

Mortar Matters

Friday, March 26th
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



A Joint Masonry Workshop

Sponsored by



Workshop Schedule

Registration 8:30-9:00 Join us for coffee, tea, orange juice, and pastries
Historic Lobby of the Ames City Auditorium

Welcome 9:00-9:15

Multipurpose Room, Community Center, 2nd Floor

Gloria Betcher, Chair, Ames Historic Preservation Commission, &
The Honorable Ann Campbell, Mayor, City of Ames

Session 1 9:15-10:30 Historic Masonry & Mortar

Multipurpose Room, Community Center, 2nd Floor

David Arbogast

Break 10:30-10:45 Coffee, tea, orange juice, and pastries

Historic Lobby, Ames City Auditorium

Session 2 10:45-12:00 Case Studies of Buildings

David Arbogast

Balcony, Ames City Auditorium

Walking Tour 12:00-12:20

Route between City Hall and the Octagon Center for the Arts

David Arbogast & John Speweik

Lunch 12:20-1:05

Octagon Center for the Arts, Exhibit Hall, 3rd Floor

Session 3 1:15-2:30 Moisture Damage & Mortar Preparation

Multipurpose Room, Community Center, 2nd Floor

John Speweik

Break 2:30-2:45 Coffee, tea, and water

Historic Lobby, Ames City Auditorium

Session 4 2:45-4:00 Choosing a Qualified Contractor

Balcony, Ames City Auditorium

John Speweik

Dessert Reception and Conversation 4:00-5:00

Historic Lobby, Ames City Auditorium

Join us for conversation with the experts and desserts from The Café.

The Experts

David Arbogast offers experience from his long career with the National Park Service (NPS), both as a Historical Architect and as an authority on mortar issues. Now an independent consultant, he works extensively on contracts with the NPS on private projects across the nation. He brings together a historical approach to the development of mortar and his knowledge of modern analytical tools for the replication of specific historic formulas and applications. His presentations cover historic masonry, stucco, terra cotta, and chinking, as well as mortar, and case studies of historic masonry buildings.

John Speweik, of Speweik Preservation Consultants, is a historic masonry specialist widely recognized for his work on landmark historic properties. He is a mason, an advisor, and a consultant on historic masonry, deeply involved in the training of masons on lime mortar installation. He is co-author of “Preservation Briefs #2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings” (U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS). Currently he is engaged with other members of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) in developing new standards for restoration mortar. His workshop presentations center on the old problems of moisture damage—causes, solutions, and preparing mortar specifications—and on evaluating qualifications of masonry contractors.

Those Who Made This Workshop Possible

This workshop has been organized and sponsored by the Historic Preservation Commissions of Ames and Mount Vernon, in partnership with Preservation Iowa (formerly Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance) and the State Historical Society of Iowa. The activity that is the subject of this workshop has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

Special thanks also go to the Octagon Center for the Arts, the Iowa House Historic Inn, the Ames Main Street Cultural District staff and volunteers, and the staff of the City of Ames for their contributions of time, effort, and facilities; to David Arbogast and John Speweik, for their donation of time and resources to this grant project; and especially, to the workshop organizing committee members from Ames and Mount Vernon and the staff of the State Historic Preservation Office, who dedicated many hours over many months to make this workshop happen.

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20204.