One Room Schoolhouse
Talkeetna

The building was constructed in 1935-36 and opened as a one room schoolhouse the fall of 1936. The teacher lived in ‘teachers quarters’ on the second floor and the first floor was the school for grades 1-8. It also served as a community center/church over the years.

There wasn’t high school in Talkeetna until 1964. By 1971, there wasn’t enough room for all the kids and the schoolhouse closed when a new elementary (and a new high school) was built. The building went through a renovation and opened as a museum in 1974. Small repairs were done when needed. The building got a new coat of paint in the 80s.

In 2017, the old exterior paint job was abated, due to lead paint and the building returned to its original white color. Over the years, the small repairs on top of small repairs have added up to one really huge and sorely needed change - the old electrical, plumbing and heating systems, as well as original windows, all need replacing.

The building is now 85 years old - not necessarily as old as many historic Alaska buildings, but over the years, band-aids on top of band-aids have led to continuing issues. The back addition roof actually has a roof on top of a roof and is still ice-dams and leaks inside in winter.
If nothing is done, the back roof could collapse, the electrical is in poor shape and could lead to fire. There is possible damage to the foundation that occurred in the 2002 earthquake that was never fixed. The structure needs numerous repairs.