



**Some historic preservation tips for property owners to consider before installing solar panels on historic barns:**

- Locate the solar array with minimal to no visibility from the front/street side of barn when possible; is barn roof the best place?
- Match color of solar panels to the roof as close as possible.
- Install the panels on the same plane as the roof with no alterations to the roof configuration.
- All solar panel installation work should be reversible.
- All solar installations should be performed with the least intrusion or impact, both visual and physical, to the historic character of the barn.
- Check applicable zoning and planning ordinances and building codes regarding solar installations. If you are in an historic district, check these regulations too.
- If you are considering applying for the barn tax incentive program (RSA 79-D), check with your municipality for guidance on roof-mounted solar panels.

Helpful links:

<https://nhpreservation.org/blog/preservation-tips-for-solar-on-barns>

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/sustainability/new-technology/solar-on-historic.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/applying-rehabilitation/its-bulletins/ITS52-SolarPanels.pdf>

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation -

<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation.htm>

**See the reverse side of this handout for the National Park Service's recommendations for solar installations on historic buildings.**

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# Solar Technology – Sustainability Guidelines – Technical Preservation Services National Park Service

## Solar Technology for Historic Buildings

### Recommended

Considering on-site, solar technology only after implementing all appropriate treatments to improve energy efficiency of the building, which often have greater life-cycle cost benefit than on-site renewable energy.

Analyzing whether solar technology can be used successfully and will benefit a historic building without compromising its character or the character of the site or the surrounding historic district.

Installing a solar device in a compatible location on the site or on a non-historic building or addition where it will have minimal impact on the historic building and its site.

Installing a solar device on the historic building only after other locations have been investigated and determined infeasible.

Installing a low-profile solar device on the historic building so that it is not visible or only minimally visible from the public right of way: for example, on a flat roof and set back to take advantage of a parapet or other roof feature to screen solar panels from view; or on a secondary slope of a roof, out of view from the public right of way.

Installing a solar device on the historic building in a manner that does not damage historic roofing material or negatively impact the building's historic character and is reversible.

Installing solar roof panels horizontally—flat or parallel to the roof—to reduce visibility.

Investigating off-site, renewable energy options when installing on-site solar devices would negatively impact the historic character of the building or site.

### Not Recommended

Installing on-site, solar technology without first implementing all appropriate treatments to the building to improve its energy efficiency.

Installing a solar device without first analyzing its potential benefit or whether it will negatively impact the character of the historic building or site or the surrounding historic district.

Placing a solar device in a highly-visible location where it will negatively impact the historic building and its site.

Installing a solar device on the historic building without first considering other locations.

Installing a solar device in a prominent location on the building where it will negatively impact its historic character.

Installing a solar device on the historic building in a manner that damages historic roofing material or replaces it with an incompatible material and is not reversible.

Placing solar roof panels vertically where they are highly visible and will negatively impact the historic character of the building

Removing historic roof features to install solar panels.

Altering a historic, character-defining roof slope to install solar panels.

Installing solar devices that are not reversible.