

# Brief Guide to Understanding Repairs to Historic Homes Damaged by Hurricane Katrina and Other Related Floods



Written by Mike Logan, with thanks to Camille Agricola Bowman and the Alabama Historical Commission's **Guide for Owners of Alabama's Historic Houses**

Your historic house is worth saving! Despite the drastic circumstances, it is built better than anything that can be built new. It is worth protecting its historic materials and working with the historic house, despite the overzealous advice that you might get from well-intentioned helpers that come along. This guide is meant to be brief and a quick aid to assessing the damage that you are encountering in your home as a result of hurricane and flood damage.

Preservation Trades Network  
PO Box 249  
Amherst, New Hampshire 03031-0249  
[www.PTN.org](http://www.PTN.org) and [www.IPTW.org](http://www.IPTW.org)

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# Your Historic House is Worth Saving!



Your historic house is worth saving! Despite the drastic circumstances, it is built better than anything that can be built new. It is worth protecting its historic materials and working with the historic house, despite the overzealous advice that you might get from well-intentioned helpers that come along. This guide is meant to be brief and a quick aid to assessing the damage that you are encountering in your home as a result of hurricane and flood damage.

There is much assistance available to you. Call on preservation experts that stand ready to help you. Avoid Big Box stores that are accustomed to quick remodeling decisions, and seek advice from preservation experts that can help you save your historic materials. Some quick questions you should ask yourself when encountering your historic home:

Is this approach the “gentlest means possible?” In other words, approach the building gently and work up to the appropriate solution rather than starting with the harshest approach.

Am I repairing historic materials rather than removing or replacing them?

Am I using “like” materials?

Is this treatment “reversible?”

This manual is intended to be a guide to help you understand the value of your home’s materials, how to think about saving your house, and perhaps, how to undertake the needed repairs that, at first, seem to be overwhelming. The preservation of historic buildings can be compared to the care of the human patient. Most often with modern medicine, the source of the problem must be identified and addressed before a simple bandage is applied. The key to the thought process is that there are probably simpler solutions to the problems; drastic approaches are rarely necessary. Very often, traditional materials can bounce back from water damage. Old growth timber and lime plaster will dry out and, in most





cases, can be re-used and saved. Like a human, they can heal, if given the chance. Furthermore, they are stronger, more durable and longer lasting than any new materials from a Big Box store.

In numerous trips to the hurricane-damaged Gulf Coast, we have seen many instances where lath and plaster were removed when it was not at all necessary. The plaster would naturally dry out and the self-healing properties of lime would have allowed the plaster to endure the moisture damage with only limited patching. In most cases, solid historic wooden windows don't need to be removed. They can be repaired to function just fine, alleviating the necessity to replace them with vinyl. In another case of "clean up" efforts by well-intentioned students, a load-bearing wall had been removed from the center of a shotgun cottage which, of course, contributed to major structural failure of an otherwise solid structure.

After suffering from such a disaster, the historic homeowner is challenged to understand where to begin to reclaim his dwelling. As a result of the crisis, the homeowner does not have the time, energy, resources, or knowledge to make a sound decision regarding the home and how to distinguish salvageable fabric from that which is dispensable. One rule of thumb is that if it is historic, it is worth saving. Very often the wrong thing is done to the home, and tragically, many very solid historic homes are disappearing unnecessarily due to panic and hasty decisions. Not only are whole buildings being demolished, but also superior building materials are stripped and hauled to the landfills. This guide is meant to help the homeowner understand historic building materials but also to learn where to find answers to protecting, preserving and maintaining the historic home.

