



# Welcome to the Hoyt Sherman Place Curriculum Guide! 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**MISSION:** Hoyt Sherman Place creates outstanding experiences for the cultural, historic and educational benefit of Iowa's residents and communities.

**VISION:** Hoyt Sherman Place will be a premier historic cultural center in Iowa, working with national and local partners to present outstanding performances, celebrate Iowa's history and grow arts and culture in the region.



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## **Welcome to the Hoyt Sherman Place 9-12 Curriculum!**

This curriculum is designed to meet the needs of educators across various disciplines, from art to social studies and beyond. Understanding the demands of your schedule, we've crafted a flexible program that can be adjusted to fit your calendar while aligning with core educational standards and meeting diverse student needs.

Within this packet, you will discover contextual information about Hoyt Sherman Place, along with educational resources. These materials are intended to enrich your visit, where students will explore the Mansion, Art Gallery, and Theater. The accompanying guides aim to deepen students' cross-curricular understanding of Iowa's history and visual arts. Students will build skills in critical thinking and creativity. Additionally, worksheets provided at the end of this packet offer further activities for classroom or at-home engagement beyond the visit.

Thank you for your dedication to your students and for providing them with opportunities to explore and learn about Des Moines' history. We are delighted to welcome you to Hoyt Sherman Place and trust that you will find our curriculum to be a valuable and enjoyable resource for your classroom!

You can show your support for Hoyt Sherman Place by sending thank-you letters, colorful drawings, or other creative works to our esteemed corporate sponsors. As a 501(c)(3), these gestures of appreciation are deeply meaningful to our sponsors and significantly aid us in securing grants that ensure the preservation and future of this historic venue. Please send your thank-yous to Hoyt Sherman Place via mail or email, and we will handle the rest!



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## K-12 Social Studies & Visual Arts Iowa Core Standards

### Iowa Core Social Studies

#### 9-12 US History Curriculum: Analyze Change, Continuity, & Context

**SSUS.9-12.21:** Analyze change, continuity and context across eras and places of study from civil war to modern America.

**SS.US.9-12.27:** Evaluate lowans or groups of lowans who have influenced U.S. History.

### Iowa Core Visual Arts

#### 9-12 Visual Art Curriculum: Connecting

**VA.Cn.11.1.Ia:** Describe how knowledge of culture, traditions, and history may influence personal responses to art.

**VA.Cn.11.1.IIa:** Compare uses of art in a variety of societal, cultural, and historical contexts and make connections to uses of art in contemporary and local contexts.





## Lesson Plans for High School Students: Hoyt Sherman Place

### **Pre-Tour Lesson: Contextualizing Hoyt Sherman Place**

**Grade Level:** 9th-12th Grade

**Subject:** U.S. History & Visual Art

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Social Studies Standards:** SSUS.9-12.21, SS.US.9-12.27

**Visual Arts Standards:** VA.Cn.11.1.Ia, VA.Cn.11.1.IIa

**Objective:** Students will understand the historical significance of Hoyt Sherman Place, its impact on Des Moines and Iowa, and how art and architecture reflect cultural and historical contexts.

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Projector or smartboard
- Images and historical documents related to Hoyt Sherman Place
- Research materials (books, articles, internet access)
- Large paper or poster boards
- Markers, colored pencils, pencils, pens
- Hoyt Sherman Place website- online collections & art gallery
- Hoyt Sherman Place PowerPoints and/or [Historic Places Video](#)

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#### **Lesson Outline:**

##### **1. Introduction (20 minutes)**

Students will explore the historical and cultural significance of Hoyt Sherman Place.

- **Background Information:** Begin with a brief introduction to Hoyt Sherman Place, emphasizing its evolution from a private residence to a cultural and historical landmark. Use PowerPoints, website, or video to guide overview.
- **Historical Context:** Provide an overview of the key events associated with Hoyt Sherman Place. Highlight significant contributions by Hoyt Sherman and the role of the Des Moines Women's Club. Explore how Hoyt Sherman Place mirrors broader historical events, such as the Civil War, World War I, or early 20th-century cultural shifts.

## 2. US History- Historical Analysis Activity (30 minutes)

Students will examine key historical elements related to Hoyt Sherman Place and their connections to broader historical contexts.

- **Research:** Divide students into small groups. Assign each group with a specific aspect of Hoyt Sherman Place's history, such as Major Hoyt Sherman, the Des Moines Women's Club, the theater, the mansion, or an artist. Each group will research their assigned topic using provided materials and the internet as a guide.
- **Task:** Groups create a short presentation that highlights major events related to Hoyt Sherman Place and connections these events had to broader historical contexts (e.g., the Civil War, World War I, or early 20th-century American cultural shifts).
- **Create:** Develop a visual representation (poster or slideshow) to accompany the presentation, illustrating key points and connections through history.
- **Discussion:** Groups present their findings to the class. Facilitate a discussion on how the events and developments at Hoyt Sherman Place relate to national or global events as well as changes over time.
- **Gallery Walk:** If time permits, conduct a gallery walk where students can view and discuss each group's posters and findings. Allow time for feedback.

