

There has been a tradition of confusion among residents and visitors to Aspen regarding the **Aspen Historical Society (AHS)** and the City of Aspen **Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)**. The two entities have quite distinct missions as well as authority. It is important for citizens to understand these distinctions thoroughly:

Aspen Historical Society

The Aspen Historical Society (AHS) is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that has adopted the following mission statement:

- Aspen Historical Society enriches the community by preserving and communicating our remarkable history.
- Is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.
- Is managed by a professional staff paid by contributions to AHS.
- Maintains archives with historic documents, photographs, oral history tapes and film media for public access.
- Provides educational opportunities for the community to learn the history of this area.
- Owns a collection of artifacts representing the human history in the valley since the 1880's.
- Serves as custodian for five historical sites (including two museums) in the County—all open for public access.

Aspen Historical Preservation Commission

The Aspen Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is a City Council appointed board comprised of Aspen residents who regulate development of historic properties by:

- Promoting the City's preservation goals that include protecting, enhancing, and preserving those properties, areas, and sites, which represent the distinctive elements of Aspen's cultural, educational, social economic, political, and architectural history.
- Making decisions related to alterations that affect properties listed on the "City of Aspen Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures."
- Helping to identify sites that should be added or deleted from the Inventory.
- Adopting design guidelines that establish the City's historic preservation policies.
- Performing their role in conjunction with their full-time professional staff in the City of Aspen Community Development Department, particularly the Historic Preservation Officer. The Community Development Department also serves as a resource for owners of historic properties and preservation contractors.