



**PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
ANOKA CITY HALL
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Oaths of Office (Sandvik)**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. January 6, 2026, Regular Meeting
 - b. January 21, 2026, Work Session
- 5. Old Business**
- 6. New Business**
- 7. Public Hearings**
 - a. Zoning Text Amendment to City Code Sections 78-2 – Definitions and 78-239 – Low Density Residential District; Adding Definition of “Historical Society” to Zoning Code and Adding “Historical societies when located within a historically significant building or structure, as defined by City Code Section 38-2” as a Conditional Use in the R-1 District.
 - b. Conditional Use Permit Amendment for Ticknor Hill B&B and Anoka County Historical Society; 1625 3rd Ave.
- 8. Miscellaneous**
- 9. Adjournment**



Auxiliary aids for handicapped persons are available upon request at least 96 hours in advance. Please call the City Manager’s office at (763) 576-2710 to make arrangements.

NOT APPROVED
**ANOKA PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
ANOKA CITY HALL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Anoka Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Planning Commissioners present: Acting Chair Peter Rech, Nancy Coleman, Mike Erickson, Dave Sanasac, Andrew Stockholm, and Logan Thompson

Planning Commissioners absent: Emiley Sandvik

Staff present: City Planner Clark Palmer

OATH OF OFFICE:

The Oath of Office was administered to Commissioners Erickson and Sanasac.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS:

a. Chairperson

Acting Chairperson Rech opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair.

Commissioner Coleman nominated Commissioner Rech for the position of Chair.

There were no other nominations.

6 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

b. Vice Chairperson

Chairperson Rech opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Commissioner Coleman nominated Commissioner Thompson for the position of Vice Chair.

There were no other nominations.

6 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

c. Parking Advisory Board

Chairperson Rech opened the floor for nominations for the Parking Advisory Board.

Commissioner Thompson nominated Commissioner Sanasac to represent the Commission on the Parking Advisory Board, noting that Commissioner Sanasac previously served on the Board as a member of the Economic Development Commission.

6 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Approval of December 2, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER THOMPSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COLEMAN, TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2025, REGULAR MEETING.

4 ayes – 0 nays – 2 abstain (Erickson and Sanasac). Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NEW APPLICATIONS:

None

MISCELLANEOUS:

A worksession is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER COLEMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STOCKHOLM, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

6 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2026
Page 3 of 3

Time of adjournment: 7:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Amanda Staple, *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

NOT APPROVED
**ANOKA PLANNING COMMISSION
WORKSESSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026
5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The worksession meeting of the Anoka Planning Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Planning Commissioners present: Nancy Coleman, Mike Erickson, Peter Rech, Dave Sanasac, Emily Sandvik, Logan Thompson

Planning Commissioners absent: Andrew Stockholm

Staff present: Clark Palmer, Senior City Planner
Doug Borglund, Community Development Director

DISCUSSION – PLANNING COMMISSION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES 101

A presentation and discussion were held on

- Overview of Commission
 - 7 members
 - Advisory to CC
 - Schedule
 - Open meeting law
 - Notice of meetings/public hearings
 - Oath of Office
 - Robert's Rules
 - Conflicts of interest
- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Comprehensive Plan
 - Chapters
 - Land Use
 - Guiding of land use
 - Zoning Code (Chapter 78) / Zoning Map
 - Review and recommend ordinances (text/map amendments)
 - Review and recommend actions on land use applications
 - Subdivisions
 - Variances
 - CUPs and other use permits

- Text/Map Amendments
- Recommendations
 - Should be a rational basis for decisions and stated on record.
 - Personal Preference
 - Public input
 - Findings of fact
 - Decisions cannot be arbitrary or capricious
- Application process
 - Application made 39 days in advance of meeting
 - Staff conducts review (CD, engineering, fire, and prepares staff report which may include a recommendation. Consider ordinances, legal, best interest of public, mitigation for adverse impacts.
 - PC Meeting may include public hearing as required by law
 - Recommendation to CC
- Application Materials
 - Surveys
 - Site Plans
 - Architectural Plans (i.e., renderings, elevations, floor plans)
 - Civil Plans (i.e., utilities)
 - Photometric
 - Landscaping
 - Written narrative

ADJOURNMENT:

Time of adjournment: 6:05 p.m.

STAFF REPORT

Application A2026-001
Zoning Text Amendment

Amending City Code Sections 78-2 – Definitions and 78-239 – Low Density Residential Adding Definition of “Historical Society” and Adding “Historical societies when located within a historically significant building or structure, as defined by City Code Section 38-2” as a Conditional Use in the R-1 District.