## 3. Visual Art- Art and Architecture Context (30 minutes)

Students will analyze the art and architectural elements of Hoyt Sherman Place.

- **Art Analysis:** Display images of art and architectural elements from Hoyt Sherman Place. Respond and discuss the visual characteristics and historical significance of these pieces.
- **Research:** Select a piece of art or architectural feature to research. Investigate its history, stylistic elements, and how it reflects social contexts.
- **Create:** Develop a visual representation related to the selected piece.
- **Discussion:** Analyze how the art in Hoyt Sherman Place reflects societal values and behaviors during its era. Discuss the influence on contemporary art.
- **Gallery Walk:** If time permits, conduct a gallery walk where students can explore and respond to each group's visual presentations and findings. Allow time for discussion and feedback.

## 4. Closure (10 minutes)

Students will summarize the learning and prepare for their visit.

- **Recap:** Review the importance of Hoyt Sherman Place in of Iowa and U.S. history.
- **Preview:** Discuss what students will see and learn during their visit, including key aspects to observe related to art and historical context. Review museum guide and expectations. Bring a notebook and pencil to visit.
- **Extra Time:** Explore the student supplemental materials at the back of this guide.

## Prepare for Your Hoyt Sherman Place Visit

At Hoyt Sherman Place, we offer a historic mansion, an art gallery, and a theater. To ensure the safety of both your group and our artifacts, please review the etiquette guidelines before your visit.

### **What is Museum Etiquette?**

Following the rules of Museum Etiquette helps make sure students have a fun and safe time at Hoyt Sherman Place. It's a lot like school: be kind, respectful, and follow the guidelines while you're here.

### **Students**

**1. Stay with Your Group**

Always stick together with your friends or adults from your group.

**2. Take Your Time**

Look closely at everything and enjoy learning at your own pace.

**3. Walk, Don't Run**

Move calmly and carefully to avoid accidents and respect the quiet atmosphere.

**4. Keep Hands to Yourself**

Be gentle and avoid touching objects or people.

**5. Use Inside Voices**

Speak softly to respect others who are exploring the museum.

**6. No Flash Photography**

Avoid using bright lights when taking pictures to protect the artifacts.

**7. Eating Permitted at Tables**

If you're hungry, eat only at designated tables to keep the museum clean.

**8. Stay Engaged**

Ask questions, learn new things, and have fun exploring.

### **Teachers/Chaperones**

**1. Supervise**

Keep an eye on children and ensure they always stay close.

**2. Be a Role Model**

Be a model for students by following museum rules and treating others and the artifacts with respect.

**3. Keep Count**

Make sure everyone in your group is present and accounted for.

**4. Connect and Encourage**

Engage with exhibits and encourage others to explore and learn respectfully.



## **Lesson Plans for High School Students: Hoyt Sherman Place**

### **Post-Tour Lesson: Reflecting on Hoyt Sherman Place**

**Grade Level:** 9th-12th Grade

**Subject:** U.S. History & Visual Art

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Social Studies Standards:** SS.US.9-12.21, SS.US.9-12.22, SS.US.9-12.27

**Visual Arts Standards:** VA.Cn.11.1.Ia, VA.Cn.11.1.IIa, VA.Cn.11.1.IIIa

**Objective:** Students will analyze their experiences at Hoyt Sherman Place to understand the impact of historical events and artistic elements on the place's significance. They will evaluate how Hoyt Sherman Place reflects broader cultural and historical trends.

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Projector or smartboard
- Student notes from the tour
- Digital device to search Hoyt Sherman Place website and write
- Poster boards or large paper
- Markers, colored pencils, pencils, pens, paint, charcoal, watercolor, clay, paper
- Journal or notebook
- Hoyt Sherman Place PowerPoints

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#### **Lesson Outline:**

##### **1. Reflective Discussion (20 minutes)**

Students will reflect on their observations from the tour and make connections to historical and cultural contexts.

- **Class Discussion:** Facilitate a discussion where students share their observations and reflections from the tour using their notes or sketches. Focus on the historical significance of the events and the art and architecture they saw.
- **Guiding Questions:** In small groups or pairs, answer the following questions: How did the tour enhance your understanding of Hoyt Sherman Place's historical and cultural significance? In what ways does the site reflect broader historical and cultural trends? What was your favorite part? Would you visit again? Share out as a full class to find common themes.

## 2. US History- Comparative Analysis (30 minutes)

Students will compare Hoyt Sherman Place with another historical site to understand different reflections of historical and cultural contexts.

