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USMMA Historic District Property Maintenance and Repair Manual

Volume 7 – Stucco Elements

Sunny E. Adams and Adam D. Smith

June 2018



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Cover Photo: Stucco exterior wall, west facade of Quarters D (Grenwolde Casino) (USMMA, 2013).

USMMA Historic District Property Maintenance and Repair Manual

Volume 7 – Stucco Elements

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Abstract

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is located in Kings Point, New York. The Academy is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (#14000538). The historic district contains contributing mansions constructed during the Gold Coast Era and the Academy buildings constructed in 1942 to 1969. All buildings require regular planned maintenance and repair. The most notable cause of historic building element failure and/or decay is not because the historic building is old, but rather it is caused by an incorrect or inappropriate repair and/or basic neglect of the historic building fabric. This document is a maintenance manual compiled with as-is conditions of building materials at the Academy. The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties on Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Repair* are discussed per material. This 8-volume report includes an overview volume plus volumes on each of the following elements: concrete, wood, brick, metal, roofing, stucco, and mechanical systems. All mentioned repair procedures are from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA): Historic Preservation Technical Procedures and/or the National Park Service's series of Preservation Briefs. This report satisfies Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended.

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Preface

This study was conducted for the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) under Project Number 450153, “Historic Preservation Plan for U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.” The technical monitor was Barbara Voulgaris, Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD.

The work was performed by the Land and Heritage Conservation Branch (CNC) of the Installations Division (CN), U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center – Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). At the time of publication, Dr. Michael Hargrave was Chief, CEERD-CNC; and Ms. Michelle Hanson was Chief, CEERD-CN. The Deputy Director of ERDC-CERL was Dr. Kirankumar Topudurti, and the Director was Lance D. Hansen.

COL Bryan S. Green was the Commander of ERDC, and Dr. David W. Pittman was the Director.

Foreword

ERDC-CERL's effort to put together a guide to proper maintenance and repair of the historic elements at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy has been divided into multiple volumes for ease of use by installation personnel.

This is Volume 7 of 8, and it covers guidance for proper maintenance and repair of historic stucco elements at USMMA.

Please see Volume 1 for an overview of the project and the USMMA's historic context, an explanation of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and their application, and overviews and lists of immediate concerns for the USMMA's historic exteriors and interiors.

ADAM D. SMITH
Project Manager

1 Stucco

NOTE: Maintenance manuals such as those produced as part of this report are a general guide for the historic materials used throughout the USMMA. Do not assume that because a particular building or a particular material on a building is not mentioned in these manuals that the material in need of maintenance or repair does not need to follow the Standards.

Stucco is applied directly, without lath, to masonry substrates such as brick, stone, concrete, or hollow tile. On wood structures, stucco, similar to its interior counterpart plaster, is applied over lath in order to obtain an adequate key to hold the stucco. Stucco is applied as a multiple-layer process consisting of two and more commonly as three coats. Stucco applied to an exterior wall is intended to function as a watertight surface. Unless maintained, rainwater will penetrate open joints and cracks that may appear over time.

1.1 Immediate concerns for stucco

The following are examples of deterioration and actions to be taken, with references to photos of USMMAHD structures that show the indicated problems. It is, of course, possible for a structure to exhibit more than one type of deterioration.

- Stucco applied to an exterior wall (Figure 1, Figure 4–Figure 7) is intended to function as a watertight surface. Unless maintained, rainwater will penetrate the open joints and cracks that may appear over time.
- Stucco is particularly susceptible to water damage, which in turn will cause the stucco to lose its bond and pull away from its substrate (Figure 8 and Figure 9).
- Crazeing and hairline cracks are to be expected with historic stucco, but if they appear on a large amount of wall areas or cover the entire surface, inspections should be done on the underlying substrate.

- The USMMA needs to develop a periodic inspection process for all of its buildings that have stucco finishes to ensure deterioration and degradation is mitigated and/or fixed as quickly as possible (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

Figure 1. Stucco-clad exterior wall, west facade of Quarters D (Grenwolde Casino) (USMMA, 2013).



Figure 2. Flashing and pigeon control placed on top of architectural elements covered with stucco material; replacement stucco needs to be finished with color, appearance, and texture of original stucco (ERDC-CERL, 2015).



Figure 3. Stucco-clad balustrade that has been painted (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 4. Melville Hall is one of the Gold Coast mansions that has stucco (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 5. Stucco details, corbel and dentils, on Melville Hall (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 6. Land Hall is another of the Gold Coast mansions that has stucco (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 7. Stucco on concrete at the Eldridge Pool bathhouses (ERDC-CERL, 2013).



Figure 8. A concrete pergola column with a parge of stucco that is failing (ERDC-CERL, 2015).



Figure 9. A stucco parge that is failing on this monument (ERDC-CERL, 2015).




1.2 Guidelines, briefs, bulletins, and sources for stucco

In addition to the information contained in this manual, the authors have compiled the following federal resource publications (reproduced here for convenience, with links for online access given in References) to inform managers about standards, guidelines, and procedures for understanding architecture, and caring for, preserving, and rehabilitating historic buildings with emphasis on historic stucco material (see subsections 1.2.1 and 1.2.2).

1.2.1 Preserving and repairing historic stucco (Grimmer 1990 – Preservation Brief #22)

Technical Preservation Services

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior


[Home](#) > [How to Preserve](#) > [Preservation Briefs](#) > 22 Stucco

Some of the web versions of the Preservation Briefs differ somewhat from the printed versions. Many illustrations are new and in color; Captions are simplified and some complex charts are omitted. To order hard copies of the Briefs, see [Printed Publications](#)™.

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The Preservation and Repair of Historic Stucco

Anne E. Grimmer


[Historical Background](#)


[Repairing Deteriorated Stucco](#)

[Mixes for Repair of Historic Stucco](#)

[Summary and References](#)

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Arlington House, Arlington, Virginia. Photo: NPS files.

