







Johnson County I-80 eastbound at milepost 237 Emphasis: Writing Completed: April 26, 2010

When you travel across the state of lowa, you see rows of corn and soybeans. But there is something else that grows that is "mightier than the sword." The strong connection between our agricultural heritage and our educational system is a tradition that endures in Iowa and is expressed, in many forms.

The integrated public artwork installation speaks to the importance of writing in Iowa and its significant contribution to literature throughout the world. The "Pen Nib" sculpture at the building's entrance dramatically marks the physical "act" of writing, complete with ink that has stained the landscape.



0

Names of many prominent writers and images depicting the history of writing instruments appear on glazed blocks throughout the interior. Letter blocks create large murals in the restroom vestibules. Cut-metal text in the form of "pieces of paper" form screen walls to the picnic shelters.



This public artwork installation was designed by artist David B. Dahlquist of RDG Dahlquist Art Studio, French-Reneker Associates, Yaggy Colby and Associates, Brown Engineering and Calhoun Burns.