



Harrison County Historically Speaking

Dunlap, Iowa



WHY PRESERVE THIS BIT OF HISTORY?

This panel "Tells the Tale" of an era gone by... part of Harrison County's treasured past. By appreciating the importance of the past, we can continue working in the present to ensure future generations will respect and preserve the enduring history that is represented here. By working to connect our past with the present, the structures on this panel have been identified as being historically significant by Harrison County Tourism as part of ongoing efforts to preserve local history. It is 1 of 10 in a series of panels throughout Harrison County.

For a complete list of panels and locations, go to:
<http://destinationharrisonia.com/historically-speaking.html>

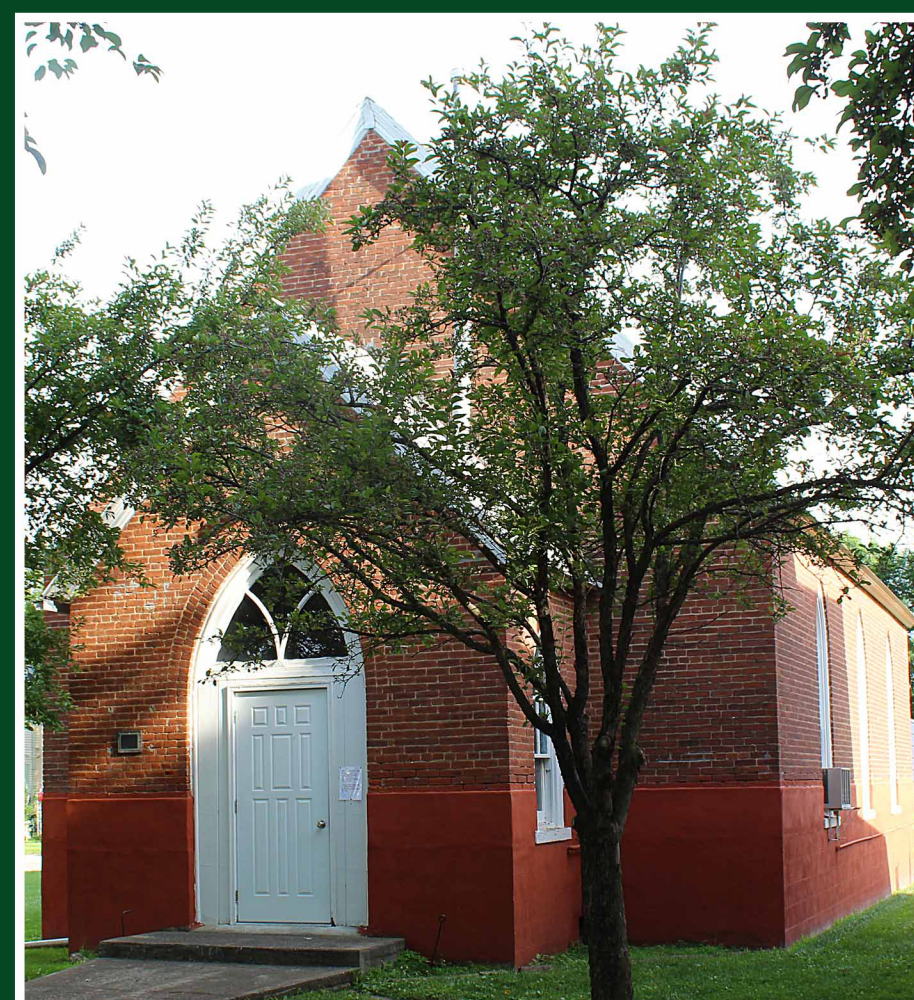


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THE MCLEAN MUSEUM

The McLean Museum was opened in 1988 in a brick church built in 1879 with bricks manufactured in Dunlap. It served as both a Baptist and Lutheran church. It was later sold to a Bible Baptist congregation who kept it until 1983. The museum contains plat books, assessor's and other records, some dating back to as early as the 1880's. Many items in the museum were collected and saved by Don McLean for whom the museum is named. On exhibit is a square grand piano that once was played in the Dunlap Opera House and pictures from the Booster Buck Manufacturing Company which operated in Dunlap.



The Booster Buck, a piece of farm machinery primarily used by farmers to put up hay, was manufactured in a factory here in Dunlap.



THE DOUGAL HOUSE

The Dougal House was once the parsonage for the church that now serves as the McLean Museum and was purchased in 1991 by Irene Dougal and given to the Historical Society as a memorial to her husband Lloyd Dougal. The house, containing many historic items, is reminiscent of homes from that period. Among the interesting items in the house are a gasoline stove, pump organ, household utensils, clothing and furniture.

THE DUNHAM BARN

The Dunham Barn, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is built of bricks that were fired at a kiln west and north of the barn. Built in 1870, the barn is one of the earliest brick barns built in western Iowa. The walls of the barn are four bricks thick at the lower level and three bricks thick at the upper level. A 40 foot hand-hewn walnut beam in the lower level is an indication of the size of the walnut trees growing in this area when it was first settled. A step into the barn is a step into the past. The upper level offers a drive-in entrance through which the farmer could bring his wagon with hay to pitch into the hay-mow or grain to dump into the grain bin. The feed could then be dropped through the trap doors in the floor to the lower level in front of each of the ten horse stalls. The horses or mules would enter the lower level of the barn from an outdoor paddock into the stalls or into the loading area in the center. There are many unique items in this barn that make it an interesting place.



In 1981, Virginia Dunham initiated the procedure to get the barn on the National Register of Historic Places.