Side by Side®

Lighting the Night

BY GREGORY LEFEVER

TODAY'S PREFERENCE FOR LIGHT AND SAFETY CREATED DOZENS OF STYLES OF "HISTORIC" OUTDOOR LIGHTING FIXTURES WHERE NONE ACTUALLY EXISTED. COLONIAL-STYLE HOMES AND MUSEUMS ALIKE RELY ON FIXTURES INVENTED IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

After twilight's last gleaming, early America was a mighty dark place. People ventured into the night with only the dim beams of handheld lanterns—many with translucent panes of shaved bone—to help light their way. Villages and towns were pitch-black and the few burgeoning cities offered only the flickering glow of an occasional street light to relieve the unrelenting darkness.

Well into the 1800s, most American households burned only a couple of candles a night, and fewer had oil lamps to provide sparse lighting in central parts of the home. Lighting outside the home remained scant, coming from various styles of lanterns, frequently suspended on a hook near a doorway or in the barn, and sometimes from crude torches.

But wait. What about all those genuine early houses and the faithful reproduction dwellings with their brass and copper fixtures brightening doorways and radiant globes standing proudly on posts in front yards? What about our notable living-history museums with streets aglow and walkways illuminated by stately fixtures straight out of the 18th and early 19th Centuries? Surely colonial America could not have been all that dark.

Yes it was. Early exterior lighting is like the toilet. No toilets existed in early America, but in a sweeping concession to convenience and new plumbing technology, every period or reproduction house now has indoor plumbing. Likewise, our modern bias for nighttime illumination combined with safety factors

COURTESY OF THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

has resulted in hard-wired electrical light fixtures adorning most exterior doorways, outbuildings, and yards of homes dating back even to the 1600s.

Few people today give it a second thought, but most early exterior lighting is the creation of several lighting manufacturers, along with the research talents of some leading curators, who have altered and adapted other period lighting styles to fit the outdoor needs of modern homeowners—in other words, to create old styles of lighting where none existed.

DARKNESS OVER THE LAND

For nearly two centuries, the rudimentary, hand-held lantern lit the night. Rural settlers made nighttime forays to their barns to care for livestock but otherwise were housebound by choice, thanks to the ubiquitous chamber pot. Urban dwellers venturing out for occasional after-dark social events carried smoking lanterns before them.

"The portable lantern was probably used in early America on those occasions when exterior lighting was needed, exclusive of the grand plantation houses where torches might be set out or held by servants when guests were expected or departing," said historic lighting expert Roger W. Moss, who noted that in 1628 the Reverend Francis Higginson of Salem, Massachusetts, suggested that settlers on their way to the New World be sure to bring lanterns with them.

"It's unlikely many permanent outdoor fixtures were used throughout the entirety of the 18th and 19th Centuries," said Willie Graham, longtime curator of architecture at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. "Some people walked around with their own personal lanterns. A collapsible brass lantern with horn panes was discovered in the archaeological excavations at the Peyton Randolph site, for instance, and it seems likely that an occasional nail or hook sufficed for hanging a portable lantern when its routine use required."

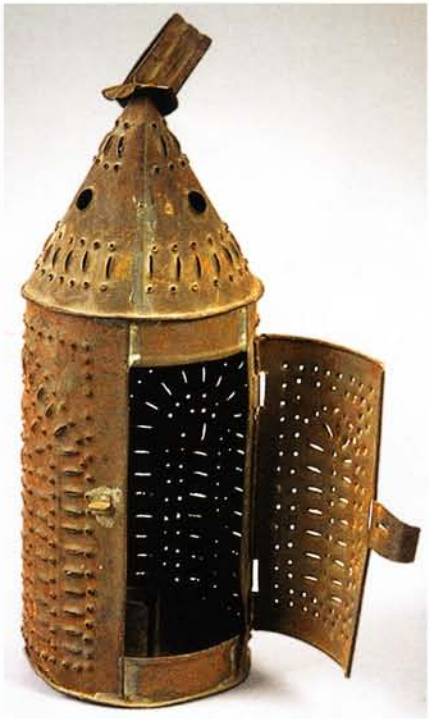
COURTESY OF THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

A period-style street lamp installed in the 20th Century glows on a foggy morning in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.

