

Historic House Museums and Sites

Historic house museums and sites often inspire a new love for history within their visitors. To be able to see and experience what life might have been like during a certain time period is often more engaging for many people than viewing a traditional museum exhibit of historical artifacts. Operating an historic house or site, however, can be a challenging as well as fun experience. Luckily, several books and websites offer guidance on a variety of issues that these sites face today. See also the "[Historic Buildings and Landscapes](#)" and "[Museum and Nonprofit Administration](#)" toolkits for further resources.

General Guidance

- American Alliance of Museums: [Historic Houses and Sites Network](#)
- American Association for State and Local History: "[How Sustainable is Your Historic House Museum?](#)"
- Franklin Vagnone, et. al: [Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums](#)
- National Park Service: [Preservation Brief 32 – "Making Historic Properties Accessible"](#)
- Sherry Butcher-Youngmans: [Historic House Museums: A Practical Handbook for Their Care, Preservation, and Management](#)
- Donna Ann Harris: [New Solutions for House Museums: Ensuring the Long-Term Preservation of America's Historic Houses](#)

Preservation and Maintenance

- Canadian Conservation Institute: "[Closing a Museum for the Winter](#)"
- Connecting to Collections Care
 - "[Hibernation – Not Just for Bears: Putting your house museum "to bed" for the season](#)" [Webinar](#) (Presenters: Benjamin Haavik and Nicole Chalfant, Historic New England)
 - "[Live Question and Answer Session on Housekeeping for Historic Sites](#)" [Webinar](#) (Presenter: Brigid Sullivan, National Park Service)
- English Heritage: [Practical Conservation Guidelines for Successful Hospitality Events in Historic Houses](#)
- Historic New England: [Environmental Conditions in Historic House Museums](#)
- Minnesota Historical Society: [Historic Housekeeping Handbook](#)
- National Park Service
 - Preservation Brief 3: "[Improving Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings](#)"
 - Preservation brief 24: "[Heating, Ventilating, and Cooling Historic Buildings—Problems and Recommended Approaches](#)"
 - [Preservation Briefs](#): Guidance on the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic buildings.
 - [Preservation Tech Notes](#): Guidance on a variety of topics involving the maintenance and preservation of historic materials.
 - "[Weatherizing and Improving the Energy Efficiency of Historic Buildings](#)"
- Northeast Museum Services Center: Video series – [Housekeeping for Historic Sites](#)

- Jane Merritt: [*Preventive Conservation for Historic House Museums*](#)

Interpretation and Exhibition

- David B. Allison: [*Effective Costumed Interpretation and Enactment at Museums and Historic Sites*](#)
- Jessica Foy Donnelly: [*Interpreting Historic House Museums*](#)
- National Park Service
 - [*Museum Handbook, Part III – Chapter 8: “Using Museum Collections in Historic Furnished Structures”*](#)
 - [*Telling the Stories: Planning Effective Interpretive Programs for Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places*](#)
- William Alderson and Shirley Payne Low: [*Interpretation of Historic Sites*](#)

Finances and Funding

- State Historical Society of Iowa
 - [*County School Grant Program*](#)
 - [*Historical Resource Development Program Grants*](#)
- American Association for State and Local History: [*“How Sustainable is Your Historic House Museum?”*](#)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services: [*“Apply for a Grant”*](#)
- National Endowment for the Humanities: [*Grant Opportunities*](#)
- National Park Service
 - [*Historic Preservation Fund Grants*](#)
 - [*Save America’s Treasures*](#)
 - [*State, Tribal, and Local Plans & Grants*](#)
 - [*Underrepresented Community Grants*](#)
- Rebekah Beaulieu: [*Financial Fundamentals for Historic House Museums*](#)
- Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area: [*“Grant Programs”*](#)