



News and Notes for Historic Homeowners - 3

New Contact Information:
call 617 944 6645 with Historic Homeowner questions

Upcoming Programs:

This Old House: Roxbury, MA Project, Episode 2923

Thursday, March 11, 2010, on most PBS stations (times vary)

The front entrance treatment on the mansard double cottage that is the current This Old House project defied modern carpentry thinking: composed of a pair of recessed entries set in heavy, round-arched molded casings that had to be replicated, the details for the entrance treatment just weren't coming together in the plans drawn up for the job. So This Old House's producer, Deborah Hood, put in a call to the Historic Homeowner program: what was the architectural precedent for these round-arched entries and how had their plans gotten off track?

Manager of historic preservation services Sally Zimmerman tracked down period drawings for similar entrances from 19th century pattern books and met with Ms. Hood and their general contractor, Dave Lopes, on site to go over modifications that would correct the design for this dramatic detail. The show had been planning to restore half-round fanlights in the entrance, but Ms. Zimmerman recognized that the fanlights were not original (they dated from the 1920s) and could be eliminated. While not on camera for this episode, the role of Historic New England in helping out will be credited, so tune in and take a look!



New Hampshire Old House & Barn Exposition

Saturday and Sunday, March 20 & 21, 2010, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Manchester, NH

The Center of New Hampshire-Radisson Hotel will be the venue for the Fifth Annual New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Old House & Barn Exposition.

Historic New England is an organizational partner for this event, a great place for dedicated old home owners to meet vendors, hear quality lectures, see demonstrations, and have fun learning more about caring for, loving and living in an old house! Manager of historic preservation services Sally Zimmerman will speak on *Period Appropriate Exterior Colors for Older, Historic, and Traditional Homes* on Saturday, March 20 at 10 am.

Come and explore what's new for old houses. Be sure to stop by Historic New England's booth to say hello! We'd love to chat and get to know you and your old house better. For more information, go to <http://www.nhpreservation.org/html/oldhousebarnexpo.htm>.

[Historic Buildings & Green Design: Cape-Wide Historic Preservation Workshop](#) Thursday, March 25, 2010, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, Harwich, MA

This annual event sponsored by the Cape Cod Commission for preservation commissioners and advocates on Cape Cod focuses on energy interventions in historic buildings and features speakers from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic New England, Cape Light Compact, and Heartwood Window Restoration. For more information, go to <http://www.capecodcommission.org/>

[Your Old House: Paint and Maintain to Conserve Historic Character](#) Thursday, May 6, 2010, 7:00 pm, Cape Ann Museum, Gloucester, MA

All houses, from the simplest to the most elegant, have distinctive stylistic features that give them their historic character. Learn how the historic character of your old house can be retained, revealed, recaptured, or enhanced with appropriate renovations and period paint colors. Sally Zimmerman presents the Historic Preservation Month lecture at the Cape Ann Museum. For more information, see <http://www.capeannmuseum.org/special/exhibits.htm>.

[Anatomy of a Fireplace: the Hearth and Chimney](#)

Saturday, May 22, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Swett-Ilsley House, Coffin House, Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm, Newbury, Mass.

This is the return of last year's sold-out program

Join masonry expert Richard Irons in a special behind-the-scenes exploration of the heart of the seventeenth-century house – the chimney. Irons identifies original material, discusses the evolution of chimney technology, and explores how changing foodways and cooking methods influenced hearth configuration. Bring pictures of your chimney mysteries for his review.

Open registration for Historic New England's general membership starts May 1 but Historic Homeowner members have exclusive access to pre-register for this uniquely informative program until May 1, so be sure to call 978-462-2634 to save your spot.

Admission: \$25 Historic Homeowner members. Session includes morning refreshments; a boxed lunch may be ordered for \$10.

[Odds and Ends . . .](#)

[Is climate change affecting home foundations?](#)

A story appearing in the March 4, 2010 “Home & Garden” section of the *New York Times*, titled “Shifting Soil Threatens Homes’ Foundations” told of soil subsidence under the foundations of new homes in the South, Midwest and Great Plains. The article noted an “accelerating trend nationwide toward more extended dry periods followed by downpours. Whether due to random climate patterns or global warming, the swings between hot and dry weather and severe rain or snow have profoundly affected soil underneath buildings.”

While the examples cited were all new houses in newly-developed neighborhoods (many on land historically considered unsuitable for construction prior to the housing boom of the 1990s), soil subsidence can affect the stability of any foundation. Older houses, if built on shallow foundations or in areas of clay or sandy soils, are equally vulnerable. If you notice cracks, bowing, or openings in the walls or foundation of your house,

particularly following periods of extreme weather fluctuations, you may want to have a structural or geotechnical engineer take a look to see if subsidence is occurring on your property.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/04/garden/04foundation.html>

As always, don't hesitate to call or email with your questions and concerns about your historic home!

And thank you for your support of Historic New England: your commitment helps protect the unique character of historic properties throughout the region!

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