

## THE HISTORIC DUBUQUE SHOT TOWER

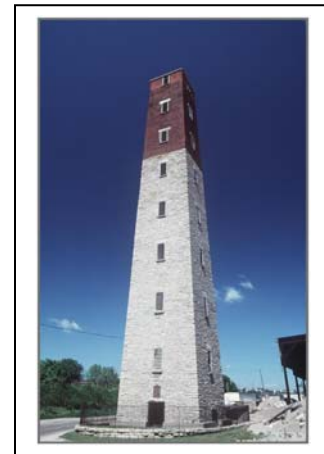
A brief summary of 150 years of Dubuque's #1 icon, the Shot Tower, a Civil War landmark....

Constructed in 1856 to manufacture lead shot ammunition, the Shot Tower is one of only a few remaining shot towers in the United States, and the only one west of the Mississippi River. The 120-foot Shot Tower produced lead shot from 1856-58, and then was closed. It was briefly refurbished for use during the first year of the Civil War. It was used by the Standard Lumber Company as a fire watchtower from the late 1880s until the company was destroyed in the 1911 lumberyard fire. The tower stood deserted in its post-fire ruin from 1911 to 1959. The 1911 fire destroyed the original wooden stairs, leaving no ready means to access the tower interior for maintenance and repairs. In 1960-1961, the tower was repaired using methods that are now known to promote deterioration. Mayor Roy Buol declared 2006 as the Year of the Shot Tower in recognition of the structure's sesquicentennial.

### Shot Tower Rehabilitation Project:

- an archeological survey inside and around the tower,
- interior and exterior repointing and masonry repairs,
- a new roof, door and windows,

This project provided an opportunity to interpret the Shot Tower's rich history, the Mississippi River, and the country's industrial expansion westward. During the archeological investigation, the well where lead shot was once dropped and cooled was unexpectedly uncovered. The well will remain exposed and become part of the interpretive experience.



### Partnerships

- **\$295,000 Save America's Treasures grant from the National Park Service to address structural problems and provide an opportunity for interpretation.**
- \$100,000 Historic Sites Preservation grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa for rehabilitation of the Shot Tower
- \$15,500 Historic Resource Development Program grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa for an archeological survey of the Shot Tower
- \$200,000 from the City of Dubuque as part of the *America's River* project at the Port of Dubuque for rehabilitation and interpretation of the Shot Tower
- Jim Jacobsen, architectural historian with History Pays! In Des Moines, is assisting the City at no cost with our application to the National Park Service to have the Shot Tower designated as a National Historic Landmark.
- Central Alternative High School students created a history book, had essays published in the local newspaper, and produced a video documentary and a Shot Tower commemorative calendar. Central Alternative students also raised money toward a flag pole that will be installed at a later date.
- Loras College students in the Archeology and Cultural Heritage Interpretation program participated in the archeological survey.
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources provided a Phase II environmental survey of the Shot Tower at no cost to the City, to determine if there are possible environmental contaminants from the lead shot production.