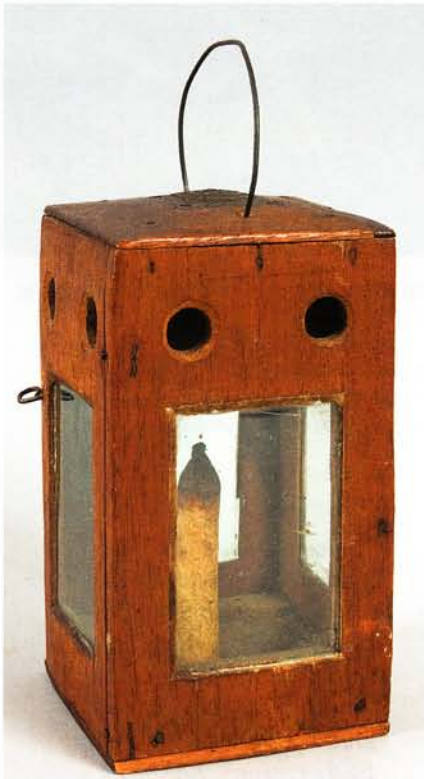
OPPOSITE Crude torches and cressets—iron baskets holding burning pine knots—were common sources of outdoor lighting for nighttime public events in early America, as dramatized in the Colonial Williamsburg re-enactment.

Tom Kelleher, curator of mechanical arts at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, concurred that the lantern was the prevalent form of early outdoor lighting. He cited text from *The House Book, or a Manual of Domestic Economy*, published in 1843:

"Every house should be provided with one or more lanterns to carry out of doors at night, or to take into a stable, barn, or any other place where an uncovered candle or lamp might be dangerous. Lanterns



Protecting the light source, whether a candle or small oil lamp, was the primary function of the lanterns people in early America carried from place to place after dark. Above is a late-1600s pierced-tin barn lantern. Below is a rudimentary wooden lantern, likely homemade, from the 1700s.



with glass sides are so easily cracked that we do not recommend them. They are much better when glazed with horn, or perforated all over with small holes. If they have (oil) lamps in them, care should be taken to trim and replenish these lamps daily, that the lantern may always be ready if wanted at night."

The household manual goes on to warn concerning the use of candles in lanterns, "The piece of candle must not be very long or it will heat the top of the lantern so as to burn the fingers of the person that carries it."

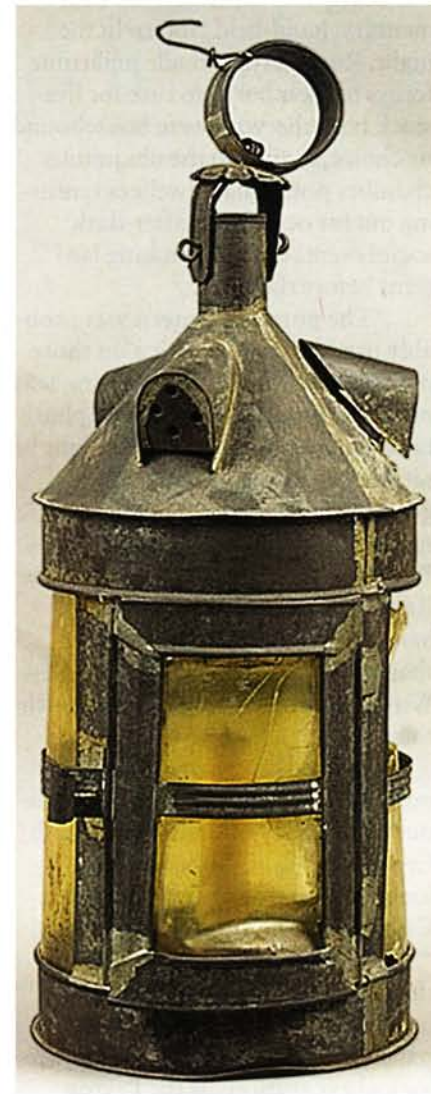
VARIATIONS ON THE LANTERN

Over the years, lanterns took on various forms based on their intended functions—standard lanterns with assorted pane materials for domestic use, heavier gaoler's and watchmen's lanterns, nautical lanterns with shielded vents to deflect seawater seepage. Travelers eventually attached assorted lanterns to buggies, carriages, and stagecoaches, although nighttime travel remained rare well into the 1800s.

In some instances, wealth precipitated extraordinary efforts to keep the night at bay. "I'm reminded that in Charleston, South Carolina, perhaps as early as the late colonial period and certainly continuing through the early 19th Century, wrought-iron lamp posts were used on some grand houses and public buildings," recalled Graham. "The Gibbes House, if I'm not mistaken, had a wrought-iron railing on its paired stairs leading to a deck in front of the main entrance door and had two lamps built into that railing flanking the deck. I've also seen a similar detail associated with wrought-iron fencing. But this is the exception, both for buildings in early Charleston and in American cities in general."

Graham is right in calling it an exception. Through the mid-1800s, American homes had so little lighting that it is difficult today to imagine the dimness in which our ancestors functioned. In his book *Lighting for Historic Buildings*, Moss, executive director emeritus of The Athenaeum in Philadelphia, cites two household surveys, one of 767 households in Wethersfield, Connecticut, spanning the years 1630 to 1800, and a second survey of 90 homes in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, from 1800 to 1850.