BACKGROUND

The Anoka County Historical Society (ACHS) is pursuing the purchase of the Ticknor House, located at 1625 3rd Avenue, with the intention of relocating some of its operations to the historic property, specifically its offices and research library. Built in 1867, the Ticknor House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of this listing, the Ticknor House is defined by City Code Section 38-2 as a “Historically significant building or structure.” The property is currently home to the Ticknor Hill Bed & Breakfast (B&B), which was established in 1996 following approval of a conditional use permit (CUP) from the City of Anoka. Since its establishment, the B&B has essentially operated as a home-based business, with the owners residing in the back half of the building and the front half functioning as the B&B. ACHS plans to continue to operate the B&B in addition to relocating some of its operations to the property.

The subject property is zoned R-1 Low Density Residential. Historical societies are not a listed use in the R-1 district regulations. To allow the use, the zoning code needs to be amended. Staff are proposing the following changes:

1. Amend City Code Section 78-2 – Definitions, adding the following definition:

Historical Society means a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the history of a specific place, group of people, or topic.

2. Amend City Code Section 78-239 (d) adding the following as a conditional use:

Historical societies when located within a historically significant building or structure, as defined by City Code Section 38-2.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Recommend approval.
- Recommend denial.
- Postpone taking action.

Sec. 78-2 – Definitions

Historical Society means a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the history of a specific place, group of people, or topic.

Sec. 78-239 – R-1 Low Density Residential District

(d) Conditional uses.

(13) Historical societies when located within a historically significant building or structure, as defined by City Code Section 38-2.

~~(13)~~(14) Other uses similar to those permitted by this section, as determined by the city.

STAFF REPORT

Application A2026-002
Conditional Use Permit Amendment for Ticknor Hill B&B and Anoka County Historical
Society; 1625 3rd Ave

BACKGROUND

The Anoka County Historical Society (ACHS) is pursuing the purchase of the Ticknor House, located at 1625 3rd Avenue, with the intention of relocating some of its operations to the historic property, specifically its offices and research library. Built in 1867, the Ticknor House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The property is currently home to the Ticknor Hill Bed & Breakfast (B&B), which was established in 1996 following approval of a conditional use permit (CUP) from the City of Anoka. Since its establishment, the B&B has essentially operated as a home-based business, with the owners residing in the back half of the building and the front half functioning as the B&B. ACHS plans to continue to operate the B&B in addition to relocating some of its operations to the property.

The subject property is zoned R-1 Low Density Residential. To allow the proposed use, the existing CUP (A1996-34) must be amended to reflect the updated operations. The B&B will no longer function as a home-based business, and the portion of the building currently used as a private residence will be converted into offices and a research library. ACHS does not plan to establish any exhibits or displays at the property.

The current CUP allows operation of the B&B with the following conditions:

1. The site shall not be used for any commercial events other than the bed and breakfast.
2. Any state of county licenses must be obtained and a copy of each must be submitted to the city.
3. Any directional signage shall be limited to one square foot in size.
4. Name identification signage shall comply with the R-1 residential standards.
5. The bed and breakfast facility will be limited to four guest bedrooms
6. The facility must be inspected and approved by the Fire Marshal before the bed and breakfast facility opens.

Attached to the report is a written narrative and site plan prepared by ACHS. ACHS is not proposing to expand the B&B or make any exterior alterations to the structure, with exception of a new ADA ramp near the side/rear (southwest) entrance. One of the primary changes being proposed is the introduction of outdoor events and activities, with details provided in the applicant's narrative. For regular parking needs, ACHS plans to utilize existing parking areas around the building and the detaching garage, providing approximately 5-6 spaces. For larger events, temporary parking would be accommodated along the private driveway or on Jefferson St and Third Ave.