This is the first guide of several in a series. This publication deals with the immediate needs of foundation repair and roof repairs with a section on ventilation. Subsequent information sheets will include information on interior wall finishes, windows, doors and millwork. Termite

damage will also be discussed, since it is so prevalent in the Gulf Coast region and unknown damage may have been uncovered during the assessment of storm damage. It is important to realize, however, that if your house's interior is finished with wood lath and plaster which has been wet, do not remove it. In most cases, it will dry out and the self-healing process will insure that it will become solid again. Some patching may be necessary but wholesale removal of plaster is not necessary (but prevalent in clean up efforts we've witnessed). Windows, doors, and millwork are made out of old growth timber which is more durable and dense than modern fast growth timber (and plastics!). It can dry out and can be reused, ensuring a better product than is available in Big Box stores. A general rule of thumb is: Be selective in any removal or demolition because you have a better home than anything new that could be built for you (or rolled onto your property).and dense than modern fast growth timber (and plastics!). It can dry out and can be reused, ensuring a better product than is available in Big Box stores. A general rule of thumb is: Be selective in any removal or demolition because you have a better home than anything new that could be built for you (or rolled onto your property).

Congratulations on surviving the storm and taking the first step in reclaiming your Gulf Coast heritage. This pamphlet has been a collaboration of experience and proven solutions from professionals that are knowledgeable about historic buildings. Also historic trades people that work with traditional materials daily helping to preserve the cultural heritage of the United States have contributed to this essay.



**PRESERVATION CONCEPTS**

**USING THE GENTLEST MEANS POSSIBLE:**

Start gently and slowly rather than quickly or expediently. Use test patches to determine the gentlest method of achieving the desired effect. For instance, in cleaning or in repointing, make several test patches with varying strengths of cleaning agents as well as with the design and color of joint material. This will aid your decision about which solution would be sufficient to accomplish the desired effect.

**DETERMINING COMPATIBLE MATERIALS AND DESIGN:**

Old, soft building materials must have soft new materials or even hand-made materials next to them in order for them to weather compatibly. For example, modern, cheap portland cement is very harmful to old stone or brick, because it does not expand and contract with thermal changes; consequently, the old, soft material breaks away with each expansion and contraction.

**Foundations:**

Most regions of the country have foundations and footings that support the house that keep it from shifting and sinking into the ground. In the Gulf Coast region, Shotgun and Creole Cottages are most often built on masonry piers that raise them above the high water table and loamy soil. This is an ideal situation because it allows for plenty of ventilation under the house so that the house can dry out underneath. However, as a result of flooding, many of these houses have simply floated off their piers. They are still solid, viable structures and can be lifted back onto their foundations and retained. They do not need to be demolished! Consult a preservation professional (engineer) to inspect and diagnose the situation before your house is unnecessarily demolished. Once the house is lifted back on to a solid foundation, the homeowner can take some control over the repairs that occur.

**Foundation Materials and Masonry Considerations:**

**Mortars:** Mortars join units of brick and stone while keeping water out of the building. Traditionally, mortars were made from lime and sand – their color derived from local sands. Limes most often came from burning oyster shells from along the coast; limestone provided the source of lime further inland. Today, the materials to make lime mortars can be acquired, and it behooves the owners of historic masonry to pursue the proper softer materials for mortar, stucco, and plaster instead of the easy, quick cements that are available at Big Box stores. Check with Virginia Lime Works or other suppliers for the proper materials. Otherwise, the quick, easy to buy hard cements (Portland Cement) will damage historic materials. They are too hard; they do not expand and contract; they do not let the materials breathe; they are not self-healing; and

**SOURCES OF LIME MORTARS**

**Virginia Lime Works**  
 PO Box 516  
 Monroe, Virginia 24574  
 TEL: 434/929-8113  
 FAX: 434/929-8114  
[www.virginalimeworks.com](http://www.virginalimeworks.com)

**Pennsylvania Lime Works**  
 P.O. Box 151  
 Milford Square, PA 18935  
 TEL: 215-536-6706  
 FAX: 215-536-2281  
[www.palimeworks.com](http://www.palimeworks.com)  
[www.stastier.com](http://www.stastier.com)

they grow salt crystals which displace the natural porous interiors of the masonry. A basic principle of historic masonry is that the mortar must always be softer than the unit that it is binding.