The term "stucco" is used here to describe a type of exterior plaster applied as a two-or-three part coating directly onto masonry, or applied over wood or metal lath to a log or wood frame structure. Stucco is found in many forms on historic structures throughout the United States. It is so common, in fact, that it frequently goes unnoticed, and is often disguised or used to imitate another material. Historic stucco is also sometimes incorrectly viewed as a sacrificial coating, and consequently removed to reveal stone, brick or logs that historically were never intended to be exposed. Age and lack of maintenance hasten the deterioration of many historic stucco buildings. Like most historic building materials, stucco is at the mercy of the elements, and even though it is a protective coating, it is particularly susceptible to water damage.

Stucco is a material of deceptive simplicity: in most cases its repair should not be undertaken by a property owner unfamiliar with the art of plastering. Successful stucco repair requires the skill and experience of a professional plasterer. Therefore, this Brief has been prepared to provide background information on the nature and components of traditional stucco, as well as offer guidance on proper maintenance and repairs. The Brief will outline the requirements for stucco repair, and, when necessary, replacement. Although several stucco mixes representative of different periods are provided here for reference, this Brief does not include specifications for carrying out repair projects. Each project is unique, with its own set of problems that require individual solutions.

Historical Background

Stucco has been used since ancient times. Still widely used throughout the world, it is one of the most common of traditional building materials. Up until the late 1800's, stucco, like mortar, was primarily lime-based, but the popularization of portland cement changed the composition of stucco, as well as mortar, to a harder material. Historically, the term "plaster" has often been interchangeable with "stucco"; the term is still favored by many, particularly when referring to the traditional lime-based coating. By the nineteenth century "stucco," although originally denoting fine interior ornamental plasterwork, had gained wide acceptance in the United States to describe

exterior plastering. "Render" and "rendering" are also terms used to describe stucco, especially in Great Britain. Other historic treatments and coatings related to stucco in that they consist at least in part of a similarly plastic or malleable material include: parging and pargeting, wattle and daub, "cob" or chalk mud, pise de terre, rammed earth, briquete entre poteaux or bousillage, half-timbering, and adobe. All of these are regional variations on traditional mixtures of mud, clay, lime, chalk, cement, gravel or straw. Many are still used today.

The Stucco Tradition in the United States

Stucco is primarily used on residential buildings and relatively small-scale commercial structures. Some of the earliest stucco buildings in the United States include examples of the Federal, Greek and Gothic Revival styles of the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries that emulated European architectural fashions.

Benjamin Henry Latrobe, appointed by Thomas Jefferson as Surveyor of Public Buildings of the United States in 1803, was responsible for the design of a number of important stucco buildings, including St. John's Church (1816), in Washington, D.C.

Nearly half a century later Andrew Jackson Downing also advocated the use of stucco in his influential book *The Architecture of Country Houses*, published in 1850. In Downing's opinion, stucco was superior in many respects to plain brick or stone because it was cheaper, warmer and dryer, and could be "agreeably" tinted. As a result of his advice, stuccoed Italianate style urban and suburban villas proliferated in many parts of the country during the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

Revival Styles Promote Use of Stucco

The introduction of the many revival styles of architecture around the turn of the twentieth century, combined with the improvement and increased availability of portland cement resulted in a "craze" for stucco as a building material in the United States. Beginning about 1890 and gaining momentum into the 1930s and 1940s, stucco was associated with certain historic architectural styles, including: Prairie; Art Deco, and Art Moderne; Spanish Colonial, Mission, Pueblo, Mediterranean, English Cotswold Cottage, and Tudor Revival styles; as well as the ubiquitous bungalow and "four-square" house. The fad for Spanish Colonial Revival, and other variations on this theme, was especially important in furthering stucco as a building material in the United States during this period, since stucco clearly looked like adobe.

Although stucco buildings were especially prevalent in California, the Southwest and Florida, ostensibly because of their Spanish heritage, this period also spawned stucco-coated, revival-style buildings all over the United States and Canada. The popularity of stucco as a cheap, and readily available material meant that by the 1920s, it was used for an increasing variety of building types. Resort hotels, apartment buildings, private mansions and movie theaters, railroad stations, and even gas stations and tourist courts took advantage of the "romance" of period styles, and adopted the stucco construction that had become synonymous with these styles.

A Practical Building Material

Stucco has traditionally been popular for a variety of reasons. It was an inexpensive material that could simulate finely dressed stonework, especially when "scored" or "lined" in the European tradition. A stucco coating over a less finished and less costly substrate such as rubblestone, fieldstone, brick, log or wood frame, gave the building the appearance of being a more expensive and important structure. As a weather-repellent coating, stucco protected the building from wind and rain penetration, and also offered a certain amount of fire protection. While stucco was usually applied during construction as part of the building design, particularly over rubblestone or fieldstone, in some instances it was added later to protect the structure, or when a rise in the owner's social status demanded a comparable rise in his standard of living.

Composition of Historic Stucco

Before the mid-to-late nineteenth century, stucco consisted primarily of hydrated or slaked lime, water and sand, with straw or animal hair included as a binder. Natural cements were frequently used in stucco mixes after their discovery in the United States during the 1820s. Portland cement was first manufactured in the United States in 1871, and it gradually replaced natural cement. After about 1900, most stucco was composed primarily of portland cement,



The stucco on the early-19th century Richardson-Owens-Thomas House in Savannah, Georgia, is a type of natural cement. Photo: NPS files.



The stucco finish on Arlington House, Arlington, Virginia, was marbled in the 1850s, approximately 30 years after it was built. Photo: NPS files.



