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# Creating a purposeful, powerful web site for the Cedar Falls Historical Society

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# Creating a purposeful, powerful web site for the Cedar Falls Historical Society

## Abstract

With communication becoming more instantaneous then ever, one fear is losing the message in the medium. Creating the web site for the Cedar Falls Historical Society was much more than giving the Historical Society a presence on the World Wide Web. It was extremely important that the Cedar Falls Historical Society web site promote the true intentions of the Historical Society with integrity and dignity. Many times, when web sites are developed, the technology overshadows the content. The Board of Directors of the Historical Society insisted their site be built with both professionalism and historical accuracy.

The Society members took care of the historical accuracy of the site; books, brochures, letters, photos and other historical artifacts were at the disposal of the designer. The professionalism of the web design was left to the web site developer. Major importance was put on the overall theme of the Society's web site. Aspects within the theme included layout and a consistent color scheme. Crisp lines, readability, consistency and contrast coupled with historical accuracy help to insure the future success of this web site.

Creating a Purposeful, Powerful

Web Site for the

Cedar Falls Historical Society



A Graduate Project

Submitted to the

Division of Educational Technology

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements of the Degree

Master of Arts

University of Northern Iowa



by

Douglas B. Moore

Fall, 1999

This Project by: Douglas B. Moore

Titled: Creating a Purposeful, Powerful Web Site for the Cedar Falls Historical Society

has been approved as meeting the research requirement for Degree of Master of Arts.

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# ABSTRACT

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sites are developed, the technology overshadows the content. The Board of Directors of

the Historical Society insisted their site be built with both professionalism and historical

accuracy. The Society members took care of the historical accuracy of the site; books,

brochures, letters, photos and other historical artifacts were at the disposal of the

designer. The professionalism of the web design was left to the web site developer. Major

importance was put on the overall theme of the Society's web site. Aspects within the

theme included layout and a consistent color scheme. Crisp lines, readability, consistency

and contrast coupled with historical accuracy help to insure the future success of this web

site.

Section I

Introduction

Developing a purposeful, powerful web site for a graduate level project while

performing a service for Cedar Falls community members led to the creation of the Cedar

Falls Historical Society web site. A major part of developing successful web sites is

having a strong purpose. The Historical Society works on preserving the past for future

generations. The Cedar Falls Historical Society owns five buildings that are accessible to

anyone who has the time and means to visit. However, to encourage a higher level of

accessibility, the Historical Society wanted to remove the obstacles of distance and time

by creating a presence on the World Wide Web. The Historical Society had a purpose for

creating their presence on the World Wide Web, however, they still needed a

knowledgeable web developer. This is where purpose and professionalism merged to

create a readable, aesthetically pleasing site on the World Wide Web.

The audience was determined to be any person who wants or needs to learn from

the past.

Once the audience was identified, the developer thought about alignment,

proximity, contrast and repetition (Williams and Tollett, 1998). Principles of design were

crucial elements in web site development. The alignment of the text was critical for good

design. For instance, if a web page begins with text aligned left, the left alignment on the

page should remain consistent throughout that particular web page. This makes the site

appear to be more organized. Proximity of information was maintained by grouping like

text and graphics. Contrast is the difference between background and foreground. Simply

put, if the page is light colored then the text has to be dark. Contrast was one design

element that went beyond the simple light on dark. Dealing with text only, if different fonts were used on a particular web page, the fonts were either closely matched or so widely different that the audience was not confused by subtleties (Williams and Tollett, 1998, p.118). However, this can be negated if a user sets their browser to use default fonts; The repetition or consistency of this web site was important for the audience. For example, if color schemes changed from page to page the audience members could have lost a sense of the content because they were attending to the medium. Audience members may have also thought they had left the site if the themes had changed from page to page. These four design principles were simple and always used.

Applying the design principles was the aesthetic element involved in this web site design. The other element was the technical expertise needed to either code web pages using Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) or writing the web pages using a web editing program. This developer of the Cedar Falls Historical Society web site used Microsoft Front Page 98 along with HTML coding to complete this graduate project. The need for HTML coding and web page editing software is explained in more detail in the "Technical Procedures" section within "Stage One."

Stage One

Once the project began several elements were put into place. A few of these elements consisted of collecting information and resources, writing a purpose statement, validating the collected resources and setting up a time line to insure progress of the project.

Information and Resources. Meetings began with the Board of Directors of the Cedar Falls Historical Society to insure all necessary resources were at the disposal of the

web designer. The Board Members helped organize the information with the use of storyboard techniques. Priorities were placed on certain exhibit items, while other bits of information were given very little attention. With much of the organization completed, the Board members, along with the site developer, began to formulate a purpose statement.

Purpose Statement. After some effort engaged in writing a purpose statement from scratch, this web site developer simply looked through several of the brochures given to him at the last meeting. "Preserving the Past for Future Generations" was a statement on a post card that was part of a stack of brochures. This was the statement of purpose.

