



Staying Above Water

9 May 2023

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GREATER PORTLAND LANDMARKS

The Energy Efficient Old House:

A Workbook for Homeowners



www.portlandlandmarks.org

Historic Resources & Rising Waters: High Water, High Stakes

Why? What Could Be Lost?

What Needs to Be Done?

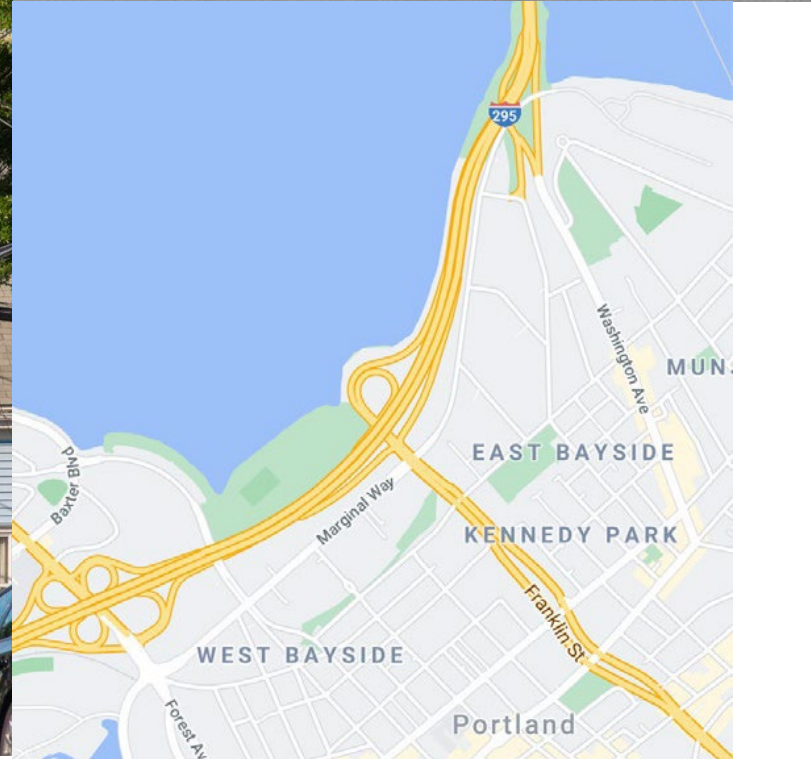
Continued Documentation
Policy
Design

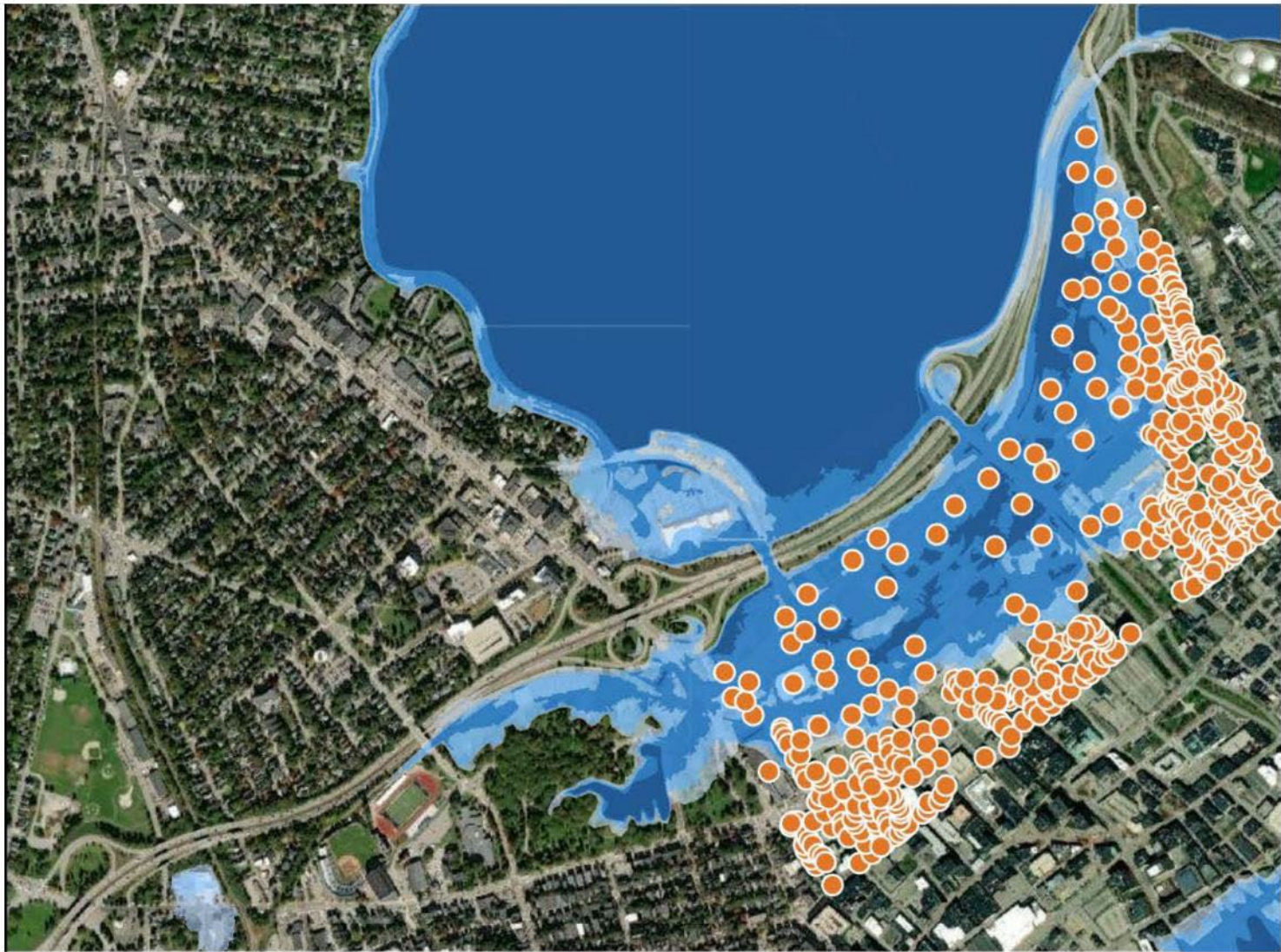






Neighborhood Surveys



DOCUMENTATION: Identify Historic Resources At Risk

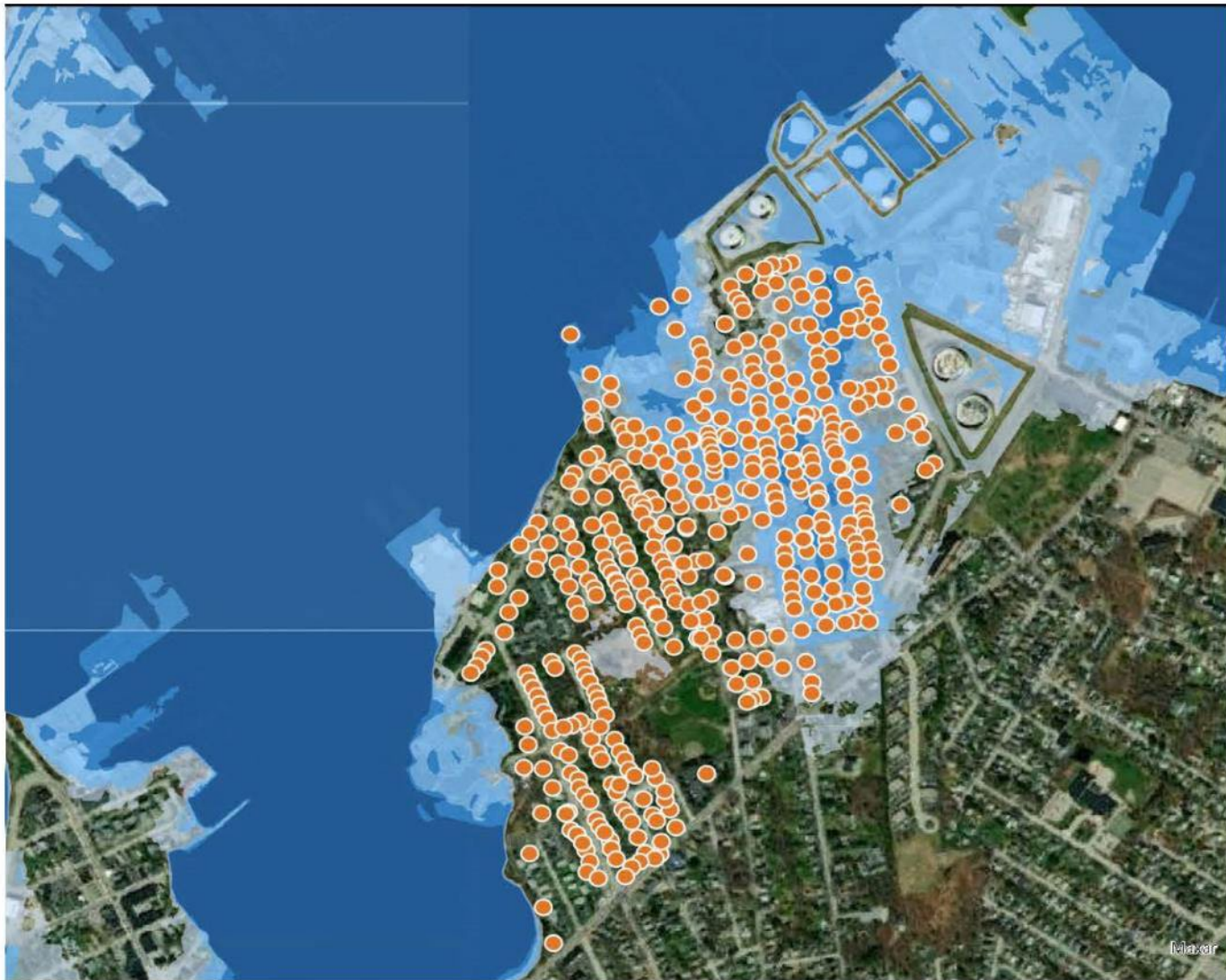




-  Highest Astronomical Tide Plus 1.6 Feet
-  Highest Astronomical Tide Plus 3.9 Feet
-  Highest Astronomical Tide Plus 6.1 Feet
-  Highest Astronomical Tide Plus 8.8 Feet

Each orange dot represents a surveyed historic resource in Bayside at risk due to increased flooding and sea level rise caused by climate change.





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Each orange dot represents a surveyed historic resource in Ferry Village at risk due to increased flooding and sea level rise caused by climate change.

STAYING
ABOVE
WATER

Property Owner's
Guide

Greater Portland Landmarks

www.portlandlandmarks.org/sustainability

RESOURCES

3 Hall Court c.1820, vernacular



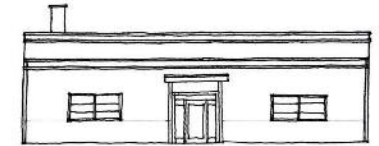
Existing Conditions

This historic single-family residence (c.1820) is built very close to grade and located at the edge of a low-lying area of Bayside identified as at risk to flooding from rain and storm surges. The area around the house features many paved surface parking lots where runoff during storm events negatively impacts adjacent properties and the city's storm water system. With the building sill located close to grade, even minimum levels of flooding or storm water runoff would submerge or wet the building's wood framing, siding, and trim. The front entrance is also very close to grade and susceptible to flood waters.

