



## News and Notes for Historic Homeowners - 2

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### New Contact Information:

Call 617 944 6645 with Historic Homeowner questions

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### Upcoming Programs:

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](http://www.newportrestoration.org/calendar/details/13042-the_economical) for more information.

### New Hampshire Old House & Barn Exposition

Saturday and Sunday, March 20 & 21, 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.

Come to explore what's new for old houses and 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.

More Old House & Barn Expo details to follow in a later News and Notes!

### 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 . . .

[Transport yourself away from Winter and take a stroll among the camellias!](#)

The historic 1804 Camellia House at the Lyman Estate Greenhouses comes alive with blooming color every winter when the renowned collection of ancient camellias begins to flower. These beautiful trees, and the surrounding greenhouses, laden with trailing jasmine, orange and lemon trees, and a dazzling array of orchids, provide a welcome respite to the dirty snow and salty streets of winter.

The Lyman Estate Greenhouses are located at 185 Lyman Street, Waltham, Mass. "Camellia Blooming Season" starts Monday, February 8 and runs through Sunday, March 7, from 10 am - 4 pm; for information, call 781-891-1985.

["Massachusetts Sets Ambitious Energy Standards," \*New York Times\*, January 29, 2010](#)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/30/science/earth/30energy.html>

A recent story in the *New York Times* highlights Massachusetts' commitment to be in the vanguard of sustainable energy policy nationally.

As part of the Green Communities Act, signed into law in 2008, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities has approved plans from electric and gas utilities in the state to scale up their energy efficiency programs for customers. The types of consumer programs and services anticipated from the utilities include energy assessments and incentives to purchase and install high efficiency lighting, appliances, heating and air conditioning equipment, to air seal and to insulate.

Keep in mind that energy-related interventions in older and historic homes can make a dramatic improvement in their energy performance, but can also have unintended adverse effects if not done carefully and with a complete understanding of historically-sensitive materials and finishes. For more information on what to watch for, see "Energy Costs in an Old House: Balancing Preservation and Energy Efficiency;" [http://committees.architects.org/hrc/Zimmerman%20insulating%2010\\_08.pdf](http://committees.architects.org/hrc/Zimmerman%20insulating%2010_08.pdf)

[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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