

SUNDAY NEWS

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Pointers from preservationists

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Here's advice for avoiding mistakes in restoring and renovating historic buildings.

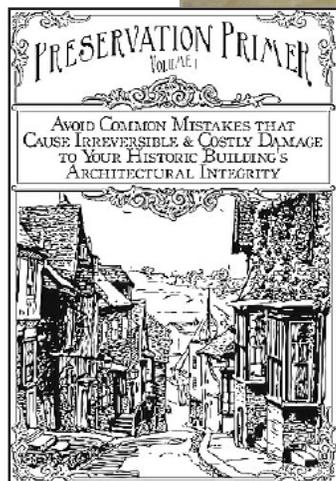
Did you know:

- Repointing a historic building's bricks with modern mortar can cause deterioration?
- Using cheap paint can permanently damage the surface to which it is applied?
- Installing aluminum and vinyl siding over wood siding means trading a product that can last 200-plus years for ones that last 50 to 60 years?

These are just three of 10 mistakes people make when upgrading historic properties, according to Danielle Groshong-Keperling and her father, Charles Groshong.

The duo penned the 52-page "Preservation Primer, Volume 1: Avoid Common Mistakes That Cause Irreversible & Costly Damage to Your Historical Building's Architectural Integrity" to help homeowners and contractors avoid these pitfalls.

Groshong-Keperling, 34, is CEO of Historic Restorations, a Lancaster company founded by her dad. Its projects range from Old Main at Franklin & Marshall College to the Petersen House in Washington, D.C., the 19th-century residence where President Abraham Lincoln died.



Danielle Groshong-Keperling and dad Chuck Groshong are shown in their workshop at Historic Restorations, 341 E. Liberty St.

Their aim is "to serve as caretakers of our built history, cherishing and protecting that architecture so it can be handed down to the next generation," the

book's back cover states, calling historic buildings "the foundations of our culture ... that shaped us, that we shaped."

This primer, intended as the first book in a series, is geared to readers in Lancaster County — with its abundance of historic buildings — and the larger region, Groshong-Keperling said. The book was a collaborative effort that included her mother, Lois Groshong, and husband, Jonathan Keperling.

The terminology of historic rehabilitation "is almost like a different language," so it was important to translate that into everyday terms people could relate to, Groshong-Keperling said. The section

on mortar lays out how bricks in historic structures were made to absorb and release moisture, but modern mortar will trap that in the walls, causing disintegration. The same type of damage could result from using modern nonporous paint.

The illustrated paperback, priced at \$24.95, can be purchased at the Historic Restorations office, 341 E. Liberty St., as well as online. Groshong-Keperling said it soon will be available in e-book form as well.

"Preservation Primer, Volume 1" will be introduced at "An Evening With the Authors" 6-8 p.m. June 19 at Manheim Township Public Library, 595 Granite Run Drive. Register by Wednesday at 291-4688 or preservationprimer.com/CPPS and receive a complimentary copy of the book from the hosting Central Pennsylvania Preservation Society.