

REED-NILAND CORNER, INC

January 2026

Story County Board of
Supervisors

Attn: Linda Murken, Chair
900 6th St Nevada, Iowa 50201

Subject: Request for Support for Reed-Niland Corner Restoration Efforts

Dear Story County Board of Supervisors,

Reed-Niland Corner, Inc. respectfully requests **\$30,000** in the upcoming fiscal year to support essential restoration projects at the historic Reed-Niland Corner in Colo. These funds will help launch critical repairs and serve as matching dollars for grants we are actively pursuing.

Reed-Niland Corner, Inc. was established in 2025 to preserve and promote the historic Reed-Niland Corner located at the intersection of the Lincoln Highway and the Jefferson Highway. Both of these historic routes are designated state byways through the Iowa Department of Transportation's Scenic Byways Program, and the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is further recognized as a National Scenic Byway by the Federal Highway Administration.

This iconic one-stop—once offering fuel, food, and lodging—continues to serve the public today as a café, five motel units, apartments, and a significant historic site. Our nonprofit organization is currently preparing an application for the National Register of Historic Places, and knowledgeable historians have encouraged us to pursue the even higher designation of National Historic Landmark status. Reed-Niland Corner is a well-known destination for members of the Lincoln Highway Association and has been recognized among the top ten historic sites visited nationwide.

The Corner was recently featured in a Business Insider documentary on America's truck stops, highlighting its cultural and historical importance. The video can be viewed here:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=business+insider+video+on+truck+stops&&mid=0C40F7360A583345508E0C40F7360A583345508E&FORM=VAMGZC>

Reed-Niland Corner, Inc. has identified several restoration and preservation projects essential to maintaining the site's historic integrity and continued operation. We have obtained quotes for the following improvements:

- Replacement of interior and exterior doors for the station, café, motel units, and apartments: **\$43,070**
- New awnings for the station and café: **\$4,860**
- Installation of gutters on the station: **\$2,999**
- Neon sign repairs:
 - Colo Sign: **\$1,504**
 - Niland's Café Sign: **\$8,435**
 - Motel/Café Rotating Sign: **\$20,235**

Total project cost: \$81,103

P.O. Box 244 ❖ Colo, IA 50056 ❖ 515.450.8456 ❖ Facebook: Reed-Niland Corner

a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

Reed-Niland Corner continues to be an asset to Story County—not only as a historic attraction drawing visitors from across the country, but also as the only restaurant serving the Colo area. Many travelers stop in for a meal, a slice of pie, and a glimpse into Iowa’s transportation history.

We invite you to visit the café and experience firsthand the value this site brings to our community.

Please let us know if we may present our project at an upcoming Board meeting. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Story County’s cultural and historic resources.

Sincerely,

Brenda McGuire

Kathy Mens

Brenda McGuire, President
Reed-Niland Corner, Inc., 501(3)(c) Nonprofit
P.O. Box 244
Colo, Iowa 50056 515-450-8456

Kathy Mens, Treasurer