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THE PLANNING PROCESS

Let us begin by recognizing that plans, especially long range government plans, have a notoriously short life span. Despite the best of intentions, it is not long before circumstances change: leaders who guided their preparation leave and budgets to implement them prove uncertain. Meanwhile, new short-term demands claim that attention of preservation organizations, which erode longer term goals and objectives that once seemed within reach. This need not be the inevitable result; investment in planning can be worthwhile.

A plan has value by its very preparation. When ideas are exchanged, when persons across the state discuss historic preservation prospects and problems, when dialogue brings issues and possibilities into sharper relief, planning becomes more concrete and focused. Secondly, a plan has more value when it reaches beyond describing everything currently done to also marking out tangible ideas for what to do in the near future. Finally, a plan has value when the goals, objectives, and activities make sense both to those who implement them and to preservation participants who enjoy the results because they will see the plan as important, real, and useful.

What is presented here builds upon and replaces the state historic preservation plan created in 1993. It draws upon the spirit of Imagine Iowa 2010: a Cultural Vision which, by the end of the decade, aims to have the state be “a national leader in culture with support for an environment that allows the arts, history, humanities, and sciences to thrive.” To examine and decide where Iowa’s historic preservation movement ought to be in the year 2010, we rely on data collected from various sources, especially from the series of regional workshops held in 2001 and 2004 as part of the department’s Imagine Iowa 2010 planning process.

Shaping the state’s longer-term plans in particular are the experiences of professional staff at the state historic preservation office and that of preservation consultants active in Iowa. Through dealing with daily requests for help to preserve Iowa’s places, both bring understanding about what needs to be preserved, the best ways to do it, and what Iowans want to see preserved.

SEEDS OF A PLAN

The State Plan derives from three main sources: Iowans’ experience gained since the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, past financial resources, and findings from a series of “Imagine Iowa” meetings organized for public input. The first two have shaped the third.

Many citizens who attended one or more of the regional workshops in 2001 and 2004 knew of past preservation work in Iowa. Helping to advance such preservation accomplishment since 1992 had been the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP). The program earmarks five percent of its annual funds for the State Historical Society of Iowa to distribute to projects in historic preservation, document conservation, and museum development. Consequently, many historic rehabilitation projects
happened during the program’s first decade. Larger scale projects benefited from another state grant program enacted in 1998 under the name of Historic Sites Preservation Grants. And, of course, many who attended the Imagine Iowa meetings remembered the small but steady availability of federal grants that had come to Iowa communities through the state historic preservation office. With these they had conducted surveys, nominated properties to the National Register of Historic Places, developed local preservation plans and protective measures, and built public appreciation for the properties through walking tours, publications, conferences, and workshops.

At the same time Iowa had a long way to go. Citizens recognized that Iowa’s record of state involvement in historic preservation had been uneven. Unlike some nearby states, the State of Iowa had acquired few places of state historic value for public interpretation, with but ten historic places in state ownership. Also, Iowa ranked low among surrounding states in the amount of state dollars provided to match the National Park Service funds received for preservation activities. This left Iowa using a greater share of the federal funds to operate the State Historic Preservation Office for meeting responsibilities to provide advice and assistance, conduct the statewide survey, and maintain site inventory and National Register programs. Fewer federal dollars thus remained to support local preservation activities. Nevertheless, the state’s strong network of local historic preservation commissions coupled with a decade of state rehabilitation grants preserved many places of historic value.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND THE GOALS OF IMAGINE IOWA 2010

The general public was instrumental in shaping this plan, beginning with their participation in the series of regional workshops held in 2001 and 2004 as part of the Imagine Iowa 2010 planning process conducted by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (see http://www.culturalaffairs.org/about/imagine_iowa/). Six workshops took place during 2001 at the following locations: Des Moines, April 26; Le Mars, May 3; Council Bluffs, May 10; Mason City, May 17; Quad Cities, May 24; and Waterloo/Cedar Falls, May 31. Following the meetings, regional delegates from the workshops attended a statewide caucus held at the Historical Building in Des Moines on June 8, 2001. In 2004, the number of regional meetings expanded from six to eleven, followed by 54 state cultural caucus delegates attending the statewide caucus.

From the 2001 series, eight goals came out of the statewide caucus as the body’s “cultural vision,” two of which recognize the importance of historic preservation in Iowa. One states that “Iowa is recognized for its dynamic, creative approach to the preservation of its cultural heritage and ease of public access to historic documents, artifacts, and resources.” The second goal is that “Iowa communities are experiencing economic vitality driven by a diverse, exciting cultural environment.” The first goal reveals the strong desire of Iowans to preserve what they can of their heritage while the second connects historic preservation to economic development, recognizing that preserving historic places promotes economic vitality and cultural excitement to communities.
Out of the 2001 cultural caucus statement of goals came a series of “Imagine Iowa Goal Work Groups.” Each work group centered on one goal, with members comprising departmental staff and interested caucus participants. Each group established specific objectives to help implement the goal. The two historic preservation goals noted above were linked to the following objectives in work group discussions:

- **Iowa is recognized for its dynamic, creative approach to the preservation of its cultural heritage and ease of public access to historic documents, artifacts and resources.** Work group meetings focused on two areas: Expanding technical assistance to grant applicants; and, expanding electronic access capabilities (via on-line searches, meetings conducted via the Iowa Communications Network, Compact Disc availability, and Power Point presentations). These advisory and electronic services were deemed the two main ways for increasing public abilities to preserve their history and broaden access to information and documents of value to understanding Iowa history. Historic preservation action steps were three in number: (1) Prepare “best preservation practices” literature for internet distribution on the web site of the State Historical Society of Iowa; (2) Provide on-line access to operation records of state historic preservation office Section 106 program as a technical assistance resource to Section 106 clients; and (3) Provide on-line access to state historic preservation office site files.

- **Iowa communities are experiencing economic vitality driven by a diverse, exciting cultural environment.** Work group meetings gave attention to three areas of historic preservation: (1) Preserve and celebrate the culture of rural life and small communities through, among other means, advocating for the preservation and use of rural buildings; (2) Aggressively support a Cultural Tourism program within state government by several means, among which is linking the state’s experience to national themes such as the Underground Railroad’s effort to aid slaves escaping north; and (3) Rejuvenate downtown areas with a strong presence of cultural resources through historic preservation work to reuse significant buildings for cultural and arts purposes.

The 2004 cultural caucus focused on eight goals, number six of which expanded on an historic preservation goal from 2001 as follows:

**Historic Preservation & Documentation – Iowa is recognized for its dynamic, creative approach to the preservation of its cultural heritage and ease of public access to historic documents, artifacts, and resources.**

1. Provide state training for local archivists to establish and support local archives.
2. Double allowable historic preservation tax credits, and make them more equitable for both residential and commercial projects.
3. Establish an annual public education program to provide training about historic preservation for Certified Local Governments, property owners, real estate firms, lenders, and other professionals.
4. Implement a “smart” building code for historic structures.

5. Lock in full funding for the REAP program, at least through 2010.

Additionally, the state historic preservation office undertook an effort to learn public views about the direction of historic preservation in Iowa as seen through local historic preservation commissions in the state. The state historic preservation office asked four basic questions to be answered by each historic preservation commission in its 1999 annual report. These concerned the types of properties important to their locality, how they related to local historic events and developments, which properties are deserving of protection, and what the State of Iowa’s priorities should be in identifying, evaluating, and registering properties. Of the eighty commissions that provided an annual report, one-half of them responded to the four questions. The overall pattern of responses showed greatest concern for farm and agricultural properties (8 of 40 responses). Regionally, western Iowa historic preservation commissions emphasized early developments (trails, stagecoach routes, Indian settlements, early towns, etc.), while the eastern Iowa commissions focused more on later urban developments. Several other commissions encouraged more attention to cemeteries, churches, and educational properties.

A source of outside input also came in 2001 when the legislature passed an Accountable Government Act. It sets forth a program of strategic planning, annual performance (operational) planning, performance measurement, results-based budgeting, etc. Through each Department’s performance plan, Governor leadership goals will be linked to department plans and on down to the work of each section and employee (see additional information online at http://www.resultsiowa.org). Since then, the management team of the State Historical Society of Iowa has worked on this planning initiative, involving internal and external assessments. The resulting Department Performance Plan reflects the results of a parallel planning effort conducted by the State Historical Society of Iowa during late 2003 and early 2004. Assisted by an outside history-planning consultant, four goals have been identified along with three strategic initiatives to be done within the next three years. The goals include:

- Create a statewide community of historical awareness and conversation.
- Connect Iowans with their heritage—where they want it, when they want it, and how they want it.
- Enable Iowans of all ages to learn the relevance and importance of history to their lives.
- Maintain all SHSI collections in professionally appropriate conditions.

Three related strategic initiatives have been adopted for completion within the next three years:

- Increase/enhance online digital access to collections, finding aids, historical resources, and programs.
- Develop targeted education opportunities for specific groups.
- Develop comprehensive and exciting projects coupled with enhanced visitor/user services.

Public and staff input was gathered as part of deciding the specific outcomes for each initiative. All of the planning efforts described above influences the final historic preservation plan adopted for Iowa. Direct participation of the general public most recently came from an August 2005 distribution of the draft plan to some 250 organizations and individuals engaged in preservation activities in addition to being posted for comment at the website of the State Historical Society. A revised version of the plan was posted near the end of November 2005 for additional comment. The feedback received on both versions was highly positive and contained many good suggestions for additions, modifications, and clarification, each of which was addressed in this final draft, which has been reviewed and approved by the National Park Service (with some additional minor editing and clarification for this publication).
HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN IOWA TODAY

Preservation across Iowa today owes its success to the individual efforts of local citizens and organizations. As the value of historic preservation broadened, with new eyes people saw the extent that unfettered public and private construction had erased evidence of their own community’s past. The pioneering preservation efforts of some then encouraged others to do the same.

With creation of a state historic preservation program in 1972, local citizens found a new ally to help invigorate and strengthen their efforts. Since most actual brick-and-mortar rehabilitation work in Iowa is locally funded, the role of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is mainly advising and assisting owners about best standards and practices for carrying out the tasks. Matching grants from the preservation office helped counties, towns, and cities carry out surveys to identify places of historic value, designate them in the National Register of Historic Places, and provide technical advice on preservation methods. This then empowered local efforts on behalf of preserving additional historic properties.

It took several years to sort out in what way and by whom archeological resources would be addressed in light of the National Historic Preservation Act and arrival of the State Historic Preservation Office. The traditional source of archeological investigations had been the University of Iowa’s Office of State Archaeologist. With implementation of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, new kinds of archeological work were being undertaken at the recommendation of the State Historic Preservation Office, with investigations increasingly being conducted by independent archeological consulting firms. When funds permitted, the SHPO carried out survey projects at the state level on themes of statewide importance. In cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, for example, places associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and with the parks and conservation movements in Iowa were identified, with many nominated to the National Register. Other state level surveys have dealt with a particular type or period of architecture—the architectural works of Proudfoot and Bird, the round barns of Iowa, etc. The purpose is to boost local preservation interest and preservation efforts on behalf of such properties by placing them into the context of Iowa history and providing examples of similar nominated properties.

Local empowerment as a linchpin of Iowa’s historic preservation efforts has brought visible benefits. Iowa is among the leading states in its number of local historic preservation commissions, which have done so much to identify and preserve places that call attention to moments in the community’s past and to its changing architecture. And, not surprisingly, most identified historic properties in the statewide inventory are of local significance, reflecting the community emphasis of Iowa’s historic preservation movement.

The large number of historic preservation commissions in this state resulted from Iowa’s early decision to not require each, at the time of establishment, to exercise design review authority. Rather, as the preservation commission steadily identifies its places of historic value and secures recognition for them, in due course it is expected
the commission will become a more active participant in local government. Then it will be a shorter step for the government to entrust the commission with authority to review and issue “certificates of appropriateness” for building permit applications that concern historic properties. Thus, for localities unfamiliar with historic preservation methods and processes, establishing an historic preservation commission becomes an acceptable way to pay attention to historic and architectural properties through the Certified Local Government process.

A second linchpin of Iowa’s historic preservation work is emphasis on cultural resources viewed in the context of their relation to similar related properties in the community or across the state. This emphasis is demonstrated in the number of studies completed as Multiple Property submissions to the National Register of Historic Places (see Appendix A). Iowa ranks thirtieth in population and twenty-third in the amount of federal Historic Preservation Fund dollars received, but stands ninth in the number of Multiple Property Documentation Forms listed in the National Register. Clearly, Iowa’s emphasis on developing “historic contexts” of local and state development has borne fruit.

A BRIEF LOOK BACK

A cursory look at newspapers back to the early days of Iowa shows that people did notice, and lament, the loss of local landmarks (Toole 1868). Beyond lamentations, however, concerted efforts to preserve these places did not begin to occur until after the first generation of settlement. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries many Old Settlers associations organized, trying to foster remembrance and appreciation for the travails of pioneer days. Every so often, they erected or preserved a log cabin in a park as a place to meet and call attention to the early days. Also, persons looked to find evidence of early peoples in searching for American Indian antiquities—mounds, arrowheads, and other surviving materials. The more scholarly among them met to discuss their work at annual meetings of private scientific organizations such as the Davenport Academy of Sciences. Occasionally, places of historic value drew more widespread attention such as the neglect of Fort Atkinson or the place near Sioux City where members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition buried Sergeant Floyd. But during these years the efforts were sporadic at best. In general, all at the time would agree with B. F. Gue’s comment in 1893 that “our own State has been sadly deficient in preserving its history, marking the localities made memorable by its heroic and historic achievements.”

For several years beginning in 1913 interest in historic sites quickened. Not only did history-minded Iowans erect monuments, statues, and markers and give expression to their sense of loss as buildings disappeared, but they looked to save some actual properties themselves from destruction. In Harrison County persons worked in 1912 to prevent the removal of prehistoric remains from the county and preserve them in a suitable place for public education. Local interest had been awakened there by archeological investigations done by Robert F. Gilder in the county (Gilder 1912). In 1915 came a plea to preserve the Old Capitol building by raising funds to make it fireproof. That same year in Bloomfield the Gen. James B. Weaver house became a
community center while, in Sioux City, the city council provided for removing to Stone Park one of the oldest houses in the city. Nevertheless, the marking of sites commanded most public attention, partly due both to its active promotion by Curator Edgar Harlan of the Historical Department and to the work by local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

During this time period, archeological interests also bloomed as more individuals became interested in Iowa’s archeological heritage. Archeological research during this period was largely focused on prehistoric and historic American Indian sites and materials. Archeological research focused on classification of artifacts in the collections and establishing chronologies for the culture history of not only Iowa, but the entire nation (Alex 2000, 21). The Iowa Archaeological Survey was created in 1921 by Benjamin F. Shambaugh, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa. The Iowa Archaeological Survey “represented an outgrowth of Shambaugh’s and the University of Iowa’s involvement with the efforts of the National Research Council’s Committee on State Archaeological Surveys to organize systematic archeological research at the state level.” (Tiffany 1981, 3; Tandarich and Horton 1976, 46; Schroder 1981, 71–72) He appointed Charles R. Keyes as a research associate in the Society to work on the survey. Charles R. Keyes, often credited as “the Father of Iowa Archeology”, served as Director of the Iowa Archaeological Survey until his death in 1951. (Alex 2000, 21)

When the economic depression of the 1930s grew worse, political leaders introduced numerous economic measures to put people to work, which included giving attention to historic places. Under auspices of the National Planning Board, the 1935 report of the Iowa State Planning Board set forth a statewide plan for historic and scenic sites of Iowa. The report dealt with places that justified state interest, but also investigated those “highly desirable and important to local agencies and worthy of their acquisition, preservation and maintenance.” After examining a hundred points of historical significance from the 202 areas tabulated by local organizations and individuals, six projects were selected for statewide acquisition, restoration, and preservation—the John Brown House near Springdale in Cedar County, the site of Iowa’s first schoolhouse at Galland in Lee County, the stone mill at Motor in Clayton County, the former home of Ansel Briggs at Andrew, an old flour mill at Decorah in Winneshiek County, and a farmhouse near Winterset in Madison County used as an underground railroad station. Unfortunately, nothing came of these hopeful efforts. None came under state ownership and, consequently, only two—the limestone mills at Motor and at Decorah—remain standing today.

Important archeological investigations throughout the state were conducted during the 1930s and 1940s under the auspices of the Iowa Archaeological Survey directed by Charles R. Keyes and his assistant, Ellison Orr. Many of these investigations utilized “crews provided by federal programs such as the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Work Projects Administration.” (Alex 2000, 21) Keyes served as a tremendous advocate for understanding and appreciating Iowa’s archeological heritage, largely attributable to American Indian cultures and tribes, through his lectures and published popular articles. (Alex 2000, 21) His efforts to promote public awareness
of archeological resources and Iowa’s archeological heritage during the 1930s and 1940s served as the impetus for the creation of the Iowa Archeological Society in 1951. Keyes’ efforts also led eventually to the acquisition of public funds for archeological research and the creation of a State Archaeologist position and Office in 1955. (Alex 2000, 21) Keyes, Orr, and some of the founding trustees of the Iowa Archeological Society played significant roles in the eventual establishment of Effigy Mounds National Monument in northeastern Iowa in 1949, which was originally proposed by Keyes and Orr as Mississippi Valley National Park. (Tandarich and Horton 1976, 46)

In order to revive waning public appreciation for historic sites in the decade after World War II, three individuals took steps in 1956 to form what would become The Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks—George Mills of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, Leonard Wolf with the Department of Architecture and Architectural Engineering at Iowa State College, and William Wagner, an architect from Dallas Center. Through the Society’s efforts, members set a steady gaze on what was happening to historic places and made numerous visits to the sites, which showed that others across the state were concerned about the fate of Iowa’s historic places. Their work continued through the next four decades and formed a worthy transition to the movement that rose after passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Beginning in 1971, a number of American Indians raised issues with the Governor of Iowa, State Legislators, and the State Archaeologist regarding the differential treatment of American Indian human remains and burials in Iowa. An incident on an Iowa Department of Transportation project in 1971 incensed the American Indian community. One individual in particular, Maria Pearson (a Yankton Sioux tribal member), began a long journey of advocacy for equal treatment and protection of American Indian human remains and burials. Pearson’s efforts, along with several other individuals including Donald Wanatee, Sr. (a Meskwaki tribal member), eventually led to the creation of a state burial law enacted in 1976. This state statute prohibited unauthorized excavation of ancient human remains, defined under the law as human remains 150 years of age or older. The State Archaeologist was assigned the responsibility to investigate, interpret, and preserve ancient burial grounds, and when necessary, to recover and reinter ancient human skeletal remains under the state statute. An American Indian Advisory Committee (now Council) to the Office of the State Archaeologist was formed in the 1970s to provide advice and technical assistance to the State Archaeologist in administering and implementing the state burial law. The early collaborative efforts in developing educational materials, programs, and management and preservation options for human remains and burial sites included additional partners such as the State Historical Society of Iowa and the State Historic Preservation Office. These collaborative efforts continue today.

