

An Important Message Regarding Historic Buildings

The physical appearance of a city is a direct reflection of its people, culture, and history. The City of Binghamton is committed to preserving and maintaining its historic buildings in order to foster and promote a sense of pride in our past and for our future.

To this end, the City has produced a series of flyers on Historic Preservation in the City. Inside these flyers you will find some basic information on various historic preservation topics and places you can go for more information.



AVAILABLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FLYERS

Preserving Our Past: An Introduction to Historic
Preservation in Binghamton

The Benefits of Historic Preservation:
Community, Economics, and the Environment

Historic Buildings: What You Need to Know
Before You Begin Work

Historic Buildings: Information for Owners

Going Green: Eco-Friendly Tips for Historic
Homes

City of Binghamton

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GOING GREEN



ECO-FRIENDLY TIPS FOR HISTORIC HOMES

City of Binghamton

Planning, Housing, and
Community Development

Going Green: Eco-Friendly Tips for Historic Homes

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON COMPLAINTS ABOUT HISTORIC HOMES IS THAT THEY ARE NOT VERY ENERGY EFFICIENT. WITH JUST A LITTLE BIT OF WORK, HOWEVER, THESE HOMES CAN BE NEARLY AS EFFICIENT AS MOST NEW HOMES. ONE OF THE GREATEST BENEFITS A HISTORIC HOME CAN OFFER THE ECO-CONSCIOUS HOME OWNER IS THE FACT THAT IT IS ALREADY BUILT! HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL TIPS WHICH CAN MAKE YOUR HISTORIC HOME A BIT MORE GREEN — AND SAVE YOU SOME GREEN ON YOUR UTILITY BILLS!

1-KEEP ORIGINAL WINDOWS

Studies show that original windows can perform just as well as vinyl replacements. Weather strip you windows so that they have a tight seal, caulk the interior trim, and repair cracked glazing. You'll reduce landfill waste and the demand for vinyl, a non-biodegradable material that gives off toxic byproducts when it's made.

2-USE LIGHT PAINT COLORS

Lighter paint colors on the exterior reflect more light than darker ones, keeping your cooling costs down.

3-INSULATION

Proper insulation of the attic, basement, and crawlspace is important. As much as 20% of a home's energy costs can come from heat loss in these areas.

4-REUSE OLD MATERIALS

Not only are these often cheaper than buying new materials, it reduces the amount of material going into landfills. Great items for reuse include: siding, bricks, stone, glass, doors, and slate.

5-CLOSE OFF OPENINGS

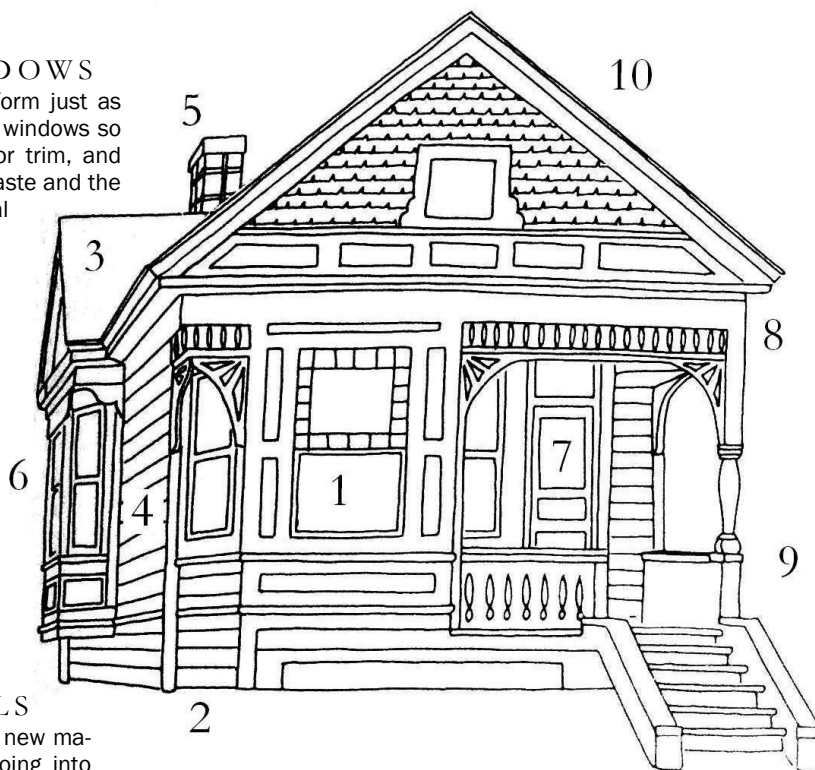
Installation of fireplace draft stoppers, dryer vent seals, and attic door covers can cut heat loss and reduce energy costs.

6-OPEN THE WINDOWS

In the summer, opening the windows instead of running fans or A/C units can help cut costs. Try opening windows on opposite sides of the house. Many older homes were designed to have good cross-ventilation — take advantage of this.

7-KEEP DOORS AIRTIGHT

Keeping doors properly weather stripped, caulked, and painted will help to eliminate heat loss. Recent studies indicate that storm doors are not necessarily cost effective.



8-RESTORE PORCHES

In historic homes, porches, awnings, and shutters, were often designed to provide shade. Maintaining or restoring these elements can help keep your house cooler. Also, draw the shades during winter nights and summer days to save energy.

9-PLANT TREES

Evergreen trees on the north and west sides of your home can cut winter winds, and leafy trees on the south and west sides can provide shade during summer days. Old photographs of your house can be used to recreate historic landscaping.

10-HAVE AN ENERGY AUDIT

Energy audits can help pinpoint exactly what areas are costing you the most in energy bills. Contact NYSERDA for a wide range of programs to help homeowners reduce their energy use. You can also visit Home Energy Saver (<http://hes.lbl.gov>) for more information.

MORE INFORMATION ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND GREENING YOUR HOME

- The National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.preservationnation.org)
- The National Park Service (www.nps.gov)
- Binghamton Department of Planning, Housing, and Community Development (www.cityofbinghamton.com)
- NYSERDA (www.nyserdera.org)
- Home Energy Saver (hes.lbl.gov)
- Energy Star (www.energystar.gov)

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