Validation of Collected Resources. After completing the purpose statement the developer had to insure all the information and resources collected were relevant and consistent to the statement. The simplicity of the statement and the complexity of the materials concerned the developer to a degree. Brian Collins, Director of the Cedar Falls Historical Society, put the developer's mind at ease by ensuring him all the information collected by the Board Members was valid and would fit into the pages of the new web site.

Time line. Sixteen weeks were allotted for the completion of the Historical Society's web site. Two of the 16 weeks were taken to complete the collection of information and resources, writing a purpose statement and validating the collected resources. This left 12 weeks to construct the site and two weeks to troubleshoot and "tweak" the site. Two weeks were set aside to insure all the text was copied, pasted and edited to perfection. Also in those two weeks, the graphics were scanned, resized and placed strategically within bodies of text to make sure that design principles such as

proximity, alignment and contrast were not compromised. The next ten weeks were spent developing themes. Seven different themes were in place during those ten weeks. Toward the last few days of the troubleshooting and tweaking stages of the web development, Dr. Robert Hardman, Director of Information Technology Services at the University of Northern Iowa and Historical Society member, looked at several of the themes and soon narrowed the themes down to two. Before the ending date of the timeline, a decision was made in favor of the current theme that is in place today.

Technical Procedures. Web documents differ from text documents in the way they are written. Because Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer web browsers only recognize Hypertext Markup Language, a normal text document, even if the document is formatted, will appear as one large run-on sentence with no paragraphs, headings, bulleted lists, etc. HTML coding is not a programming language, it is a formatting language. For a browser to recognize an HTML document, the document must first be saved in an HTML format. Formatting tags must then be entered to indicate to the browser what format the selected text needs to take on. For example, the HTML document must have a tag <HTML> at the beginning before any text is entered and a closing tag </HTML> at the end of the document (Castro, 1998). This allows either browser to recognize the entire document as a web page (see Appendix A).

Hundreds of HTML tags go into making a single document recognizable by the Internet browser. Writing web pages using HTML coding alone would have been extremely time consuming. This web developer used the HTML coding more for tweaking and troubleshooting purposes. Front Page 98 is a program that allows a user to write web pages much like a person would word process a text document. That is only

the beginning of capabilities of this web development application. In fact, there are several advanced elements within this program that this web developer used to create the Historical Society's web site.

Three individual programs make up <u>Front Page 98</u>, <u>Front Page Explorer</u>, <u>Front Page Editor</u>, and <u>Image Composer</u>. <u>Front Page Explorer</u> allowed the site developer to manage the site from any computer by simply opening a link to the Internet service provider's server. No file transfer software was needed for this project. Also, this web site developer used one advanced component of the <u>Front Page Explorer</u> called the "Theme Builder." The "Theme Builder" allowed the developer to create a custom theme and apply that theme to every page on the site at once. Applying a theme to an entire site insures that repetition and consistency are evident throughout the site's development. <u>Front Page Editor</u> allowed the developer to enter text and graphics into the site as easily as entering data and graphics in a simple word processing program. In fact, since much of the text and graphics were already saved in a digital format, the site builder only had to copy and paste much of those materials to the site. The graphic manipulating program, <u>Image Composer</u> allowed the developer to resize several graphics for the project to insure pages on the Cedar Falls Historical Society web site load quickly.

Other advanced technologies were also implemented into the Historical Society's web site. <u>QuickTime Virtual Reality</u> is the one of the latest technologies for displaying entire panoramic views, and 3-dimensional objects to enhance distance learning. This, in the opinion of the author, will enhance multimedia projects and will give learners more accessibility and interactivity, especially for those individuals who lack physical mobility. <u>QuickTime Virtual Reality</u> is an Apple technology that allows the user to

create, manipulate, and interact with QuickTime movies (Apple's QTVR web site, 1999). QTVR was used to create a virtual tour of the "William Lenoir Model Train Collection" at the Victorian Home, owned by the Cedar Falls Historical Society.

## Section II

## Methodology

### Goals

The goal of the Historical Society web site is to provide the free instantaneous access of information to worldwide computer users interested in the history of Cedar Falls for personal reasons, as well as research purposes.

Obtaining Resources and Developing Main Topics. Several individuals had input into resources used and subject areas covered during the creation of the Cedar Falls Historical Society web site. The Historical Society Staff members, Board of Directors, and many community members provided the information by donating brochures, old newsletters, articles and photos. Dr. Robert Hardman and the web site developer had several individual meetings to develop the hierarchy of pages and subject areas. During those meetings, information was sorted into subject areas, then prioritized to develop pages into an appropriate hierarchy.

