ABSTRACT

THESIS: Historic Attics: How to Retrofit with Energy and Integrity in Mind

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This thesis is presented as a guide for owners of historic homes in Muncie, Indiana, to use if they are preparing to retrofit the attic space in their home for energy efficiency and new use while keeping the importance of integrity of the structure in mind. It provides a brief overview of the history of the use of the attic as well as different architectural styles and their structural anatomy. The important issue of heat gain/loss is addressed by examining the building science so that home owners are aware of the problem and can resolve it. Five alternatives to altering an attic in a historic home are offered as well as a breakdown of guidelines and regulations to assist home owners in the process of modification.