The enactment of the state burial law spurred discussions between the professional archeological community and American Indian community regarding the treatment of human remains and burials, sacred sites, and the interpretation of the archeological record relating to the American Indians. These continue to be topics of discussion both within the state and at the national level. The American Indian Advisory Council worked closely with State Archaeologists Duane Anderson (1975 – 1986), William Green (1988...
– 2001), and Elizabeth Pauls (2002 – 2006) on many of these issues. Maria Pearson served as committee chair until her death in 2003. She was recognized as an advocate for the equal treatment and protection of American Indian human remains and burials nationally and internationally. Her efforts along with a number of other individuals eventually contributed to passage and enactment of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act by Congress in 1990.

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

The statewide preservation program began in Iowa in 1972, six years after enactment of the National Historic Preservation Act. Adrian D. Anderson became Iowa’s first state historic preservation officer and served as such until 1985. Under his active leadership, the office came of age as an equal partner in the field of Iowa history, expanding to its present size, and he established Iowa’s place in national program developments through his strong participation in the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. The historic preservation program, first located in Iowa City and associated with the University of Iowa, followed by that of the Iowa Conservation Commission, in 1974 became a separately administered division of the newly created Iowa State Historical Department. The other two divisions included the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City and the Division of Museum and Archives in Des Moines. In 1981, when the Division of Historic Preservation and the Division of Museum and Archives were brought together under a single supervisor, Des Moines became the new home of the Division of Historic Preservation. Five years later the historic preservation office became a bureau within the State Historical Society of Iowa (a division of the new Department of Cultural Affairs), where it has since remained. The positions have changed in character somewhat, however, with the former preservation planner and administrative support positions now being a Local Governments’ Coordinator and a second archeologist position.

The state office’s emphasis during the first decade was to develop office systems, construct a statewide survey and inventory process, help persons nominate places to the National Register, and urge federal agencies to take into account the effects of their projects on historic properties. Until about 1980 architectural surveys were contracted out to Iowa State University’s architecture department. One or two architecture students would each select a county and conduct a “windshield survey,” taking a photograph and mapping the location of a building over fifty years of age. Over the next six years this yielded several thousand inventory cards for properties in counties of central Iowa. Meanwhile the state historic preservation office began an historic sites survey in 1976 by employing an historical researcher to study the City of Burlington. The research project identified many surviving places associated with events, persons, and patterns of city development. Davenport then became interested in working with the state to carry out a three-year historical and architectural survey and, in 1979, a federally assisted grant project began.

For a time, the National Park Service funds for survey and planning that came down through the state historic preservation office also joined together with federal 701
planning funds flowing through regional councils of government. Three regional “multi-county” surveys resulted, which added many new properties to the statewide inventory. The first, initiated by the Mid-Iowa Development Association (MIDAS) involved work with the Iowa SHPO to encourage residents in the area to complete historic property inventory forms. The results were embodied in a publication that helped build public appreciation for historic properties in the participating counties. The second, an eight-county effort by the Central Iowa Regional Association of Local Governments (CIRALG), engaged professional consultants in the work. It comprised a two-year architectural, historical, and archeological survey beginning in 1976. In 1979, in south central Iowa, the Area-15 Regional Planning Agency added staff to begin a three-year architectural, archeological, and historical survey within its member areas. The ending of federal 701 Planning Funds stopped chances for more regional surveys.

In addition to surveys funded or assisted by the state historic preservation office, a few towns and cities initiated architectural surveys of their own. These they did using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) funds available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The cities included Dubuque and Charles City in the mid-1970s followed by Mason City, Muscatine, and Clinton. Their interest stemmed from Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which required that HUD-funded projects take into account the effect they might have on places of historic value. Since that time other subsequent surveys initiated by cities—Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Waterloo—have been accomplished with federal CDGB funds.

In the early 1980s, establishment of the National Park Service’s Certified Local Government program in 1981 and the National Trust for Historic preservation’s Main Street Program gave local historic preservation credibility and momentum. The state’s CLG program is administered by the SHPO and Iowa’s Main Street program is administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development. These programs had a major impact in Iowa, a state of small communities where volunteerism substitutes for hard cash. The farm crisis of the 1980s also may have played a role—sensitizing rural communities to their heritage as hard times threatened both family farms and small towns. These two programs provided communities with tools (including funds) for physical, economic, and psychological revitalization.

By the mid-1980s and thereafter, reductions in federal historic preservation funds to the state offices combined in Iowa with the rise of local historic preservation commissions. The effect was to direct nearly all remaining survey and planning funds to these local efforts. This led to many useful small surveys of a town or county theme, which added substantial numbers of locally significant properties to the statewide inventory and expanded such listings in the National Register of Historic Places.

Unable to rely on state grants and wishing to satisfy rising public interest in historic preservation, several cities during the 1990s initiated their own various survey and nomination projects. The City of Des Moines followed up a grant-funded survey by funding a multiple property study and nomination project of old North Des Moines. The city then conducted a large project to study and nominate districts containing
concentrations of bungalow houses. Sioux City funded an analysis of its Fourth Street commercial district and Cedar Rapids paid for historic property surveys of selected neighborhoods.

Private citizens also joined together for carrying out professional survey and nomination projects. The first dated to the late 1970s when the Bloomfield (Davis County) Chamber of Commerce underwrote a survey and preservation plan for their downtown courthouse square, which became one of Iowa’s first locally designated historic districts. Other private efforts included Bonaparte (Van Buren County) residents who paid for a consultant to survey and nominate their downtown district. Similarly, in the Highland Park area of Des Moines, local business persons hired a consultant to survey and nominate two commercial districts and publish a history of the area.

Iowa has always maintained an active program to nominate places to the National Register. The way that the State Historic Preservation Office administers the program has changed over the years, however. Initially, the staff architectural historian handled the few submissions that trickled in, which were mailed off for review in turn by each member of the State Nominations Review Committee (SNRC). Then, in 1976, when the National Bicentennial brought a surge of public interest in the program, a separate National Register position resulted and regular face-to-face meetings of the state committee began. Under this system, a National Register Coordinator prepared the nominations with information supplied by applicants and supplemented by some of the staff member’s research. In 1988 this approach ended. Replacing it was a new National Register Coordinator who received, logged in, and forwarded applications to survey staff members for review. Survey staff then returned comments to the Coordinator who forwarded them to the applicant. The applicant revised the nomination and returned it to the Coordinator. When ready, the nomination went before the state nominations review committee for review. If recommended for approval by the review board, the nomination moved on to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington DC for final review. This process with one exception is the system that has since operated. The exception is that staff processing of applications for nomination is now expedited through group meetings of the staff historian, architectural historian, and National Register Coordinator.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

The historic preservation movement thus has brought to public knowledge many Iowa places of historic, architectural, or archeological value, but it did more as well. The movement prompted financial incentives to be adopted that helped preserve places for commercial and other purposes. In the early years through 1980, federal matching grants from the National Park Service had been competitively available for some acquisition and development projects. Provisions of the Federal Tax Act of 1976 augmented this, providing income tax breaks to National Register owners of income producing properties (e.g., farm, commercial, industrial) who carried out rehabilitation work according to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. For several years the federal tax act features helped attract considerable interest by owners and developers. Subsequent reductions in the amount of tax benefits slowed the number of tax act projects, but interest revived recently as developers connect this
incentive with other government grants and loans to make their projects feasible. In particular, funds made available through the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) have joined nicely together with historic tax credits to encourage rehabilitation of historic properties for affordable housing.

Other financial catalysts to preservation also appeared. The Mainstreet Linked Investments for Tomorrow Program—an early Main Street Iowa and State Historic Preservation Office partnership effort—benefited both Main Street and CLG-designated communities by providing low interest loans for façade rehabilitation. Also the Historic Property Tax Abatement program gave counties an incentive to preserve properties. Both of these nicely set the stage for the arrival of the state income tax credit program.

This modest but important state tax incentive was adopted in 2000. It is intended to supplement the federal investment tax credit program for rehabilitation of historic properties. The State Tax Credit program is particularly attractive to investors who rehabilitate buildings for housing, the majority of which are for low to moderate income residents. The only hindrance to its widespread use in preservation is the current cap of 2.4 million dollars available each year. To accommodate this limitation, all projects are placed in order of approval for project work and assigned the year when the credits are expected to become available based on the annual $2.4 million allocation. Consequently, demand became so great that, as of 2005, an approved state historic tax credit application had to wait until state fiscal year 2017 to receive credits reserved for the rehabilitation work. Fortunately, the program was augmented by state legislative action in 2005. The General Assembly broadened the State Rehabilitation Tax Credit program and renamed it the Historic Preservation and Cultural and Entertainment District Tax Credits. The revised program retains a yearly tax credit cap of $2.4 million for projects outside designated Cultural and Entertainment Districts, provides for a yearly cap of $4.0 million on rehabilitation projects within Cultural and Entertainment Districts, and imposes a five-year limit on reserving tax credits for approved historic rehabilitation projects. It is hard to estimate its effect on a town or city when a place of local pride is refurbished and made a vital part of community life again. This modest tax incentive is helping make that happen. The program is an important part of Iowa’s economic growth and historical enrichment, joining other incentives to encourage a decision to preserve an historic property for revived use.

Two additional state grant programs have made a real difference throughout the state. One is the Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP), which Iowa legislators enacted in 1992. Under this, the State Historical Society of Iowa administers five percent of the state funds from the Resource and Protection Act (REAP) for historic preservation, document preservation, and museum projects. About sixty percent of this annual amount administered by the Society goes to applicants for projects to rehabilitate historic properties. It generously allowed churches, corporations, and private individuals alike to apply for an HRDP grant. Moreover, these grants could be used for the full range of historic preservation activities from planning to treatments for historic properties. A three fold effect resulted: preservation funding and activities became accessible to all Iowans; local interest in preservation intensified among cities and counties; and the number of CLG participants in Iowa markedly increased.
The second state grant incentive, adopted in 1998, is the Historic Sites Preservation Grant Program (HSPG). Intended to help in the preservation of larger project undertakings where the applicant provides at least $40,000 in cash match, several worthwhile projects got underway. At present both the HRDP and HSPG grants programs have uncertain funding year to year as a result of state budget cutback, but numerous preservation projects have benefited.

WORKING TOGETHER

Finally, local and state efforts to protect architectural, historic, and archeological properties have matured. Back in the 1970s, few federal agencies had established ways to comply with requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. Similarly, in towns and cities, it took time to establish an ordinance mechanism to preserve local places of historic value. Today, much of this has changed. Numerous cities have established local historic preservation commissions to identify what is important to preserve in a community and to urge the designation and preservation of such places. One out of every three Iowans lives in a CLG city or county. Fifteen Iowa CLG cities designate local landmarks and districts, three others have the capacity to do so. Iowa City has added conservation districts and sensitive areas zoning to its historic preservation toolkit. Several other cities have enacted warehousing policies, maintenance provisions, and demolition delay ordinances to permit time to search for alternatives short of demolition. Meanwhile, several counties have employed zoning and other means to control development and protect historic properties. Among them are two local ordinances for preserving archeological sites, an analysis of which has been done by Kerry McGrath (available online at http://crm.cr.nps.gov/archive/21-10/21-10-6.pdf). One county historic commission has developed and implemented a pilot project for an overall management plan for archeological and paleontological resources on public lands within Hardin county (Alex 2004). In addition, several cities and counties have purchased or leased historic properties and completed highly successful rehabilitation and adaptive reuse projects.

At the state level, the State Historic Preservation Office has over the years gradually established working relationships with nearly every federal agency for implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Federal agencies have become accustomed to taking into account the effects of their undertakings on places that may be eligible for the National Register and seek ways to minimize or avoid those effects in consultation with the SHPO and other appropriate parties. Within Iowa, Section 303.2 of the Iowa Code requires state “land managing” agencies to establish agreements with the Department of Cultural Affairs for dealing with historic places on state-owned property. Also, Chapter 314.24 requires local and state transportation agencies to avoid historic properties if reasonable alternatives exist at no significantly greater cost. (The state’s framework of past legislation that has shaped the course of historic preservation activity in Iowa is annotated in Appendix D.) As a result of the federal and state requirements, the amount of time devoted to meeting these requirements have come to absorb an increasing share of total staff resources within the state’s preservation office. The SHPO continues to work on programmatic and other agreements with agencies to reduce or make more efficient these efforts to protect the state’s historic properties.
The SHPO, along with other partnering organizations and agencies, continues to provide technical assistance for identifying, documenting, and evaluating historic properties. For example, the SHPO along with the Association of Iowa Archaeologists and the Office of the State Archaeologist sponsored and prepared the *Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa* issued in 1999. These guidelines represent the culmination of many years of discussions and drafts of proposed procedural guidelines between these organizations and federal and state agencies about conducting archeological investigations, documenting archeological investigations, and curation of archeological materials and documents. This is a landmark document for Iowa as it represents the first combined efforts to include in any guidelines references and discussions about pertinent laws that may involve consideration of archeological resources. It also provides discussions of different alternatives for preservation and stewardship of archeological sites including specific recommendations for ancient burial sites. The sponsoring organizations worked extensively with federal and state agencies, American Indian Tribes, archeological consultants, environmental consultants, local government officials, other state historic preservation offices, the National Park Service, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in preparing these guidelines.

Over the past fifteen years, closer partnership arrangements have grown between some of the American Indian tribes that have historical ties to Iowa and local, state, and federal agencies and organizations in Iowa. These partnerships and events have considerably helped to bring recognition and awareness regarding the rich cultural legacies of the tribes in Iowa. These partnerships enable tribes to express concerns about the treatment of their traditional cultural properties, burial areas, and sacred sites in Iowa to the current residents of the state. Several of the tribes have worked closely with the Office of the State Archaeologist, the State Historical Society of Iowa, and the SHPO in developing educational materials and exhibits to address these issues. The Office of the State Archaeologist has been working with the Meskwaki Tribe on the development of a *Time Capsules of the Past Traveling Resource Box* entitled “Meskwaki Culture and History.” The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska is working with the Montgomery County Historical Society in southwestern Iowa to develop educational materials and exhibits for a new museum facility, and a movie is currently under production about the tribe. A number of tribal representatives have been guest lecturers during archeological field schools, including the recent investigations at Fort Atkinson in northeastern Iowa and Broken Kettle in northwestern Iowa. The Iowa Division of the Federal Highway Administration and the Iowa Department of Transportation hosted a tribal summit in 2001. Representatives from ten American Indian tribes having current or historic interests in Iowa attended and participated in the event along with representatives from the SHPO, the Office of the State Archaeologist, and other state and federal agencies. The purpose of the summit was to develop better relationships between the agencies and the tribes and to establish an improved process for consultation on federal undertakings.
INTERESTED IN AND PROUD OF THEIR STATE’S HISTORY, MANY IOWANS SEE LOCAL HISTORIC PLACES AS SIGNIFICANT MARKERS OF THEIR COMMUNITY’S PART IN THAT HISTORY. INDEED, MOST OF IOWA’S SUCCESS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION IS DUE TO THEIR EFFORTS LOCALLY. STILL, THE SUM TOTAL OF LOCAL HISTORIC PLACES CAN SEEM TO BE INCOHERENT IN WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT IOWA’S OVERALL STORY. IT CAN SEEM WE TAKE REFUGE IN TELLING SMALL STORIES ABOUT SMALL MATTERS, WHICH ADDS ANECDOTE BUT LITTLE CLARITY TO MODERN LIFE. THIS DECENTRALIZED “LOCALLY BASED HISTORY” SURELY HAS ITS PLACE, BUT IT DISCONNECTS US FROM OTHER IOWA COMMUNITIES WITH A SIMILAR STORY AND, PERHAPS, WITH A PRESERVATION EXPERIENCE USEFUL TO THE NEXT TOWN DOWN THE ROAD. FURTHERMORE, LOCALIZED AND DISCONNECTED EFFORTS URSORE THE NEED FOR STATE INVOLVEMENT TO LOCATE, DESIGNATE, AND PUBLICIZE THOSE PLACES THAT SHED LIGHT ON THE IMPORTANT “REGIONAL AND STATE STORIES.” THESE REACH BEYOND THE HISTORY OF A SINGLE LOCALITY TO OFFER A WINDOW FOR SEEING IOWA’S PAST IN RELATION TO LARGER STATE AND NATIONAL EVENTS.

THE DEDICATED ACTIVITY OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS IS CRUCIAL. WHILE THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE HOLDS FORTH THE LIGHT OF STANDARDS, TECHNICAL ADVICE, AND GRANT INCENTIVES, THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS DO MOST OF THE LEGWORK:

STATEWIDE PARTNERS

**Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance (IHPA).** Organized in 1988, the group has sought to give a statewide independent voice to the preservation movement in Iowa. Through annual meetings, conferences, workshops, announcements of the “Most Endangered Resources,” and annual “Preservation at its Best” awards, the Alliance has brought much needed attention to the needs of preservation in the state. Other activities and information is found at http://www.iowapreservation.org/.

**Iowa Cultural Coalition.** The organization serves as the main advocacy, technical assistance, and communications network available to people and organizations who create and appreciate all forms of art, historic preservation, museums, science, and cultural educational endeavors in Iowa. With an aim of supporting the people and resources in the state that make it a joy to live here, the coalition’s website is http://iowaculturalcoalition.org.

**Main Street Iowa.** As a part of the Iowa Department of Economic Development since 1985, the program—modeled on the National Main Street Center’s approach to downtown revitalization—has grown to be one of the most successful state Main Street programs in the nation. Iowa Main Street designates both large and small towns concerned to improve business prospects for their main street in the context of historic preservation. For more information about this highly successful program, see the organization’s website at http://www.mainstreetiowa.org/.