Software needed to complete the project included Adobe Photoshop 5.0, Microsoft Front Page 98, QTVR Authoring Studio v 1.0.1 and Microsoft Notepad. With Photoshop 5.0 the designer was able to edit photos by enhancing aesthetic quality, while reducing file size to insure quick load times by all computer users. Front Page 98 allowed the designer to complete several tasks. A web site developer creates site consistency by applying themes, managing pages and media and allowing developers to edit simple

graphics. <u>Notepad</u> was used to troubleshoot and tweak pages in the final phases of the project. <u>QTVR Authoring Studio</u> v 1.0.1 allowed the designer to develop advanced panoramas of exhibits in the Historical Society's museums for viewing with <u>QuickTime Movie Player</u>

Hardware used for this project was a personal computer with <u>Windows 95</u>, 64 megabytes of Random Access Memory (RAM), a scanner and a QuickTake Camera. The RAM was needed to reduce computer freeze-ups while completing many multimedia tasks. The scanner and QuickTake camera were needed to take new pictures for the site, as well as scanning in old images.

<u>Web Site Navigation.</u> Too often web designers neglect their audience by not providing the means to navigate from page to page (Williams and Tollett, 1998, p. 81). For instance, orphan pages are pages which the designer places within the web site. The designer then creates a link to another page within the site. The linked page, however, does not have buttons or links for the audience member to continue on to another page or return to the last page. Thumbnail images are pictures that allow the audience member to click on a small stamp-sized image. By doing this, the user browser would find a larger version of the picture. If the site developer does not give the user directions, telling the user "Click here to do this," the user may not know what is needed to complete the task. Giving navigational clues as to where and what will happen if something is done is simply a common courtesy. This web site developer used link buttons and text linked back and forth between every page within the Cedar Falls Historical web site.

<u>Site Planning.</u> Planning the organization of web sites is left to the thought processes of the web developer. Some individuals think in a linear fashion, by laying out

information in an outline form. Some web designers may organize information by creating a mind map. In this instance the designer set up information using a story board methodology. No matter how the developer organizes the web site resources, there must be some navigable flow. There must also be a hierarchy of pages. For instance, a home page, or splash page, lets the audience know what is in store if they make the choice to continue within the site. It is a first impression to anyone who visits the site. Some designers use this page as a table of contents. All other pages from this point on are subordinate to the home page. Remember, if the site is completely organized the pages within the site must use the design principle, repetition, because repetition will give the site the appearance of organization.

Gathering of Historical Society Information. The majority of the information gathered for the Cedar Falls Historical Society web site originated from the Historical Society staff, Board of Directors, brochures, old newsletters and personal interviews. Information from brochures and newsletters was given to the web developer on diskette. This made the information easy to transfer into web pages by simply copying and pasting. Verbal information gathered from interviews was a little more difficult because the information had to be transcribed.

Small obstacles occurred when some members of the Historical Society felt a possible breach in security would be possible when furnishing certain information to the general public. There may have been some validity for these concerns; however, the benefits outweighed the drawbacks and the Board of Directors soon came to a consensus that the information was vital to the success of the Cedar Falls Historical web site.

Exploring the Web. The Iowa Historical Society, The National Historical Society as well as a plethora of other historical sites are scattered through World Wide Web. Surfing the Internet for these wonderful resources also brought the developer closer to the final structural organization of this web site. How to create a flow between pages, when to link pages using buttons instead of text links and how to keep pages looking repetitive without being boring were among the issues investigated. All these elements went into the creation of a tentative plan for this web site.

Creation of Tentative Plan. Creating a site hierarchy of organized information was simple using mind maps to link similar pages. Front Page 98 is a program that will allow a developer to view all the documents within a site and link and remove links from pages within the site. This makes the organizational structuring of the site relatively easy. Once again Dr. Hardman helped with the reorganization of site pages during the final stages of the site's development.

Section III

The Project

## The Home Page

Internet Service Providers have computers they use as servers. These servers

distribute web sites to the world. The Home Page or the index.html page is the default

web page that browsers like <u>Netscape Navigator</u> and <u>Microsoft Internet Explorer</u> search

for first. If a site developer does not have a default page either browser will report the site

as a table of contents. Since the index page is the first impression viewers have of the

web developer, without that splash page in place audiences will not stay to peruse that

web site.

<u>Primary Considerations.</u> Appeasing the needs of the audience for quick load times,

an aesthetically pleasing exterior, and a navigable preview coupled with the principles

from the section above were key in the creation of this Historical Society's web site.

<u>Creation of the Society's Home Page.</u> The Historical Society logo is aligned in the

top left corner of the default page. An original banner imbedded with several images of

the Historical Society's museums is placed to the right of the logo. Navigation buttons

consisting of Home, Site Contents and Historical Links are aligned left under the logo

and banner. Under the buttons and the graphics, within frames, are images of the five

museums of the Historical Society. Each of the five images link to pages deeper into the

web site that correspond with the specific image. For example, the Victorian Home image

links to the Victorian Home web page. The Mission Statement and a brief history of the

Society are also aligned left to the left of the five images. The theme within the default

page is consistent throughout this entire web site. The color scheme, the banner and

frames are all advanced applications of Front Page 98. The Server in which the site is

housed must have Front Page Extensions loaded for the site to function. Web developers

must seriously consider the ramifications of using Front Page Extensions when building a

web site for that exact reason.

