



Newsletter

September 2026

Upcoming Tours & Talks

9/10	6:30p Dick Tabor's Home built in 1920 609 8 th Street, Durant
9/19 & 20	12p to 4p Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District Tour of Homes
10/8	6:30p Tour of Rivermont Collegiate/Joseph W. Bettendorf Mansion, 1821 Sunset Drive, Bettendorf

Hose Station No. 7, Davenport



What if the walls of an old fire station could tell you what Davenport looked like more than 120 years ago? On August 20, members of the Scott County Historical Preservation Society had the rare opportunity to step inside Hose Station No. 7, a beautifully restored piece of Davenport history at 1354 W. 4th Street, thanks to owners Chris and Jill Rogers.

Chris shared the fascinating story of how this remarkable building was lovingly brought back to life—and its story begins in 1906.

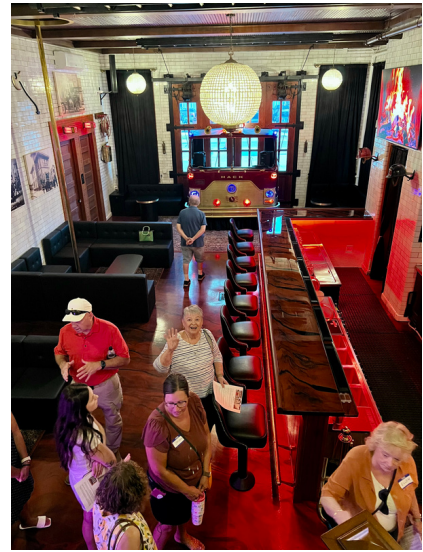
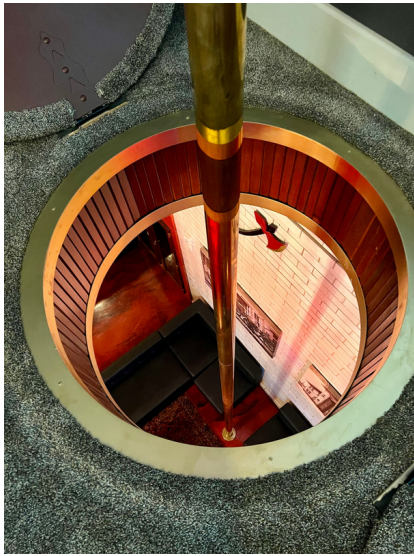
Described at the time as “modern in every particular way,” Hose Station No. 7 was declared “ready for its first call” on November 2, 1906. It was a welcome addition to a neighborhood that had been asking for fire protection for years.

Designed by local architect Deat J. Harfst and built by contractor William Kelly, the station was created to house one hose wagon, a team of two “fast horses,” and four firefighters.

But the real treasures are in the details.

Look closely at the façade and you'll see two colors of brick creating an impressive quoining effect around the doors and windows. On the west elevation, an ornate quatrefoil window adds another distinctive architectural touch.

Hose Station, contd.



And inside? The 1906 newspaper accounts paint a surprisingly vivid picture.

The station featured a white enamel interior, an idea reportedly inspired by what Alderman Eckhardt, chairman of the fire committee, had seen in St. Louis. There were winding stairs, a heavy maple balustrade, a painted yellow ceiling, and green burlap walls in the second-floor dormitory.

Even the people behind the building have stories worth remembering.

Contractor William Kelly, who also built the J.H.C. Petersen Department Store at Main and Second Streets in 1892, died in September 1906 at just 54 years old, before he could see the station completed.

Architect Deat J. Harfst died only seven years later at the age of 39. Despite his short life, Harfst left his mark across Davenport through the homes and commercial buildings he designed.

In fact, you may recognize another of his creations: the five-story building at the southeast corner of East 2nd and Pershing Streets, constructed in 1907 and originally known as the Davenport Bag and Paper Company Warehouse. Those enormous cornice brackets are hard to miss.

Hose Station No. 7 was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, ensuring that this remarkable piece of Davenport's past would continue to have a story to tell.

This is why history matters.

It isn't just about dates, names and buildings. It's about discovering the people who built our community, understanding the places they left behind, and making sure their stories don't disappear.

If stories like this make you want to know more, we invite you to become part of the Scott County Historic Preservation Society.

Come explore. Come learn. Come preserve.

A huge
thank you to
Chris and Jill
Rogers for
hosting Hose
Station No. 7
Tour!!

Thank you,
**Ellen
Shapley!** We
appreciate
your wealth
of knowledge
that you
share with
us!!

Welcome, New SCHPS Members!

The Scott County Historical Preservation Society is growing, and we are delighted to welcome our newest members to the SCHPS family!

