



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

Help From the National Trust Resource Center
Information Sheet #1
HOW TO PRESERVE YOUR HISTORIC HOME

The following is a list from the National Trust, of resources, products, and programs for people interested in preserving a historic home.

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National Trust Resources

- The National Trust offers booklets on issues faced by owners of historic homes. *The New Old House Starter Kit* is full of helpful hints about restoring and rehabilitating old houses. It includes information about researching a house, guidelines on hiring professionals, a bibliography, and guides to architectural and landscape styles. Other booklets include *Appraising Historic Properties*, *Buyer's Guide to Older and Historic Houses*, *Design Review in Historic Districts*. For more information about these publications, call **Preservation Books** at 202-588-6296 or go to their web site at www.preservationbooks.org.

Protecting the Irreplaceable

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- The National Trust's **Resource Center** provides information on many aspects of preservation including historic home ownership. This information sheet, as well as other free information sheets about financing a historic home, moving historic buildings, preservation technology, and mail order homes, are examples of some of the information sheets the Resource Center has available. To contact the Resource Center, call 202-588-6164 or send an e-mail to feedback@nationaltrust.org.
- **Join the National Trust** - The National Trust is committed to improving the livability of our communities through historic preservation. With your membership, you're helping demonstrate to all Americans how protecting our past can enhance our quality of life. As a member, you will enjoy many benefits including our magazine *Preservation*, which has numerous articles relating to historic homes. In addition, you will be able to submit your home for listing in the Gallery of Homes in the Member Center section of our website. For more information, and to view the Gallery of Homes, please follow this link: http://member.nationaltrust.org/site/PageServer?pagename=member_gallerytest. You will also be eligible to nominate your home for the annual Great American Home Awards. Information on the awards will be posted on our website, www.nationaltrust.org, when the information becomes available (usually in the fall).
- National Trust Insurance Services (NTIS), administered by the firm of Maury, Donnelly & Parr, specializes in **insuring historic properties**, both commercially and personally owned. NTIS can help owners of historic buildings and homes evaluate their insurance needs and obtain the coverage necessary. For more information, please call 1-866-269-0944 or e-mail info@nationaltrust-insurance.org; or visit their website at <http://www.nationaltrust-insurance.org/>
- Plan to attend our **National Preservation Conferences**, which are held each fall. For more information, visit the conference website at www.nthpconference.org or call 202-588-6100.
- **The National Trust Library** contains information on historic preservation, restoration, mail order houses, and many other related subjects. To contact the National Trust Library, write to the Hornbake Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-7011 or call 301-405-6320. You can also search the library on-line at <http://www.lib.umd.edu/NTL/ntl.html>.
- In 1997 the National Trust provided national underwriting support for the PBS weekly television program "**About Your House with Bob Yapp**." The program focused on historic homes and offered a mix of technical tips addressing everything from removing old paint and restoring original siding to real estate secrets, salvage yards, and seasonal maintenance. For more information about the program, call Bob Yapp, Preservation Resources, Inc., at 217-446-5395, or e-mail yapperman@msn.com.
- **National Trust Forum** is a National Trust membership for preservation professionals and volunteer leaders. As a Forum member, you receive the *Forum Journal*, *Forum News*, member discounts on *Preservation Books*, access to the password-protected web site Forum Online, as well as full membership privileges to the National Trust. Forum members have the ability to communicate on-line with other preservation professionals, are kept up to date on the latest preservation issues, and have access to a variety of preservation resources. For more information about the Forum program, or to become a member, call 202-588-6053.

Buying and Selling Historic Homes

- The Trust's award-winning bi-monthly magazine, *Preservation*, advertises historic homes for sale. Look in the Historic Properties section toward the back of the magazine. These advertisements are also on the Trust's website at <http://www.nationaltrust.org/Magazine/advertise/index.htm> . To place an ad in *Preservation*, call the advertising office at 202-588-6069, or email Beth.Siegel@nthp.org .
- Additionally, the **Trust's website** advertises distressed homes and other properties that are for sale. These properties are at this link: http://www.nationaltrust.org/marketplace/distressed_properties.html. An ad in this section is \$10.00 per listing, per month, and the property must meet certain criteria. For more information email webwork@nthp.org .
- The National Trust partners with ERA Franchise Systems, Inc. to offer the **Historic Real Estate Training Program**. This program provides additional training for real estate professionals who specialize in the historic home market. For more information, or to locate a realtor in your area, visit http://www.nationaltrust.org/training/real_estate.html.
- Your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Statewide and Local Preservation Organizations may be able to offer additional suggestions for buying and selling historic homes for sale in your state. Their contact information is at this link: www.nationaltrust.org/help/statewide_org.asp .