"Of the 857 inventories examined, 319 listed no lighting devices at all—298 in the earlier survey, 21 in the later. While these are hardly scientific samples, they do suggest that early American households depended primarily on natural illumination—



LANTERN IMAGES COURTESY OF ANTIQUE ASSOCIATES AT WEST TOWNSEND, INC., WEST TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Thinly shaved pieces of bone permitted the glow of a candle yet were stronger than glass panes in this early lantern. Its traditional design has been the basis for many later exterior light fixtures.

HELEN G. MOORE AND JAMES ZWOLAK/CLEMSON UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON JOINT GRADUATE PROGRAM IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The classic Georgian house built for William Gibbes in Charleston, South Carolina, c. 1772, displays a rare form of early exterior lighting, with lamps fixed to the wrought-iron railing leading to the main entrance. The lights were added in 1794 when owner Sarah Smith had the house updated in the latest Adamesque fashion. Exterior lights rarely existed in early America.

the flickering hearth fire, a smoking oil lamp, the occasional guttering candle or, if it became necessary to venture out in the night, a lantern with its vulnerable flame protected by panes of glass, flattened horn scraped to transparency, or decoratively pierced sheets of iron."

CITIES GROW BRIGHTER

While the colonial countryside remained dark after nightfall for another hundred years, American cities in the mid-1700s began experimenting with illuminating their streets and walkways—inventing fixtures that eventually had significant impact on all forms of exterior lighting throughout the country.

In some locales, it was the responsibility of the homeowner abutting the street to provide lighting, either legislated, as in New York around 1700 when the city required residents to maintain lights in their street-front windows, or advised, as mentioned in *The House Book or a Manual of Domestic Economy*: "In houses that stand somewhat back from the street, with a little garden in front, it is well (particularly when visitors are expected) to place a lamp on a shelf fixed for the purpose, in the fan-light over the front door. This will light the guests on their way from the gate to the doorstep, and is a great convenience on a dark or wet night. Most of the best houses have permanent lamps at the foot of the door-steps."

Street lighting as we understand it today got an early start when in 1417 London's mayor, Sir Henry Barton, ordered candle-burning lanterns to be suspended along some streets during the winter months. During a trip there in 1757, Philadelphia's postmaster, Benjamin Franklin, studied London's dingy street lights and figured he could do better.

Franklin put his inventive genius to work designing a new style of lamp, adding a funnel at the top and air vents in the bottom so smoke could quickly escape. "By this means," he wrote, "they were kept clean, and did not grow dark in a few hours, as the London lamps do, but continued bright until morning." Franklin's invention earned him the reputation as father of the American street light.

Early gaslight fuel is commonly confused with natural gas. In fact, early illuminating gas came from bituminous coal, which was heated and the resulting hydrocarbons filtered to remove impurities. Filtering was a critical stage in gas production, accomplished at a local "gas works," because dirty gas gave off weak light and a sickening, noxious odor.

COURTESY OF PERIOD LIGHTING FIXTURES, CLARKSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

This box sconce lighting a house at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts is based on an early 19th-Century interior sconce.

Baltimore in 1816 authorized the first municipal gas street light system, which began operating February 7, 1817. Philadelphia—although it had experimented with some gas street lights as early as 1796—did not actually charter a gas company until 1835, long after similar companies had been formed in Boston and New York.

SLOW TO LIGHT

Street lights and exterior lighting in general followed much more slowly in America's smaller towns and villages. For example, the September 12, 1797, records of the Aufsher Collegium at the Moravian settlement in Old Salem, North Carolina, state: "For the present time we are going to erect only one lantern, that is going to light the street, because we can determine afterward with more knowledge where the second one will have to be set up."

John Larson, vice president for restoration at Old Salem Museums & Gardens, added, "We have little reference to exterior lights on individual homes, such as lamp posts in the yard. During our period (dating from about 1750) we would have had mostly candles. On into the 19th Century we would have seen fish-oil lamps, and in 1859 gas lamps begin to be installed. I would expect very little, if any, exterior light in rural settings unless it was a special occasion."

Kelleher said the town of Sturbridge got its first street light system in the early 1900s. Likewise, William Flynt, architectural conservator at Historic Deerfield in Massachusetts, reported that Deerfield installed oil street lights in 1896 and then replaced them with electric versions in 1908.

Municipalities piped gas into factories and commercial and public buildings but made no provisions for home installation until the mid-1800s, when most of the filtering problems had been remedied. Soon gas replaced candles and oil as the lighting fuel in many Victorian homes.

"For most American cities, gas lighting was not installed until the third quarter of the 19th Century, but once installed it did transform the appearance and nighttime viability of towns," said Graham. "In contrast, the countryside remained, in general, dark."

