

January 19, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

Having been born, raised, educated, and employed in Iowa, I consider the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) in Iowa City to be an invaluable resource.

In 2023-24, I performed extensive research at the facility to complete an application to place the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center on the National Register of Historic Places. I was able to locate critical information and documentation necessary to complete the application because the SHSI was located in Iowa City, and it had the resources I needed specific to the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center. These resources included, architectural plans, historical documents, photos, correspondence, product catalogs and literature, and other materials in the Richard W. Pattschull Collection, as well as 20th century fire insurance maps on microfiche, local historical photos, and historical newspaper articles and books housed in the facility. Many of these resources were donated to SHSI and may now be marked for disposal, particularly those materials that have not been digitized.

The application was subsequently approved, and the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center was added to the National Register in 2024, thanks to the materials housed in the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City.

Getting rid of this facility is a colossal mistake. Once this facility is gone, this type of research will no longer be possible.

Sincerely,

Jill Fishbaugh
Iowa City, Iowa