

BUXTON in BLOOM

CULTIVATING OUR PAST
TO SECURE OUR FUTURE
THROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION

JULY 2010
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buxtoninbloom.com

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Buxton in Bloom is an
Incorporated Non-profit
501C3 organization
EIN 26-0108241
ND charitable solicitation #8120

the NEWSLETTER

Buxton Bank Lives on in Buxton, ND

The small Buxton Bank building in Buxton, ND, has been vacant for decades. But new life is being breathed into the structure. An effort is underway to restore the circa 1893 building to its former glory.



Bullet holes remain in one of the building's doorways from a still unsolved 1933 bank robbery that resulted in the death of one of the bank's cashiers.

The small Buxton Bank building in Buxton, ND has been vacant for decades. But new life is being breathed into the structure. An effort is under way to restore the circa 1893 building to its former glory.

Bobbi Hepper Olson, the owner of Hepper Olson Architects, moved to Buxton after marrying a local farmer and drove past the old building for seven years before decid-

ing something needed to be done to the structure.

Between neglect and the effects of the elements since it closed in 1977, the building had fallen into disrepair. Its floors, ceiling and everything in between needed help.

Hepper Olson's background as an architect and her interest in the building made her the perfect person for the job. Her passion for the project also helped sustain the effort.

In 2005, Hepper Olson made the leap of faith by forming a nonprofit to acquire the building and restore it to its former aesthetic. "It was really

destroyed, but you could see things that were fabulous," she recalls. "It took a lot of time and funds, but it was a small enough project to handle."

Hepper Olson says she would have spent more on renovating the former bank building if she could have afforded it. "I even wish I had deeper pockets," she says. "People spend their disposable income on different things and mine happened to be the Buxton Bank restoration."

Hepper Olson funded the early phases of the project through the nonprofit Buxton In Bloom organization and began writing

continued

grants to secure additional funding. Former occupant First State Bank, the City of Buxton, the Traill County Historical Society, the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and local donors donated funds to the restoration effort. Local board and advisory board members helped Hepper Olson dream up what the bank could look like and how the project would progress. "Everything starts with an idea," she says.

Funds have covered cleaning out the building, refurbishing the original teller lines, new windows and floors, repairing the bank's stained glass window and replacing its roof, among other things. Some of the bank's unique features have been preserved, including the teller panel and door trim that carry bullet holes from the 1933 bank robbery, parts of the tear gas security system

that still remain and the old keys to the building.

Walking into the bank now is like taking a step back in time. A wall of history that Hepper Olson plans to create in the future will help evoke memories of the building's past. She says some residents have already dropped off pieces of memorabilia for possible inclusion, although hasn't gotten to that part of the project yet.

What will the small farming community of Buxton do with a restored granite bank building? Hepper Olson says the goal of the restoration project was to preserve the building that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. She says it will be used to house historical artifacts and serve as a small museum and a local meeting place. It also already hosted some meetings, weekly Bible study sessions and a few other small gatherings.

The building will be made available to host local events free of charge.

The Buxton Bank building stands as a reminder of the past and an example of the creativity and will of a small community to preserve its history.

"More than anything," Hepper Olson says, "I want to say to small towns that you can do these projects if you have a passion for them. It takes time and you can't do it all at once. You have to plan it all in steps. You can do some aspects and then take time to raise money with grants. You don't have to tackle it all at once."

Article reprinted from Prairie Business Magazine and written by Amanda Hvidsten. Hvidsten is a Grand Forks, ND-based freelance writer. She can be reached at amandahvisten@gmail.com.

Buxton Bank Grand Opening



Open House, Bake Sale and Silent Auction

August 21, 2010 4:00—8:00 pm

*Now Accepting
Donations for the Silent Auction*

HISTORY Display Submittals

We are currently looking for photos/ideas to be submitted for the history panels that will be on display in the front of the bank. These items will be copied and returned to you. (This project will be partially funded by a grant received from the State Historical Society's Cultural Heritage Fund Grant & Traill County Historical Society. Persons we are looking for information and photos of: O.S. Hanson, Joseph A. Olson, Leonard Hanson, Budd Reeve, Paul Marchell, and Richard Lomnen

Schedule & Budget Update

COMPLETED

Phase One

- Dismantle and salvage bank teller line and historical woodwork.
- Removal of stain glass window over entrance door for repair.
- Asbestos and Mold Abatement. Selective demolition on interior.