REVIVING THE NONEXISTENT

America entered the late 19th Century with varied levels of nighttime illumination. Farm and village dwellings, still nearly 70 percent of the country, remained dimly lit by candles, oil, and kerosene fixtures, while gas fixtures in cities brightened many Victorian homes and other buildings.

Then, with the Centennial of 1876, the nation turned its focus on the past in celebration of the country's remarkable founders, traditional values, and the simplicity of days gone by. The Colonial Revival lasted several decades—by 1920 featuring countless re-creations of the colonial style in both new and

remodeled homes—with vestiges continuing to this day.

But one area in which the colonial style fell short was lighting. By the early 20th Century, with its new electric lighting, people wanted contemporary levels of illumination inside and outside their homes for comfort, convenience, and safety. Inside the home, period-style fixtures—a wide array of authentically reproduced sconces, lanterns, and chandeliers often fitted or retrofitted with little electric "flame" bulbs and wired into the home's electrical system—satisfied this desire.

Lighting the home's exterior posed a problem. There simply weren't any authentic lighting fixtures that had been affixed to colonial exterior doorways and walls or freestanding in yards. The solution, explained Moss, was "Owners looking for 'old time' lighting settled on carriage lights, railroad lanterns, as well as portable lanterns and even wired sconces—anything that could be 'lighted' by an electric wire and, perhaps, provided shelter for the lamp from the elements."

Kelleher agreed. "What exterior lamps I've seen on many Colonial Revival homes seem to be electrified versions of coach lamps or hand lanterns creatively fixed to the buildings, reflecting the flavor of the past rather than authentic historic practice."

The lack of authentic period exterior lighting may have perplexed some homeowners enthusiastic about Colonial Revival and similar period decorating styles, but it was a much greater challenge for the country's leading museums whose purpose is to accurately reflect early America. They have been compelled to install adequate exterior lighting, usually where none existed historically, to ensure visitor safety and convenience, to extend the length of the visitor day for nighttime events, and even to support signage. The case of Colonial Williamsburg is typical of how museums tackled the problem.

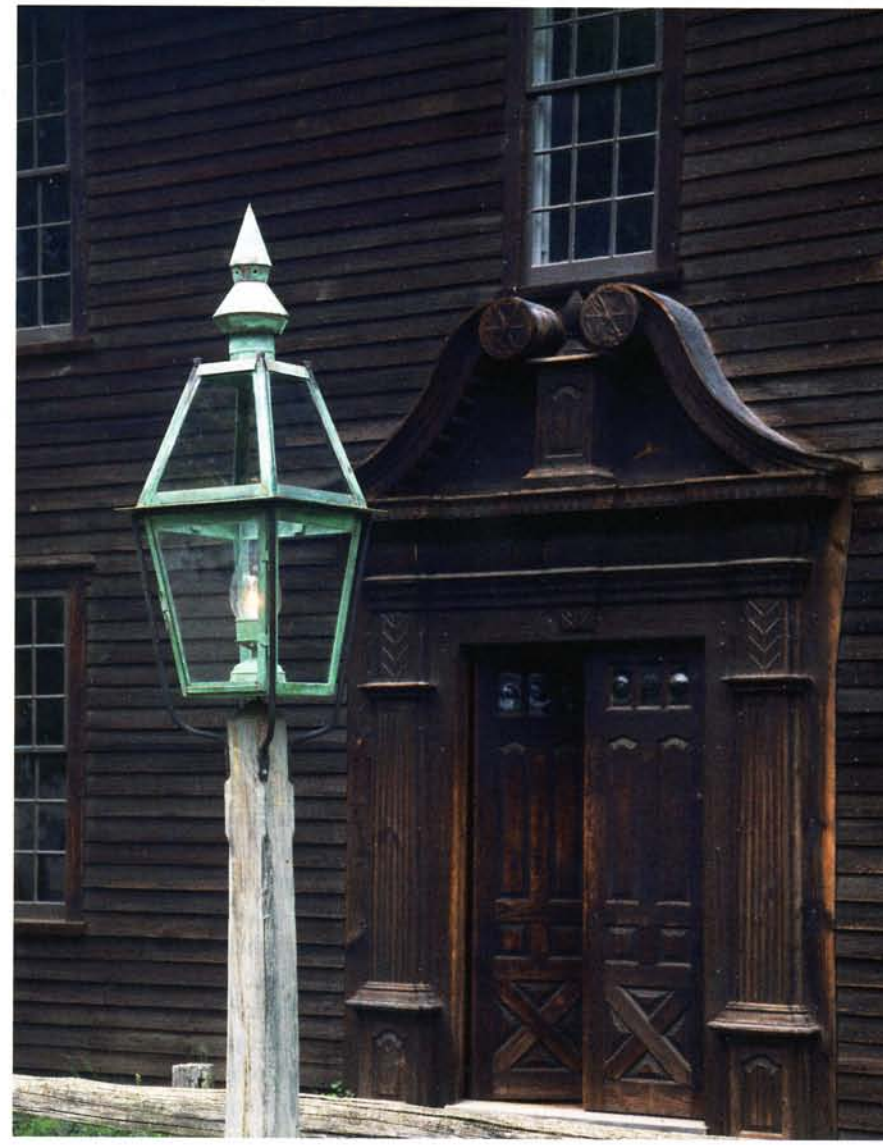
"In the case of Williamsburg, the need for lighting, indoors and out, also brought the requirement that it should have a 'colonial' appearance," explained Graham. "Some 18th- and early-19th-Century indoor lighting fixtures were reproduced for both interior and exterior use. Street lighting to make the town modern and safe was done by giving a colonial feel to lamp posts that largely have a 19th-Century origin in this country. These fixtures helped flesh out the vocabulary that the Colonial Revival architects and designers relied upon for their new adaptation."