**American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA).** This organization, which celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2004, represents professional architects in the state. Through its magazine for members and sponsorship of various events such as
walking tours, recognition of the past “Century of Iowa Architecture,” and partnership on educational conferences, such as the 2003 historic schools conference, the AIA has brought the historic preservation movement to both its membership and statewide readership. For more information about this group, visit their website at http://www.aiaiowa.org.

Iowa Archeological Society (IAS). The Iowa Archeological Society was established in 1951 by Iowans interested in preserving and studying Iowa’s prehistoric and early historic heritage. It is a non-profit scientific society organized under corporate Iowa and federal laws. Its aims are to gather, record, publish, and interpret archeological information in cooperation with professional archeologists in the region. Membership is open to anyone interested in Iowa archeology with no previous knowledge or training necessary. The Society has 400 to 500 members who meet twice annually to share new discoveries and research. Annually, members receive a journal and four newsletters. As of 2005, there were eight local chapters in Iowa (http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS/iashome.htm).

University of Iowa’s Office of State Archaeologist (OSA). The OSA is an organized research unit of the University of Iowa. The mission of the OSA, as designated by Iowa statute, is to develop, disseminate, and preserve knowledge of Iowa’s prehistory and history through archeological research, service, and education. The OSA conducts basic and applied research, including statewide grant- and contract-supported field studies and curates most of the state’s archeological collections. The office coordinates public involvement in archeology through such means as teacher workshops, school and conservation center programs, and support of the Iowa Archeological Society. The OSA also maintains Iowa’s archeological site file and related photo files and research material. An important responsibility of the OSA is the investigation, interpretation, and preservation of ancient burial grounds, and when necessary, the recovery and reburial of ancient human skeletal remains. State statute assigned these duties to the OSA in 1976 (Chapter 263B of the Iowa Code) after Indians in Iowa raised the issues of proper disposition of Indian burials, the defilement of Indian burial grounds, and equal protection under the law. An American Indian Advisory Committee (now, Council) to the Office of the State Archaeologist was formed in the 1970s to provide advice and technical assistance to the State Archaeologist in administering and implementing the state burial law. The OSA has a director and over twenty archeologists on staff. Several OSA staff members also teach as adjunct instructors for the University of Iowa and occasionally, for other colleges around the state (http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/).

Association of Iowa Archaeologists (AIA). The Association of Iowa Archaeologists is a non-profit organization founded in 1975. It was created for the purposes of 1) promoting public understanding and scientific interest in Iowa’s archeological heritage and 2) developing professional and scientific standards for conducting and reporting archeological investigations in Iowa and for curating archeological materials and documents. The members of this organization represent professional archeologists that either work in the state of Iowa or have an interest in Iowa archeology. This group has an annual meeting in June and occasionally sponsors field trips, workshops, and publications.
Iowa Barn Foundation. Founded in 1997, the non-profit organization “is dedicated to preserving Iowa’s rural buildings, symbols of Iowa’s early heritage.” Its primary mission “is to educate the public about Iowa’s vanishing barns and to provide barn restoration matching grants to help property owners restore their barns.” Annually several barn tour events are held, and twice a year members receive a copy of The Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine. More information is at http://www.iowabarnfoundation.org/.

Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area. As one of 27 congressionally designated National Heritage Areas, its mission is “to ensure that residents and visitors can learn about the significant contributions that Northeast Iowa’s people and land have made to America’s agricultural legacy.” Within the thirty-seven county region six themes form the interpretive focus: The Fertile Land; Farmers & Families; The Changing Farm; Higher Yields: The Science & Technology of Agriculture; Farm to Factory: Agribusiness in Iowa; and Organizing for Agriculture: Policies and Politics. An annual grants program helps fund activities to further its mission. For additional information about activities and events, refer http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The state agency administers such historic properties as the Lowell G. Walter House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in Quasqueton, Buchanan County; Pine Creek Grist Mill, Muscatine County; Hitchcock House, Cass County; and Fort Atkinson, Winneshiek County. Many of the state parks also have important architectural and archeological resources, some of which are built into the park’s interpretation and public education programs. Additionally, the agency’s State Preserves Advisory Board, in existence since 1965, deals with properties for which protection is sought that have “unusual flora, fauna, geological, archeological, scenic or historic features of scientific or educational value.” Some areas are state-owned, others are owned by county conservation boards, conservation organizations, private or other public bodies. Additional information about state preserves is found at http://www.iowadnr.com/preserves/index.html.

Iowa Department of Transportation. Through cooperative efforts with the State Historic Preservation Office, the agency has sponsored statewide bridge surveys, nominated 186 historic bridges to the National Register of Historic Places, and sponsored recordation work of the Historic American Engineering Record. Moreover, as part of an established Cultural Interchange Team (CIT), its staff members meet regularly with staff of the State Historic Preservation Office and Iowa District of the Federal Highway Administration to discuss matters of mutual interest in historic preservation. The agency is currently working with Iowa State University in a study to explore issues relating to recognizing and preserving the Lincoln Highway in Iowa. The Iowa Department of Transportation, along with the Federal Highway Administration, has been instrumental in initiating new consultation processes with the American Indian tribes and other parties in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Iowa Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration hosted the State of Iowa Tribal Summit on Historic Preservation and Transportation in 2001. It was attended by 16 representatives from 10 American Indian tribes along with 33 representatives from federal agencies and state agencies from Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. Information about cultural resource investigations by the
Iowa Department of Transportation’s Office of Location and Environment is found at http://www.ole.dot.state.ia.us.

County Conservation Boards. Conservation boards are local natural resource management and outdoor recreation agencies whose responsibilities are the following: to acquire, develop, maintain, and make available public museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, forests, wildlife, and other conservation areas; to encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources; and to provide adequate programs of public recreation. Conservation boards also help educate local residents about the natural world in which we live, and administer roadside vegetation management programs. County conservation boards have been created in all of Iowa’s 99 counties and are governed by Chapter 350 of the Code of Iowa. Several county conservation boards administer historic properties and many of the boards are active in educating the public about cultural resources and historical sites. County conservation boards actively sponsor Iowa Archaeology Month events. Information on the county conservation boards can be found online at http://george.ecity.net/iaccb/welcome.htm.

State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC). SAPIC is a non-profit organization that actively advocates for the preservation of historic cemeteries in Iowa. The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries was formed in 1996 as a result of legislation that allowed for each of the 99 counties to create a County Cemetery Commission. The focus of these Commissions was to rescue untended pioneer graves and cemeteries and to take responsibility for the upkeep of such sites. The goals of this organization are to identify all cemeteries in the state; provide technical assistance to the public on preservation and maintenance issues on the cemeteries and monuments contained in them; provide advice and information to legislative bodies for consideration of legislation for protection, preservation, and maintenance of cemeteries in the state; and monitoring the administrative and management of the cemeteries to ensure that the laws are being enforced. Additional information about the organization is available at http://www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/.

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. Since 1992, the Iowa Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association has been engaged in work to preserve and publicize authentic reminders of the highway and associated places. Whether applying for grants, attending meetings on projects that might affect the Lincoln Highway, or working with local communities to build interest in the road as a tourism destination, the organization has vigorously pursued its purposes. Its internet presence at http://lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa/, in service since 1996, is the longest running Lincoln Highway state website.

LOCAL PARTNERS

Historic Preservation Commissions, now totaling 104 under the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, include 67 cities and 37 counties. Since the mid-1980s the commissions have undertaken innumerable activities—many of them assisted by matching grants through the National Park Service—to locally encourage an
appreciation for historic properties within their areas. A list of the commissions is contained in Appendix C. The Certified Local Government program is administered by the State Historical Society of Iowa and information about it can be found at http://www.iowahistory.org/preservation/clg_program/clg.html.

A second source of partnership is local neighborhood associations or preservation organizations operating within a city. Those that have taken a particular interest in historic preservation include:

- Des Moines: Sherman Hill, River Bend, and Drake Neighborhood Associations;
- Cedar Rapids: Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association;
- Waterloo: Highland Neighborhood Association
- Iowa City: Friends of Historic Preservation (a.k.a. Friends of Old Brick);
- Mason City: River City Society for Historic Preservation, Stockman House Museum Foundation;
- Burlington: Heritage Trust for Preservation and Restoration of Historic Burlington
- Council Bluffs: Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Alliance
- Sioux City: SiouxLandmark

A third group of partners are local historical societies that have become involved with preservation of historic buildings or places of local historical value. Often located at museum sites, they may include a one room school or a farmstead. Examples containing National Register listed properties include:

- Franklin County Historical Society (REA power plant)
- Benton County Historical Society (Train depot in Vinton)
- Mahaska County Historical Society (Nelson Pioneer Farm)
- Dubuque County Historical Society (Hamm House, Ryan House, cabin at entrance to Eagle Point Park, William Black Dredge, Dubuque Boat and Boiler Works building)
- Buchanan County Historical Society (Wapsipinicon Mill)
- Floyd County Historical Society (Salsbury Labs in Charles City)
- Mitchell County Historical Society (Cedar Valley Seminary)
- Pottawattamie County Historical Society (Squirrel Cage Jail)
- Woodbury County Historical Society (Pierce Mansion)
- Clermont Historical Society (Larrabee School, Regal Blacksmith Shop)
- Nevada Community Historical Society (Briggs Terrace/Evergreen Lane)
- Dows Historical Society (Quasdorf Blacksmith Shop, depot)
- Tabor Historical Society (Rev. John Todd House)
Fourth, there are organizations formed around preserving a single historic property. Examples include:

- Terrace Hill Commission (Terrace Hill)
- Save Our Depot, Inc. (Red Oak Depot)
- National Nineteenth Amendment Society (Carrie Chapman Catt House near Charles City)
- Seminole Valley Farms, in Cedar Rapids
- Lewelling Quaker Shrine, Inc. (Henderson Lewelling House in Salem)
- West Des Moines Historical Society (James Jordan House)
- Stockman House Museum Foundation

**CONSULTANTS**

Of equal importance to organizations is the community of history-architecture and archeological consultants. In a real sense, their work is the main field presence of preservation professionals operating in the state. By the early 1980s direct hiring of employees to conduct survey, nomination, and documentation projects became less needed by the State Historic Preservation Office. Instead, persons trained in historic preservation specialties were now available for independent employment. Two developments encouraged this for Iowa. First, the State Historic Preservation Office’s concerted work with federal agencies to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act bore fruit to consultants. This was especially so for archeological survey work but also for historic-architectural consultants assisting cities in Community Development Block Grant projects. Second, Iowa encouraged the growth of many local historic preservation commissions through liberal criteria for their establishment and grants for the funding of both small and medium-sized projects by consultants. Consultants have also participated in meeting preservation goals by carrying out occasional large survey and nomination projects to study the context of properties associated with statewide themes of history. The consultants’ results are found in innumerable reports and intensive site survey forms of high quality prepared on properties significant to Iowa’s past. A list of consultants is available at: http://www.iowahistory.org/preservation/consultants/index.html.

Historic property developers have been instrumental in advocating for improved financial incentives to encourage greater preservation activity. They are key to informing legislators of what makes such historic projects feasible financially. The results of their investment in historic projects have been outstanding. Just taking state historic tax credit projects between 2000 and 2004, for example, developers have undertaken 71 projects totaling over $141.5 million.
There is currently one federally recognized American Indian tribe, The Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa (also known as the Meskwaki Nation), residing in the state of Iowa. There are as many as eighteen historically known American Indian tribes that have historical connections to the state (Appendix D). From historical and archeological research and the oral histories of the tribes, it is known that some of these tribes have deep roots in the Iowa prairie soils in that they had lived in Iowa for a long time. A few, such as the Iowa and Dakota Sioux tribes, lived throughout different areas of Iowa at different times. Some of the tribes connected historically with the state arrived after being dispossessed of their eastern homelands through warfare and treaty cessions. In many of these cases, the tribes’ stay in Iowa was temporary, as they were forced to move further on by more treaty cessions. In one case, the Meskwaki tribe wanted to come back to Iowa and was allowed to do so by the Iowa Legislature and the Governor in 1856. Regardless of how long these tribes resided in Iowa, they maintain strong concerns about the treatment of their traditional cultural properties and sacred sites in Iowa.

Federally recognized American Indian tribes have a unique status as sovereign nations. Under federal preservation law, American Indian tribes participate in consultations with federal and state agencies on their projects. The consultations focus on whether those undertakings would have the potential to affect any historic properties that may have religious or cultural significance to the tribes. Over the past twenty years, many tribes have established tribal history and cultural resource programs and, in some cases, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices similar to the State Historic Preservation Offices. The American Indian tribes have been more frequently participating in historic preservation related projects and in partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. In Iowa, the tribes have worked with the Office of the State Archaeologist, the State Historical Society of Iowa, and the State Historic Preservation Office to develop educational materials to increase the awareness and recognition of the cultural legacies of the tribes and of their current concerns about the treatments of their traditional cultural properties and sacred sites. They have also actively participated in discussions regarding the treatment and protection of ancient human remains (human remains 150 years of age or older as defined by Iowa law) and burial sites in Iowa.
IOWA’S CULTURAL RESOURCES

Iowa’s story is discovered through its events, places, activities, materials, traditions and memories—a chronicle manifested in many sites, buildings, structures, districts, objects, and landscapes found throughout the state. Their value arises in oral histories passed down from generation to generation, through historical documents and records, and through archeological and historical research and investigations. Some chapters are well documented and amply known. Others are poorly understood due to little information and few connections to places. More are being revealed as unfolding research casts new light on chapters of the past once lost to memory.

Human activity in Iowa has been largely shaped by the inherited geological past. Imagine if you will the ancient shallow seas filled with marine life of all shapes and sizes that once covered most, if not all, of Iowa. Evidence of the ancient seas and marine life is found in the limestone and dolomite deposits throughout the state, which people mined for chert and lead in prehistoric times and then mined historically for lead and zinc and quarried for limestone and dolomite. From the shallow seas emerged ancient tropical coastal swamps, which today are seen in the coal, slate, and shale deposits that once supported 450 mining operations in the state (Anderson 1998, 250), the last of which shut down in 1994. Then visualize the shallow inland seas in and around Fort Dodge that eventually evaporated during the time of the dinosaurs. These left gypsum deposits that were historically mined and were used to create a hoax carving called the Cardiff Giant, which currently resides in the state of New York.

Then, not so long ago from a geological perspective, thick sheets of ice known as glaciers and intense cold periods occurred here in Iowa. Glacial activities were largely what shaped Iowa’s modern landscapes, soils, and water drainages either directly or indirectly. During the glaciers, the wind blown silt deposits referred to as loess covered a large portion of the state that was not covered by ice. These loess deposits served as the parent material for most of our modern soils in the state. Thick loess hills formed during this era along the Missouri River Valley in western Iowa and represent a unique landscape in the United States. Many construction firms today value these fine silt deposits for construction materials while other people, both past and present, cherished these fragile hills for both their natural and scenic beauty as well as for its spiritual connections.

The glaciers also brought enormous amounts of rocks and frozen soils known as glacial drift to Iowa from the north. As the glaciers melted, enormous volumes of water flowed down the river valleys, physically reshaping the valley floodplains and sometimes creating new valleys through the deposition of large amounts of sand, silts, clays, and gravel in terraces adjacent to the channels. These terraces were well known to many American Indian peoples that lived in Iowa after the glaciers because these terraces were high and well-drained, would usually not flood, and were located within easy walking distances to water and valuable food resources. These deposits also contained valuable rocks for making tools, preparing food, and maintaining heat within their homes. Just as these terraces were highly desired areas for people to live in the past, the Euroamerican immigrants also desired these same terraces for the locations of their
settlements. Many of Iowa's current and former historic towns are located at least partially on these glacial outwash terraces. The thick sand and gravel deposits within these terraces became a very important commodity historically for use primarily as construction materials. Sand and gravel mining remains a major industry yet today in Iowa. Some of Iowa's most significant paleontological and archeological discoveries have been discovered, and sometimes completely destroyed, as a result of sand and gravel mining.

The modern courses of most rivers and streams were created as a result of the glacial activities. The rivers and streams would become important transportation and trade routes for people in the past and particularly during the early historical period. The rivers were full of fish of all shapes and sizes, enormous mussel beds, and valuable aquatic plants that people in the past heavily utilized. The early historic industries of commercial and subsistence fishing and the former mussel shell button manufacturing businesses remind us of what the rivers formerly provided. Many of the rivers were historically harnessed and constrained in the middle and late 1800s by the installation of dams for use in early milling operations and for the creation of electricity. Currently, the dams are being maintained and some new dams have been constructed primarily for water management purposes related to flood control, water quality, recreational purposes, and transportation of materials in the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

The last glacier in the state of Iowa ended approximately 12,000 to 14,000 years ago. It left a visible reminder of its presence by creating a distinct landscape in north central Iowa known as the Des Moines Lobe. It received this name since the southernmost extent of the glacier reached the city of Des Moines. This landscape featured glacial landforms including natural lakes and prairie potholes of all shapes and sizes. Much of the land supported magnificent tallgrass prairies filled with bison, elk, and many other animal species that arriving peoples hunted, while lakes and streams offered waterfowl, fish, cattails, bulrushes, and even wild rice. Many of these extensive wetlands were eventually drained to bring their valuable soils under modern agricultural use. Peat was occasionally historically mined in some areas for use as fuel. Several of the larger lakes remained and became popular resort and recreation areas in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

It is not clear when the first people arrived in Iowa or from where they came. Based on oral traditions and beliefs of several of the American Indian tribes, they have been here since the Earth was created. From an archeological perspective, it appears that people first arrived in Iowa approximately 13,000 years ago at the end of the last glacial period. Archeological study and the study of past human cultures provides the basis for interpreting and understanding the groups of people that lived in Iowa before recorded history.

For over 8000 years after the arrival of the first groups of people, a hunting and gathering lifestyle was practiced that changed with the seasonal availability of plants and animals. During this time period, a major shift in climate occurred as the glacial conditions ceased and many large mammals that inhabited Iowa during the glacial activities became extinct, including bison, mammoths, and ground sloths. As a result,
hunting and gathering techniques and technologies changed to adapt to the new climactic conditions and to the different plant and animal resources available.

