

“School Days, School Days, dear old golden rule days, reading, and ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic, taught by the tune of a hickory stick!” (words from a common folk song)

Go West! 21st Annual Iowa Country School Preservation Conference in Sac County

Held at the Odebolt Community Center
October 9 & 10, 2020 at 116 E Second St., Odebolt, IA

“One Room Schools—the Start of Big Dreams”
Learn about History-Preservation-Legacy

Come West to see beautifully preserved rural schools with their link to the farming culture that created them.

Registrar: Carol Raasch 712-830-8328 and email ruralschoolsiowa@gmail.com

See also more information on-line at preservationiowa.org and www.odebolt.net/

Sponsors: Preservation Iowa, Rural Legacy Project, Iowa Rural Schools Museum-City of Odebolt, Sac City Chautauqua Pavilion, Tlobedo Questers #485, Odebolt Historical Museum, Sac City Historical Museum and Village, Odebolt Betterment Committee, and Prairie Pedlar.

Coordinators: Sandy Host 402-452-4630 and Bruce Perry: 515-979-5620

Save the Date! October 9 & 10, 2020

Odebolt Community Center, 116 E 2nd St.

Tentative Schedule: 21st Iowa Country School Conference

Friday Oct. 9 (Contact: Carol Raasch 712-830-8328)

8:30 am: Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 am: Intro by Bill Sherman and a line-up of great presentations

Noon- Lunch at the Odebolt Community Center

12:30 pm: Continue presentations until 3:30

3:30 pm: Tour of Historical sites in Odebolt including Willow Tree School

4:30 pm: Leave from Odebolt for Sac City (Contact: Bruce Perry 515-979-5620)

5:00 pm: Tour of Historical sites in Sac City including Jackson #7 School

6:00 pm: Visit Sac City Chautauqua Pavilion for refreshments and a presentation

7:00 pm: Eat dinner at the historic Sac Community Center, 1015 W Main St., Sac City

Saturday Oct. 10 Tour (Contact: Sandy Host 402-452-4630)

8:30 am: Meet at Odebolt Community Center tour to Adams Bank & Quarters, vintage elevator, Adams Ranch, “castles,” Grant #5 School at Moorehead Park, Prairie Pedlar for lunch with Cook #8 School, a rare Sears prefab barn, and antique farm machinery. The tours ends with a close-up look at a large, modern farm operation of today.

Final brochure on presentations, tour & registration costs will mailed and posted in May.



Odebolt Community Center

The Center is a spacious gathering area with kitchen and restroom facilities that hosts a large variety of events. It has huge charcoal drawings by Scott Winey of Odebolt's early buildings on the expansive walls. It also has a display highlighting the Popcorn Story of Odebolt featuring both Cracker Jack and Jolly Time. There are also large displays showcasing the area's two bonanza farms started in the 1870s: 1) Wheeler Farm/Fairview Farm/Adams Ranch occupying 11 sections, and 2) the Brookmont Farm/Cook Ranch with 12 sections.



Heritage Square Park

This is the center of Heritage Square Park where you can walk, relax and enjoy the museums surrounding it. There is a large four-sided vintage style clock to remind you of the time. On the left behind the clock is a WWI memorial. The Odebolt Cemetery has another Veterans memorial. The Odebolt Community Center is just behind the buildings in the picture.



The Iowa Rural Schools Museum

This museum is housed in the Richland #1/Willow Tree School built in 1883. It is one of 12,623 one room schools built in Iowa from 1870-1901. It has an entertaining 22 minute video documentary of the history of Iowa's farm settlement and why its system of one room schools was built. Twelve informative audio stations plus thousands of artifacts tell the history of the unique system of public one rooms schools for Iowa farm children.



Peterson House

This is one of the first pioneer houses in the area. It was built in 1886 by Nils Magnus and Maria Carolyn Peterson and is where they raised 5 children. It is furnished in the period and shows their Swedish heritage. Outside stands one of many barn quilts in Sac County. It is maintained by the Tlobedo Questers #485.



