



Bruce Selyem is a vintage grain elevator expert. He is the Founder and President of the Country Grain Elevator Historical Society. According to Bruce, the Ross elevator is one of the oldest and, quite possibly, THE oldest elevator left in Iowa.

Bruce has visited 5,200 locations in North America, including hundreds in Iowa. He says the Ross elevator is different from anything he has ever seen. That is because of its unique combination of shape, age and construction. He points out the head-house (top of the elevator) is almost as tall as the rest of the elevator. That alone makes the Ross elevator's architecture significant.

Bryan Olson, the contractor who will help restore the elevator, wants to preserve it because of the interesting architecture and the history of the elevator. He says, "I really hope Bob and Janet get the support they need from our community because the old grain elevator really does need to be saved. It's part of our heritage and shows how business was done in the early 1900s. I'm glad I have been given the chance to get involved."

Help us match the Iowa Barn Foundation's \$25,000 award, and save the Ross Grain Elevator



"Our first goal is to stabilize the elevator so no further deterioration will occur."

-Bob Nelson, Elevator Owner



Save the Ross Elevator

**Send donations to: Ross Elevator, c/o Bob Nelson,
5950 Main Street, Audubon, IA 50025
Email: Save.Ross.Elevator@gmail.com
Phone: 712-304-5809 www.SaveRossElevator.com**

**Retaining 19th Century
Agricultural History**

**Help Save the
Ross Grain
Elevator**



Before It's Lost

Donate to the Preservation of an Iowa Agricultural Historical Marker

The history of the Ross Grain Elevator reflects days of hard work, dangerous conditions, ingenuity, and the beginning of modern agriculture. Many of these historic buildings are disappearing from our landscape. Their history and lessons learned are gone forever.

The Ross Grain Elevator was built in the 1800s. It is historically significant due to its unique architecture. Most importantly, original grain elevators were instrumental in opening outside commodity markets. This benefited both local citizens and the country as a whole—the Ross elevator helped build Audubon County's economy!

The elevator was originally lap board sided and painted red. Around 1900 the elevator was clad in steel to prevent being burned down by steam engine sparks. Unlike many remaining elevators, the original mechanisms like the distributor, bin spouts, direct to hopper, storage bins, mixer, back hopper and wagon spout remain.



The Iowa Barn Foundation recently awarded a \$25,000 matching grant to help preserve this “Prairie Sentinel”.

We are asking you to be a part of saving Iowa history by helping us match the Iowa Barn Foundation's matching grant. Preserve the past for tomorrow's future and restore the Ross elevator.

Why the Ross Grain Elevator is “worth it”

The Ross Grain Elevator is rich in history and must be saved.

- Built in the 1880s—one of or THE oldest elevator left in Iowa
- Ideal location—not surrounded by modern buildings, bank-barn type construction
- Railroad history—originally associated with the Northwestern/Rock Island Railroad line
- Crib constructed—dimensional lumber laid flat one on top of another then spiked together “log cabin style” with 2x8, 2x6, and 2x4 boards
- Sided with galvanized steel over original lap siding to prevent fires from locomotive steam engine sparks
- Original mechanisms remain—many of the original mechanisms exist without modern additions
- Foundation—original structure has a stacked limestone foundation. The secondary structure, built around the early 1900s, is on poured concrete

Masterpiece of Workmanship

This 1800s elevator is a masterpiece unlike anything currently existing. Everyone who sees it is awed by its construction and stateliness. You would be hard-pressed to find another building in the area with such historical relevance.

Three Buildings...

The elevator consists of three buildings: the main building with the head house, the grain storage bins, and the brick scale house.



Shown here is the mixer and the ladder to the third floor.



The leg for grain transfer and the inside of a storage bin.



Looking into the main part of the building.

Save the Ross Elevator

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