

Somerville Old House Organization

SOHO is an active community of old home enthusiasts who exchange practical information, experiences, and ideas on restoration/renovation.

SOHO Mission

Encourage and foster the repair, maintenance, and preservation of Somerville's older homes through education, advocacy, and support, emphasizing respect and sensitivity towards historic and/or character defining features. We value our architectural heritage and believe that a community dedicated to this endeavor will increase both respect for and pride in our city while preserving and strengthening its identity.

SOHO Helps You Care For Your Old House

SOHO Activities

- Maintain a referral list of preservation-minded contractors and workers
- Educate others by sharing experiences about our own houses
- Host workshops offering practical advice
- Create web site and member resource list to disseminate info on preservation resources, methods, first-hand experience, etc.
- Support the City's preservation efforts and lobby to increase them
- Work with real estate agents to encourage preservation

SOHO Members

SOHO welcomes anyone interested in pursuing such activities and furthering its mission. SOHO encourages new and existing members to continue to assist in best serving Somerville's old house preservation needs.

To find out more about who we are and how you can become involved contact Tony Membrino at (617) 625-5477 or email SOHOMember@aol.com.

Meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month (except Dec. & Aug.) at the Somerville Museum on Westwood Rd. and Central St. from 7PM to 9PM.

Upcoming meetings include chimney repair (June 21), historic color schemes, homeowner presentations, bathroom design (July 21) and contractor guidelines.

Mark your 2001 calendar: June 21, July 19, September 20, October 18, November 15

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should become a member?

Any old house enthusiast (homeownership not required) who admires and appreciates the architecture of Somerville's old homes. Anyone who would like to learn more about properly maintaining the character of their old home or encourage others to do the same.

Why should I become a member?

In general, this is a great way to network with other old-house enthusiasts and show appreciation for Somerville's old house architecture. However, there are unique benefits and roles:

Benefits and Roles For Those Who Have Restored Property:

You play an integral role in helping SOHO create a recommended list of reputable sources for old house repairs and projects. Your input helps other homeowners streamline the process of finding the right person for their job. Of course, you'll also be able to reference the list for your own projects.*

You can provide the insights and share before and after photos from your experience to help those who want to do restoration work. You can always benefit from meeting and sharing information with other old home enthusiasts, after all maintaining an old house is never done. You'll also have the satisfaction of knowing you are encouraging others.

Benefits and Roles For Those Who Have Yet To Restore Their Property:

SOHO is where you'll find a wealth of information and experience to help you make more informed improvement decisions about restoring/renovating your old home. You'll learn things you never knew, and we bet you'll find encouragement to support your project. Our recommended worker list will help you streamline the process of finding appropriate workers. Please remember to take before and after photos!

What are the membership benefits?

- Members are encouraged to showcase their work via private tours
- Access to a preservation-minded workers, product, and resource list
- Learn about new products and experiences
- Network with like-minded people
- View before and after pictures
- Special discounts, like reduced rates to workshops

Is there a membership fee?

We are currently asking for a \$20 annual membership fee to help cover the cost of operations, including mailings, speaker fees, facility rentals and such. However, you can attend one meeting for free to experience SOHO first hand.

* SOHO's recommended list is designed to make the process of selecting workers easier. SOHO does not guarantee the work of any one on our list, and we assume no liability related to your use of those workers. You must still perform due diligence before selecting a person for your job. By sharing your experiences you help to assure the high quality of our list.