Conditional Use Permit Criteria

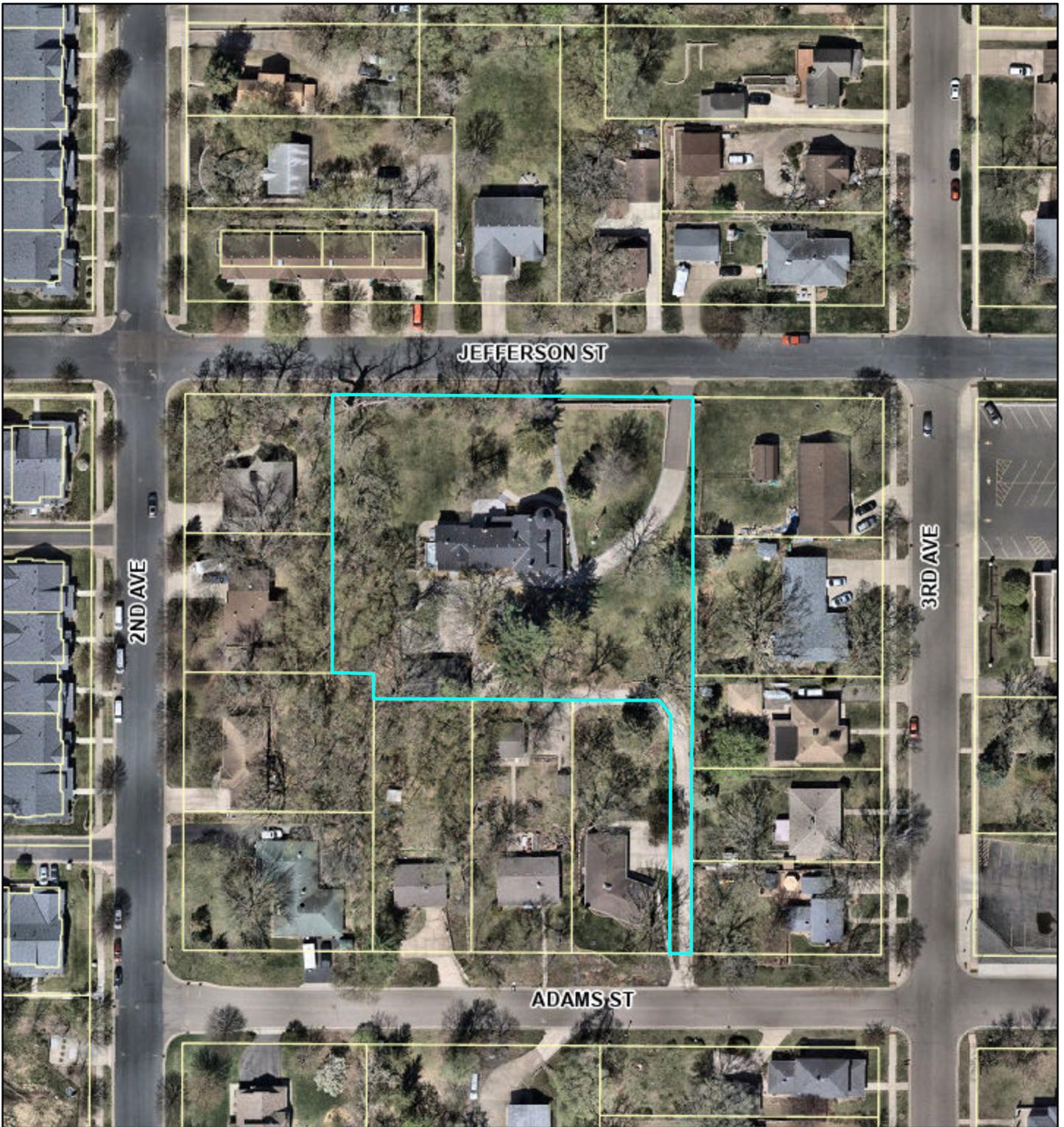
For this application, staff reviewed the proposal against specific criteria set forth in City Code for conditional use permit applications. City Code requires the Planning Commission to consider to what extent the Applicant's plan minimizes possible adverse effects of the proposed conditional use, what modifications to the plan and what conditions of approval could further minimize the adverse effects of the proposed use. The following development standards are general requirements for all conditional use permits:

1. The land area and setback requirements of the property containing such a use or activity meet the minimum standards established for the district.
2. When abutting a residential use, the property shall be screened and landscaped.
3. Where applicable, all city, county, state and federal laws, regulations and ordinances shall be complied with and all necessary permits secured.
4. Signs shall not adversely impact adjoining or surrounding residential uses.
5. Adequate off-road parking and loading shall be provided. Such parking and loading shall be screened and landscaped from abutting residential uses.
6. The road servicing the use or activity must be of sufficient design to accommodate the proposed use or activity, and such use or activity shall not generate such additional extra traffic as to create a nuisance or hazard to existing traffic or surrounding land use.
7. All access roads, driveways, parking areas, and outside storage, service, or sales areas shall be surfaced or grassed to control dust and erosion.
8. All open and outdoor storage, sales and service areas shall be screened from view from public streets and from abutting residential uses or districts.
9. All lighting shall be designed to prevent any direct source of light being visible from adjacent residential areas or from the public streets.
10. The use or activity shall be properly drained to control surface water runoff.
11. The architectural appearance and functional plan of the building and site shall not be so dissimilar to the existing buildings or area as to cause impairment in property values of constitute a blighting influence
12. The proposed water, sewer and other utilities shall be capable of accommodating the proposed use.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Recommend approval.
- Recommend denial.
- Postpone taking action.

