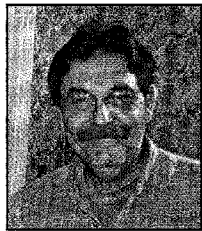


The collaborative effort takes place at the Pine Mountain Settlement School. Jim Turner (below) works to rehab a window.

Window Logic



A new collaborative aims to save historic windows across the country. We spoke with Bob Yapp, one of the five restoration experts behind the effort, to learn how it works.

By DEMETRA AOSPOROS

DEMETRA AOSPOROS: What is the Window Preservation Standards Collaborative?

BOB YAPP: It's a group of five of the top window restoration and weatherization experts in the country—David Gibney, Jim Turner, Duffy Hoffman, John Leeke, and me, all Preservation Trades Network members—who decided we had to do something about the epidemic of losing historic windows to modern replacements. We realized we needed to create information that gives architects, State Historic Preservation Offices, local preservation commissions, and homeowners ammunition for different approaches to the weatherization and restoration of historic windows, one that's backed up by data on related energy efficiency.

DA: Why now?

BY: We're losing 32 million original windows a year, based on the window industry's claims. In 99 percent of cases, people are replacing windows that can be cost-effectively restored and made as or more energy efficient than a replacement window.

DA: This effort takes place at Pine Mountain—why there?

BY: Kentucky's Pine Mountain Settlement School was one of the first hands-on preservation schools I was involved with, and its buildings have every kind of window we want to demonstrate on—double-hungs, wood casements, and steel casements. We're each going to restore a window from the school, then have them tested for energy ratings on-site and pub-

licly by an independent agency. The results will be published online and in our *Window Preservation Standards* book.

DA: How will your standards differ from the NPS Preservation Briefs on windows?

BY: The briefs are wonderful, but we plan to address every single aspect of how to restore windows. Plus, we'll have well-researched, objective energy information on each technique for easy reference. For example, if you're working on double-hungs in an old warehouse and select Technique 1, you can expect this level of energy efficiency.

DA: Will the standards include product names along with detailed techniques?

BY: We're going to avoid naming products. We'll talk about materials and methods, what to look for in certain products, and what to avoid. But we aren't going to endorse any companies, and we aren't taking money from any commercial entities.

We hope to get the objective truth out.

DA: What do you hope to accomplish through the collaborative?

BY: We hope to save a lot of windows and get the objective truth out to old-house and building owners. We in the preservation industry haven't done a good job of educating people on this subject—we don't have tens of millions of dollars to get the word out, like the window replacement companies do. There is nothing green or environmentally sound about replacing windows and dumping original, old-growth sash in a landfill. It's a tragedy.

For more information about the Window Preservation Standards Collaborative, visit ptnresource.org/WPSC.