The lifestyles of people changed considerably about 5000 years ago as cultivation of domesticated plants began, supplementing the resources obtained through hunting and gathering. Semi-sedentary settlements existed within eastern and perhaps central Iowa. Since that time, human populations significantly increased the state and their societies became much more complex. Technological advances in the form of pottery for food storage, food preparation, and for ceremonial purposes began about 3000 years ago. The bow and arrow was developed for hunting, warfare, and perhaps for fishing approximately 1500 years ago. The construction of both burial and ceremonial mounds became more elaborate through time. Casual cultivation of native crops such as goosefoot, marshelder, and sunflowers led to intensive agriculture practices involving both native and introduced crops such as corn and beans.

Iowa’s modern day residents would easily recognize the patterns of life that began around 1000 years ago as settled villages were established in different portions of the state by different groups of people. All of these Late Prehistoric cultures relied on hunting and intensive agriculture featuring corn as a staple crop. Hunting activities in western Iowa were focused on bison hunting to supply food, tools, clothing, and dwelling coverings. All of the people living in western Iowa during the Late Prehistoric cultural period lived in various styles of earthlodges. Daily scenes within Late Prehistoric villages would have been very similar if not identical to those within the villages of historic tribes along the Missouri River that early Euroamerican explorers encountered.

The arrival of the Euroamerican explorers, and eventually cultures, caused great stresses on the historic American Indian tribes. Great change occurred as many of the tribes traded for Euroamerican goods and materials, which were incorporated into their traditional cultures. Disputes arose between tribes over access to trade goods and relationships with different colonial powers claiming different portions of North America. Warfare between the tribes and the Euroamerican settlers and colonial powers happened frequently. As advancing Euroamerican settlement forced dispossession of tribes from their homelands, many tribes moved primarily westward. These movements in turn put dispossessed tribes in direct conflicts with the tribes already living in the west. A good example of this scenario was the Sauk and Meskwaki tribes who were originally from the northeastern United States but migrated westward and eventually settled in Iowa during the 1700s. These tribes gradually forced others in Iowa, such as the Ioway, further westward. Diseases introduced by the Euroamerican explorers and later immigrants took a severe toll on the populations of many tribes, reducing some tribes significantly. In some cases, whole groups of people nearly died off, leaving the few survivors to join with other groups.

The Historic Period begins in Iowa with the early explorers such as Marquette and Joliet in the late 1600s and Lewis and Clark during the early 1800s. Iowa was owned by France and Spain before the United States government acquired the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803. Many trappers heavily interacted with the American Indian peoples living here, sometimes living with and marrying into the tribes. As the
onslaught of Euroamerican speculators and settlers pushed westward, the tribes fought to keep their homes and maintain their cultural identity. Tribal efforts to maintain their culture resulted in signing treaties relinquishing their land in Iowa for land further west in Kansas and eventually Oklahoma. In one case, the Sauk tribe led by Black Hawk made a valiant last stand against the United States government to try and keep their homelands. Their efforts proved disastrous for Black Hawk's followers as well as for the entire Sauk and Meskwaki tribes. Many died in this last war, and shortly thereafter the Meskwaki and Sauk tribes were forced to cede their lands in eastern Iowa and move west for eventual removal to Kansas. The Meskwaki Tribe, federally recognized as the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa, eventually moved back to Iowa. In an unusual arrangement, tribal members were allowed to purchase 80 acres of land in 1857 with the land being held in trust by the Governor of Iowa. Through the purchase, the tribe was able to live a more independent, traditional lifestyle than tribes confined to reservations regulated by federal authority.

Once opened to them after 1832, Euroamerican settlers quickly filled the new western land, building their cities, boom towns, and farms. Within a brief sixty years after Iowa statehood in 1846, a great transformation was evident—a multitude of roads and railroads crisscrossed the landscape, cropland displaced many hardwood forests, and thousands of acres of wetlands vanished with the help of drainage tile. Major river junctions now were home to rising cities and rail connections made possible a multitude of inland towns to meet the market needs of numerous nearby farms. Within a century Iowa had gone from being a western frontier state to feeding the world with grain, beef, and hogs.

This transforming feat and the countless building, rebuilding, and reshaping of the land leaves reminders of what had gone before. Not only do innumerable American Indian sites and historic period remnants still exist, but examples survive of notable trends in architectural design, previous industrial and agricultural pursuits, innovative building methods, inventors of new equipment, and places that connected to significant political and social movements. These and other events shed light through places on important corners of the Iowa story.

**ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Archeological resources are one type of historic property that contribute to the understanding of the story of humans in Iowa. The State of Iowa’s archeological record comprises different types of sites, features, artifacts, and cultural landscapes spanning the last 13,000 years. The archeological record encompasses the human occupation and utilization of Iowa during both the prehistoric and historic periods. A great wealth of archeological information has been accumulated. Approximately 24,000 archeological sites have been documented throughout the state. Over 11,000 archeological reports and documents relating to Iowa archeology have been entered into the National Archeological Database. Considering that less than 2 percent of the state has been surveyed for archeological resources, it is certain that many more archeological sites will be identified in the future.
Our understanding of Iowa’s archeological record has been accomplished through the identification and preservation of significant sites; through consistent documentation of archeological research and resources; and through curation of artifacts, documentation, and reports. These tasks are supported and completed through partnerships between federal and state agencies, local governments, historic preservation commissions, professional archeologists, American Indian Tribes, and amateur archeologists.

Prehistoric Archeology Resources:

Generally, in Iowa, the year AD 1650 serves as a rough boundary between the historic and prehistoric periods. Iowa has an extremely rich prehistoric archeological record with sites dating from 12,500 BC to AD 1650 identified, investigated, and documented since the 1870s. Prehistoric sites are interpreted as being associated with different functional uses and American Indian groups. Unfortunately, the association of specific ethnic groups with specific sites becomes very difficult the further back one goes into the archeological record. Also, interpretations of the functional uses of prehistoric artifacts and sites are based on observed behaviors of people found throughout the world both currently and historically.

Categories of prehistoric sites that have been defined in Iowa include habitation sites, resource procurement sites, mortuary sites, earthworks, rock alignments, isolated finds, sacred sites, and Traditional Cultural Properties. Habitation sites include villages, cave/rockshelters, small camps, refuse midden deposits, and isolated farmsteads. Resource procurement sites are represented by quarries and workshops for stone resources, animal kill sites, fish weirs, plant harvesting sites, agricultural fields, and food processing sites. Mortuary sites are represented by interments within mounds, single interments, cemeteries, ossuaries, and isolated human remains. Earthworks are represented by burial and ceremonial mounds as well as by enclosures, fortification ditches, and palisades. Sacred sites and Traditional Cultural Properties include sites such as individual mounds, mound groups, petroglyphs, and pictographs. Archeological sites also include natural features such as springs and caves/rockshelters, as well as cultural landscapes composed of different site types and natural features. It is important to note that some of these types of archeological resources in Iowa can be directly affiliated with a specific culture or cultural period, such as effigy mounds with the Late Late Woodland cultural period. Some archeological resources such as fish weirs have been difficult to directly associate with a specific cultural period because they lack diagnostic artifacts or datable construction materials or tools. It is also possible that archeological resources may reflect long–term use by multiple groups through time, such as the fish weirs or quarries that appear to have been used during both the prehistoric and historic periods.

Prehistoric Archeology Contexts:

There are only two multiple property background studies involving prehistoric archeological resources in Iowa at a multi-county level that have been accepted by the National Park Service. A context study entitled “Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers on the Northwest Iowa Plains ca. 10,000–200 Years BP” was developed in 1988 (Benn
1988—Appendix A, no. 2). It addressed different archeological resources and prehistoric cultural periods within the geographic location of northwestern Iowa. The other context report, entitled “Prehistoric Mounds of the Quad State Region of the Upper Mississippi River Valley ca. 4000–250 BP,” also dates to 1988 (Stanley and Stanley 1988—Appendix A, no. 25). It addressed a specific archeological resource type, mounds, for the Woodland and Late Prehistoric cultural periods within the geographic location of northeastern Iowa, southwestern Wisconsin, northwestern Illinois, and southeastern Minnesota. In addition, certain multiple property background studies address prehistoric cultural resources: the South Raccoon River Greenbelt in Dallas County (Davidson 1995—Appendix A, no. 39), the Mines of Spain property at Dubuque (McKay 1988—Appendix A, no. 43), and all of Johnson County (Louis Berger Group 2001—Appendix A, no. 54).

In addition to these studies, the State Historic Preservation Office worked with the Association of Iowa Archaeologists and the University of Iowa’s Office of the State Archaeologist in proposing and developing prehistoric archeological study units as part of the Resource Planning and Protection Process (RP3). The prehistoric study units were largely based on the classification or taxonomic system developed by Willey and Phillips (Willey and Phillips 1958) which has become the standard utilized throughout the Midwest by archeologists. This taxonomic system can take into consideration variables such as content, space, and time. The larger taxonomic units within this system, such as culture, cultural period, or tradition, represent very broad relationships and lifeways over extensive areas and sometimes lengthy periods of time. The smaller taxonomic units, such as phases or components, represent sites within a locality during smaller timeframes.

It is important to note several items regarding this taxonomic system. First of all, archeological taxonomic systems are created artificial frameworks for organization and analysis. Archeological designations within this taxonomic system are based on comparisons based on time, space and material remains found at the sites. The archeological designations for prehistoric cultures do not generally refer to specific tribes, although some of the late prehistoric archeological cultures have been interpreted to be associated with specific historic tribes. The temporal and spatial boundaries of most of the cultural periods are usually “blurry” in that lifeways from a previous cultural period may persist in areas of the state much longer than the designated time period.

The cultural periods that have been proposed for Iowa prehistory are presented in Appendix B. There are four primary cultural periods proposed for the state of Iowa: Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, and Late Prehistoric/Protohistoric. Provided below are brief summaries of each time period compiled from A Brief Culture History of Iowa (Schremmer et. al 1995), “A Brief Culture History of Iowa” in Iowa’s Geological Past (Anderson 1998), and Iowa’s Archaeological Past (Alex 2000).

The Paleoindian period presumably coincides with the arrival of people in Iowa approximately 13,000 years ago at the end of the last glacial period. The glacial landscape and many of the animals and plants that the first people encountered would
be very unfamiliar to Iowa’s modern day residents. The archeological evidence suggests that small groups of traveling hunters were in Iowa during this period. Many of the larger animals that Iowa’s first inhabitants were familiar with and hunted became extinct around 10,000 years ago. As the glacier retreated to the north, the plant and animal communities moved northward. Unfortunately, very little archeological evidence has been identified within Iowa for interpretation of the Paleoindian cultural period. Paleoindian archeological sites are rare in Iowa and usually represent isolated finds of projectile points and other types of tools. The known sites from this cultural period are not well preserved. Identifying sites from this cultural period is difficult because the Iowa landscape has greatly changed over the last 10,000 years. Many of the attractive habitation areas along the river and stream valleys have been either severely eroded or deeply buried by flood deposits over time. There is great potential that significant Paleoindian cultural period sites may be identified in deeply buried geological contexts within the river valley floodplains.

Recent archeological investigations in neighboring states and in other areas of South and North America suggest that populations of people were living in the Americas before the arrival of the Paleoindian culture. No evidence has been found in Iowa to support the theory that people were here before the Paleoindian cultural period. Pre-Paleoindian cultural period sites, if they exist in Iowa, would most likely be found in deeply buried geological contexts along floodplains.

By 10,000 years ago, a more familiar landscape took shape throughout the state, one that more or less existed up to the late 1800s. Tall grass prairies dominated the area of Iowa west of the Des Moines River. Extensive elm and oak woodland tracts with scattered prairies dominated eastern and south central Iowa. Tall grass prairies also were found in north central Iowa along with extensive wetlands of all shapes and sizes created by the last glacial advance. The modern plant and animal communities became established at that time.

The Archaic cultural period represents the hunting and gathering adaptations of people to the new landscape and environment. The Archaic period is generally divided into three cultural sub-periods: Early Archaic (8500 BC to 5500 BC), Middle Archaic (5500 BC to 3000 BC), and Late Archaic (3000 BC to 800 BC). Unfortunately, very little archeological evidence has been identified within Iowa for interpretation of the Early and Middle Archaic cultural periods. The available evidence does suggest that the people in the state during these cultural periods were practicing a hunting and gathering type of lifestyle that heavily relied on bison hunting in western Iowa and on deer and elk hunting in eastern Iowa, along with seasonal exploitation of different plants and animals, a pattern that would remain more or less up to the Late Prehistoric cultural period. New technologies and tools were used in obtaining and processing plant and animal resources. The Middle Archaic cultural period is associated with a very dry, warm climatic event referred to as the Hypsithermal. During the Middle Archaic period, it is believed that the human populations were largely confined to the major river valleys, lakes, and marshlands that were reliable sources of water. As with the Paleoindian cultural period sites, the majority of the known sites from these cultural periods are not well preserved. As demonstrated by excavations at the Cherokee Sewer Site
(13CK405), Allen Fan Site (13HA382), and The Fett Site (13LE597), there is great potential that significant Early and Middle Archaic cultural period sites may be identified in deeply buried geological contexts within the river valley floodplains.

The archeological record provides many more details of past lifeways in Iowa beginning during the Late Archaic period. Archeological evidence suggests that the human population doubled by the end of the Late Archaic period. In eastern Iowa, semi-permanent habitation sites were established in the floodplains of the river valleys. Upland areas were more intensively utilized both for temporary camps and for longer habitations. The first evidence for domesticated native crop cultivation, metalworking, long distance trade of exotic raw materials, social stratification, and communal burials in mounds and ossuaries appear at Late Archaic cultural period sites. Based on the archeological evidence, it appears that a stronger sense of territoriality may have existed within the populations during this cultural period. There are also clear archeological indications of conflict.

The Woodland cultural period is defined by significant cultural and technological changes that began around 800 BC. The Woodland period is generally divided into three cultural sub-periods: Early Woodland (800 BC to 200 BC), Middle Woodland (200 BC to AD 400), and Late Woodland (AD 400 to AD 1200). Human populations dramatically increased throughout the state during the Woodland cultural period resulting in larger settlements. Intensive hunting and gathering is supplemented by further domestication and cultivation of native plants such as goosefoot, marshelder, and sunflowers. New exotic crops from Mesoamerica such as corn and beans were introduced into the state at this time. Improved technologies were also introduced such as ceramic production for food preparation and storage purposes and the bow and arrow for hunting, for perhaps fishing, and for warfare. The archeological evidence suggests that a more complex social structure existed during this cultural period. Burial and ceremonial mound construction became more frequent and more elaborate as witnessed by the construction of effigy mounds in the forms of birds, bears, and lizards in northeastern Iowa during the Late Woodland period. Archeological evidence suggests that there was increased social interaction between groups, as witnessed by the exchange of exotic trade goods over long distances, which is believed to have peaked during the Middle Woodland cultural period with the Hopewell Interaction Sphere (Struever 1964).

The Late Prehistoric period is distinguished by the establishment of semi-permanent and permanent villages by some groups and isolated farmsteads or small farm hamlets for other groups. Many of these groups of people had subsistence economies based on intensive hunting and gathering along with agriculture featuring corn as the staple crop. The use of earthlodges for homes was common during the Late Prehistoric period. This period is also marked by improvements in ceramic technology for food storage and preparation. The hunting and utilization of Bison meat for food, bones for tools, and hides for clothing and dwelling coverings significantly increased. There are currently four distinct late prehistoric cultural manifestations defined in Iowa: Great Oasis, Mill Creek, Glenwood, and Oneota. Each was a subsistence economy based on intensive hunting and gathering and agriculture featuring corn as its staple crop.
The Great Oasis culture flourished in Iowa from approximately AD 800 to AD 1100 and was the earliest of these late prehistoric cultures. Over 100 Great Oasis Culture sites have been identified in central Iowa within the Raccoon and Des Moines River Valleys, in northwestern and north central Iowa. Great Oasis sites are also found in South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and southern Manitoba. Typically the Great Oasis Culture people lived in small, semi-sedentary villages located on low terraces within the river and stream valleys and on the shores of lakes in southern Minnesota and north central Iowa. The archeological evidence suggests that communal bison hunting was an important activity for these peoples. Archeological evidence suggests that the people of the Great Oasis Culture traded and interacted with other Late Prehistoric cultures in Iowa and in the Midwest.

The Mill Creek Culture, also referred to as the Initial Variant of the Middle Missouri Tradition, existed in northwestern Iowa from approximately AD 1100 to AD 1250. There have been 35 settlements or burial sites identified in two localities along the Big Sioux River and its tributaries in Woodbury and Plymouth Counties and along the Little Sioux River and its tributaries in Cherokee, O’ Brien, and Buena Vista Counties. The Mill Creek Culture people lived in well-planned, compact, semi-permanent villages, some of which were fortified with palisades and ditches. Similar to the Great Oasis culture, communal bison hunting was an important activity for these peoples according to the archeological evidence. Intensive agriculture activities were practiced by these peoples as witnessed by utilization of both domesticated native crops such as goosefoot and marshelder and introduced Mesoamerican cultigens such as corn and beans. Archeological evidence at the Litka Site in O’ Brien County suggests that the Mill Creek Culture also employed agricultural technological advancements such as ridged agricultural fields and corn hills for growing their crops. Archeological evidence suggests that the Mill Creek Culture people traded and interacted with other Late Prehistoric groups in Iowa and in the Midwest. It is currently believed that the historic Mandan Tribe may be descendants of the Mill Creek Culture.

The Glenwood Culture, designated as the Nebraska Phase of the Central Plains Tradition, represents the expansion of groups from the central Plains of Missouri and Kansas northward into eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa around AD 1000. The Glenwood Culture lived in southwestern Iowa until approximately AD 1300 and represents the only Nebraska phase locality east of the Missouri River. The Glenwood Culture sites represent isolated farmsteads or small farming hamlets. Approximately 80 earthlodges associated with this culture have been identified primarily in Mills County but also in Fremont and Pottawattamie Counties along the Missouri River and its tributaries. Archeological evidence suggests that the Nebraska Phase peoples traded and interacted with other Late Prehistoric groups in Iowa and in the Midwest. It is currently believed that the historic Arikara and Pawnee Tribes may be descendants of the Glenwood Culture.

The Oneota culture lived throughout Iowa and the Upper Midwest between approximately AD 1200 to AD 1700 in large semi-permanent and permanent villages. One of the distinctive traits of the Oneota Culture was their use of shell temper in their ceramic pottery, which allowed the creation of thinner and stronger-walled ceramic
vessels. Based on archeological, ethnohistorical, and linguistic evidence, it is believed that historical American Indian Tribes such as the Ioway, Oto-Missouria, and Ho-Chunk/Winnebago are descendants of the Oneota Culture.

