

## New Grants for Rural Revitalization

“You know, that’s such a beautiful old building. Somebody should really fix it up.”

Well, now somebody can. Iowa is one of only eight states to receive a federal grant to help rural communities revitalize historic properties and, in doing so, preserve local heritage and foster economic development. The State Historic Preservation Office recently received \$600,000 to redistribute in historic preservation grants, funded by a \$4.8 million grant from the National Park Service’s Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program.



*Pictured: The Hitchcock House in Lewis, Iowa, was a stop on the Underground Railroad.*

“This is a tremendous win for Iowa and a great example of how we collaborate with federal agencies to support historic preservation, arts, culture and film in communities across our state,” Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Director Chris Kramer said. “We thank the National Park Service for its support and we look forward to partnering with Iowans on their projects.”

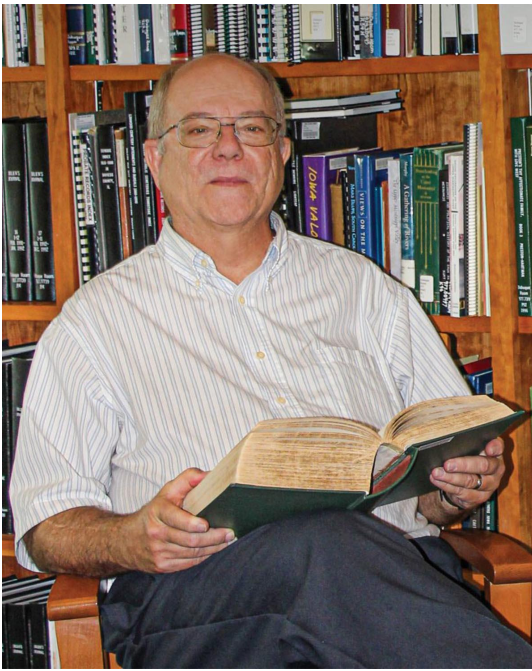
Iowa’s local governments and nonprofits that own properties on the National Register of Historic Places are eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$125,000. Application guidelines will be posted soon at [iowaculture.gov](http://iowaculture.gov).

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## Honoring Dubuque’s ‘Mr. History’

At the Center for Dubuque History at Loras College, a small sign in Mike Gibson’s cram-packed office recalls a Native American proverb: “Whoever neglects the heritage risks losing the vision.”

No one understands that better than Gibson himself, who was honored with the 2020 Petersen-Harlan Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Historical Society of Iowa.



Mike's career with the center began 40 years ago when he helped to create it, and he has been inspiring Dubuquers and Iowans to learn about fascinating history ever since. That legacy was the subject of a tribute in *The (Cedar Rapids) Gazette*, written by Tim Walch, who serves with Mike on the Iowa Historical Records Advisory Board.

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## Student Sleuths in northwest Iowa

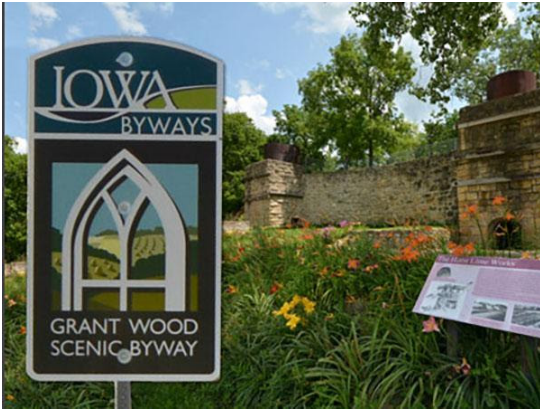
A group of seventh-grade students from the Graettinger-Terril and Ruthven-Ayrshire Community Schools recently identified some of the people whose names weren't listed on the gravestones near the Abbie Gardner Sharp Cabin, a State Historic Site in Arnolds Park. The students will discuss their research and unveil a new marker they purchased during a public dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 9, at the site.



