

Sandra Tann, owner of the old Bikker Building at 114 E Aspen Ave, applied for a grant for work to repair and preserve the historic heritage of the building during a project on the building. Once the walls were opened up for repair, many unexpected and unique needs became apparent. Externally, the building walls utilized multiple masonry types and layers that required attention. After the needed repairs, the exterior was double sealed by an expert to prevent further damage. Internally, because of the age of the building and the distance between the layers within the walls, water had collected in the walls and caused a freeze/thaw cycle over a number of years, leading to disintegration that needed to be addressed. New headers of steel and treated lumber were used to maintain the integrity of the structure. Electrical work became necessary to identify what was alive and what was discarded, and wires and junction boxes needed to be located and moved.

Overall, the things that were encountered during the project were already in failure. The work that was done to repair the damage will keep this building alive much longer. Unfortunately, the cost to Sandra was over double what she was prepared for. When she learned that a grant was available, she happily agreed to have the work done, as she loves this old building very much. All we are asking for now is the proffered matching grant available through the Heritage Preservation Commission.