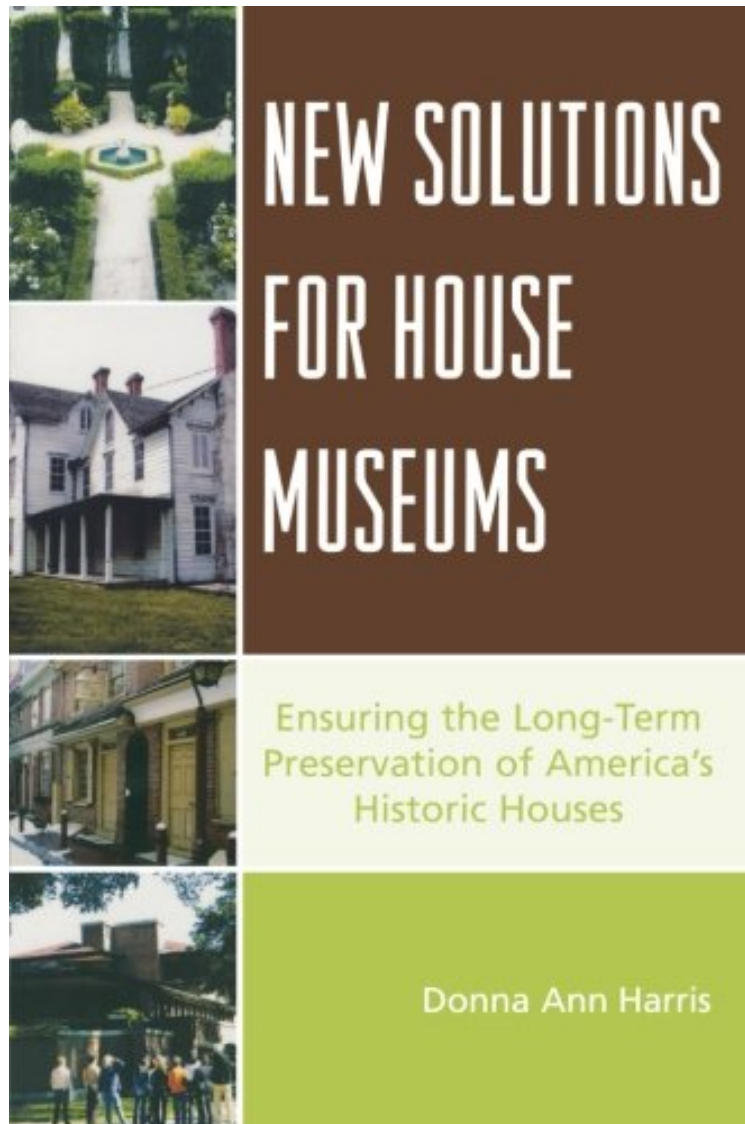


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New Solutions for House Museums: Ensuring the Long-Term Preservation of America's Historic Houses (American Association for State and Local History)

Donna Ann Harris

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Donna Ann Harris : New Solutions for House Museums: Ensuring the Long-Term Preservation of America's Historic Houses (American Association for State and Local History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Solutions for House Museums: Ensuring the Long-Term

Preservation of America's Historic Houses (American Association for State and Local History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Historic House museumsBy Bruce EllisonExcellent read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Elizabeth MeesGreat book - arrived as noted and prompt service - thank you!4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful scholarship and smooth writing styleBy History BuffI am interested in historic houses. This book serves as an excellent reference book as it details the current challenges facing those engaged in the house museum "business" and the solutions which are available to successfully navigate these problems. Ms. Harris' writing style is very smooth and her scholarship is outstanding. The footnotes and bibliography provide an excellent source of information for those interested in pursuing this topic further. I recommend this book to anyone studying this field on the graduate school level as well as professionals in the house museum field.

A generational shift is occurring at historic house museums as board members and volunteers retire while few young people step forward to take their place. These landmarks are also plagued by serious deferred maintenance, and many have no endowment funds. What will happen to these sites in the next ten years, and what can be done to assure their continued preservation for generations to come? In *New Solutions for House Museums*, Harris examines possible options and provides a decision-making methodology as well as a dozen case studies of house museums that have made a successful transition to a new owner or user.

Taking care of an old house isn't easy, and being a responsible steward of a historic house museum is particularly challenging. In this thoughtful book, Donna Harris offers advice that can help boards and staff ask tough questions and, if necessary, make tough decisions to ensure a viable future for the historic resources they manage. (Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation) Donna Ann Harris brings unique insights to a critical problem facing advocates of historic preservation: the proliferation of house museums, too often under-funded and understaffed. Through penetrating analysis of actual as well as hypothetical cases, she outlines how transitions to new uses and new owners can best achieve the desired result of saving the building itself. This book should be required reading for anyone even remotely connected with running a house museum. (David G. DeLong, professor emeritus of architecture and former chair, graduate program in historic preservation, University of Pennsylvania) Harris' message is prudent and pragmatic and the operating circumstances surrounding her case studies of house museums that have successfully made the transition to a new owner or a new use will be very familiar to many small museum operators... (Journal Of Museums Aotearoa) This publication brings together a number of workable solutions for a contemporary issue of concern.... Timely, concise, practical, well researched.... and written in everyday language, this is a handy management tool. (Museums Australia Magazine, November 2008) Harris's book is organized in a very clear fashion.... At every step, the author displays an emphatic objectivity.... Harris comes well positioned to write such a book.... Donna Harris has done a great service for historic house museums and the people who are passionate about them. (The Public Historian, September 5, 2008) In this book, Donna Ann Harris, a preservation consultant with more than 20 years of experience, provides a critical resource for boards, staff, and volunteers at historic house museums, who need to consider whether creative alternatives to the house museum model may allow them to better realize their fundamental obligation the preservation of the house. (Michelle McClellan The Journal Of Heritage Stewardship, University of Michigan, Winter 2009) I would certainly recommend this book to my colleagues in the historic house museum community who may be facing house museum sustainability challenges, and who may be able to use the contents and insights offered in this book as a source of inspiration, and/or as a catalyst for moving their institution forward in pursuit of a successful alternative. (Terry Dickinson, Newport Mansions) About the Author Donna Ann Harris has over twenty years of experience as an educator, program designer, and executive. She has worked in all levels of government and the non-profit sector in the historic preservation field. She has earned a Masters in Governmental Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters in Historic Preservation from Columbia University.