Please join us in welcoming:

- Mary and Robert Byram of Davenport
- Christine Fleetwood of Davenport
- Diane and Maurie Gomez of Davenport
- Rod Levens of Buffalo
- Brian and Devon Irby of Bettendorf
- Melita Tunnicliff, LeClaire

We are thrilled to have each of you as part of our organization!

SCHPS is more than a membership, it is a community of people who believe the stories, buildings, neighborhoods, and people that shaped Scott County are worth remembering and preserving for future generations.

We encourage our new members, and all of our members, to share your ideas, introduce us to places and stories that deserve attention, attend our events, and get involved in whatever way is meaningful to you.



Who Gets a Voice in Preserving Our History? Proposed Changes to Section 106

The federal government is considering changing how historic properties are reviewed before federally connected projects move forward, and the changes could make the process faster and less burdensome, but potentially give preservationists less opportunity to influence projects.

What is Section 106?

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies to consider how a project could affect historic properties when the project is federally funded, permitted, licensed, approved, or undertaken by the federal government. It also gives preservation organizations, tribes, local governments, and the public an opportunity to participate.

Think of it as a “before you build, tear down, alter, or disturb something historic, you have to look at the consequences” requirement.

What is happening now?

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is actively working on a major revision of the regulations that govern Section 106. In July 2026, the Council voted to move forward with a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The proposal is currently going through federal review and has not yet become the new rule.

The current regulations haven't been comprehensively revised in about 22 years, and ACHP says modernization and streamlining are among the reasons for looking at them.

Why preservationists are paying attention.

The concern isn't necessarily that Section 106 will disappear, the underlying federal law is still there. The bigger question is how much review, consultation, documentation and public involvement will be required before a federally connected project can proceed.

Potential changes could:

- Speed up federal projects by reducing paperwork and procedural requirements.
- Give federal agencies more flexibility in determining how much review is necessary.
- Expand the use of exemptions or programmatic approaches for categories of projects that are considered unlikely to harm historic properties. ACHP is already considering such approaches, including a proposed GSA exemption for routine operations and maintenance.
- Potentially reduce the number of projects that receive an intensive, case-by-case Section 106 review.
- Change when and how preservation organizations and the public get involved.

Why this matters to SCHPS

This is actually a very relevant issue for the Scott County Historical Preservation Society.

Section 106 is one of the mechanisms that gives preservation advocates a seat at the table when federal money, permits, approvals, or projects could affect historic properties.

This Act provides guidelines and oversight to protect and mitigate damage to historic sites. These proposed changes will greatly reduce or eliminate public input and put many historic sites at risk of damage and destruction. Before it is voted on, there will be a 30 day public comment period. We will notify you when we are aware of those dates and how to comment.

For more information on this issue please visit these sites:

<https://www.tclf.org/trump-administration-targets-national-treasures-and-public-input>

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has up-to-date info and bullet points of the consequences.

<http://savingplaces.org/section106>

More Information on Proposed Changes to Section 106

This is a direct quote from the **Cultural Landscape Foundation**:

“Cultural resources in every state and community, along with treasures in the nation’s capital, are threatened by a new Trump administration proposal that would eviscerate a law that protects our shared patrimony and almost eliminate the public’s role in affecting them.

Plans to substantially rewrite a key part of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), known as Section 106, could not only fast track the administration’s most controversial projects, including a deeply unpopular 250-foot-tall Triumphal Arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, it could imperil our shared heritage nationwide.”



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This is taken directly from **The National Trust for Historic Preservation**:

“Some of the most disturbing aspects of the proposed changes include:

Federal agencies will no longer be required to try to avoid or minimize damage to America’s historic architecture, neighborhoods, and landscapes.

State and local governments will no longer have the right to be notified or have the opportunity to comment when federal agencies propose to damage or destroy historic places within their jurisdiction.

The public’s opportunity to comment on federal historic preservation policies or actions would now be entirely optional, at the discretion of the federal agency.

The federal government will no longer be required to consult with Tribal communities or seek their expertise regarding their own significant cultural resources.

Significant cultural landscape features would no longer be considered historic properties, so federal agencies would no longer be required to take into account any adverse effects to significant places such as the Grand Canyon.

Federal agencies would no longer be required to consider the reasonably foreseeable consequences of their actions on historic properties, other than direct actions that physically damage the properties.

These regulations are inconsistent with the National Historic Preservation Act and would violate the Council’s own rules and procedures.

The proposed changes are also internally inconsistent and riddled with errors, likely to cause enormous regulatory confusion and chaos.”

What Can You Do?

Write to your governor to share how these changes impact historic properties in your location.

Write to your members of Congress and consider contacting the district office during the recess to make your voice heard.

Be prepared to send comments to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation when the comment period opens.