



June 1, 2008

## **DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR STORM DAMAGED HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Tornados have resulted in the loss or damage of structures and properties throughout Iowa. Damages are being assessed to homes, commercial structures, schools and community facilities.

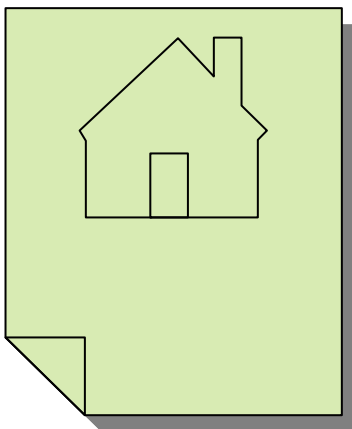
Community volunteers and historic preservationists are advised to make a careful assessment and documentation of storm-related damages. Communities may be eligible for Federal and State funding for repairs, so documentation of the damages will be important to access funding for restoration.

### **Getting Started with Repairing Your Building**

Homeowners and landlords have been faced with many decisions following recent tornados and flooding. Protecting their families, tenants, their homes and their investments has been at the top on their list.

But what's next? How can you make sure your damaged buildings are repaired properly and that your neighborhood becomes whole again? First stop for all Iowa Historic Preservation efforts: Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

<http://www.iowahistory.org/>



1. Take Plenty of Photos. Document **all** damage with photos. After trees are removed, walk around the building again and re-photograph each wall from bottom to top showing cracks in foundations, porch damage, wall trim, window and door damage, roof openings. Repeat until you think you can't take anymore photos and then take a few more. Take close-ups of surviving decorative trim, brackets, shingles, moldings, and gingerbread. Do the same for your garage if it is damaged.
2. Protect, Stabilize and Mothball. Cover and secure exposed areas with plastic. Make sure water is draining

away from temporary walls or roofs and that tilting gutters and downspouts don't pour water into your building. Remove and store valuable, irreplaceable building parts until they can be reinstalled.

3. Salvage Building Parts. Keep all building parts that might prove useful later. Tell friends and family to not throw away broken porch posts and spindles, pieces of broken moldings, loose decorative wooden shingles, window arches, porch skirting, brackets, and anything else that might be useful to look at as you plan your overall repair job. Contractors and fabricators can remake almost anything and if they have a sample or even a partial piece of what you want, it will make their job easier and your cost lower.

4. Make a List of What Needs to Be Done. Put everything that needs to be done in an organized list – roof, porch, exterior walls, windows, etc. Then decide which items are #1 priorities – things you must have for safety and to protect it from the elements. Go through the list again and select #2 priorities – things of less importance but are logical to complete at the same time as #1 items are being done. Finally, add the remaining #3 priorities – things that don't have to be done immediately or that you might want to give some extra thought to before you do them. When you're done, assemble a written "Scope of Work" to share with your insurance adjustor and each contractor who gives you an estimate. Secure a written contract from the contractor you choose.

### **WEB-BASED RESOURCES**

There are several websites that offer useful information about historic properties. These include:

**The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office:**

<http://www.iowahistory.org/preservation/index.html>

**Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance:**

[www.iowapreservation.org](http://www.iowapreservation.org)

**Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area:**

<http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/>

**The National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training-Preservation Briefs:**

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>

**The National Trust for Historic Preservation:**

<http://www.preservationnation.org/>

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