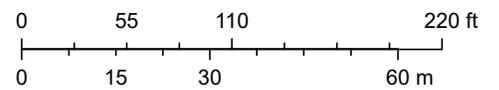
ArcGIS Web Map



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- Multi-units



The Anoka County Historical Society

The Anoka County Historical Society maintains a 3,000-square-foot exhibit gallery in the heart of downtown Anoka, surrounded by historic buildings and riverways. It seeks to represent the legacy of the 21 communities that make up Anoka County through artifacts, written accounts, photographs, and oral histories. ACHS conducts educational programming, tours, and special events throughout the year to keep legacy stories alive for the current generation. The organization also advocates that individuals privately preserve their family histories, businesses document their journeys, and communities better address how future residents will remember previous generations.

Offices at Ticknor Hill

In 2026, ACHS will cease operating as a “museum under one roof” and transition to a distributed model, with our services spread across multiple locations. The first of these we will establish is a research library, volunteer center, and offices at the Heman L. Ticknor House, located at 1625 Third Ave S in Anoka. We anticipate two to three staff members working from this location during the week, primarily assisting patrons with genealogical questions or local historians conducting research. Currently, most of our requests come via email or phone, so the in-person visitation rate is under 5 people per day. Given the space limitations at Ticknor House, large-group programming will take place off-site at libraries, City Hall, or community centers. Similarly, exhibits and displays will not be set up at Ticknor, as they are at our current location in the old city library, due to limited space. In year three of our new strategic plan, we will set up off-site displays and exhibits for public enjoyment throughout the county.

The Bed and Breakfast

In addition to these operations, ACHS plans to continue operating the Bed and Breakfast on the property's second floor to generate income for the nonprofit and provide small, cozy accommodations for tourists and local travelers. Maintaining the tradition begun by Lynne Rickert and continued by Deb Wallace, ACHS will continue to provide a warm, inviting home-away-from-home experience for our guests, highlighting personalized service and local culture, wrapped in the historical stories of our county. ACHS can partner with businesses on Main Street to provide delicious breakfasts and exceptional customer service while fostering an appreciation for local history and culture. Currently, four bedrooms are in use as a B&B. ACHS plans to reduce that to three and remove the cooked breakfast option from the menu. Instead, guests will receive either a voucher for

downtown dining or a basket of goodies delivered to their door as a continental breakfast.

Outside Events and Activities

In the current business proposal (see attached), we are planning to hold outdoor events for the Anoka County Historical Society, as well as renting out the space for small community gatherings.

All events would be held outside of the hours restricted by the City of Anoka, from 10 pm to 7 am.

In the ACHS Business Plan, we outline what outdoor events would look like. Please refer to the following sections for details:

- Demonstrations and Larger Events
- Smaller Events and Programs
- Harvest Festival – an example of what a specific, larger event could look like.

The larger events would complement existing City of Anoka festivals and events, such as Riverfest, the Anoka Vintage Fest, and the Food Truck Festival, to enhance the city's tourist draw. The Ghosts of Anoka Walking Tour in September and October would operate either from the Ticknor House or the Masonic Lodge. The New London New Brighton Antique Car Run has, for the last two years, stopped at ACHS. We would like to continue the tradition at the Ticknor House. These larger events would require people to use city parking lots and street parking.

For private events, the yard could be rented out by private groups for small family gatherings, wedding rehearsal dinners, or photo shoots. The maximum number of people is 100. Music at these events is for background only, such as an acoustic quartet on the porch.