Strategies

- Resize gutters to handle increasing precipitation loads
- Install rain barrels or integrate rainwater runoff strategies into landscaping
- Add trees where possible to help lower temperature by providing shade.
- Install solar panels on site or on the secondary elevation.
- Elevate critical mechanical systems on the interior

66 Cove Street c.1953, vernacular



Existing Conditions

This industrial brick building (c.1953) is typical of many of its small-scale neighbors, built in an section of Bayside that was once part of Back Cove until it was filled in the first half of the 20th century. The area currently experiences nuisance flooding during extreme storm and high tide events. The at-grade entrance is vulnerable to street flooding. Likewise, mechanical systems on the exterior, and possibly the interior, are at risk from street flooding. Impermeable paving in the parking area surrounding the building does not allow storm water to penetrate into the ground and raises the temperature more than a vegetated surface would do.

Strategies

- Install a cool roof on flat or low-slope roofs to reduce interior temperature and reduce heat island effects
- Install solar panels on the roof in consultation with a structural engineer, or at the rear of the site
- Reduce impermeable paving in the parking area
- Add trees where possible to help lower temperature by providing shade
- Install temporary, deployable barrier at at-grade entrances during storm events
- Elevate critical mechanical systems on the exterior

27 Edmund S. Muskie Street
 Benjamin W. Pickett House
 c.1865, Italianate



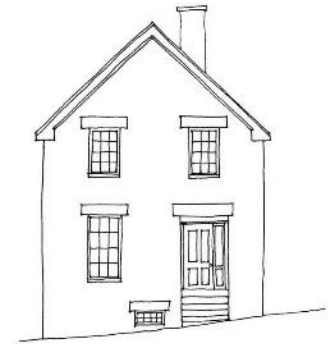
Existing Conditions

This historic single family residence (c.1865) is built very close to grade and located in a low-lying area of Ferry Village identified as at risk to flooding from rain and storm surges. With the building sill located close to grade, even minimum levels of flooding would submerge the building's wood framing, siding, and trim. The front entrance is also very close to grade and susceptible to damage from flood waters. Elevated levels of ground water could impact the basement, damaging critical mechanical systems.

Strategies

- Elevate critical mechanical systems on the interior
- Size gutters to handle increasing precipitation loads
- Install rain barrels or integrate rainwater runoff strategies into landscaping
- Slope grade and landscaping away the foundation to help drainage
- Install solar panels on the ell roof, garage, or at the rear of the site
- While a last resort, elevating the entire structure to raise the wood sills and entry above projected flood levels is an option. It would be prudent to raise the surrounding site where possible to mask the visual impact of the structure's elevation.

17 Brattle Street
 c.1849, Greek Revival



Existing Conditions

This single-family residence rests on a high foundation in an elevated area in Bayside. Although not identified as at risk to flooding from rain and storm surges, storm water runoff from nearby paved streets and parking lots uphill and across the street from the dwelling could impact the masonry foundation and at-grade openings. A large deciduous tree shades the south-facing side yard. The lot could be improved to encourage site drainage away from the building's foundation.

Strategies

- Install solar panels on the ell roof or main roof, set back from the edge of the gable end
- Elevate critical mechanical systems on the interior
- Integrate rainwater runoff strategies into landscaping
- Maintain masonry, particularly chimneys to reduce damage from loose falling bricks and water infiltration
- Install hardware around openings at street level to accommodate retractable flood shields during storm events
- Slope grade and landscaping away from the foundation on the uphill side of the house to improve site drainage



Put weather protection sealant around basement windows

Regrade around sills to direct water away from basement windows

Install flood barriers for basement windows and vents.