- **Research Assignment:** Have students research another historical site or landmark with similar themes (e.g., Terrace Hill, Salsbury House, World Food Prize Hall, or the Iowa State Capitol).
- **Comparison Task:** Create a comparative analysis of Hoyt Sherman Place and the chosen site, focusing on how each reflects its historical and cultural context.
- **Presentation:** Each student or group will present their findings through slides or posters, highlighting similarities and differences in historical impact, artistic elements, and cultural significance. Allow time for discussion and feedback.

## 3. Visual Art- Artistic Reflection (30 minutes):

Students will create a piece of art inspired by the museum visit and reflect on its connection to the site's historical and cultural context.

- **Personal Art Interpretation:** Select a specific artwork or exhibit from the museum to inspire a new piece of art. This can be a drawing, painting, sculpture, or digital artwork. This may require more than one class session to complete.
- **Writing:** Write a brief explanation of how the selected artwork inspired your creation and what aspects you focused on. Consider questions such as: How do art and architecture represent the values and events of its time? How might these elements influence contemporary views of the site?
- **Presentation:** If time permits, allow students to share their work and for classmates to respond. Allow time for feedback.

## 4. Closure (10 minutes)

Students will summarize key learnings and reflect on the interplay between history and art.

- **Summary:** Review the key points from the tour and the lessons. Emphasize the connections between historical developments and artistic expressions observed at Hoyt Sherman Place.
- **Reflection:** Ask students to write a brief reflection on their learning experience. Share out, if guided to do so.
- **Extra Time:** Explore the student supplemental materials at the back of this guide.

## **Teacher's Guide to Hoyt Sherman Place History 19<sup>th</sup> Century:**

*Feel free to inquire about borrowing the "Historic Buildings of Iowa: Des Moines" DVD to provide history of Hoyt Sherman Place long with four other historic builds across town.*

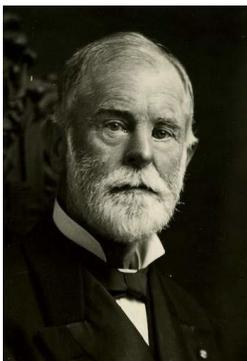
Born in 1827, Major Hoyt Sherman was the youngest son of eleven children. His family included older brothers, John Sherman, the writer of Sherman Anti-Trust Act, and Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman. President Abraham Lincoln appointed him the Army Paymaster at the start of the Civil War.

Hoyt Sherman arrived in Des Moines in 1848, and shortly thereafter, he was appointed Postmaster. He built the first post office and bank, he served on the town council, and he was very involved in local and state politics. In 1850, Hoyt purchased five acres of land for \$105. Upon his return from the war, Hoyt teamed up with others and created Equitable of Iowa Insurance Company. During this time, he also gave his counsel, his time, and his money to ensure Des Moines had schools, including a college and a waterworks system.

In 1877, the Sherman family home was completed with the help of architect William Foster. It was noted in writings to be, "a society showplace of the grandest scale." Among its distinguished guests in history were General Sherman, General Grant, General Sheridan, and Major McKinley. Sherman and his wife, Sara, raised five children, Frank, Addie, Charles, Arthur, and Helen, in the home. Major Hoyt Sherman passed away in January 1904, and his estate transferred to his heirs. They later gifted the entire estate to the city of Des Moines, with the caveat that it forever be called Hoyt Sherman Place.

In 1893, Hoyt Sherman rented his home to The Sisters of Mercy from Davenport, Iowa. Within the walls of the home, the sisters created the first Mercy Hospital. It held 52 beds and operated for nearly two years.

The Des Moines Women's Club, founded in 1885, built a gallery adjacent to the mansion. The space became the first public art museum in Des Moines. Hoyt Sherman Place is still home to the Des Moines Women's Club today.



Major Hoyt Sherman



Hoyt Sherman Place, 1877



## **Teacher's Guide to Hoyt Sherman Place History 20<sup>th</sup> Century-Present:**

Hoyt Sherman Place stood empty after Hoyt's death until 1907 when members of Des Moines Women's Club leased the home from the city for \$1 per year.

The Des Moines Women's Club invited many guest speakers to Hoyt Sherman Place to entertain and to educate. They began raising funds for the construction of a 1,400-seat theater in 1917. When the United States entered WWI that same year, all plans were put on hold. Construction of the theater began in 1922. Des Moines Women's Club also began construction of a second gallery called the Byers Room to house the art collection presented to them by Major S.H.M. and Margaret Byers in 1912. Major Byers served under, and became a close friend of, Hoyt Sherman's brother, General William T. Sherman. In 1923, the 1,400-seat theater was completed. In its first two decades including Helen Keller and John Philip Sousa (1925), Amelia Earhart (1933), and Grant Wood (1939).