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## Featured Tour: Grant Wood Scenic Byway

Ready for a road trip? While the leaves are turning, download the free Iowa Culture app to enjoy a specially curated, self-guided tour of 22 historic and cultural sites around Jackson and Jones counties. The tour includes beautiful views of the rolling hills that inspired Iowa's most famous artist, Grant Wood. In all, the Iowa Culture app showcases more than 3,500 landmarks through Iowa's 99 counties.



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## Iowa's Black Utopia

"Iowa History 101" series: Tune in online at noon Thursday to learn about long-gone Buxton, a racially integrated town in Monroe County that thrived during the early 20th century. Rachele Chase, author of "Creating the Black Utopia of Buxton, Iowa," will discuss the town's unlikely origins and a few of its prominent residents. Registration is free but required.

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*Pictured: A group of Buxton residents, ca1910.*

## Iowa Stories

Since 2007, the Iowa Stories lecture series in Iowa City has featured more than 70 historians and scholars who have shared their wide-ranging research, including their discoveries within the State Historical Society of Iowa's vast collection of materials in Iowa City. Please join us online for four fascinating presentations, coming right up:

- **Noon, Oct. 15: "Outdoor Shop Talk,"** with DNR biologist Vance Polton, who discovered a stash of film reels of a 1950s Iowa television series about the outdoors.
- **Noon, Oct. 29: "Andrew Carnegie's Riches in Iowa,"** with Shana Stuart, who leads the Carnegie Library in Iowa Project to document and preserve the proud history of Iowa's Carnegie libraries.
- **Noon, Nov. 19: "Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Initiative,"** with Shelley Buffalo, who leads the initiative's creative efforts to promote local and indigenous food production through a farm-to-school program, a seed-saving library and even a maple syrup camp.
- **Noon, Dec. 3: "Plagued by Fire: The Dreams and Furies of Frank Lloyd Wright,"** with six-time Pulitzer Prize nominee Paul Hendrickson, who will discuss his new biography about the architect who built several notable buildings in Iowa.

Registration is free but required.



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## History Alive: Women's Suffrage

To celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment, Iowa educators and their students can learn more through live programming and educator-led activities designed for grades 4-12 and tied to Iowa Core Social Studies and Visual Arts Standards. The live, recorded programs are offered on Nov. 6, 13 and 20 and share first person interpretation of suffrage in Iowa, stories of Carrie Chapman Catt and Iowa's lesser-known women of color who led in the march toward equal voting rights. **Registration is free but required.**

## Save the Date

Mark your calendars for next year's Preserve Iowa Summit, set for June 3-5 in Council Bluffs, and let us know if you'd like to present a session or you know someone who might. The deadline for proposals is Nov. 10, so please spread the word.

PROPOSE A 2021 SESSION

## Programs & Events

- Through Nov. 9: **Featured Tour: Iowa's Presidential Past**
- Through Nov. 23: **Featured Tour: Grant Wood Scenic Byway**
- Through Nov. 23: **Featured Tour: Loess Hills National Scenic Byway**
- Through Dec. 31: **Featured Tour: 20 Artists, 20 Parks**
- Sept. 24: **Iowa History 101: Iowans and the Presidency**
- Oct. 3: **History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault**
- Oct. 8: **Iowa History 101: Buxton, Iowa: The Black Utopia**
- Oct. 9: **State National Register Nomination Review Committee Meeting**
- Oct. 15: **Iowa Stories: Outdoor Shop Talk**
- Oct. 19-21: **Iowa Museum Association 2020 Conference: The Power of Real**
- Oct. 22: **Iowa History 101: Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines**
- Oct. 29: **Iowa Stories: Andrew Carnegie's Riches in Iowa**
- Nov. 7: **History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault**
- Nov. 12: **Iowa History 101: Iowa and the Great War**
- Nov. 19: **Iowa Stories: Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Initiative**
- Dec. 3: **Iowa Stories: Plagued by Fire: The Dreams and Furies of Frank Lloyd Wright**
- Dec. 5: **History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault**

Dec. 10: **Iowa History 101: Winter Holidays**

Please check our online calendar for more events and opportunities across the state.

VISIT OUR CALENDAR

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