



For more information on preservation in West Virginia please visit:
<http://www.wvculture.org/shpo>

For more information on energy efficiency and historic buildings please visit:
<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/weather>

The activity that is the subject of this brochure has been financed with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. However, the contents and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Division of
Culture and History
WEST VIRGINIA
State Historic Preservation Office
The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0300



Windows to the Past: a look at the value of historic windows



As an architectural feature, windows reveal much about the style and period of our historic buildings. In some cases they are the defining characteristic of a style. The replacement of historic windows can result in the erosion of historical integrity and a waste of resources.

Replacing your distressed windows with contemporary replacement windows is not your only option! With proper repair, maintenance and weatherization, your historic windows can continue to provide years of sunlight, beautiful views and fresh air without costing you more in energy costs!





BEFORE:
Original six over one windows

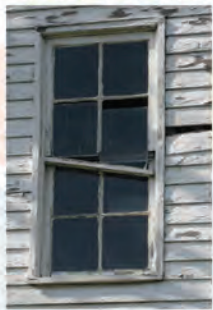


AFTER:
Replacement one over one windows

Before you replace, consider repair.

Where to begin:

1. Assess the condition of your windows.



- a. Are they original?
- b. Do they contribute to the historic/visual character of your home?
- c. Can they be repaired?

Every effort should be made to repair and replace parts of the window rather than the entire window. Historic wood

windows have many components that can be replaced piece by piece.

2. Evaluate the existing physical condition on a window by window basis, and record repairs needed.

3. With some instruction, most window repairs are simple enough to be done by a homeowner or a local contractor trained in preservation techniques. Typical repairs include:

- paint removal
- removal and repair of sash and possible reglazing
- repairs to frame
- weather-stripping
- reinstallation of the sash
- repainting

Old is the New Green

There is no need to sacrifice historic integrity for the sake of sustainability. Preservation is the ultimate form of recycling. When you repair and maintain your historic windows, you save the energy costs needed to manufacture new windows, ship them to you and dispose of your old windows. Energy has already been spent to manufacture your current windows. This energy and the high quality virgin timber should not be wasted.

Supports the Local Economy

Repair jobs typically cost 70% in labor and 30% in materials, while new construction jobs typically cost 50% in labor and 50% in materials. That means when you choose preservation, 20% more money is going to your local economy.

Energy Efficiency

After repairs have been made, energy efficiency should be considered. Historic windows do not equal high energy costs! Research has shown that a historic wood window with a properly installed storm window is just as, and sometimes more, energy efficient as a contemporary replacement window. Try these simple steps to make your windows more energy efficient:

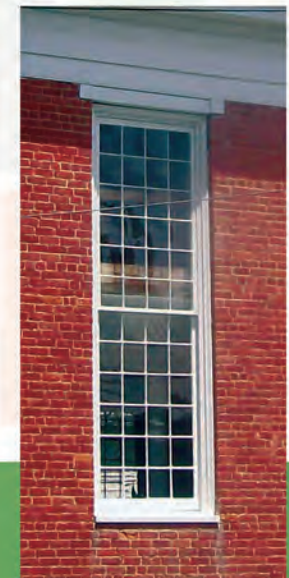
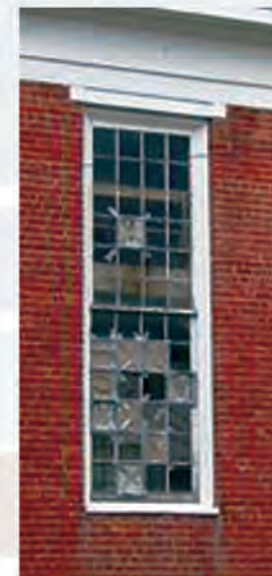
1. **Weather-stripping** is an important and acceptable method of reducing air leakage.
2. **Sash locks** can be installed on the meeting rail to keep the window tightly closed and make the weather-stripping more effective.
3. **Storm windows** can be installed on the interior or exterior of the window to reduce air infiltration.



Replacement Windows

Replacement window companies have led most to believe that new windows are economical, maintenance free and will improve the value and energy efficiency of their home. Typically replacements will need repairs within 15-20 years, however no repairs can be made to replacement windows, they can only be replaced-again. This makes replacement windows a poor financial investment in addition to being a poor substitute for historic windows. Maintaining your historic windows will provide a much longer service life, added historic value and sustainability.

If your windows are beyond repair, consider replacement windows carefully. Take into account the style and size of your current window and how it compliments the architectural style. Never alter the original window size with larger or smaller replacement windows.



Appropriate repair