The damage to this stucco appears to be caused by moisture infiltration. Photo: NPS files.

mixed with some lime. With the addition of portland cement, stucco became even more versatile and durable. No longer used just as a coating for a substantial material like masonry or log, stucco could now be applied over wood or metal lath attached to a light wood frame. With this increased strength, stucco ceased to be just a veneer and became a more integral part of the building structure.

Today, gypsum, which is hydrated calcium sulfate or sulfate of lime, has to a great extent replaced lime. Gypsum is preferred because it hardens faster and has less shrinkage than lime. Lime is generally used only in the finish coat in contemporary stucco work.

The composition of stucco depended on local custom and available materials. Stucco often contained substantial amounts of mud or clay, marble or brick dust, or even sawdust, and an array of additives ranging from animal blood or urine, to eggs, keratin or glue size (animal hooves and horns), varnish, wheat paste, sugar, salt, sodium silicate, alum, tallow, linseed oil, beeswax, and wine, beer, or rye whiskey. Waxes, fats and oils were included to introduce water-repellent properties, sugary materials reduced the amount of water needed and slowed down the setting time, and alcohol acted as an air entrainer. All of these additives contributed to the strength and durability of the stucco.

The appearance of much stucco was determined by the color of the sand—or sometimes burnt clay—used in the mix, but often stucco was also tinted with natural pigments, or the surface whitewashed or color-washed after stuccoing was completed. Brick dust could provide color, and other coloring materials that were not affected by lime, mostly mineral pigments, could be added to the mix for the final finish coat. Stucco was also marbled or marbledized—stained to look like stone by diluting oil of vitriol (sulfuric acid) with water, and mixing this with a yellow ochre, or another color. As the twentieth century progressed, manufactured or synthetic pigments were added at the factory to some prepared stucco mixes.

Methods of Application

Stucco is applied directly, without lath, to masonry substrates such as brick, stone, concrete or hollow tile. But on wood structures, stucco, like its interior counterpart plaster, must be applied over lath in order to obtain an adequate key to hold the stucco. Thus, when applied over a log structure, stucco is laid on horizontal wood lath that has been nailed on vertical wood furring strips attached to the logs. If it is applied over a wood frame structure, stucco may be applied to wood or metal lath nailed directly to the wood frame; it may also be placed on lath that has been attached to furring strips. The furring strips are themselves laid over building paper covering the wood sheathing.

Wood lath was gradually superseded by expanded metal lath introduced in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. When stuccoing over a stone or brick substrate, it was customary to cut back or rake out the mortar joints if they were not already recessed by natural weathering or erosion, and sometimes the bricks themselves were gouged to provide a key for the stucco. This helped provide the necessary bond for the stucco to remain attached to the masonry, much like the key provided by wood or metal lath on frame buildings.

Like interior wall plaster, stucco has traditionally been applied as a multiple-layer process, sometimes consisting of two coats, but more commonly as three. Whether applied directly to a masonry substrate or onto wood or metal lath, this consists of a first "scratch" or "pricking-up" coat, followed by a second scratch coat, sometimes referred to as a "floating" or "brown" coat, followed finally by the "finishing" coat. Up until the late-nineteenth century, the first and the second coats were of much the same composition, generally consisting of lime, or natural cement, sand, perhaps clay, and one or more of the additives previously mentioned. Straw or animal hair was usually added to the first coat as a binder. The third, or finishing coat, consisted primarily of a very fine mesh grade of lime and sand, and sometimes pigment. As already noted, after the 1820s, natural cement was also a common ingredient in stucco until it was replaced by portland cement.

Both masonry and wood lath must be kept wet or damp to ensure a good bond with the stucco. Wetting these materials helps to prevent them from pulling moisture out of the stucco too rapidly, which results in cracking, loss of bond, and generally poor quality stuccowork.

Traditional Stucco Finishes

Until the early-twentieth century when a variety of novelty finishes or textures were introduced, the last coat of stucco was commonly given a smooth, troweled finish, and then scored or lined in imitation of ashlar. The illusion of masonry joints



Caulking is not an appropriate method for repairing cracks in historic stucco. Photo: NPS files.



The dry materials must be mixed thoroughly before adding water to make the stucco. Photo: NPS files.

was sometimes enhanced by a thin line of white lime putty, graphite, or some other pigment. Some nineteenth century buildings feature a water table or raised foundation of roughcast stucco that differentiates it from the stucco surface above, which is smooth and scored. Other novelty or textured finishes associated with the "period" or revival styles of the early-twentieth century include: the English cottage finish, adobe and Spanish, pebble-dashed or dry-dash surface, fan and sponge texture, reticulated and vermiculated, roughcast (or wet dash), and sgraffito.

Repairing Deteriorated Stucco

Regular Maintenance

Although A. J. Downing alluded to stuccoed houses in Pennsylvania that had survived for over a century in relatively good condition, historic stucco is inherently not a particularly permanent or long-lasting building material. Regular maintenance is required to keep it in good condition. Unfortunately, many older or historic buildings are not always accorded this kind of care.

Because building owners knew stucco to be a protective, but also somewhat fragile coating, they employed a variety of means to prolong its usefulness. The most common treatment was to whitewash stucco, often annually. The lime in the whitewash offered protection and stability and helped to harden the stucco. Most importantly, it filled hairline cracks before they could develop into larger cracks and let in moisture. To improve water repellency, stucco buildings were also sometimes coated with paraffin, another type of wax, or other stucco-like coatings, such as oil mastics.

Assessing Damage

Most stucco deterioration is the result of water infiltration into the building structure, either through the roof, around chimneys, window and door openings, or excessive ground water or moisture penetrating through, or splashing up from the foundation. Potential causes of deterioration include: ground settlement lintel and door frame settlement, inadequate or leaking gutters and downspouts, intrusive vegetation, moisture migration within walls due to interior condensation and humidity, vapor drive problems caused by furnace, bathroom and kitchen vents, and rising damp resulting from excessive ground water and poor drainage around the foundation. Water infiltration will cause wood lath to rot, and metal lath and nails to rust, which eventually will cause stucco to lose its bond and pull away from its substrate.

