

# The Correspondent

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KIT CARSON HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



Kit Carson House Courtyard

*“First Snow of the Season” Photo by Dave Cordova*

## Condition Assessment and Preservation Plan Complete

**R**oy Woods, Principal Architect of Conron and Woods, submitted the final Current Condition Assessment and Preservation Plan for the Kit Carson House on September 30 according to the terms of the CLG Grant with the Town of Taos. This Preservation Plan for the House falls under the Secretary of the Interior’s Standard of Rehabilitation, which provides the most appropriate mix of preserving historic elements while permitting improvements that make for a facility that is accessible and maintainable.

The report identifies moisture as the most profound threat to both Carson House and Romero House, with high moisture readings and major and minor wall collapses already occurring. Although we were aware of the moisture issue from casual observation, it was striking

how high the moisture measurements were. Solutions will include new site grading, drainage systems, flooring revisions, landscape changes, and wall repairs.

Roofing will also be part of the treatment as the existing roofing is well beyond its serviceable life. Updated roofing will provide protection against moisture and also for the remaining historic timbers, while reintroducing historically-appropriate profiles and incorporating needed infrastructure.

Taos retains a great historic character, and the Kit Carson House is a significant example of this, but today this National Historic Landmark is at its most vulnerable. This report is the first step in making sure this historic site stands to serve our community and the American public.



*Roof of Kit Carson House looking west along Kit Carson Road. Photo by Roy Woods*



# President's Message

Season's greetings and Happy Holidays from the Kit Carson House. Welcome to our fall/winter newsletter. We have had a very productive period since our spring/summer newsletter, and we would like to share our progress with you. Architect Roy Woods has submitted the final report for the current condition assessment and preservation plan for the Kit Carson House which was funded by the CLG grant. We continue to seek skilled guidance as we develop our organization and long-term strategy and have contracted with Elizabeth Crittenden Palacios of Crittenden LLC.

We are building relationships with knowledgeable people, both locally and nation-wide, in historic preservation. We have received significant donations toward our goal of preserving our beloved National Historic Landmark. We have added two new members to the museum staff, and we have



*Martin Jagers*

welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors, Dr. David C. Schultz, retired NASA Senior Executive, and Hans Sky Olsen, former Grand Secretary of New Mexico Masons.

We hope you will join us in an exciting new era for the Kit Carson House, and we hope to see you soon. The museum gift shop has many nice items for holiday gifts, tax free as always. Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year, M.J.

## Kit Carson House Inc.

The Kit Carson House, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of New Mexico and governed by a Board of Directors. The home of Kit and Josefa Carson has been owned by Bent Lodge #42 AF & AM since 1911.

**113 Kit Carson Road, Taos, NM, 87571**

**575-758-4945**

**[museum@kitcarsonhouse.org](mailto:museum@kitcarsonhouse.org)**

## Board of Directors

Martin Jagers, President

Harvey Yocum, Secretary

David C. Schultz, Treasurer

Kennith Paetzold, Director

Hans C. Sky Olsen, Director

## Museum Manager

Dave Cordova

## Newsletter Editor

Barbara Schultz



*National Historic Landmark plaque*

# Taos MainStreet

We have met with Taos MainStreet for support in our efforts to protect and preserve The Kit Carson House and property. They are working to sync resources that can best serve us. Taos MainStreet is a program of the New Mexico Department of Economic Development which works throughout the state to help local organizations create viable business environments while preserving cultural resources. As revitalization specialists, Taos MainStreet has many individuals and businesses under its umbrella with which to advise organizations in different areas. In addition, it is affiliated with MainStreet American and New Mexico MainStreet which provide support and resources from their larger networks. We are excited to be participating in this program.



*Charles Whitson, Executive Director of Taos MainStreet, with Camdon Wilde and Julia Royal of Leighton Moon, LLC.*



## HELP THE HOUSE

The Kit Carson House Needs your help. As reported on page one of this newsletter, Roy Woods has conveyed the results of his assessment, and it is dire. According to Woods, "The structure is at risk of catastrophic collapse." We hope to address the most urgent stabilization issues in early Spring 2023.



*Kit Carson House front elevation photo by Roy Woods*

Please Help. Your support is invaluable. Mail your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed envelope, or call 575-758-4945 to use a credit card.  
Thank You for helping to ensure the future of Kit Carson House National Historic Landmark.

## Kit Carson House Receives Major Donations...



*From left to right Roy Woods, Laura Chancellor, Dr. Stephanie Bennett Smith, and Martin Jagers met to discuss the preservation of the Kit Carson House*

Dr. Stephanie Bennett Smith donated \$25,000 to Kit Carson House in June.

Dr. Smith is a strong supporter of the arts and historic preservation.

Members of the Albuquerque Masonic Lodge # 60 traveled to Taos in March to present an unrestricted donation to Kit Carson House for \$50,000. These gifts have been critical to our preservation efforts.



*Taos Masons receive donation from Albuquerque Masonic Lodge #60*

*Left to right WB Martin Jagers, WB Greg Smith, GM Bill Pogue, WM Dave Cordova of Taos Bent Lodge, with WM Wade Villanueva of Albuquerque Masonic Lodge #60*



**The Kit Carson House**  
113 Kit Carson Road  
Taos, NM 87571  
575-758-4945  
museum@kitcarsonhouse.org

## DONATIONS

Always Needed

Always Appreciated

Always Tax-deductible

Please mail your donation in the enclosed envelope, or call 575-758-4945 if you wish to use a credit card.

Thank you for your support of Kit Carson House National Historic Landmark.

## Happy Birthday Kit



*Christopher (Kit) Houston Carson*

Born December 24, 1809 in Madison County, Kentucky. Died May 28, 1868 Fort Lyon, Colorado Territory. Buried in Boggsville, Colorado. Final interment May 25, 1869 Kit Carson Cemetery, Taos New Mexico.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the corporation is to operate exclusively to protect, preserve and maintain the Kit Carson House, adjacent buildings and grounds as a designated National Historic Landmark; and to operate the museum therewith for public education and enjoyment.

The corporation will maintain and display the collection of historical artifacts to the public.

The focus of education is the life and times of Christopher "Kit" Carson, Scout, Mountain man, Union Army Officer, Freemason and Family man.