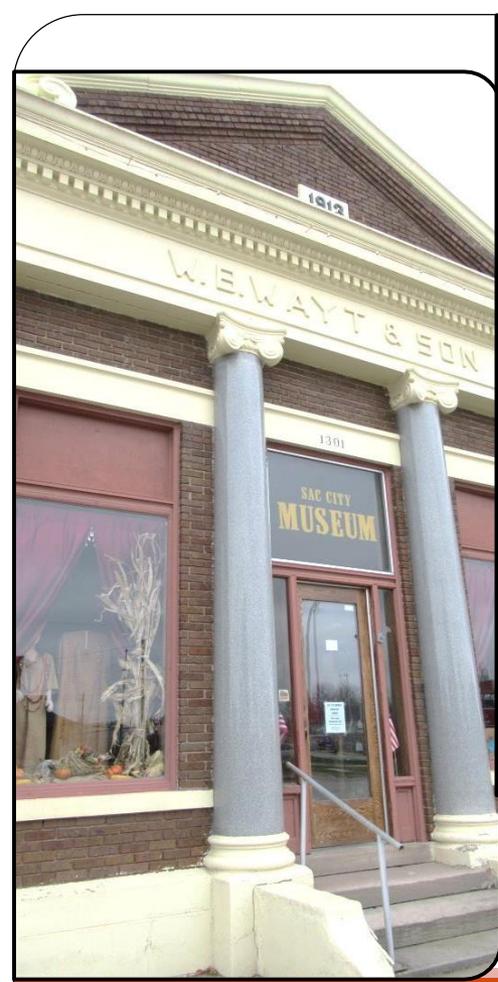
Odebolt Historical Museum

Call 712-668-2823
for viewing to fit
your schedule



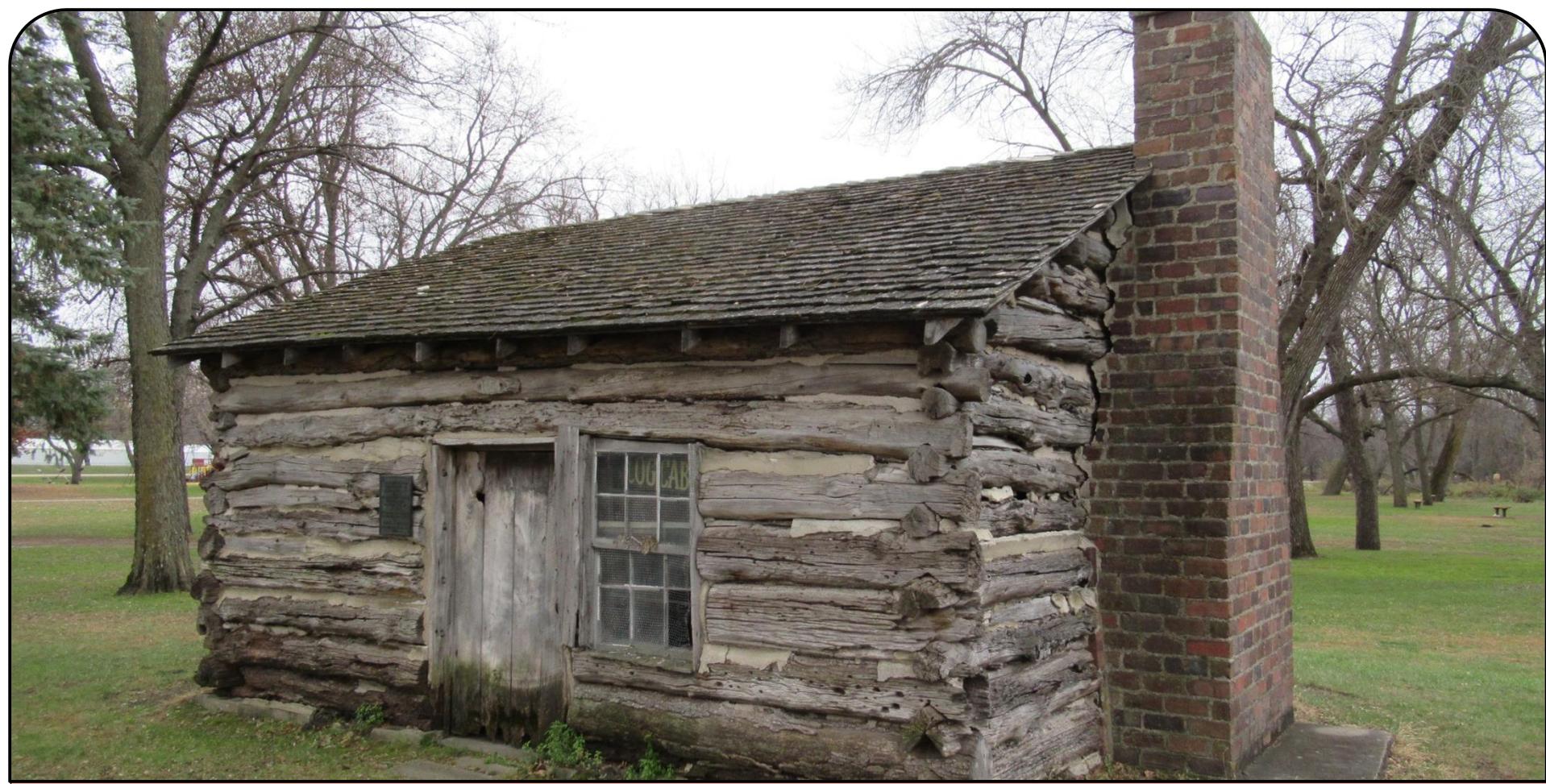
The Odebolt Historical Museum

The museum has the history of Odebolt. It has an especially wonderful collection of early women's dresses and many other wonderful items showing early life in Odebolt. It is a comfortable setting and has exhibits throughout its large two level space.



Sac City Historical Museum & Village with Jackson #7

By the Sac City Museum, the Historical Village is located with a preserved 2nd generation country school Jackson #7 built in 1933, a group of replica buildings representing early business, and the Noble Popcorn Company who provided the popcorn to create the World's largest popcorn ball according to Guinness World Records in 2016. Noble Popcorn creates Cedar Creek flavored popcorn.