**Lime Pencilings, Washes and Renders:** Traditionally, mortar joints were often painted. Such detailing may be overlooked in a disaster, but should be noted and recorded for future restoration work. Often, masonry buildings were not painted but a lime wash was applied which served as a waterproof coating. Such a wash can easily be duplicated from original lime materials and colorants. Avoid modern paints on unpainted masonry; a lime wash may be sufficient coating if one is desired. A lime render is a thicker coating, similar to “stucco” discussed below.

**Stone:** Types of stone vary significantly but limestone and sandstone are related to each other. They are sensitive to inappropriate chemicals and mortars, acids and pollutants. They are formed in layers which means that they may weather poorly if laid in an unnatural position or if chemicals get into their layers, altering their natural pore structure. Use caution when cleaning these materials and be aware they should always be laid in their natural bedding plane (parallel to the ground, probably). Stone is vulnerable to water damage and mortars should be softer than the stone that they are binding.

**Brick:** Bricks range in character from soft hand-made clay units to modern hard-fired ones. The exterior crust of soft old brick is vulnerable to breakage of flaking (spalling) which exposes the soft under-fired interior to more rapid deterioration. This happens when water seeps into the soft portion, pressure builds inside the porous interiors which causes the brick to spall. Also, there is more surface area for water to enter the bricks, freeze and displace the material. Hard cement mortars will also cause brick to spall. Mortars should never be harder than the brick.

**Concrete and Cast Stone:** These two materials are related. They resemble stone as they are made up of binders and aggregate, but generally they are made of modern hard cements. Open mortar joints and cracks should be closed with mortar that is softer than the original material.

**Stucco:** Traditionally, this material is man-made; it consists of lime and sand; and is subject to the same considerations as other units of masonry. Cracks should be closed with a material that is softer than the original. Conversely, modern “stucco” is composed of rigid foam that is covered with a thin layer of cement. It is not long lasting and is not recommended for the repair of a historic home. Very often, traditional stucco was “scored” or marked to create the appearance of larger blocks of stone. This hand tooled characteristic should be duplicated whenever any scoring is encountered.

## Repairing Masonry and “Repointing” Mortar Joints:

Any material used to repoint historic masonry must be compatible with (softer than) the material it is binding. The repair should be reversible, meaning that it can be removed without harm to the original material. Hairline cracks and open joints should be closed with mortar that is softer than the brick or stone. Never use silicone caulk, artificial bonding agents, or wood putty, for example. These “quick fixes” do not share similar properties with the original materials; they are not long-lasting and they may do more harm than good. Also, they are unsightly as they will break down and change colors in the sunlight and heat. Sealants and coatings do not ensure a water-tight condition; properly installed mortar joints do ensure a water-tight building. Avoid “quick fixes” of rubberized coatings, plastic sealants and other non-compatible, non-similar repairs to masonry.

Old mortar should be removed by hand to a minimum depth of two inches times the width of the joint in inches. Any loose mortar beyond the minimum depth should be removed by hand. Avoid power grinders as they can cause irreversible damage to the masonry unit. Portland cement should just be left in place because more harm can be done to the masonry units when trying to remove that hard material.

Lime mortar can be ordered from Virginia Lime Works as noted above. They manufacture a traditional lime and they import varying qualities of hydraulic limes. Preservation masons use a straight lime mortar mix of 1 part lime, 2 parts or 3 parts local sand. Some specifications call for the addition of Portland Cement but this should only be added in certain circumstances such as when a quicker hydraulic set is desired (and the masonry unit is stronger, such as a hard-fired, more modern brick). A typical lime/Portland mix is 1 part cement to 3 parts lime to 10 parts sand. Remember that no mortar shall be harder than what it is bonding.

