



8 Good Reasons To Save Your Old Windows

1. Wood windows 60 years or older are made of old-growth lumber, a valuable and depleted natural resource that simply should not be wasted. Replacement windows typically use wood less than ten years old, and most of it is finger-jointed.
2. Historic windows are designed to be repaired...if one part breaks or fails...fix it. If a replacement window fails, and in time it will, you need a new window.
3. If the cost of replacement windows is factored against the amount saved on heating and cooling costs, the time-frame to recoup cost is decades, and probably longer than the life of your replacement window.
4. Lead paint, common in structures built before 1978, can be controlled during maintenance activities by workers utilizing simple training skills. Replacement windows containing vinyl or PVC are toxic to produce, off-gas toxic fumes and can't be recycled.
5. Energy auditors know that a well-maintained historic window with a well-fitted storm window can be as energy-efficient as a replacement window. They look for ways to save more energy with less cost, putting window replacement way down the list.
6. Complete maintenance activities on historic windows cost much less than replacement windows, and most replacement windows come in standard sizes that don't fit historic openings, meaning more expensive custom fabrication or worse, filling in the opening around the replacement window and altering your historic façade.
7. Maintenance on historic windows uses local labor and supplies. Replacement windows are made elsewhere.
8. Historic windows are a critical element of what gives your building character. The proper course of action when you obtain a historic structure is to evaluate its windows for a specific maintenance program, not send them indiscriminately to the local dump.

Helpful preservation links

- Kansas Historic Preservation Office: www.kshs.org/portal_shpo
- National Trust for Historic Preservation: www.preservationnation.org/resources
- Kansas Preservation Alliance: www.kpalliance.org

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