Sac County Early Settler Cabin

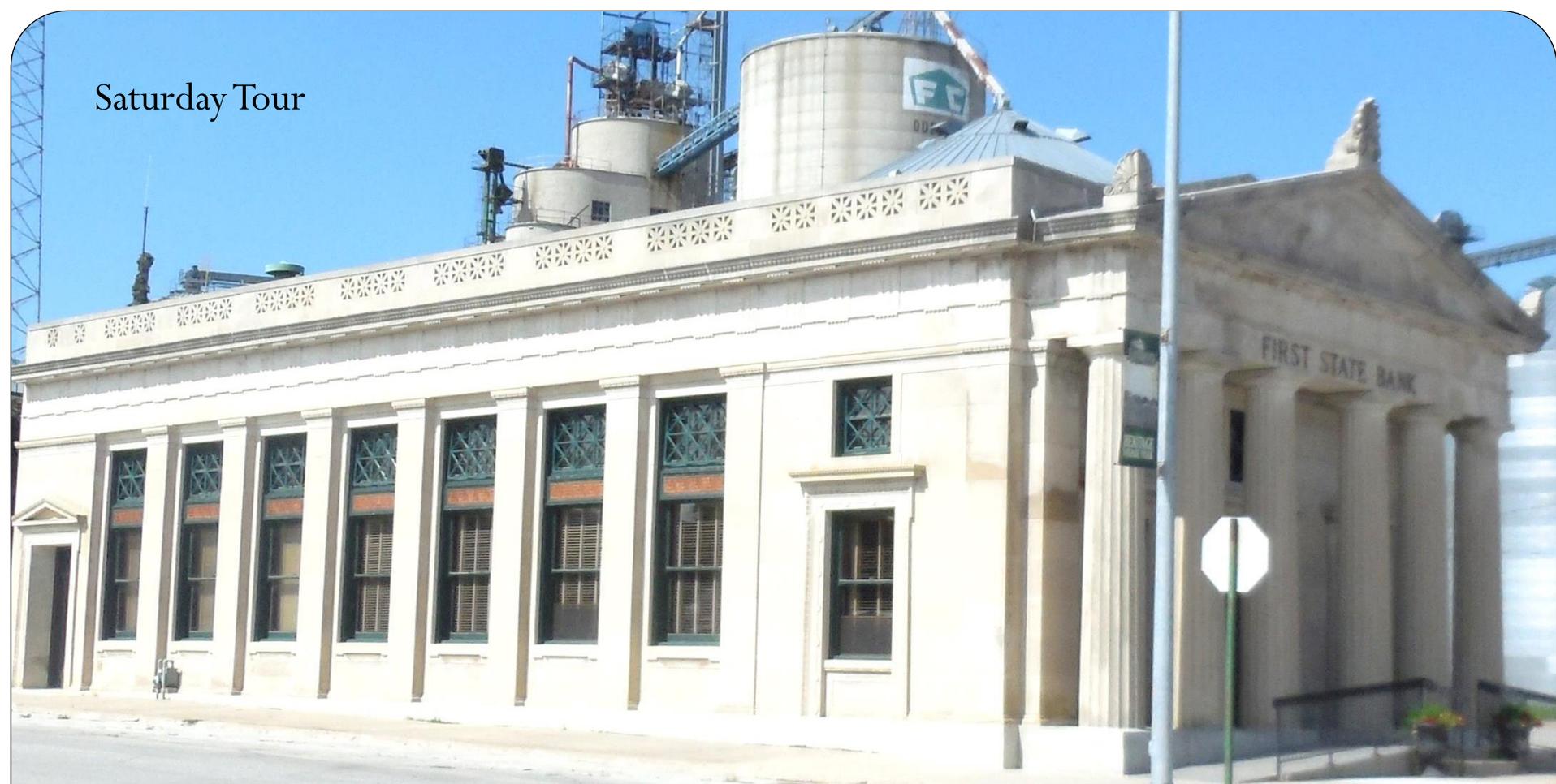
Next to the Chautauqua Pavilion is an early settler cabin in Sac County. Although Otho Williams settled first in Sac County near Big Grove, later called Grant City in 1853, he left and went further west when more settlers arrived. This cabin was erected in 1854 by David Metcalf near an American Indian village a mile north of its current location. The first group of settlers in Sac County settled in the vicinity of the future Sac City in 1854. In 1856 Eugene Criss arrived and his home became the only stagecoach stop between Fort Dodge and Sioux City. It also was the location of the first election in Sac County.