**Historic Archeology Resources:**

Historic archeology has contributed significantly to understanding the history of Iowa. An extremely rich historical archeological record of Iowa sites dating from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries have been identified, investigated, and documented. These sites are associated with different ethnic groups and functional uses. Types of sites represented in Iowa include American Indian villages, fur trade outposts, frontier military posts, steamboat wrecks, coal and lead mining operations, limestone quarrying operations, breweries, saw and grist mills, historic farmsteads, and abandoned towns, just to mention a few. A number of these types of sites are extremely interesting because tangible evidence of the interactions between different historic ethnic groups has been documented. Historic archeological sites have been investigated in Iowa since the 1930s.

The initial interest in early historic period sites focused on the early Euroamerican settlement of Iowa and on the interactions between American Indian tribes and the Euroamericans. In Iowa, the early historic period has been defined as the period of time from AD 1650 to AD 1865 in past planning efforts and developed historic contexts. Generally in Iowa, the year AD 1650 serves as a boundary between the historic and prehistoric periods. It is entirely possible that early historic Euroamerican period sites dating before AD 1650 could exist in Iowa, although none have been documented to date.

The interest in Early Historic American Indian sites was a logical extension of the archeological focus on American Indian sites during the late nineteenth century and most of the twentieth century. Early Historic American Indian sites associated with a number of tribes such as the Ioway, Winnebago, Sauk, Meskwaki, Yankton Sioux, and Pottawattamie have been documented in Iowa. Most of these sites date to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, some of the identified sites date back to the seventeenth century. Archeological investigations in northeast Iowa identified a number of Oneota archeological sites dating to the seventeenth century that appear to correspond with historically reported locations of Ioway villages during this time period (Mott 1938; Wedel 1959). Another site where numerous archeological investigations have been conducted is Blood Run, a large Oneota site in northwestern Iowa and southeastern South Dakota (Henning and Theissen 2004). This site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. Historic accounts identify Blood Run as the location where a number of tribes including the Omaha, Ioway, and possibly Oto lived together in the late seventeenth century. The research and investigations conducted by Mildred Mott Wedel in northeastern Iowa was very significant as it represents one of the first attempts in the Midwest to correlate ethnographically known tribal groups with an archeologically defined prehistoric culture.
All of the presently identified early historic period sites associated with Euroamericans in Iowa date between the late 1780s and 1865. Most predate June 1, 1833 (the official opening date for Euroamerican settlement of a small portion of eastern Iowa) are located in eastern Iowa, primarily along the Mississippi River. Early historic period sites have also been identified along the Missouri River in western Iowa as well. Historical records suggest that a number of early historic period archeological sites associated with Euroamericans in Iowa dating between AD 1700 and AD 1780 may exist. However, only a few of these sites have been identified and substantiated through archeological evidence to date.

Three main economic activities have been attributed to attracting great numbers of Euroamerican settlers to Iowa during the early historic period: lead mining in northeastern Iowa primarily around modern day Dubuque, availability of land for establishing agricultural farms, and the fur trade and other types of interactions (such as military) with various tribes on the frontier. Archeological investigations conducted at sites dating to the early historic period have focused on a variety of different types of functions and uses such as defense, commerce/trade, industrial, domestic, agriculture/subsistence, transportation, and industrial/processing/extraction relating to these economic activities.

A considerable amount of archeological research has been conducted on former military posts in Iowa dating to this period. One of the investigated sites, Old Fort Madison, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The significance of lead mining in northeastern Iowa during this period has been supplemented by the steadily growing amount of archeological and cultural landscape evidence. Three archeological districts associated with lead mining activities within the Mines of Spain National Historic Landmark are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological investigations have significantly contributed to historical research through documenting other types of early industrial pursuits such as saw and grist mills, blacksmith shops, pottery operations, and brick and tile operations.

The interest in the early historic period archeology sites in Iowa continues into the present. However, beginning in the 1980s and 1990s, there has been an increasing interest in historical archeological sites dating to the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Sites of particular interest in this time period include historic farmsteads, abandoned town sites, transportation related sites, and various types of industrial pursuits such as coal mining in southern Iowa, milling industries, potteries, brick and tile companies, various manufacturing operations, limestone quarrying, dairies, and breweries.

Archeological investigations at historic farmsteads have focused primarily on technological and economical changes through time (Charlton et al. 1988; Donham 1985; Finney 1992; Nepstad-Thornberry 1997; Peterson 2004; Rogers, Lutzow, and Martin 1988; Withrow 1998). Chronologies for these changes have been proposed by consultants for the different regions of Iowa (e.g., Rogers 1998).
Historical archeological investigations at abandoned town sites in Iowa have produced a number of important and very interesting results. For instance, archeological explorations at the former town of Buxton, an abandoned coal mining town in southern Iowa that had a large African-American population, explored the topics of coal mining and relationships between different ethnic groups at the town (Gradwohl 1984). This site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological investigations were recently conducted at the abandoned Manteno town site in Shelby County, in western Iowa. This former town site played a significant role in the development of late nineteenth century transportation routes in western Iowa.

There has been a considerable amount of archeological research on the historic pottery operations in Iowa, primarily along the Des Moines River. Within the last ten years, there has been a very comprehensive historical archeological study of the former Parker-Hanback pottery works in Bonaparte, Iowa (Rogers et al. 1995). This site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a very unusual site in the fact that one of the original buildings associated with the pottery operations is still extant, although currently it is used for other purposes.

Over the past ten years, there have been a number of excellent historical archeological investigations in Iowa that have focused on different types of sites and topics. Examples include the extensive investigation of the former City Brewery in Des Moines (Rogers 1996) and the archeological investigations at the former site of the Dubuque Boat and Boiler Works in Dubuque (Peterson 2000), which manufactured a number of well known steamboats and other types of ships, and it was the largest shipyard in the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

**Historic Archeology Contexts:**

There is just one multiple property background study involving historic archeological resources in Iowa at a multi-county level that has been accepted by the National Park Service (Appendix A): “The Ethnic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860–1941” (Rogers and Johnson 1991—Appendix A, no. 22) addresses different archeological, architectural, and historical resources relating to the ethnic settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties in western Iowa. Another context, entitled “Flour Milling and Related Buildings and Structures in Iowa 1840–1940” (Soike 1989—Appendix A, no. 24), primarily addresses the historical and architectural resources relating to the milling industry in Iowa. It also briefly addresses archeological resources that relate to this context. In addition, multiple property background studies addressing historic cultural resources have been conducted for the South Raccoon River Greenbelt in Dallas County (Davidson 1995—Appendix A, no. 39), for early settlement and ethnic archeological and architectural properties in Linn County (Rogers 2000—Appendix A, no. 68), and for all of Johnson County (Louis Berger Group 2001—Appendix A, no. 54).

There are many Historic Period contexts for Iowa (as presented in Appendix B) that may have significant archeological sites or components that contribute to the historical significance of the context. As demonstrated above, very few of the previously accepted multiple property background studies consider archeological resources as potential contributing properties. This is due, in part, to the various expertise of the writers, as
many of these documents are prepared by historians and architectural historians, rather than by archeologists.

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES:

Situated in the western Midwest, Iowa came to express an architecture of a regional character that reflected designs popular during times of expansion—the 1850s, 1880s, 1896–1920, and post–World War II era. Residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings together gave each community a particular look, especially as many of its earliest generation of temporary wood structures gave way to more permanent construction of wood, brick, stone and steel. This second generation of buildings appeared first in the older Mississippi River towns and eastern parts of Iowa and moved in a northwesterly direction with the age of settlement.

Similarly, in the countryside, by the 1920s five distinctive agricultural regions were evident: a northeastern dairy area; a north central cash-grain area; and three meat-producing areas—a western livestock region, southern pasture area, and eastern livestock region. In each area, farmers adjusted their operations according to the lay of the land, soils, and proximity to markets in order to be profitable. Regional distinctiveness became apparent, however, in clusters of farm buildings that reflected similar if not identical operations. In the northeast dairy region with its plentiful pasture lands, for example, large dairy barns and silos proliferated, but were nearly absent from the central Iowa cash grain region where farmers concentrated on producing corn or soybeans that required fewer farm buildings—a large metal pole barn, house, double corn crib, and some grain storage bins. Conversely, farmsteads within the three livestock areas where there are greater portions of un tillable pastureland have more farm buildings. These are to meet the more varied needs of raising both crops and animals, including wire cribs, circular bins and silos for feed-grain, corn and silage, storage for store-purchased feed concentrates, pole-frame sheds for baled hay, house, cattle feeder barn or hog confinement buildings. Farms in the southern pasture area of Iowa generally have less productive land than the other areas and this is reflected in the reduced scale and prosperous look of the farms. Furthermore, many of the agricultural areas have high potential for designation as rural historic landscapes.

To date, the greatest preservation attention in Iowa’s countryside has been with the farm’s two primary buildings—the house and barn. While various piecemeal rural survey initiatives, both public and private, have occurred in the state, most of rural Iowa has yet to be surveyed beyond the boundaries of small towns. That being said, however, much positive work has been accomplished and Iowa stands a leader among states in the number of farms or barns listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Silos and Smo kestacks, the National Heritage Area that comprises roughly the northeast one-fourth of iowa, is dedicated to telling America’s agricultural story. We expect its efforts to yield added appreciation for, and acknowledgement of, the importance of places connected to farming, rural industry and life in Iowa.

The state’s architectural and agricultural development followed along growing networks of transportation. Indeed, it might be said that water, road and rail routes
became both catalyst and arbiter of state development. Military roads for supplies and trade extended from early territorial forts—Fort Madison in 1811 to 1812, Fort Atkinson in 1840 to 1849, elements of which still survive. During territorial and early statehood years, leaders paid considerable attention to creating and maintaining roads for interior settlement and communication. Military roads, plank road schemes, and stage road contracts added several early routes, the remnants of which may be considered rural historic landscapes eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Most early wagon roads and trails extended from the countryside down to the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and, to some extent the state’s leading interior waterways—Des Moines, Cedar, Wapsipinicon, and Iowa Rivers.

These delivery points for incoming and outgoing goods fueled river based commerce. Augmenting Iowa’s river town growth during the post-Civil War decades, huge rafts of logs were floated downriver from northern forests to Iowa lumber mills in Dubuque, Clinton, and Muscatine. There thousands of workers transformed the logs into construction lumber, sash and doors, and furniture for sale to settlers further west. Evidence of the wood milling operations has largely vanished although several fine mansions of mill owners and neighborhoods of wood workers are still to be found. The days of flourishing river based economies can also be seen today in surviving warehouses from which commodities were stored for shipment to St. Louis or where incoming goods were stored for inland distribution. Similarly past eras of important economic activity are shown in bygone meat-packing plants, flour mills, and soap factories, which rose at loading points, creating higher value products for sale to settlers and for supplying downriver markets.

Steamboat owners and their river pilots who hauled the people and products knew it to be a risky but highly profitable business. Many heavily laden boats faced danger in shifting river courses, where the rise and fall in river levels could cut new channels, which set loose floating debris and exposed sunken trees. Steamboat wrecks littered the dangerous bends and chains of rocks. On the Mississippi River, most wrecks in the main channel had been removed before the close of the nineteenth century by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Those that remain lie in undisturbed oxbows and onetime channels. Most sunken steamboats that exist today are on the Missouri River where more constantly shifting channels left them here and there on the valley bottoms. Prime zones of likely steamboat wreck concentrations have been identified. An extensive literature survey in the late 1970s by the state historic preservation office identified zones of potential wrecks that included the Upper and Lower rapids on the Mississippi River and, on the Missouri River, the Plattsmouth area, De Soto Bend, Onawa Bend—Louisville Bend—Pratt’s cut-off, and Omaha and Winnebago Reservation area (Bowers, Muessig, and Soike 1988—Appendix A, no. 4).

Back from the river’s edge, crossroad communities sprouted as did townsites at places where flour mill speculators discovered favorable water power sites to run their milling machinery. A mid-1980s archival and limited field research project of flour milling conducted by the SHPO revealed that about two-dozen grain mills exist in Iowa from its eras of flour mill growth and decline (Soike 1989—Appendix A, no. 24). As each miller set up operation, country roads soon wended their way to the mill for farmers to bring
their grain, and merchants built various stores there to provide the farmers with supplies and other services. Within thirty years, however, flour milling was largely gone from the state leaving in sharp decline numerous mill towns. Often only a general store or town church stands to remind us of their short-lived prosperity. It was the railroad’s arrival, however, that marked the end for many of the river-based and crossroad communities. But with it also came a whole new generation of country towns and urban growth.

Iowa benefited greatly by rail connections extending west from Chicago. Five trunk lines crossed Iowa by 1870, including the Chicago and North Western; the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific; the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul; the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; and the Illinois Central. The state’s agriculture prospered. Iowa became the center for finished cattle, where farmers fattened feeder cattle with their surplus corn before shipping them to stockyards in Chicago. Hog production also increased as Iowa farms found a ready outlet in Chicago for their corn-fed livestock. This chain of distribution for receiving and delivering farm produce brought about numerous facilities at rail points—grain elevators, feed mills, loading docks, freight and passenger depots, and warehouses. While reminders of the earlier time are yet seen next to less traveled rail lines, modernized facilities alongside the busy routes have largely replaced those from earlier days of steam railroads. A statewide railroad research project, including a widely distributed Multiple Property Document and several National Register nominations in 1990, provide glimpses into what remains of Iowa’s significant railroad related facilities (Conard and Cunning 1990—Appendix A, no. 6).

With the steam railroad came hundreds of new country towns along the route and miles of country wagon roads for farmers to reach the rail delivery points. The first town buildings were typically wood frame affairs. Few of the earliest survive—a small commercial building or pioneer’s residence—connecting town residents to their beginnings. More common are places associated with the next generation of town development. Brick commercial buildings and the houses of prospering merchants today bring public appreciation of the days when town growth brought a finer look to the community.

Regional towns of greater size often developed where rail lines crossed. This might include a rail division point for repair and service of equipment. Its sizable labor force and facilities—locomotive and car shops, yards, water treatment and coaling stations—all expanded the local economies of towns such as Oelwein, Burlington, Clinton, Stuart, Creston, and Council Bluffs. Remnants marking its onetime importance lie among the former rail communities, calling attention to significant moments in the town’s growth.

Hard-surface roads—the final pacesetter of town and city growth—dated to when the automobile’s popularity demanded and bought them into existence. As passenger rail traffic faded, so too did the rail’s influence on town orientation. Hotel and other services located near the railroad gave way to new sectors of commerce sprouting along the new highway corridors of asphalt and concrete. Motels and automobile courts, service stations, and a host of stores vied for position along the best traveled and accessible routes and in the process altered the shape and look of towns and cities.
In Iowa the best known route to travelers became the transcontinental Lincoln Highway and it is the subject today of various preservation efforts and publicity (e.g., Conard 1992—Appendix A, no. 44). With reliable highways, farm families no longer were tied by dirt roads leading to their closest rail connection or to what could be purchased by rail through the Sears and Roebuck Catalog. They could now travel to larger towns for larger purchases and other varied enjoyments. Consequently, some small town merchants saw their business wither. Others adjusted to farmers now coming to town more often than before, but who no longer bought things in bulk (e.g., flour, sugar, and coffee now were packaged in one, five, and ten pound amounts). Specialty stores displaced the all-purpose general store, as independent soda fountains and five-and-dime stores flourished in the first half of the twentieth century before giving way to larger chain stores with their wider choice of offerings. Fortunately, many of these commercial stores accommodated new later functions and continue to stand on Main Street. Downtown commerce meanwhile faced new rivals at the town’s edge; strip malls and other roadside businesses grew up at important road crossings in association with suburban residential growth. Then in modern times came the new urban forms of office parks and its nearby restaurants, coffee houses, doughnut/bagel shops, superstores, and suburban-style neighborhoods. All of these developments grew and depended on the expansion of paved roads for automotive and truck traffic. The fate of downtown main streets has brought preservation attention of two kinds. For twenty years the Iowa Main Street program, administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development, has with great success helped communities pursue economic development activities in the context of historic preservation. Also, the State Historic Preservation Office has worked to provide an historic and architectural framework for evaluating the National Register eligibility of downtown districts through completing a Multiple Property Documentation study plus several nominations of districts in 2001 (Nash 2002—Appendix A, no. 15).

With the automobile also came opportunities for pleasure driving beyond one’s town. Not only were numerous roadside parks created, but an active movement bloomed to establish state and county parks. “In the short space of ten years,” wrote a member of the Iowa State Conservation Commission in 1940, “Iowa jumped to the fourth ranking State in the country in paving mileage, surpassed only by New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania. Thus everybody in Iowa can now and does drive to our state parks” (Flickinger 1940). And, by that time, Iowa reportedly had developed a system of 75 parks (Parker 1941).

Road improvements expanded and altered public sports opportunities as well. To bring understanding to these recreation developments, Iowa’s State Historic Preservation Office completed a study and survey of places associated with team sports in Iowa from 1850 to 1960 (Rogers and Kernek 2003—Appendix A, no. 21). The survey embraced baseball, basketball, football, swimming, track and field, and wrestling, with special attention to the roles of women and minorities in these particular sports. A number of sports facilities were found to survive from this era of growth in team sports.

With greater recreational opportunity and advancing public interest in the values of conservation came new appreciation after 1900 for Iowa’s distinctive cultural and
natural landscapes. The rugged northeastern “driftless” area was first to get attention with its mix of rock, ravines, and river mixed with buildings such as Ft. Atkinson dating to early state history. It became part of a 1920s effort to obtain congressional approval for an Upper Mississippi Valley National Park. This campaign helped to establish the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Public interest in the Iowa Great Lakes area of northwest Iowa—Spirit Lake and Okoboji Lakes—fueled tourism development, while other areas, including the north central prairie pothole region and steeply rolling areas of southern Iowa, came in for increased attention as conservation organizations and agencies pursued opportunities to establish state and county parks. In recent years, western Iowa’s loess hills region has drawn special public concern, including a congressional study for potential National Park designation, its designation as a Scenic Byway area, and numerous promotional efforts by grassroots organizations. The range of institutional efforts that rose on behalf of preserving aspects of these landscapes is detailed in Rebecca Conard, *Places of Quiet Beauty: Parks, Preserves, and Environmentalism* (1997).

