



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Jun. 11, 2010

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
John Sutter, 563-557-9545 Ext. 208

### **Dubuque County Historical Society Secures Future of Ryan House**

*Dubuque, Iowa – Aug. 11, 2009*—The Dubuque County Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has entered into a restoration agreement with Alfred Kopczyk, of Dubuque, Iowa and his family to ensure the preservation of the historic Ryan House. Alfred is a registered Professional Engineer with a brick/stone Eastlake style of architecture mansion and is a member of the Dubuque Old House Enthusiasts. His proposal was selected from several possible partners because of his ability to make immediate short term improvements to the property as well as his long-term commitment to preservation of the historically significant house. The Ryan House will become again a single family home.

The Society held several public meetings regarding the future of the House and accepted public input and proposals for a suitable use of the historic property.

The Society had held the Ryan House to preserve it and is now pleased to find a suitable partner for its future. The Ryan House was a private residence, a live music venue, and a restaurant.

A magnificent Victorian mansion with 30 rooms and three stories was once owned by meat-packing industry leader William "Hog" Ryan, the Ryan House is one of Dubuque's premiere historic homes. Built in 1873, the home boasts a solid walnut staircase, Victorian chandeliers, four grand marble fireplaces and the likeness of President Grant (who visited the home several times) on the front gate posts. The Ryan House is considered to be the finest example of the Second Empire style of architecture in Dubuque and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The American Association for State and Local History supports continued preservation of historically significant properties such as the Ryan House and suggests that maintaining them as single family homes is often the best long term use for historic homes.

For more information please call 563-557-9545 or visit [www.rivermuseum.com](http://www.rivermuseum.com).

-END-