At Grade Entrances

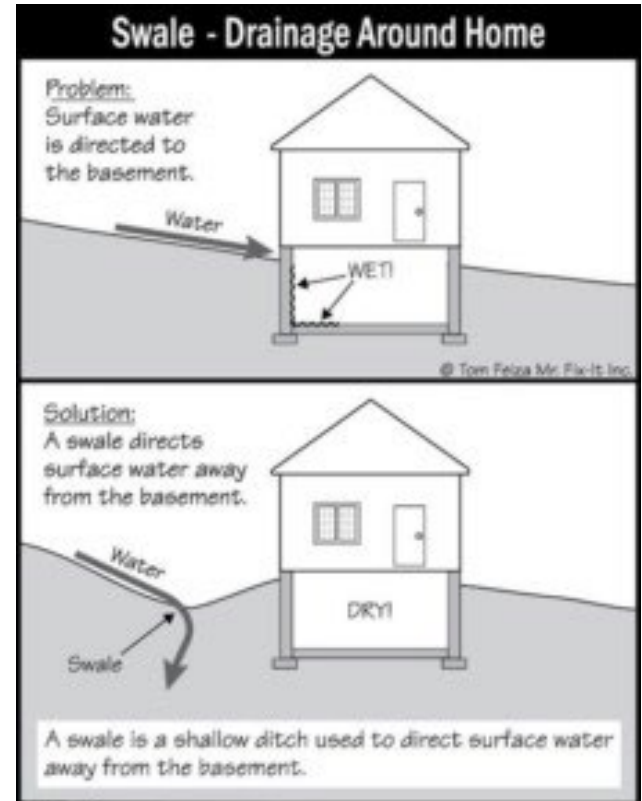
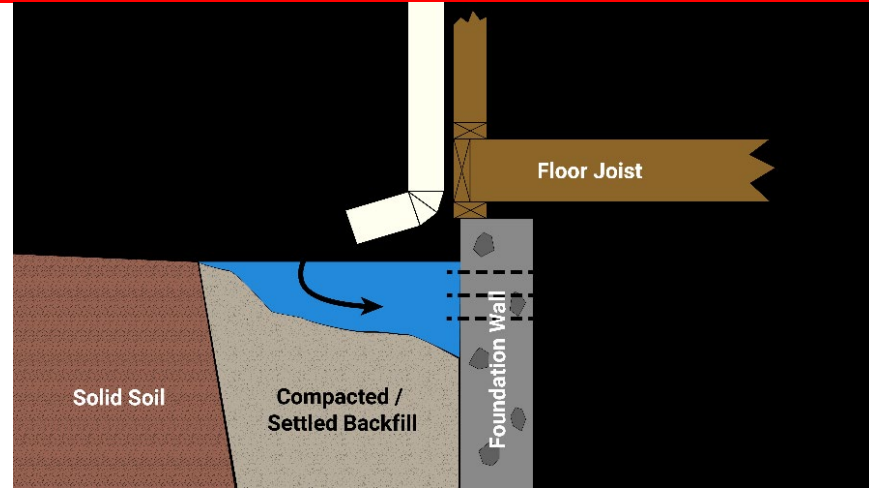
Making Improvements

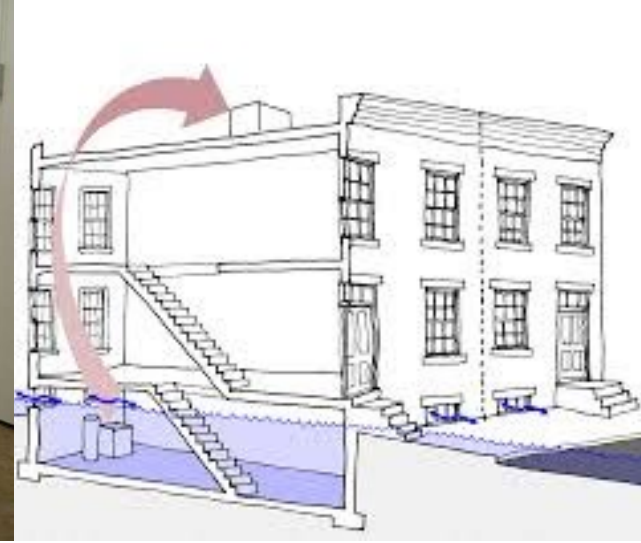


Install flood shields or barriers for entrances at grade.

Reduce Negative Site Drainage

Making Improvements





Anchor fuel/oil tanks, water heaters and furnaces. In a flood, a fuel tank can tip over or float, causing fuel to leak and potentially catch fire.

Elevate mechanical equipment and appliances

Relocate mechanical equipment to roof, attic, or living area above flood levels.



Use a rain barrel to catch water runoff.



Make sure downspouts extend at least **2 m (6')** from your basement wall. Water should drain away from your property and neighboring properties.