After the cause of deterioration has been identified, any necessary repairs to the building should be made first before repairing the stucco. Such work is likely to include repairs designed to keep excessive water away from the stucco, such as roof, gutter, downspout and flashing repairs, improving drainage, and redirecting rainwater runoff and splash-back away from the building. Horizontal areas such as the tops of parapet walls or chimneys are particularly vulnerable to water infiltration, and may require modifications to their original design, such as the addition of flashing to correct the problem.

Previous repairs inexpertly carried out may have caused additional deterioration, particularly if executed in portland cement, which tends to be very rigid, and therefore incompatible with early, mostly soft lime-based stucco that is more "flexible." Incompatible repairs, external vibration caused by traffic or construction, or building settlement can also result in cracks which permit the entrance of water and cause the stucco to fail.

Before beginning any stucco repair, an assessment of the stucco should be undertaken to determine the extent of the damage, and how much must be replaced or repaired. Testing should be carried out systematically on all elevations of the building to determine the overall condition of the stucco. Some areas in need of repair will be clearly evidenced by missing sections of stucco or stucco layers. Bulging or cracked areas are obvious places to begin. Unsound, punky or soft areas that have lost their key will echo with a hollow sound when tapped gently with a wooden or acrylic hammer or mallet.

Identifying the Stucco Type

Analysis of the historic stucco will provide useful information on its primary ingredients and their proportions, and will help to ensure that the new replacement stucco will duplicate the old in strength, composition, color and texture as closely as possible. However, unless authentic, period restoration is required, it may not be worthwhile, nor in many instances possible, to attempt to duplicate all of the ingredients (particularly some of the additives), in creating the new stucco mortar. Some items are no longer available, and others, notably sand and lime—the major components of traditional stucco—have changed radically over time. For example, most sand used in contemporary masonry work is manufactured sand, because river sand, which was used historically, is difficult to obtain today in many parts of the country. The physical and visual qualities of manufactured sand versus river sand, are quite different, and this affects the way stucco works, as well as the way it looks. The same is true of lime, which is frequently replaced by gypsum in modern stucco mixes. And



The deteriorated surface of this catch basin is being re-stuccoed. Photo: NPS files.

even if identification of all the items in the historic stucco mix were possible, the analysis would still not reveal how the original stucco was mixed and applied.

There are, however, simple tests that can be carried out on a small piece of stucco to determine its basic makeup. A dilute solution of hydrochloric (muriatic) acid will dissolve lime-based stucco, but not portland cement. Although the use of portland cement became common after 1900, there are no precise cutoff dates, as stuccoing practices varied among individual plasterers, and from region to region. Some plasterers began using portland cement in the 1880s, but others may have continued to favor lime stucco well into the early twentieth century. While it is safe to assume that a late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century stucco is lime-based, late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century stucco may be based on either lime or portland cement. Another important factor to take into consideration is that an early lime-stucco building is likely to have been repaired many times over the ensuing years, and it is probable that at least some of these patches consist of portland cement.

Planning the Repair

Once the extent of damage has been determined, a number of repair options may be considered. Small hairline cracks usually are not serious and may be sealed with a thin slurry coat consisting of the finish coat ingredients, or even with a coat of paint or whitewash.

Commercially available caulking compounds are not suitable materials for patching hairline cracks. Because their consistency and texture is unlike that of stucco, they tend to weather differently, and attract more dirt; as a result, repairs made with caulking compounds may be highly visible, and unsightly. Larger cracks will have to be cut out in preparation for more extensive repair. Most stucco repairs will require the skill and expertise of a professional plasterer.



The stucco will be applied to the wire lath laid over the area to be patched. Photo: NPS files.

In the interest of saving or preserving as much as possible of the historic stucco, patching rather than wholesale replacement is preferable. When repairing heavily textured surfaces, it is not usually necessary to replace an entire wall section, as the textured finish, if well-executed, tends to conceal patches, and helps them to blend in with the existing stucco. However, because of the nature of smooth-finished stucco, patching a number of small areas scattered over one elevation may not be a successful repair approach unless the stucco has been previously painted, or is to be painted following the repair work. On unpainted stucco such patches are hard to conceal, because they may not match exactly or blend in with the rest of the historic stucco surface. For this reason it is recommended, if possible, that stucco repair be carried out in a contained or well-defined area, or if the stucco is scored, the repair patch should be "squared-off" in such a way as to follow existing scoring. In some cases, especially in a highly visible location, it may be preferable to restucco an entire wall section or feature. In this way, any differences between the patched area and the historic surface will not be so readily apparent.

Repair of historic stucco generally follows most of the same principles used in plaster repair. First, all deteriorated, severely cracked and loose stucco should be removed down to the lath (assuming that the lath is securely attached to the substrate), or down to the masonry if the stucco is directly applied to a masonry substrate. A clean surface is necessary to obtain a good bond between the stucco and substrate. The areas to be patched should be cleaned of all debris with a bristle brush, and all plant growth, dirt, loose paint, oil or grease should be removed. If necessary, brick or stone mortar joints should then be raked out to a depth of approximately 5/8" to ensure a good bond between the substrate and the new stucco.

To obtain a neat repair, the area to be patched should be squared-off with a butt joint, using a cold chisel, a hatchet, a diamond blade saw, or a masonry bit. Sometimes it may be preferable to leave the area to be patched in an irregular shape which may result in a less conspicuous patch. Proper preparation of the area to be patched requires very sharp tools, and extreme caution on the part of the plasterer not to break keys of surrounding good stucco by "over-sounding" when removing deteriorated stucco.