Properly cleaned mortar joints should be pre-dampened with a water mist, but with no standing water. Joints should be filled by lifts of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and they should be allowed to be cured for a day or two. The final finished joint should be tooled, slightly recessed so as not to change the look or shape of the stone or brick. Since lime is self-healing, water will run down a wall over the recessed joints. (Joint deterioration occurs when mortar overlaps the face of brick or stone and water is trapped in the lip of the overlap.) Repointed masonry units must be periodically misted with water and covered with burlap and shielded from direct sunlight during the initial curing process – usually about three days. After the initial set, the mortar will continue to cure, thus completing the carbonization process which unites the masonry with the mortar.



## PRESERVATION CONCEPTS

### REVERSIBILITY:

Whatever you do—add on or make repairs—be sure that you can undo the work in the future so that you will have an intact original. For example, a building addition should be “reversible” so that, in the future, the addition could be removed without harm to the integrity of the historic structure.

### REPAIR RATHER THAN REPLACE:

Always think in terms of repairing historic materials rather than wholesale removal of them. For example, window salesmen often convince homeowners that they need to remove all of their windows and replace them with new, “better,” windows. However, repair of historic windows results in superior and cost-effective qualities over the long-term.

## Roofing:

Water will damage the interior of a structure rapidly, particularly if it enters through the roof. First of all, it is necessary to understand the design of the original roof and drainage system. Chances are, the original roof system worked effectively over the life of the house. It is not necessary to change the design of the original roof, nor is it a good idea to remove gutters and downspouts.

Of course, wind-damaged, missing roofing is apparent and covering open areas is a necessary first step in an emergency. Tarps are only temporary fixes. More permanent roof repairs are recommended. It is best to repair original roof systems, whether metal shingles, slate, or standing seam roofs. These can be repaired and the final result is a longer lasting roof than totally removing the traditional materials and replacing them with an inferior shingle roof.

All moisture and water issues must be identified and corrected before any repair or restoration work is undertaken inside the home. Concentrate attention to where water is going or what path it takes, and you will generally get clues to what kind of repairs are needed. . Otherwise, standing in a heavy downpour is the best way to watch where water is going and determine where you need it to go. Generally, you need it to go far from the house, through gutters and downspouts and then far from the foundation and crawl space.

Some common areas of concern are at the junction of chimneys and roofing. Well-designed flashing is the key to keeping water out of this vulnerable place; tar is not the answer as it corrodes metal flashing. Check for pooling water under crawl spaces, a problem that

## SLATE ROOF REPAIR

See **Slate Roof Central** at: [www.slateroofcentral.com](http://www.slateroofcentral.com) for information on slate roof repair, materials, tools, contractors and a wealth of technical information and links.

can be alleviated by guiding water through downspouts and through PVC piping to carry water far from the building. Often leaks occur at the junction of new additions and original roof systems, a problem that needs to be studied for proper design and flashing. Finally, clogged gutters and downspouts are the most common source for water into walls and roof structure, a problem that can be eliminated by disciplined maintenance. Be aware that when today's roofers are called in for replacement or repair of roofs, they often consider the materials that they are selling, so they may recommend total replacement when a simple repair is all that is necessary. Additionally, they may not be familiar with the original roofing material, design or the entire system of roof drainage. Be careful about who you get advice from and understand that a repair is often all that is necessary.

**Ventilation:**

Unwanted moisture is a major cause of deterioration in the form of mold, corrosion, rot and the destruction of metals, wood elements, finishes, and structural components. The floods have brought water that has probably infiltrated every component of the home. Water may be trapped in the crawl space, between layers of flooring, behind plaster and sheetrock, roofing and felt paper or under the tile in the bathroom. These are all areas of concern and each will cause some degree of deterioration. However, each area will probably dry out if allowed to, leaving most original materials intact. The key to proper drying is ventilation which is the constant movement of air. In the crawl space, you may need to create a drainage trench and pump water out from under the house. It may be necessary to remove foundation vents temporarily to allow the maximum amount of air to pass under the house.

