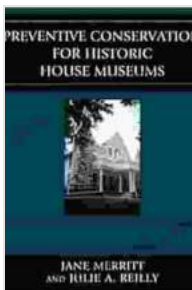


# Unveiling the Secrets of Historic Preservation: A Comprehensive Guide to Preventive Conservation for House Museums

Historic house museums serve as time capsules, preserving the architectural heritage and cultural narratives of bygone eras. However, safeguarding these invaluable structures and artifacts requires a proactive approach known as preventive conservation. This meticulous practice aims to minimize deterioration and ensure the longevity of these cherished landmarks.

## Understanding Preventive Conservation

Preventive conservation encompasses a wide range of measures designed to create a stable environment for historic structures and their contents. These measures include:



## Preventive Conservation for Historic House Museums (American Association for State and Local History)

by Jane Merritt

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 12279 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 216 pages

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- Environmental control, such as monitoring temperature, relative humidity, and light levels
- Pest management to prevent damage from insects, rodents, and other organisms
- Maintenance and repairs to address structural issues and prevent further deterioration
- Disaster preparedness plans to minimize the impact of potential emergencies

## **The Benefits of Preventive Conservation**

Implementing a comprehensive preventive conservation program offers numerous benefits for historic house museums:

- **Extends the Lifespan of Historic Structures:** By mitigating potential threats and creating a stable environment, preventive conservation prolongs the lifespan of historic buildings and artifacts.
- **Preserves Architectural Integrity:** Preventive conservation helps maintain the original architectural features and details, preserving the historical significance of the structure.
- **Protects Artifacts and Collections:** By controlling environmental conditions and implementing proper storage techniques, preventive conservation safeguards valuable artifacts and collections from damage.
- **Reduces Repair Costs:** Regular monitoring and maintenance can identify and address potential issues early on, preventing costly repairs in the future.

## **The Role of the American Association for State and Local History**

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) plays a pivotal role in promoting preventive conservation practices for historic house museums. Through publications, workshops, and consulting services, AASLH provides guidance and support to museum professionals nationwide.

One of AASLH's most valuable contributions is the publication of *Preventive Conservation for Historic House Museums*, a comprehensive guidebook that serves as an invaluable resource for museum professionals. This book covers a wide range of topics, including:

- Environmental control and monitoring
- Pest management
- Maintenance and repairs
- Disaster preparedness and response
- Collections care and handling

*Preventive Conservation for Historic House Museums* is an essential resource for any museum professional responsible for the preservation of historic structures and collections. By incorporating the principles and practices outlined in this guidebook, museums can effectively safeguard their invaluable treasures for future generations.

Preventive conservation is an indispensable component of historic preservation, ensuring the longevity and integrity of historic house museums. By implementing comprehensive preventive conservation

measures, museums can ensure that these treasured landmarks continue to tell their stories and inspire awe for generations to come. The American Association for State and Local History remains a vital advocate and resource for preventive conservation practices, providing invaluable guidance and support to museum professionals across the nation.

### **Image Alt Attributes**





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**NATURAL  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM**

## **Mapping museum pest activity**

**A review of the development of KE  
EMu to be a generally applicable  
tool for pest management**

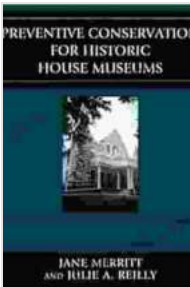
Dave Smith

Petrology Collections Manager

*Pest Odyssey: 2001 - 10 years later (26-28<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011)*







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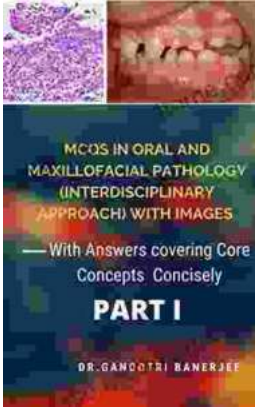
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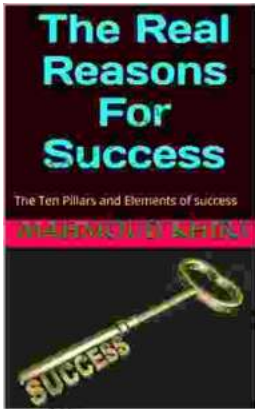






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