

Oella Architectural Review Committee Policy on Windows and Screens (August 2005)

Windows

A Heritage Preservation Service's (HPS) Preservation Brief ([The Repair of Historic Wooden Windows](http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm)) (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>)states that, "We believe that the repair and weatherization of existing wooden windows is more practical than most people realize, and that many windows are unfortunately replaced because of a lack of awareness of techniques for evaluation, repair, and weatherization."

The Committee strongly supports the HPS statement, and urges homeowners to take the care to preserve original windows to the maximum extent possible. Nevertheless, materials in existing structures will deteriorate over time, and become either physically or financially impracticable to maintain properly. In addition, technological advances in building materials have created some aesthetically and financially attractive alternatives to original materials.

(NOTE: Unfortunately, even these materials are not perfect substitutes for original materials. For instance, the muntins (i.e., the horizontal and vertical components between the window panes) in newer, double-pane window sashes are noticeably wider than those in the older, single-pane windows that they are meant to replace).

Our preference is that homeowners replace window sashes with exact reproductions. If there are severe air infiltration or other structural problems, we will consider approval of double-paned glass with simulated, true-divided lights and muntins as close as possible to the size and design of the original. These double-hung, wood sashes should be installed in the existing frames (which may themselves require some repairs).

Window Screens

Permanent full-window screens were never a feature of historic structures in Oella. The Architectural Review Committee recognizes that many people would like to have screens on their windows, to minimize dirt and insects from entering their houses. At the same time, the Committee wishes to maintain the integrity of the streetscape in historic structures. Therefore, we have adopted the following policy **for all historic structures** :

For windows within public view, full-window screens must be mounted on the inside of window sashes.

For windows not in public view, the Committee will review proposals for outside-mounted full-window screens on a case-by-case basis.