Sac City Chautauqua Pavilion

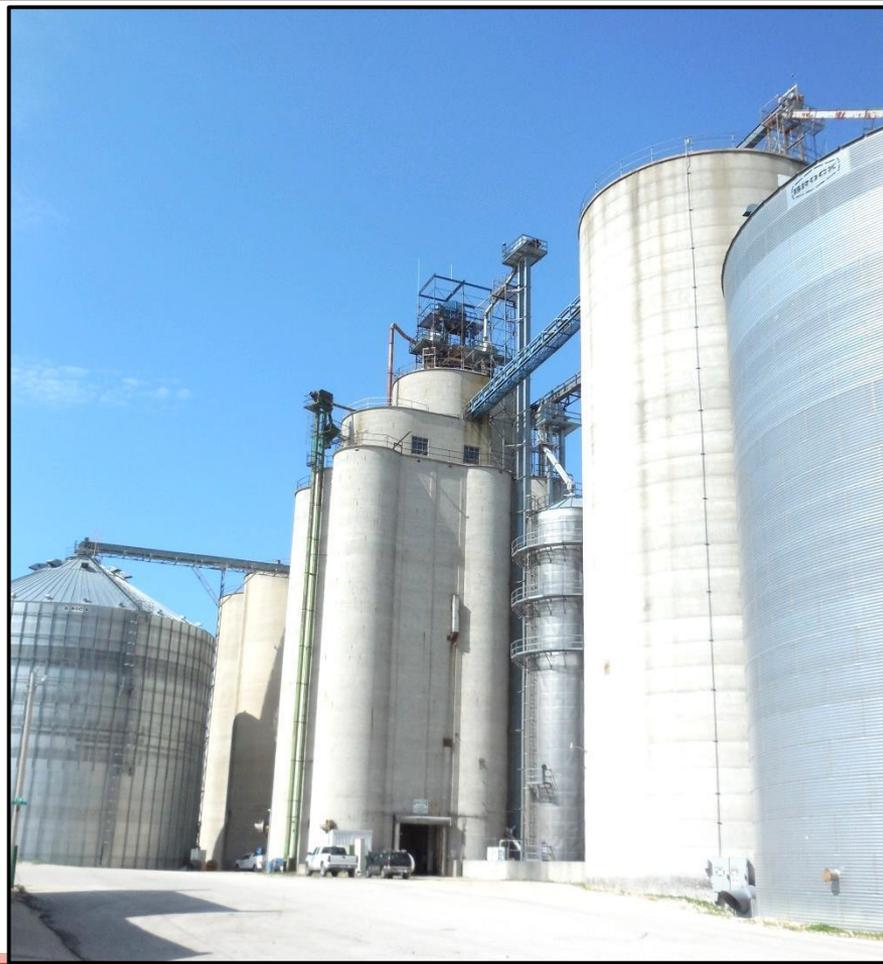
This building was used for entertainment and other activities and is still used today. The Chautauqua was used for eighth grade country school graduations in nearly every county after the turn of the Century. Few remain. Some were permanent buildings like this one, but many were tents set up for the summer events. As of 2014, this building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Dinner will be held at the nearby Sac Community Center, formerly an historic Sac City High School, at 1015 W Main St., Sac City, IA 50583. This high school had the first swimming pool in the State.