Phase Two

- Removal and installation of roof joists.
- Installation of new insulated roofing system.
- Repair and tuckpointing of exterior masonry wall.

Phase Three

- New windows and entrance.
- Reinstall repaired stain glass window.
- New floor structure and wood flooring.
- Interior partitions walls.
- Electrical systems for power, data, and lighting.
- Heating and cooling system, under floor heat and high efficiency heat pump.
- Connect to city sewer for new toilet room.
- Reinstall refurbished bank teller line.
- Replace and refurbish teller line glass (11 glass panels).
- Painting of walls and ceilings.

Funds are being raised for the following

Phase Four	\$30,000
• Install shelving for archives in community room (8 3-foot sections).	\$3,000
• Interpretive wall panel(s) with collage of historic photos.	\$5,000
• Conference room kitchenette shelving.	\$1,000
• Redo front sidewalk for handicap accessibility.	\$5,000
• Reinstall (and replicate where needed): wood trim at wall base, windows, and doors.	\$3,000
• Refurbish and reinstall 3 interior doors; including door with bullet holes from 1934 robbery.	\$3,000
• Refurbish and reinstall salvaged wood-and-glass entry vestibule walls.	\$5,000
• Install new historic light fixtures.	\$3,000
• Refurbish fireplace in community room.	\$1,000
• Paint Vault	\$1,000

Phase Five privately funded

- Construction of office addition.
- Shared toilet and mechanical facilities for Buxton in Bloom.
- Private office addition for rent.



Make a Donation Please Help!

YES! I want to become part of Saving Buxton Bank.

Full Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

Donor Levels

- \$20** Bronze Contributor
- \$40** Silver Contributor
Receive a set of 8 Buxton Bank commemorative note cards
- \$100** Gold Contributor
Receive a set of 8 Buxton Bank commemorative note cards & poster from 125th Celebration
- \$250** Platinum Contributor
Donors of \$250 or more receive the items listed above plus our yearly newsletter keeping you up-to-date on the Buxton Bank progress
- \$500** Supporter
- \$1000** Patron
- \$5000** Benefactor

Complete this form and mail it with your tax-deductible contribution to: **Buxton in Bloom**

PO Box 147 Buxton, ND 58218

Buxton in Bloom is an incorporated, nonprofit 501c3 organization, EIN 260108241, ND charitable solicitation #8120



Stain glass before it was restored



Ger delivering the refurbished window back to the Bank
Photo of Bobbi Hepper Olson (left) and Ger Mack (right)

Buxton Bank Stain Glass Restoration Update

There was a nice addition made to the bank this spring. The stain glass window was repaired and reinstalled above the door to the front entrance of the bank. The stain glass window work was paid for by a grant from Traill County Historical Society.

In February of 2009, River Rat Stained Glass Studio was hired to restore the glass window. Restoring a window requires great attention to detail along with a great deal of patience. In order to ensure the product has the same glass, same style and reinforcement bars in the same areas requires several pictures, notes and various highlights to capture all details before the window is disassembled. Architect Bobbi Hepper Olson knew that River Rat Stained Glass Studio was just the crew for the job. Installation of the refurbished stained window was completed by GF Custom Woodwork, Inc. out of Grand Forks, ND. Grand Forks Custom Woodwork also completed the restoration of the teller line.

River Rat Stained Glass Studio

A full service stained glass studio can be found in a small rural community just ten miles north of Grand Forks. River Rat Stained Glass Studio is located on Freedom Avenue near Manvel, ND. This studio prides itself on designing, constructing, and installing stained glass windows for all avenues from homes to businesses to churches. The company also does repair and restoration work such as the stunning stained glass bank window piece for Buxton in Bloom. Evaluations for damaged or aging windows can be completed free of charge. River Rat Stained Glass Studio has been around for more than 20 years. Gerald and Sue Mack began their business in 1987. They were originally located in downtown Grand Forks before purchasing a six-acre lot north of Grand Forks near Manvel. Drive north from Grand Forks on I-29 and you will see the Manvel exit sign. On the right you will find the couple's sign and establishment.