Adaptation is the operative word here.

Christopher Burda, president of Period Lighting Fixtures in Clarksburg, Massachusetts, has personal, hands-on involvement in creating contemporary versions of authentic lighting.

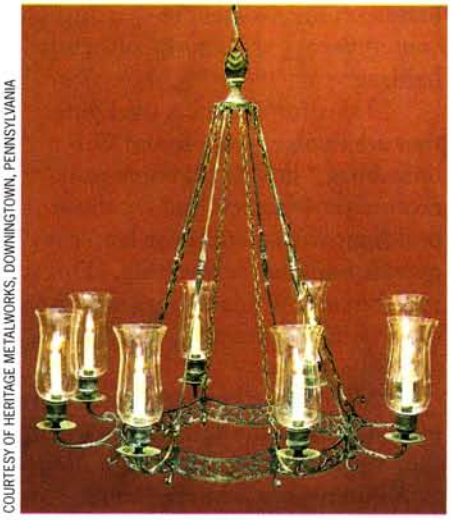
"Take, for instance, the lights that are in place in Colonial Williamsburg," he said. "People walk around those streets and see those buildings with all of those lanterns outside and they're thinking, 'This is 1700 historic Williamsburg so these must be 1700s lanterns.' And they're not.

"All of those lanterns were really placed there in the early 1900s when they started to redo all the buildings at Williamsburg," he continued. "So those lanterns you see on the exteriors are not representational of the



COURTESY OF PERIOD LIGHTING FIXTURES, CLARKSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

The design of this post lantern comes from an early tinned sheet-iron street lamp found in Boston. The modern version stands in front of the c. 1730 Ashley House in Historic Deerfield, Massachusetts.



COURTESY OF HERITAGE METALWORKS, DOWNINGTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

This chandelier, made by Heritage Metalworks, is adapted from a c. 1790-1830 European-made fixture that hung in the 17th-Century Jewish synagogue in Barbados. Collector Henry Francis du Pont purchased several of the original fixtures to light a porch of his home, which is now Winterthur Museum.

buildings' true age. I don't think everybody knows that. The lights down there are nowhere near accurate—inside the buildings, yes, with some of the chandeliers and certainly a lot of the sconces—but the exterior lanterns, not at all. This is not to say that they aren't wonderful designs."

INVENTING 'OLD' LIGHTS

An enormous opportunity presented itself to America's lighting manufacturers in the first half of the 20th Century: To develop period-style lighting satisfying the popularity of early American home décor, or at least that décor as viewed through the prism of the Colonial Revival movement.

Lanterns, sconces, candleholders, chandeliers, and oil lamps that had survived for two hundred years determined the style of interior fixtures. The real scramble was for exterior fixtures. Manufacturers immediately grabbed styles of early lighting already associated with the night. Watchmen's lanterns, carriage lamps, ship's lanterns, and street lights—especially street lights—all were either enlarged or shrunk, often converted to weather-resistant metals in artificial verdigris or "wrought-iron" black, their shapes modified so they could be attached to exterior walls or freestanding poles, and new tubing installed to hold electrical wiring and still meet Underwriters Laboratories (UL) requirements. In other words, they created outdoor lighting that functioned and looked, for the most part, to be authentic.

In the years since, the designs of "colonial" exterior fixtures have come from several sources. Heritage Lanterns is one of the country's oldest manufacturers of lighting based on early styles. Karla Gustafson is head of sales and marketing at the company in Yarmouth, Maine, where nine artisans create an extensive line of handcrafted lights. She noted that Heritage Lanterns began more than fifty years ago in Boston and moved to Yarmouth in the 1970s. When asked about the designs in the company's line, she said, "There have been several owners and their designs have been passed down from owner to owner through the years."

Josiah R. Coppersmythe of Harwich, Massachusetts, has one of the largest catalogs of early lighting fixtures, some handcrafted by Coppersmythe and the rest by other manufacturers for whom Coppersmythe is a distributor.

