

The Ames Intelligencer

Issue 2 of 4 ■ Ames Heritage Association Newsletter ■ April 2001

■ The Ames Intelligencer was the first newspaper in the city of Ames ■

Celebrating 20 Years: Hoggatt School Restoration

From the current exhibit at the museum, by Carole Jensen with assistance from Mark Hamlin

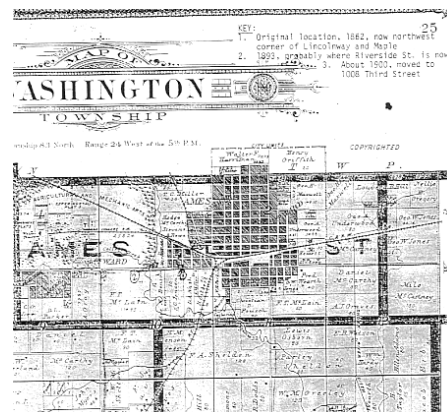
Introduction

Hoggatt School played a dual role, both as a country school and as the first educational building to serve the city of Ames. It was built c. 1861-1862 and was used until 1868, a total of 6 years. It was built on land donated by Lucian and Abigail Hoggatt, in Washington Township, Iowa.

Original Location

The original location of the little school was on the east bank of Squaw Creek, probably near the northwest corner of what is now Lincoln Way and Maple, just north of the present-day Lincoln Way Bridge.

School Moved



In 1893, the area was subdivided and Maple Street was laid out. The Hoggatt School was moved to a new location further west, near Squaw

Creek, probably standing where Riverside Street is now.

Special Invitation
to a Museum Program on the
Main Street Brick Pillars
by their creator:
Artist, David Dahlquist
Sat. April 7th, 1 to 2pm
at the Museum, 417 Douglas



Museum Exhibits at The Story Center through April

“Bringing the Past To Life”

- Bauge Log House: Building from the Past
- Hoggatt School: Learning from the Past
- Farwell Brown: Stories of the Historian
- Tiles N’ Tales of Ames History



Hoggatt School Bought

In 1900, Hoggatt School was purchased, moved and incorporated into a dwelling at 1008 Third Street. In 1980, Mike Rolling, the owner of that dwelling, decided to destroy the building to make way for an extension of his business, Mike's Body Shop. It was discovered that this building included the former Hoggatt School. Mike offered to donate the school if it could be moved.



Ames Heritage Association Founded

In order to save the School, Ames historian Farwell T. Brown helped organize the Ames Heritage Association for the undertaking of this preservation effort. To support and aid the organization in the project, a number of social and service clubs, high school classes, patriotic organizations, architectural firms, labor unions and other groups generously contributed funds, furnishings, and labor.

Moving Day

In April 1981, Hoggatt School was moved to its present location on the grounds of the Warren H. Meeker Elementary School at 18th and Burnett Streets.

Hoggatt School Restoration

Hoggatt School has been kept as authentic as possible. Because construction on the school began in 1861 and was completed by fall term 1862, Ames Heritage Association decided to restore the school to reflect this time period. Research indicated what may have been available at the time and how to recreate it.

Hand-Hewn Beams

In 1850, there were sawmills on the Skunk River, such as Soper's Mill. All the wood for Hoggatt School was probably native to the Squaw Creek area. Its support



beams are all oak, cut from trees 50-80 years old when they were cut in 1861. Most of these beams were probably hand-hewn, meaning that people used a big axe to cut and shape them rather than using a sawmill.

Framing and Flooring

The rough-sawn four-by-fours that framed the windows and doors and most of the wall studding are red elm. Square nails were used to join the boards together.

By 1860, the lumber industry had begun to flourish along the Mississippi River. The birch floor is authentic. It probably came from eastern Iowa and was hauled to Ames by horse and wagon.

Windows and Shutters

The windows are not authentic, but made to resemble the originals as much as possible. The spring-type windows were often used at that time. They are restored to their original locations. Shutters were commonly used at that time. They helped keep out cold, animals, etc., but opened to admit light in the daytime.

Chimney

The chimney is mounted on a bracket. The cupboard is part of the support system. This would have been installed to save on bricks. The chimney base starts about three feet down. These bricks were obtained from the old Ames High School.

Foundation

The original foundation was stone; therefore, no cement blocks were used in restoring the school foundation. Instead, a sturdy new foundation of native stone was used to make it as authentic as possible.



First Teachers

In 1862, Sarah Jane Emery became the first school marm in Hoggatt School. She resided in the Farm House at Iowa State College with the Fitzpatrick family. You can visit her room at the Farm House Museum on the ISU campus. Henry May was the next teacher. In 1867, the new town of Ames took over the school building; May became the first Ames schoolteacher.

Artifacts Located

Many people helped AHA locate the artifacts used in the restoration of the school. AHA tried to use items as close to authentic as possible. Sometimes all that could be found were replicas. Sometimes the artifacts represented what was used in one-room schools, though not necessarily used in Hoggatt School.

Desks

Desks varied in size to accommodate all sizes of children. There is no record regarding the original desks. This design was copied from the Smithsonian Institution's research on desks in rural schools of the 1860s. It is likely that a carpenter made the desks, as there was no rail service to Ames in 1861 to ship them from elsewhere.

These oak desks were constructed by Mr. Herb Hatch, a former principal of Meeker Elementary School.

Schoolmaster's Desk

We do not know what the original desk was like in the school. This desk, from another rural school, is authentic to the time period. It is on loan from Bill and Catherine Abbott. The brass bell sitting on the desk was used in the 1890s at the old Ray School,

located about halfway between Ames and Gilbert at a knoll on the west side of the road, facing east, near the present-day Ames Country Club. It was donated by Jean Cole Bates.