Raising Utility Entrances

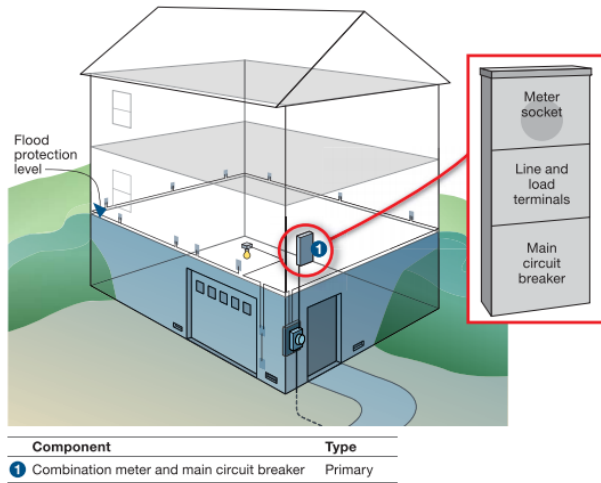


Figure 4-12. Combination meter socket and circuit breaker service disconnect used to allow a main panel to be elevated and protected from flooding when the electrical meter cannot be moved.

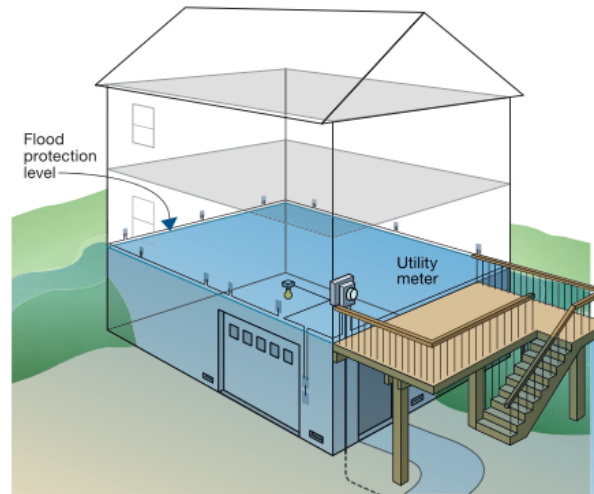


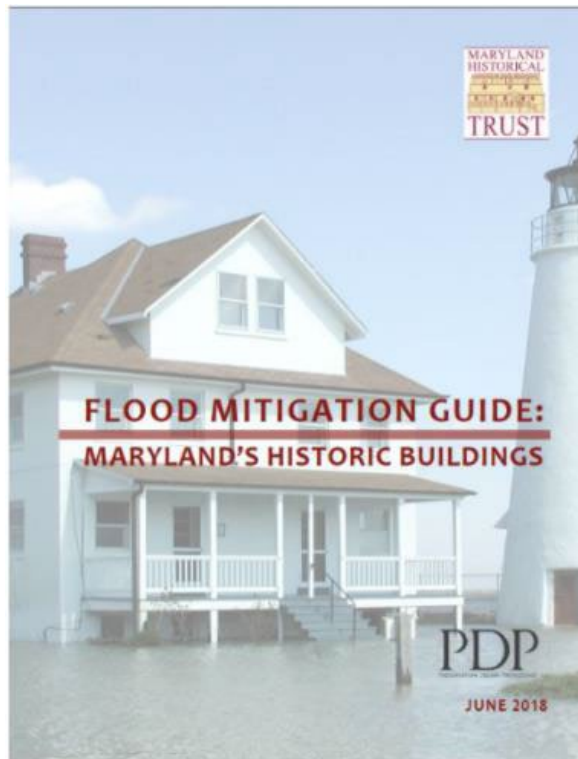
Figure 4-16. Elevating electrical components and routing wiring above the flood protection level protects several primary and secondary electrical components from flood damage.



National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
Floodplain Management Bulletin
Historic Structures

FEMA P-467-2

May 2008



**Reducing Flood Risk
to Residential
Buildings That
Cannot Be Elevated**

FEMA P-1037 / September 2015



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Thank you!



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