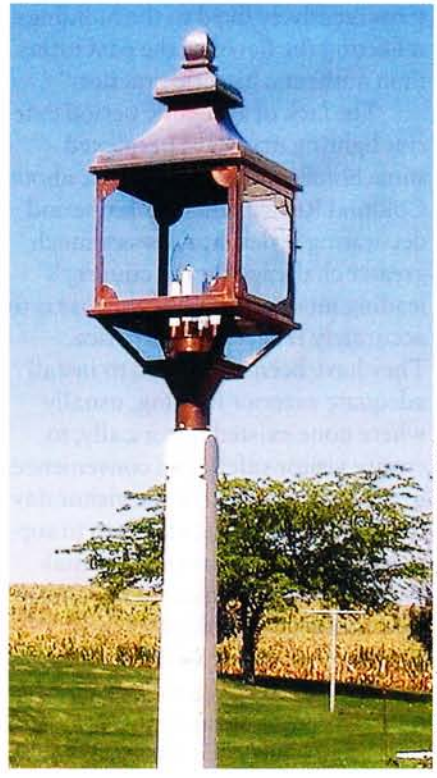
"The original designs from our shop came from the New England area, a lot from Old Sturbridge Village and the lights we saw there," said Coppersmythe owner Karen Thompson. "You know, if I'm around and about and I see a light that has beautiful proportions, I'm likely to draw it and measure it and then have it made because it really looks good—it's classic and it's elegant and it's right for the space."

Spotting and then copying existing styles of exterior lights certainly is faster and cheaper than the extensive redesign work that occurred in the early 20th Century, and it's made all the easier by public-domain laws. "A lot of this early style of lighting is now in the public domain," said Burda. "For instance, if you had an authentic piece hanging on your front porch, I could drive by your house, take a picture of it and come back here, have it made and sell it. And you wouldn't be allowed to come after me for royalties on the piece because it's in the public domain."

Many of today's early lighting companies do custom work for their clients, who provide photos or drawings of lights they want adapted for their homes. An example is Thomas Linebaugh, whose one-man operation in Abbottstown, Pennsylvania, is called Tel-Tin. A skilled coppersmith since 1999, he specializes in custom work based on street light designs.

"I do a lot of craft shows and people either come to a show and order a light that strikes their fancy—most of my lights are patterned after old city street lights in my area—or a lot of times, people bring photos of old street lights," he said. "I don't need the physical light, only a photo and an idea of the size

Coppersmith Thomas Linebaugh, who operates the one-man Tel-Tin lighting company, uses 19th-Century street lights from south-central Pennsylvania as models for his exterior lights.



COURTESY OF TEL-TIN, ABBOTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

they want."

Heritage Metalworks in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, bases many of its designs on the antiques in Winterthur's collection under the company's licensing agreement with the museum. "That means we can go in and copy anything in their museum that's in metal," said Matt White, manager of development and production. The company has produced chandeliers for Winterthur's outdoor spaces and is now working on a line of exterior sconces. The firm is also expanding its line to include pure iron lanterns—"true wrought iron," White said—for exterior fixtures using metal imported from England.

An even easier way for a manufacturer to obtain a new design of old lighting is to swipe it from a competitor's catalog. Burda said he has seen several of his company's designs show up in other catalogs. "Sure I've seen the same fixtures in their catalogs because they got the designs from our catalog. I mean, all's fair in the business game and there are a lot of people out there making fixtures. "

Burda's offense has been his company's long-standing licensing relationships with Historic Deerfield, Old Sturbridge Village, and for a while Colonial Williamsburg. Under those agreements, Burda has been given access to the museums' archives—"sometimes underground, sometimes in barns, the archives that aren't open to the public"—where he has discovered vintage fixtures suitable for re-creating and selling.

"I bring the fixture back to our shop, where we completely duplicate it," Burda explained. "Then it goes back to their board of trustees and the curators, who tell us how exact it is or what they would like to see changed. In the end, you normally get one of two designations: 'reproduction' status, which means it's exactly as it was, or 'adaptation.' Usually you get the 'adaptation' listing because of what we have to do to conform to UL rules when we wire the light."

Licensing agreements with museums have enabled Heritage Metalworks and other makers to create a number of new, yet authentic, designs for early-style fixtures. Such arrangements have been especially valuable for the entire industry because there aren't many remaining fixtures dating back to 18th- or 19th-Century America to be duplicated.

"You've got to remember that most of the lanterns made back then were tin and steel and they're rusted and gone," Burda said. "True 1700s exterior fixtures are few and far between. That's why most manufacturers have created their designs from pictures, because nobody can get their hands on the originals. We actually have a few here that are dated. They're made of steel, and they're sitting in a room upstairs because they're rusting and falling apart." *

Gregory LeFever is a contributing editor to *Early American Life*.

