

Mackenzie House | FAQ

April 24, 2018

Why did the board decide to sell Mackenzie House and Abbott Hall?

The board of directors looked very carefully at the options for Mackenzie House and Abbott Hall, and concluded that we can best serve our clients with a new space specifically built out for our needs.

The sale of Mackenzie House will add approximately \$3 million to our endowment. That endowment helps ensure that we will always be able to fulfill our mission – providing counseling, social services and spiritual care to those in need.

Selling the property on NW Hoyt Street will also allow us to house our administrative offices and programs in the same facility, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of our work.

How will this affect the programs and services that William Temple House provides?

The sale of Mackenzie House will strengthen our ability to provide programs and services. The sale will not directly affect our counseling program, social services, spiritual care or thrift store.

Will Mackenzie House be preserved as a historic property after the sale?

Mackenzie House is an important property and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The listing helps protect it from significant change to its interior or exterior. We fully expect any buyer will honor and preserve its historic value.

Mackenzie House is important to the neighborhood, the city and the region. We are confident it will remain one of the city's jewels with a new owner.

Why not keep and improve Mackenzie House and Abbott Hall?

Owning and maintaining a property on the National Historic Register requires an ongoing commitment of resources. The board considered this option with input from remodeling experts. The board concluded the resources needed to perform deferred maintenance and the future upkeep of Mackenzie House would be better spent on the core, essential services we provide.

What kind of repairs and renovation are needed?

Mackenzie House was built in 1892. A residential structure of this age requires substantial work in areas that include painting, mechanical, access, electrical and plumbing.

At William Temple House, our commitment is to providing social services to individuals and families in need of help. It makes more sense for an organization or individual committed to historic preservation to own and care for Mackenzie House.

Isn't Mackenzie House part of our roots?

Our identity and our mission are much bigger than any building or buildings. In making this decision, we concluded that it is most important to focus on our primary mission of service to those in need.

Where will William Temple House move?

The board and executive director will soon begin a process of identifying new space to lease and build out specifically for our needs.

What is the timeline for the sale?

We expect Mackenzie House and Abbott Hall to go on the market in late spring. When the property sells, we will negotiate to remain in Abbott Hall for up to an additional 12 months. We foresee moving to a new location sometime in late 2019 or early 2020.

How can I find out more?

The board and leadership are committed to making this transition as seamless as possible for employees, volunteers, donors, supporters and the people we serve. We will keep you informed as we proceed, and we are available for questions at any time. If you have immediate questions, please contact Executive Director Carrie Hoops at 503-715-0203 or email: choops@williamtemple.org.

The Dan Volkmer Team, which specializes in historic and architecturally significant properties, is representing William Temple House on the sale. Parties interested in information about the property are encouraged to contact them at 503-781-3366.

About William Temple House

*Since 1965, William Temple House has served as a place of **restored hope and renewed strength** for individuals and families living on the social and economic margins in the Portland metropolitan area. Through free and low-cost mental health counseling, emergency social services, and spiritual care, our dedicated staff and volunteers support diverse populations in a welcoming and respectful atmosphere, providing our clients with tangible resources and opportunities for growth. We are located in the historic Mackenzie House in Northwest Portland and operate the William Temple House Thrift Store to support our programs and services.*