



Welcome to the Hoyt Sherman Place Curriculum Guide! Kindergarten-2nd Grade

MISSION: Hoyt Sherman Place creates outstanding experiences for the cultural, historic and educational benefit of Iowa's residents and communities.

VISION: Hoyt Sherman Place will be a premier historic cultural center in Iowa, working with national and local partners to present outstanding performances, celebrate Iowa's history and grow arts and culture in the region.



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Welcome to the Hoyt Sherman Place K-2 Curriculum!

This curriculum is designed to meet the needs of educators across various disciplines, from art to social studies and beyond. Understanding the demands of your schedule, we've crafted a flexible program that can be adjusted to fit your calendar while aligning with core educational standards and meeting diverse student needs.

Within this packet, you will discover contextual information about Hoyt Sherman Place, along with educational resources. These materials are intended to enrich your visit, where students will explore the Mansion, Art Gallery, and Theater. The accompanying guides aim to deepen students' cross-curricular understanding of Iowa's history and visual arts. Students will build skills in critical thinking and creativity. Additionally, worksheets provided at the end of this packet offer further activities for classroom or at-home engagement beyond the visit.

Thank you for your dedication to your students and for providing them with opportunities to explore and learn about Des Moines' history. We are delighted to welcome you to Hoyt Sherman Place and trust that you will find our curriculum to be a valuable and enjoyable resource for your classroom!

You can show your support for Hoyt Sherman Place by sending thank-you letters, colorful drawings, or other creative works to our esteemed corporate sponsors. As a 501(c)(3), these gestures of appreciation are deeply meaningful to our sponsors and significantly aid us in securing grants that ensure the preservation and future of this historic venue. Please send your thank-yous to Hoyt Sherman Place via mail or email, and we will handle the rest!



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HOYTSHERMAN.ORG



K-12 Social Studies & Visual Arts Iowa Core Standards

Iowa Core Social Studies

K-2 History Curriculum: Analyze Change, Continuity, & Context

SS.K.17: Compare life in the past to life today.

SS.1.20: Create a chronological sequence of multiple related events in the past and present using specific times.

SS.2.20: Determine the influence of the particular individuals and groups who have shared significant historical change.

Iowa Core Visual Art

K-2 Visual Art Curriculum: Connecting

VA.Cn.11.1.Ka: Identify a purpose of an artwork.

VA.Cn.11.1.1a: Understand that people from different places and times have made art for a variety of reasons.

VA.Cn.11.1.2a: Compare and contrast cultural uses of artwork from different times and places.





Lesson Plans for Kindergarten-2nd Grade: Hoyt Sherman Place

Pre-Tour Lesson: Contextualizing Hoyt Sherman Place

Grade Level: Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Subject: Social Studies & Visual Art

Duration: 45 minutes

Social Studies Standards: SS.K.17, SS.1.20, SS.2.20

Visual Arts Standards: VA.Cn.11.1.Ka, VA.Cn.11.1.1a, VA.Cn.11.1.2a

Objective: Students will learn about Hoyt Sherman's historical significance and compare its past and present uses.

Materials Needed:

- Projector or smartboard
- Access to images of Hoyt Sherman Place (historic and current- printouts/ digital)
- Simplified text about Hoyt Sherman Place
- Paper, construction paper, chart paper
- Timeline and concentric circles
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue, pencils, scissors, tape
- Pre-cut postcards with colorable stamps
- Hoyt Sherman Place PowerPoints

Lesson Outline:

1. Introduction (15 minutes):

Students will be introduced to Hoyt Sherman Place and what makes it special to Des Moines, Iowa.

- **Historical Overview:** Share a simple story about Hoyt Sherman and his mansion, including his arrival in Iowa, his contributions to the city, and how it became Hoyt Sherman Place.
- **Creative Drawing:** Draw what you think Hoyt Sherman Place might look like. How do you think it has changed over time?
- **Discussion:** Use PowerPoints or website to spark a discussion on why Hoyt Sherman Place might be special to Des Moines. Full class, pairs, or small groups:

2. Social Studies- Historical Timeline Project (25 minutes):

Students will look at pictures of Hoyt Sherman Place from different times, talk about how it has changed, and create a simple timeline of important events.