The large lantern in the yard near this barn at Old Sturbridge Village is based on a common late-1700s design for both pedestal lanterns and portable lanterns when iron and wood handles were attached.

COURTESY OF PERIOD LIGHTING FIXTURES, CLARKSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

A BRIEF GUIDE TO EARLY EXTERIOR LIGHTING

People in search of exterior lighting for their historic or early-style homes usually find themselves wrestling with the two basic questions that apply to any other aspect of an early home's furnishings, from paint colors to window treatments:

Am I going to be a purist and reflect as best I can the true period of the house?

Or, am I going to give myself latitude to reflect the approximate period of the house and allow adaptations to suit my own tastes?

Use the following descriptions and comments from lighting experts to guide you.

COURTESY OF HERITAGE LANTERNS, YARMOUTH, MAINE

Fixtures based on early hand-held lanterns are the most appropriate exterior fixtures for homes reflecting the 1600-1700 period.

Purist, 1600-1850

For the purist, the matter of exterior lighting on early homes is fairly cut and dried. Houses from the Pilgrim Century well into the Victorian era should be left barren of exterior lights. If you must have them, they should replicate handheld lanterns, positioned as if suspended within arm's reach from a hook or peg. Only homes reflecting 1840 and later should have gaslights—sconce style for entryways and street-light style for yards. Finishes such as tin, verdigris, or weathered brass are preferred.

Adaptor, 1600-1700

Even adaptors should be cautious on very early homes because lighting based on later periods can appear not only inaccurate but also discordant with the home's architecture and throw off the proportions. Restrict fixtures to designs based on hand-held lanterns. Yard lights, if absolutely necessary, should be patterned after early candle or oil-fueled street lamps and restricted to freestanding poles, not affixed to the house. The darker antique or verdigris finishes are preferred.

Adaptor, 1700-1800

Exterior lighting reflecting the 18th Century should be modeled after candle and oil-burning fixtures. This is the period with the largest selection of lighting from today's lighting makers and includes redesigned carriage lamps, ship lanterns, early street lamps, and converted interior fixtures such as sconces—none of which historically appeared on houses but are common exterior features today. Yard lights still should be based on candle or oil-fueled street lamps, which usually are less ornate than gaslights. All popular finishes, including natural brass and copper, are suitable.

Adaptor, 1800-1850

For the adaptor, the 19th Century means the gates are now open to nearly all styles offered by early lighting manufacturers—the entire line of candle and oil-fueled lights as well as additional styles based on gaslights, some of which actually appeared on homes as exterior lighting. For homes reflecting this period, the selection of yard lights also is greatly expanded by the addition of gas-fueled street lamps. Any finish is suitable and should be based on your specific décor.

The candle or oil-fueled early street lamp inspired many styles of yard lights especially appropriate for 1750- to 1840-style homes. Gas-fueled street lights date from about 1820 and have served as models for many exterior lights, both wall and pole models.

COURTESY OF JOSIAH R. COPPERSMYTHE, HARWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

Other Considerations

Roger W. Moss, author of the influential *Lighting for Historic Buildings*, when asked about early lighting styles, had this advice: "My own recommendation to owners of early period houses is to use portable lanterns hung from hooks; that is, reproductions that look like documented period lanterns. There also are some rather good-looking pole lamps based on period original street lamps that are wired and can be installed to provide necessary illumination, but these would necessarily be away from the house itself. Perhaps a better solution is to use unobtrusive walkway down-lights for safety that work on a timer, and not worry about having a lighting source on the house itself."

At Josiah R. Coppersmythe, owner Karen Thompson said proper placement of a fixture on the house is critical, especially with colonial-style lanterns. "They were made to be picked up and carried to the barn. And today the electricians on a standard house tend to put the (electrical) boxes much too high and then the light ends up looking awkward. Sometimes we play with the back plate to drop the light down so it will be at the accurate height and will look right."

She agreed that the earlier the style of house, the more challenging the lighting issues. "With houses as early as the 1600s period, it's absolutely necessary to get the owners to do something small, which, of course, they don't want to do, but houses back then were tiny, and the great big lights are totally disproportionate."

On the other hand, yard lights often pose the opposite problem. "You should keep in mind when choosing outdoor lights that the light has as its background the entire size of your house," advised Karla Gustafson of Heritage Lanterns. "Don't be afraid to order a large light, as it will appear greatly diminished in size when viewed in relation to a building."

COURTESY OF HERITAGE METALWORKS, DOWNINGTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Vehicular lights appeared in the early 1800s on stagecoaches and some buggies and carriages. Although they never were used on buildings, their style was adapted in the late 19th and 20th Centuries to structural exterior lights.