Appraising Your Historic Home

- The National Trust's publication *Appraising Historic Properties*, can be ordered by linking to our **Preservation Books** website at www.preservationbooks.org or by calling 202-588-6296.
- The American Appraisal Institute is an international independent membership association of professional real estate appraisers. It directs residential and commercial real estate appraisal education, research, publishing and professional membership designation programs. Their website, <http://www.appraisalinstitute.org> includes educational links and ways to locate a local appraiser.
- The National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers is a nonprofit professional association of real estate appraisers. In addition to a testing and certifying program, the organization "affords reasonable assurance to the general public of the professional expertise, integrity, and responsibility of the members of the National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers." NAIFA (<http://www.naifa.com/>) can be reached at 312-321-6830.
- The American Society of Appraisers is an international organization of appraisal professionals and others interested in the appraisal profession. Each member specializes in a specific field of appraisal. Among its resources are tips on "appraisal basics," various publications, and help finding an appraisal expert. The website is www.appraisers.org/ and ASA can be reached at 1-800-272-8258.

Old House Rehabilitation and Restoration Information

Rehabilitating and restoring a historic house is an exciting challenge. All of your hard work will be richly rewarded when you successfully complete your project. Keep in mind, too, that you do not have to do it all yourself. Many professionals are available to assist you during every phase of your project: architects, architectural historians, landscape architects, contractors, and suppliers as well as researchers, librarians, and preservationists.

Throughout this information sheet, are references to “Statewide Preservation Organizations” and “State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs).” For the contact information to these organizations in your state, please visit www.nationaltrust.org/help/statewide_org.asp or call the National Trust’s Resource Center at 202-588-6164.

How Do I Start?

Before buying an older house, you should first determine the condition of the building by thoroughly inspecting it yourself or with a trained professional, such as an architect, structural engineer, or a building inspector with renovation experience. A local preservation organization can probably recommend an appropriate person. Carefully map out what you want to accomplish and budget how much money you can afford to spend. The next step is research. The more you know about your house, the more accurate your restoration will be. You will also save money by eliminating as much guess work as possible before beginning any actual work. Here are some tips to help you get started:

- Search for deeds, tax records, property abstracts, and maps to determine your house’s previous owners and the history of the building. Your city or county records office can help you begin.
- Look through city directories, census records, and insurance maps for information on the house’s previous owners. Your public library and local historic society will have this information.
- Conduct a search of the house and its yard. An architect or archaeologist can offer advice as to what to look for, and don’t forget to search the rafters for records the former owners may have left behind.
- To determine whether the house is a designated historic structure on the local, state, or national level, or to find out if it is within a historic district, contact your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- If your house is a locally designated historic structure, or in a historic district, you may need local approval to make any changes to the exterior. Ask your local planning office.
- Easements or other tax abatement programs may be available to you. Again, your local planning office and local preservation commission are the best sources of information.

Financing the Restoration of an Old House

It can be difficult to find funds for your restoration project. As always, your bank, your family, or your friends are the tried and true sources of money for renovating an old house. Sometimes specific funds for preserving an old house are available at the local, state, or national level. For more information on funding the preservation of your historic home, please use the following link to the financial assistance section of our website: <http://www.nationaltrust.org/funding/>.

Not every state offers the same financial assistance for historic home owners, so it is a good idea to contact all of the following agencies in your state for information on their grants and loans: Historic Development Commission, Department of Planning and Economic Development, Housing and Redevelopment, and State Historic Preservation Office.

Painting Your Historic Home

There are several publications available for preservationists interested in paint colors. The National Trust's Preservation Books carries "Paint in America: The Colors of Historic Buildings" by Roger Moss. For price and ordering information please visit the Preservation Books website at www.preservationbooks.org. Mr. Moss has also written several other books concerning historic paint colors which are available at your local bookstore or library or through Amazon.com. The National Park Service's "Preservation Briefs" will also be helpful and can be accessed using this link: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>. Two briefs which will be particularly useful are: "No.10 - Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork" and "No. 28 - Painting Historic Interiors."

