

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: Kodiak Historical Society

Federal Tax ID: 92-6002560

Project Title:

Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Kodiak Historical Society - Phase III Refurbishment of the Baranof Museum Historical Building

State Funding Requested: \$72,000

House District: 36 / R

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This project will complete necessary preservation work to the exterior of the Baranov Museum building, a National Historic Landmark facility in downtown Kodiak, Alaska. The scope of work includes structural repairs and window restoration to the building's signature front elevation. The rehabilitated Museum building will be more structurally sound and safer for public access.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$568,750

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds	\$273,750	2008				
Rasmuson Foundation	\$123,000	2009				
Local Funds	\$140,000	2009				
Other Funds	\$32,000	2008 & 2009				
Total	\$568,750					

Explanation of Other Funds:

Explanation of other funds: Funding for Phase I & II was secured through the Save America's Treasures program, a public-private partnership administered through the National Park Service. The required 100% federal match was secured through contributions from the City of Kodiak, the Rasmuson Foundation, Kodiak CHARR, and many individual donors throughout Alaska. For Phase III, the Kodiak Historical Society will provide all administrative costs in-kind.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Kodiak Historical Society incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1954 with a mission to preserve and share the history of the Kodiak and Aleutian Islands region. The Society began to collect, research and exhibit objects of cultural and historical significance, opening our first museum in a WWII Quonset hut in 1957. In 1967, the Society led the effort to restore Kodiak's National Historic Landmark building known as the Russian American Magazin, or the Erskine House, and moved operations into the unique two-story log building. In 1972, the City of Kodiak assumed ownership of the Russian American Magazin and has operated the Baranov Museum in partnership with the Kodiak Historical Society ever since.

The Baranov Museum building derives its significance through its association with the international fur trade in the 19th century. It was originally constructed in 1808 to house the Russian-American Company's wealth of seal and sea otter furs.

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

**\$72,000
Approved**

It is the oldest continuously occupied building in Alaska, the oldest of only four remaining Russian-era structures in the United States and the earliest documented log building on the entire west coast. Although this alone distinguishes the building, it is further notable as the only edifice that encompasses the activities of both the Russian-American Company (1799 – 1867) and the Alaska Commercial Company (1868 – 1911), the two trading empires which, for more than 100 years, shaped the scope and direction of settlement and exploration in Alaska, and controlled not only commerce, but government, law and social relations on this most western frontier.

The public programs of the Baranov Museum include interpretive tours, grass basket weaving classes, lectures and research presentations, an after-school arts program for children, and the publication of historical data through books, our quarterly newsletter, on our website. The Museum is open year-round and receives approximately 10,000 visitors annually. The Museum is well-used by Kodiak's cruise ship visitors. We frequently open early and remain open late in order to provide interpretive tours and other services to cruise ship passengers. Because we are located directly adjacent to the drop-off area for passenger shuttle buses, we frequently provide orientation and directional services to these visitors.

This project is the final component of a multi-year effort to preserve the Baranov Museum building, and create a safer environment for the collections, staff and visitors. The conditions that threaten the building were identified in a 2003 Condition Assessment Survey completed by Steven Peterson, National Park Service Senior Historical Architect, through the National Historic Landmark Technical Assistance program. Phase III will see the restoration of the windows and the replacement of rotting structural posts and beams on the front porch of the Baranov Museum.

Window Restoration: Moisture is a significant threat to the preservation of any historic building, but particularly a building constructed with logs. The most serious issues related to moisture penetration at the Baranov Museum are failing windows. In the summer season of 2008 and 2009 we were able to fully restore thirteen window units on the Baranov Museum building and fabricate custom wooden storm windows for each unit. Phase III will address the remaining units on the southern elevation of the building as well as the front porch sunroom area. The windows in the sunroom area are in very poor condition and are failing due to years of exposure and the effects of wind driven rains in our wet maritime climate. Water is penetrating the building through the windows, endangering the museum collections and further degrading the frames, sills, and sashes. Exterior paint failure has led to biological growth and warped sills. The original wood construction material is exposed in multiple locations.

Replacement of structural posts and beams: The four structural posts and two beams on the front porch of the Baranov Museum have decayed beyond salvage. During restoration work to the building's exterior redwood siding in the late summer of 2009, contractors removed the existing paint, applied an epoxy-resin hardening agent, and repainted the posts. In the five months since this treatment, the paint has cracked and flaked off, and the posts have leached moisture, indicating that the internal moisture problems are beyond repair. In December of 2009, the City of Kodiak Public Works Department installed a single untreated post to provide additional support to the porch roof. Immediate work is necessary to prevent collapse.

For this project we will work with Don Corwin, a restoration carpenter with West Wind Woodworking of Skagway, Alaska. Mr. Corwin was identified by the National Park Service, Alaska Support Office, as one of two carpenters in the state qualified to undertake the window restoration work on the building. He will remove and restore each failed window unit and the window casing and trim. The existing historical materials will be reused to the greatest extent possible and replacement materials will accurately represent the historic appearance of the existing windows. All window openings will be fitted with weather-proof flashing materials prior to reinstallation to prevent further moisture infiltration to the wall systems. This phase of the project will also see the fabrication of historically correct wooden storm windows. Their proper installation will add to

the process of protecting against moisture infiltration. Mr. Corwin will also remove and replace the front porch posts and beams with identical materials milled to duplicate the existing historic material.