To ensure a firm bond, the new patch must not overlap the old stucco. If the stucco has lost its bond or key from wood lath, or the lath has deteriorated or come loose from the substrate, a decision must be made whether to try to reattach the old lath, to replace deteriorated lath with new wood lath, or to leave the historic wood lath in place and supplement it with modern expanded metal lath. Unless authenticity is important, it is generally preferable (and easier) to nail new metal lath over the old wood lath to support the patch. Metal lath that is no longer securely fastened to the substrate may be removed and replaced in kind, or left in place, and supplemented with new wire lath.

When repairing lime-based stucco applied directly to masonry, the new stucco should be applied in the same manner, directly onto the stone or brick. The stucco will bond onto the masonry itself without the addition of lath because of the irregularities in the masonry or those of its mortar joints, or because its surface has been scratched, scored or otherwise roughened to provide an additional key. Cutting out the old stucco at a diagonal angle may also help secure the bond.

between the new and the old stucco. For the most part it is not advisable to insert metal lath when restuccoing historic masonry in sound condition, as it can hasten deterioration of the repair work. Not only will attaching the lath damage the masonry, but the slightest moisture penetration can cause metal lath to rust. This will cause metal to expand, eventually resulting in spalling of the stucco, and possibly the masonry substrate too.

If the area to be patched is properly cleaned and prepared, a bonding agent is usually not necessary. However, a bonding agent may be useful when repairing hairline cracks, or when dealing with substrates that do not offer a good bonding surface. These may include dense stone or brick, previously painted or stuccoed masonry, or spalling brick substrates. A good mechanical bond is always preferable to reliance on bonding agents. Bonding agents should not be used on a wall that is likely to remain damp or where large amounts of salts are present. Many bonding agents do not survive well under such conditions, and their use could jeopardize the longevity of the stucco repair.

A stucco mix compatible with the historic stucco should be selected after analyzing the existing stucco. It can be adapted from a standard traditional mix of the period, or based on one of the mixes included here. Stucco consisting mostly of portland cement generally will not be physically compatible with the softer, more flexible lime-rich historic stuccos used throughout the eighteenth and much of the nineteenth centuries. The differing expansion and contraction rates of lime stucco and portland cement stucco will normally cause the stucco to crack. Choosing a stucco mix that is durable and compatible with the historic stucco on the building is likely to involve considerable trial and error, and probably will require a number of test samples, and even more if it is necessary to match the color. It is best to let the stucco test samples weather as long as possible—ideally one year, or at least through a change of seasons, in order to study the durability of the mix and its compatibility with the existing stucco, as well as the weathering of the tint if the building will not be painted and color match is an important factor.

If the test samples are not executed on the building, they should be placed next to the stucco remaining on the building to compare the color, texture and composition of the samples with the original. The number and thickness of stucco coats used in the repair should also match the original.

After thoroughly dampening the masonry or wood lath, the first, scratch coat should be applied to the masonry substrate, or wood or metal lath, in a thickness that corresponds to the original if extant, or generally about 1/4" to 3/8". The scratch coat should be scratched or crosshatched with a comb to provide a key to hold the second coat. It usually takes 24-72 hours, and longer in cold weather, for each coat to dry before the next coat can be applied. The second coat should be about the same thickness as the first, and the total thickness of the first two coats should generally not exceed about 5/8". This second or leveling coat should be roughened using a wood float with a nail protruding to provide a key for the final or finish coat. The finish coat, about 1/4" thick, is applied after the previous coat has initially set. If this is not feasible, the base coat should be thoroughly dampened when the finish coat is applied later. The finish coat should be worked to match the texture of the original stucco.



The final finish coat will be applied to this scratch coat. Photo: NPS files.

Colors and Tints for Historic Stucco Repair



The new addition on the right is stucco scored to imitate the limestone of the historic building on the left. Photo: NPS files.

The color of most early stucco was supplied by the aggregate included in the mix—usually the sand. Sometimes natural pigments were added to the mix, and eighteenth and nineteenth-century scored stucco was often marbled or painted in imitation of marble or granite. Stucco was also frequently coated with whitewash or a colorwash. This tradition later evolved into the use of paint, its popularity depending on the vagaries of fashion as much as a means of concealing repairs. Because most of the early colors were derived from nature, the resultant stucco tints tended to be mostly earth-toned. This was true until the advent of brightly colored stucco in the early decades of the twentieth century. This was the so-called "Jazz Plaster" developed by O.A. Malone, the "man who put color into California," and who founded the California Stone Products Corporation in 1927. California Stucco was revolutionary for its time as the first stucco/plaster to contain colored pigment in its pre-packaged factory mix.

When patching or repairing a historic stucco surface known to have been tinted, it may be possible to determine through visual or microscopic analysis whether the source of the coloring is sand, cement, or pigment. Although some pigments or aggregates used traditionally may no longer be available, a sufficiently close color-match can generally be approximately using sand, natural or mineral pigments, or a combination of these. Obtaining such a match will require testing and comparing the color of the dried test samples with the original. Successfully combining pigments in the dry stucco mix

prepared for the finish coat requires considerable skill. The amount of pigment must be carefully measured for each batch of stucco. Overworking the mix can make the pigment separate from the lime. Changing the amount of water added to the mix, or using water to apply the tinted finish coat, will also affect the color of the stucco when it dries.

Generally, the color obtained by hand-mixing these ingredients will provide a sufficiently close match to cover an entire wall or an area distinct enough from the rest of the structure that the color differences will not be obvious. However, it may not work for small patches conspicuously located on a primary elevation, where color differences will be especially noticeable. In these instances, it may be necessary to conceal the repairs by painting the entire patched elevation, or even the whole building.

