

PRESS RELEASE

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Historic City Hall Second Floor Restoration Project Named Miller Hall

The second floor of Polk City's historic City Hall will once again be an active, community meeting space and stage thanks to a generous donation by the W.C. Miller family.

The City Hall was originally used as a schoolhouse in 1863 and was purchased by the city in 1894 to serve as the Town Hall. In August of 2004, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now due to the W.C. Miller family gift the second floor will be restored to the 1915 era, when the facility was the center of town life. Second floor repairs include restoring the wainscot, installing a period ceiling, updating the electrical system, installing a heating and cooling system, and restoring the stage area.

Robert J. Miller, CEO of Polk County Bank said, "Historical preservation tells the collective stories of our community. My parents, who believed in preserving our past for future generations, instilled in me the importance of historic preservation. We are honored to be a part of the restoration and we are excited for the work to begin. On behalf of the entire Miller family we would like to thank Tom Cox for his unique ability to make great things happen on behalf of the Society."

Funding provided by the Miller family and other generous donors will preserve one of the oldest continually used public buildings in Polk County. It is considered by many to be a true Iowa treasure.

Tom Cox, President and Project Coordinator of Big Creek Historical Society said, "The historical society is very grateful for the generosity of the Miller family. With this gift we can start immediately. We are tickled pink."

The Big Creek Historical Society is a non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. To ensure that we preserve our past for our future, you may send contributions to: Big Creek Historical Society, PO Box 201, Polk City, IA 50266.

(BCHS) Big Creek Historical Society was established in 1993 and is located in Polk City, Iowa. A museum is located in the historic city hall at 112 3rd Street. The group was named after the original settlement built on the banks of Big Creek in 1840 by George Beebe. The motto of “Preserving the Past for the Future” keeps the group active in the community promoting the rich history of the Big Creek area.

Historical Timeline

1863 – City Hall, which is located on Polk City’s historic Town Square was built by John Adam Schaal using native black walnut timbers.

1894 – Originally used as the schoolhouse, the building was purchased by the city and has served as a public building since then.

1890’s to 1940’s – The second floor of the City Hall was the center for community activities.

1961 – Extensive remodeling removed access to the second floor.

2004 – The City Hall was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

2005 – Restoration work begins on the cupola, front entrance, first floor and access to the second floor is restored.

2006 – The new Big Creek Historical Museum officially opened on the first floor of the historical structure.

2008 – The W.C. Miller family provides a major gift to restore the second floor of the historic City Hall. It will be named Miller Hall.

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