- **Show Images:** Present images of Hoyt Sherman Place from different times (1877, 1907, 1923, 2020). Briefly explain what is happening in each image.
- **Compare and Contrast:** Use a compare and contrast chart on chart paper to discuss with students how the mansion has changed and how it has stayed the same. Focus on the functions of the space: **Home:** How was it as a private residence?, **Hospital:** How did it change as a hospital?, **Theater:** How did it adapt for performances?, **Museum:** What features show its role as a museum?
- **Timeline:** Divide students into small groups and provide each group with a timeline. Have students create pictures and/or text to showcase order of events in history. Students choose which pieces of history are important to include in the eight boxes.
- **Share:** Encourage students to explain their choices for the order of events and share how Hoyt Sherman Place has changed over time. Students can compare their timelines to what they learned after their visit.

3. Visual Art- Hoyt Sherman Place Postcard (25 minutes):

Students will design and create postcards featuring their own version of Hoyt Sherman Place, incorporating imaginative details and historical elements.

- **Art Activity:** Create postcards showing their imagination of Hoyt Sherman Place. Discuss what might be included on a postcard, such as the building's appearance or decorations.
- **Designing "Postcards":** Provide each student a postcard and ask them to draw or create a collage of Hoyt Sherman Place on the front side.
- **Writing a Message:** On the back side of the postcard, students write a short message. They can pretend to send the postcard to a friend and share what they are excited to see on their visit to Hoyt Sherman Place.
- **Sharing:** Allow students to share their postcards with the class or in small groups. Encourage them to explain their drawings and the messages they wrote. Remind students that they can compare their postcards with what they see during their visit.

4. Closure (5 minutes):

Students will summarize the lesson and prepare for their visit.

- **Recap:** Talk about what students will see on the tour. Explain why it's important to learn about history and art. Go over the museum guide and what to expect during the visit.
- **Website:** Explore the website for more information to prepare students.
- **Extra Time:** Explore the student supplemental materials at the back of this guide.

Prepare for Your Hoyt Sherman Place Visit

At Hoyt Sherman Place, we offer a historic mansion, an art gallery, and a theater. To ensure the safety of both your group and our artifacts, please review the etiquette guidelines before your visit.

What is Museum Etiquette?

Following the rules of Museum Etiquette helps make sure students have a fun and safe time at Hoyt Sherman Place. It's a lot like school: be kind, respectful, and follow the guidelines while you're here.

Students

1. Stay with Your Group

Always stick together with your friends or adults from your group.

2. Take Your Time

Look closely at everything and enjoy learning at your own pace.

3. Walk, Don't Run

Move calmly and carefully to avoid accidents and respect the quiet atmosphere.

4. Keep Hands to Yourself

Be gentle and avoid touching objects or people.

5. Use Inside Voices

Speak softly to respect others who are exploring the museum.

6. No Flash Photography

Avoid using bright lights when taking pictures to protect the artifacts.

7. Eating Permitted at Tables

If you're hungry, eat only at designated tables to keep the museum clean.

8. Stay Engaged

Ask questions, learn new things, and have fun exploring.

Teachers/Chaperones

1. Supervise

Keep an eye on children and ensure they always stay close.

2. Be a Role Model

Be a model for students by following museum rules and treating others and the artifacts with respect.

3. Keep Count

Make sure everyone in your group is present and accounted for.

4. Connect and Encourage

Engage with exhibits and encourage others to explore and learn respectfully.



Lesson Plans for Kindergarten-2nd Grade: Hoyt Sherman Place

Post-Tour Lesson: Reflecting on Hoyt Sherman Place

Grade Level: Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Subject: Social Studies & Visual Art

Duration: 45 minutes

Social Studies Standards: SS.K.17, SS.1.20, SS.2.20

Visual Arts Standards: VA.Cn.11.1.Ka, VA.Cn.11.1.1a, VA.Cn.11.1.2a

Objective: Students will share what they saw at Hoyt Sherman Place, draw their favorite parts, and create their own theater or mansion.

Materials Needed:

- Projector or smartboard
- Images of Hoyt Sherman Place (historic and current)
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue, pencils, scissors, tape
- Paper, construction paper, journal
- Concentric circles
- "Our Field Trip" worksheet
- Hoyt Sherman Place PowerPoints

Lesson Outline:

1. Reflective Discussion (15 minutes):

Students will share and reflect on their observations and insights from the tour experience.