Site Construction. From the default page, the audience can navigate to the Site

Contents. The Site Contents is similar to a table of contents within a book. Links to

several sections are found on the Site Contents page. The user can return to the Home

page. There are pages in which the user can meet the Staff, the Board of Directors, view

all five museums, peruse the future activities and the schedule of events, read newsletters,

read Cedar Falls history, search and conduct discussions about elements within the site.

One element consistent throughout all pages, except the Board of Directors page, is the

column of linked museum images. The site is best viewed with new versions of the

Internet browsers. The site contents page has links on it to Microsoft and Netscape web

pages to insure the user has the option to download either of the two new browsers. Also,

within the site it is necessary for the user to have a current version of QuickTime movie

player. There is a link to QuickTime on the Site Contents page. The Staff page has short

biographies of each employee that lets the user meet the Historical Society staff member.

Board of Directors this page is a database that lists all the board members and

officers. The museum page gives short histories of each of the five buildings owned by

the Historical Society. The activities page, schedule of events page and newsletter page

all give the viewer a sense of when new events are coming and when some events have

past. These pages are useful for community members who like to mark events on their

calendars. The Cedar Falls History page has many external links to visit with different

twists on local history. The Search and Discussion pages allow visitors to find anything on this site and gives the viewer an option to partake in discussion activities. All of these pages use the same custom theme, as well as the images of the five historical museums.

Overall Site Structure (see Appendix B)

  Usability Testing. The Cedar Falls Historical Society web site needed to be tested by several outside sources. The developer of the Historical Society's web site sought out four individuals to test five areas within the site. The areas tested were navigational ease, readability, aesthetic expression, download times and organization.

  After the third draft of the Cedar Falls Historical Society web site, the developer asked two of his four colleagues who all work at Information Technology Services at the University of Northern Iowa to provide feedback on the overall design of the site. The navigation buttons were flawless to this point. There were no orphan pages, broken links or ambiguous navigational directions within the site. Since the background color was white and the text was black, readability due to color contrast was evident. Fonts used, Times New Roman in the body of the text and Arial for headings also insured testers more reading ease. Aesthetically the site needed some extra attention. Both individuals stated that the color scheme needed to be reworked. The testers also mentioned the colors were not consistent throughout the site. The theme of the site was quickly revamped the next day to better suit a Historical Society's needs, goals and objectives.

  The time it takes to download and view a graphic within a web site is critical for the success of the web site. Downloading several of the graphics on the Historical Society's site took too long. Both of the testers viewed the site from a dial-up modem which takes considerably longer then the individual viewing

on a fiber optic Internet connection. Many of the larger images were taken off the site and reworked in <u>Photoshop</u> to reduce the physical size of the images and to reduce download time for future users.

Organization was the final element within this Historical Society web site tested that needed more work. The first two testers did not really understand the importance of proximity as a design element. The second two testers, one of which was Dr. Robert Hardman, Historical Society member, helped greatly in the organization of the content and graphics within the web site. These two testers also assisted with the "tweaking" stage of the project which led to the latest version of the Cedar Falls Historical Society web site.

<u>Information-Based Sites.</u> The Cedar Falls Historical Society web site is an information-based web site. The main difference between an information-based site and a site built purely for entertainment value is the purpose. The purpose of the Historical Society site is for individuals to conduct research on historical materials while learning about Cedar Falls history. There are many sites similar to the Historical Society site such as the Iowa Historical Society web site and the National Historical web site. This Cedar Falls Historical Society site has several links to these two sites and many other similar historical sites.

Section IV

Conclusions and Recommendations

Readability within a site deals with everything from the text to the contrast between the background and the content. This developer concludes that the text in a web site will decide the fate of that site. If web site visitors cannot read the text because of font size, color, or shape, he/she will leave and not return to that site. This is one of many problems that arise when web developers do not use contrast within their web site. This web designer recommends that serif fonts be used for bodies of text in a document. The tails on the characters produce a text flow for readers. This is why the "New York Times" newspaper developed the serif font, "Times New Roman" for their reading audience. "Arial" or san-serif fonts are well suited for headings and subheadings. This web developer suggests that no matter what font is used in web development, as long as the background and text colors contrast, the page will be more readable. Black text and white backgrounds are actually the most readable combination to enhance readability (Williams and Tollett, 1998, p. 118). A designer can work as long and as hard as possible placing specific fonts in their web site, however, the individuals accessing the Internet have the last say as to how the text is viewed. Browsing software allows an individual to set how they prefer to view text in a web site.

