



ARCHITECTURE AND PRESERVATION Leader's Guide

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an awareness and recognition of architectural styles commonly seen in Kentucky.
2. To provide basic information on historic preservation programs and techniques.
3. To develop an awareness and encourage discussion on the value of the built environment to the overall quality of life.
4. To help participants evaluate historic preservation possibilities, including the advantages, disadvantages and recommended procedures involved in restoration.

MATERIALS

For members:

“The Eight Most Common Mistakes In Restoring Historic Houses (...and How to Avoid Them)”

For leaders:

Architecture and Preservation, Leader's Guide

Pre-Quiz

Architectural Glossary

Standards for Rehabilitation

Read a Historic Photograph

Preservation Guide

Back Copy of The Old House Journal

Available From County Extension Office:

Study packet of additional preservation materials

Overhead transparencies of architectural styles

Historic photographs for group discussion

ACTIVITIES

PRE-QUIZ

Start the lesson with the Pre-quiz provided. This is intended to spotlight specific terms and programs that are basic to historic preservation. The final questions is designed to initiate discussion on the structures within the local community.

REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Review the architectural styles commonly found in Kentucky. Describe characteristics of each style and note how the styles evolved through a period of time. Discuss buildings in the community that are representative of each of the styles. Point out some common architectural characteristics that are seen on houses in your area. Refer to architectural style chart and the architectural glossary.

GOING HOME

This activity is designed for participants to consider the physical structure of the house they grew up in (or pick on you lived in as a child).

1. On a blank sheet of paper ask each person to quickly sketch the floor plan of this house or the front exterior from memory.
2. Ask one or two to share a story of some event or activity they remember that happened at that location.
3. Discuss the quote by Clay Lancaster: “We shape our buildings and then our buildings shape us.”
4. Discuss the values buildings have as they relate to our lives. Include emotional and sentimental values as well as practical ones such as economics, quality of life and social status.

ARCHITECTURAL SCAVENGER HUNT

Between now and the next scheduled meeting, have the participants search for the architectural details described in the Architectural Glossary within your county or area. Have them note the location/address of each detail they find and offer a prize for whomever can locate the most.

WRITING AN ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Discuss with the members the things to remember when writing an architectural description. This is an essential part of the record made during a field survey or study of historic buildings. Photographs can tell a large part of the story, but it is necessary to have a written description to supplement the photos. The description can explain things not evident in photographs, such as what the plan of the house is like, and can make clear features which a photograph may not show well. The description should present the reader with a visual idea of what a building looks like without the aid of a photograph. The list of features outlined below can serve as a guideline on what to include.

1. Number of stories
2. Construction material
3. Type of plan
4. Facade composition
 - a. Number of bays wide
 - b. Placement of doors
 - c. Any projections
5. Position and type of chimneys
6. Wings (the above five points should be included in the description of any wing.)
7. Exterior details
 - a. Type of cornice
 - b. Type of doors
 - c. Type of windows
 - d. Other interesting details
8. Interior details
 - a. Type of stairs
 - b. Mantels and fireplaces
 - c. Doorways
 - d. Molding profiles
 - e. Other interesting features

Drawings will help describe features if the correct architectural terms are unknown. A drawing of the plan is always helpful and should be done whenever possible.

With mention of the specific features listed above, drawings and photographs, a complete record can be made of any building.

When writing a description include the style only if it is clearly one style or another. Never put down a style if it is not clear. Never make up a style to fit a particular house, although any descriptive terms that help give a visual picture of the house are welcome.

READ AN HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH

Group participants into twos or threes and have each small group read a different historic photograph. Follow the format listed on the activity sheet.

PRESERVATION PROBLEM

Have each group discuss the preservation problems posed in the photograph. If time allows, you may want to share comments from each smaller group with the entire group.

PASS IT ON

If during the discussions, the group has generated any ideas, suggestions or questions related to historic preservation and decides that they want more information, contact the Kentucky Heritage Council and/or local preservation societies.

FOLLOW-UP SUGGESTIONS:

Invite as a speaker someone who has restored an historic building in your community.

Sponsor a photo/poster or essay contest for elementary or high school students on historic architecture of your county.

Coordinate a walking or driving tour of the historic buildings in your community.

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