



WINDOW REHABILITATION GUIDE FOR HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Editors

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INTRODUCTION



Restoring and rehabilitating windows in historic buildings have become increasingly complex in recent years. Besides the continuing problems of material deterioration and budgetary constraints, the wave of new requirements affecting health, safety, and energy has created enormous challenges. These problems and challenges confront architects, engineers, conservators, and owners of every age and type of historic buildings.

Windows are significant to the historic character of older buildings, contributing as highly visible features of the exterior and often as distinctive elements of the interiors as well. Yet many people involved in rehabilitation work fail to properly evaluate the condition of historic windows, identify options for repairing and upgrading their performance, and fully explore sources for sensitive replacement units. Further, when the technical issues involved are misunderstood, inappropriate treatments are frequently undertaken as a result.

The need for proper and sufficient information to guide decision-making is addressed, in part, by organizations both here and abroad, including the National Park Service, Parks Canada, and English Heritage. This international effort to focus attention on the importance of windows in historic buildings and to provide practical guidance on maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation work is the subject of a number of the essays contained in this guide.

Since our first publication on this subject, the *Window Workbook for Historic Buildings* (1986), the quality of window work involving historic buildings has markedly improved as more and more information has become available. Building owners, the architectural community, contractors, and manufacturers have responded to the need for better quality and better preservation treatments. This guide is an effort to build upon the experience gained over the past ten years and to make it easier for everyone involved with historic buildings to undertake sensitive and appropriate window rehabilitation work.

The *Window Rehabilitation Guide for Historic Buildings* is a compendium of information not otherwise readily available. It incorporates many of the papers presented at the Window Conference for Historic Buildings II, held in Washington, D.C., as well as reprints of historic and current materials from the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. There are six chapters in this window guide: Guidelines and References; History and Technology; Planning and Specifications; Energy and Codes; Maintenance and Rehabilitation Techniques; and Manufacturers and Sources. Chapter I contains a bibliography of published materials on the history of windows and their preservation and rehabilitation today. And Chapter VI includes the "Window Directory for Historic Buildings," compiled by the National Park Service, which is a particularly valuable list of manufacturers, suppliers and service companies.