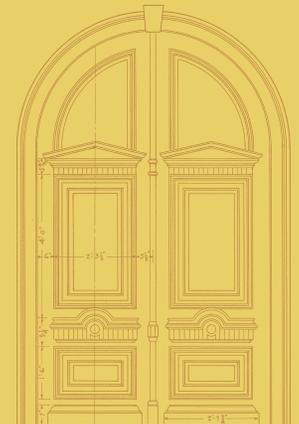
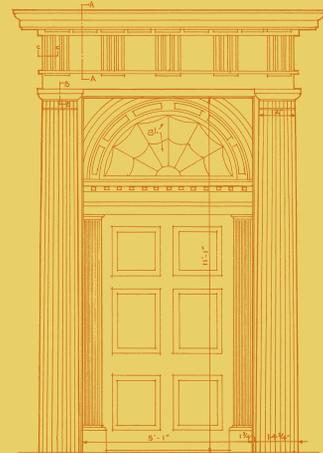


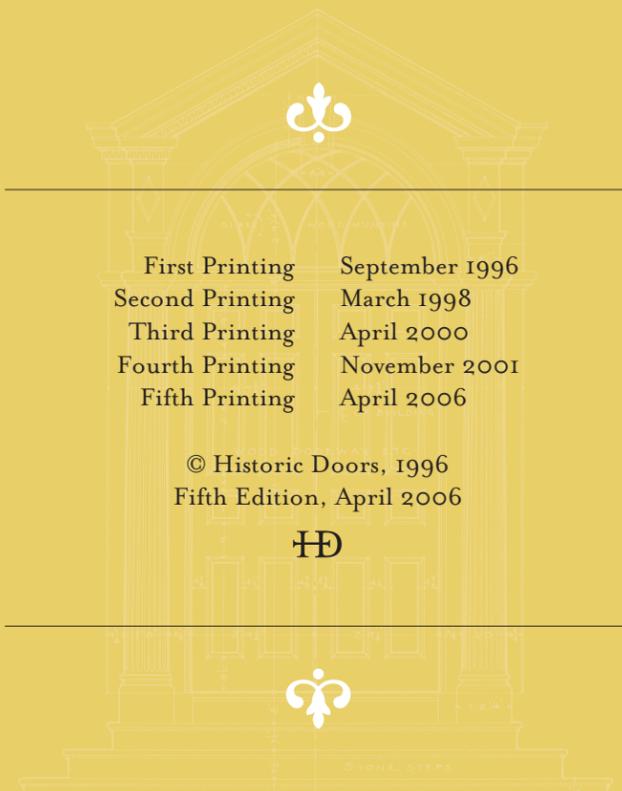


Historic American Doors



DRAWINGS FROM
THE HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY





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Compiled by Historic Doors

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FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP IN WOODWORKING

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Finally, my wife Denise ... what can I say?
Thanks for helping me find a life outside of business.

Steve Hendricks
September 2006



Preface

Today many architects, builders and homeowners are turning back to the traditions of classical architecture which are found in the early styles of American houses. This book traces the development of those styles, from colonial times through the Greek Revival, as depicted in the American doorway. Our source material has been the collection of measured drawings contained in the Historic American Buildings Survey.

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) is a collection of measured drawings, photographs and written historical and architectural information about historic American buildings. Dwellings, churches, public buildings, shops, mills, bridges and other building types representing various periods and styles from the 17th to the 20th century are documented. Begun in the 1930's as a Federal Works project, the Survey is continued today through a tripartite agreement of the Library of Congress, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the American Institute of Architects.

