

# Despite a few bumps, station comes to rest in Sherman Hill

The structure was saved from demolition by KLM International of Ankeny for use as a youth center.

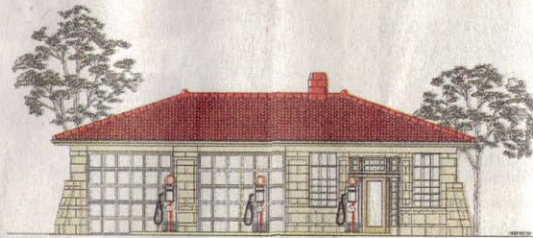
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The journey of a historic gas station originally located in the East Village came to a stop in front of a Sherman Hill church Wednesday, but not without some bumps along the way.

Curbs, traffic lights and the Eighth Street viaduct were just a few of the obstacles the building encountered as it made its way westward on the back of a truck. It took about 10 hours, a few police escorts and a removed chimney for the nearly 80-year-old structure to reach its destination next to The Cathedral at 901 19th St.

The terra cotta building's journey started long before it navigated the streets of Des Moines last week.

The structure was built in the 1930s by the Continental Oil Co. as its flagship loca-



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What the gas station might look like after it is restored. The structure was built in the 1930s by the Continental Oil Co.

tion in Des Moines. It operated as a gas and service station in the East Village for decades. Then, in 2008, the land it sat on at 203 E. Grand Ave. was sold.

Plans were made to tear down the building, but it was saved by members of the Historic East Village. The group raised \$40,000 toward the building move, but it was not enough to cover the moving costs. Jerry Bassman, an East Village property owner, then stepped in to buy it. But that deal fell through, and instead it was KLM International of Ankeny that walked away with the title.

The KLM ministry also

purchased the former Kingsway Cathedral — now The Cathedral — in 2009 after it was set to be demolished.

Plans for the old gas station include transforming it into a church youth center called The Filling Station, as in "filled with the Holy Ghost," said the Rev. Kenney Linhart, co-founder of KLM International. The structure will serve as an outreach center for the community, he said.

Work will need to be done on the building to make it ready for such a use, but Linhart said the historical integrity of the building will remain. The roof will be repainted red, windows



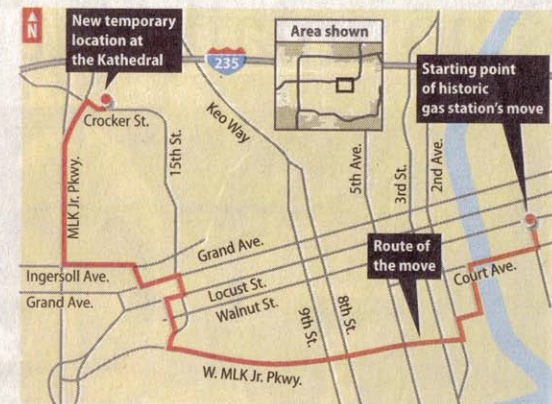
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The former Continental Oil station ran into a few hiccups along its 10-hour journey from the East Village to Sherman Hill on Wednesday. For example, the historic station was stuck at the Eighth Street viaduct along West Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway after it was found to be 6 inches too tall. Part of the chimney was removed to continue the move.

will be replaced and even the decor will have a gas station theme.

The center is the first piece of a larger church campus the organization hopes to build around The Cathedral. The group is trying to acquire property at 18th and Crocker streets for the gas station's final resting place.

The restoration and property do come with additional expenses. KLM International will be soliciting donations with the hope of reaching a \$100,000 goal.



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