

## **2010 House Tour Brochure**

### **Description of Grant Projects**

Proceeds from the House Tours fund the Dubuque Old House Enthusiasts Grant Program. This year the Tours will support the following projects:

**Restoration of the Ham House Cupola:** The signature cupola of the Dubuque County Historical Society's 1856 National Register Mathias Ham House can be seen for miles around, and is particularly evident from an overlook in Eagle Point Park. This grant will provide for the restoration of the historic cupola's windows by replacing rotted wood and painting two walls damaged by water. The City of Dubuque, who is responsible for the outside of the house, will replace the cupola roof in Spring 2010.

The Historical Society provides historic interpretation of the Mathias Ham House. The house is used to illustrate the early history of Dubuque as seen through the Ham family as they progressed from log cabin to Italian Villa using the proceeds of Ham's lead smelting business through the educational program "At the Lead Mines."

**Historic Millwork District Interpretive Sign:** Dubuque Main Street will purchase and install a historic interpretive sign to be erected in the center of the re-emerging Historic Millwork District. The more than 100-year-old district is a critical part of Dubuque's cultural, social and economic history. As the community works to preserve the buildings, it is crucial to commemorate the physical place and working past of the district and to honor the men and women who labored there.

The sign will illustrate and describe the significance and influence of millworking in Dubuque as well as convey the stories of the buildings, structures, companies and people of the district during its prime. The sign will be included as a landmark on the Heritage Trail Riverfront System of interpretive signs. It will be the first in a series of interpretive signs to be erected throughout the Historic Millwork District.