Graphic load times are critical for web site success. If graphics do not load fast enough visitors will leave a site and will not return (Williams and Tollett, 1998, p. 181). Any web designer can use graphics to enhance a web site. However, if the graphic files are not reduced in size before being saved the graphics will take too long to load. Web designers need to learn programs such as Adobe Photoshop 5.0 or Image Composer 1.5 to insure pixels that make up

graphics are reduced to a manageable size. Seventy-two pixels per square inch is the best quality computer monitors will produce. Any image size larger than 72 pixels would be excessive.

Build a page for the audience and not for individual purposes. Most of the web site developers this author has come in contact with have had the latest and greatest technology. Many other web surfers, on the other hand, are less suited for large images and elaborate layouts. This web developer recommends that web sites should be developed on monitors and viewed by major Internet browsers before the site ever makes it to the Internet. This would give the developer a better idea as to how the site will be viewed by the majority of World Wide Web surfers.

Orphan pages can be a nuisance for individuals surfing the World Wide Web. What this means to the average web designer is, once extra HTML pages are created within a site, return links and navigation tools are inadvertently left off these new pages. Individuals who find these sites are able to click hypertext to go to one page but cannot get back unless the "back" or "forward" buttons on Netscape or the Internet Explorer are clicked. This is irresponsible for web developers to leave their audience with no options. Consequently, this web site author will leave in short order from underdeveloped web sites.

Bleeding-edge technology is a term this web designer uses to describe other web designers who used a certain technology just because that was possible, not because there was a purpose for using the technology. This web designer recommends that when an individual develops a web site, simpler is better.

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# Glossary

Graphic Interface Format (GIF) – a graphic format viewable by web browsing software.

Hyperlink – a word or image representing a connection between one part of the World Wide Web and another part.

HyperText Markup Language (HTML) – this is a form in which Web pages are written.

Image tag – a tag used to place an image in a Web page.

Internet – a group of computers that are connected together in such a way that each can send information to the others.

Internet Service Provider (ISP) – a company that gives service to individuals, businesses and institutions.

Joint Photographer Expert Group (JPG) - a graphic format viewable by web browsing software.

Pixels – dots of colors that couple together to complete an image.

Source – the HTML document that creates a Web page.

Tag – letters or words between angle brackets to activates the features of HTML.

Text editor – a program used to create and edit text files.

Uniform Resource Locator (URL) – the address of a web page.

Web Browser – a program that reads files written in HTML and displays them on your computer screen with formatted text and pictures

World Wide Web (WWW) – a large collection of files on the Internet that are connected by hyperlinks. The information can be accessed using a computer and a Web browser.

Appendix A
The Cedar Falls Historical Society Default page in HTML format

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Project Web -- Cedar Falls Historical Society</title>
<meta name="Microsoft Theme" content="doug1 010"><meta name="Microsoft Border" content="tlb,
default"></head>
<body bgcolor="#FFFFFF" text="#000000" link="#0033CC" vlink="#339966" alink="#CC0000"><!--msnavigation-
-><table border="0" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="100%"><tr><td><!--mstheme--><font face="times
new roman, times new roman, times">
<h3 align="left"><!--mstheme--><font face="trebuchet ms, arial, helvetica" color="#660000"><img
src="images/logo4.jpg" alt="logo4.jpg (12577 bytes)" WIDTH="110" HEIGHT="70">
    <img src="_derived/Default.htm_cmp_doug1010_bnr.gif" width="547" height="63"
border="0" alt="Cedar Falls Historical Society"><!--mstheme--></font></h3>
<p align="left"><script language="JavaScript"><!--
MSFPhover =
  (((navigator.appName == "Netscape") &&
  (parseInt(navigator.appVersion) >= 3 )) ||
  ((navigator.appName == "Microsoft Internet Explorer") &&
  (parseInt(navigator.appVersion) >= 4 )));
function MSFPpreload(img)
{ var a=new Image(); a.src=img; return a;
}// --></script><script language="JavaScript"><!--
if(MSFPhover) { MSFPnav1n=MSFPpreload('_derived/home_cmp_doug1010_hbtn_p.gif');
MSFPnav1h=MSFPpreload('_derived/home_cmp_doug1010_hbtn_a.gif'); }
// --></script><a href="./" onmouseover="if(MSFPhover) document['MSFPnav1'].src=MSFPnav1h.src"
onmouseout="if(MSFPhover) document['MSFPnav1'].src=MSFPnav1n.src"><img
src="_derived/home_cmp_doug1010_hbtn_p.gif" width="140" height="60" border="0" alt="Home" align="middle"
name="MSFPnav1"></a> <script language="JavaScript"><!--
if(MSFPhover) { MSFPnav2n=MSFPpreload('_derived/site.htm_cmp_doug1010_hbtn.gif');
MSFPnav2h=MSFPpreload('_derived/site.htm_cmp_doug1010_hbtn_a.gif'); }
// --></script><a href="site.htm" onmouseover="if(MSFPhover) document['MSFPnav2'].src=MSFPnav2h.src"
onmouseout="if(MSFPhover) document['MSFPnav2'].src=MSFPnav2n.src"><img
src="_derived/site.htm_cmp_doug1010_hbtn.gif" width="140" height="60" border="0" alt="Site Contents"
align="middle" name="MSFPnav2"></a> <script language="JavaScript"><!--
if(MSFPhover) { MSFPnav3n=MSFPpreload('_derived/historic.htm_cmp_doug1010_hbtn.gif');
MSFPnav3h=MSFPpreload('_derived/historic.htm_cmp_doug1010_hbtn_a.gif'); }
// --></script><a href="historic.htm" onmouseover="if(MSFPhover) document['MSFPnav3'].src=MSFPnav3h.src"
onmouseout="if(MSFPhover) document['MSFPnav3'].src=MSFPnav3n.src"><img
src="_derived/historic.htm_cmp_doug1010_hbtn.gif" width="140" height="60" border="0" alt="Historic Links"
align="middle" name="MSFPnav3"></a></p>
<!--mstheme--></font></td></tr><!--msnavigation--></table><!--msnavigation--><table border="0"
cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="100%"><tr><td valign="top" width="1%"><!--mstheme--><font
face="times new roman, times new roman, times">