The National Trust has worked extensively with the Valspar Corporation to develop an exclusive collection of historical colors. The resulting American Tradition® palette, sold exclusively at Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouses, covers the spectrum of historic hues. It features 250 colors certified by the National Trust, having been developed from samples taken from the Trust's Historic Sites: examples include Woodrow Wilson Presidential Ivory, Lyndhurst Duchess Gold, and Woodlawn Plantation Pear. These 100% acrylic paints are available for both interior and exterior work and all carry a lifetime warranty. To see the possibilities they offer with the American Tradition Virtual Painter, please visit our website:

<http://www.nationaltrust.org/marketplace/paint.html>. Valspar also supports preservation by donating a portion of every paint sale to the National Trust and by supplying paint to the National Trust's Historic Sites. In addition, Valspar supplied paint to the 12 sites featured in Home and Garden Television's Restore America - A Salute to Preservation 2003/2004 season.

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of historically significant structures. The National Register was authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and is administered by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service. Some of the types of properties nominated for inclusion in the National Register are historic areas in the National Park Service, National Historic Landmarks, historically significant properties nominated by federal, state, and local governments, organizations, or individuals. A National Register designation mandates that a property must be considered in the planning of federal or federally assisted projects impacting the registered property, and qualifies it for financial assistance from governmental funds for historic preservation when these funds are available.

For more information about the National Register of Historic Places, write to the National Park Service at P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013, or call the National Register's reference desk at 202-354-2213. The National Register's web site is also a good place to find information about the National Register. The web site offers general information about the program, specific information about registered properties, guidelines for nominating properties, and publications. The web address is www.cr.nps.gov/nr; to go directly to the National Register's publication site, visit www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/; to search for information about a specific property listed on the National Register, go to www.cr.nps.gov/nr/research/.

To find out if your home is listed on the National Register, go to this section of the National Register's website: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/research/index.htm>.

Plaques for Historic Buildings

Owners of local, state, or national registered houses often mount a plaque on their property. A number of private companies manufacture suitable plaques. To avoid costly shipping charges, you may want to work with a foundry or engraving firm in your local area. Historic plaque companies advertise in *Preservation*, so be sure to look in the classified section for companies in your area. Consult with your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and any local historical commission to find out if they have plaque programs. Your SHPO will also be able to tell you if your state has a special funding program to help with the cost of a plaque. Finally, and most importantly, be extremely careful when affixing the plaque to the historic house in order to avoid harming the building material.

State Historic Preservation Office

Your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a state government office, is an invaluable information source and should be contacted early in the planning process. The name and address of every SHPO is on the National Trust's website: www.nationaltrust.org/help/statewide_org.asp. The SHPO has information on applicable state and federal funding programs or tax incentives credits for preservation, general information on the preservation of historic homes, and nomination forms and guidelines for the National Register of Historic Places.

Your Statewide and Local Preservation Organizations

Nonprofit statewide and local preservation groups serve as the network centers and representatives of preservation activities within their states. They work with SHPOs, assist local groups, intervene in preservation issues, advocate state membership and educational programs, issue publications, engage in real estate and revolving fund programs, and serve as a preservation clearinghouse. For the name, address, and phone number of your state's statewide preservation organization, visit the National Trust's web site at www.nationaltrust.org/help/statewide_org.asp.

Contact Your Historic District Commission

Historic District Commissions operate at the local level. Sometimes they are referred to as the architectural review board or the historic preservation commission. Frequently appointed by the mayor, the commissions have a range of responsibilities and powers depending upon the state and local laws. Typically, commissions conduct town and/or county wide surveys, designate locally significant landmarks, and administer permit programs for applications to alter designated properties and construct new buildings. Decisions to alter or demolish historic buildings are generally made at this level of government and are most affected by local zoning laws and ordinances. For more information on historic district commissions, contact the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions at P.O. Box 1605, Athens, GA 30603, or by calling 706-542-4731, or by emailing napc@uga.edu. Please use this link to visit their website: <http://www.sed.uga.edu/psoprograms/napc/napc.htm>. You may also call your local government for your district's contact information.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings are excellent resources for all work done on historic homes. These guidelines are used to determine whether the historic character of a building is preserved in the process of rehabilitation. The guidelines recommend responsible methods and approaches and list treatments that should be avoided. A copy can be obtained from your State Historic Preservation

officer, on-line at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/index.htm>, or from the Government Printing Office, 941 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20002; 202-512-1800. For more information write to the National Park Service, Heritage Preservation Services-424, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; or call 202-513-7270.