Flag

The 34-star flag is a reproduction of our nation's flag in the 1860s time period. Note: The Pledge of Allegiance was not written until 1892, so it would not have been recited in our school.

Pictures

In most one-room schools here in Iowa, two very important pictures were usually found: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was President at the time that Hoggatt School was built and the Civil War had begun. Southern schools do not hang pictures of Lincoln on their walls because of lingering memories of the Civil War.

Dunce Stool and Cap

Every country school had a dunce stool in the corner. Ours was no exception. A dunce cap, however, was not commonly used until much later, so it probably would not have been used in this time period. Rulers or ferrules, switches, etc. were also used to mete out punishments.

Lighting

Electricity was not commonly available until the mid-1950s. Early schools were lighted with kerosene lamps like this one, provided by the Captain Greeley Questers.

One of the rules for teachers was to fill the lamps, clean their chimneys, and trim their wicks each day the lamps were needed for school.

Clock

This authentic 1870s Waterbury school clock was donated by the Captain Greeley Questers. This type of clock was used in many rural schools. Since it was not manufactured before the 1870s, it would not have been found in the original school.

Lunch Time

Children brought their lunches to school with them. Many used old syrup or lard pails for carrying their lunches. Lunch-boxes got their names from an early

company that produced black cardboard boxes for children to carry their lunches.

Inkwells

The inkwells are authentic for that period. They were donated by Charles Hammer. The first pens might have been made from a goose quill, with its point or nib whittled by the teacher.

Blackboards/Slates

Blackboards got their name from boards literally being painted black. Paper was hard to come by, so children used slates at their desks. They wrote on a slate with a special slate pencil, and used rags to wipe them off. The wooden chalk box was donated by a Quester group.

Branches or Subjects

Learning materials were scarce. Subjects or branches taught in the 1860s included:

- Reading (Articulation) and Grammar
- Geography and History
- Arithmetic
- Spelling (Orthography) and Penmanship

Reading

The most popular series of readers was the McGuffey's Readers. They consisted of six books of ascending difficulty. Each lesson contained a story, a picture, and later study questions. As a rule, reading aloud was favored, with stress on articulation, inflection, pauses, and emphasis.

Geography

"Mitchell's Geography" helped the children of Hoggatt School learn all about the world. (Do you recall how to spell 'Geography' using a silly rhyme: 'George Elliott's Old Grandmother Rode A Pig Home Yesterday'?)

History

Children learned history through memorization of dates, places, and events. "Welch's Analysis of History" was the book used at Hoggatt School.

Arithmetic

In the 1860s, arithmetic was simple and fundamental. The multiplication etc. tables were memorized. Much

emphasis was based on story problems – the practical application to everyone's life. Hoggatt School used "Robinson's Mathematical Series." (Do you recall 'A Rat In The Hat Might Eat The Ice Cream' as a way of remembering how to spell 'Arithmetic'?)

Spelling (Orthography)

In 1829, the "Elementary Spelling Book" was first produced. The introduction of this speller helped to make spelling a craze. Spelling bees or spell-downs were a common recreation on winter evenings, sometimes between neighboring townships. Hoggatt School is recorded to have used "Wilson's Orthography" in 1862.

Penmanship

Hoggatt School used the 'Spencerian System' of writing. Most of us remember the 'Palmer Method' with its pushes and pulls.

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Association Wins

Sons of Norway Grant

AHA was pleased to receive a \$1000 grant from the Sons of Norway Foundation. The Sons of Norway is a fraternal organization, and their Foundation supports projects that "preserve the best of Norwegian Heritage and Culture for all people". AHA will use the grant to develop tour guide materials for the Norwegian Bauge Log Home.

Annual Meeting to be in May

In case you were thinking you missed it, AHA will hold their annual meeting in early May. Watch for further announcements.

Join County Alliance for a Tour of Maxwell Museum

Any interested person may join the Story County Historical Alliance tour of the Maxwell Museum on Saturday, April 14. The day's events include a tour starting at 10am, followed by a light lunch. There is no charge for the day, but attendees are asked to RSVP to Priscilla Matt, 232-7688. Maxwell is in the SE corner of Story County, and is an easy drive from Ames.

Clip & Return Renewal Form

If the year indicated on your address label doesn't say "01", we hope you will take a moment to renew your AHA membership. We need your financial support to maintain the wonderful progress of the last two years.

Name

Address

City _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Individual	\$25	Sustaining	\$100
Family	\$40	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	
	\$1,000		

Send to: Ames Heritage Assn., PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

Ames Heritage Association Board: President - Kathy Svec; Vice-President - Carole Jensen; Secretary - Willie Struss; Treasurer - Bill LaGrange, Peggy Baer, Donna Cipolloni, Suann Evans, Mark Hamin, Jon Harvey, Jean Jonas, Liz Manion, Nick Howell. Rollie Struss.

The Board meets monthly.

Ames Heritage Association is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit 501 C3 organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through the operation of three historic sites as well as publications, programs and exhibitions.

The Intelligencer newsletter is named after an early Ames newspaper. It is published three to four times a year for Association members. Direct comments & questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010.

The Story Center museum is located at 417 Douglas, Ames, Iowa 50010. 515-232-2148. Hours: Wed and Fri 1-4pm, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April through October.

The Bauge Log Home is east and north of the lake at McFarland Park, which is 1/2 mile east of Dayton Road at 56461 180th Street. Open by appointment during good weather months.

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Ames Heritage Association
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