Saturday Tour



Adams Bank/1st National Bank built 1916, now First State Bank

This building replaced the earlier home of First National Bank chartered in 1890. It had merged with Farmers First National Bank in 1914. The Bank built new quarters in 1916 known as the Adams Bank because the owner of the Adams Ranch built it and had his private office, quarters (see the door to the far left) and garage for his Pierce Arrow behind the bank. Mr. Adams closed his bank in 1934 with no depositors losing money. Odebolt State Bank was established in late 1934 in the vacant Farmer Savings Bank. The Adams bank sat empty until 1968 when purchased by Odebolt State Bank. In 2008 the bank was sold to First State Bank and was restored in 2009 as a set for the for a movie *Peacock* starring Susan Sarandon released in 2010. It currently operates as First State Bank in Odebolt.



Odebolt Elevators are behind the Adams Bank

Odebolt's original 1954 Mayer-Osborn elevator is one of the last ones using the revolutionary slip-formed concrete construction for tall elevators with totally mechanical systems used in rural and small towns. Once concrete started to pour, it did not stop day or night until the silo was finished. This elevator was never painted white or any color, just the natural beautiful color of concrete. It is still being used today.



Old Fairview Farm/Adams Ranch Farmstead Today

The Wheeler Farm/Fairview Farm/Adams Ranch was an 11 section farm started in 1872 and was purchased by the Adams family in 1896. It was like a small town with 50 miles of roads that bordered every section and four entrances to the farmstead in the middle of a section. The roads were lined and shaded with double rows of elm trees. Today it is closed to the public but an excellent display is available at the Odebolt Community Center to learn about this historically important bonanza farm that used 240 mules to farm and 150 men during harvest season. The famous huge 2-story mule barn is pictured above. The farm was operated by three generations of Adams. After the start of the closing by selling parcels off from 1909-1918 of the Cook Ranch, the Adams Ranch was the largest farm in Iowa when sold in 1964.



Tour to Grant School passes by “Castles”

Grant Center School was built in 1884. It is located in Moorhead Park in Ida Grove. When driving to the school, you pass many castle-like buildings built by model plane enthusiast, Byron LeRoy Godberson. He owned a company Byron's Originals that produced model airplane kits. He used a castle theme for his buildings that included an airport runway and hanger. The runway was also used as the location for annual model airplane competitions until 1996. Mr. Godberson died in 2003. Today Midwest Industries, a leader in Marine industry, occupies many of the castle-like buildings.



Sac County Tour of Barn Quilts

Sac County has participated in the “Barn Quilt” project that seeks to honor the quilting tradition of the area and in some cases preserve vintage quilt patterns. Large quilt block patterns painted on barns can be seen throughout the area. A map of barn locations in Sac County can be obtained at the local museums or City Hall. Odebolt, the former “Popcorn Center of the World” by 1915 with Cracker Jack and Jolly Time, has placed quilt blocks on one of the huge abandoned Cracker Jack Popcorn storage cribs. The quilt block shown to the right is near the Peterson Pioneer House.



