

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



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February 12, 2026

6:30

121 W 12th St, Davenport, IA
Davenport, IA



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral was completed in 1873. Trinity is one of the oldest Episcopal cathedrals in the United States. It was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The cathedral was designed in the English Gothic style. The cornerstone for the new cathedral was laid on June 17, 1867 on Griswold College property. According to 14

architectural drawings, it was without the planned bell tower and spire. The cathedral is constructed with native Iowa limestone and trimmed in Indiana limestone. It measures 135 by 82 feet. The structure is four bays long and three bays wide. Each of the side bays is divided by buttresses that frame three lancet windows. The main entrance is framed by compound lancet arches below a rose window.

The interior features wooden beams that form an intricate complex of transverse and rib vaulting. They resemble medieval roof timbering. Trimmed in vermillion, the beams are fastened together by gold star-shaped bolts. The main nave is divided from the side naves by cast iron columns that are connected by wooden arches in the same style as the ceiling beams. The rest of the cathedral's décor is rather plain with white plastered walls above dark wood wainscoting. Butternut was used for all the interior woodwork. The ceiling, which is now painted white, was originally painted ultramarine.

A new structure was completed in 1993. The building, designed to complement the cathedral, contains a Great Hall, kitchen facilities, parish offices, classroom space, children's chapel, and a larger octagon-shaped chapel. It is connected to the cathedral by two cloister walks. In the middle is a garth, or outdoor garden. In 1998 a donation provided the funds necessary to complete the cathedral's bell tower and spire. The spire is half of the tower's height, and together they rise 131 feet above the ground.

Thank you, to the Outing Club for the Christmas dessert party and tour in December.

A note from our Executive Board member:

During my recent recovery from a total knee replacement, I received much support from members of SCHPS and I wish to thank everyone for their cards and notes of encouragement. I especially want to thank those of you who actually sent meals. Chris Iossi single-handedly kept us fed for days - a special thank you to our Chris.

Your prayers and wishes kept my spirits up. You made my convalescence so much easier and I have healed.

Thank you all. Judy Belfer

What is happening in Scott County:

The Illinois and Iowa Departments of Transportation are conducting a study to determine the best long-term solution for the aging Centennial Bridge. Everyone is encouraged to attend the second public meeting open house on Wednesday, January 28 from 3-6 pm at The Current Hotel, 215 N Main, Davenport. Your voice matters! If you are unable to attend, you can share your thoughts on this website: www.centennialbridge.com. Comments submitted by February 11 will be included in the official meeting record.

The 2026 Preserve Iowa Summit is June 2-3 in Ankeny. They are accepting applications for presenters through Dec 17 (looks like we missed that deadline!) and will make the decision in January. Here's the link.

<https://opportunityiowa.gov/events/preserve-iowa-summit-0> (not sure why it's not a hyperlink)

Annual Henry Farnam Evening: Thursday, March 26, 2026 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm St. Ambrose University's Rogalski Center, 518 W Locust St, Davenport, Iowa; Join us as we hoist a toast to Henry Farnam, and explore some aspect of the Mississippi River, our region, local industry, and how our local area affected the nation. Individuals are \$35 but a table for six is \$180. Maybe SCHPS would like to reserve a table or two?

Robert Burns Dinner: Celebrating the 267th birthday of Scotland's favorite poet Robert Burns! Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 5:30 to 10:30 pm; Isle of Capri Casino Hotel, Bettendorf, Iowa

Ellen Shapley will give a talk on local architectural heritage at the Bettendorf Library on Thursday March 12th at 1:30.

Have you checked out our Facebook page? **Scott County Historic Preservation Society**