- **"Our Field Trip" Worksheet:** Complete if not completed during the tour. The worksheet will be used to guide a discussion to recall and discuss what they saw and learned on their visit.
- **Discussion:** Full class, pairs, or small groups; Consider questions such as: What did you notice about the theater, mansion, and gallery? What do you think it would have been like to see a show or event at Hoyt Sherman Place a long time ago? Why do you think the house is now a special place for art and performances? What was your favorite part? Would you go again?

2. Social Studies- Museum Memory Book (25 minutes):

Students will draw and describe their favorite museum items to enhance memory and learning from the visit.

- **Drawing:** Draw pictures of their favorite findings from the museum on paper or in a journal and add a sentence to describe what it is and why it is special.
- **Sharing:** Share their memory books with the class by passing them around or presenting.
- **Reflection Questions:** How do you think the artifacts you saw in the museum were used long ago versus today? How has Hoyt Sherman Place inspired historical change?

3. Visual Art- Artistic Reflection (25 minutes):

Students will create their own theater or mansion and share their creations with classmates.

- **Create Your Own Theater or Mansion:** Use art supplies to draw and create their own version of a theater or historic mansion.
- **Incorporate Learning:** Encourage them to think about elements they learned about at Hoyt Sherman Place (e.g., stage, seats, artwork, light fixtures, etc.).
- **Gallery Walk:** Set up a gallery in the classroom to display their artwork.
- **Sharing:** Allow students to walk around and view each other's creations. Ask them to share what they included in their theater or mansion and their purpose (why).
- **Reflection Questions:** What did you learn about the purpose of different spaces? What does architecture and art tell us about the time and place?

4. Closure (5 minutes):

Students will talk about what they learned and how art and history are connected.

- **Summary:** Review the key points from the tour and the lessons using the 5 Ws: Who, what, when, where, and why (e.g., **Who** was Hoyt Sherman, and what was his role in Des Moines?, **What** is Hoyt Sherman Place, and what was its original purpose?, **When** did Hoyt Sherman arrive in Des Moines, and when did his home become Hoyt Sherman Place?, **Where** is Hoyt Sherman Place located in Des Moines?, **Why** is Hoyt Sherman Place significant to the history of Des Moines?).
- **Follow-Up:** Encourage students to think about and compare/contrast other places they have visited or would like to visit and what they might learn there. Use concentric circles.
- **Extra Time:** Explore the student supplemental materials at the back of this guide.

Teacher's Guide to Hoyt Sherman Place History 19th Century:

Feel free to inquire about borrowing the "Historic Buildings of Iowa: Des Moines" DVD to provide history of Hoyt Sherman Place long with four other historic builds across town.

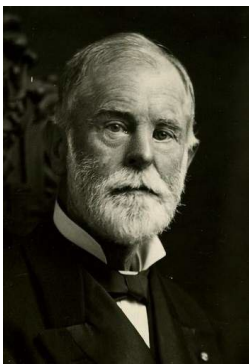
Born in 1827, Major Hoyt Sherman was the youngest son of eleven children. His family included older brothers, John Sherman, the writer of Sherman Anti-Trust Act, and Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman. President Abraham Lincoln appointed him the Army Paymaster at the start of the Civil War.

Hoyt Sherman arrived in Des Moines in 1848, and shortly thereafter, he was appointed Postmaster. He built the first post office and bank, he served on the town council, and he was very involved in local and state politics. In 1850, Hoyt purchased five acres of land for \$105. Upon his return from the war, Hoyt teamed up with others and created Equitable of Iowa Insurance Company. During this time, he also gave his counsel, his time, and his money to ensure Des Moines had schools, including a college and a waterworks system.

In 1877, the Sherman family home was completed with the help of architect William Foster. It was noted in writings to be, "a society showplace of the grandest scale." Among its distinguished guests in history were General Sherman, General Grant, General Sheridan, and Major McKinley. Sherman and his wife, Sara, raised five children, Frank, Addie, Charles, Arthur, and Helen, in the home. Major Hoyt Sherman passed away in January 1904, and his estate transferred to his heirs. They later gifted the entire estate to the city of Des Moines, with the caveat that it forever be called Hoyt Sherman Place.