Demand for public services multiplied as the state’s economy became more complex. Government buildings, responding to the growing size and scope of government agencies, expanded beyond the parcels where once only the city hall, the county courthouse, or the state capitol had rested. New buildings now accommodated the work of persons responsible to build highways, provide libraries, supply health and welfare services, or direct the building of infrastructure improvements. Most of those built since the early decades of the twentieth century still remain today. Public appreciation for the historic significance of these public buildings is seen in the large numbers listed in the National Register of Historic Places (e.g., Bowers 1981—Appendix A, no. 3; McKay 1992—Appendix A, no. 14; and Svendsen 2003—Appendix A, no. 26).

A great expansion of educational programs and building facilities came with advancing social needs and economic specialties. Students at the one-room school increasingly got their schooling at consolidated elementary schools with the help of school buses operating on paved rural roads. Upper level grammar schools became junior high and middle schools while the number of town high schools multiplied. Colleges similarly grew in size, especially after the Second World War with the return of troops and during and after the 1960s with the population bulge of “baby boom” children reaching adulthood. Hundreds of buildings mark these periods of expansion at public and private schools throughout the state. Many collegiate campus buildings across the state have been recognized and designated in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, a 2001 historic-architectural survey of public schools that included preparation of public education booklets and several National Register nominations underscored the interest many have in their current and onetime local school (Beedle and Deiber 2002—Appendix A, no. 1).

Throughout history, migrations of people into a growing state added their influence as well. Before 1850, Southern Iowa drew numerous western bound migrants from Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and Virginia. Eastern Iowa counties attracted many from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and New York, along with a foreign born
element from Ireland. Over the next several decades, large numbers of immigrants arrived from the Northern European countries of Germany, Sweden, Norway, Holland, the British Isles, and Denmark. A smaller group, African-Americans, settled during two periods, one in the years surrounding Civil War era and a second following the turn-of-the-century when opportunities opened in coal mining and food processing industries. The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries brought arrivals into urban centers from Eastern and Southern Europe, and in particular, from Czechoslovakia and Italy. In the decades following World War II, immigrants from Southeast Asia have come to Iowa’s towns and cities as have peoples from Mexico and Latin American countries. Each has left signs of their presence, especially in early decades of settlement where various ethnic groups initially clustered together. Perhaps the best known cultural district in Iowa is the Amana Colonies, a six thousand acre communal settlement of Swiss-German Inspirationalists and a National Historic Landmark since 1965. But traces of other religious and national groups are visible as well—in the once numerous but fast disappearing country ethnic churches, in the Mormon migration routes to the west, and in fraternal, educational, and other community buildings seen in areas where individual ethnic groups once concentrated.

THREATS TO HISTORIC RESOURCES

Much evidence of Iowa’s beginnings and growth persists, but much of it is also threatened by ongoing transformations. Changing transportation connections, new industries, different marketing arrangements, innovative production, and processing techniques eliminated some old industries—revealed in signs of urban and rural decay—while encouraging other industries that brought new growth to the State’s numerous cities.

Most noticeable is what is happening to a characteristic feature of Iowa—its towns. As a recent newspaper article pointed out, “Iowa has more towns with fewer than 2,500 people than any state but Texas. They dominate our collective sensibility.” An historian of the state takes it further, saying that because “our cities are in reality small towns grown somewhat larger, an understanding of the small town is critical to an understanding of the state” (Wall 1978, 150). Various seen as the bastion of strength or the suffocating straight-jacket of Iowa, depending on the issue of the moment, the multitude of towns nevertheless cannot be ignored. And they are changing rapidly.

Traveling about the state readily shows signs of prosperity in various towns, especially those closest to cities where better roads permit persons to move in and then commute back and forth to work. This creates both benefits to and problems for the town population. By not working where they live, commuter residents have less involvement with and concern about town life, or take pride in its past. On the other hand, newcomers often see good things about old buildings ignored and taken for granted by long-time town residents.

And yet, traveling across Iowa, especially in its southern tiers of counties and in towns not close to a major highway, the decline of available service facilities is obvious. In the face of long-term population losses in rural areas, nearly every small town
struggles to retain its grocery store and school, let alone its farm equipment dealership and hardware store, as the rail line disappears and grain distribution facilities leave. Residents see their infrastructure of water and sanitary facilities disintegrate and gaze out upon the empty and abandoned vestiges of once better times. Discouraged, they become accustomed to driving to the next larger town for regional hospitals, large purchases, and entertainment and give up on their own town's future.

Iowa's countryside has changed in gradual but nonetheless dramatic ways. It has become more uniform in its agriculture (high volume production of low priced commodities, such as corn and soybeans) and more thinly peopled. Consequently, the services provided by nearby small towns have dwindled. The effects on small towns are conspicuous—closed up schools, shut down factories and grain mills, abandoned railroads, and vacant storefronts. In farm country, old timers see that less than half as many farms are around as in 1950, while those that remain have almost doubled in size. Today’s rural travelers see fewer fence lines, fewer mailboxes, and fewer people. Unpainted and half-broken down obsolete farm buildings and structures dot the landscape; small clumps of trees remain where once a farmstead or a cemetery existed.

Among historic properties, archeological resources are arguably the most threatened and vulnerable type in Iowa. This is primarily because archeological sites are generally less apparent or visible than other types of historic properties, such as buildings. Often they are not identified until they have been impacted by a ground-disturbing activity. Unfortunately, many of the areas throughout the state that were desirable to live during the past are still highly desirable areas to live today. Many identified and unidentified archeological sites have been destroyed or severely damaged by various types of ground disturbing activities. During the past century, agricultural practices were largely responsible for archeological losses, as 99 percent of the land within the state of Iowa has been significantly altered for agricultural purposes during the past 165 years. At the end of the last century, urban sprawl posed new threats to the preservation of archeological sites located near rapidly expanding urban areas.

Principal threats to our archeological past continue to be building construction and development, agricultural practices, looting of archeological sites, and the ongoing course of nature. Development on sites of previous human activity is a leading threat, for what lies beneath gives important clues to what went on before. Whether affecting sites of historic and pre-historic value at, say, early Fort Des Moines II on the forks of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers or at a burial mound site when constructing a cell-tower in northwest Des Moines, historical and sacred sensitivities are exacerbated and information about the past is lost. Meanwhile in the countryside, chisel plowing, land terracing, drainage practices, levee construction, lake dredging, and lake construction activities continue to take their toll on evidence of prehistoric times. Looting of archeological sites for various purposes remains a serious threat despite many efforts to discourage those activities.

Finally, the forces of nature continue to present persistent ongoing threats to historic property preservation in the state. Flooding, perhaps the most serious threat in Iowa, endangers all types of nearby historic properties. Just witness the several large scale
flood events that occurred in Iowa during the 1990s. The property damage for the flood event of 1993 in Iowa alone was estimated at between 5 and 6 billion dollars. Archeological sites are particularly vulnerable to the flood events as many of the recorded archeological sites in Iowa are located within various floodplains. Sometimes a flood helps reveal previously unknown sites, but too often it comes at the cost of destroying the sites. In some instances, flood events have helped preserve archeological sites through burying the sites with various amounts of alluvial depositions. This scenario presents complicated challenges for finding these buried sites; when an archeologist locates one it tends to have greater potential to contain intact deposits and significant undisturbed information. In other cases, the high water velocities of the floods have caused major erosion of landforms, sometimes even significantly altering or completely removing entire landform features along with cultural resources that may be present. Although the amount of erosion is greatest during flood events, the normal meandering of rivers and streams also has had the same effects on cultural resources.

The greatest threat to historic-period places in Iowa is the quiet process of disregard or neglect that comes from failure to deal with, as an observer notes, the twin forces of gravity and water. Whether from seeing few prospects for using a building or site or inability to overcome changing economic realities that make buildings obsolete, the result is the same. Outdated farm properties are especially vulnerable. The buildings may reflect an important bygone time of progressive agriculture, but the farm is mainly a unit for producing products and the farm owner cannot easily justify fixing up buildings that no longer fit into the current operation. Occasionally family sentiment brings investment into grandpa’s old barn, but the same is rarely done for the chicken house, hog barn, or clay tile silo. They stand in disrepair, filled with other old equipment, or left to fall down.

Next are rural places at the edge or outside a town that no longer have a use. The country church, the family cemetery, the district school, the crossroads creamery, the grain elevator—these and more are facing gradual extinction. The farm population that once sustained them is gone; their reason for being has vanished. Little appreciation comes because little is known about them any longer.

Old rural businesses prove vulnerable in the fast-changing economy. Our modern agriculture—integrated as it is into a national and world economy—is rooted in a century-long development of farming practices, plant and livestock and fertilizer and feed services, distribution and marketing arrangements. The mills, packinghouses, and starch factories were unevenly spread across Iowa’s landscape, and these kinds of agribusiness had their day in different places at different times. All of these have faced hard times in the face of new competition and economic arrangements.

The small towns and villages located considerable distances from larger urban areas are in nearly the same situation as the rural places outside of towns. Many times, these small towns have no commercial businesses or services remaining; they consist primarily of household residences and remnants of former commercial enterprises. Many of these small towns have either already become unincorporated or are on the
verge of filing for unincorporated status as they no longer have a viable population to pay the current expenses of being incorporated.

Within cities the situation is different. Inability to preserve an obsolete or abandoned place proves to be less a threat than development pressure. Too often a sound historic property simply stands in the way of some new scheme for the land. Commercial growth expands into the surrounding ring of older churches, fraternal, and other institutional buildings, and then it moves into residential areas. This is especially true along major roads through the city where roadside commerce flourishes.

Further jeopardizing chances for preservation are outdated or inappropriate building codes that straightjacket possibilities for development of existing buildings. Join this together with lack of financial incentives for rehabilitating historic buildings, such as adequate state tax credits, and the scales are weighted against retaining existing historic buildings and favorable to replacement through new construction.

We have now mentioned certain larger economic developments rippling through Iowa’s economy that endanger historic properties. Another on the cultural side deserves mention. Many Iowans tend to ignore their history because they think the state does not have much of one. Instead they content themselves with euphemisms like Iowans are simply modest and unassuming about their past. Circumstances of history give some credence to this view. After all, Iowa is surrounded by big nearby cities—Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, and Minneapolis—that in some measure have enveloped and made Iowa part of their hinterlands of influence in sports, culture, and economy. Seen in this light, Iowa might seem relegated to little more than a backwater colony of more interesting adjacent states. This, in the eyes of some, might seem to leave it lacking an identity outside of a middling role in the regional or national story and an area one travels through on the way to somewhere else. To this way of thinking, however, lots of Iowans disagree.

RESOURCES ON RECORD

Surveys and Inventories

Since the beginnings of organized historic preservation activity during the mid-1970s, many historic and prehistoric properties have been surveyed and recorded. Testifying to the large body of information collected are the cumulative totals of reports identified in two databases of the State Historic Preservation Office at the State Historical Society of Iowa. As of August 2005 there were 11,488 report entries for Iowa in the National Archeological Data Base (NADB). With regard to history-architectural studies, 1,234 report entries are contained in the Historic-Architectural Data Base (HADB). Copies of each report are contained in the files of the State Historic Preservation Office.

In terms of sheer numbers of individual properties identified in our statewide inventories, the database for historic-architectural properties contains 111,406 entries. Archeological sites entered in the database administered by the University of Iowa’s Office of State Archaeologist comprise about 24,000 entries.
National Register of Historic Places in Iowa

In 1972 Iowa had nine properties listed in the National Register. This has grown to 2,292 listings today. Concerning those that involve buildings, for example, the Iowa listings include 9,280 buildings and 238 historic districts, the latter of which embrace about 8,000 properties. Less than ten percent of the individual properties lie in rural areas.

Like other states, the vast majority of listings are based on architectural style followed by historical associations and, lastly, by archeological connections. As to kinds of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, residential varieties are dominant (nearly 57 percent), followed by properties associated with commerce/trade (15 percent). In the countryside, as one might expect, a larger proportion of support structures (e.g., silo, tank, windmill) are associated with nearly one-fourth of the National Register listed buildings. In towns and cities, however, where a house typically has no structures other than a fence or an occasional sculpture, associated structures are located at only four percent of the National Register properties.

In Iowa, there are currently 18 archeological sites listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places and 248 archeological sites listed on the National Register as part of nine archeological districts. These individually listed sites represent prehistoric sites from primarily the Late Archaic period beginning around 3000 BC up to the Early Contact period. The National Register listed prehistoric archeological sites are represented by mound groups, food processing sites, small camp sites, and villages. The oldest site is the Cherokee Sewer Site in northwestern Iowa, which was a small camp site/bison processing area dating to the late Paleoindian and Early Archaic cultural periods. Historic archeological sites are represented by a former coal mining townsite, a frontier military fort, a milling operation, a farmstead associated with early Czech ethnic settlement of Linn County, and a former stoneware pottery. The archeological districts also comprise both historic and prehistoric sites related to different contexts.

Unfortunately, only a small number of the identified significant archeological sites in Iowa are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are 32 archeological sites and one archeological district that have received determinations of eligibility for listing in the National Register issued by the Keeper of the National Register during the 1970s and 1980s. There are many additional archeological sites, which were identified as part of surveys and investigations, considered eligible for listing on the National Register.

Interest in nominating archeological sites from Iowa to the National Register has greatly diminished. Twenty-two of the archeological sites and districts that are currently listed on the National Register were nominated in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. Only one archeological site and one archeological district were nominated to and listed on the National Register during the 1990s. Two archeological sites and one archeological district have been nominated to and listed on the National Register since the year 2000.
National Historic Landmarks

The National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Program predates the National Register by over thirty years. It has different criteria for evaluation and significance for nominations and a designation process that involves national review panels and the Secretary of the Interior. While NHLs are automatically entered on the National Register, the program’s rigorous requirements are demonstrated in the fact that fewer than 2,500 of the over 77,000 entries on the National Register (less than 4%) have received this honor. In Iowa, only 24 of the state’s 1,748 entries (1.4%) on the National Register have received National Historic Landmark designation.

Iowa’s NHLs run a wide gamut in terms of historical and architectural themes and associations. Rather fittingly, the state’s first NHL, the Sergeant Floyd Monument, listed in 1960, commemorates the burial spot of the only casualty of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Five years later, the Amana Colonies were designated under the theme of social history because of their being one of the most successful and longest lasting examples of communitarian settlement in the nation’s history. Iowa’s most recent NHL, designated in February 2006, is the Reverend George B. Hitchcock House, known for its association with the abolitionist reform movement and as a highly intact Underground Railroad site.

Six Landmarks were designated under the theme of “Political and Military Affairs.” These include the homes of Grenville M. Dodge, a principal figure in construction of the first transcontinental railroad; William P. Hepburn, considered the father of the Pure Food and Drug Act; James B. Weaver, twice the third party presidential candidate of the Greenback (1876) and Populist parties (1892); and the birthplace of President Herbert Hoover. Also nominated under this theme were the Farm House on the campus of Iowa State University, which once housed “Tama Jim” Wilson before he went on to become the longest serving Secretary of Agriculture in American history and Seaman A. Knapp, the father of the Agricultural Extension Service; Fort Des Moines #3 which hosted the first major attempt on the part of the military to train African Americans as Army officers in World War I and in turn served as the major training facility for the Women’s Army Corps (WACS) in World War II. Iowa’s history as the “land between two rivers” (the Mississippi and the Missouri) was represented in a National Park Service study on riverboats, which resulted in the NHL designation of four Iowa craft.

Six landmarks were designated because of their architecture. They include the Greek Revival Old Capitol designed by the prominent architect John F. Rague; his Dubuque County Jail, believed to be the only significant example of Egyptian Revival design west of the Mississippi; W.W. Boyington’s Terrace Hill, one of the best examples of Second Empire design west of the Mississippi and currently serving as Iowa’s Governor’s Mansion; Louis Sullivan’s Merchant’s National Bank, one of this master architects famed “jewel box” banks; Sullivan’s Van Allen and Company Department Store, believed to be his most intact commercial building design; and finally William Steele’s Woodbury County Courthouse, certainly the largest and one of the finest examples of Prairie Style public architecture in the entire country.
Four archeological sites and two archeological districts have been designated as NHLs in Iowa. The individual sites consist of two late Prehistoric Mill Creek culture villages, one Middle Woodland period mound group, and an Oneota Culture site. The two archeological districts are related to early lead mining activities in the Dubuque area. Those districts were combined into the Julien Dubuque’s Mines National Historic Landmark.

Iowa’s lack of NHLs in comparison to other states is due more to forces beyond the borders of the state than a lack of nationally significant historic properties, and the fact that the State Historic Preservation Office staff has almost no involvement in the nomination process. Although the staff of Iowa’s historic preservation office can evaluate properties as nationally significant when sufficient documentation is provided to support such a nomination to the National Register, this action only places a property on the NHL Program’s study list. Many years may pass before it receives consideration. Also, Iowa’s historic preservation staff is well equipped to evaluate properties at the local and State levels of significance, but national significance is much more problematic because a property must be compared to similar or identical ones in other states in terms of significance and integrity. For additional information on National Historic Landmarks plus a list of Iowa’s entries, see http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/ and http://www.traveliowa.com/iowafacts/landmarks.html/.

Interest in the NHL program has increased in recent years due to the Save America’s Treasures (SAT) grant program. SAT grant applicants for its historic preservation projects must be either National Historic Landmarks or listed/evaluated for the National Register as nationally significant. For more information about this program, refer to http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/treasures/.

National Monument

Effigy Mounds National Monument, located in Clayton and Allamakee Counties, along the Mississippi River is the only designated National Monument (NM) in Iowa. It was established by presidential proclamation on October 25, 1949. The monument is administered by the National Park Service, and currently comprises 2,526 acres of land. The monument contains many significant natural resources and archeological sites, including over 200 prehistoric mounds constructed during the Woodland period (800 BC to AD 1200). The Monument is particularly known for the large representative sample of unique mound groups that contain effigy mounds shaped like birds, turtles, lizards, and bears. These were constructed during the later portion of the Late Woodland period (AD 650 to AD 1200) in the Upper Mississippi River valley and are regarded as traditional cultural properties and sacred sites to numerous historic American Indian tribes. The Effigy Mounds National Monument provides a rare glimpse of a preserved prehistoric cultural landscape in the Upper Mississippi River valley.