"Ten Basic Principles for Sensitive Rehabilitation"

"What Every Restorer Should Know," an article by Susan Morse, appeared in the January/February 1989 issue of *Historic Preservation*. Morse lists the Department of the Interior's "Ten Basic Principles for Sensitive Rehabilitation," also known as the "Do's and Don'ts for First-Timers and Veterans."

1. Make every effort to use the building for its original purpose.
2. Do not destroy distinctive original features.
3. Recognize all buildings as products of their own time.
4. Recognize and respect changes that have taken place over time.
5. Treat sensitively distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craft work.
6. Repair rather than replace worn architectural features when possible. When replacement is necessary, new material should match the old in design, composition, and color.
7. Clean facades using the gentlest methods possible. Avoid sandblasting and other damaging methods.
8. Protect and preserve affected archeological resources.
9. Compatible contemporary alterations are acceptable if they do not destroy significant historical or architectural fabric.
10. Build new additions so they can be removed without impairing the underlying structure.

Easements

A preservation easement is a legal right granted by the owner of a property to an organization or a governmental entity qualified under state law to accept such an easement. It protects against undesirable development or indirect deterioration. Preservation easements may provide the most effective legal tool for the protection of privately-owned historic properties. The terms are generally incorporated into a recordable preservation easement deed and can prohibit, for example, alteration of the structure's significant features, changes in the usage of the building and land, or subdivision and topographic changes to the property. The property continues on the tax rolls at its current use designation rather than its "highest and best use" (its value if developed) thereby giving the owner a genuine tax advantage. For information on easement holders in your area, contact your SHPO or statewide or local preservation organization. For additional information, please visit <http://www.nationaltrust.org/legal/easements/index.html>.

Resident Curators

In some states, the National Park Service and the state historic preservation office will work with private citizens to become resident curators. A resident curator relationship allows state-owned historic properties to be restored at virtually no cost to taxpayers. To see if your state offers a resident curator program, contact your State Historic Preservation Officer.

For example, in Maryland, a resident curatorship begins with the identification of buildings by the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Historical Trust. Interested preservationists submit an application with a five-year restoration plan, and must be qualified to supervise and finance the restoration work. If approved, the resident curator can live in the historic property for the rest of his or her life in return for financing the restoration. For more information on Maryland's program, contact the Maryland Historical Trust at 410-514-7600.

Resource List

In addition to the resources already listed, several other sources of information are available for historic homeowners. Searching the internet using the key words such as: historic homes, preservation, building technology, real estate, architecture, restoration, renovation, and Victorian will help you locate helpful information. In addition, these sources will also be helpful:

- Publications such as *The New Old House Starter Kit*, *Buyer's Guide to Older and Historic Houses*, *Fabrics for Historic Buildings: A Guide to Selecting Reproduction Fabrics*, *Floor Coverings for Historic Buildings: A Guide to Selecting Reproductions*, and *Paint in America: The Colors of Historic Buildings* are available from the National Trust's Preservation Books. To place an order, call the National Trust at 202-588-6296 or visit the Preservation Books catalog at www.preservationbooks.org.
- Heritage Preservation Services (a division of the National Park Service) provides services, advice, and publications on historic preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation technology. Their publications include *Preservation Briefs* covering such topics as masonry, mortar, conserving energy in historic buildings, cleaning and caring for historic buildings, and aluminum and vinyl siding. All briefs are available online at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>. Their website, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/index.htm>, includes information on researching a historic building, applying the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, technical information, and other resources for restoration projects. The Heritage Preservation Services has also created an online tutorial on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation called Electronic Rehab at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/e-rehab/index.htm>. The program is designed for historic building owners, new members of design review and historic preservation commissions, architects, contractors, developers, maintenance personnel, and students. The site also has a test where you make critical decisions about the appropriateness of rehabilitation work on two buildings and get immediate feedback. For more information, visit http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/online_ed.htm.
- *APT Bulletin* is published quarterly by the Association for Preservation Technology International. It features articles on all aspects of building and preservation technology, including historical research, scientific papers and project case studies. To order, write to the Association for Preservation Technology International, 4513 Lincoln Ave., Suite 213, Lisle, IL 60532-1290, call 630-968-6400 or visit their website at <http://www.apti.org/>.
- *The Old-House Journal*, edited by Gordon H. Block, is a bi-monthly magazine dedicated to rehabilitation, maintenance, and decoration of old houses; *The Old-House Journal Restoration Directory* is an annual buyer's guide to products for houses built prior to 1940 or new homes built in the traditional manner. *Old-House Bookshop* offers a variety of publications that cover topics including how-to techniques, the Victorian era, historic styles, landscape and gardens, and period decorating. *Restoration Directory* is available online through *The Old-House Journal* website at www.oldhousejournal.com or available at your local bookstore. For more information, call 202-339-0744. The website for *The Old-House Journal* provides information on the magazine, allows you to view their classified section, presents information on new preservation related products, as well as tips for historic building preservation. You can also see historic house plans, and post preservation-related questions on a bulletin board. *The Old-House Journal's Find-A-Pro* area of their website will help you locate a local architect, contractor, or lender for your restoration project.

