

## Windows! Windows! Windows!



Often referred to as the “eyes” of a building windows can be one of the most important character-defining features by providing scale, profile and composition to a building’s façade. An important part of preserving historic buildings is the retention of original components. Like most structural elements of older, wood-framed buildings, historic wood windows were milled from old-growth lumber that can last centuries, even when not properly maintained. Mass-produced wood replacement windows

are typically constructed of new-growth lumber, often glued-together finger joints and are highly susceptible to rot. The preservation of an old window maintains an irreplaceable, sustainable resource. In addition to craftsmanship and the durability of the wood, historic wood windows are also sustainable in that they are easily repairable. Historic wood windows with a single pane of glass can be repaired with tools found at a local hardware store and can last up to 10 times longer than a replacement model.

Homeowners should be aware that the payback period for restoring wood windows and installing quality storm windows is significantly shorter than installing replacement windows. In sum, the term “replacement window” means just what it says—it will have to be replaced again and again.

This article by Paul Trudeau is excerpted from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissioners July 2009 Newsletter, “Winning the War for Windows”.

### Information:

National Park Service  
Brief #9 The Repair of  
Historic Wooden  
Windows.

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Historic Landmark  
Commission Meetings:  
First Tuesday every month  
8:30 am  
City Council Chambers  
424 S. Castell Avenue  
New Braunfels, TX 78130

## Leonhardt Appointed Commissioner

City Council confirmed the appointment of Curtis Leonhardt to the Historic Landmark Commission in October 2009. He will represent the Sophienburg Hill Historic District. As a local

businessman and advocate for historic preservation Leonhardt feels he will bring a balanced, pragmatic view to the commission. He said he is honored by the opportunity to serve.”





**Cherise Bell**  
Historic Preservation Officer  
830.221.4057  
cbell@nbtexas.org

The Purpose of the Historic Landmark Commission is to protect and perpetuate historic landmarks and districts which represent distinctive elements of New Braunfels' historic, architectural and cultural heritage and to foster civic pride in the accomplishments of the past.

## October is Archeology Month

Check out the Texas Archeology Society website for events in surrounding cities.  
<http://www.txarch.org/Activities/fairs/index.html>

## Wurstfest

October 30 to November 8 on the Wurstfest grounds of Landa Park

## November is Native American Heritage Month

Check out activities at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/news/whatsnewstories/wnamnth.shtml>



Building owner, Robert Damarodes receives his historic plaque from co-chairman Carola Davis. Also in attendance from left to right, Shannon Mattingly, Planning Director, Cherise Bell, Historic Preservation Officer and Commissioners, Martha Rehler and Don Forbes.

# Mergele Building Designated

The Mergele building stands on Original Town Lot 45. The German immigration company gave the lot to immigrant Johann Startz. The lot changed hands many times then was divided and sold to Charlotte von Stein in 1909. Stein immediately sold the lot to Harry Mergele for \$2,200.

The 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows a one-story building on the lot. In 1924 City Permit # 254 was issued to Harry Mergele for a store building of three floors to cost \$10,000. The cornerstone shows AC Moeller as the contractor. Ultimately only a two-story building was built. Harry

Mergele was the son of Emil and Margathea and the great grandson of New Braunfels founders, Peter and Barbara Mergele. Peter and his wife came from Alsace, France.

