



*The above picture captures Pearl Street in 1880-1899. Historic Pearl Street is currently being surveyed for a National Historic District Nomination.*

## **Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission FY 2021 Annual Report**



## Introduction

As stated in Section 2.66.070 of the Municipal Code, one of the responsibilities of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is to prepare and deliver to the City Council an annual report covering program activities and financial status. Thus, as members of the City Council, you are receiving this report.

The Historic Preservation Commission is a nine-member commission, and is currently comprised of the following members:

Commission Members
Johnathan Vodochodsky, Chairperson
Mark Custer, Vice Chairperson
Larry Obermeyer
Amy Macfarlane
Matt Scott
Elizabeth Dooley-Hope
Anna Vestweber ( <i>Expired</i> )
Doug Strohbeen ( <i>Expired</i> )
( <i>Empty</i> )

The Commission met 11 times during 2021. The meetings are held monthly on the first Tuesday in the City Hall Pre-Council Chambers, unless otherwise posted.

The Historic Preservation Commission's primary purpose is outlined in the mission statement - "By utilizing the expertise of the Commission members, researching current information and partnering with other groups and local, state, and national organizations, the Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission will:

- 1) Advise the City Council and other groups on preservation issues;
- 2) Assist businesses, groups or individuals in preservation efforts;
- 3) Educate the residents of Sioux City about methods and merits of preservation;
- 4) Safeguard the City's historic and cultural heritage by preserving sites of significance;
- 5) Partner with other Siouxland groups to recognize, protect, and enhance potential historic attractions to tourism and business."

## 2021 Work Plan

The Historic Preservation Commission achieved this mission through the following 2021 Work Plan:

**Continue to pursue a vigorous educational campaign on preservation issues in order to heighten the awareness of Sioux City residents.**

- A. Present 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Preservation Week and Treasure of Sioux City Awards: Amy / HPC / Staff (Fall 2021).
  - The 14<sup>th</sup> annual award was given to The Warrior Hotel and Restoration St. Louis for their work on the Warrior Hotel that reopened in 2020.

- The 15<sup>th</sup> annual awards were given to Dale McKinney for his outstanding architectural contributions and Shirley McCloud for her work with the Castle on the Hill Association.
- B. Pursue programs that enable the Commission to gain exposure for local history and landmarks: HPC (Continuous).
- Chamber of Commerce Membership
  - Regional Historic Preservation Commission Consortium with Le Mars and Cherokee Historic Preservation Commissions
  - Local workshops
  - Preserve Iowa Summit
  - HPC publications for sale
- C. Involve college students in projects whenever possible: HPC / Staff (Continuous)
- Two (2) interns, Hunter Yearington and Karlie Reagan were hired in 2021 to survey buildings in the Historic Pearl Street District to assist with our CLG Grant Survey.
- D. Search, evaluate, and pursue grant potentials and maintain a ready list of various projects: HPC (Continuous)
- In 2021, the Commission was awarded \$15,000 in the form of a Certified Local Government Grant to complete a survey on the Historic Pearl Street District.
  - In 2021, the Commission was awarded a \$3,000 grant from Campus Compact Tyson Grant for an internship.
  - In 2021, the Commission received \$1,000 from the Siouxland Foundation to pay intern fees.
  - In 2021, the Commission supported the Railroad Museum in the submission and award of a grant to complete an archeological study.
  - In 2021, the Commission submitted a Certified Local Government grant application with Matt Salvatore for Hubbard Park and the possibility of hosting the 2023 Preserve Iowa Summit in Sioux City.
- E. Promote a marketing campaign that advertises and promotes Sioux City's historic features and the Historic Preservation Commission:
- Iowa Culture app for historic properties: HPC
  - Facebook page: Staff
  - Instagram page: Elizabeth/Staff
  - Ads at Airport and City Hall: Staff
  - Website development: Staff
- F. Determine Local Landmarks as needed: HPC (Continuous).

**Maintain a proactive approach to local preservation issues.**

- A. Monitor Placard list and Placard Hearings for properties of significance: HPC (Monthly reports and quarterly placard hearings).
- B. Monitor activities with significant properties: (Continuous).
- C. Continue to review the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council agendas for pertinent preservation issues: HPC (Continuous).
- D. Advocate awareness by posting endangered properties on the website: Staff (Continuous).
- E. Maintain memberships on local boards and committees to represent HPC concerns: HPC (Continuous).
- F. Pursue fundraising opportunities to support HPC activities such as speakers, Historic Preservation Week, and Commission member training: HPC (Continuous).

- G. Monitor physical changes to historically significant properties in National and Local Historic Districts. Changes may include window replacements, façade updates, brick repair, and any related items that could potentially change the historic character of the building. This includes changes that were not presented to the Commission for preapproval: HPC (Continuous).
- H. Evaluate historically significant properties and/or areas to potentially designate as National or Local Historic Districts: HPC (Continuous).

