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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project originated with the Ames Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Ames Department of Planning and Housing. The need for the project became apparent when the commission attempted to identify the subject of its next historical and architectural survey and discovered that it lacked criteria to prioritize the many opportunities available. Consulting the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), the staff of that institution suggested that the HPC apply for a grant through the Historic Resources Development Program (HRDP) to prepare an historic preservation plan in 2007.

The City appointed a Steering Commission of eight members to oversee the project. Over the next eighteen months, the committee met on a regular monthly basis. A series of public forums was inaugurated to kick off the project, inform the public about it, and solicit their input. The categorized results of these forums are contained in Appendix 7 of this document. The SHSI conducted a National Register workshop at the Ames Public Library attended by some 65 individuals, and further workshops offered to real estate developers, although not well attended.

As the project progressed, it became apparent that the City of Ames wished to adopt the plan as a policy statement, not just a report to receive and file. To achieve this end and to separate the plan from consultant recommendations, the Steering Committee developed a series of Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps (GOAS). Six goals emerged along with numerous objectives and action steps. The committee then consulted with the Ames Historic Preservation Commission, Ames Planning and Zoning Commission, and Ames City Council, asking their review and comment. The preservation commission and the P&Z also met jointly, the first time ever, to learn about each other's civic responsibilities and to discuss topics of mutual concern. All of the comments from these bodies were integrated into the revised format of what was emerging as the *Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan*. Then the process began again with more consultations with the various commissions and council to fine-tune the revised GOAS.

The result of this work is the *Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* draft (see Appendix 1) approved by the City Council on October 27, 2009. The plan is also published under separate cover to distinguish it from the consultant's report.

As to the document in hand, the *Ames Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Report*, the report provides background information concerning historic preservation in Ames and contains numerous recommendations to augment the GOAS contained in the plan. As historic preservation has evolved in Ames, it has grown more complex, as various stakeholders and government entities become involved. As Chapter 1 of this report documents, historic preservation in Ames has never been so robust or with a more diverse and growing constituency.