<p align="left"><br>
<big>Historical Museums</big></p>
<p><a href="victoria.htm"><img src="images/victorian.jpg" width="169" height="137" alt="victorian.jpg (27243
bytes)" border="0"></a></p>
<p><strong>Victorian Home</strong></p>
<p><a href="icehouse.htm"><img src="images/icehouse.jpg" width="169" height="137" alt="icehouse.jpg (23306
bytes)" border="0"></a></p>
<p><strong>Icehouse Museum</strong></p>
```

<p><a href="little.htm"><img src="images/redscl.jpg" width="169" height="137" alt="redscl.jpg (18861 bytes)" border="0"></a></p>
<p><strong>&quot;L&quot; Red Schoolhouse</strong></p>
<p><a href="george.htm"><img src="images/wyth.jpg" width="169" height="137" alt="wyth.jpg (20707 bytes)" border="0"></a></p>
<p><strong>Wyth House<small><br>
</small>and<small><br>
</small>Viking Pump Museum</strong></p>
<p><a href="behrens-.htm"><img src="images/behrens.jpg" width="169" height="137" alt="behrens.jpg (17534 bytes)" border="0"></a></p>
<p><strong>Behrens-Rapp Station</strong></p>
<p> </p>
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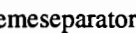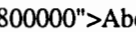<h3><!--mstheme--><font face="trebuchet ms, arial, helvetica" color="#660000">   <br>
<font color="#800000"><big>Mission Statement</big></font><!--mstheme--></font></h3>
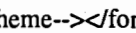<blockquote>
<p>Engaging the community in the preservation, education, and celebration of its heritage.<br>
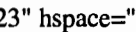<font size="3">To preserve for research and educational purposes, artifacts and
information about the life and times of the people of Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa
from its pioneer origins to present day times. To this end, we will endeavor to acquire
preserve, and display historical artifacts and documents a manner that will encourage
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</p>
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<h3><!--mstheme--><font face="trebuchet ms, arial, helvetica" color="#660000">    <font
color="#800000">About the Historical Society</font><!--mstheme--></font></h3>
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height="23" hspace="9"></td><td valign="top" width="100%"><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman, times
new roman, times"><small>June 1965 - Purchased the 1861 Victorian Home at 303 Clay Street.<br>
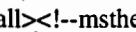</small><!--mstheme--></font><!--msthemelist--></td></tr>
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height="23" hspace="9"></td><td valign="top" width="100%"><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman, times
new roman, times"><small>May 1968 - Cedar Falls Historical Society opened Victorian Home to public.<br>
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<!--msthemelist--><tr><td valign="baseline" width="42"><img src="_themes/doug1/button.gif" width="24"
height="23" hspace="9"></td><td valign="top" width="100%"><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman, times
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Franklin St., to the Historical Society.<br>
</small><!--mstheme--></font><!--msthemelist--></td></tr>
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height="23" hspace="9"></td><td valign="top" width="100%"><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman, times
new roman, times"><small>June 1979 - Ice House Museum opened to the public.<br>
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height="23" hspace="9"></td><td valign="top" width="100%"><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman, times
new roman, times"><small>December 1983 - George Wyth House Museum opened to the public.<br>
    </small><!--mstheme--></font><!--msthemelist--></td></tr>
    <!--msthemelist--><tr><td valign="baseline" width="42"><img src="_themes/doug1/button.gif" width="24"
height="23" hspace="9"></td><td valign="top" width="100%"><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman, times
new roman, times"><small>1987 - Viking Pump Museum on Wyth House's third floor opened to the public.<br>
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new roman, times"><small>October 1988 - Little Red School House opened to the public.<br>
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height="23" hspace="9"></td><td valign="top" width="100%"><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman, times
new roman, times"><small>November 1991 - Carriage House Addition to the Victorian Home completed.<br>
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new roman, times"><small>May 1992 - Victorian Home and Carriage House Museum opened to the public.<br>
    </small><!--mstheme--></font><!--msthemelist--></td></tr>
