

# Pella in the 1840s

*Pella Historical Society & Museums*

## SOD HOUSE & "STRAWTOWN"

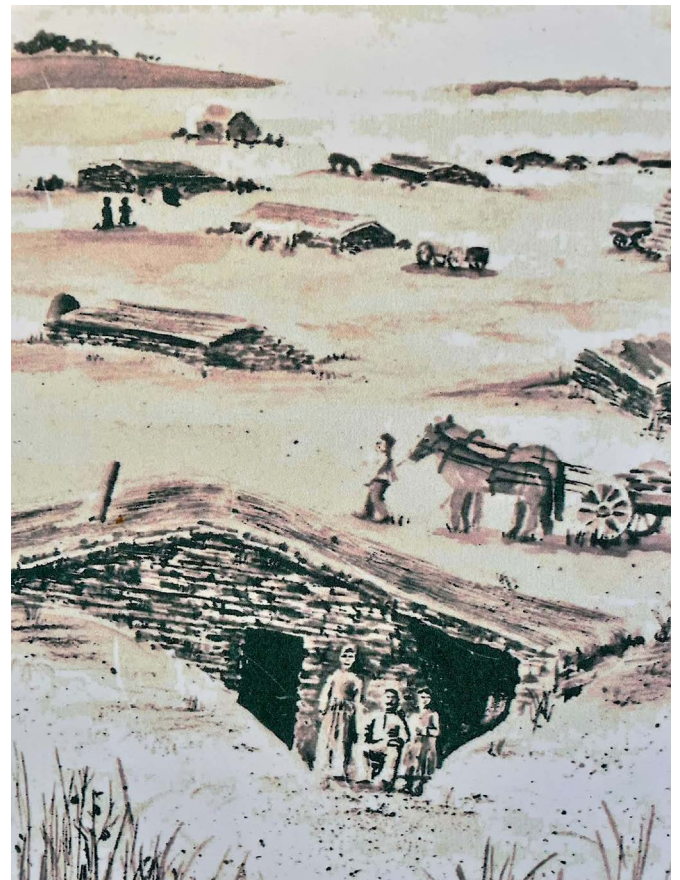


### Sod House Interior Photos

These photos show the interior of our Sod House, a re-creation of the first structures Pella settlers lived in. When they first arrived in 1847, the immigrants needed places to live that were quick to build. They made sod houses out of large "bricks" created from straw and mud. Although these houses kept the settlers dry and somewhat warm in the winter, they were not exactly ideal and were abandoned as soon as more permanent houses could be built.

### Strawtown Sketch

This drawing shows "Strawtown," the colloquial name given to the area where all of the sod houses were built. It was called this due to the straw used to build the bricks and cover the roofs of the structures. Today, there is still an area of Pella referred to as Strawtown, although these early structures are long gone.





**Early Pella Sketch**

This sketch, made by an unknown itinerant artist, shows Pella in 1848. This shows how the town grew within just a year of being founded.