Price and Turnaround

Early-style lighting fixtures, both interior and exterior, vary substantially in quality. Some are lightweight and imperfectly crafted, while others are solid, skillfully handcrafted by experienced artisans, and essentially identical to museum originals.

Price correlates with quality. You can expect to pay from $150 to $500 for lantern-style fixtures and from $200 to nearly $800 for post lights. Turnaround times vary significantly. Some manufacturers have a few stock items immediately available, but a handcrafted fixture can take anywhere from one to six months.

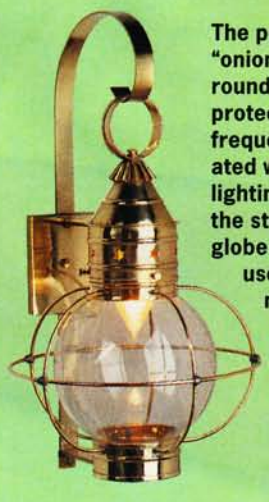
Gustafson expressed the sentiment of all lighting creators when she said, "Every home, whether it be an authentic restoration, a reproduction, or a contemporary building, should be paid the compliment of well-designed fixtures. Lighting for both the exterior and the interior should be an integral part of the overall design."

COURTESY OF HERITAGE LANTERNS, YARMOUTH, MAINE

With its shielded vents to protect it from seawater, the ship's lantern provided another form that was redesigned for homes and other land-based structures.

Sconces were popular interior lights but not used outdoors because of the difficulty of keeping candles lit. When electricity came along, sconces were redesigned to be exterior fixtures as well.

COURTESY OF PERIOD LIGHTING FIXTURES, CLARKSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS



COURTESY OF HERITAGE LANTERNS, YARMOUTH, MAINE

The popular "onion" light, with its rounded globe and protective wires, is frequently associated with nautical lighting, although the strength of its globe also made it useful for watchmen's and later railroad lanterns.

SOURCES

Authentic Designs
800.844.9416
www.authenticdesigns.com
Colonial and early-American lighting fixtures in brass and copper

Ball & Ball
800.257.3711
www.ballandball-us.com
Historical lighting fixtures in brass, tin, copper, and iron

Barn House Lighting
800.481.4602
www.barnhouselighting.com
Distributor of handcrafted early lighting fixtures

Bevolo Gas & Electric Lights
504.522.9485
www.bevolo.com
Early gas and electric fixtures with Southern colonial styling

Carolina Lanterns
877.881.4173
www.carolinalanterns.com
Distributor of copper gas and electric fixtures in Southern styles

Charleston Gas Light
877.427.5483
www.charlestongaslight.com
Gas and electric copper lanterns in early Southern styles

Charleston Lighting and Manufacturing
800.661.9224
www.charlestonlighting.com
Gas and electric copper lanterns in early Southern styles

The Copper House
800.221.9798
www.thecopperhouse.com
Brass and copper fixtures, colonial to modern styles

Faubourg Lighting Company
866.803.7518
www.faubourglighting.com
Copper gas and electric fixtures in French, Colonial, and Federal styles

The Federalist
203.625.4727
www.thefederalistonline.com
Distributor of early lighting and other furnishings

Heritage Lanterns
800.648.4449
www.heritagelanterns.com
Manufacturer of reproduction 18th- and 19th-Century fixtures

Heritage Metalworks
610.518.3999
www.heritage-metalworks.com
Historical lighting fixtures, with original designs from Winterthur Museum

Historic Housefitters Company
800.247.4111
www.historichousefitters.com
Manufacturer of early American lanterns and post lights

Hurley Patentee
800.247.5414
www.hurleypatenteelighting.com
Electric and candle fixtures in early American styles

Hutton Metalcrafts
888.479.1748
www.copperlamps.com
Copper lanterns in early American styles

Josiah R. Coppersmythe
800.426.8249
www.jrcoppersmythe.com
Manufacturer and distributor of 18th- and 19th-Century fixtures

Lighting by Hammerworks
800.777.3689
www.hammerworks.com
Early American style lighting

Nauset Lantern Shop
800.899.2660
www.nausetlanternshop.com
Early American copper, brass, pewter fixtures in Cape Cod styles

Northeast Lantern Ltd.
www.northeastlantern.com
Early American lanterns, sells through dealers

Olde Mill Lighting Ltd.
717.299.2512
www.oldemilllighting.com
Supplier of fixtures in early American, country and traditional styles

Period Lighting Fixtures
800.828.6990
www.periodlighting.com
18th- and 19th-Century fixtures, with original designs from Old Sturbridge Village and Historic Deerfield

Sandwich Lantern
888.741.0714
www.sandwichlantern.com
Colonial lighting fixtures in copper and brass, many with nautical styling

Tel-Tin
717.259.9004
www.tel-tin.com
Copper lanterns in styles based on early street lamps