

Memorandum

TO: Eric Swanson

FROM: Charles W. Nelson
State Historical Architect (retired)

DATE: 11 November 2005

SUBJECT: EnergySavr Window Inserts

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my comments on the advantages of the EnergySavr Window Insert. During my 30+-year career as Historical Architect for the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, I have been acutely aware of the challenges that our state's climate poses on energy conservation and creature comfort. These challenges are even more apparent in historic buildings, where the need to respond often results in compromising or jeopardizing historical design qualities. The ideal sought-after solution must combine energy savings, noise and moisture reduction, and reduced air and particulate infiltration with minimal or no impact on the architecture itself.

EnergySavr Window Inserts are applicable to a range of architectural styles from Victorian through Modern. The insert easily fits with the existing window casing with no need to remove stops, add mechanical fasteners, or remove most types of window dressing. The fit is tight and flexible, deriving its seal by means of a foam gasket that molds to any imperfection in the window profile. The clear poly material is remarkably distortion-free, allowing excellent visibility of the outdoors. And, the framework is virtually unobtrusive with no intermediate gridwork to detract from the historic window.

With EnergySavr Window Inserts, there is no longer a need to replace existing windows in good condition. Of course, the EnergySavr Insert is no substitute for a program of maintenance, including weather-stripping, caulking, and surface care. However, this technology substantially enhances the qualities of the historic window, resulting in not only energy savings but also eliminating the cost of window replacement. Further, the insert is easily installed in a matter of minutes with no tools necessary.

I encourage you to continue to pursue development of the EnergySavr Window Insert and its viability in the preservation of our historic buildings.