



News and Notes for Historic Homeowners - 1

New contact information: call 617 994 6645 for your Historic Homeowner questions

New Year's resolutions and your old house: you can do something now to help maintain your house!

Have you taken a look around your house and resolved to work on a particular project or problem this year? Let us know if you need more information for a planned project and we'll do our best to get you the background, details and contacts you need to get the job done right.

In the meantime, take a look at the listings below for a range of programs to help you and your old house weather the winter in fine shape. Don't wait for a fine Spring day: do something now to help maintain your house! We hope to see you soon!

Greening the Older Home: Historic Preservation meets Energy Efficiency Saturday, January 16, 10 am - noon, Medford, Mass.

Another in a series of sustainable old house lectures offered regionally, **Greening the Older Home** will be presented on Saturday, January 16 from 10 am to noon at Springstep, 98 George P. Hassett Drive (next to Medford City Hall). This presentation, offered by the Medford Historical Society and the Medford Historical Commission, is free and open to the public.

Sally Zimmerman, Historic New England preservation specialist will participate along with Christopher Skelly, director of local government programs at the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and Rebecca Williams, field representative at the Northeast office of the National Trust. We will present information on insulation, windows, air sealing, renewable energy options, and the importance of energy audits using evaluation tools such as the Home Energy Rating System (HERS), blower door tests and infrared camera monitoring.

For more information, contact Fred Schlicher, Medford Historical Society (fredschlicher@comcast.net) or call 781 395 7202.

"Ask the Experts" Old House Clinic: Caring for your Modern House, Sunday, January 31, 2010, 2:00 - 5:00 pm, Lexington, Mass.

This "Ask the Experts" Old House Clinic looks at the issues confronting owners of modern houses. While we tend to think of historic houses as much older, the Boston area was a hotbed of modernist residential design in the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Many of these designs reflect important and historically significant new ways of living, and present special challenges in their maintenance and operation. "Caring for your Modern House" looks at the range of issues owners face when dealing with innovative materials and designs that may have deteriorated or no longer meet current energy demands.

Among those speaking will be Brent Gabby, a noted engineer and principal at Simpson Gumpertz Heger, with wide experience on preserving historic structures. His presentation focuses on the restoration of the Gropius House, so even if you don't own a modern house yourself, you will be interested to learn more about this icon of modern architecture and its care.

"Caring for your Modern House" is a partnership with the Lexington Historical Society and the Friends of Modern Architecture, Lincoln. The program takes place at 13 Depot Square, Lexington, Mass.; registration is required (Historic Homeowners receive special pricing). Call 781 862 1703 to register.

[The Economical Historic Home: Energy Efficiency Basics for Old House Owners](#) [Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 12:30 - 4:00 pm, Newport, Rhode Island](#)

Historic New England, in partnership with Preserve Rhode Island, the Providence Revolving Fund, and the Newport Restoration Foundation is offering this workshop with demonstrations on insulation, weatherization, wood window repair, and energy retrofits at the fully-restored Buliod-Perry House (c. 1750) in the heart of historic Newport at 29 Touro Street.

As this workshop takes place during school vacation week, fun, hands-on educational activities for children aged 6-12 are offered elsewhere on site so parents can learn about greening an older home while the kids are learning about colonial life in Rhode Island!

Advance registration is required. See http://www.newportrestoration.org/calendar/details/13042-the_economical for more information.

[1910-2010: What's coming for Historic Homeowners as Historic New England turns 100!](#) [New online programming; twentieth century paint color line](#)

By now, we trust you have heard about the Centennial celebrations taking place all year as Historic New England marks its 100th "birthday." The Centennial micro-site is now live on the Historic New England website at <http://centennial.historicnewengland.org/> where you can learn all about the events and programs underway to mark this achievement.

As part of this special year, Historic Homeowner members will see additional features dedicated to your support. The Historic Homeowner web page will be re-launched with expanded features we hope will engage and inform you in meaningful ways. Among these will be interactive elements designed to strengthen the network of Historic Homeowners and encourage communication amongst this group.

You will also see a new product in the marketplace. I have been working with Historic New England licensee California Paint Products to produce "Twentieth Century Colors of America," a historic palette of more recent colors to accompany "Historic Colors of America," the well-established palette of eighteenth and nineteenth century colors produced by Color Systems International and California Paints. With colors drawn directly from Historic New England's twentieth century museum properties and documented decorative color sources, Twentieth Century Colors of America sets the standard for authenticity in historic colors for the modern age. Look for it this Spring!

[Odds and ends . . .](#)

As someone concerned with preserving aspects of our cultural history, you may be interested to learn about a fascinating national documentation project to record information on historic quilts. For many years, quilt scholars in individual states around the country have been working to develop a national data base on quilts, a remarkably rich and diverse legacy of color, art, utility, and craftsmanship.

If you happen to have historic, pre-1950 quilts in your possession, you may want to contact the Quilt Index <http://www.quiltindex.org/> to find out more about contributing to this data base. For Massachusetts residents, the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell offers regular quilt documentation forums where you can bring in a quilt for evaluation and inclusion in the data base; for more information on the MassQuilts project, see <http://www.nequiltmuseum.org/events/mass-quilts.html>.

[As always . . .](#)

Your Historic Homeowner membership gives you access to Historic New England's experience dealing with old house preservation questions. Don't hesitate to contact Sally Zimmerman directly at 617 994 6645 or szimmerman@historicnewengland.org if you have a question to ask or decision to make about your old house!

And thank you for your support of Historic New England, the nation's oldest, largest, and most comprehensive regional heritage organization!