



## Exciting Progress Toward Preservation

After further discussions with the property's current owners, Dave and Susie Taylor, an agreement has been reached to list Hartman Castle on the historic registry. This will allow Hartman Castle Preservation Corporation to apply for a History Colorado Acquisition Grant of up to \$250,000. If awarded the full amount, we will be able to complete the purchase without borrowing funds.

Because of the grant timeline, we now anticipate a summer closing. This week, our team met with Jody Reeser, Chairperson of the Gunnison County Historic Commission, to learn more about the process. We will soon meet with History Colorado. Our new grant writer has already begun preparing the application.

We extend our sincere thanks to Dave and Susie Taylor for their partnership and ongoing commitment to preserving this cherished landmark. Stay tuned for more updates as this exciting new chapter unfolds!

## Matching Grants

Exciting news: **Island Acres Resort Motel** will match all donations—up to \$5,000—through December 31!

Would your business like to join in by contributing or establishing its own matching fund? We'd love to hear from you!

Did you know your employer might match your charitable gift? Many corporations offer matching grant programs or allow employees to recommend nonprofit organizations for donations. Please let us know who to contact.

## Note to Friends and Supporters

*As 2025 progresses, we pause to celebrate how far we've come—together.*

Two years ago, we launched Hartman Castle Preservation at the Gunnison Library to a standing-room-only crowd. A year later, we gathered again for the premiere of Rocky Mountain PBS's "*Saving Hartman Castle*" at Western's Theater. The venue was once more filled to capacity with community members and supporters.

You can relive these moments on our [YouTube](#) channel, which features our launch presentations, a link to the documentary, and new video shorts capturing our ongoing progress.

Thank you for your generosity. Through donations, pledges, grants, and low-interest loan commitments (if needed), we've raised more than \$570,000, reaching nearly 80% of our goal.

The end of the year always seems to bring a bit of magic to Hartman Castle. Your support, your voice, and your belief in this vision keep us moving forward. Here's to the highlights still to come in 2025!

## Upcoming important dates

**Giving Tuesday is Tuesday, December 2, 2025**  
**Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 9, 2025**

## Ways to Give

Hartman Castle Preservation Corp is raising funds to buy and restore Hartman Castle, a historic home in Gunnison, Colorado, which is currently vacant and in need of urgent repairs.

### Payment methods

- Venmo
- [Donate](#) page on website
- [GoFundMe](#) (accepts recurring donations)
- [Colorado Gives](#) (accepts recurring donations)
- Send a check to:

Hartman Castle Preservation Corporation  
PO Box 1294  
Gunnison, CO 81230

**Planned Giving** provides donors with the chance to help ensure this landmark remains a vibrant part of the Gunnison Valley for generations to come.

Hartman Castle can accept donations of stock from a taxable account or donations from a donor-advised fund. If you are over the age of 70.5, you can make cash or stock donations directly from your retirement accounts. After checking with your tax advisor or financial planner, let us know how we can help!

# *Welcoming new ‘ranch hands!’*

- Working on sales (seeking donations) are **Josh Ackerman, Bill and Karen Michel**. Both Bill and Josh have experience in corporate sales. Josh and his family are new to the valley, but already very involved. Bill and Karen are both 4th-generation Colorado natives. Bill worked in the oil industry and came to Gunnison in 2007 to work for Jim Sammons with Sweitzer Oil. Their daughter, Jennifer Michel, came to Western in 1996 to run Cross Country and Track for Coach Vandenbusche. She was later hired as his replacement as the head coach of the Cross-Country Team. The Michels have enjoyed their years in Gunnison and are proud to contribute to the preservation of Hartman Castle.
- While we have a lot of history on Alonzo, our knowledge of Annie’s backstory is relatively thin. Western graduates, **Allie Weatherill** and **Sierra Megan**, are working to fill in those gaps.
- **Dan Dennison**, a Gunnison native who built a career in television broadcasting and other agencies, has stepped forward to lend a hand. “On the first day of a recent visit back to my hometown of Gunnison, I participated in a tour of Hartman Castle. As a long-time Western Colorado television reporter, and knowing my life-long friend Polly Oberosler is instrumental in saving the castle, I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to video the tour and begin providing support for the effort through video production and media relations. I recently retired, after 54 years in broadcast journalism and government communications, and was looking for some projects to keep me busy. Saving Hartman Castle is a perfect fit, in that it allows me to give back to my hometown while utilizing my skill set to help spread the word.”
- Our newest board member, **Sharon Tamarcaz**, has been deeply involved in the valley and says, “I am excited to join the Board of the Hartman Castle Preservation Corp. to lend my passion, energy, and skills to ensure this exceptional historic property is here for future generations to enjoy in the Gunnison Valley. I married into a fifth-generation Gunnison ranching family forty years ago when I traveled to Gunnison to participate in a cattle drive to move the herd to their summer range in Tincup, Colorado. I love the connection the Castle and Alonzo have to the ranching industry, and it is imperative to preserve both legacies. History and heritage are priceless resources that deserve to be preserved.”
- We now have a grant writer! **Patty Dowd Schmitz** is new to the Gunnison Valley, where she arrived this summer to take the position of Communications Director for Gunnison County. She has a 30-year background in nonprofit leadership, strategic planning, marketing, and fundraising. She previously worked on a historic preservation project similar to Hartman Castle in the suburbs of Chicago.

*We know many are eager to ‘roll up their sleeves’ and help. Now that it looks likely we’ll be closing on the property this summer, watch out for an ‘Opportunity List’ coming this spring!*