In 1977, Hoyt Sherman Place was listed on The National Register of Historic Places, a designation given to significant buildings in American history.

In 1995, the Hoyt Sherman Place Foundation was formed to preserve and enhance the landmark. The Foundation's mission is to create outstanding experiences for the cultural, historic and educational benefit of Iowa's residents and communities.

In 2004, a \$4.7 million-dollar restoration project was completed to restore the spaces to their original grandeur. Additional enhancements include air conditioning, lighting, 1,252 refurbished historical seats in the theater and interior upgrades in the art gallery.

In 2020, *The Hoyt Sherman Place: The Next 100 Years* Capital Campaign successfully raised \$5 million to build the Center for Artists and Education, which includes rehearsal and classroom spaces, dressing rooms, a green room, private meeting spaces and an administrative office suite. The project also added a VIP donor lounge to the theater mezzanine level, and the new east wing created lobby space for lawn events and includes additional public restrooms.

During the pandemic, the mansion's second floor was restored, including Hoyt and Sara's bedroom and a room dedicated to the memory of their daughter, Helen Sherman Griffith. The rooms include period-appropriate light fixtures, original paint colors, flooring and décor. A Research and Archive Library was also created to view special documents.

In 2023, Hoyt Sherman Place Theater celebrated its 100th anniversary season.

## **Supplemental Activities for Students**

Please have students bring a notebook and pencil for taking notes or drawing during the visit. School visits may include a historical/architectural scavenger hunt, art observation stations, or museum bingo upon request. If you require any lunch spaces, materials, or accommodations, please notify the Education Programs Coordinator in advance at [roeder@hoytsherman.org](mailto:roeder@hoytsherman.org) or (515)452-0610.

## Hoyt Sherman Place Word Search

T D Y X Z R G M C I U A S H N  
H M B T S T E Y E G M E U I A  
E J D J I Y Q T N R C U C S I  
A I L D X N Q V S N C I X T R  
T Y I U G S U L A A F Y Z O O  
R A F G E O A M L E M H O R T  
E W M A W N R J M D F T O Y C  
S O G M D O G F W O V F S Z I  
S I F M F A H H K J C B J O V  
I S A R L S M N O I S N A M P  
C R E L N G I I T Y K P F X Y  
K P E N L A I N N E T N E C N  
A R C H I T E C T U R E N A O  
Y R E S T O R A T I O N W L Z  
G M E Y M G L Z M Y N N D M S

Architecture

Centennial

Community

Gallery

History

Hoyt

Iowa

Landmark

Mansion

Mercy

Performances

Postmaster

Restoration

Theater



## Hoyt Sherman Place People Unscramble

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## **FAQs**

### **How do I get to Hoyt Sherman Place?**

Hoyt Sherman Place is located at 1501 Woodland Avenue, Des Moines IA, 50309.

If you are coming from the east side of Des Moines, take Interstate 235 westbound through the downtown area. Exit 7 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway exit. At the 2nd stoplight, turn left onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, a one-way street, heading south. Go five blocks (3 stoplights) and turn left on Woodland Avenue. Keep heading east on Woodland Avenue five blocks, and Hoyt Sherman Place will be on your left-hand side, on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Woodland Avenue.

If you are coming from the west side of Des Moines, take Interstate 235 eastbound. Take Exit 7A for Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. Turn right onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, heading south. Go four blocks (2 stoplights) and turn left on Woodland Avenue. Keep heading east on Woodland Avenue five blocks, and Hoyt Sherman Place will be on your left-hand side, on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Woodland Avenue.

### **When is Hoyt Sherman Place open?**

Administrative Office: Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Box Office: Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

If no events are occurring, patrons are welcome to do self-guided tours during open hours. If an event is occurring or being set up, some spaces may be unavailable for self-guided tours. Unless an event is scheduled, the facility is closed on weekends and evenings. Docent led tours can be arranged by contacting Emily Roeder at [roeder@hoytsherman.org](mailto:roeder@hoytsherman.org) or by visiting our [tours page](#).

### **Is Hoyt Sherman Place accessible?**

Yes. Accessible parking is available in the main parking lot located on the east side of the venue on the corner of 15th Street and Woodland Avenue.

- An accessible ramp leads from the main parking lot to the east-facing Box Office door and to the front lawn.
- An elevator is in the Box Office lobby on the lower-level east side of the venue. The elevator accesses the main floor and balcony lobbies in the theater.
- Accessible lifts are also available to access the mansion and art gallery.
- Accessible restrooms are available in the restroom annex connected to the Box Office lobby located on the lower-level east side of the venue.

### **How do I get information on classes or events?**

Visit our website at <https://hoytsherman.org/> for all classes and events. Call [515.244.0507](tel:515.244.0507) for further questions.

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