

Friends of Historic Preservation

April 2025

Good for the community. Good for the climate.

PO Box 2001, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 • info@ic-fhp.org • www.ic-fhp.org

FRIENDS

IS

50

It's our year to thank the members, donors, volunteers, staff, and board members that have sustained the FHP organization since 1975.



Please join us in celebrating this milestone by attending one (or all) of the events below!

SPRING 2025

- **Thursday, May 1** (6:00-7:00 p.m.): The Friends of Historic Preservation Board of Directors invites our members, supporters, and general public to attend our Annual Meeting. In addition to the meeting, FHP Board Member Marty Boller is sharing his History of Iowa City Transportation Presentation. The event is being held at the Iowa City Municipal Airport. No registration necessary.

SUMMER & FALL 2025

- **Saturday, August 9** (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.): Learn how to care for your home's original windows with FHP Salvage Manager Mike Haverkamp. Class is free for FHP members, \$30 for non-members. Space is limited. To register, please email info@ic-fhp.org.
- **Date TBD:** Historic House Tour in Iowa City (details coming soon).
- **Saturday, November 1:** Celebration at Old Brick, the birthplace of Friends (details coming soon).

Want to hear about these events and more? Visit ic-fhp.org to join our mailing list, or follow us:  

Friends of Historic Preservation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We work to save historic buildings and neighborhoods and build awareness of the cultural, environmental, and economic benefits of preservation. Board of Directors: David Woodruff, Rachael Carlson, Heather Blatt, Louis Tassinary, and Marty Boller. Administrator: Meg George.

Become a Friends of Historic Preservation Member Today

Our members are invaluable and essential to continuing our work, and we truly appreciate our growing community of supporters.

For our 50th anniversary, new annual memberships are \$50.00. Current members will receive a reminder when their membership is nearing expiration.

Member Benefits

- Free access to our expansive tool library at the FHP Salvage Barn
- Monthly discounts on Salvage Barn purchases
- Exclusive invitations to our events, which include workshops, tours, and community gatherings

To Join or Donate:

Either scan the QR code and visit our [website](http://www.ic-fhp.org):



Or, mail a check to Friends of Historic Preservation, PO Box 2001, Iowa City, IA 52244.



Above and right: Jean shared her collection of family photos with us; the farm through the years.

Salvaging a Home and Saving Memories

Jean Spikes treasured her family's West Branch farmhouse. Built in 1900, the farmhouse served as the birthplace for both Jean's grandmother and mother, and as home for generations of family members. After years of managing the farmhouse as a rental, Jean and her siblings decided it was time to let go of the family home. The house, which sits on acres of farmland, had original wood floors and unique characteristics like newel posts and stairway spindles,

and, overall, was in good condition. The still-useful materials, plus sentimentality, led Jean to seek salvaging as an option.

Mike Haverkamp, FHP Salvage Manager, partnered with Jean to deconstruct the house, and in the process, saved floor boards, window casings, decorative doors, and the barn's large silver cupola.

By salvaging instead of demolishing, construction waste destined for the landfill is

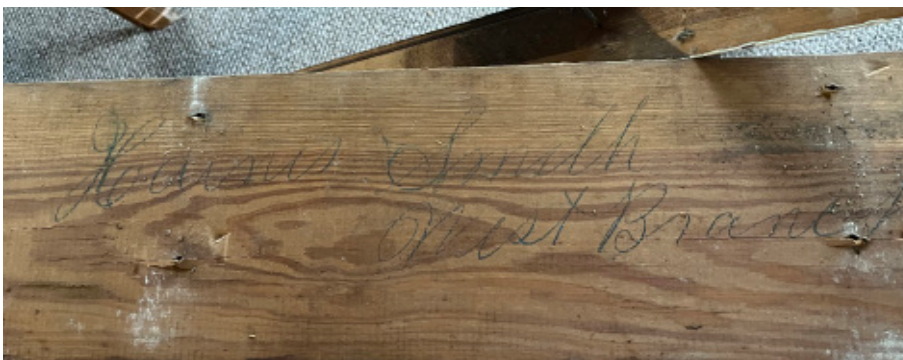
now available for sale at FHP's Salvage Barn, and parts of Jean's beloved family home will be appreciated by another homeowner.

Visit our Salvage Barn

- ✓ Find unique household items
- ✓ Shop sustainably
- ✓ Directly support Friends of Historic Preservation with your purchases
- ✓ Check out tools from the Tool Library (with FHP membership)

The Salvage Barn is located at 2401 Scott Blvd in Iowa City and is open Wednesday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Follow The Salvage Barn for updates on our newest items: [f](#) [i](#)



A fun discovery: the home's builder initialed the underside of the wood floor (above).