Mr. Corwin's work on the building in 2008 and 2009 has been exemplary. At their annual meeting in November of 2009, the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation recognized Mr. Corwin's work in Kodiak with an award of excellence in restoration. As with all work completed in Phase I & Phase II, we will continue to consult with the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology and the National Park Service, Alaska Support Office, to ensure that all work meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Restoration and that all work preserves the historic integrity of the building.

The Baranov Museum is a prominent, often-visited, well-used historic building. The building is important to our national heritage as the only edifice to encompass the activities of both the Russian-American Company and the Alaska Commercial Company – two major institutions in the development of the American west. The building is also a treasure to community life. The community of Kodiak was devastated by the Alaska earthquake of 1964, and the majority of homes and businesses in the city core were destroyed by the resulting tsunami. Thus, even though Kodiak was established in 1792, the Baranov Museum is the only public building remaining that predates the 20th century.

The building's ongoing function as a history museum adds another dimension to the public benefit of this project. The exhibits of the Baranov Museum feature exceptional historic and ethnographic collections representing the unique history and cultural influences of the Kodiak and Aleutian Islands region. The building itself is also an exhibit focus, with interpretive labels identifying various architectural features and explaining the evolution of the building over time. By interpreting both the building and the museum's collections, we educate visitors about Alaska history, and instill an appreciation of the past.

Project Timeline:

Approximately 6 months. Depending on the availability of the restoration carpenter necessary for the preservation work, the project may be completed in the spring and summer season of 2010 or over two seasons in 2010 and spring of 2011.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Kodiak Historical Society

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Katie Oliver
 Address: 101 Marine Way
 Kodiak, AK 99615
 Phone Number: (907)486-5920
 Email: baranov@ak.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

Project Title: National Historic Landmark Exterior Restoration – Phase III

Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

State Funding Requested: \$72,000 one-time need

Brief Project Description

This project will complete necessary preservation work to the exterior of the Baranov Museum building, a National Historic Landmark facility in downtown Kodiak, Alaska. The scope of work includes structural repairs and window restoration to the building’s signature front elevation. The rehabilitated Museum building will be more structurally sound and safer for public access.

Funding Plan

Total Cost of Project: Phase III - \$72,000 Phase I & II: 568,750

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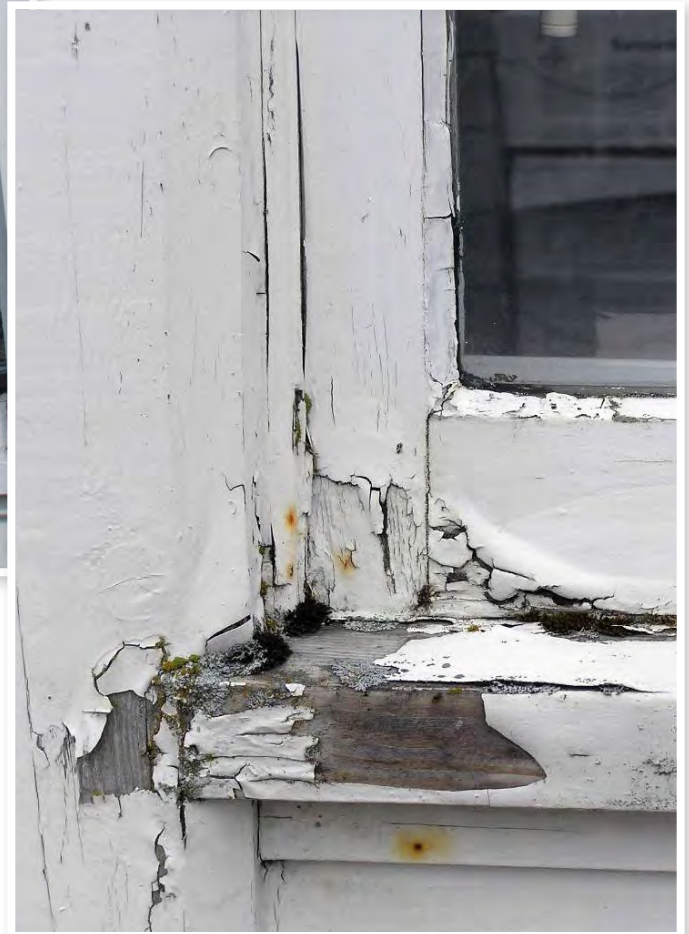
Photo 1. The southern elevation of the Baranov Museum is the focus of this project. Visitors to the museum enter into the front sunroom. This area presents a challenge for window restoration as the historic windows here include more than 120 individual panes of glass.

National Historic Landmark Exterior Restoration Phase III
Kodiak Historical Society / Baranov Museum, Kodiak, Alaska
February 2010



Photos 2 & 3. This post illustrates the severity of the decay problem among all structural supports on the front porch of the Baranov Museum. All posts were treated with wood hardener in October of 2009, a temporary solution that did not successfully extend their use. The unpainted beam visible in the photos was installed as an emergency measure to support the roof.

National Historic Landmark Exterior Restoration Phase III
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February 2010



Photos 4 & 5: These close up images of the sun room windows illustrates the extent of the paint failure problem. Dirt and moss build up on the exposed wood, accelerating the deterioration. As the frames deteriorate, the wood components settle and spread apart allowing rain to penetrate the buidling.

National Historic Landmark Exterior Restoration Phase III
Kodiak Historical Society / Baranov Museum, Kodiak, Alaska
February 2010



Photo 6 This project will also include the restoration of four 19th century windows on the front porch and the fabrication of custom wooden storm windows for these units.

National Historic Landmark Exterior Restoration Phase III
Kodiak Historical Society / Baranov Museum, Kodiak, Alaska
February 2010