have been putting many hours into the renovation.

The drop ceilings were removed from all three floors to reveal the original tin ceilings where were in excellent condition. The ceilings have been restored in the basement and first floor, while the top floor is still under renovation. The first floor, which was originally a bank, has been turned into meeting rooms for the ministry and the old bank vault is used for storage. The original floor was not repairable and was covered with a solid oak floor in keeping with the original. Some walls have had the plaster removed to reveal the brick. The area in the basement, where city bills used to be paid, has been converted to office and additional meeting space. The top floor will eventually be a residential apartment.

The building was sold to the Wilson’s with a conservation easement placed on the front exterior of the building, which means that the ‘dogs[‘ cannot be removed from the building and changes to the exterior must meet the guidelines of the Department of the Interior, for preservation of historic buildings. Neil would like to eventually rebuild the cornice to the building as is shown in original photographs of the building. The building will soon be on the National Register of Historic Places through a generous donation to Historic Pella Trust.

Thank you to the Wilson’s, from Historic Pella Trust, for bringing back part of Pella’s architectural past.



**Become a member of Historic Pella Trust
and/or
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Clip the portion and send it along with your check to:

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