The easiest solution to airing the inside of the house is to open windows, particularly across the house from each other to create cross ventilation. It may be necessary to construct frames with heavy wire lath for security purposes. Another approach may be opening bottom window sashes and covering the opening with plywood-punctured-with-one-inch holes. Or a one-foot by one-foot opening can be cut into the plywood with screen installed for security. This configuration will allow for cross ventilation; it will help dry up moisture; it will control dampness; it will prevent the growth of mold or fungi.

Cupped, cracked rotten wood; musty smells; wet stains; flaking paint; peeling wallpaper; mold; mildew are all signs of unwanted moisture. Each of these can be corrected, cleaned or reattached, in all likelihood if allowed to first dry out. Of course, the prolonged exposure to flood waters negates that theory, but let the materials dry out and then evaluate the damage, considering that the materials may be salvageable. If your home's interior has plaster walls, leave it and let it dry out. On the other hand, if your home has drywall or sheetrock, it probably has fiberglass insulation behind it. Remove the sheetrock two feet above the water line and the saturated insulation. These materials will never dry out, and the surrounding area needs to be treated with bleach solution.

Unwanted moisture must be eliminated from the roof structure, damaged downspouts and guttering, loose or damaged windows and doors, missing mortar joints or cracked foundations. Correct the introduction of unwanted moisture in these situations. Many houses have been closed up tight, due to the threat of vandalism, ceasing all air circulation in the house and buildup of mold. The introduction of natural or mechanical air flow will help keep the structure healthy.





## Recommended Initial Contacts For Historic Homeowners:

### Organizations you should be in touch with for preservation assistance:

Vieux Carre Commission, Director  
Preservation Resource Center, Patty Gay, Director  
Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office  
Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office  
Preservation Trades Network ([www.PTN.org](http://www.PTN.org) and [www.IPTW.org](http://www.IPTW.org))

Consult your State Historic Preservation Office if you have any questions about your old house, archaeological resources, or if you need help getting started. They can send a folder of information that should help or at least can point you in the direction of the nearest assistance.

### John Leeke's Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Response Publications

See [www.historichomeworks.com](http://www.historichomeworks.com)

### Good Guides

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/care/index.htm>  
Heritage Preservation's answer to an interactive rehabilitation experience.

### National Park Service

Heritage Preservation Services  
1849 C Street NW, Room 3128, Washington, D.C. 20240  
Phone 202-208-7625  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/helpyou.htm>

### National Trust for Historic Preservation

Historic Homeowner Program

Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone 1-800-944-6847

<http://nationaltrust.org/main/homeowner.htm>

An exhaustive resource for homeowners.

## Old House Websites:

<http://www.oldhouse.com/preserve.html>

The interactive Old House Network offers many resources for the homeowner.

<http://oldhouse.web>

The Old House Web will introduce homeowners to many resources, including product literature and craftsmen.

## American Association for State and Local History

[www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org)

Phillips, Morgan W. Technical Brief #118. The Eight Most Common Mistakes in Restoring Historic Houses (. . . And How to Avoid Them.)

A “must read” for owners of historic homes.

## Preservation Briefs

Over forty topics are covered in short, easy-to-read format. These are important topics for homeowners and are easily available from the AHC at phone 334-242-3184, from the NPS, or on the Internet. <http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>

## Illustrated Guide to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/standards/index.htm>

Illustrated examples of rehabilitation approaches that are recommended and not recommended.

### The Secretary of Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.



## Highly Recommended Books For Owners Of Historic Houses:

**Kitchen, Judith L. Caring for Your Old House—A Guide for Owners and Residents**

Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington D.C., 1991.

ISBN 0-471-14371-5

[www.nthpbooks.org](http://www.nthpbooks.org)

Ms. Kitchen has written a brief, easy-to-read manual for homeowners.