In 1893, Hoyt Sherman rented his home to The Sisters of Mercy from Davenport, Iowa. Within the walls of the home, the sisters created the first Mercy Hospital. It held 52 beds and operated for nearly two years.

The Des Moines Women's Club, founded in 1885, built a gallery adjacent to the mansion. The space became the first public art museum in Des Moines. Hoyt Sherman Place is still home to the Des Moines Women's Club today.



Major Hoyt Sherman



Hoyt Sherman Place, 1877



Teacher's Guide to Hoyt Sherman Place History 20th Century-Present:

Hoyt Sherman Place stood empty after Hoyt's death until 1907 when members of Des Moines Women's Club leased the home from the city for \$1 per year.

The Des Moines Women's Club invited many guest speakers to Hoyt Sherman Place to entertain and to educate. They began raising funds for the construction of a 1,400-seat theater in 1917. When the United States entered WWI that same year, all plans were put on hold. Construction of the theater began in 1922. Des Moines Women's Club also began construction of a second gallery called the Byers Room to house the art collection presented to them by Major S.H.M. and Margaret Byers in 1912. Major Byers served under, and became a close friend of, Hoyt Sherman's brother, General William T. Sherman. In 1923, the 1,400-seat theater was completed. In its first two decades including Helen Keller and John Philip Sousa (1925), Amelia Earhart (1933), and Grant Wood (1939).

In 1977, Hoyt Sherman Place was listed on The National Register of Historic Places, a designation given to significant buildings in American history.

In 1995, the Hoyt Sherman Place Foundation was formed to preserve and enhance the landmark. The Foundation's mission is to create outstanding experiences for the cultural, historic and educational benefit of Iowa's residents and communities.

In 2004, a \$4.7 million-dollar restoration project was completed to restore the spaces to their original grandeur. Additional enhancements include air conditioning, lighting, 1,252 refurbished historical seats in the theater and interior upgrades in the art gallery.

In 2020, *The Hoyt Sherman Place: The Next 100 Years* Capital Campaign successfully raised \$5 million to build the Center for Artists and Education, which includes rehearsal and classroom spaces, dressing rooms, a green room, private meeting spaces and an administrative office suite. The project also added a VIP donor lounge to the theater mezzanine level, and the new east wing created lobby space for lawn events and includes additional public restrooms.