Many stucco buildings have been painted over the years and will require repainting after the stucco repairs have been made. Limewash or cement-based paint, latex paint, or oil-based paint are appropriate coatings for stucco buildings. The most important factor to consider when repainting a previously painted or coated surface is that the new paint be compatible with any coating already on the surface. In preparation for repainting, all loose or peeling paint or other coating material not firmly adhered to the stucco must be removed by hand-scraping or natural bristle brushes. The surface should then be cleaned.

Cement-based paints, most of which today contain some portland cement and are really a type of limewash, have traditionally been used on stucco buildings. The ingredients were easily obtainable. Furthermore, the lime in such paints actually bonded or joined with the stucco and provided a very durable coating. In many regions, whitewash was applied annually during spring cleaning. Modern, commercially available premixed masonry and mineral-based paints may also be used on historic stucco buildings.

If the structure must be painted for the first time to conceal repairs, almost any of these coatings may be acceptable depending on the situation. Latex paint, for example, may be applied to slightly damp walls or where there is an excess of moisture, but latex paint will not stick to chalky or powdery areas. Oil-based, or alkyd paints must be applied only to dry walls; new stucco must cure up to a year before it can be painted with oil-based paint.

Contemporary Stucco Products

There are many contemporary stucco products on the market today. Many of them are not compatible, either physically or visually, with historic stucco buildings. Such products should be considered for use only after consulting with a historic masonry specialist. However, some of these prepackaged tinted stucco coatings may be suitable for use on stucco buildings dating from the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century, as long as the color and texture are appropriate for the period and style of the building. While some masonry contractors may, as a matter of course, suggest that a water-repellent coating be applied after repairing old stucco, in most cases this should not be necessary, since color washes and paints serve the same purpose, and stucco itself is a protective coating.

Cleaning Historic Stucco Surfaces

Historic stucco buildings often exhibit multiple layers of paint or limewash. Although some stucco surfaces may be cleaned by water washing, the relative success of this procedure depends on two factors: the surface texture of the stucco, and the type of dirt to be removed. If simply removing airborne dirt, smooth unpainted stucco, and heavily-textured painted stucco may sometimes be cleaned using a low-pressure water wash, supplemented by scrubbing with soft natural bristle brushes, and possibly non-ionic detergents. Organic plant material, such as algae and mold, and metallic stains may be removed from stucco using poultices and appropriate solvents. Although these same methods may be employed to clean unpainted roughcast, pebble-dash, or any stucco surface featuring exposed aggregate, due to the surface irregularities, it may be difficult to remove dirt, without also removing portions of the decorative textured surface. Difficulty in cleaning these surfaces may explain why so many of these textured surfaces have been painted.

When Total Replacement is Necessary

Complete replacement of the historic stucco with new stucco of either a traditional or modern mix will probably be necessary only in cases of extreme deterioration—that is, a loss of bond on over 40-50 percent of the stucco surface. Another reason for total removal might be that the physical and visual integrity of the historic stucco has been so compromised by prior incompatible and ill-conceived repairs that patching would not be successful.

When stucco no longer exists on a building there is more flexibility in choosing a suitable mix for the replacement. Since compatibility of old and new stucco will not be an issue, the most important factors to consider are durability, color, texture and finish. Depending on the construction and substrate of the building, in some instances it may be acceptable to use a relatively strong cement-based stucco mortar. This is certainly true for many late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century buildings, and may even be appropriate to use on some stone substrates even if the original mortar would have been weaker, as long as the historic visual qualities noted above have been replicated. Generally, the best principle to follow for

a masonry building is that the stucco mix, whether for repair or replacement of historic stucco, should be somewhat weaker than the masonry to which it is to be applied in order not to damage the substrate.

General Guidance for Historic Stucco Repair

A skilled professional plasterer will be familiar with the properties of materials involved in stucco repair and will be able to avoid some of the pitfalls that would hinder someone less experienced. General suggestions for successful stucco repair parallel those involving restoration and repair of historic mortar or plaster. In addition, the following principles are important to remember:

- Mix only as much stucco as can be used in one and one-half to two hours. This will depend on the weather (mortar will harden faster under hot and dry, or sunny conditions); and experience is likely to be the best guidance. Any remaining mortar should be discarded; it should not be retempered.
- Stucco mortar should not be over-mixed. (Hand mix for 10-15 minutes after adding water, or machine mix for 3-4 minutes after all ingredients are in mixer.) Over-mixing can cause crazing and discoloration, especially in tinted mortars. Over-mixing will also tend to make the mortar set too fast, which will result in cracking and poor bonding or keying to the lath or masonry substrate.
- Wood lath or a masonry substrate, but not metal lath, must be thoroughly wetted before applying stucco patches so that it does not draw moisture out of the stucco too rapidly. To a certain extent, bonding agents also serve this same purpose. Wetting the substrate helps retard drying.
- To prevent cracking, it is imperative that stucco not dry too fast. Therefore, the area to be stuccoed should be shaded, or even covered if possible, particularly in hot weather. It is also a good idea in hot weather to keep the newly stuccoed area damp, at approximately 90 per cent humidity, for a period of 48 to 72 hours.
- Stucco repairs, like most other exterior masonry work, should not be undertaken in cold weather (below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and preferably warmer), or if there is danger of frost.

Historic Stucco Textures

Most of the oldest stucco in the U.S. dating prior to the late-nineteenth century, will generally have a smooth, troweled finish (sometimes called a sand or float finish), possibly scored to resemble ashlar masonry units. Scoring may be incised to simulate masonry joints, the scored lines may be emphasized by black or white penciling, or the lines may simply be drawn or painted on the surface of the stucco. In some regions, at least as early as the first decades of the nineteenth century, it was not uncommon to use a roughcast finish on the foundation or base of an otherwise smooth-surfaced building. Roughcast was also used as an overall stucco finish for some outbuildings, and other less important types of structures.

