



## Kensington Historical Society Conservation Fund

The Kensington Historical Society Conservation Fund is founded to provide a way to receive specifically donated funds for conservation and preservation initiatives of the Kensington Historical Society and the Kensington Town Archives. The Fund will address the sporadic and frequently urgent demands of conservation work, including essential restoration and repair activities. Without such dedicated funding, these tasks could easily deplete the annual Archives budget. Monies donated to the Conservation Fund will be earmarked for this purpose and not considered a part of the Kensington Historical Society general fund. Donations will be tax deductible.

The KHS WEB site is set up accept donations so that the donor is directing their contribution to either the general fund or the Conservation Fund. Donations may also be made using the membership form. Decisions regarding the use of the monies in the Fund will be made by the KHS Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Kensington Town Archivist.

Examples of the potential uses for funds donated to the Conservation Fund are such things as (but not limited to):

- **Specific conservation work by an outside specialist** on items in the archives that are deteriorating or affected by such problems as mold, tearing, light exposure, etc.
- **Purchase of equipment for the Archives** to accomplish the preservation objectives, such as the creation of access copies so that original materials need not be handled.
- **Funding for interns or other outside help** to work on specific preservation projects.
- **Supplies for collections** requiring specialized care and materials (such as custom boxes for panoramic photo prints).
- **Proper housing for visual items** to reduce fading while on display.

The majority of the recommendations for funding conservation/preservation projects will come from the Town Archivist, but KHS may embark on specific preservation projects that would qualify for Fund support.

The Kensington Historical Society has seeded the fund with a \$250 donation as a match for initial donations from the public. KHS may earmark additional monies to the Conservation Fund from time-to-time.

### Key Terms:

**Preservation.** Activities that prolong the lifespan of an object by slowing or preventing deterioration and damage. This includes proper storage and handling, as well as environmental controls to decrease the impact of light, heat, and humidity (also called “preventative conservation”).

**Conservation.** Activities that repair, restore, or stabilize items that are damaged or deteriorated. This may include cleaning, chemical treatment, or specialized supports of brittle items. Most conservation activities require specialized training and equipment.

**Digitization.** Processes that convert analog materials such as paper, photographs, and film reels into digital files. This creates copies that reduce physical handling and increase electronic access and dissemination. Digitization is complex and expensive, requiring specialized equipment, software and storage service subscription fees, technical expertise, and item-by-item processing. Digital files are also vulnerable to computer viruses, obsolete/proprietary technology, and data loss from reformatting.

Thank you for your interest in the Conservation Fund.