

Brick and Stone

Brick walls are a major contributing design element to the character of Hyde Park. There are several different colors and textures of brick within the district. These colors should be maintained and not be painted or covered with any form of plaster or siding.

Brick painted originally should be maintained. Brick or Stone surfaces may have been painted or whitewashed for practical and aesthetic reasons. Some brick was not capable of withstanding exposure to weather unless painted.

A number of different brick patterns exist within the Historic District. These patterns are important to retain as they are evidence of the period in which they were built and of the craftsmanship prevalent during that period.

Cast stone and, to a lesser extent, terra cotta and limestone, were used within the district. These materials should be maintained in their original color and texture.

Some examples of ashlar (cut stone masonry) or random laid stone may be found in walls, foundations or as accent materials. Where repaired or replaced, great care must be taken to reproduce the original characteristics of the stone as closely as possible. As with brick, stone should not be covered with other forms of wall materials nor should it be painted.

If new brickwork is to be done, it should be matched as closely as possible to the original in color, texture and size. Mortar joints should match in type, color and width. This retains the scale and overall texture of the entire wall and the building. Maintaining the width of mortar joints is extremely important to the overall character of the building. Colored mortar joints that contrast greatly with the original brickwork are inappropriate. When repointing mortar joints, employ mortar physically compatible with the original mortar. Mortar joint width must be maintained during repointing.

A modification or replacement of brick, stone, terra cotta or cast stone will require a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to the commencement of the construction. The Administrator of the A.R.C. shall review the application for compliance with the design guidelines. If the application is deemed by the Administrator to contain minor modifications, repairs or appropriate replacements, the Administrator may issue the Certificate of Appropriateness. If the application includes work other than minor modifications, repairs or appropriate replacements, the A.R.C. shall review the application at the regular A.R.C. public hearing for a decision on the Certificate of Appropriateness.



Brick was sometimes painted for practical reasons.



Typical Stonework Detail



Typical Brickwork Detail

It is Permissible to...

Maintain existing brick, cast stone, terra cotta or stone walls.

Repair brick or stone walls with new material that matches the original material as closely as possible.

Repoint mortar joints with compatible material.

Maintain the original color of the brick or stone and of the mortar.

Maintain painted surfaces if they are original.

It is Not Permissible to...

Remove or cover brick or stone.

Change the width of mortar joints in a masonry wall.

Use imitation stucco brick, stucco stone or brick veneer.

Paint brick or stone which has never been painted.

Remove paint from brick or stone which was painted originally for practical or aesthetic reasons.