- *Old-House Interiors*, once part of *The Old-House Journal*, is a journal, design center and sourcebook with period-inspired design and home products. For more information, write to *Old-House Interiors*, 108 East Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930, call 1-800-462-0211 or visit their website at www.oldhouseinteriors.com
- *Caring for Your Historic House*, by Heritage Preservation and the National Park Service is a book providing information on preserving and maintaining a historic house. Some of the topics covered are structural systems, roofs, paint, wallpaper, woodworking, and landscape. To place an order, call 888-388-6789.
- Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference includes seminars and workshops in preservation technology. The conference website contains valuable information for historic homeowners, as well as a directory of preservation technology contractors. For more information about upcoming conferences, call 800-982-6247 or 202-339-0744 or visit their website at <http://www.traditionalbuildingshow.com/index.shtml>
- *Traditional Building* is a bi-monthly magazine that serves as an “authoritative where-to-buy-it resource for historical products.” To order, write: Traditional Building Magazine, PO Box 3000, Denville, NJ 07834-9232; email: subscriptions@traditional-building.com; phone: 800-548-0193; or fax: 973-627-5872. The website for *Traditional Building* magazine at <http://www.traditional-building.com/index.htm> includes an online directory of product suppliers, a product database, online articles and product reports from current and previous issues of the magazine.
- The American Association for State and Local History has technical reports and technical leaflets covering a number of restoration and preservation topics. To obtain a catalog which lists the books, reports, leaflets, and video tapes available, write to AASLH, 1717 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203, call 615-320-3203, email membership@aslh.org or visit their website at www.aaslh.org.
- Heritage Preservation is a non-profit organization that helps citizens and communities identify, evaluate, protect, and preserve historic buildings, landscapes, landmarks, archeological sites, battlefields, and tribal communities. Its diverse partners include state historic preservation officers, local governments, tribes, federal agencies, colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations. For more information, visit www.heritagepreservation.org/Index.html.
- *A Comprehensive Guide for Listing a Building in the National Register of Historic Places* by Gail Greenberg takes readers through the process of successfully nominating an historic property to the National Register. The book includes a discussion of eligibility criteria, suggestions for research procedures, an explanation of and information needed to complete each item on the application, and a sample completed application. To order call 1-800-222-0737. There is a discount for local historical organizations.
- The National Housing Library, under the sponsorship of the National Association of Home Builders, publishes the quarterly *Housing Abstracts*. *Housing Abstracts* offers access to a variety of housing industry information. All of the materials cited in *Housing Abstracts* are part of the National Housing Library’s collection. For information, call 202-266-8200, the Resource Center can be reached at extension #8296.
- To locate resources about protecting historic buildings from fires, repairing historic buildings after a fire, fire protection options, and many other issues surrounding historic buildings, fire

damage, and fire prevention, contact the Historic Annapolis Foundation at Shiplap House, 18 Pinkney Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 or call 410-267-7619, toll free 800-603-4020.

Additionally, *Fire Safe Building Rehabilitation*, written by a fire protection engineer and a preservation architect, is the industry's first complete guide on how to bring older buildings up to code while respecting their original features. Approx. 400 pages, \$77.90 including S&H, order no. FSBRO3. Order from the National Fire Protection Association at www.nfpa.org/catalog (search for "Rehabilitation") or call 800-344-3555.