ACHS Parking Site Plan



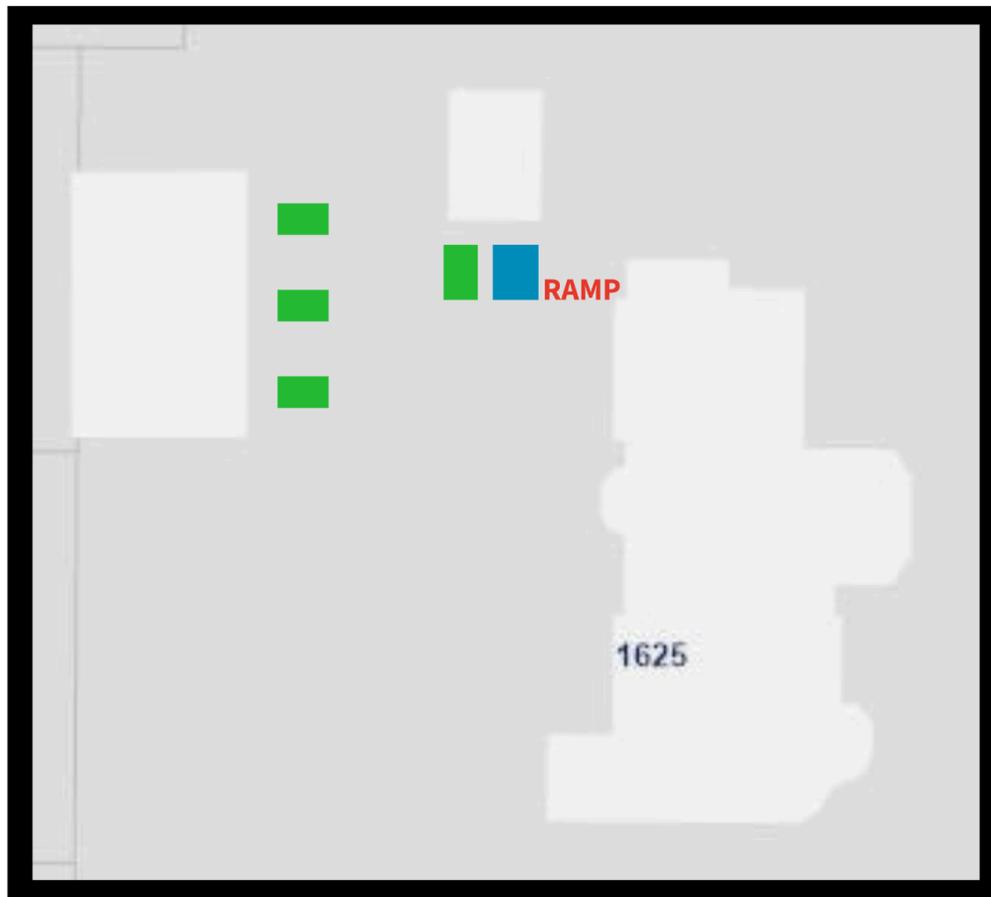
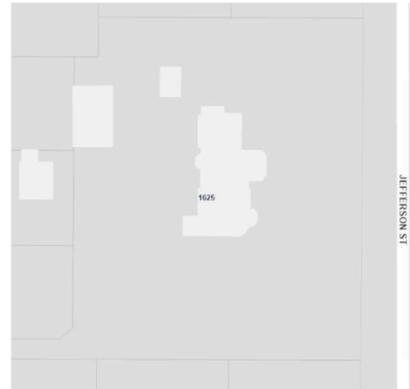
ACHS Parking Site Plan

Proposed Jan 2026

The current proposed parking plan would be to add a ramp and widen the back (southwest) door of the home. A dedicated handicapped space would be available right near this ramp.

Other parking spaces would be next to this space as well as in and/or outside of the existing garage structure on the property.

Further temporary parking needs during the day can be accommodated along the long drive, or along Jefferson St. and Third Ave.



JAN - FEB 2026



VOL 56 ISSUE 1

✦ THE ANOKA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ✦

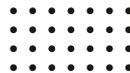
HISTORY 21



REMINING YOU THE PRESENT IS
THE PAST OF THE FUTURE



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THE STAFF AND BOARD



STAFF

Rebecca Ebnert-Desens
(Executive Director)
Sara Given (Volunteer Coordinator)
Leo Elke (Interim Collections Manager)
Cindy McKenney (Office Staff)

District 1: Keri Holloway (Secretary)
District 2: Open
District 3: Open
District 4: Steve Florman (President)
District 5: Open
District 6: Orville Lindquist (Treas.)
District 7: Lotus Hubbard
At-Large A: Jill Brown
At-Large B: Open
At-Large C: Jamie Kiefert
At-Large D: Kim Heikkila
At-Large E: Open
At-Large F: Maggie Snow
At-Large G: Chad Roberts
At-Large H: Nate Otto
County Commissioner Liaison:
John Heinrich

ON THE COVER: THE HEMAN L. TICKNOR
HOUSE OF ANOKA, ALSO KNOWN AS THE
TICKNOR HILL BED AND BREAKFAST

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steve Florman



This year turned out to be more eventful than we anticipated! We're grateful to all of you, our members and friends, for your outpouring of support and encouragement as we digested the news of our impending homelessness, and put the search for a new space into high gear.

We made a successful offer to purchase the Ticknor Hill property in Anoka, one of the county's National Register properties. We still need to finalize the financing and timing details, but we're excited about the prospect of housing the Society in an iconic historic building near downtown Anoka. The possibilities for storytelling and event planning, as well as the continued operation of the current B&B as a revenue source for the Society, have us looking ahead to 2026 with excitement.