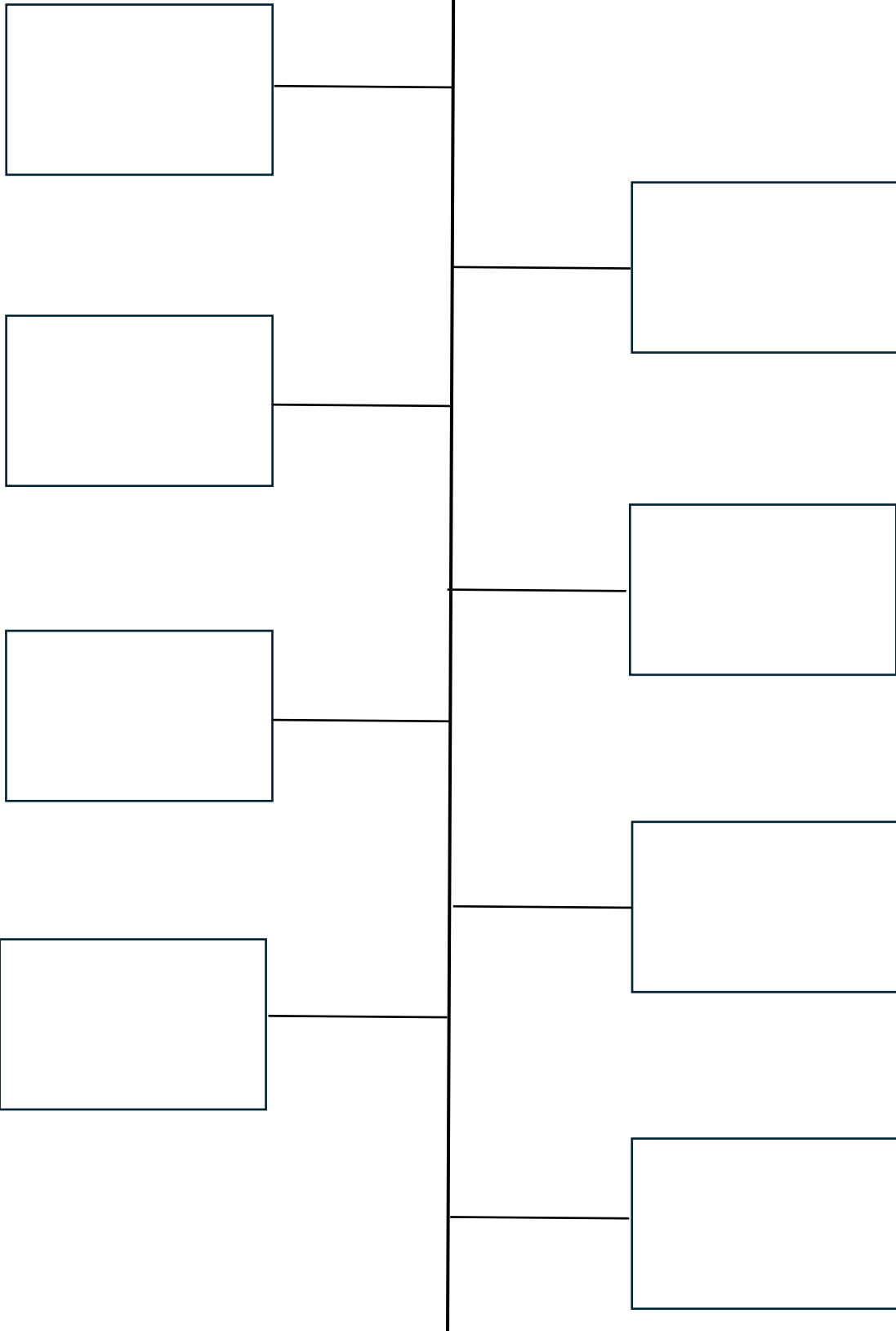
During the pandemic, the mansion's second floor was restored, including Hoyt and Sara's bedroom and a room dedicated to the memory of their daughter, Helen Sherman Griffith. The rooms include period-appropriate light fixtures, original paint colors, flooring and décor. A Research and Archive Library was also created to view special documents.

In 2023, Hoyt Sherman Place Theater celebrated its 100th anniversary season.

