

“As a recent visitor to the
Hitchcock House,
I felt compelled to write a
note of thanks.”

Everyone involved in the
restoration and operation of your
historic site deserves an extra
special salute for *a job well done.*

As a **black American**,
your site was *especially*
important to me.”

Help Support Hitchcock House

Hitchcock House is a vital part of our history. Please help support Hitchcock House to ensure it is preserved for future generations.

Yes, I'd like to help the Hitchcock House.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____.

Yes, I'd like to help the Hitchcock House.

Please contact me for volunteer opportunities.

Name _____

Address _____

City, St, Zip _____

Phone _____

*Please mail this information to Hitchcock House,
63788 567th Lane, Lewis, IA 51544*

Tour Information

Hitchcock House is open for tours from May 1st through September 30th. Tours start at 1 p.m., and the last tour of the day starts at 4:15 p.m.

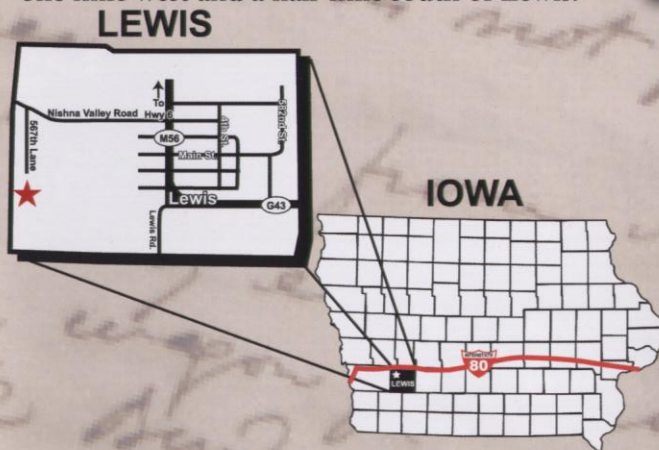
The Hitchcock House is closed on Mondays.

Tours are \$5 per person, high school age and older. All proceeds are used to support programs, maintenance, and for purchasing additional furnishings for the house.

Group and special tours can be arranged by calling 712.769.2323.

Finding the Hitchcock House

Hitchcock House is located in southwest Iowa, one mile west and a half-mile south of Lewis.



Hitchcock House

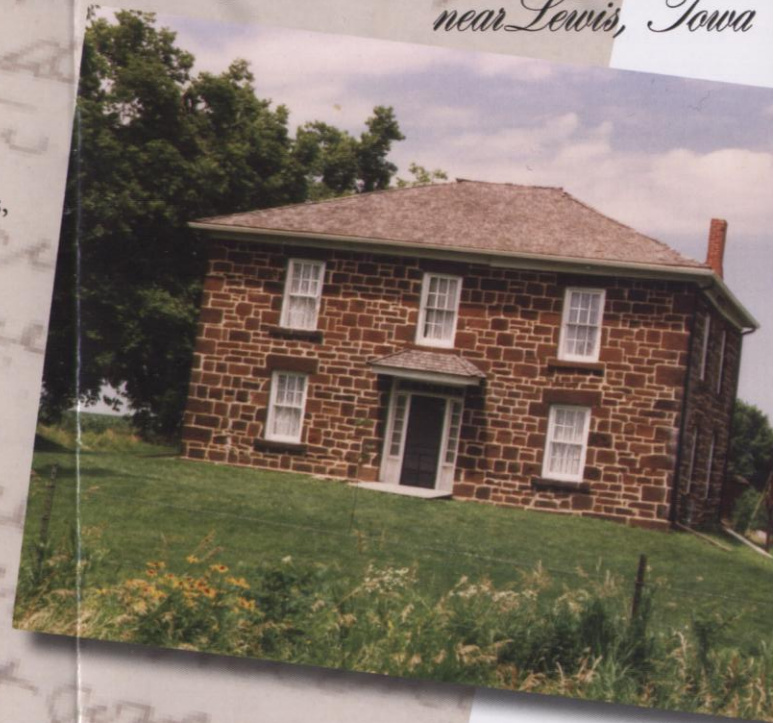
63788 567th Lane

Lewis, Iowa 51544

www.hitchcockhouse.org

712.769.2323

Escape into history at the
Hitchcock House
near Lewis, Iowa



A National Historic Landmark



NATIONAL
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

WESTERN  iowa
connect to fun!