**Poore, Patricia, ed. The Old-House Journal Guide to Restoration**

Dutton/The Old-House Journal; New York; 1992.

ISBN 0-525-93551-7

[www.ohj.org](http://www.ohj.org)

An excellent guide for homeowners, with a compilation of the magazine's articles about old houses.

**Whelchel, Harriet. Caring for Your Historic House.**

Heritage Preservation, Harry Abrams, Inc., New York, 1998.

ISBN 0-8109-4087-6 (hardcover)

[www.abramsbooks.com](http://www.abramsbooks.com)

A compilation of information by America's experts, this book reflects the best in state-of-the-art historic preservation philosophy today. Heritage Preservation and the National Park Service have collaborated on this publication, and the result is recommended as an excellent investment for any historic homeowner.

## General Booklists:

### Preservation Press Catalog

National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone 800-944-6847

[www.nthpbooks.org](http://www.nthpbooks.org) / [www.preservationbooks.org](http://www.preservationbooks.org)

**Catalog of Historic Preservation Publications**

National Park Service

1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/bookstore.htm>

The Heritage Preservation Services Bookstore includes publications that are for sale as well as a listing of free publications that are available to the public.

**Popular Periodicals:****Historic Preservation**

National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone 800-944-6847

[www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

A quarterly publication of the National Trust, sent to all members.

**Old House Interiors**

PO Box 56009, Boulder, CO 80328-6009

Phone 800-462-0211

[www.oldhouseinteriors.com](http://www.oldhouseinteriors.com)

This new publication is edited by Patricia Poore, The Old-House Journal contributing editor.

**The Old-House Journal**

Hanley-Wood, LLC

One Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone 202-452-0800

[www.ohj.com](http://www.ohj.com)

An excellent compilation of articles about old houses, written by homeowners as well as by experts in the field of historic homeownership.

**Period Homes, The Professional's Resource for Residential Architecture**

69A Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217

<http://www.period-homes.com/>

Though intended for architects and other professionals, this publication and related web page are excellent resources for finding suppliers of historically styled residential products.

**Renovators Supply**

[www.renovatorssupply.com](http://www.renovatorssupply.com)

This catalog, from a popular mail-order business, offers an extensive listing of hard-to-locate supplies, from plumbing fixtures to period wallpapers.

**Traditional Building, The Professional's Source For Historical Products**

69A Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217

[www.traditional-building.com](http://www.traditional-building.com)

A rich resource for suppliers of historic building trades.

## A Few Recommendations For The Technically Inclined:

### Association for Preservation Technology Bulletin

Published quarterly by the Association for Preservation Technology International, Chicago, IL, from 1969–present.  
www.apti.com

This is the organization’s journal of scholarly research into the field of preservation technology worldwide.

For membership information, see Organizations, page 10.

### General Services Administration Readings on Technical Issues

<http://w3.gsa.gov/web/p/HPTP.NSF/Reading+Lists?OpenView>

The GSA maintains historic government buildings throughout the country, and they have published readings that are of interest to owners of historic homes and historic commercial buildings. These technical briefs are written in collaboration with the National Park Service.

### Preservation Resource Group, Inc.

PO Box 1768, Rockville, MD 20849-1768

Phone 301-309-2222

Fax 301-279-7885

<http://www.prginc.com/pub-index/index.html>

PRG has everything that you ever needed or wanted in the way of hard-to-find tools, from molding profile gauges, to moisture meters, and its home page links to wonderful web sites and extensive book lists. Visit their website for in-depth information and resources.

### Weaver, Martin E. and Frank Matero. Conserving Buildings: Guide to Techniques and Materials.

John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1993.

ISBN 0-471-50945-0.

A technical publication, this book covers building materials, their deterioration, and what to do about it. Subjects range from wooden structures to paints and finishes.