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height="23" hspace="9"></td><td valign="top" width="100%"><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman, times
new roman, times"><small>May 1994 - Behrens-Rapp Station opens as an information center for Cedar
Falls.</small>
    <!--mstheme--></font><!--msthemelist--></td></tr>
    <!--msthemelist--></table><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman, times new roman, times">
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border="0" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="100%"><tr><td><!--mstheme--><font face="times new roman,
times new roman, times">
<h5><!--mstheme--><font face="trebuchet ms, arial, helvetica" color="#660000"><font color="#800000">Cedar
Falls Historical Society ©1999<br>
For problems or questions regarding this web site contact <a href="mailto:bcollins@cfu-cybernet.net">Brian C.
Collins</a>, Executive Director.<br>
Last updated: May 05, 1999. This
page is best view in 600 by 800 resolution</font><!--mstheme--></font></h5>
<!--mstheme--></font></td></tr><!--msnavigation--></table></body>
</html>
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Historic Links

Home

Historical Museums

# Historical Sites of Interest on the Web

**Victorian Home**

**Icehouse Museum**

**"L" Red Schoolhouse**

Cedarnet Historical Tour of Blackhawk County.   CedarNet is collaborating with the Cedar Falls Historical Society to bring you a tour of historical sites in the area. The historical information and the black and white sketches have been very generously provided by the Cedar Falls Historical Society. The original black and white sketches were done by Kim Menken. Members of the CedarNet HTML Committee have provided photographs, maps, HTML markup of documents, and updating. This project is "under construction," and updates will include maps and additional photographs that will add to your touring enjoyment. The tour includes over 150 sites. Contributions of historic photographs of sites on the tour are welcome.

Iowa Historic Sites Program    Some of Iowa's most significant history isn't far away. The State Historical Society of Iowa owns and operates seven historic sites located through the state. Make plans to visit them. For information on hours or to find out how to schedule a group tour, contact the Historic Site Manager at 515-281-7650.

The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.    The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 created a State Historic Preservation Office in each state. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) works to preserve Iowa's architectural, historical, archaeological and traditional cultures

**Wyth House
and
Viking Pump Museum**
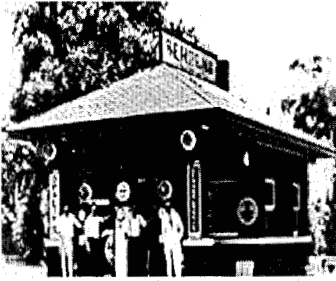
**Behrens-Rapp Station**

heritage through the identification, evaluation, nomination and protection of cultural resources. This in turn promotes tourism, economic development and pride
in Iowa.

Welcome to the National Register. Discover what the Register is, what it includes, and what this web site offers. Find out the latest developments at the Register, including new publications, on-line features, properties recently listed, and more. Teaching with Historic Places (TwHP) See how historic places enrich and enliven the study of history and social studies for students from the upper elementary grades all the way through high school. National Register Information System (NRIS) Use the computerized NRIS, which houses data on all places listed on or determined eligible for the National Register. Travel to Historic Places. Visit historic sites without leaving home through the Register's on-line travel itineraries. National Register Collection. Discover the opportunities for research and education contained in the documentation for the more than 66,000 properties listed on the Register. National Register Publications. Obtain more information about the Register, technical guidance, registration materials, and order forms for the Register's many publications.

Tour Iowa. Browse through Community Homepages developed by local page designers who know what makes their communities special.

Living History Farms tells the amazing story of how Iowans combined hard work and advances in technology to transform the fertile praries of the Midwest into the most productive farmland in the world. While at the 600-acre open-air museum, visitors travel at their own pace through five historical time periods spanning 300 years. On-site interpreters provide a unique learning environment of seasonal activities and demonstrations that go beyond the classroom experience. A complete visit lasts four to
five hours.

## Historical Museums

# Mission Statement



**Victorian Home**

Engaging the community in the preservation,
education, and celebration of its heritage.
To preserve for research and educational purposes,
