

Seeing the Green through Historic Window Rehabilitation

Have you ever received a letter from the SHPO telling you to “repair rather than replace” the windows in your historic rehabilitation project? Didn’t have any idea where to start? This session is for you! Come learn about the basics of window repair, the benefits of good storm windows, and a new pilot program for training carpenters in window repair.

Audience Level: All levels would benefit

Panelists: James Turner - Turner Restoration, Sharon Ferraro - City of Kalamazoo

What is Section 106 and why does SHPO comment on our projects?

The Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established procedures designed to ensure that Federally funded, licensed or permitted projects would not harm potential or designated historic properties. This is similar to other environmental reviews that cover flood plains, waterways and other issues. So agencies that receive Federal funds are required to plan their projects to have NO ADVERSE EFFECT on historic - or potentially historic properties.

Window rehabilitation v. window replacement

Window rehab:

- Retains original historic material and configuration

- Keeps waste out of the landfill

- Employs local people with a job that is simple to learn and a great beginning to a career in a significantly underserved niche market.

- When combined with a properly fitted (and used) storm window, an original window with working ropes and simple inexpensive weather stripping is as energy efficient as a new double glass window.***

- Usually costs less than \$25/window for materials - the rest is local labor.

- Wooden double hung windows are a proven technology - we know by example that these windows can last over a century with minimal maintenance.

Window Replacement:

- Original windows end up in the landfill

- Replacement windows rarely have the same proportions as the original windows and significantly change the look of the exterior of the house.

- Will need to be re-done within a few years after the warranty expires - and window replacement companies rarely have replacement parts available so a complete re-replacement of the window may be necessary.

Where to get help fixing - rather than replacing - windows?

NEW - July 6-1, 2009 - a two week window rehabilitation training workshop will be held in Kalamazoo to train contractors and carpenters to repair windows. The class will be limited to 10 students who will be prepared to start their own small business, add to their skills and go on to train others in the basics of window repair. This is a demonstration pilot that we hope will be repeated in other areas.

Look in your local phone book or contact any local preservation organizations in your area. Talk to contractors - they often know someone who repairs windows. Glass replacement companies might have someone on staff that can rehab windows.

Michigan Historic Preservation Network includes the Historic Resource Council www.mhpn.org - click on Network Services and programs. The directory is all online. MHPN and the Historic Resource Council also offer window rehab training - set up a one day (or two day) training session for your crew or contractors.

The Old House Network in Kalamazoo offers at least one annual window rehab workshop.

www.oldhousenetwork.org

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