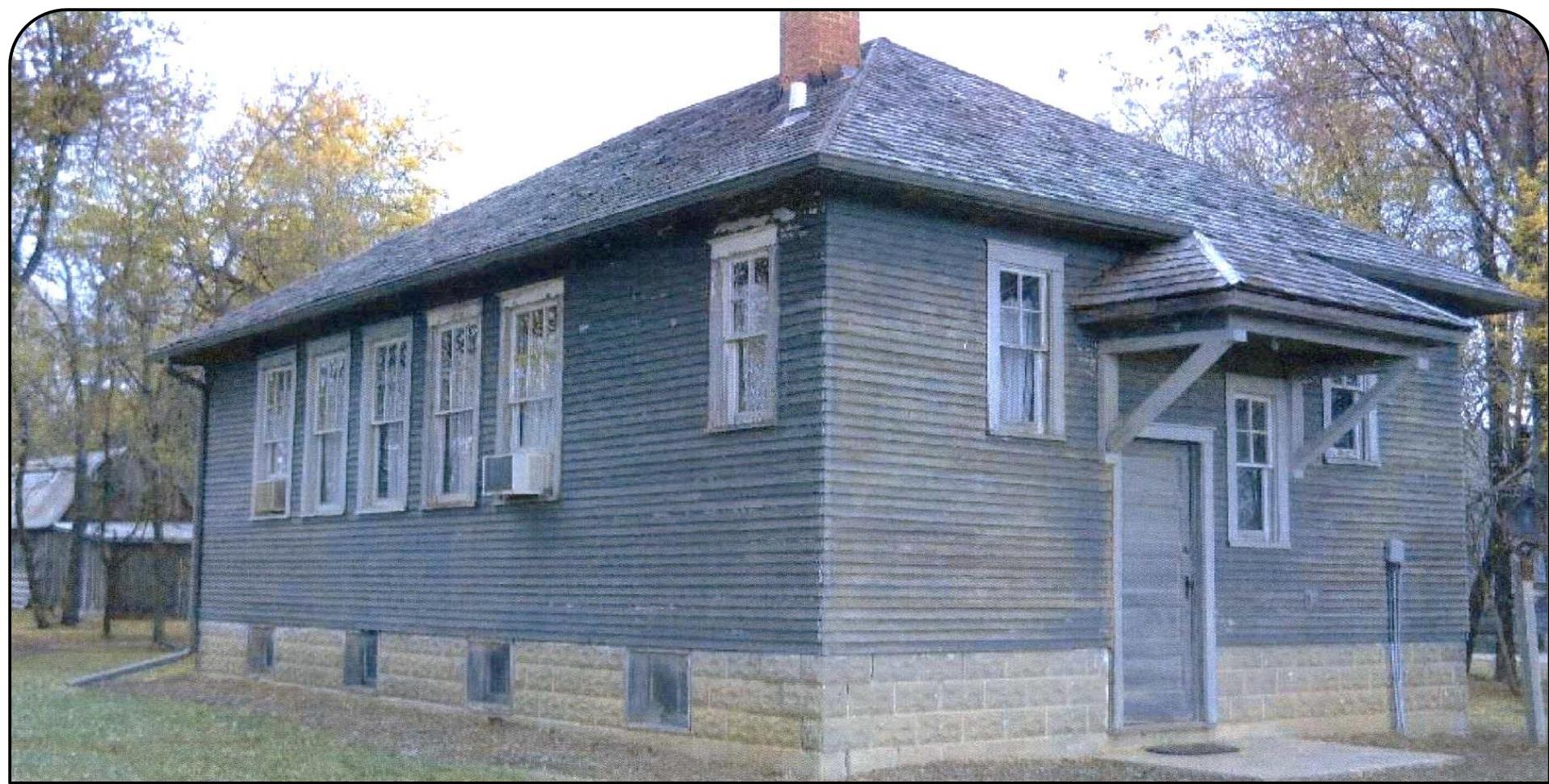
Prairie Pedlar Gardens

This is a local nursery where you can buy plants, walk through beautiful themed gardens and learn about the plants native to the area. You will even pass by the original field where Clويد Smith first grew popcorn for Jolly Time. This field and the land that the Prairie Pedlar stands on north of Odebolt is the original land of the Brookmont Farm, also known as the Cook Ranch. It was a 12 section farm that operated from 1873 to 1909. After Cook died, the farm land was sold off in parcels to local farmers that was completed by 1918. The site is six miles north of Odebolt on the blacktop and ½ mile west on gravel.



At the Prairie Pedlar—Vintage Sears Pre-fab Barn

This barn is now used for parties and events. You can still see the beautiful precision in the pre-cut wood kits ordered thru a Sears and Roebucks catalog that was used to construct this barn. The kits were delivered by railroad and were considered quite an innovation to serve areas without native lumber or enough skilled builders. Sears pre-fab barns were available up to the 1940s.



At the Prairie Pedlar - Cook Township #8 rebuilt in 1937

This is a great example of what 2nd generation one room schools built in the early 1900s looked like. It has a basement with chemical toilets and many windows on adjacent sides. This was different than the 1st generation schools built in the 1800s, like Willow Tree that had three windows on opposite sides of the classroom with no basements and needed to use outhouses.



Come see rural Iowa and experience its changes!

Today's farming has transformed how crops are planted and harvested with the use of large equipment. Chemicals replace animal manure as fertilizer. Children no longer walk the beans to cut out volunteer corn and weeds. Crop rotation and soil conservation practices, such as terraces, manage the top soil. Leaving ditches unmowed has increased wildlife. Fewer farms have livestock which reduces the workload for farmers and enables them to manage larger acreages.