Supplemental Activities for Students

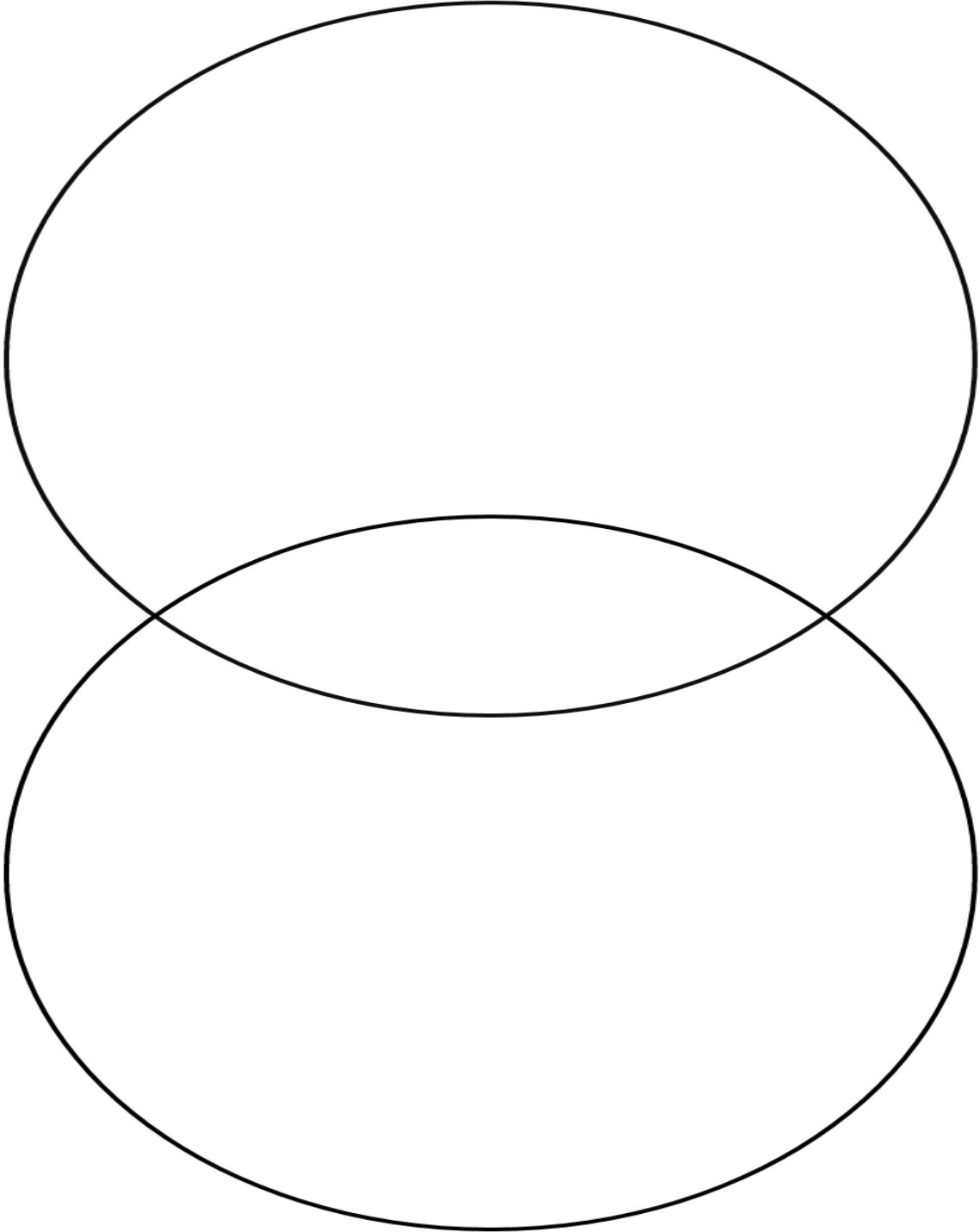
Please have students bring a notebook and pencil for taking notes or drawing during the visit. School visits may include a historical/architectural scavenger hunt, art observation stations, or museum bingo upon request. If you require any lunch spaces, materials, or accommodations, please notify the Education Programs Coordinator in advance at roeder@hoytsherman.org or (515)452-0610.

Timeline (Pre-Tour)

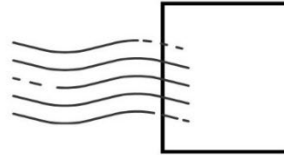
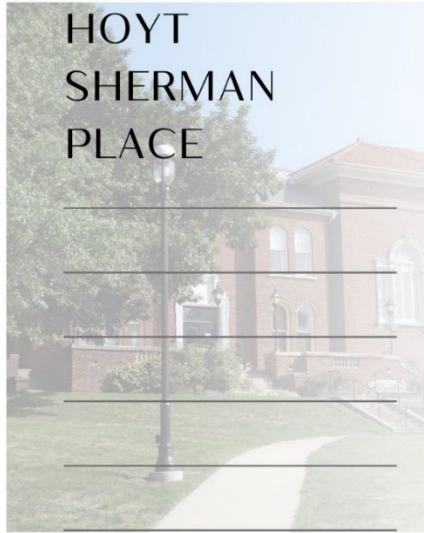




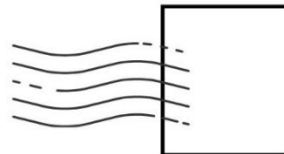
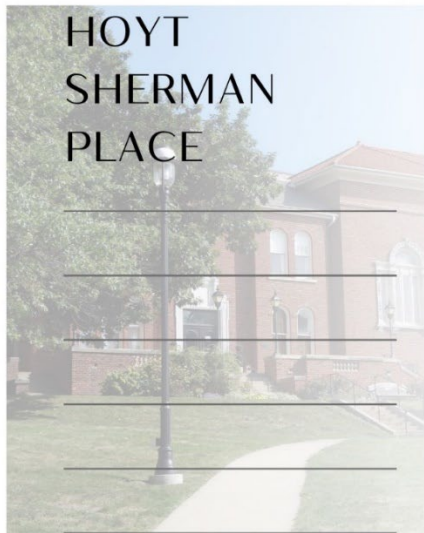
Compare/Contrast (Pre and Post-Tour)