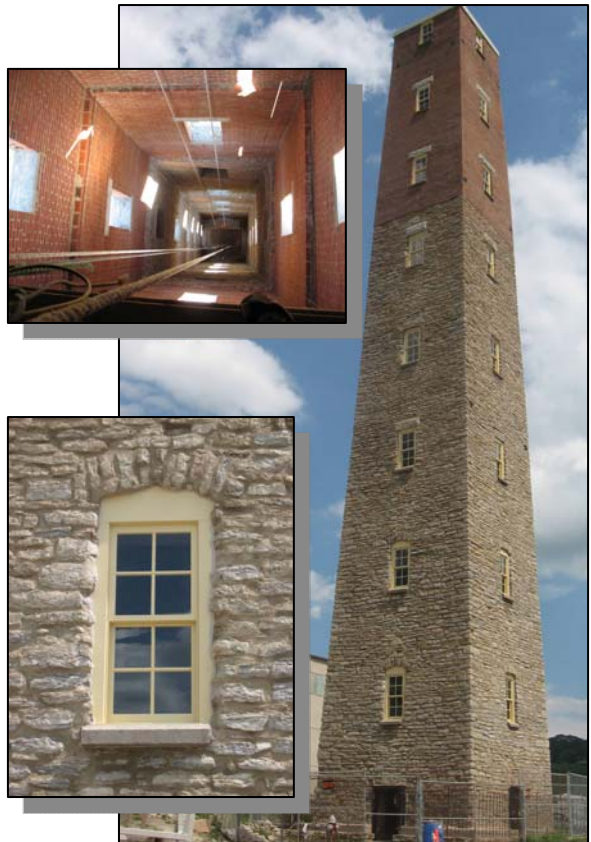
Before



Archeological Investigation

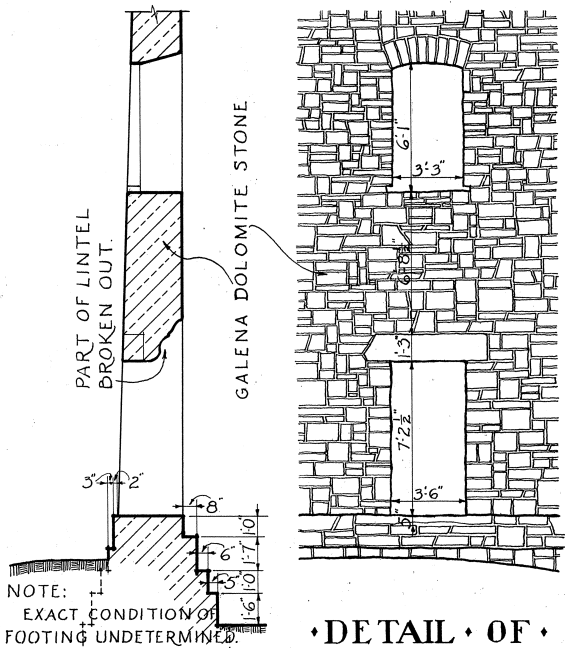
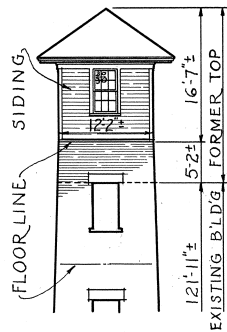


Rehabilitation



After

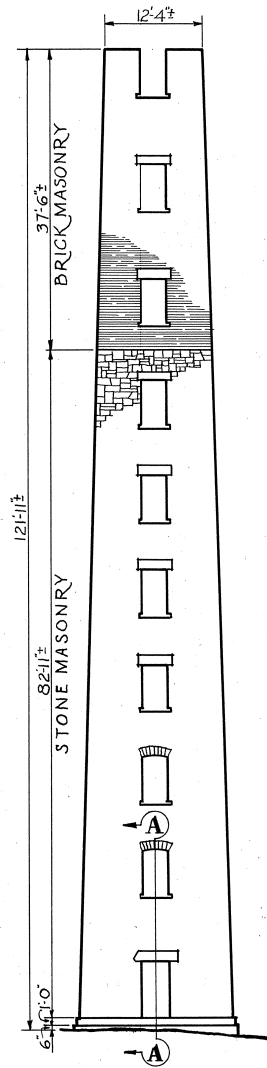
• RESTORATION •  
• OF • TOP •  
SCALE -  $\frac{3}{8}$ " = 1'-0"



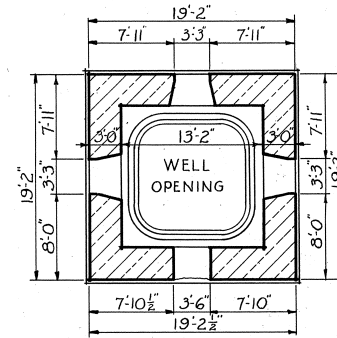
NOTE:  
EXACT CONDITION OF  
FOOTING UNDETERMINED.

• DETAIL OF •  
• SECTION A-A • ENTRANCE •  
SCALE -  $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1'-0"

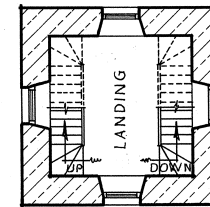
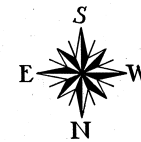
HARRY N. BEVERS, DEL.



• NORTH ELEVATION •  
THE SOUTH, EAST AND WEST ELEVATIONS  
ARE THE SAME EXCEPT WINDOWS DIS-  
PLACE ENTRANCE. SCALE -  $\frac{3}{32}$ " = 1'-0"

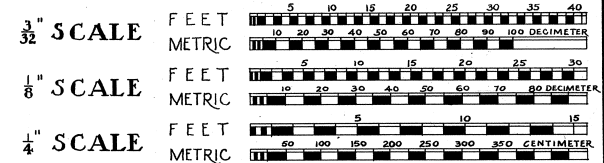


• PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR •  
SCALE -  $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1'-0"



• PLAN OF TYPICAL FLOOR •  
SHOWING RESTORATION OF INTERIOR.  
SCALE -  $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1'-0"

GRAPHIC SCALES



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS  
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

• SHOT TOWER • DUBUQUE, IOWA •



SURVEY NO.  
**30-8**

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS

INDEX NO.