To contact:

River Rat Stained Glass Studio
1582 Freedom Avenue Manvel, ND 58256
Phone: (701) 696-2485
Email: riverrat200@juno.com

Buxton In Bloom 2007-2010 Contributors List

\$40,000+

Adrian & Marian Knudvig
Buxton, ND

\$25,000+

State Historical Society of North Dakota
(Historic Preservation Grant Funds 2007)

\$10,000+

First State Bank of Buxton, Thompson, & Grand Forks State Historical Society of ND
(Historic Preservation Grant Funds 2006)
State Historical Society of North Dakota
(Historic Preservation Grant Funds 2007-08)
Kyle & Bobbi Olson
Buxton, ND

\$5,000+

State Historical Society of North Dakota
(Cultural Heritage Grant 2005-06)
Trail County Historical Society North Dakota Community Foundation

\$2,500+

Pauline Molvig
Buxton, ND
Lake Agassiz; RC&D
Fargo, ND
Hepper Olson Architects
Buxton and Grand Forks, ND
State Historical Society of ND
(Cultural Heritage 2009-10)

\$1,000+

Buxton Improvement Association
City of Buxton
J&N Enterprises
Grand Forks, ND
North Dakota Community Foundation
Trail County Economic Development Comm.
National Trust for Historic Preservation
(Charles Evan Hughes Memorial Preservation Fund)
Patrick Peterson
Grand Forks, ND
Jerry & Luella Wolfer
Mesa, AZ
Ad Monkeys Inc.
Grand Forks, ND
Skinner Roofing
Grand Forks, ND

\$500+

Adelaide Maier
Denver, CO
Charles & Mari Duke
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Eileen Gunderson
Reynolds, ND
Roland & Mattie Olson
Chevy Chase, MD
NoKota Packers
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\$250+

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Central Valley Aviation
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Jamestown, ND
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Buxton, ND
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Grue Lutheran Church WELCA
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Mandan, ND
Hepper's Sports Center
Aberdeen, SD
Intermountain Technical Services
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Warwick, ND
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Mayville, ND
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Buxton, ND
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Fullerton, CA
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Point Richmond, CA
Ardell & Sandra Knudsvig
Crookston, MN
George & Shirley Lerom
Austin, TX
Stuart & Marilyn Ringham
St. Benedict, MN
Gaylord & Gayle Olson
Grand Forks, ND
Solien & Larson Engineering
Grand Forks, ND

\$100+

Ladies Bible Study
Buxton, ND
Bachmeier Architecture
Fargo, ND
Buxton Historical Society
Frank & Teresu Corley
St. Louis, MO
Leonard & Merle Grimm
Ellendale, ND
Orville & Mary Ann Gunderson
Grand Forks, ND
Ronald & Lois Lerom
Richfield, MN
Kay Martin
Buxton, ND
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Hailey, ID
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Fargo, ND
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San Antonio, TX
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Fergus Falls, MN
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Sioux Falls, SD
Irene Odegard Shore
Buxton, ND
Douglas Norquist
Buxton, ND
David and Helen Wheeler
Grand Forks, ND

\$40+

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Hillsboro, ND
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Buxton, ND
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Buxton, ND
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Grand Forks, ND
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Fargo, ND
Verna Larson
Climax, MN
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East Grand Forks, MN
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Grand Forks, ND
Pauline Molvig
Buxton, ND
Bruce & Marilu Person
Hillsboro, ND

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Vancouver, WA
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Los Alamos, NM
Marlo & Eunice Sondrol
Buxton, ND
Willis & Ethel Sondrol
Reynolds, ND
Terry & Harriet Thoreson
Buxton, ND

