

Young Museum – Bellevue, Iowa

This two-story limestone 19th-century Gothic Revival home was built ca. 1864-1865. The property consists of a house museum of approx. 1,240 sf situated on approx. 0.50 acres of land.

The building was constructed as a home by B.W. Seaward and was purchased by Grace Mattes Young, wife of Joseph Young, ca. 1911. Both Grace and Joe were community leaders. Among many impactful accomplishments, Joe Young secured the Bellevue State Park (dedicated in 1928) and was a pioneer in securing and developing the Great River Road. Through a trust effectuated at his death in 1959, Joseph Albert Young donated the property in trust to the people of Bellevue to be used as a museum, its official grand opening held in 1966. From 1966 to 2014, the museum primarily focused on the Youngs' antique collections.

The museum was closed in late 2014. After its trust fund was expended in 2016, it was being prepared for sale. In 2017, ECIA was able to assist the city and use U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment grant funding to have a Phase I environmental site assessment completed on the property. The Phase I recommended additional testing/sampling be conducted to confirm no impact from potentially a historical use of coal as a heating source on the property. Given the age of the structure additional testing/sampling for asbestos and lead was also recommended.

According to the city there has been no confirmation of coal, asbestos or lead contamination. External revitalization work on the property to date includes: bat mitigation, weather proofing, repair and painting of windows, repair and improvement of wiring and plumbing, yard repair, and roof repair.

In 2018, the nonprofit, "Friends for Preservation of Bellevue Heritage" (FPBH), acquired administrative rights to the Young trust, and based on documented evidence of the importance of this museum to the history of the Great River Road, is working to revise and reopen the museum to a broader audience. Per agreement with the Bellevue town council when FPBH assumed administrative rights, the furnace was replaced in 2019 and sidewalk snow removal and lawn mowing are provided to the museum.

External and internal (artifact inventory, artifact restoration as needed, archive cataloging and research, exhibit planning and construction, marketing planning, and related work) revitalization work remains ongoing, with the hope of reopening the museum by 2022.

Site Address: 406 N Riverview St, Bellevue IA 52031

Parcel #: 720818178005000

Assessment Output: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment

EPA Assessment Funding: \$1,905



Looking northwest at the Property



Looking southwest at the Property



Looking east at the Property



Looking North from the Property



Overview of interior/household contents of the property