

PRESS RELEASE

KEOKUK UNION DEPOT FOUNDATION SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR ROOF RESTORATION

[Keokuk, Iowa. January 31, 2018] The Keokuk Union Depot Foundation has announced the completion of its Depot 125 capital campaign and its Depot 125 Club initiative for the roof restoration as of December 31, 2017. During the 3 ½-year campaign, KUDF raised \$1,275,744, exceeding its \$1,250,000 goal for the roof restoration project.

The Jeffris Family Foundation of Janesville, Wisconsin, which focuses on historic preservation in small towns in the Midwest, was instrumental in the success of the project by awarding a challenge grant of \$333,000 in June of 2014. KUDF won the Jeffris grant in 2016 when it met the 2-for-1 match requirement by raising \$667,000, the combination of which netted \$1 million.

Project Manager and Keokuk native Neal Vogel of Restoric LLC based in Chicago oversaw the restoration work that began in 2015 with a \$56,000 grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa Historical Resource Development Program (“HRDP”) to restore the eaves, soffits, brackets, and chimney. Another HRDP grant in the amount of \$44,000 in 2016 funded the building of the apex that was necessary to restore the central tower to its original height and design.

More than 400 individuals, 26 banks and other businesses, and over 15 non-profit organizations donated to the campaign, including Grace Bott Millar Charitable Foundation, Howard Jackson Family Trust Foundation, Keokuk Area Community Foundation, Lee County Charitable Fund, and the Landes Fund for Iowa of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Highlights of the roof restoration project include:

- Restoration of the chimney to its original height
- Discovery that the eaves, soffits, and brackets were originally painted a faux finish that closely resembled oak woodwork
- Discovery of original cast iron bases for lighting under the eaves
- Restoration of all eaves, soffits, and brackets, including structural reinforcement of the brackets
- Reinforcement of the central tower base
- Hoisting of the re-built apex onto the central tower base to restore the central tower to its original height and design with turrets and dormers
- Installation of Summer Rose clay tiles on the entire central tower, and the upriver and downriver roofs
- Installation of lightning protection on the central tower
- Installation of copper finials, hips, and ridges on the central tower, turrets, and dormers

Only the tile installation over the ticket booth/sandwich shop roof remains, because of the manufacturer's delay in shipping the final tiles.

Built in 1891, the Keokuk Union Depot is one of Keokuk's finest historic buildings. Keokuk is fortunate to be among the few small communities in the Midwest that still possess a significant edifice designed by the renowned Chicago architectural firm of Burnham & Root, creators of the famed Chicago "White City" for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, and the Rookery and Monadnock buildings in Chicago, among others.

The Depot is used as a community event center and can be rented for private functions.

Donations for further restoration and maintenance projects may be sent to KUDF, P.O. Box 463, Keokuk, Iowa 52632.

Submitted by: Janet M. Smith, President, Keokuk Union Depot Foundation



Photo by Janet M. Smith