National Historic Site

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, located in West Branch, Iowa, is the only designated National Historic Site (NHS) in Iowa. The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site was established on August 12, 1965, to commemorate the life of Herbert Hoover, the 31st President of the United States, who was born at West Branch. The 186-acre
site is administered by the National Park Service and includes historic buildings and grounds along with the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, the gravesites of President and Mrs. Hoover, and an 81-acre tallgrass prairie.

**General Analyses**

To grasp the growth of archeological understanding gained from Iowa projects, the reader is advised to consult two books by Lynn M. Alex: *Exploring Iowa’s Past: A Guide to Prehistoric Archaeology* (1980) and *Iowa’s Archaeological Past* (2000). The volumes contain extensive description and summary analysis of important research findings that have resulted from past decades of archeological investigation. The first book gives an overview of the prehistoric human occupation of Iowa along with discussion of artifact typology and a brief history of archeological research in Iowa. The second book includes an overview of the prehistoric human occupation of Iowa, artifact typology, Iowa landscapes, the science of archeology, stewardship of archeological resources, and a history of archeological research in Iowa. For a concise statement of principal prehistoric cultures, see *A Brief Culture History of Iowa*, which is found at the following website location of the Office of State Archaeologist http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/learn/prehistoric/overview.htm. Earlier general works on Iowa’s archeological past include Duane Anderson’s two volumes: *Western Iowa Prehistory* (1975) and *Eastern Iowa Prehistory* (1981), which discuss both prehistoric and historic period human occupations of eastern Iowa; Marshall McKusick’s *Men of Ancient Iowa* (1964); and Wilfred D. Logan, *Woodland Complexes in Northeastern Iowa* (1976).

Few similar syntheses exist for historic and architectural properties in Iowa. The principal general work is David Gebhard and Gerald Mansheim *Buildings of Iowa* (1993). It surveys Iowa’s architectural styles on a town-by-town basis along with discussions of notable types of buildings found throughout the state. Two major contributions to state architectural development are by Wesley I. Shank. The first is *The Iowa Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey* (1979). It contains both a substantial review of historic architecture in Iowa as well as an annotated catalog of every recordation project completed in the state. The second, *Iowa’s Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (1999), contains a brief history of the architectural profession in Iowa followed by alphabetical listings of architects that have practiced in Iowa, which includes biographical information along with known works. Other studies have addressed the history of particular kinds of properties in Iowa. Examples here are the two editions of *Victorian Architecture of Iowa* by William Plymat Jr. (1975 and 1997); Lowell J. Soike, *Without Right Angles: The Round Barns of Iowa* (1983); and Rebecca Conard, *Places of Quiet Beauty: Parks, Preserves, and Environmentalism* (1997). Additionally, various publications exist on the range of historic properties found in individual communities. Over the years articles also have appeared highlighting the significance of specific properties and a multitude of newspaper articles underscore the wide variety of building preservation projects underway throughout communities of the state.

During the early 1980s attention drew to improving the state of comprehensive historic preservation planning in Iowa. After receiving a special National Park Service
grant to initiate their new Resource Planning and Protection Process (RP3), the State Historic Preservation Office hired a consultant, Elizabeth R. P. Henning, to carry out the tasks. Working with various interested parties, the consultant prepared a report entitled “Initiating the Resource Protection Planning Process In Iowa,” (1985). The results identified a series of proposed study units with accompanying maps and description outlined possibilities in prehistory and history-architecture. The pilot project usefully focused attention on the organization and discussion of appropriate categories of research.

Throughout the 1990s and on up to the present time, knowledge about historic-architectural properties and their meaning to historic preservation has mainly come from the preparation of unpublished Multiple Property Documentation studies in survey and nomination activities. This is in keeping with our state’s emphasis on the development of “historical context” as a main window through which to view and better understand individual historic places. For a list of the 91 studies shown as entries in the historic-architectural database, refer Appendix A.

Areas Intensively Surveyed for Archeological Sites in Iowa

Similarly, archeological survey work is neither extensive nor comprehensive in statewide coverage. Among the 11,266 entries for Iowa in the National Archeological Database (NADB), few contain broader context studies. Appendix A, for example, shows that only five of the 87 entries for Multiple Property Background Studies concern archeological resources. Approximately 2 percent of the State of Iowa land has been intensively surveyed for archeological sites.

Only two counties in the state have had more than ten percent of the land within the county intensively surveyed for archeological sites (Polk and Des Moines counties). Another five counties have had more than five percent of the land surveyed for archeological resources (Boone, Jefferson, Lee, Louisa, and Marion Counties). Remarkably, thirty-seven counties in Iowa have had less than one percent of the land within the county intensively surveyed for archeological resources.

Notwithstanding the excellent work done over the decades, most of the state and its communities still remain to be surveyed and most leading themes remain unconnected in research to historic properties. For example, an important story of Iowa’s early history concerns some 175 persons reportedly across the southern counties aiding fugitive slaves escape from Missouri to the north. Until recently, with the acquisition of an outside grant, the locations of only a few such persons connected to the Underground Railroad and antislavery events were known.

Much remains to be done and, given the general dearth of state and federal funds and foundation grants for accomplishing such work, a long view must be contemplated of the schedule for completing local or statewide “historic context” studies. A list of the contexts of history toward which prehistoric and history-architectural studies are directed is contained in Appendix B. None of the themes on the list have been fully developed. Rather, portions of each context of Iowa’s past have been investigated.
based on available funding and confluence of interests among preservation partners and SHPO priorities.
Places bring history home, recalling the world around us and the world we have made. To walk through the house of, say, former Governor Larrabee is to draw us from our lives and into the one he knew. Spaces, stair treads, layout, woodwork, ceilings, entries bring us back to days when he walked these halls. They reach us in ways that no books can convey.

These encounters prompt efforts to preserve such historic places and, as persons see the rate of loss in their own lifetime, feed a sense of urgency and advocacy. Indeed, the core of today’s historic preservation movement is advocacy. Its energy comes from both pride in place and a sense of loss. Its strength springs from scholarship and knowing the context of a place’s meaning in history; these reveal what is historically important, authentic, and worthy of public interpretation. And its credibility derives from carrying out preservation work that respects the historic qualities and materials of properties and extend their life for future generations. When everything works together, persons and organizations across Iowa are making sure that places of historical, architectural, and archeological value are taken into account if endangered and are preserved where possible.

The way to save the past, many think, is to better control the future through law and regulation. Realities of the world, however, show that governmental action in fact controls but a portion of ongoing events that are, in fact, connected to larger transformations. Lacking decisive control over events to construct, demolish, and modify Iowa lands, preservation turns out to best succeed locally. It is there where persons and community leaders know the circumstances of a property and the extent of local willingness to creatively find contemporary uses for their historic places. Local enthusiasm drives preservation success. Success brings value to the generation living and helps ensure these places will be preserved into the next generation.

It follows that emphasis on local, often personal, knowledge typically brings about effective preservation more than that directed by state or federal professionals, which can too often seem as presuming to know what is in the distant individual’s best interests better than they know themselves. Every local preservation transformation is a complicated story of nuance and detail little understood from afar. Local preservationists sense what is possible to achieve among acceptable creative alternatives. The state plays its part mainly in providing input—advice, suggestions, technical information, and occasional financial incentives—useful to bringing about alternative possibilities, applicable standards, and current best preservation practices. Local, state, and citizen input thus shapes the options from which local persons select for carrying out preservation projects. Managing historic places in Iowa thus means largely a decentralized, non-centrally directed, process of cooperative discussion, feedback, and learning.
Understandably then, community advocacy is key. It happens best when historical and technical information is readily available to those who need it. Statewide advisory services and access to information thus provide preparations for success. The State Historic Preservation Office plays an important part here. It seeks to bring resources for action to those who want it and also give voice to the historic property as needed. These program activities often happen in a mediating role, with staff members acting as intermediaries to resolve differences between conflicting parties. These situations occasionally place them in the awkward position of being judged as overly timid or of being little more than a professional kibitzer—the onlooker who offers unwanted advice. When successful, however, local parties see the advisory services as worthwhile and the information as useful to giving value to places they wish to preserve.

So, we ask, what goals and objectives can best advance advocacy and best encourage sound preservation practices in Iowa? In particular, by the year 2010, what do we want to look back on having accomplished?

Local accomplishments are certain, but understandably they will not be of uniform character and extent. Each participating community will decide preservation goals and priorities differently based on their particular situation of past preservation activity, citizen concern, and interest. Municipalities and counties often will carry out survey and nomination activities through their historic preservation commissions in accord with commission priorities. The goals of individual property owners and sequence of preservation activity will depend in part on the availability of preservation financial incentives, but mainly on the time and personal finances an owner can commit to needed rehabilitation work.

Statewide, goals will be pursued with two things in mind: available resources and certain dilemmas being faced within historic preservation. One is the bulging repositories of artifacts and paper filling museums, universities, and government offices. This is a sure sign of preservation success, but the sheer volume is causing, in the words of one observer, “heritage overload” as “the glut causes chaos: reduced publication and maintenance funds make the augmented heritage ever less accessible” (Lowenthal 1996) Deciding what to save from, or before, destruction requires thought about future means needed to preserve them. In the case of archaeological resources, “for example,” David Lowenthal in Possessed by the Past (1996), writes that “by the mid-1970s so much prehistory was being salvaged that scholars and museums could not handle it, and more and more of what has been excavated languishes unseen and awaiting analysis.”

A second dilemma, connected to the first, is an ever-broadening definition of what is significant to preserve. Some time ago concern mounted to preserve “typical” and “vernacular” expressions of past ways of life. This moved historic preservation efforts beyond notable architecture and leading figures in history to include everyday authentic places associated with larger themes of vernacular architecture, ethnic movements, religious, educational, and agricultural life. Such efforts to designate and preserve the best “representative” examples of these larger developments, has led to huge amounts of data being collected, large numbers of properties and districts declared “historic,” and
increased competition among property owners for limited resources to preserve them. As paper files for them exhaust shelf space in office storage facilities, computer and other technologies are increasingly relied upon to save the information in electronic form.

Also, preservation’s growing presence stands before another contradiction of our time: namely, that the American’s public’s appetite for history is greater than ever before while the output of state historical publications and interpretive material declines. An enlarging mandate presses against shrinking resources, which consequently leads the state’s historical societies to abandon labor-intensive work of writing technical guides, reports, articles, and books explaining the context of Iowa historic properties. Instead, available staff mainly answers customer phone calls and letters, review reports, and only in urgent situations conduct field work and meet face-to-face with owners of historic properties wishing to discuss preservation options.

Such trends make advance planning all the more important. Two recent Iowa planning efforts are helping shape decisions. First are recommendations from members of the general public reached through a 2001 and 2004 statewide series of regional workshops held as part of the Imagine Iowa 2010 planning process (see chapter entitled “The Planning Process”). The second is a body of strategic initiatives of the State Historical Society of Iowa that flow from four identified goals of the organization (see chapter entitled “The Planning Process”). Helping to make these happen, the State Historical Society is engaged in long-term commitments to improving internal services that foster preservation activities and fuller access to information.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Five historic preservation goals for Iowa are presented below, each of which is listed with accompanying preservation objectives or action steps. This five-year plan is intended to embrace local, regional, and state perspectives. All these objectives are not expected to be achieved by every state agency, local government, or private preservation organization. Rather, some objectives will be accomplished by a City, some by the State Historical Society of Iowa, and yet others by organizations working in parallel on their own or with other preservation partners.

GOAL 1: Broaden knowledge about places important to Iowa history, architecture, and archeology.

Objective 1-A
Persons, organizations, and agencies will have access to history-architectural information via the Internet, in searchable form with electronic map locations and photographic images of all places contained in Statewide Inventory Program files.

Objective 1-B
Persons, organizations, and agencies will have electronic research access to all reports and studies related to historic preservation in Iowa, in particular, those in the historic-architectural database (HADB).
**Objective 1-C**
Expand public appreciation and understanding of:

- Pre- and post-World War II resources associated with important building types, architectural styles, and historical themes for these years (e.g., Public Works Administration building projects, postwar residential suburbs); and
- Iowa’s part in antislavery and Underground Railroad activities in Iowa through carrying out a multi-year program to survey, nominate, exhibit, and tour places associated with the pre-Civil War era.

**Objective 1-D**
Persons, organizations, and agencies will have electronic access to selected baseline maps of compiled and published information regularly used for survey, nomination, and compliance review activities, including:

- Ethnic map of Iowa townships,
- Abandoned towns of Iowa

**Objective 1-E**
Persons, organizations, and agencies will have available at the website of the State Historical Society of Iowa all National Register nomination documents in Iowa, excluding confidential archeological sites.

**Objective 1-F**
Broaden financial and cooperative assistance to support more survey and inventory properties in the state by local organizations and governments, and state and federal agencies.

**Objective 1-G**
Provide internet links at the website of the State Historical Society of Iowa to all CLG city, county, and land use district websites that contain historic preservation information, as well as links to National Park Service guidelines and publications in preservation.

**Objective 1-H**
Develop statewide Multiple Property Studies of prehistoric archeological cultural periods and resources, with priority given to the context of Late Prehistoric Glenwood Culture, due to increased development pressures in the Glenwood vicinity.

**Objective 1-I**
Develop statewide Multiple Property Studies for historic archeological resource contexts, giving priority to studies of frequently encountered historic archeological sites such as historic farmsteads and abandoned townsites.

**Objective 1-J**
Hold a statewide National Register of Historic Places workshop specifically to encourage and provide guidance for the evaluation and nomination of archeological properties.
Objective 1-K
Expand public appreciation and understanding of prehistoric and historic American Indian and pioneer settlement history in Iowa through collaborative efforts between the State Historical Society of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, American Indian Tribes, and other parties to further develop and distribute new and existing educational materials.

Goal 2: Build and strengthen local preservation capabilities.

Objective 2-A
Expand training and improve technical information to historic preservation commissions, including accessible forms, presentation, and programs through cooperative partnerships.

Objective 2-B
Persons and organizations will have available three regional National Register training workshops each year.

Objective 2-C
Increase the availability and use of state and federal rehabilitation tax incentives to preserve local historic properties.

Objective 2-D
Begin systematic efforts to identify preservation planning issues, priorities, and viewpoints held by the general public, state and federal agencies, and preservation community participants through questionnaires and report card assessments of preservation activities.

Objective 2-E
Clarify legal bases for designating individual local historic landmarks and district designation procedures within unincorporated areas by revising state code section 303.20 through 303.34.

Objective 2-F
Pursue adoption of an Iowa Historic Building Code based on the International Existing Building Code for Iowa in conjunction with the State’s Building Code Commissioner. This will augment current building codes designed for new construction by adding guides for the renovation and rehabilitation of historic properties. Pursue this objective by assisting the State Building Code Commissioner in the creation of amendments to the Historic Building Code to strengthen its use and ease of interpretation in Iowa communities.

Objective 2-G
Build public awareness of appropriate options and alternatives for rehabilitation of historic properties that are referenced in model codes, standards, and guidelines including American Disability Act (ADA), Lead Based Paint, Fire and Life Safety Codes, Building Codes, Secretary of the Interior’s Standards with Guidelines, Smart Codes, and Green Codes, including LEED-EX certification for historic buildings.
Objective 2-H
Pursue adoption of an Iowa Historic Building Code for use by the State Fire Marshall’s office. This would be based on the applicable products from the National Fire Protection Association’s family of Codes currently in use by the Fire Marshall’s office in evaluating projects and buildings under their jurisdiction.

Objective 2-I
Train and assist regulatory agencies at local and state levels about the State Historic Building Code in its interpretation and impact on historic property rehabilitation and restoration.

Objective 2-J
Strengthen networking among preservation partners, including joint staff trainings, retreats and technical assistance, joint presentations, and information booths at conferences and meetings, (e.g., SHPO and Main Street Iowa, or regional SHPO and Council of Government facilitated workshops).

Objective 2-K
Encourage teaching in schools of historic architecture and historic preservation through preservation partner initiatives, including that of the American Institute of Architects’ program on Architects in the Schools, the Bringing History Home program in grades K-12, county and city historic preservation commissions, and other efforts by local communities.

Objective 2-L
Strengthen existing partnerships between SHPO and the University of Iowa’s Office of the State Archaeologist to develop educational material on preservation options and management recommendations for archeological resources, including ancient burial sites.

Goal 3: Reduce rural losses of historic places.

Objective 3-A
Stem the loss of information about farms and farmsteads through pursuing partnership funding opportunities (e.g., with Silos and Smokestacks, Iowa Barn Foundation, Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, the SHPO, and others) to survey types or eras of rural properties and designate the most significant among them.

Objective 3-B
Develop a climate friendly to rural preservation through local historic preservation plans, zoning mechanisms, easements, and incentives.

Objective 3-C
Coordinate and sponsor workshops and programs to assist with and encourage the recodation of all types of cultural resources for entry into repositories of the State Historic Preservation Office and the Office of the State Archaeologist.

Resources within Reach: Iowa’s Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 55
Goal 4: Strengthen protection of historic and prehistoric resources.

Objective 4-A
Monitor listed or eligible properties in the state

Objective 4-B
Train local commissions in project and design review.

Objective 4-C
Advocate rules and legislation to support and defend basic legal tools of preservation, such as legislation that would apply historic rehabilitation standards to enterprise zone activities that involve historic properties, and advocating broader adoption of the state historic building code by communities.

Objective 4-D
Expand public participation in state and local preservation planning efforts through such activities as the cultural caucuses held every four years and planning sessions of conferences and workshops.

Objective 4-E
Integrate historic preservation into state and local disaster planning, and state and local decision making in advance of disaster events.

Objective 4-F
Meet Iowa law requirement that state agencies that own, manage, or administer an historical site would enter into a 28E agreement with SHPO for guiding management, maintenance, and development activities for such properties under their jurisdiction [Iowa Code 303.2(2)]. Agencies include the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Human Services, the Iowa Department of Corrections, and Department of Administrative Services.

Objective 4-G
Streamline processes and update procedures for resolving preservation concerns through mutual consultation among parties involved in matters of compliance with state and federal laws for the identification, evaluation, and treatment of historic properties.

Objective 4-H
Limit SHPO protection and compliance activities to kinds of project undertakings that are most likely to affect historic properties. This will be done through agreements (e.g., programmatic agreements, 28E agreements) with agencies that fund, license, or permit project activities that will have negligible effects on properties, the activities of which can be considered exempt from review by SHPO.

