Window Restoration Resources

Books
Save American Windows
By John Leeke
This book discusses methods and materials of window restoration. This is a how-to book providing instructions the average homeowner can follow to restore their original windows.
The Window Sash Bible
By Steve Jordan
Similar to Leeke’s book, but more thorough.
How Buildings Learn
By Stewart Brand
An insightful and entertaining book that suggests a building acquires its own wisdom, suggesting how it wants to be altered. A good source of inspiration for anyone wanting to plan out a thoughtful addition or alteration that is respectful of the original design of the house.

Online Forums
My Old House Forum (myoldhouseonline.com/forum)
Otherwise known as Old House Online. This forum is about Old House Restoration and Repair Advice. This site is the authoritative source for old house restoration and repair. Features extensive How-To’s, Product Directories and User Forums.
The Historic District Forum (thehistoricdistrict.org)
A forum with a group of long time restoration enthusiasts and old home owners to help with any old home advise you need.
Preservation Directory (http://www.preservationdirectory.com/HistoricalPreservation/Home.aspx)
The name is just what it says. You can find a link for anything you need to know at this site.
House Repair Talk (http://www.houserepairtalk.com/)
Here is a new site – a community discussion forum for home improvement and repairs. Although not geared to historic homes, it is a resource for general house repair questions.
Historic Home Works (historichomeworks.com)
A great resource. Helping owners, tradespeople, contractors and professionals understand and maintain their historic and older buildings.

Supplies Sources
Kilian Hardware (kilianhardware.com)
A source for most of the specialty materials and hardware needed for restoring original windows.
House of Antique Hardware (houseofantiquehardware.com)
Another source for vintage hardware. Generally speaking, Kilian Hardware has higher quality; House of Antique Hardware has cheaper prices.
Questions to Ask to “Seal the Envelope”/”Dry-In” Condition

- Is the roof watertight?
- Do the gutters retain their proper pitch and are they clean?
- Are downspout joints intact?
- Are drains unobstructed?
- Are windows and doors and their frames in good condition?
- Are masonry walls in good condition to seal out moisture?
- Is wood siding in good condition?
- Is site properly graded for water run-off?
- Is vegetation cleared from around the building foundation to avoid trapping moisture?