A wide variety of decorative surface textures may be found on revival style stucco buildings, particularly residential architecture. These styles evolved in the late-nineteenth century and peaked in popularity in the early decades of the twentieth century. Frank Lloyd Wright favored a smooth finish stucco, which was imitated on much of the Prairie style architecture inspired by his work. Some of the more picturesque surface textures include: English Cottage or English Cotswold finish; sponge finish; fan texture; adobe finish; and Spanish or Italian finish. Many of these finishes and countless other regional and personalized variations on them are still in use.

The most common early-twentieth century stucco finishes are often found on bungalow-style houses, and include: spatter or spatterdash (sometimes called roughcast, harling, or wetdash), and pebble-dash or drydash. The spatterdash finish is applied by throwing the stucco mortar against the wall using a whisk broom or a stiff fiber brush, and it requires considerable skill on the part of the plasterer to achieve a consistently rough wall surface. The mortar used to obtain this texture is usually composed simply of a regular sand, lime, and cement mortar, although it may sometimes contain small pebbles or crushed stone aggregate, which replaces one-half the normal sand content. The pebble-dash or drydash finish is accomplished manually by the plasterer throwing or "dashing" dry pebbles (about 1/8" to 1/4" in size), onto a coat of stucco freshly applied by another plasterer. The pebbles must be thrown at the wall with a scoop with sufficient force and skill that they will stick to the stuccoed wall. A more even or uniform surface can be achieved by patting the stones down with a wooden float. This finish may also be created using a texturing machine.



This stucco house has a rough cast finish. Photo: NPS files.

Mixes for Repair of Historic Stucco

Historic stucco mixes varied a great deal regionally, depending as they did on the availability of local materials. There are probably almost as many mixes that can be used for repair of historic stucco as there are historic stucco buildings. For this reason it is recommended that at least a rudimentary analysis of the existing historic stucco be carried out in order to determine its general proportions and primary ingredients. However, if this is not possible, or if test results are

inconclusive, the following mixes are provided as reference. Many of the publications listed under "Selected Reading" include a variety of stucco mixes and should also be consulted for additional guidance.

Materials Specifications should conform to those contained in [Preservation Briefs 2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings](#), and are as follows:

- Lime should conform to ASTM C207, Type S, Hydrated Lime for Masonry Purposes.
- Sand should conform to ASTM C144 to assure proper gradation and freedom from impurities. Sand, or other type of aggregate, should match the original as closely as possible.
- Cement should conform to ASTM C150, Type II (white, nonstaining), portland cement.
- Water should be fresh, clean and potable.
- If hair or fiber is used, it should be goat or cattle hair, or pure manilla fiber of good quality, ½" to 2" in length, clean, and free of dust, dirt, oil, grease or other impurities.
- Rules to remember: More lime will make the mixture more plastic, but stucco mortar with a very large proportion of lime to sand is more likely to crack because of greater shrinkage; it is also weaker and slower to set. More sand or aggregate, will minimize shrinkage, but make the mixture harder to trowel smooth, and will weaken the mortar.

Soft Lime Stucco (*suitable for application to buildings from 1700–1850*)

A.J. Downing's Recipe for Soft Lime Stucco

(A.J. Downing, *"The Architecture of Country Houses," 1850*)

- 1 part lime
- 2 parts sand

Vieux Carre Masonry Maintenance Guidelines

(*Vieux Carre Masonry Maintenance Guidelines, June, 1980.*)

Base Coats (2):

- 1 part by volume hydrated lime
- 3 parts by volume aggregate [sand]—size to match original
- 6 pounds/cubic yards hair or fiber
- Water to form a workable mix,

Finish Coat:

- 1 part by volume hydrated lime
- 3 parts aggregate [sand]—size to match original
- Water to form a workable mix.

Note: No portland cement is recommended in this mix, but if it is needed to increase the workability of the mix and to decrease the setting time, the amount of portland cement added should never exceed 1 part to 12 parts lime and sand.

Materials for Soft Brick Mortar and for Soft Stucco

(*Koch and Wilson, Architects, New Orleans, Louisiana, February, 1980*)

- 5 gallons hydrated lime
- 10 gallons sand
- 1 quart white, nonstaining portland cement (1 cup only for pointing)
- Water to form a workable mix.

Mix for Repair of Traditional Natural Cement or Hydraulic Lime Stucco

(*Conservation Techniques for the Repair of Historical Ornamental Exterior Stucco, January, 1990*)

- 1 part by volume hydrated lime
- 2 parts by volume white portland cement
- 3 parts by volume fine mason's sand
- If hydraulic lime is available, it may be used instead of lime-cement blends.

Early twentieth century Portland Cement Stucco

- 1 part portland cement
- 2-1/2 parts sand
- Hydrated lime = to not more than 15% of the cement's volume
- Water to form a workable mix.

The same basic mix was used for all coats, but the finish coat generally contained more lime than the undercoats.

American Portland Cement Stucco Specifications (c. 1929)

Base Coats:

- 5 pounds, dry, hydrated lime
- 1 bag portland cement (94 lbs.)
- Not less than 3 cubic feet (3 bags) sand (passed through a #8 screen)
- Water to make a workable mix.

Finish Coat:

- Use WHITE portland cement in the mix in the same proportions as above.
- To color the stucco add not more than 10 pounds pigment for each bag of cement contained in the mix.

Summary and References

Stucco on historic buildings is especially vulnerable not only to the wear of time and exposure to the elements, but also at the hands of well-intentioned "restorers," who may want to remove stucco from eighteenth and nineteenth century structures, to expose what they believe to be the original or more "historic" brick, stone or log underneath. Historic stucco is a character-defining feature and should be considered an important historic building material, significant in its own right. While many eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings were stuccoed at the time of construction, others were stuccoed later for reasons of fashion or practicality. As such, it is likely that this stucco has acquired significance over time, as part of the history and evolution of a building. Thus, even later, non-historic stucco should be retained in most instances; and similar logic dictates that new stucco should not be applied to a historic building that was not stuccoed previously. When repairing historic stucco, the new stucco should duplicate the old as closely as possible in strength, composition, color and texture.