Postcards (Pre-Tour)



Address:



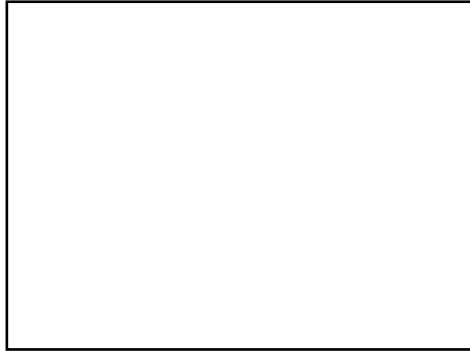
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OUR FIELD TRIP (Post-Tour)

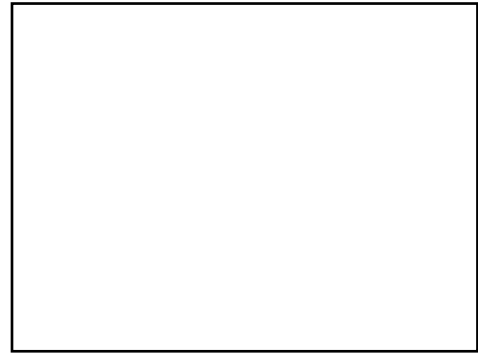
Where did you go?

What did you see?

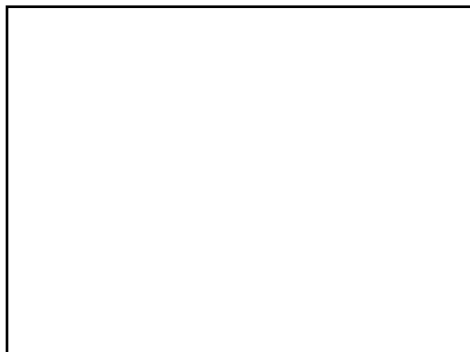
Field Trip Review



Interesting Art or Object



What Did You Learn?



Best Moment



Would You Go Back?



FAQs

How do I get to Hoyt Sherman Place?

Hoyt Sherman Place is located at 1501 Woodland Avenue, Des Moines IA, 50309.

If you are coming from the east side of Des Moines, take Interstate 235 westbound through the downtown area. Exit 7 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway exit. At the 2nd stoplight, turn left onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, a one-way street, heading south. Go five blocks (3 stoplights) and turn left on Woodland Avenue. Keep heading east on Woodland Avenue five blocks, and Hoyt Sherman Place will be on your left-hand side, on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Woodland Avenue.

If you are coming from the west side of Des Moines, take Interstate 235 eastbound. Take Exit 7A for Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. Turn right onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, heading south. Go four blocks (2 stoplights) and turn left on Woodland Avenue. Keep heading east on Woodland Avenue five blocks, and Hoyt Sherman Place will be on your left-hand side, on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Woodland Avenue.

When is Hoyt Sherman Place open?

Administrative Office: Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Box Office: Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

If no events are occurring, patrons are welcome to do self-guided tours during open hours. If an event is occurring or being set up, some spaces may be unavailable for self-guided tours. Unless an event is scheduled, the facility is closed on weekends and evenings. Docent led tours can be arranged by contacting Emily Roeder at roeder@hoytsherman.org or by visiting our [tours page](#).

Is Hoyt Sherman Place accessible?

Yes. Accessible parking is available in the main parking lot located on the east side of the venue on the corner of 15th Street and Woodland Avenue.

- An accessible ramp leads from the main parking lot to the east-facing Box Office door and to the front lawn.
- An elevator is in the Box Office lobby on the lower-level east side of the venue. The elevator accesses the main floor and balcony lobbies in the theater.
- Accessible lifts are also available to access the mansion and art gallery.
- Accessible restrooms are available in the restroom annex connected to the Box Office lobby located on the lower-level east side of the venue.

How do I get information on classes or events?

Visit our website at <https://hoytsherman.org/> for all classes and events. Call [515.244.0507](tel:515.244.0507) for further questions.

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Community Partners

