



HISTORIC
NEW ENGLAND

Defining the past. Shaping the future.

Property Care White Papers

Documentation: Marking New Wood

Marking New Wood

Marking new wood is one method of documenting repairs made to Historic New England museum properties. This technique should be used in combination with photographic and written documentation of a project and should be applied by both contractors and internal work crews.

Guidelines for Marking New Wood:

- Most material being added to a feature or structure should be marked with the year of the work so the future identification of the material as replacement can be made.
- Where possible markings should be placed in such a way that the new material can be identified easily but not in a way as to compromise visual esthetics.
- Markings can be made in a number of ways including the use of copper tags, painted stencils, stamping or even permanent marker.
- There may be times when interpretively it is important to visually distinguish between historic material and the replacement. These situations should be approved by the *Proactive Preservation and Interpretation Planning (PPIP) Committee*.

Technical Information:

- Most material being added to a feature or structure should be marked with the year of the work so the future identification of the material as replacement can be made.
 - The identification of the material as a replacement with the year can help identify the exact project in which the repair was made. This, in turn, allows for more efficient research and planning for the project.
 - Examples of work that would not require labeling:
 - If the entire structure is being rebuilt or a new structure is being constructed documentation through photographs and a written report is sufficient.
 - Application of a full façade of clapboards or siding shingles does not require labeling – only spot repairs using these materials.
 - Roofing shingles, both a full application and spot repairs, are exempt from labeling.
- Where possible markings should be placed in such a way that the new material can be identified easily but not in a way as to compromise visual esthetics.
 - Framing repairs will be labeled at both ends of the repair near or adjacent to the older material facing the exterior of the building so that the label is uncovered during a repair.
 - Sheathing should be labeled individually at the lower right corner of the board. The marking should face the exterior.
 - Clapboards and siding shingles used as part of a spot repair should be marked on the backside before installation using a stencil or other form of permanent label.



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- Any attached wood repair (interior and exterior trim, window sills, floor boards, sheathing etc) where one side is visible should be marked on the side hidden from view.
- Structural repairs to window sash should be stamped with the year of the repair on the inside rail or stile, adjacent to the repair in the new material, with numeric punches.

- There may be times when interpretively it is important to visually distinguish between historic material and the replacement.
 - Approval for this marking process should be gained from PPIP.
 - Essex Green or “Gedney Green” are the colors used by Historic New England.

- Markings can be made in a number of ways including the use of copper tags, painted stencils, stamping or even permanent marker.
 - The most crucial piece of information to include is the year of the work but in many cases the name of the organization is included as well.
 - Copper tags measuring 2”x1” should be pre-stamped with “Historic New England, New Wood, 201_.” A space is left blank to stamp the final digit of the year.
 - Commonly used to mark replacement trim, sheathing, posts and sills.
 - A stencil should mark “HNE <Year>”.
 - Commonly used for marking the rear of clapboards and shingles but could also be used for repairs hidden from view like sills or posts.
 - Metal stamps.
 - Used for small repairs like Dutchmen repairs in window frames.
 - Other methods may be used as appropriate.