

# Historic Renovation



Historic renovation and re-use are particularly delicate forms of architecture. They demand active research and a desire to understand a building's contribution yesterday as well as its potential contribution in the future.

The historic renovation of homes and buildings has become a very popular movement across North America. The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides guidance to organizations and individuals who are interested in renovating and/or preserving historical buildings.

## Preservation Easements:

For property owners looking to *permanently* protect their historic properties, one of the most effective legal tools available is the **preservation easement** a private legal interest conveyed by a property owner to a preservation organization or to a government entity.

## Some Simple Guidelines to Follow when Restoring or Renovating Your House:

1. Try to retain the original character of the house - don't "over-restore" the building.
2. Pay attention to details.
  - Try to stick to materials that were used when your house was built.
  - Keep elements like color, flooring, within the same historical period as your house.
  - Understand and respect as far as possible the original uses of rooms.
  - If fencing your property, look at genuine old fences, observe the way they are designed and constructed.
  - Garden design will best complement your work on the building if you keep it in period with the house. Use plants and garden layouts of the time.
  - Additions and alterations should be in the manner and materials of the period in which your house was built.
3. Remember that it's a house, not a museum. Live in it and enjoy it and, at the right time, pass it on to someone else.

## Additional Resources:

- [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)
- [HGTV - Restore America Sites](#)
- [This Old House](#)
- [Ian Evan's World of Old Houses](#)