#### **Continue context studies.**

- A. Initiate and coordinate surveys for areas of concern or areas of significance: Mark / HPC (Continuous).
- B. Study the potential development of a Downtown Historic District: HPC (Continuous).
- C. Develop a comprehensive property survey and data collection for each property in the predetermined downtown survey area: Johnathon / HPC (Continuous).
  - Regarding items B and C, a CLG grant application has been submitted for the cost of a surveyor with a match from the City.
- D. Participate in the development and implementation of the citywide comprehensive plan update: HPC (Continuous).
- E. Maintain a historic property inventory for Sioux City: Staff (Continuous).

#### **Provide education of Commission members.**

- A. Encourage Commissioners to obtain yearly training required for CLG: HPC (Continuous).
- B. Conduct yearly review of work plan, orientation manual, homeowner's manual, and mission statement: HPC (December).
- C. Review the website regularly for changes or updates: HPC (Semiannual).

#### **Red Tagged Properties**

The Commission continues a monthly review the City's red tagged property list for historic properties not previously reviewed. The Commission members review properties prior to demolition based on local knowledge and an inventory of over 4,000 surveyed properties to identify potentially historical and architecturally significant features worth salvaging. The property at 3927 Country Club Boulevard was purchased by Lew Weinberg in September of 2021 and has had great progress made.

#### **Social Media**

The Commission continues to increase its usage of social media to communicate activities with the public. A Facebook page details preservation events happening in Sioux City, endangered properties, and monthly meeting dates. The Commission has added the use of Instagram to help promote preservation in Sioux City.

#### **Website Development**

A website is a crucial aspect to promote historic preservation in Sioux City. The Commission approved and launched a new website in October 2020. The website continues to provide a means for the Commission to easily communicate meeting times, special events, articles, and historic properties. The website is located at: <http://www.siouxcityhp.org/>.

In 2021, the Commission was not able to meet. Commissioners and staff from Sioux City, Cherokee, and Le Mars Historic Preservation Commissions meet quarterly to continue discussion, idea sharing, and potential partnership projects in the future. This partnership has proven to be very valuable to the HP Commission in the past and we hope to start meeting again in 2022.

### **Historic Preservation Week**

The Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission, in partnership with various Sioux City organizations, was to spearhead the 15th Annual Historic Preservation Week event in Sioux City in May. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the event was postponed until October this year. Events were centered around Historic Pearl Street as our survey is underway. The 2020 Treasure of Sioux City Award was presented to The Warrior Hotel and Restoration St. Louis for their work on the Warrior Hotel that reopened in 2020 after over 18 months of restoration. The 2021 Treasure of Sioux City Awards were presented to Dale McKinney for his outstanding architectural contributions and Shirley McLoud for her work with the Castle on the Hill Association. This year we added a coloring contest for kids in the Siouxland area. The inaugural Pints for Preservation was held this year. Sioux City hosts one of the few week-long preservation events in Iowa and the Commission looks forward to highlighting more of Sioux City's historic resources in the coming years.

### ***Other Involvement***

The Historic Preservation Commission stayed involved in numerous other activities in 2021.

- Commission members completed numerous surveys of properties this year and will continue this effort going forward. Tom Munson, the Archives Manager with the Sioux City Public Museum Research Center, has helped Commission members with the process of completing surveys. The Commission hired two (2) interns in 2021 to start surveying building in the Pearl Street Historic District.
- The Commission monitors the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council agenda items for items that may potentially affect historically significant buildings or features. For example, the Commission continues to monitor the demo and the addition of new water towers in Grandview Park.
- Sign and Mural reviews in historic districts. The Commission reviewed and approved signage at 211 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 1107-1109 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Looking Forward**

A busy year is in store for the Historic Preservation Commission in FY 2022. Several projects have already begun. Planning for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Preservation Week will begin in January, with a full week planned once again in the fall. The Commission and the University of Iowa Consultant have started the Downtown Historic District Survey utilizing the CLG grant that was awarded in 2021. The Survey is slated to be completed in mid-2022. The Commission will continue to address preservation issues as they arise in 2022. In addition, Sioux City's Comprehensive Plan update is almost complete and historic preservation is included as a topic of significance in the update.

In FY16, the Commission began reviewing alterations and modifications to structures in the historic area districts and will continue this valuable work as projects in the districts arise. The Commission reviews applications in accordance with Section 25.06.090.16 of the Municipal Code and makes recommendations on these Certificate of Appropriateness applications to the City Council. We had no applications in 2021.

## **Future Public Meeting Schedule**

The Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings are open to the public and the Commission welcomes any input on preservation activities in Sioux City. The Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 4:00 p.m. in the Pre-Council Chambers, City Hall, 405 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Fifth Floor, on the following tentative dates in 2022:

January 4

February 1 and Joint Meeting with the City Council at Noon

March 1

April 5

May 3

June 7

July 5

August 2

September 6

October 4

November 1

December 6