



Newsletter

October 2026

Upcoming Events

10/8 6:30p Tour of Rivermont Collegiate/Joseph W. Bettendorf Mansion, 1821 Sunset Drive, Bettendorf

10/24 1pm - 4pm Archives Fair, Putnam Museum. Special artifacts presentation on the weird and wonderful at 1:30pm and 3pm

10/29 3pm - 5:30pm Destination QC! Rhythm City Casino

10/30 9am - 3pm Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium, Des Moines

Upcoming Tour - Rivermont Collegiate



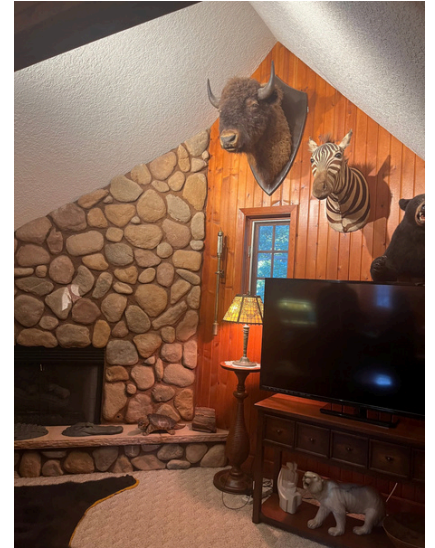
A Legacy of Education and Preservation

The history of Rivermont Collegiate reaches back to 1883, when a legacy from Sarah Burr helped establish a school for girls within the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. The funds were used to acquire Cambria Place, a prominent residence on five acres overlooking the Mississippi River in Davenport, designed by noted architect Gurdon P. Randall.

On September 24, 1884, Bishop William Stevens Perry founded St. Katharine's School, an Episcopal boarding and day school for girls. For more than eighty years, the school educated young women from Davenport and communities throughout the region. As the surrounding Griswold College programs closed in the 1890s, St. Katharine's developed an independent identity and adapted to changing educational needs. In 1968, it became coeducational and adopted the name St. Katharine's-St. Mark's.

A significant chapter began in 1973, when the school moved to the former Joseph F. Bettendorf House, the historic home of industrialist Joseph F. Bettendorf and a property closely associated with the development of the community that bears his name. The school ended its formal relationship with the Episcopal Church in 1980 and, in 2001, became Rivermont Collegiate, reflecting its independent, nonsectarian identity.

Today, Rivermont Collegiate continues to educate students from early childhood through high school on the historic Bettendorf property. Its story illustrates an important principle of historic preservation: historic buildings remain most meaningful when they continue to serve the community. From St. Katharine's beginnings in 1884 to Rivermont Collegiate today, the institution represents more than a century of educational history in the Quad Cities—and a continuing connection between education, architecture, and the preservation of historic places.



A huge
thank you
to Dick
Tabor for
hosting the
September
tour.

SCHPS members would like to thank Dick Tabor for opening his home to us on September 10th. This darling home was built in 1932 on 0.22 acres.

A 1932 construction date places the house in an interesting period of Durant's history. It was built during the Great Depression, when new residential construction was considerably more restrained than during the prosperous 1920s. The house's size, roughly 2,180 finished square feet plus a 1,182-square-foot basement, is noteworthy for a Depression-era property.

Congratulations to our very own past president and longtime member, **Merle Vastine**, for a wonderful article in the Quad-City Times written by Alma Gaul. He is a collector of many things, but the article was specifically about his matchbook collection—thousands of them. “A history lesson” of historic Davenport!



Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act Update

<https://support.savingplaces.org/page/101008/action/1?ea.tracking.id=Website>

2026/27 Board Members

Miriam Whitaker, President

Michele Darland, Vice President

Duncombe Brooke, Treasurer

Maria Ehlis, Treasurer in Training

Victoria Edwards, Secretary

Sonja Rekers, Membership

Kathryn Whalen, At Large

Christine Deines, At Large

Judy Belfer, Emeritus

Per the National Trust for Historic Preservation:

Contact your representatives today and urge them to:

- Oppose regulatory changes that weaken the protections and consultation requirements established under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Encourage the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to develop regulations that are consistent with the intent of Congress and the statutory requirements of the NHPA.
- Support a transparent regulatory process that fully considers the perspectives of State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Nations, local governments, preservation organizations, property owners, and the public.

We encourage you to share your success story:

What is Your Section 106 Success Story?

<https://support.savingplaces.org/page/100989/survey/1?ea.tracking.id=Website>



SCHPS

1820 Grant Street
PO Box 5017
Bettendorf, IA 52722

info@schps.org

SCHPS board members encourage everyone to write to their state and federal representatives to share their views on the importance of preserving Section 106. Go to The National Trust for Historic Preservation's website, <https://savingplaces.org/section106>, to learn more.