

The word **permit** as a document has roots in the early 15th century, meaning a written authority to do something. A permit allows you to take command of your castle and to execute your vision as outlined in the permit.



Ancient building codes are a written legacy providing solid evidence that people have long been aware of their ability to avoid catastrophic consequences to poor building practices and in an act of self-preservation began writing and enforcing local building codes centuries ago. This fact is contrary to the popular belief that building codes are historically a recent phenomenon that occurred sometime in the 1920s. Actually, they can be traced back to Hammurabi, founder of the Babylonian Empire about 2000 BC and beyond as many experts claim they go back at least 4,000 years.

The first building codes in the United States were established in 1625 by addressing fire safety and specified materials for roof coverings. In 1630, Boston outlawed chimneys made of wood and thatch roof coverings. In the late 1770s **George Washington** recommended that height and area limitations be imposed on wood frame buildings in his plans for the District of Columbia. 1788 saw the first formal building code written in the US (in German) in old Salem, which was well known for many of its infamous fires. Larger US cities began establishing building codes in the early 1800s and in 1865 New Orleans was the first city to enact a law requiring inspections of public places.

History tells us that both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson encouraged the development of building regulations in order to help provide minimum standards that would ensure health and safety for building occupants.