Johnson County's Living Legend: Architect Roland Wehner

In December, longtime Iowa City architect Roland Wehner achieved a notable feat: the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center (his design) was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. Had this been Wehner's first building to reach this designation,

it would be impressive, yet even more astounding, the Rec Center is Wehner's second time making the prestigious NRHP (the first property was his own home). Throughout his 40 year-long career, Wehner and his firm accomplished much, creating some of Iowa City's most notable buildings. A look at Wehner's career and life:

- 1931: Born in Hancock County, IL.
- 1956: Roland and his wife Marilyn moved to Iowa City, where he worked alongside Iowa City's first registered architect Henry L. Fisk.
- 1962-1996: Wehner and his partners, Wehner and Henry Architects, completed over 1,800 drawings and a multitude of



Wehner and his wife Marilyn (above) reside in Coralville.

buildings in Iowa City, many of which still stand today. Retiring in 1994 (though he continued to finish projects until 1996), Wehner actively volunteered, and today, continues his photography hobby. He and his wife Marilyn live in Coralville.

To read more on Wehner's life and accomplishments, visit ouriowaheritage.com/rolandwehner/.

Making the NRHP List

It's difficult! The process is lengthy and complicated, but the basics are below:

1. The identified building must meet eligibility requirements, which include being at least 50 years old. It's rare for any architect to witness their creations being designated.
2. Experts research the building's history extensively and use the information to complete a nomination.
3. The nominated building goes through a rigorous review by the State Historic Preservation Office and must be approved by the National Park Service.



Above: Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright, Wehner's Johnson County home was added to the NRHP in 2013.

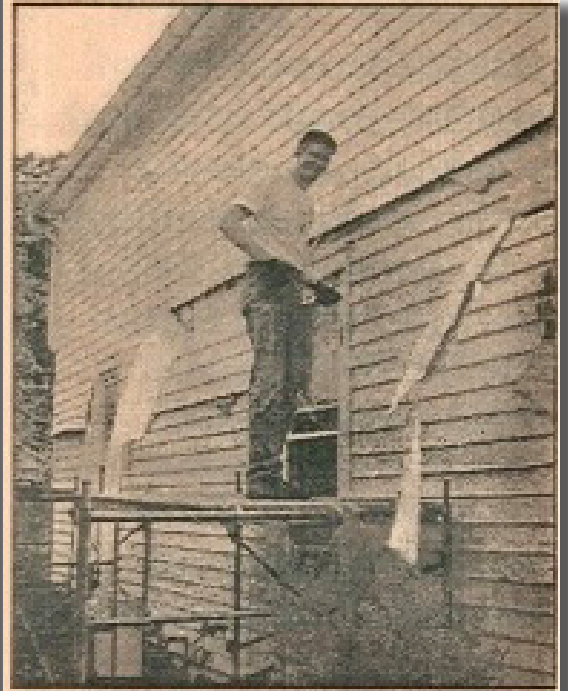


Wehner worked on the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center (above) during the 1960s. The Rec Center opened in 1964.

FHP from the Past



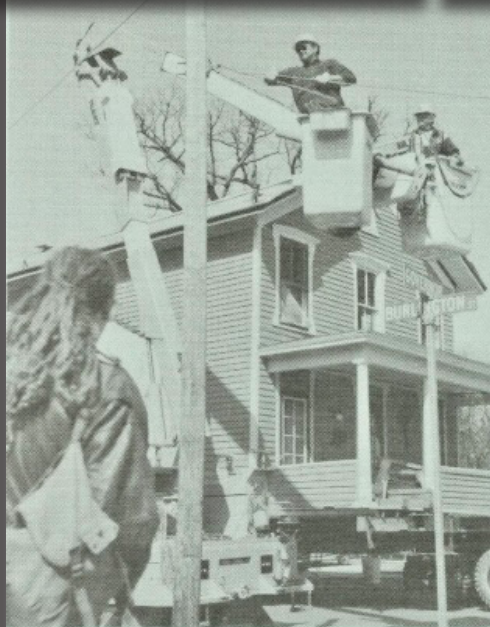
The Board of the Friends and guests at the dedication of the Old Brick cornerstone. First Row: Mariana Trott, Tillie Baker, Kim Trott, Corinne Suter; Second Row: Tom Baldrige, Sandra Eskin, Mariam Gingerich, Patricia Eckhardt; Third Row: Steven VanderWoude, Jim Harris, Jeff Schabillon. Board members not pictured: Paula Brandt, Carol Christensen, Frank Riehl, and Frank Seiberling. Photo by Robert Ryan.



Volunteer David Tingwald helps remove vinyl siding at a volunteer day and exposes intact wood siding underneath that will be saved.



Tom Roenberger and Tim Toomy help build the New Salvage Barn



Workmen lowering wires to allow the "Bower House" to pass on its journey to Rundell Street.



Roger Gwinnup explores the metal roofing when removing the house's old antenna.