\$20+

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Andrea Breidenbach
Jamestown, ND
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Grand Forks, ND
Dennis & Deborah Haugen
Portland, ND
Authur & Barbara Herman
Stevens Point, WI
JaNae Hocking
Argusville, ND
Stan & Dorothy Hoistad
Grand Forks, ND
Jim & Liz Kirkeby
Buxton, ND
Doug & Jeanie Lentz
Buxton, ND
Loretta Riveland
Lincoln, NE
Lena Sorlie
Fergus Falls, MN
Darren & Lisa Tronson
Buxton, ND
Greg & Pam Troftgruben
Buxton, ND
Mahlon & Vivian Thompson
Buxton, ND
Robert G. Friese
Port St. Lucia, FL

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Marilyn Asheim
Buxton, ND
Todd & Linette Hagel
Mandan, ND
Hepper Olson Architects
Buxton & Grand Forks, ND
Adrian & Marian Knudsvig
Buxton, ND
Kile Martin
Grand Forks, ND
John Marchell
Buxton, ND
Paul & Penny Marchell
Warwick, ND
Gayle Olson
Grand Forks, ND
Kyle & Bobbi Olson
Buxton, ND
Marilu Person
Hillsboro, ND
Janel Wahl
Eden Prairie, MN
Waslien Electric
Buxton, ND
Sharon Watson
Buxton, ND
Greg West
Grand Forks, ND
Clay West
Breckenridge, MN

Memorials

Amy Lilleboe
(from Stuart & Marilyn Ringham)
Eileen Gunderson
(from George & Eileen Gunderson,
Harold Lee, & Stuart & Marilyn Ringham)
Theodore Camrud
(from Stuart & Marilyn Ringham)
Charolette Gunderson
(from George & Eileen Gunderson)
Adelaide Hanson Maier
(from Keith & Gretchen Carew
O.S. Hanson Family)



Key to business success in the 1900's—Office Furniture

The first of the three original brass teller cages had to be reinstalled in the bank's teller line. The teller cages had sustained damage when the bank's water-soaked ceiling fell on the teller line, pushing it over. One cage had a hinge broken, and another had one of the decorative roundels broken off and one dented.

Also, sometime during the bank's history, all the cages had been painted over with a copper colored paint. Clay West of Breckenridge, Minnesota is volunteering his time in the repair and restoration of the original brass teller cages, produced by the A.H. Andrews Company. Clay is a licensed aircraft mechanic and has gained metal working experience working on all manners of aircraft from 1930's Stearman bi-planes and World War 2 era fighters to commercial airliners. The cages are first disassembled into their component parts, and the paint is removed by using a combination of low pressure bead blasting, brass brushes, and hand polishing. Then the bent and broken roundels and hinges are repaired and reinstalled. Finally, all the components are reassembled and the teller cage gets a final polish.

Once installed the brass teller cages will be allowed to darken naturally to an aged patina. But for now, with the paint removed, the bright brass cages will give visitors an impression of how the original teller line looked that greeted the bank's first customers all those years ago.

In the past an important factor to the success of a bank was its office furniture. This seems like such a different way of doing business in today's society with a large portion of banking being done online or over the phone.

The A.H. Andrews Company out of Chicago, Illinois manufactured the high quality office furniture for the Buxton Bank. Their particular products were not necessarily known as the showiest pieces, but the best.

The A.H. Andrews Company had over 40 years experience in the business. The company was established in 1865 and was incorporated in 1884. The business had expanded over the years to every state and had provided equipment for over 5,000 banks until going out of business in the early 1890's.

The company had developed quite a reputation for itself by selecting only the best skill and experience along with the location of the factory in order to keep costs in line. They strived to keep prices fixed at the most reasonable price that was consistent with the high grade of craftsmanship and materials.

Outside of wood offerings the company also had the capability to produce fixtures and equipment from brass, bronze and marble. In the early 1890's the company began to produce metal furniture; however, went out of business shortly thereafter.