## Organizations You May Find Helpful:

### Preservation Trades Network

PO Box 249

Amherst, NH 03031-0249

Phone: 866-853-9335

Fax: 866-853-9336

E-mail: [info@PTN.org](mailto:info@PTN.org)

Website: [www.PTN.org](http://www.PTN.org) and [www.IPTW.org](http://www.IPTW.org)

The Preservation Trades Network (PTN) is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership organization incorporated in the State of Connecticut as an education, networking, and outreach organization. PTN is founded on the principle that conservation of the built environment is fundamentally dependent on the quality, availability, and viability of the skilled trades. We believe that opportunities for education, employment, and compensation of people skilled in the traditional trades are directly reflected in the quality of the built environment, and the effective stewardship of cultural heritage.

### National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Phone 800-944-6847

[www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

The National Trust is the clearinghouse for historic preservation advocacy and assistance in our country. They maintain numerous informative resources, including the Historic Homeowner Program and Preservation Forum. Of course, they are a private organization that depends on private dollars to provide their numerous services, so generous membership support is appreciated.

MS and LA's statewide non-profit organization advocates for preservation of the state's resources. They, too, depend on private dollars for their existence, and their newsletter is a welcomed report on activities throughout the state.

### **American Association of State and Local History**

1717 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203-2991

Phone 615-320-3203

Fax 615-327-9013

[www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org)

This organization information useful to the private homeowner, although they are oriented primarily toward house museums. If you want to pursue a pure restoration, it would not be a bad idea to find out how the experts do it!

### **Association for Preservation Technology International**

4513 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 213, Lisle, IL 60532-1290, USA

Phone 630-968-6400

Fax 888-723-4242

[www.apti.org](http://www.apti.org)

APTI is a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to "advancing the application of technology to the conservation of the built environment."

## **General Architectural History:**

### **Blumenson, John J. G. Identifying American Architecture: Pictorial Guide for Styles and Terms, 1600-1945.**

American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, TN, 1981.

[www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org)

One of many excellent primers published by the AASLH.

### **Hale, R. W., Jr. Methods of Research for the Amateur Historian.**

American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, TN, 1969.

[www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org)

### **Howe, Barbara J., Delores A. Fleming, Emory L. Kemp and Ruth Ann Overbeck. Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History. The Nearby History Series of the American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, TN, 1987.**

[www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org)

### **Kyvig, David E., and Myron A. Marty. Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You. American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, TN, 1982.**

[www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org)

### **McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses.**

Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1984.

An excellent resource for the curious architectural historian.

**Learn How to Read a Historic Building.**

National Park Service, Heritage Preservation Services.  
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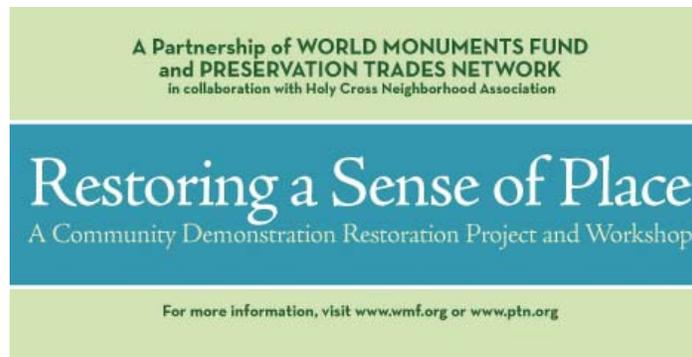
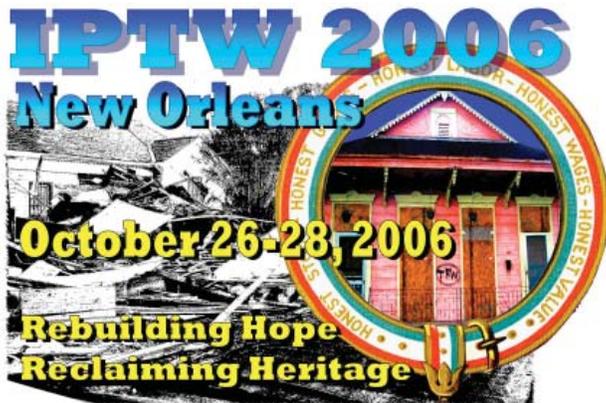
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## The Preservation Trades Network (PTN) - Who we Are:

The Preservation Trades Network (PTN) is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership organization incorporated in the State of Connecticut as an education, networking, and outreach organization. PTN is founded on the principle that conservation of the built environment is fundamentally dependent on the quality, availability, and viability of the skilled trades. We believe that opportunities for education, employment, and compensation of people skilled in the traditional trades are directly reflected in the quality of the built environment, and the effective stewardship of cultural heritage.

## What We Do:

In the beginning, PTN found its identity in a single event, the International Preservation Trades Workshop (IPTW). The first “gathering of the trades” in 1997 not only proved that it could be done, it demonstrated that sharing, learning and talking with tools in hand filled a void in the mainstream preservation movement that many doubted even existed. Since then PTN has continued to evolve to serve and represent the trades community. PTN has a track record of producing an annual conference based on networking and education, working with other organizations and non-profits to expand educational opportunities, and providing a network for individuals in the trades. Demonstrators and presenters from nine countries have been represented at IPTW events, and we now have an established basis for collaboration and exchange with programs in North America and other countries. PTN is committed to working to sustain the success of existing trades education programs, recognizing the masters of the trades, and creating opportunities for future generations of tradespeople. We believe that the knowledge and diversity of the trades is about more than “restoring” old buildings, and represents the beginning of a real change in how our society values and honors the contributions of people that work with their hands – as well as their minds and hearts.

## How We Can Help:

Since October of 2005 PTN has been working with our partners the World Monuments Fund to identify where best our resources can be effectively used to assist in the recovery of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. As part of our Alternatives to Demolition program we have worked to stabilize and repair properties in Bay St, Louis, Mississippi and in July of 2006 we undertook a community based workshop with our newest partner the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association to kick start the restoration of the Greater Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church In Holy Cross. During that workshop PTN members worked with members of the congregation and volunteers from the World Monuments Fund and the Nathan Cummings Foundation to make structural repairs and replace all of the flood damaged wooden flooring.

Our goal was to join with committed residents of the Holy Cross Neighborhood in creating a way to begin rebuilding that not only provided the needed resources of labor and materials (all of which were generously donated) but joined the hearts and spirits of the people involved in an environment of cooperation and education. We feel that goal was met and the stage was set for more educational projects in Holy Cross.

## How You Can Help:

Working with our partners, PTN has created several opportunities for those who have an interest in becoming part of our “Rebuilding Hope - Reclaiming Heritage” effort in New Orleans. For those with an interest in participating in a “hands on” way PTN is staging its annual “Gathering of the Trades” called the International Preservation Trades Workshop (IPTW for short) in the Holy Cross Neighborhood of New Orleans October 26-28, 2006. The IPTW will be open to all and will focus on repairing the beautiful late 19th and early 20th century buildings in Holy Cross. The work will be done in “workshop” settings with education as the focus, so if you own a home you need to work on, or you are a contractor or trades person who needs more knowledge about working on century homes, someone will be there ready to answer your questions. You can come to watch or you can come to help. It’s up to you.

You can also make a real difference by supporting PTN through tax deductible donations of much needed materials for restoration projects in Holy Cross or simply by making a tax deductible cash donation. We also have places and projects for people who simply want to donate their time. If you have an interest in supporting PTN’s efforts financially or through other forms of cooperative support please contact the PTN office at 1-866-853-9335. PTN is also looking to help in the recovery after the IPTW so please consider joining PTN and becoming a volunteer on future workshops in New Orleans, the Gulf Coast and wherever heritage structures need care. You can find more information at [www.PTN.org](http://www.PTN.org) and [www.IPTW.org](http://www.IPTW.org).