

5 Signs Your Historic Home Needs an Electrical Panel Upgrade

Historic homes possess a unique charm and character that new construction simply cannot replicate. However, behind the plaster walls and crown molding often lies an electrical system that was designed for the technology of the 1920s, not the 2020s. Sperry Electric LLC specializes in bridging this gap, ensuring that your vintage home can safely support modern appliances, computers, and HVAC systems. If you live in an older property, it is crucial to recognize the signs that your wiring is struggling to keep up with current demands.

1. Two-Prong Outlets: If your outlets lack the third "ground" hole, your system is ungrounded. This poses a significant risk for modern electronics and personal safety. Without a ground wire, surge protectors cannot function properly, leaving your devices vulnerable. An upgrade is necessary to provide a safe path for stray electrical current.

2. Knob and Tube Wiring: This cloth-covered wiring, suspended by porcelain knobs, is common in pre-1950s homes. The insulation breaks down over time, exposing live wires. Furthermore, it relies on open air to dissipate heat; burying it in modern insulation creates a fire hazard. Insurance companies often require its removal before issuing a policy.

3. Fuse Boxes: If you still have glass fuses instead of modern circuit breakers, your system is outdated. Fuses are often oversized by homeowners (putting a 30-amp fuse in a 15-amp slot), creating massive fire hazards. A modern breaker panel provides better protection, easier resetting, and expansion capacity.

4. Reliance on Power Strips: If you have to use extension cords, octopuses, and splitters in every room because there aren't enough outlets, you are overloading the few circuits you have. This is a clear signal that you need a service upgrade to add more branch circuits.

5. Dimming Lights: When the refrigerator or AC kicks on, do the kitchen lights dim? This voltage drop indicates that your service panel is at capacity and cannot supply enough power for your home's needs.

When searching for an [Electrician in Northern New Jersey](#) for these complex projects, you need a specialist who understands how to fish wires through lath and plaster without destroying your home's

aesthetic. We treat your historic property with the respect it deserves while bringing its safety standards into the 21st century.

Preserve the history, but upgrade the safety.

To evaluate your historic home's wiring, contact Sperry Electric LLC.

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