artifacts and information about the life and times of
the people of Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa
from its pioneer origins to present day times. To this
end, we will endeavor to acquire preserve, and
display historical artifacts and documents a manner
that will encourage people to use our facilities, to
learn of our history and to create community pride.

## About the Historical Society



**Icehouse Museum**

- June 1962 - First meeting of the Iowa Historical Group.
- June 1965 - Purchased the 1861 Victorian Home at 303 Clay St
- May 1968 - Cedar Falls Historical Society opened Victorian Ho public.
- 1977- Ice House Museum placed on the National Register of Hi Places.
- 1979 - Dorothy Wyth bequeaths the family home built in 1907, at 303 Franklin St., to the Historical Society.
- June 1979 - Ice House Museum opened to the public.
- December 1983 - George Wyth House Museum opened to the p
- 1987 - Viking Pump Museum on Wyth House's third floor open the public.
- October 1988 - Little Red School House opened to the public.
- November 1991 - Carriage House Addition to the Victorian Hor completed.
- May 1992 - Victorian Home and Carriage House Museum open



**"L" Red Schoolhouse**
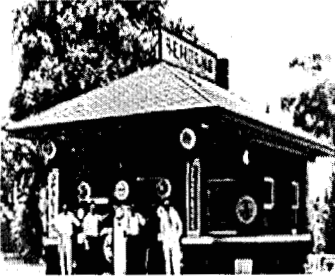
the public.
- May 1994 - Behrens-Rapp Station opens as an information cent Cedar Falls.

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**Wyth House**
**and**
**Viking Pump Museum**



**Behrens-Rapp Station**

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# CEDAR FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Historical Museums

Victorian Home

Icehouse Museum

This page is a virtual roadmap to help visitors navigate through the wonderful facilities and exhibits the Cedar Falls Historical Society has to offer. There are a few plug-ins and players that will make your virtual visit to our museums more pleasing to the eye. All of these downloads are free and seem fairly easy to install.

Microsoft Internet Explorer

Netscape Now!

QuickTime

Click to Download
Internet Explorer

Click to Download
Netscape
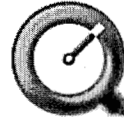
Click to Download
QuickTime 4.0

**"L" Red Schoolhouse**

**Wyth House
and
Viking Pump Museum**

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**Behrens-Rapp Station**

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**Historical Museums**

Let's meet the staff at the Cedar Falls Historical Society.

**Victorian Home**

Brian C. Collins
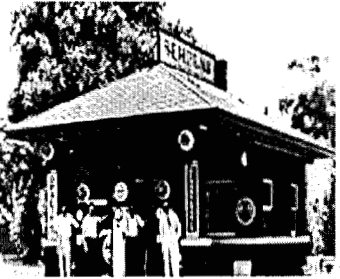Executive Director

Author:
**Images of America: Cedar Falls Iowa**

**Icehouse Museum**

Kristen Johnson Stalling
Director of Education

**"L" Red Schoolhouse**

**Wyth House
and
Viking Pump Museum**

**Behrens-Rapp Station**

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CEDAR FALLS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Board of Directors

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Historical Museums

**Victorian Home**

**Icehouse Museum**

**This page contains a list of all the Board Members of The Cedar Falls Historical Society.**

| | |
|---|---|
| | Robert Beck |
| | Butch Bender |
| | Phylis Carter |
| | Judi Cutler |
| | Marianna Delafield |
| | Saul Diamond |
| | Uyntha Duncan (Chair of B-R) |
| | Ann Eades |
| | Dick Frandsen |
| | Carol Gerdes |
| | Bob Hardman (Chair of WH) |
| Treasurer | Jean A. Harrenstein |

**"L" Red Schoolhouse**



**Wyth House
and
Viking Pump Museum**
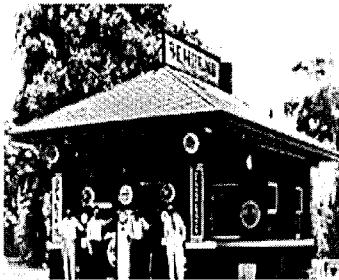


**Behrens-Rapp Station**

| | |
|---|---|
| | Arland "Axe" Haugen |
| | James Jackson |
| | Barbara Johnson |
| | Max Kirk |
| | James Krieg |
| Secretary | Sue Lehman |
| | Sid Morris |
| | Lynn Nielsen |
| | Nancy Redfern |
| | Kay Ruebel |
| Vice President | Don Tamisiea |
| | Dee Vandeventer |
| President | Floyd Winter |
| | Norm Wright |

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# CEDAR FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museums

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Home | Up | Victorian Home | Wyth House & Viking |
| Ice House Museum | Red School House | Behrens-Rapp Station | |

## Historical Museums

**The Historical Society has added virtual walk-throughs of the many wonderful exhibits.**

**Links to each building in the Historical Society will allow users to interact with the QuickTime Movies. Download QuickTime**

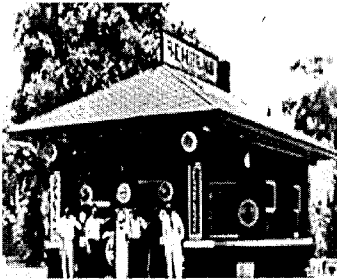For information about panoramic views write to the Web Master.

**Victorian Home**

**Icehouse Museum**

**"L" Red Schoolhouse**



**Wyth House
and
Viking Pump Museum**



**Behrens-Rapp Station**

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Activities

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## Historical Museums

**Victorian Home**

**Icehouse Museum**

**"L" Red Schoolhouse**