



THE CASE FOR RESTORATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

THIS OLD HOUSE, THIS NEW CENTURY

Situated on a bluff overlooking the Iowa River, just a few blocks north of the Clinton Street residence halls and the historic Pentacrest, the President's House at 102 Church Street is among the most visible and significant landmarks on the University of Iowa campus. Built in 1908, the stately brick house has been home to 11 UI Presidents and their families, and has witnessed many pivotal moments in the history of our great University.

The UI President's House (shown above as it appears today) was completed on March 1, 1909, for a total cost of \$21,257. Today, the house contains 11,814 gross square feet, including five bedrooms and four bathrooms.

Since the President's Office moved from Old Capitol to Jessup Hall in 1971, the President's House has served as the primary architectural symbol of the University presidency. The Presidents Club, which recognizes the University's most generous contributors, held its inaugural dinner at 102 Church Street in 1967, and the house's image appears on plaques awarded to Presidents Club members.

Already a principal icon of the University, the President’s House will be increasingly crucial in the future, not only as the continuing residence of University of Iowa presidents, but, of equal importance, as a desirable and distinctive location for hosting events honoring UI students, faculty, staff, alumni, contributors, and other key constituents.



Nearly 100 years old, the house today is in need of substantial restoration—and, like Old Capitol and Schaeffer Hall, this historic UI structure must be revitalized rather than abandoned. The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, has approved a careful but thorough renovation plan that will result in a house well suited for future generations of University of Iowa presidents.

Of the \$2.9 million restoration project cost, 40 percent will come from University funds and will be directed to replacing the house’s antiquated heating, cooling, electrical, and plumbing systems infrastructure. The remaining \$1.74 million in essential restoration funding must be provided through private gifts from UI alumni and friends.



In addition to the infrastructure renovations designed to bring this early 20th century home up to 21st century standards of efficiency, safety, and convenience, urgent restoration needs to be addressed by private funding include the following areas of focus:

Top rendering: The restored West Porch and new garage are visible in this view of the house from the southwest.

Bottom photo: During calendar year 2001 alone, 48 events were held at 102 Church Street and nearly 2,000 guests crossed its threshold.

The floorplans on these two pages indicate areas of new construction (in green) and restoration (in blue) on the first and second floors of the President’s House.





- **Original Garage, West Porch, and Overlook:** Major changes planned for the west elevation of 102 Church Street include the removal of the single-car garage (built in 1917 to house the latest Model T) and driveway, shoring-up of the river bluff, reconstruction of the West Porch in keeping with the house's original building style, and creation of a large, attractively landscaped overlook that will serve as a pleasing and functional gathering place for outdoor receptions.
- **New Garage and Service Wing:** A two-story garage will be added to the east wing, connected to the house via a new entryway with modern elevator and storage areas. Past the entryway is the catering kitchen, which has been wholly inadequate in providing for the many lunches, receptions, and dinners held at 102 Church Street each year. The kitchen will be remodeled to better serve these needs.
- **North Porch:** Among the most welcoming spaces for visitors to 102 Church are its two main-floor porches. As part of this project, the existing North Porch will be completely rebuilt in a style more in keeping with the character of the house. In addition, a new north-facing door and steps will lead from the porch onto the overlook area, increasing the porch's usefulness.
- **Interior and Exterior Restorations:** Much-needed repairs throughout the house include replacement of aging and leaking windows, painting and carpeting, woodwork refinishing, new lighting, and restoration of the home's elegant fireplaces.



Top rendering: This view shows the house as seen from the north, with new garage and drive.

Bottom rendering: A view from the northwest, showing new north porch and yard area.



LEVEL 2 PLAN
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA - 102 CHURCH STREET

■ MINOR RENOVATION
■ MAJOR RENOVATION
■ NEW CONSTRUCTION

HERBERT | LEWIS | KRUSE | BLUNCK
ARCHITECTURE
16 FT



Having had the honor to live in the President's home, Susan Boyd and Sandy Boyd (pictured above) are committed to its future and have agreed to co-chair the campaign for the 102 Church Street restoration, along with Mary Louise Petersen, Chair of The Presidents Club and Co-Chair of the National Campaign Steering Committee.

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, passed a resolution in 1976 requiring UI presidents to live in the President's House. The current restoration project will be key to attracting and retaining future UI presidents.

The elegant and historic character of the President's House cannot be replicated or replaced using contemporary materials and techniques, and must be carefully preserved. So many elements—from the interior woodwork to the public spaces—are reflective of a public home from an earlier era. This well planned restoration, designed to provide lasting solutions, will preserve and modernize the house to function efficiently in its second century.

As has been true of many campus building projects in recent years, only through a public/private funding partnership—addressing both infrastructure and amenities needs—can the 102 Church Street project result in a complete and lasting restoration.

Contributors wishing to help us complete our important restoration project will have their names permanently associated with this enduring symbol of the UI presidency. **All contributors of \$25,000 or more to the 102 Church Street project will be recognized on a permanent plaque** to be prominently displayed in the President's House main entryway at the project's conclusion.

We are confident that UI alumni and friends—those who cherish the President's House and appreciate its central role in the life of the University—will join with us in this important endeavor to restore this important symbol of the University's past, present, and future.

For more information about the campaign for 102 Church Street, contact:

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