

# TOP TEN MISTAKES to AVOID

## 1. **DON'T** replace if you can repair

It's usually less expensive to repair something. Also, original materials and design details are what make a building historic.

## 2. **DON'T** pressure clean or sandblast

High-pressure water cleaning and sandblasting can damage the surface of a building and its decorative details.



## 3. **DON'T** use other siding over wood siding

Substitute siding hides moisture and other problems and will eventually damage the wood underneath it.

## 4. **DON'T** use Portland cement in brickwork

Portland cement is too hard to use to bind bricks; it does not allow the bricks to expand or contract when the temperature changes.

## 5. **DON'T** ignore water problems

Water can cause a lot of damage to buildings. Regular painting and caulking will keep water out, as will attention to landscaping.



## 6. **DON'T** replace original windows or doors

Original windows and doors help identify the style and age of a building. They also provide much of a building's character.

## 7. **DON'T** build an addition that overwhelms the original building

An addition should be similar yet visually separate and secondary to the original building.



## 8. **DON'T** fill in the spaces between supporting foundation piers

Filling in spaces to make solid foundation walls changes the historic look of a building, especially if materials don't match.

## 9. **DON'T** replace original materials with inappropriate substitutes

Try to match damaged parts as closely as possible so that the historic appearance of the building is not spoiled.

## 10. **DON'T** ignore regular maintenance

The best way to preserve any building is to take care of it. Regular maintenance will keep your historic home from deteriorating.

# Preservation *and* You

## Where to find help

There is a lot of information available to help homeowners and others make good historic preservation decisions. The following is just a brief list to get you started.

### MDAH Historic Preservation Division

The Historic Preservation Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) provides technical assistance, grants, and serves as the state's historic preservation office.

P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205  
601-576-6940  
Email: [hpres@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:hpres@mdah.state.ms.us)  
Web site: <http://www.mdah.state.ms.us/hpres/index.php>

### National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) develops the standards and guidelines for historic rehabilitation projects and offers current "how to" information on the Web. The NPS Web site will:

- Help you evaluate a historic building before you begin repairs
- Provide technical publications with the best practices for caring for historic buildings
- Explain the importance of preservation districts
- Show you how to evaluate and register historic places in the National Register of Historic Places

Web site: <http://www.nps.gov/history/>

#### *Preservation Briefs*

Below is a list of some of the NPS Preservation Briefs that provide useful information for homeowners:

- #1 *The Cleaning and Waterproof Coating of Masonry Buildings*
- #2 *Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Brick Buildings*
- #3 *Conserving Energy in Historic Buildings*
- #6 *Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings*
- #7 *The Preservation of Historic Glazed Architectural Terra-Cotta*
- #8 *Aluminum and Vinyl Siding on Historic Buildings*
- #9 *The Repair of Historic Wooden Windows*
- #10 *Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork*
- #16 *The Use of Substitute Materials on Historic Building Exteriors*
- #39 *Controlling Unwanted Moisture in Historic Buildings*

Preservation Briefs are available online, free of charge. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>

Most historic homes in Mississippi are not pre-Civil War mansions. Today, any structure more than fifty years old may be considered historic. Careful maintenance and repairs can preserve and even improve a building's historic value.