Photo illustrating progress made on the interior renovation

Annual Membership

Proceeds from membership dues will be used for lighting, heating, operating and insurance expenses. Three levels of membership are available:

\$20 Individual Membership \$40 Family Membership \$100 Business Membership

Name/Business _____

Address _____

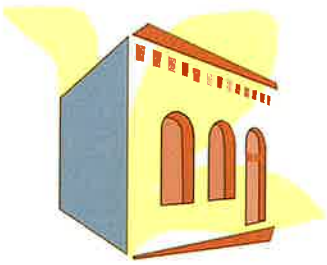
City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

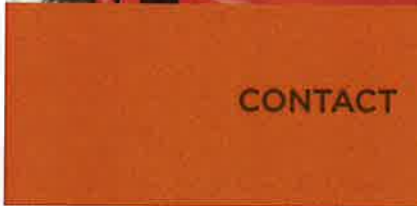
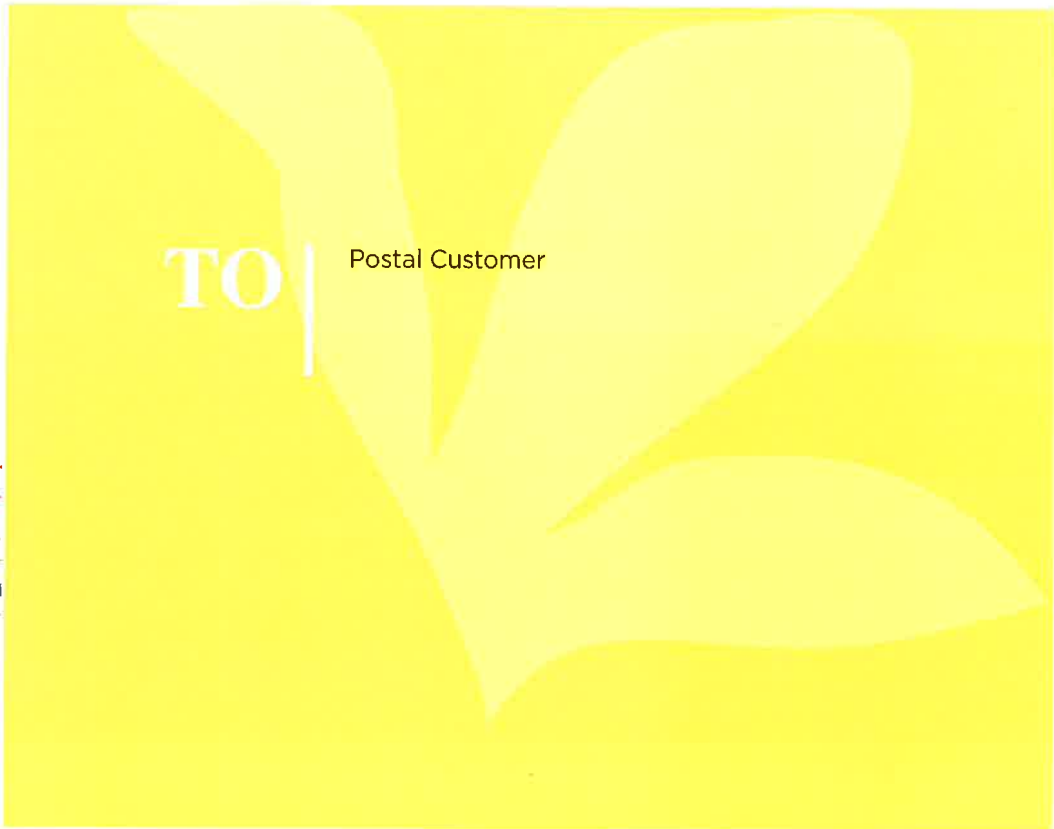
Simply fill out this form and mail it with your tax-deductible contribution to:
Buxton in Bloom PO Box 147 Buxton, ND 58218



BUXTON *in* BLOOM

PO Box 147 Buxton, ND 58218

CULTIVATING OUR PAST
TO SECURE OUR FUTURE
THROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION



saving BUXTON'S HISTORY

Please contact us if you have historic photos, newspaper clippings, maps, postcards, books, family history or other items you would like to donate to the Buxton Archive.

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