It will be hard work, but we have a path, and we now know what needs to be done.

Onward!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rebecca Elnet Desens



CHECK OUT OUR PODCAST AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES!

Significant changes are on the horizon for ACHS in 2026, and we aim to maintain transparency throughout the process. We can't thank you enough for your past support, current interest, and future involvement. Together, we can make ACHS stronger than ever and take advantage of this opportunity to reimagine the organization. Check out our latest podcast, website, and social media for the most current updates through this process.



OUR CHANGING TIMES

THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SAY THIS: WE HAVE TO MOVE AND UPEND THE HOW ACHS HAS OPERATED FOR DECADES.

The City of Anoka has decided to redevelop the land and building we occupy at 2135 Third Ave N. For 25 years we have enjoyed in-kind rent, a nearly 9,000 sq ft building, and downtown location. This arrangement has served us well, allowing local history to flourish with Ghost Tours, walk-in visitors, and event access. But Cinderella was right and all good things must come to an end. With the help of some mice and hopefully a Fairy Godmother, this transition will prove smooth and relatively painless for all.



Anoka City Library circa 1970



DOWN MEMORY LANE



AND BEFORE THAT?

Banfill Locke House



HALLOWEEN EVENT
AT COLONIAL HALL

Some of you may remember the days of Colonial Hall, when ACHS showcased the Aldrich mansion through programming and genealogical work. Volunteers operated the organization until Vickie Wendel and Jean Smith became co-directors in 1995. From then until 2002, when the move to our current building was complete, events included “Drums, Dreams, and History,” a benefit performance by Garrison Keillor, and bus tours. All ACHS operations, including artifact storage, took place at Colonial Hall. This eventually led to sagging attic floors and damage from environmental conditions unsuitable for the collection. It became apparent that a different home was necessary.

RENOVATION AT THE LIBRARY

- May 2000 – Design work begins
- Oct 2000 – Museum software is purchased
- Feb 2001 – New windows installed
- June 2001 – New lighting installed
- Aug 2001 – Garden work begins
- Nov 2001 – Carpet, security system installed

SPONSORS

The large copper representation of Anoka County listing sponsors commands attention in the entryway of the history center. Support from Hoffman Engineering, Connexus, the American Legion, and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council proved crucial.

BREAKING UP THE SERVICES



Volunteers - Research Library - Offices

THE HEMAN L. TICKNOR HOUSE

Known as the Ticknor Hill Bed and Breakfast on Third Ave (Jefferson St), it was built in 1867 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Collections Storage

JOHNSON STREET, ANOKA

The City of Anoka owns a building we can use to store the collection for about five years until it decides to redevelop that area.

Exhibits and Displays

DISPERSAL MODEL

The exhibit hall will now travel to public locations owned by the county and its cities. In many ways, this will increase access to local history, as information will come to people rather than requiring them to visit ACHS.



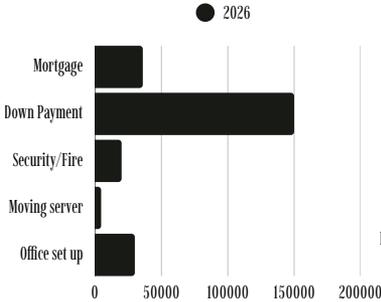
DIGITAL

Our online exhibits, social media, and podcasts will continue uninterrupted.

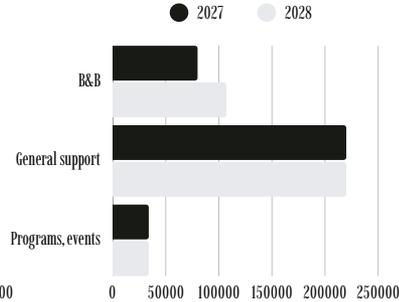
TICKNOR HOUSE



Estimated Expenses



Estimated Profit



The ground floor of Ticknor will become the research library and office space, housing the microfilm reader, computers, scanners, and desks. The “back of house” bedrooms will store frequently used materials, such as subject files, while the “front of house” bedrooms will remain a B&B to generate income.

We see this as an opportunity to provide a warm, inviting home-away-from-home experience for B&B guests, highlighting personalized service and local culture, all wrapped in the historical stories of our county to foster appreciation for our local history.

The revenue from a fully operational B&B at the Ticknor House will cover the property’s mortgage. We are developing special packages for family oral history experiences, wedding parties, or silent research weekends to encourage people to stay. Vouchers for Anoka businesses and other partnerships will help market the B&B to a new audience and expand the reach of people who hear about ACHS.

WHAT'S NEXT?



