

Building Restoration

Proper historic restoration always defines the present and future value of a building. It ensures that the building will maintain the structural integrity, longevity, and beauty intended by early craftsmen.

Our New England historic buildings express distinctive lines and character. Since these buildings were constructed, many have had repairs over time using conventional methods. These repairs have not only diminished the aesthetic value, but have failed structurally. Our traditional timber frame repair and joinery methods ensure longevity and aesthetic continuity.

Many people believe, or have been told, that their historic buildings cannot be repaired. In most cases, this information is inaccurate. This advice is often given by modern carpenters that do not have ability or knowledge to make proper repairs.

Coombs Historic Restoration specializes in the following restoration techniques:

- Timber Frame Repair
- Sill Replacement
- Traditional Joinery Methods
- Jacking

Barn Restoration



Fig. 1: Before restoration

The owners of this barn were told that the building needed to be torn down (*Fig. 1*).



Fig. 2: After restoration with new hemlock frame

This barn was jacked and leveled, and a new timber frame undercarriage was cut and installed (*Fig. 2*). It is now sitting squarely on the original foundation. Later, the floor joists were installed, and two layers of hemlock flooring were laid.

Timber Frame Construction

We also build new timber frame structures. These include barns, additions to historic barns, shops, and carriage sheds. These can be built on original foundation sites. Some farmsteads have lost one of their buildings and an authentic replacement is needed.



Fig. 3: New timber frame



Fig. 4: Inside view

Other Restorations



Fig. 5: English barn restoration

This is an English barn after jacking and leveling with a new white oak deck installed (*Fig. 5*).



Fig. 6: This is the same barn showing the post-bottom repairs

Here, the barn sitting on the original stone foundation. The entry way is being prepared for granite threshold (*Fig. 6*).

House and Barn Assessments

Our company offers assessments for historic buildings. We will visit your restoration project and give an evaluation of the problems that exist and provide the necessary solutions for restoration.

Other Services

We also will dismantle and relocate historic houses and barns if needed. We dismantle buildings for preservation in storage for the purpose of re-erecting at a future time.

About Stephen H. Coombs

Stephen Coombs, founder of Coombs Historic Restoration, has been building and restoring buildings for over 25 years. He has extensive knowledge of New England agriculture and farmstead history. In 2000, he was featured on the national cable show "Restore America." He has restored, relocated and rebuilt many historic homes and farmsteads in New England.



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