

TECHNICAL NOTE No. 36

April 1990

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Photographing Historic Buildings

Notes for surveyors.

AIMS

To provide a record of each structure to illustrate its history from the time of listing and provide a basis for monitoring future proposals.

To furnish material to enable consultation about listing to be made with the Historic Buildings Council.

To illustrate good schemes for presentation to the Historic Buildings Council.

To build up an archive for lecture purposes.

To assemble folios of details for distribution to illustrate acceptable elements of design or construction.

Apart from the folios of details, which necessitate use of negative film, transparency film should be used.

ASPECTS TO BE KEPT IN MIND

The structures should not be photographed in isolation.

The immediate environment should be included.

Close-up detail should be photographed if of interest.

Every attempt should be made to furnish views of interiors.

Permission to photograph should be sought if it is necessary to enter a building or its grounds.

Duplicates should be made of the main external views.

It is recommended that date indicators are not used. These are often erroneous and can cause much confusion at a later stage.

Further reading:

Buchanan, T, Photographing Historic Buildings, HMSO, 1983

Environment and Heritage Service

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