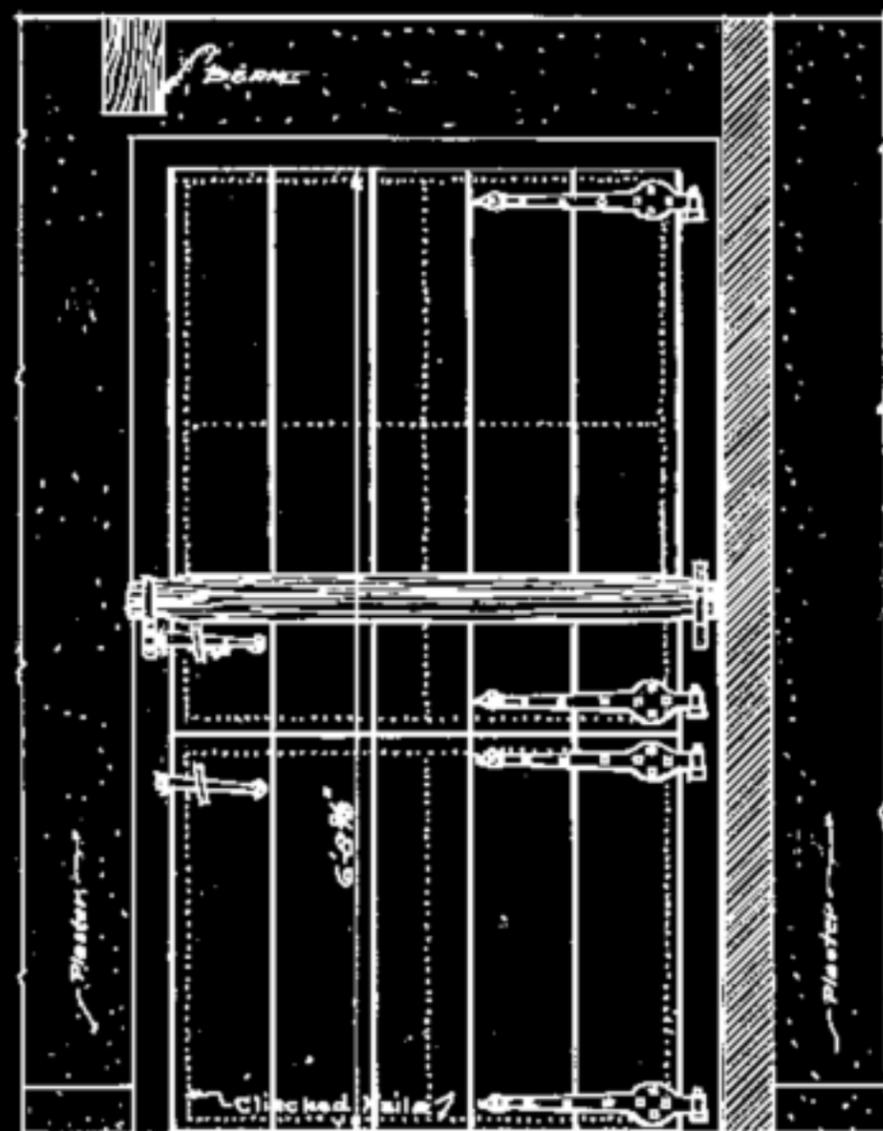
In 1974, all 34,000 drawings transferred to the Library of Congress between 1933 and 1974 were microfilmed on 63 reels of 35mm silver halide safety base microfilm. The drawings were grouped and filed by state.

In 1995, we obtained the microfilm reels pertinent to the Eastern Seaboard and the Midwestern states. We made Xerox copies of all the measured drawings of doors and their building elevations, and categorized them by door type.

In 1996 we began classifying some of these drawings by architectural style. This book represents a first stage of our work in progress, and is therefore tentative in its suggestions of style. Above all, we hope you discover here an inspiring record of the artisanship within our architectural heritage as exemplified in its doorways.

Dutch Doors

1625 — ca. 1840



INTERIOR ELEVATION
1" = 1'-0"

The earliest colonial houses were built by pioneering people in many different styles. Building for shelter rather than fashion was their priority. Settlers came to this land from a variety of medieval European backgrounds and brought their vernacular building methods with them. The earliest doors tended to be constructed of wooden planks with various methods of cross boarding to hold them together. Even the hinges and operating hardware were often fabricated from wood. Strap hinges were forged from iron and bolted through the planking into cross boards called battens. Latches were also forged from iron with varying degrees of artistry to decorate these rustic doors.

The Dutch door takes its name from Dutch colonists who settled in the Hudson River valley. Early Dutch doors were made of planks and were divided into top and bottom leaves, the top leaf made so it could swing separately or together with the bottom half. This charming door type had its origins in practicality: with the upper half open and the lower half closed, light and air were permitted to enter while maintaining a barrier to the livestock living outside.

As architectural styles advanced along with the development of these early societies, English-influenced Dutch doors appeared in Georgian and Adam style houses. The raised panel doors more common to these later styles of architecture were made to operate in the Dutch door method. Many of these paneled doors maintained the use of planking, usually on the interior side, as added security in homes distant from a town. As settlements grew, the need for this extra security diminished resulting in doors showing panels on both the interior and exterior side.