If all goes according to plan for the city, we will need to vacate our current building by December 2026. As it pertains to the Ticknor property, these are our next steps:

1. January – File a zoning text amendment with the city to allow, by conditional use permit (CUP), in a residential area, for the historical society to operate within the “historically significant structure” and to enable us to maintain the existing bed and breakfast operation.
2. January – Apply for a Legacy grant to hire an architect to create plans to install a ramp from the parking lot to the back door and widen the door to increase accessibility to the research library.
3. January – Confirm mortgage funding from a lender. Anticipated closing date is Apr 1.
4. February – Consult nonprofit lawyers to ensure both ACHS and the B&B business are set up correctly at the state and federal levels.
5. May – Remove the existing plush carpet and install more accessible hard flooring in the current sitting room, dining room, and billiard room.
6. May – Install fire and security systems in compliance with applicable codes.
7. June – Move the computers, server, printer, and other office materials over.
8. July – Create a website and online booking sites for the B&B.
9. July – Apply for a Legacy grant to hire a construction company to complete the planned work for the ramp and door expansion.
10. Cross our fingers that you all can come over during Riverfest in July!



GOAL: Maintain two days per week open to the public during this transition year



Grant Schedule



In addition to donations and sponsorships to fund Operation Relocation, ACHS can apply for grants to support this transition:

The **Phase I Accessibility grant** has a January 9 deadline to submit for funds to create architectural plans for a ramp and to widen Ticknor's back door. Since this is a National Register property and ACHS is a nonprofit historical society, we can continue to secure grants like these to support the house's maintenance. Ideally, funding would arrive in March, and we could begin work in June.

The **Phase II Accessibility grant** would complete the ramp's construction. This has a July deadline and requires the Phase I document for approval. If funding is received by September, we could execute the work by December.

Concurrently, we need to apply for a **Collections Phase I grant** in April to fund another staff member to assist with packing and metadata verification for the archival items. Donors can be listed on these grants as in-kind supporters, which can increase our chances of receiving the funds.

FUNDRAISING



Circle April 11 on your calendars, folks! Saddle up for the next murder mystery showdown, yee-haw! This time, we're heading to the Wild West. All the loot from the event will support Operation Relocation. We're on the hunt for silent auction treasures, sponsors, and eager participants to lasso in support for this next chapter of local history. Don't miss out!

COLLECTIONS

IT'S LIKE MOVING YOUR HOUSEHOLD GOODS,
ONLY MORE SO...

Every item in the ACHS collection has a number. That number correlates to a data entry in a system called Collective Access. In that entry, each item has a listed "home location" so staff can find it easily. If the item moves to display, out on loan, or...to a different location...it must be changed.

In January, we will begin the work of planning how to move the thousands of items currently stored in our building. These range from large kayaks to tiny watch fobs, sheets of paper, maps, quilts, textiles, and digital media. Each one needs to be checked for a secure moving container – and ideally, if we can, we should weed out some items that have no story connected with Anoka County.

The new facility on Johnson Street needs to have dataloggers placed inside. These devices track temperature and humidity so the environment stays within recommended limits for museum collections.



**IN ORDER TO
ACCOMMODATE THE
MOVE, ACHS WILL NOT
BE ACCEPTING MORE
ITEMS INTO THE
COLLECTION FOR THE
NEXT YEAR.**

**IF YOU HAVE ITEMS TO
DONATE, PLEASE TAKE
A PHOTO OF IT, WRITE
A SHORT DESCRIPTION,
AND EMAIL BOTH TO
COLLECTIONS@ANOKAC
OUNTYHISTORY.ORG**

EXHIBITS

If we spend 2026 moving and organizing, 2027 can be used to expand our footprint at Ticknor, and then, in 2028, we can plan for a new set of rotating exhibits throughout the county. This could include “Pop-up Offices” at city hall, school programming, a scanning station for residents, and hands-on educational totes. Perhaps we make “A Shot of History” banners for coffee shops, or design QR code tour plaques to accompany a cemetery tour. It would be fun to gather with residents for a story share, an oral history workshop, or a “documentation day” where everyone takes photos of their favorite places and submits them. The sky is the limit, and we’d love to hear your ideas for your community.

The exhibit hall provides a space like no other – people can come to explore new ideas, think quietly, or share stories. Unfortunately, for the immediate future, ACHS will not have a singular exhibit hall for folks to gather. Instead, we will use a “dispersal model” to highlight local history.



Volunteers on the porch at the County Fair, 1984



Festivals and Fairs

WE WILL STILL HOST THE NEW LONDON-NEW BRIGHTON ANTIQUE CAR RUN IN AUGUST, WAVE AT YOU FROM THE PORCH DURING THE COUNTY FAIR, SELL PICKLES AT THE NOWTHEN THRESHING SHOW, AND HOST OUR YARD SALE AT ANOKA RIVERFEST.



