

MEMORABLE MOMENTS AT THE IOWA STATE CENTER

IOWA STATE CENTER

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1954 - Iowa State University President James H. Hilton spoke to faculty at the fall convocation and proposed construction of an educational/cultural/athletic complex
- 1955 - Committee formed to develop the Iowa State Center
- 1958 - ISU Foundation formed with the Iowa State Center as its primary goal
- 1962 - National fund-raising campaign launched

HIGHLIGHTS:

- No state appropriated funds were used to build the Iowa State Center
- First donation was two dollars from anonymous donor
- Second donation was one million dollars from C. Y. Stephens
- The Iowa State Center sits on 76 acres of land that used to be university agricultural fields
- Day-to-day operations are run by a staff of 40 full-time employees



STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

NAMED FOR:

- Clifford Y. Stephens for his contributions to the auditorium

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1965 - Ground broken for Stephens Auditorium
- 1969 - Completed at a cost of \$4.9 million
- 1969 - New York Philharmonic Orchestra presented the opening concerts, a five-performance, week-long festival
- 2004 - Stephens Auditorium named *Building of the Century* by the American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Seats 2,747 people
- Original seating in shades of yellow and orange were used to create an illusion. When the first 12 rows were full, the patterns created by the different shades made it appear to the performer that the house was full. For the 25th Anniversary, seats were re-upholstered in shades of red to give the same effect.
- The orchestra pit may be used to hold up to 125 musicians, as an extension of the stage or audience seating at certain events.
- Upholstered seats absorb the same amount of sound, empty or full. When the house is full for a performance, it sounds the same as if it were empty for a rehearsal.
- Acoustical quality is excellent and internationally known.
- J. W. Fisher donated the curtain, which is 85 feet by 35 feet, weighs 3,000 pounds, and takes four people to raise and lower. It was woven in Kyoto, Japan on the world's largest continuous loom.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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HILTON COLISEUM

NAMED FOR:

- Iowa State University President, Dr. James H. Hilton, who launched the idea of the Iowa State Center

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1971 - Completed at a cost of \$8.1 million
- 1978 - Ticket office was added outside of the building and two dressing rooms were added for women's athletics
- 1986 - New color scoreboard was purchased which at the time was the largest basketball scoreboard in a college-owned facility

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Seats 15,000 for concerts and 14,000 for athletics
- Original design of Hilton was to be an ark-shaped building but the cost was considerably higher so designers came up with the building as it is today to stay within budget.
- First event was an agriculture conference
- First athletic event was a men's basketball game between Iowa State and Arizona
- Scoreboard and video board systems use over 70,000 LED's



FISHER THEATER

NAMED FOR:

- J.W. Fisher of Marshalltown, a major contributor to the university and the Iowa State Center

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1974 - Completed at a cost of \$900,000

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Seats 454 people
- Once referred to as "The Little Theater"
- Mainly used by Iowa State student theater and dance groups
- Scene shop is housed backstage and costume shop is located underneath the stage
- The gold stage curtain was fabricated in Kyoto, Japan by the same woolen company that produced the Stephens Auditorium curtain.
- The five-position contour curtain permits the configuration to be altered depending on the stage opening desired



SCHEMAN BUILDING

NAMED FOR:

- Iowa State alumnus, Carl Scheman, one of the founders of the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, who donated one million dollars to the Iowa State Center

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1975 - Completed at a cost of \$5.3 million

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Final building added to the Iowa State Center
- The heart of the Iowa State Center – hosts state, national, and international conferences, board meetings, pre-performance dinners, wedding receptions and an array of other events
- Site of the Brunner Art Museum – the state's only accredited museum emphasizing a decorative arts collection, and one of the nation's few museums located within a performing arts and conference complex