



IOWA Annual Barn Preservation Activities Report - 2004

2004 has been a productive year for Iowa historic barn activities. The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance (IHPA) decided that Iowa barn activity, other than the grant funding and advocacy available from the Iowa Barn Foundation should be assisted under the statewide preservation organization. The IHPA is affiliated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and has a close working relationship with the State Historic Preservation Office. It also has a good working relationship with the federally designated Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, which encompasses 37 N.E. Iowa counties. At this time the Iowa State Extension Service has not responded to our request for involvement.

Early in the year we were promoting the Federal funding of the Historic Barn Preservation Act in Congress and encouraging other states to do the same. We introduced a concurrent resolution into the Iowa General Assembly encouraging the funding of the Historic Barn Preservation Act that was introduced too late to make it past both chambers. We are prepared to reintroduce in January at the start of the session. We have also contacted many other states about this form of advocacy.

Next we attended the annual meeting of the National Barn Alliance in Chicago. Burr it was cold and we didn't see any barns. Maybe the organization might consider moving the date to a more mild time of the year so that site visits can be achieved with out weather worries. We met and shared with many other like-minded folks from other states. One thing noticed was the lack of southern state membership and a lack of membership/funding.

After the NBA trip we were reenergized and proceeded with our plan to have 2005 proclaimed "The Year of the Barn and the Family Farm". We Worked with staff in the Governors office and gathered a wide variety of supporting organizations supporting the proclamation. The Governor signed it in mid November and we achieved substantial press coverage. The IHPA decided it's project for 2005 was to provide a simple workshop on barn related issues, financial and technical assistance and barn and farm survey orientation. The form and instructions can be printed from our web site and on site or remote guidance is available.

The 150th Iowa State Fair presented a unique opportunity for reaching out to thousands of people. The photographic competition featured the Iowa Barn. The National Trust Barn AGAIN! Program and our regional Trust office assisted us in



providing over 5,000 of their BARN AGAIN brochures to exhibit visitors. The exhibit set an all time record attendance with over 400,000 estimated people passing through. This again highlights the potential for us to get information out to the public and how much the public cares about this subject.

After returning from the National Preservation Conference, flush with voiced approval from everyone we talked to about having a national barn and farm survey form, John Olson and I proceeded to take the best of the state survey form efforts and blend them into a standardized national form. This would allow universal data gathering, which could then add substantially to our efforts to convince state and federal elected officials to provide financial incentives and protection to these historic structures. The newly completed NBA/NTHP-BARN AGAIN survey forms and instructions will be the foundation of this effort. The State historic Preservation Office will be the central repository for the survey's, with the counties retaining a reference copy and any other organizations wishing a copy could participate. We have decided to use range, township section as well as easting, northing system to locate properties in addition to the e-911 address system.

To date 3 Iowa Counties are proceeding with the survey, operating out of the ISU-County Extension Offices, 2 counties have had presentation but no movement and two more counties are scheduled together in the spring for the workshop. We are launching a big press push the first of the year, hosting two major workshop events at conferences and hope to have a big presence at the Iowa State Fair in August.

December 24, 2004