A NEW STRATEGY

OUT OF NECESSITY, THE ACHS BOARD TOSSED OUR CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN OUT THE WINDOW. THIS IS A TEMPORARY PAUSE. FEAR NOT, WE'LL COME BACK TO IT.



What's on Hold

Organizing a successful move and securing ACHS's future must come first, right now. Unfortunately, that means pausing our projects, plans, and much of our in-person programming.

Echoes of Bravery: We will complete the two open grants we were awarded to gather oral histories and create educational totes featuring family members and veteran profiles. The book project will be shelved for at least one year, and possibly longer. Those who pre-purchased a book may either wait for fulfillment or have their contribution refunded.

Collections: We have set a moratorium on new artifacts entering the collection for the next year, possibly longer. It's irresponsible for us to process new items while managing the move, as they won't receive the treatment they deserve. We have created a file for pending donations – simply email a photo and description of the item to collections@anokaountyhistory.org, and we will contact you.

Programming: We love our programs as much as you do, but with the clock ticking, our focus must be on events that either draw large crowds or generate revenue for ACHS. Although presentations like the Rum Runners may need to remain quiet for a year, our digital storytelling will continue.

VOLUNTEER WORLD

Through all the changes on the horizon for the museum, one thing that won't change is the importance of YOU, our volunteers. Your presence not only helps expand what we are able to accomplish, you help spread local history beyond the boxes where the old stuff lives. Volunteers and members are the HEART of our community.

Over the course of the next year, and beyond, the help of volunteers will be crucial. Sometimes it means swooping in to save the day when we send out the bat signal for a project. Other times, it means letting us know how you are able to help.

Our mental load as staff is stretched to see what is directly in front of us from a factual and analytical standpoint. What skills and time do you have ready to add to the Operation Relocation cause? We're happy to hear your suggestions – we've never done this either!



So, what's tickling your fancy? As you ponder the grand adventure of moving to Ticknor, what dazzling talents are you ready to unleash upon us?

Spill the beans! Are you a green-thumbed guru ready to revamp our gardens this spring? Or perhaps a sponsorship sleuth who can help us snag some cash for our Murder Mystery shindig?

Here's to a new year!

Sara Given

Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org
612-505-5373 (cell)



THANK YOU!



GENERAL DONATIONS

Vietnam Veterans of
America Chapter 470
Morning Break at Faith
Lutheran Church
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James Buaer
Patricia Belousek
Kevin Blomer
Tom Broadbent
Jill Brown
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Philolectian Society
The Mad Hatter Tea Room
Elaine Alarcon-Totten
Benedictine Living
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Barb Case
Mark Case
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Veronica Johnson
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Scott Nolan
John Ortiz
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Lynne Rickert
Rachel Ridens
Skip Rither
Chad Roberts
Ron & Linda Rodgers
Bruce Van Sloun
Rita Warpeha

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Fifth Avenue Dental
Jill Brown PR, LLC

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **The Nurses of Vietnam** –
Saturday, January 24, 2026, 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. at the Anoka County History Center
Have you read “The Women” or “Sisterhood of War?” Join us for a discussion
with author Kim Heikkila and commentary from the Vietnam nurses
themselves. We will have an exceptional event prepared to address questions.
- **Women’s Mental Health** –
March 14, 2 p.m.- 4 p.m., location TBD
Explore “The Woman They Could Not Silence” and “The Crusade for Forgotten
Souls” to gain insight into life within state asylums – including our very
own in the City of Anoka.
- **Murder Mystery Fundraiser**
April 11, Bunker Hills Event Center



A CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS



It's that time of year!

From now until March, we will accept applications for new board members to serve a three year term.

Check our website for the link or email
rebecca@anokacountyhistory.org



OUR MISSION IS TO GATHER, PRESERVE AND SHARE THE STORIES OF ALL THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES THAT ARE PART OF ANOKA COUNTY.

THE ANOKA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS AN INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR PRESENTING AND CELEBRATING BOTH THE TOLD AND UNTOLD STORIES OF ANOKA COUNTY. WE INVITE PEOPLE TO JOIN US ON THIS JOURNEY TO IGNITE CURIOSITY ABOUT THE PAST AND TO UNDERSTAND OUR SHARED EXPERIENCES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

-  763-421-0600
-  ANOKACOUNTYHISTORY.ORG
-  2135 THIRD AVE N, ANOKA, MN 55303



Anoka County
Historical Society

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