Objective 4-I
Streamline protection efforts for agency partners that use professional historic-architectural consultants in projects involving removal or rehabilitation of standing structures. For these, the idea would be to have an Iowa Site Inventory Form completed on each property deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, with non-eligible properties covered via a digital photo, GPS location, and address.
Objective 4-J
Develop communication among preservation protection parties by providing internet access to latest information on options and best practices for protecting historic places including ancient burial sites.

Objective 4-K
Assist the federal compliance process by making available electronically on the website of the State Historical Society of Iowa updated Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa (1999) and other guidance documents for agencies and consultants. Before posting the digitized Guidelines, they will be revised to bring them up-to-date with revised Section 106 Regulations issued by the Advisory Council in January 2001 and August 2004, including attention to standard terminology in relation to 36 CFR Part 800.

Objective 4-L
Monitor and update the status of Iowa historic properties preserved through covenant and easement agreements.

Objective 4-M
Encourage cultural resources to be included in county and city management plans that contain contexts of the community’s historical development, educational material on preservation options, and management recommendations.

Goal 5: Link preservation to improving the quality of community life in the state.

Objective 5-A
Participate in historic preservation activities that advance Iowa’s Great Places initiative.

Objective 5-B
Participate in historic preservation activities relating to the creation, development, and enjoyment of Iowa’s Cultural and Entertainment Districts.

Objective 5-C
Celebrate historic preservation successes in communities through statewide publicity, awards, and commemorative programs.

Objective 5-D
Expand participation in Archaeology Month activities that build community appreciation for nearby prehistoric and historic archeological properties.

Objective 5-E
Expand community participation in Historic Preservation Week and Month activities to highlight satisfaction with, and show the possibilities for, historic preservation work in Iowa.

Objective 5-F
Hold annual statewide preservation conferences and workshops for persons to enjoy, understand, and take pleasure in historic resources within Iowa communities.
Objective 5-G
Establish local websites to showcase local historic and cultural resources.

Objective 5-H
Strengthen existing relationships with community and statewide preservation partners through collaborative projects and cooperative agreements to identify, document, preserve, protect, and promote the cultural heritage of Iowa.

PLANNING CYCLE

The plan as presented here is intended to guide statewide efforts through 2010, at which point a revised plan will be in place.

Plan revision will get under way in late 2009 or early 2010, and will be done through a process of public participation. Updates to the plan will take into account changes in the statistical profile and trend lines of preservation activity in the State. Of course, an evaluation of the goals presented in the present document will also be done along with recognition of changes in the planning environment that alter the course of preservation activities.
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Iowa State Historical Department. *The National Register of Historic Places in Iowa*. Iowa City: Iowa State Historical Department, Division of Historic Preservation, 1981.


———. *The Iowa Northern Border Brigade*. Iowa City: The University of Iowa—Office of the State Archaeologist, 1975.


Articles


**Reports and Unpublished Material**


Finney, Fred A. “Mid to Late-Nineteenth-Century Rural Households in the Upper Mississippi Valley Lead District: Phase III Excavations at the Mouth of Catfish Creek in


Rogers, Leah D. “It was Some Brewery. Data Recovery of the City Brewery Site, 13PK661, Des Moines, Iowa.” Report prepared for the Des Moines Metro Transit Authority, 1996.


Schroder, A. M. “History, analysis and recommendations concerning the public programs of the Iowa State Historical Department, Division of the State Historical Society.” Iowa City: Iowa State Historical Department, Division of the State Historical Society, 1981.


APPENDIX A: LIST OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY BACKGROUND STUDIES

(Includes both Unpublished and NPS-Approved)

Statewide and Multi-County Level Studies


2. Benn, David W. “Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers on the Northwest Iowa Plains ca. 10,000–200 BP.” HADB No. 00-065, 1988.


**County – Town Level Studies**

**Allamakee**


**Appanoose**


**Black Hawk**


**Calhoun**


**Cerro Gordo**


Cherokee

Clayton

Clinton

Dallas

Dubuque

Greene

Hardin

Henry

Iowa


Jackson


Jefferson


Johnson


60. Naumann, Molly Myers, and Brian Schultes. “Survey and Evaluation of the Dubuque/Linn Corridor, Iowa City, Iowa and Architectural & Historical Resources of the Dubuque/Linn Street Corridor, Iowa City, Iowa, 1839–ca. 1940: Amendment to “Historic Resources of Iowa City, Iowa” MPDF.” HADB No. 52-001, 1996.

61. Naumann, Molly Myers, and Brian Schultes. “Survey and Evaluation of the Longfellow Neighborhood, Iowa City, Iowa and Architectural & Historical Resources
of the Longfellow Neighborhood Area, Iowa City, Iowa, ca. 1860–ca. 1946:
Amendment to “Historic Resources of Iowa City, Iowa” MPDF.” HADB No. 52-007, 1996.


Keokuk

Linn


Lyon

Madison

Mahaska


Polk

78. Jacobsen, James E. “Historical Residential Architecture in Des Moines, Iowa, 1905–1940; Two Cottage/House Types, the Bungalow and the Square House.” HADB No. 77-197, 1999.


Scott


Story


Wapello

APPENDIX B: PRE-HISTORIC AND HISTORIC CONTEXTS

The list below originated in discussions during the early 1980s. It provides an organizational framework for work that has been pursued over the years in piecemeal fashion as funding permits. The numbers shown in brackets refer to reference sources cited in Appendix-A, which comprise a list of draft and submitted Multiple Property Documentation Studies.

The reader will notice that the time periods overlap in Pre-History (“Early Contact/Protohistoric 1600–1820): and the Historic Period contexts (“Exploratory Expeditions and Claims (1673–1835)” and “Indian Contact, Conflict and Dispossession (1600–1864).” The pre-history topic concerns the period as approached from archeological perspectives and the historic-period topics related to properties approached through architectural and historical study.

Pre-History
PRE-CLOVIS (before 11,500 BC)
EARLY PALEOINDIAN (11,500–10,500 BC) [2]
LATE PALEOINDIAN (10,500–8500 BC) [2]
ARCHAIC [2]
  • Early Archaic (8500–5500 BC) [2]
  • Middle Archaic (5500–3000 BC) [2]
  • Late Archaic (3000–800 BC) [2]
WOODLAND [2, 25]
  • Early Woodland (800–200 BC)
  • Middle Woodland (200 BC–AD 400)
  • Early Late Woodland (AD 400–650)
  • Late Late Woodland (AD 650–1200)
LATE PREHISTORIC (AD 900–1650)
  • Great Oasis (AD 800–1100)
  • Mill Creek Culture/Initial Variant of the Middle Missouri Tradition (AD 1100–1250)
  • Glenwood Locality/Nebraska Phase of the Central Plains Tradition (AD 1000–1300)
  • Oneota (AD 1050–1700) [2]
EARLY CONTACT/PROTOHISTORIC (AD 1600–1820)

Historic Period
A. THE LAND EXPLORED AND OCCUPIED
  • Exploratory Expeditions and Claims (1673–1835)
Indian Contact, Conflict, and Dispossession (1600–1864)

B. COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION

Settlements Emerge
- River Towns: Gateways to the Interior (1830–1870) [34, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42, 85–88]
- Rural “Team Haul” Communities Thrive (1830–1900)
- Special Purpose Towns Come and Go (1840–1950)
- Mill Towns (1840–1875)
- Railroad Towns (1860–1890)
- Company Towns (1870–1930)
- Resort Towns (1870–1920)
- Military Towns (1830–1950)
- Communitarian Settlements (1845–1870) [48]

Townbuilding
- Town Planning and Development (1839–1940) [81]
- Public Works Growth [13, 26]

Rise of Iowa’s Leading Cities and Regional Centers
- Des Moines [76–84]
- Cedar Rapids [69–70]
- Davenport [86–88]
- Sioux City
- Waterloo [29]

C. TRANSPORTATION: ARBITER OF DEVELOPMENT
- River, Trail and Road Transport Era (1830–1880) [49, 27, 85]
- Railroad Era (1855–1925) [6, 17]
- Urban Systems (1880–1955)
- Automobile/Truck Hardsurface Roads Era (1910–1955) [9, 27, 44]
- Aviation (1915–1955)
- Transportation Engineering & Technology (1840–1955) [9, 44]

D. IOWA LIFEWAYS

Mix of Peoples and Cultures
- Immigration and Migration (1830–1920) [22, 37, 48, 68]
- Religion: The Iowa Mosaic (1830–1955) [75]
- Fraternal/Social Community Organizations (1830–1955)

Political and Military Life
- Turbulence—parties, factions, and leaders (1838–1955)
- Changing Character of Government (1838–1955)
- Military Affairs (1812–1940)

Social and Educational Life
- Growth of Primary, Secondary, and Higher Education (1838–1955) [1, 16]
- Social Movements (1885–1955)
- Popular education efforts (Chautauquas, Lyceums, Literary Societies)
- Public Libraries Movement [10]
- Conservation/Parks Movement [5, 13]
- Arts & Entertainment (1838–1955) [8]
- Sports and Recreation [21]

E. IOWA LIVELIHOODS

Agricultural Ascendancy—From Homestead to Agribusiness
- The Changing Iowa Farm (1838–1955) [19, 37, 48, 71]
- Scientific Agriculture—Research, Promotion (1870–1955)
- Agriculture Related Industries—mills, creameries, food processing, canning & packing, cooperatives, farm implements & machinery, hybrid seeds, livestock feeds, fertilizers (1830–1955) [24, 53]
- Farmer Organizations—Agricultural Societies, Grange, Farm Bureau, Farm Holiday Movement (1860–1935)

Commercial Expansion
- Financial Growth (1838–1940)
- Wholesale Trade (1838–1940)
- Retail and Service Trade (1838–1940) [15]

Industrial Growth and Adjustment
- Lumber and Wood-Processing Era (1870–1920)
- Mining & Bulk Products—Lead, Limestone, Coal, Gypsum, Clay (1830–1955) [43, 83]
- General Manufacturing—Machinery, Fabricated metal-products, Equipment and Instruments (1870–1955) [70]
• Labor Movements and Organizations (1870–1940)

F. THE ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Architects/Builders and the Building Profession

• Leading Iowa Architects and Architectural Firms (1838–1955) [11, 18, 51, 74]
• Leading Non-Iowa Architects and Architectural Firms At Work In The State (1838–1955)
• Building Technology (1838–1955)
• Mail Order Architecture—Pattern Book Providers, Pre-cut and Prefabricated Architecture (1838–1955)
• Commercial Architecture (1838–1955) [15]

Vernacular/Folk Architectural Development

• Log Construction (1820–1930)
• Stone Construction (1840–1940) [36, 49, 72]
• Other Vernacular Expressions (1840–1955) [56, 58, 78, 79]

Early & Mid-Nineteenth Century Influences

• Greek Revival (1838–1870)
• Other Stylistic Carryovers (1838–1860)

Victorian Development

• Gothic (1840–1900)
• Italianate (1850–1875)
• Second Empire (1865–1880)
• Stick/Eastlake (1880–1890)
• Queen Anne (1880–1900)
• Shingle Style (1880–1900)
• Romanesque (1870–1900)
• Renaissance (1870–1900)
• Octagon Mode (1850–1900)
• Other Victorian Expressions (1850–1900)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

• Colonial Revival (1890–1940)
• Classical Revival (1900–1920)
• Tudor Revival (1890–1930)
• Late Gothic Revival (1900–1940)
• Mission/Spanish Revival (1910–1930)
- Beaux Arts (1900–1920)
- Other Revival Expressions (1890–1930)

**Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements**
- Prairie School (1900–1920) [31]
- Early Commercial/Chicago Style (1890–1920)
- Bungalow/Craftsman (1900–1930) [78, 79]
- Other Expressions (1900–1930)

**Modern Movements**
- Art Deco/Moderne (1920–1940)
- International Style (1920–1940)
- Other Expressions (1920–1940)

**Landscape Architecture Developments**
- Cemeteries and Parks (1860–1955)
- Other Beautification Plans (1860–1955) [81]
# APPENDIX C: IOWA CITIES AND COUNTIES IN THE CLG PROGRAM

The following cities and counties participate in the Certified Local Government program. Contact information for them can be found online at http://www.iowahistory.org/preservation/.

## CITIES
- Ackley
- Adel
- Albia
- Ames
- Atlantic
- Bedford
- Bloomfield
- Brooklyn
- Burlington
- Cantril
- Carroll
- Cedar Rapids
- Centerville
- Chariton
- Charles City
- Cherokee
- Clermont
- Clinton
- Council Bluffs
- Creston
- Davenport
- Des Moines
- Dubuque
- Eldon
- Ely
- Fort Atkinson
- Fort Dodge
- Fort Madison
- Greenfield
- Grinnell
- Guttenberg
- Hampton
- Humboldt
- Iowa City
- Iowa Falls
- Jefferson
- Keokuk
- Kimballton
- La Porte City
- Lake City
- Lake View
- Laurens
- LeMars
- Lisbon
- Maquoketa
- Marion
- Mason City
- Mount Pleasant
- Mount Vernon
- Muscatine
- Nevada
- Northwood
- Oskaloosa
- Ottumwa
- Perry
- Red Oak
- Sac City
- Sigourney
- Sioux City
- Spencer
- Stuart
- Traer
- Villisca
- Wall Lake
- Washington
- Waterloo
- Waverly

## COUNTIES
- Adams County
- Allamakee County
- Amana Colonies Land Use District
- Benton County
- Buchanan County
- Calhoun County
- Cass County
- Clayton County
- Clinton County
- Crawford County
- Dallas County
- Davis County
- Dubuque County
- Emmet County
- Fayette County
- Hardin County
- Harrison County
- Henry County
- Howard County
- Iowa County
- Jackson County
- Jefferson County
- Johnson County
- Jones County
- Linn County
- Louisa County
- Lyon County
- Madison County
- Monona County
- Sac County
- Shelby County
- Van Buren County
- Wapello County
- Washington County
- Winnebago County
- Woodbury County
- Wright County
Appendix D: American Indian Tribes with Historic Connections to Iowa

This list has been compiled and modified from Alex 2004, Appendix 6.

- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- The Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa
- The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska
- The Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
- The Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin
- The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
- The Santee Sioux Tribe of the Santee Reservation of Nebraska
- The Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe of the Lake Traverse Reservation
- The Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
- The Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians
- The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- The Ponca Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma
- The Three Affiliated tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation
- The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- The Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota Mdewakanton Sioux Indians of the Lower Sioux
- The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
- The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- The Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- The Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma
- The non-federally recognized Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community
APPENDIX E: SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC PRESERVATION LEGISLATION IN IOWA

1955, 1965
State Archaeologist position created and within ten years included a direct appropriation to support activities. Present responsibilities of the University of Iowa’s Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) are defined in Chapter 263 of the Iowa Code. The OSA has specific statutory authority and responsibility regarding ancient human remains and maintaining an inventory of Iowa’s archeological sites. Additional information about OSA’s mission and programs is found at the website http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/.

1965
State Preserves Board established under the Iowa Conservation Commission (now Iowa Department of Natural Resources) with authority to acquire natural places as dedicated preserves, which could include properties of historical and archeological value.

1974
Historic preservation established as one of three separately administered divisions within a new Iowa State Historical Department, the other divisions being the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Iowa Museum and Archives.

1976
State Statute 263B was enacted for the protection of ancient human remains (human remains older than 150 years of age) in Iowa. Responsibilities under Chapter 263B were assigned to the State Archaeologist to investigate, interpret, and preserve ancient burial grounds, and when necessary, to recover and reinter ancient human skeletal remains.

1982
An executive director and centralized administration established over the three divisions of the Iowa State Historical Department, including historic preservation.

1985
The Iowa State Historical Department becomes the Historical Division of a new Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, which included the Iowa Arts Council, State Library, Terrace Hill, and Iowa Public Television. Responsibilities are defined in Chapter 303 of Iowa Code.

1986
Cities that establish an Area of Historical Significance would do so in accord with Chapter 303.34 of the Iowa Code. The proposed area is submitted to the historical division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, which determines if the proposed
area contains contiguous properties that meet National Register criteria and may also provide other recommendations about the area to the City for its consideration.

1992

Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) grants created, comprising five percent of funds provided through the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act. Eligible grant categories included historic properties. These grants were administered by the historical division (aka State Historical Society of Iowa) of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

1998

Historic Sites Preservation Grants (HSPG) program established for historic properties as part of Infrastructure Development Act.

1999

Historic property rehabilitation tax exemption established under Chapter 427.16 of Iowa Code. This permits the county board of supervisor to annually designate historic properties for a historic property tax exemption. Applications are filed with the county assessor, which includes an approved certification of substantial rehabilitation from the state historic preservation officer.

2001

State Rehabilitation Tax Credit program established with $2.4 million available annually through the historical division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Responsibilities are defined in Chapter 404A of Iowa Code.

2002

The entities authorized to acquire conservation easements under the Iowa Code Chapter 457A.1 was expanded to include the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the historical division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, and the state archaeologist appointed by the state board of regents. Also the list of what may be acquired by conservation easement was expanded to add wetlands, agriculture, or open space, and cultural resources.

2003

State Rehabilitation Tax Credit program amended to permit out-of-state investors to make use of state credits by allowing the credits to be marketed/transferred to others that have an Iowa tax liability. This “bifurcation” of credits improved their marketability.

2005

State Rehabilitation Tax Credit program broadened and renamed Historic Preservation and Cultural and Entertainment District Tax Credits. Retains yearly tax credit cap of $2.4 million for projects outside designated Cultural and Entertainment Districts, provides for a yearly cap of $4.0 million on rehabilitation projects within Cultural and Entertainment Districts, and imposes a five-year limit on reserving tax credits for approved historic rehabilitation projects.
2005

A promotional program for Iowa’s National Historic Landmarks and Cultural and Entertainment Districts is to be established by the Department of Economic Development, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Department of Cultural Affairs. The program is intended to maximize the visibility and visitation of National Historic Landmarks through tourism literature, highway signage, maps, and internet websites.

2005

The enactment of Chapter 523I.316(6) requires the reporting of discovered human remains to law enforcement officials, medical examiners, or if the human remains are believed to be 150 years of age or older, the Office of the State Archaeologist. This state statute strengthens the burial laws within the state of Iowa. It establishes the failure to report the discovery of human remains to the proper authorities to be a serious misdemeanor.