

Troy Academy is hidden treasure

You can't talk about tourism in Davis County without mentioning the Troy Academy. The building sits nestled among some beautiful trees in the small town of Troy on the eastern side of Davis County.

The Troy Academy building has been around for more than 150 years and has always been one of Davis County's hidden treasures. The facility stands as a reminder of what educational facilities were like many years ago.

The Troy Academy was a school of higher learning for young men and women who wished to be teachers. It was known as a "Normal School." Along with that, it had a commercial department for those wishing to learn bookkeeping, commercial law and commercial arithmetic.

The school began back in 1853. A group of Troy Citizens met on New Year's day to begin the process of planning the academy. The idea was to build a facility for educating teachers. They saw the need for teachers to educate the children of the families that had settled in the area.

The facility was built and educated prospective teachers for several years. The academy later closed in 1888 and stood empty for several years. In 1904, the Troy Independent School District purchased the building. It was remodeled into an elementary school consisting of a lower room and an upper room. When the area became the Troy Consolidated School District, the building was used for teaching manual

training. It later closed in 1917.

The building sat empty until the 1970s when a group of local Troy Alumni purchased the building. The building was moved a short distance to the east and south of its original location. The process of restoring the building also commenced. The idea was to restore the facility to its original appearance in 1853.

The purpose of the Troy Academy and the Troy Academy Historical Society is to restore and maintain the building for the pleasure and the education of the present generation. The idea is also to educate future generations as to what life was like in 1853 and what education was like during that time period.

The lower level of the building is set up like a 19th century classroom. The blackboards and desks are of the era, and there's even an old pot-bellied stove in the building as well.

The original gas-powered lights have been converted to electric lights. Also featured on the main level are pictures of alumni of the Academy and a library. The upstairs of the Academy is a museum with many artifacts. The facility has also been made handicapped accessible so that all can enjoy its storied history.

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OCTOBER 12, 1864

The day the Civil War came to Davis County, Iowa.



A brief history...

On October 12, 1864, James “Bill” Jackson led about a dozen heavily armed Missouri Partisan Rangers dressed in stolen Federal uniforms on a raid through Davis County, Iowa. Over the course of the day they would rob many and kill three local citizens. Those who died were Thomas Hardy, Eleazor Small and Captain Philip Bence.

A monument was dedicated to the memory of the Civil War. It is located 5 miles south of Bloomfield, Iowa on the corner of Lilac Avenue and 265th Street. It marks the northern most point of a Confederate incursion from the South. It also honors sacrifices of the people of Davis County during the War of Rebellion.

Learn more about this little known raid which has been the subject of a “Side Roads” segment on the IPTV program “Living In Iowa,” a documentary DVD by local filmmaker Joe Taylor of Handcranked Productions entitled “Far North: The Great Davis County Guerrilla Raid” and a book by local author & historian Russell Corder titled “The Confederate Invasion of Iowa.” Log on to civilwarraid.com for more information about the raid, a map of the route, and how you can obtain the DVD or book.

Each year the Davis County Civil War Guerrilla Raid Society hosts the Davis County Civil War Days and Living History Encampment to bring our history to life.

Always the second weekend in October

The trail is marked and maps are available at the monument or the Welcome Center.

Contact us by email at

**civilwarraid@gmail.com
or by calling 641-664-1304 or 641-675-3352 or
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