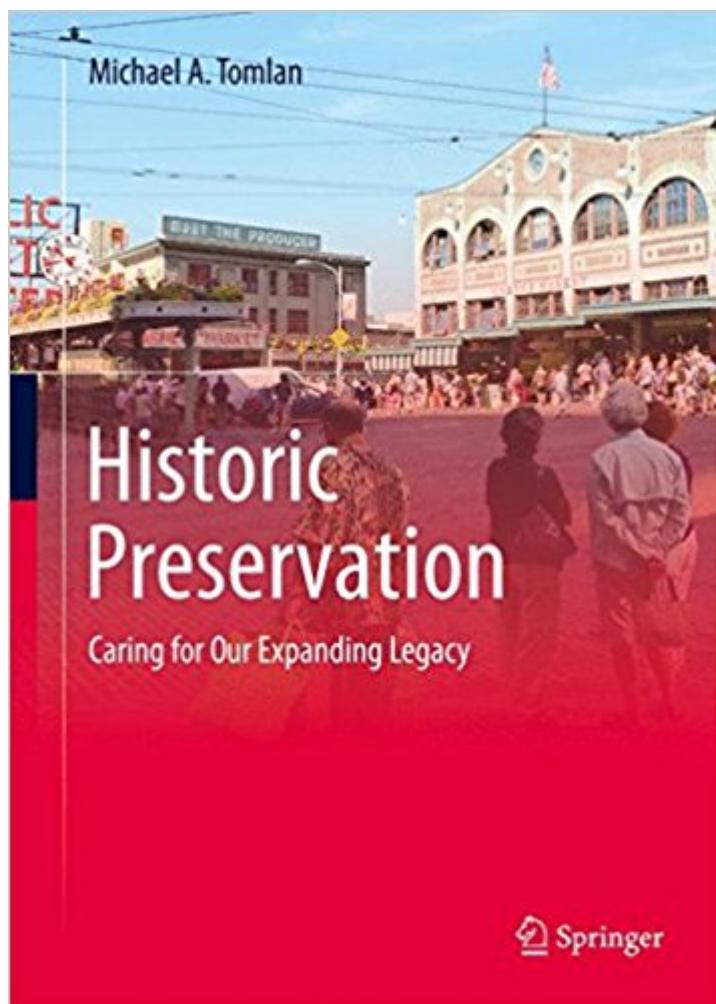


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Historic Preservation: Caring For Our Expanding Legacy



Synopsis

This well-illustrated book offers an up-to-date synthesis of the field of historic preservation, cast as a social campaign concerned with the condition, treatment and use of the legacy of existing properties in the United States. Drawing on a wide range of research, experience and scholarship over the last fifty years, it allows us to re-think past and current ideas in preservation, challenging readers to explore how their own interests lie within the cognitive framework of the activities taking place with people who care. Who is involved is explored first, in such a way as to explore why, before examining what is deemed important. After that the questions of when and how to proceed are given attention. The major topics are introduced in an historical review through the mid-1980s, after which the broad intellectual basis and fundamental legal framework is provided. The economic shifts associated with major demographic changes are explored, in tandem with responses of the preservation community. A chapter is dedicated to the financial challenges and sources of revenue available in typical preservation projects, and another chapter focuses on the manner in which seeing, recording, and interpreting information provides the context for an appropriate vision for the future. In this regard, it is made clear that not all "green" design alternatives are preservation-sensitive. The advocacy battles during the last few decades provide a number of short stories of the ethical battles regarding below-ground and above ground historic resources, and the eighth chapter attempts to explain why religion has been long held at arm's length in publicly-supported preservation efforts, when in fact, it holds more potential to regenerate existing sites than any governmental program.

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Customer Reviews

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Michael A. Tomlan is the Director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation Planning in the College of Architecture, Art and Planning at Cornell University. With nearly four decades of teaching and field experience, Professor Tomlan serves students pursuing degrees not only in historic preservation but also in archaeology, architecture, city & regional planning, history, public administration, real estate, and urban studies. A published author with a wide range of interests, he also edited *Preservation of What? For Whom? A Critical Look at Historical Significance* (1998). He currently serves as a Project Director for the National Council for Preservation Education, having established a cooperative agreement for that organization with the National Park

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This book is now the definitive work for people who think deeply about preservation, not just the saving of "pretty buildings" but also the background, pitfalls, legislation, gentrification, and the funding of work in the field. It is both national and international in scope, and its bibliography is an exhaustive resource in itself. Buy this book, you will not be disappointed.

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