



Windsor Historical Society News



A bi-monthly publication of The Windsor Historical Society, 96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT 06096

Volume 18, No. 2

March 2000

Please Pardon Our Appearance ...

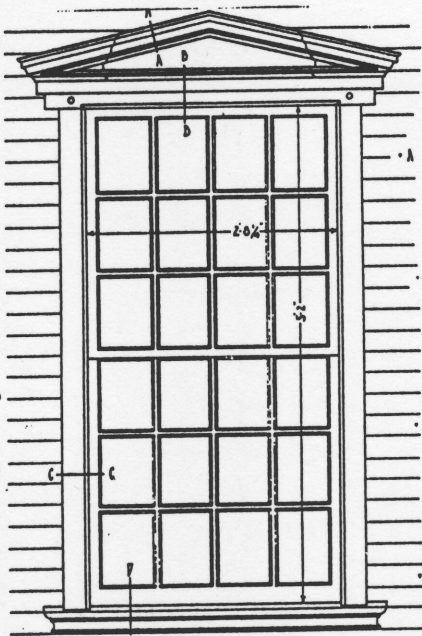
HISTORY PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

"Has there been a fire?"

That seems to be one of the most often heard questions around the Windsor Historical Society these days. It's easy to see why people might be curious. After all, as one drives by our little red (former) Fyler House and sees all the windows boarded up with plywood, one might become concerned that something devastating has happened. However, we're quite pleased to announce that the house has NOT been destroyed. In fact, the situation is quite the opposite. Our historic home is being brought back to life!

Over the past several months, the Society has focused its attention on initiating the much needed structural preservation work that was required on the (former) Fyler House. The process began early last summer when the Buildings Committee, headed by Bruce MacClintic, Peter Deresienski and President Jane Pelton, conducted an extensive search for a qualified contractor to handle the delicate preservation and restoration work on the house's windows and foundation. After reviewing, interviewing, and checking references of some of the state's best restoration contractors, the Committee confidently recommended Steven Bielitz of The Glastonbury Restoration Company. Like the other contractors, Mr. Bielitz had outstanding credentials, a

sound approach to the work that needed to be done, and excellent references from previous clients. However, what made Mr. Bielitz the successful candidate over the other contractors was his *passion*. He not only knows old houses, he *loves* them.



From Early Domestic Architecture Of Connecticut by J. Frederick Kelly

Confident that our historic house was in good hands, the Board Of Directors put Steve Bielitz to work.

In October, Steve began restoring the sills and the house's foundation. Damaged clapboards were removed from the house so that rotted areas

could be accessed and repaired. After new sheathing was installed, loose stones were re-set in the foundation and re-mortared as were the areas between the sills and foundation. When the process was complete, antique clapboard was recycled and used to replace damaged pieces.

In early February, Steve and his crew came back to remove all antique sash from the house's window openings. All window openings are now covered temporarily with plywood - thus peaking the curiosity of local residents! Each sash has been brought to a workshop where painstaking efforts will be taken to repair and restore every sash, including each and every pane of antique glass. The window restoration efforts are extremely detailed and will take several months to complete as it will involve removing each pane of glass, dislodging old putty, and repairing deteriorating wooden sash joints. Then, all the historic glass will need to be reinstalled in the primed beds, pointed, and glazed with a compound before being placed back in the window openings. When all is said and done, our historic windows will be set in a house which now has a sound foundation and will be ready to provide us with a spectacular view of Windsor's history over the next hundred years.