Hibernation – Not Just for Bears

Putting your house museum “to bed” for the season
Presenters

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Agenda

• Historic New England
• Closing for the Season
  – Building and Landscape
  – Interior Collections Prep
• Questions
Historic New England

Mission Statement
We serve the public by preserving and presenting New England heritage

Our Vision
Historic New England will be a more public institution by becoming the national model for care of regional heritage buildings, landscapes, and collections and for the sharing of these resources to benefit diverse audiences.
Historic New England

We serve the public by preserving and presenting New England heritage
Historic New England

*We serve the public by preserving and presenting New England heritage*
Historic Properties
Program Areas: *Historic Properties*

We promise

You’ll experience, in a real and personal way, the lives and stories of the individuals who made New England what it is today.
Building and Landscape

- Inspection
- Clean gutters
- Secure openings
- Secure outdoor art and objects
- Turn off and drain any water lines
- Maintain active environmental systems
- Shut down systems or components not in operation over the winter
- Prepare for snow removal

* Taken from the White Paper on “Winterizing your Historic House Museum”
Inspect the Property
Inspection

Chimney
• Is the mortar intact?
• Are the bricks intact?
• Chimney caps?
• Flashing and joints?
Inspection

Roofs
- Are the shingles lying flat?
- Are there gaps?
- Is there bio growth?
- Flashing, ridge caps, and connections?
Inspection

Gutters and Downspouts
• Are the gutters and downspouts intact?
• Is there damage around the system?
Inspection

- Are they functioning?
- Is water pooling around the foundation?
- Where does the water go?
Inspection

- Is everything connected?
- What is the ground doing?
Inspection

Cladding

• Does the siding lie flat?
• Are there gaps or other damage visible?
Inspection

Windows
- Glazing condition
- Sill condition
- Any broken glass?
Inspection

Vegetation
• Proximity of plants?
• Overhanging branches?
Clean Gutters and Maintain Water Dispersion
Tree Care
Secure Doorways, Windows and Skylights
Secure Outdoor Art and Objects
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Turn off and Drain any Water Lines

- Seasonal water service from town/city/well
- Lawn/garden irrigation systems
- Exterior hose bibs
- Restrooms/Bathrooms
- Interior sinks
Turn off and Drain any Water Lines

- Drain by gravity method/remove drain plugs/traps/faucets & valves
- Blow out system with compressed air
- Install anti-freeze (glycol) to water lines with inaccessible piping
Environmental Conditions

- To keep the system on or not?
  - Every site is different
  - Monitor your conditions
  - Determine an acceptable RH range for your collections
    - 30% – 60% RH
  - Try it for a season
Maintain Active Environmental Systems
Shut Down Systems or Components not in Operation Over the Winter
Prepare for Snow Removal

- Staking for snow plow
- Snow fences, burlap boxwoods
- Snow removal supplies
  - Sand, shovels, snow rakes (extendable)
- Update emergency kits
  - Update emergency contact list
- Open cabinets underneath sinks
- Temporary weather stripping where it snows “inside”
- Hogs and pigs in the fireplaces
- Generators relocated to accessible spot
- Heat tape turn on (remember to plug in)
Prepare for Snow Removal

• Why remove snow?
  – Maintain emergency access
  – Fuel delivery
  – Tenant access
Prepare for Snow Removal
Prepare for Snow Removal
The Perils of Ice and Snow

• Sand vs Snow Melt vs Salt
The Perils of Ice and Snow
Prepare for Snow Removal
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Collections and Interior Elements

• Thorough cleaning and assessment

• Things to think about:
  • Protect against pest infiltration
  • Prepare for moisture or water
  • Prevent light exposure

• Be prepared!
Cleaning and Assessment
Twice a Year:

• Dust ceiling woodwork first with long-handled duster
• Vacuum historic textiles through a screen - table runners, curtains, pillows, upholstered chairs and settees, etc.
• Vacuum under beds and case furniture
• Vacuum behind drapes and radiators
• Wash windows and plexiglass
• Clean ceramic and glass objects
Cleaning Supplies Used by Historic New England

- Miele Vacuum with rheostat, HEPA filter, horsehair floor brush, and attachments
- Statically charged dusting cloth: DustBunny or Cape Cod Cloth
- Soft, natural-bristle brush with taped ferrule
- Long-handled duster
- Nylon mesh screen with twill tape edges
- Gloves: white cotton and nitrile
- Cotton rags and diapers
- Clean sheets
- Notepad and pencil
Deep Cleaning Products Used by Historic New England

- For painted wood surfaces, floors, and walls:
  SimpleGreen – 1 TBL per gallon of water

- For glass windows and objects:
  8 parts water, 1 part vinegar, 1 part ethanol

- For ceramic objects:
  Triton XL 80N – 1/2 TBL per gallon of water
  MUST BE RINSED

- For plexi UV window covers or bonnets:
  Brilliance Brand

- For greasy or sooty dirt:
  Odorless Mineral Spirits (Naptha)
Cleaning and Assessment – Onsite storage areas
Cleaning and Assessment – Objects
# Protect Against Pests - Invertebrates

Visit [www.museumpests.net](http://www.museumpests.net) for more information.

## The Dirty Dozen

### 1. Webbing Clothes Moth
- *Thermobia domestica*
- Spotted head, inconspicuous body
- Tuft of reddish brown hair on uniform black back short hairs

### 2. Case-making Clothes Moth
- *Tinea pellionella*
- Leaves carry a cocoon-like case with them
- Cocoon is not well defined

### 3. Varied Carpet Beetle
- *Anthrenus verbasci*
- Elongated scales of varied color on a long body
- Beige to black

### 4. Black Carpet Beetle
- *Attagenus piceus*
- Long body with tuft of hairs
- Some shaped antennae disk
- Serrated black tips

### 5. Hide Beetle & Larder Beetle
- *Anobium punctatum, Tenebrio molitor*
- Two species of beetles can look similar
- Small shiny brown beetles

### 6. Warehouse / Cabinet Beetle
- *Trogoderma glabrum*
- Small, flat, shiny beetle
- Closed pink or purple body

### 7. Cigarette & Drugstore Beetles
- *Lasioderma serricorne, Tetanyus castaneum*
- Last four segments of antennae elongated
- Deep pitted rows on wings
- Small black beetles

### 8. Silverfish and Firebrats
- *Lepisma saccharina, Thermobia domestica*
- Long antennae
- Three tail filaments
- Silvery (Silverfish) or marked in color (Firebrat)

### 9. Psocids or Booklouse
- *Psocoptera*
- Bark beetles
- Last segment of forelegs
- Lays eggs in the soil

### 10. Powderpost Beetle
- *Anoplophora gemmata*
- Small ridge on the elytra
- Two black lines on back

### 11. Cockroaches
- *Periplaneta americana*
- Two black lines on back
- Light shading on abdomen
- 1.2 inches in length

### 12. House Mouse
- *Mus musculus*
- Tail as long or longer than body
- Dark brown to grey body color, light grey underparts
- 5.5 inches in length

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**Historic New England**

Defining the past. Shaping the future.
Protect Against Pests - Identify
Protect Against Pests - Identify
Protect Against Pests – Treatment Options

Controlled Atmospheric Treatment – “The Bubble”

Freezing
Protect Against Pests - Vertebrates
Protect Against Pests - Vertebrates
Prepare for Water - Chimneys
Prepare for Water – SNOW!
Prevent Light Exposure
Prepare for the worst and hope for an uneventful winter.