



## Important Updates from Friends of Historic Preservation

- **Call to Action! Help Save Iowa City's Oldest House**

The Sanxay-Gilmore House at 109 Market (just west of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church) will be the focus of a City Council vote on **Tuesday, June 16**. The Council will vote on an agreement drafted by City staff and the University of Iowa, current owner of the house. The agreement spells out that the City would convey to the UI a 24-spot parking lot (1/5 of an acre), which is across the street from 109 Market. The university would move the house to the lot; remodel it for UI use, following preservation guidelines; and have the option, after 40 years, to return it to the City.

Friends of Historic Preservation (FHP), along with the Historic Preservation Commission, has long been working to save the Sanxay-Gilmore House. Although we hoped the house would be preserved in its current location, **the proposed agreement is a sound solution**. Please help preserve this icon of early Iowa City so it can be used and appreciated far into the future. **Please contact City Council members ASAP and urge them to vote "yes" on the Sanxay-Gilmore agreement.** Email them at: [council@iowa-city.org](mailto:council@iowa-city.org) For photos and house history, see "Sanxay-Gilmore: Iowa City's Oldest House" PDF, also in this email.

- **"A People-Centered Preservation Movement—at a Critical Moment**

In 2016, the National Trust for Historic Preservation adopted a new vision for preservation with three concepts: A. "Honoring the full diversity of the ever-evolving American story." B. "Creating and nurturing more equitable, healthy, resilient, vibrant, and sustainable communities." C. "Collaborating with new and existing partners to address fundamental social issues and help make the world better." FHP embraces these tenets. We supported the National Register designations of Tate Arms and the Iowa Federation Home, honoring the local civil rights struggle for housing for black students. At our Salvage Barn, we practice sustainability—particularly landfill diversion—by saving and selling historic house parts. We work to keep prices affordable and to share tips on reusing old materials. We support mixed-use neighborhoods with a variety of housing and neighborhood shops.

FHP always endeavors to do more, and we invite people from our diverse community—of all races, colors, national origins, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and with disabilities—to share ideas and information with us. Please contact us at [info@ic-fhp.org](mailto:info@ic-fhp.org)

- **COVID-19 Affects Salvage Barn and Member Programming**

As with many nonprofits, COVID-19 stopped FHP in its tracks. We postponed workshops and house tours and closed the Salvage Barn. Like you, we miss the sense of community we all experience at the Salvage Barn—you never know whom you'll bump into, or what great "old house part" you'll discover. We are now setting appropriate protocols for reopening (date TBD) and getting the Salvage Barn more organized and efficient to improve your shopping and donating experiences. Check [www.ic-fhp.org](http://www.ic-fhp.org) and Facebook for reopening info.

- **Watch the 37th Annual Preservation Awards from Home**

COVID-19 did NOT stop the annual event! Once again, we recognized great projects by dedicated owners and talented contractors. Watch it at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=540784449903554> Or google City of Iowa City Government Facebook page; search for "Historic Preservation Awards" or scroll down to the May 28 post.