

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



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SCHPS Address
1820 Grant Street
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May 14, 2026

6:30 PM

**Motor Row
Davenport, IA**

***** meet in front of Nehlsen, 221 E. 2nd Street*****



Have you ever heard of Motor Way in Davenport?

Emerson Place Alley showcases the neighborhood's historic roots as Motor Row and Bucktown. It's six-and-a-half blocks containing 28 buildings, one former rail siding, and one railroad crossing bridge in Davenport. This Historic District is located on the east end of the Downtown Davenport commercial business district, one block north of the river and encompasses about 6 acres. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2019.

The grid is based on the 1836 "Original Town" plat for Davenport, located on the western edge of the current central business district, and co-founded by Anton LeClaire, George Davenport, and others. Because of its location near the river and railroad, it evolved to become the notorious Bucktown, a district of saloons, beer gardens, brothels, billiard parlors, gambling establishments, and theaters.

Beginning in the 1910s, the city's automobile industry settled here. They stayed until the mid-20th century when they moved north. Wild Bucktown was replaced with businesses catering to cars, including service stations, auto dealerships, and tire and auto stores. It also was home to light industry, wholesalers and warehouses.

The steel archways pay tribute to the area's layered past. All materials for Motor Way were provided by locals.

We hope you enjoyed the tour of Nahant Preserve and hope you return to share with your families. Thank you to Brian Ritter for a fascinating presentation about Nahant's history.

Thank you to everyone who renewed their SCHPS membership. Dues are \$20 a year, \$25 if you want a print copy.

- Are you interested in learning more about preservation topics and what is happening in the state? Plan to attend the **Preserve Iowa Summit**. This year, it is Tuesday and Wednesday, **June 2-3**, in Ankeny, Iowa . Registration is open. The cost is \$200. Use this link to get more information and register. <https://web.cvent.com/event/15fb3f27-c3e4-4975-9570-c3263f2ee0cd/summary>
- The City of Moline, along with the Butterworth Center and Deere-Wiman House are hosting a four-part historic preservation training series. The next program is entitled **Use of Substitute Materials on Historic Building Exteriors**, to be held **Thursday, May 21, 2026 from 4-6 pm** at the Butterworth Center. It is free and open to the public. There will be a one hour video presentation followed by breakout groups. Registration is encouraged. www.butterworthcenter.com
- Putnam Museum Palooza – a full day of fun for the entire family. Community partners, cultural performances, live music, food trucks, crafts, family-friendly activities, bubble & foam parties and so much more!
May 9, 2026; 10 am – 5 pm then after dark performances 5 pm – 9 pm.



Watch next month for a new look for the newsletter and a new logo for SCHPS!