- *American Bungalow Magazine's* website is a wonderful resource for people who own or are interested in historic bungalows. The site offers tips on restoration and interior design, helps you determine what style a bungalow is, has information on publications, and keeps you up to date on the Arts and Crafts movement. Their website is: www.ambungalow.com
- Visit the American Institute of Architects' website, www.aia.org, to find an architect and contractor, help decide whether you should renovate, read tips on managing the construction process, and to find information on architect's fees or on your local AIA chapter.
- The Arts and Crafts Society's online marketplace is a virtual home for the Arts and Crafts movement. The site contains information on architecture, design, antiques, restoration products and services, wallpaper, furniture, metalwork, lighting, and textiles. Their website is <http://arts-crafts.com>
- The Victorian Society in America is a national non-profit organization committed to the preservation and protection of nineteenth-century heritage and historic buildings. The site offers information about publications, resources, summer schools, symposia, and architectural study tours devoted to fostering education and appreciation of Victorian heritage. You may access the site using this link: <http://www.victoriansociety.org/about.htm>
- Ian Evan's World of Old Houses is an online guide to caring for and restoring old homes. The web site contains preservation product directories for the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. There are also sections for frequently asked restoration questions, essays about preservation technology, and technical tips. Their website is www.oldhouses.com.au
- The Interactive Old House Network offers historic homeowners a place to buy and sell historic properties, antiques, and historic hardware; find companies which specialize in historic preservation, building technology, or supply restoration materials; and ask other historic homeowners questions about their restoration projects. www.oldhouse.com
- The Old House Web contains reviews of new restoration products, lists historic hardware suppliers, and offers tips on financial assistance, technical problems, and historic gardening. Visit www.oldhouseweb.com
- The Restoration Trades website contains a wealth of information on preservation technology including a service directory, bulletin boards, classifieds, job and resume postings, bid invitations, and education resources. Please use this site link: www.restorationtrades.com
- The website of the Marble Institute of America contains information on the care and cleaning of natural stone and ceramic tile as well as a list of publications on such topics as the history of ceramic tile in America and the names and quarry locations of the world's marbles. Please use this link to their website: www.marble-institute.com

- The website for the Public Broadcasting System’s “History Detectives” show includes a guide to investigating the history of a house. This guide includes a checklist, leads to additional information and sources, and a case study of an investigation of one home’s history. Please use the following link to this website:
<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/diy/building.html> .
- Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet is a good source for resources that can help you in researching the history of your home. The House and Building Histories section of this website provides links to websites for libraries, archives and museums; professional and volunteer researchers; publications, software and supplies; and locality specific resources. Please use the following link to the site: <http://www.cyndislist.com/houses.htm>
- The Great American Home Awards® presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation is a national competition recognizing outstanding residential rehabilitation projects in the United States. Established in 1989, the contest honors homeowners and professionals for their dedication to the ideals of preservation, as well as for their commitment to excellence in rehabilitating old houses. Please call Susan Neumann in our Membership Office at 202-588-6135 for more information.
- The Straw Bale Association of Nebraska has launched a website to promote their efforts to preserve these structures and general awareness of this building type. Their website is www.strawhomes.com/sban. There is also a straw bale registry where you can register your building at www.thelaststraw.org.

Glossary of Helpful Terms

- **Preserve** - To maintain a structure’s existing form through careful maintenance and repair.
- **Reconstruct** - To re-create an historic building that has been damaged or destroyed; to erect a new structure resembling the old using historical, archaeological, architectural documents.
- **Rehabilitate** - To repair a structure and make it usable again while preserving those portions or features of the property that are historically and culturally significant. For example, rehabilitation might include an updated kitchen while retaining the historic stairwell and fireplaces. Most common approach for private houses.
- **Remodel** - To change a building without regard to its distinctive features or style. Often involves changing the appearance of a structure by removing or covering original details and substituting new materials and forms.
- **Renovate** - To repair a structure and make it usable again, without attempting to restore its historic appearance or duplicate original construction methods or material.
- **Restore** - To return a building to its form and condition as represented by a specified period of time using materials that are as similar as possible to the original materials.
- **Stabilize** - To protect a building from deterioration by making it structurally secure, while maintaining its current form.

This is one of several information sheets on preservation related topics available from the National Trust’s Resource Center. For a complete list of information sheets available, please send an email to feedback@nationaltrust.org. Related topics include:

Information sheet #5 – The National Register of Historic Places
Information sheet #7 – Plaques for Historic Buildings and Homes

Information sheet #32 – Working with Contractors and Architects; Finding Supplies and Furnishings; Interior Design and Decorating

Information sheet #33 – Information for Realtors

Information sheet #43 – Historic Mail Order Homes and Barns

Information Sheet #45 – Bed and Breakfast Inns

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides this list of resources solely for informational and educational purposes. This is not intended as a specific recommendation or endorsement of any particular organization or entity.

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