About Hitchcock House

Hitchcock House sits on a beautiful promontory overlooking a big bend in the East Nishnabotna River. The area has some of the richest farm land in the world.

Hitchcock House is built of brown sandstone taken from Jester's quarry, still visible near the road going south out of Lewis.

The two-story structure measures 30 by 40 feet, and the walls average 20 inches in thickness. Wood used in construction is walnut and oak that was milled locally. The house has a full basement with a large fireplace and is accessible from the kitchen and by an outside entrance.

Originally, a hinged cupboard separated the two rooms in the basement. To gain access to the "secret" room, the cupboard could be swung open. Here, fugitive slaves would be hidden in times of danger. *It was a federal offense to shield or aid fugitive slaves.*



Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this jewel sits in a 65-acre park with a 1.75 mile nature trail managed by the Cass County Conservation Board

In 2001, Hitchcock House again gained national recognition when accepted as a site on the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The National Park Service maintains a web site with Underground Railroad information for tourists and scholars.

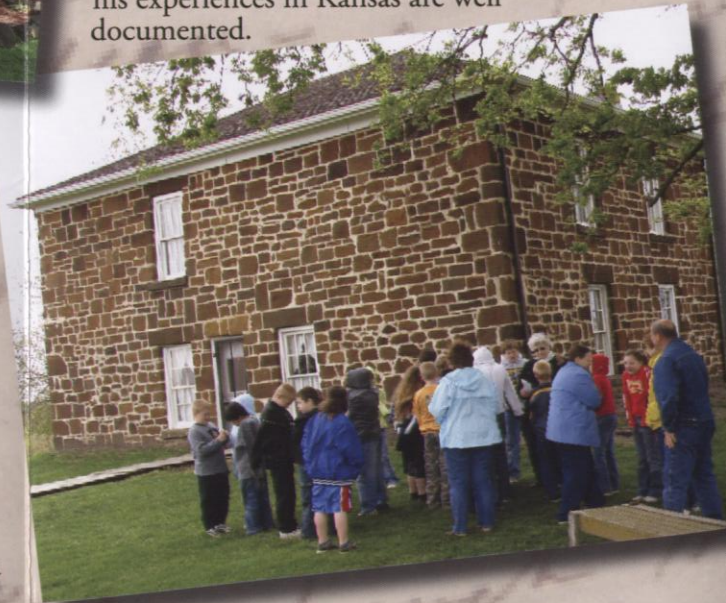
In 2006, the Hitchcock House was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. National Historic Landmark Status is the highest honor given to an historic property by the U.S. Government and places the Hitchcock House in a category shared by only 2,500 historic properties in the United States.

The History

Hitchcock House was built in 1856 by Reverend George Hitchcock, a Congregational minister. The house is one of the few remaining Underground Railroad "stations" in Iowa.

Fugitive slaves crossed from Missouri into Iowa along the Iowa border, but the fugitives who passed through Cass County came mostly from Kansas Territory. After the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act, many blacks seeking freedom entered Iowa at Nebraska City, Nebraska, and passed through Fremont and Mills counties. From Cass County the route went East to Des Moines, Grinnell, Iowa City and on to Illinois, generally crossing into Canada in the Detroit area.

According to local legend, John Brown preached at Hitchcock House. This is very likely since he made several trips to Kansas Territory and used the road that passes near Hitchcock House. Another local abolitionist was a second cousin to John Brown. Brown's visits with Rev. John Todd, at Tabor, and his experiences in Kansas are well documented.



Visit us on the web at www.hitchcockhouse.org.



Summer blooms greet visitors as they arrive at Hitchcock House. (far left) Fieldtrips to the Hitchcock House are a popular favorite for students. (middle) Local volunteers give tours and answer questions. (left)

The Restoration

Hitchcock House remained a farm residence for many years, but the house was abandoned during the 1960s. The vacant house was vandalized and rapidly deteriorated. With crumbling walls, collapsing roof, and broken windows, this once stately house was in a sad state of decay.

In 1983, a group of dedicated and visionary citizens from Lewis, and other towns in Cass County, organized as the Hitchcock House Restoration Committee. Grants of \$30,000 from the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office and \$20,000 from the Iowa Cultural Grant Program were matched with local funding. The house was restored to its former glory.

Special Events

For a list of special events and concerts, log on to www.hitchcockhouse.org.

