

PRESS RELEASE

Keokuk Union Depot

ROOF TILING COMPLETE

October 9, 2018, Keokuk, Iowa-- Crews from Keokuk's Commercial Contracting Services worked through the Columbus Day holiday to install the remaining clay tiles on the Keokuk Union Depot roof.

Although the roof restoration project was scheduled for completion by the end of 2017, the tile manufacturer delayed the final shipment of tiles beyond acceptable weather conditions last Fall. Because of the delay, the original tile installer was unable to complete the job due to its prior commitments for 2018.

Commercial Contracting Services stepped in to finish the work by scheduling work around its existing projects. "Not only did CCS re-arrange its schedule, it dealt with one of the more challenging roof areas—the hipped roofs over the trackside ticket window and the bluff side sandwich shop area," commented Janet Smith, president of the Keokuk Union Depot Foundation.

Work on the Depot roof began in 2015 with restoration of the chimney and the soffits, eaves and brackets around the waiting room area. In 2016 a re-constructed apex was hoisted onto the central tower to restore the tower to its original height and design with turrets and dormers. The rest of the soffits, eaves and brackets were restored in 2016 along with installation of clay roof tiles roof on the central tower. The upriver and downriver roofs were tiled in 2017 except for the ticket window and sandwich shop portions recently completed by CCS.

Throughout the roof restoration project, the Depot has hosted numerous weddings, graduations, reunions, concerts, art shows and other functions in its role as a community event center. The Keokuk Union Depot Foundation and the Keokuk Union Depot Commission are currently assessing the next steps and timing of further restoration projects.

The Depot's roof restoration was supported in part by the Jeffris Family Foundation, the State Historical Society of Iowa Historical Resource Development Program, Lee County Charitable Fund, Keokuk Area Community Foundation, the Landes Fund for Iowa of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, local banks and businesses, and over 400 individual donors.



The CCS crew installs the final tiles on October 8, 2018
Photo by Richard C. Leonard



Keokuk Union Depot after completion of the tile installation on October 8, 2018
Photo by Richard C. Leonard