







Metro Historic Zoning Commission

MASONRY DESIGN REVIEW SUPPLEMENT


When choosing masonry for new construction's wall cladding, foundation cladding, or chimney, the new material should be compatible to historic materials in terms of dimensions, texture, color and tooling.


WALL CLADDING:

-  **Bricks** that are a standard size and have finishes such as "chiseled," "raked," "wire-cut," "matte," "glazed," and "smooth," are the most appropriate options. Appropriate colors range in the earth tones, but largely between a clay-red to brown-red, to reds that are almost black. Color variations that result from the firing process are appropriate.
-  **King brick** is not appropriate. Brick that tries to look old or reclaimed creates a false sense of history and so does not meet the design guidelines; therefore bricks with finishes such as "hand-pressed," "fritted," "thrown," "tumbled" and "rolled" are inappropriate. Brick that achieves its color by means of an applied surface of colored sand, with mortar washes, or that is painted is also inappropriate as it hides the original texture and color of the brick and mortar.
-  **Stone** the color of limestone in shapes from round to block are appropriate as cladding material.


 Long narrow blocks of stone that emphasize the horizontal and often do not use mortar are not appropriate. "Fieldstone" and Dry-stack patterns are not appropriate for cladding of structural walls and/or foundations. Sandstone colored stone is not appropriate in the Middle-Tennessee region.

FOUNDATION CLADDING:

 Historic foundations were typically limestone blocks or tooled cast concrete; therefore, mortared blocks of stone are appropriate. Split-face or a stucco finish concrete block is also appropriate.

 Dry stack (mortar-less) stone is not appropriate. Round stones or rubble rock are not appropriate as they are a give-away that the veneer is not the actual structural material.

MORTAR:

 Replacement mortar on pre-1950s buildings should generally be a type O or N. Other types might be too hard for the brick and cause it to split and spaul. The color and tooling of mortar for historic buildings is also reviewed.

REPOINTING: General [guidance](#) for repointing mortar on historic buildings:

1. Old mortar should be removed by hand. Small pneumatically-powered chisels might be possible if used by skilled masons.
2. Old mortar should be removed to a minimum depth of 2 to 2-1/2 times the width of the joint.
3. When removed, square corners should be left at the back of the cut.
4. The joints should be damp, prior to filling.
5. Mortar should match historic mortar or be stained to match.
6. Once complete, masonry should be cleaned with natural bristle or nylon brushes, to remove mortar from the edge of the joint.

 Surface grouting is not recommend

EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE MASONRY

The following stone is appropriate in some cases. Every district, every lot and every case is different so this list is not a list of “approved” masonry products but provided to offer initial guidance. In all cases the applicant must receive approval for masonry products prior to purchase and installation. MHZC is happy to review any other stone samples or samples from other distributors.

STONE

AVAILABLE FROM ALLEY CASSETTY BRICK:

Caney Fork Buff
Briarwood Ledge
Citadel Iron Mountain
Citadel Silver Slate

AVAILABLE FROM CENTURIAN STONE:

Gray Rubble
Sage Valley Cathedral
PA Flint Ridge (wall, but not foundation)
Tulsa Hackett

BRICK

AVAILABLE FROM ALLEY CASSETTY BRICK:

Jenkins Brick
MENAWA
MACKENZIE
PEABODY BLEND
Triangle Brick
FLASHED BRUSHTEX 1430
Palmetto Brick
OLDE MARLBOROUGH
Carolina Ceramics
CRIMSON DARK VELOUR
Glen-Gery Brick
OXFORD IRONSPOT
BURGUNDY IRONSPOT
DUQUESNE
Blenden
BLEND
AMHERST
REVERE
RAINBOW
No 9
GARDEN
TULIP
RUBIGO
CENTURY REDS
CHERRY BARK
COMMODORE
INDIAN

AVAILABLE FROM UNION STATION BRICK:

Ragland Clay Products
VILLAGE CLINKER
RED SELECT

AVAILABLE FROM ASSOC. MASONRY PRODUCTS:

Ragland Clay Products
MONTROSE
Triangle Brick
CAPE COD O.S. 3350
URBAN NIGHT 7042
PINE FOREST 7044
TUSCAN 7024
OXFORD
OLD COLONY
NORTHAMPTON
Brampton Brick
SULLIVAN QUEEN
MARSHALL QUEEN

NOTE: The Germantown Historic Preservation Zoning Overlay requires brick sidewalks for new development. Examples of what have been approved by Public Works includes the following in 2 1/4 x 8 3/8 size:

Plymouth Tumbled Pavers

Red Common Blend from Union Station Brick & Materials Co