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This publication has been prepared pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop and make available information concerning historic properties. Technical Preservation Services (TPS), National Park Service prepares standards, guidelines, and other educational materials on responsible historic preservation treatments for a broad public.

October 1990

Reading List

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1.2.2 Painting exterior stucco (GSA 2016)



U.S. General Services Administration

Painting Exterior Stucco

Procedure code:

991006S

Division:

Finishes

Section:

Exterior Painting

Last Modified:

08/10/2016

PART 1---GENERAL

1.01 SUMMARY

- A. This specification provides guidance on painting exterior stucco surfaces.
- B. Unlike wood and metal, painting a stucco surface does not afford any extra protection.
- C. Early stucco was generally left unpainted. The natural colors of the sands and aggregates used in the stucco mixture provided the color. However, repairs may require the stucco to be painted when a perfect color match between the original material and the patches cannot otherwise be achieved.
- D. Read "General Project Guidelines" along with this specification. These guidelines should be reviewed prior to performing this procedure and should be followed, when applicable, along with recommendations from the Regional Historic Preservation Officer (RHPO). The guidelines cover the following sections:
 - 1. Safety Precautions
 - 2. Historic Structures Precautions
 - 3. Submittals
 - 4. Quality Assurance
 - 5. Delivery, Storage and Handling
 - 6. Project/Site Conditions
 - 7. Sequencing and Scheduling
 - 8. General Protection (Surface and Surrounding)

1.02 SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

- A. Paint manufacturers have developed paint systems which are made to work together. These systems include primers and appropriate, compatible top coats, which can vary depending on the substrate and manufacturer. Therefore, only use compatible primers and top coats that are made by the same manufacturer.
- B. A paint film is in good condition when it is clean and free of any peeling or cracking. It is not chalking, and it retains its color and gloss.

1.03 DELIVERY, STORAGE AND HANDLING

- A. Paints shall be in sealed containers that legibly show the following information:
 - 1. Designated name.
 - 2. Formula or specification number.
 - 3. Batch number.
 - 4. Color.
 - 5. Quantity.
 - 6. Date of manufacture.
 - 7. Manufacturer's formulation number.
 - 8. Manufacturer's directions including any warnings and special precautions.
 - 9. Name of manufacturer.
- B. Pigmented paints shall be furnished in containers not larger than five gallons.
- C. Paints shall be stored on the project site and shall be stored to prevent freezing.
- D. All paints shall be kept covered and safeguards taken to prevent fire.

1.04 PROJECT/SITE CONDITIONS

- A. Unless otherwise recommended by the paint manufacturer, the ambient temperature shall be at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Consult manufacturer for upper temperature limits.
- B. Do not apply latex based paints when the temperature is expected to fall below 50 degrees Fahrenheit during the first 24 hours after application.
- C. Do not apply paint when the relative humidity exceeds 85%. Drying times are also affected by relative humidity. Those stated by manufacturers generally are based on 50% relative humidity and approximately 77 degrees Fahrenheit.
- D. Only apply paint to surfaces that are in the shade. Therefore,
 - 1. The west elevation should be painted in the morning when the sun is shining on the east elevation,
 - 2. The north elevation should be painted around noon when the sun is shining on the south elevation,
 - 3. The east elevation should be painted in the afternoon when the sun is shining on the west elevation, and
 - 4. The south elevation should be painted late in the afternoon when it is in full shade.
- E. Do not apply paint to damp surfaces, in misty or rainy weather, in the snow or where there is visible ice or frost on the surfaces.

PART 2---PRODUCTS

2.01 MATERIALS

NOTE: Chemical products are sometimes sold under a common name. This usually means that the substance is not as pure as the same chemical sold under its chemical name. The grade of purity of common name substances, however, is usually adequate for stain removal work, and these products should be purchased when available, as they tend to be less expensive. Common names are indicated below by an asterisk (*).

A. Acrylic Latex Paint.

1. All paint used shall be from the same manufacturer and shall be appropriate for the conditions encountered on the job site.
2. Acrylic latex paints are recommended over vinyl acetate latex paints because the acrylics are more alkali resistant, important when painting stucco (or brick). They are more flexible and "breathe" more than the oils do. Many are also self-priming so the same paint can be used for both the prime coat and top coat. Latex paint can also be applied to slightly damp surfaces, though they must be absolutely clean and free of any chalking paint.
3. Oil/alkyd based paints may also be used according to the method described in PART 3---EXECUTION, below.

B. Masonry conditioner/sealer if recommended by paint manufacturer and RHPO.

CAUTION: SEALER MAY TRAP MOISTURE WITHIN THE STUCCO, CAUSING SPALLING OR PAINT/SEALER FAILURE.

1. The sealer will prevent old stucco from absorbing the water from the latex top coat which would prevent the paint from adhering properly.
2. Conditioners/sealers are also alkali-resistant and will prevent adverse chemical reactions from occurring between the stucco and oils in oil/alkyd based paints.

C. Mineral Spirits (as recommended by paint manufacturer to thin conditioner):

1. A petroleum distillate that is used especially as a paint or varnish thinner.
2. Other chemical or common names include Benzine* (not Benzene); Naphtha*; Petroleum spirits*; Solvent naphtha*.
3. Potential Hazards: TOXIC AND FLAMMABLE.
4. Safety Precautions:
 - a. AVOID REPEATED OR PROLONGED SKIN CONTACT.
 - b. ALWAYS wear rubber gloves when handling mineral spirits.
 - c. If any chemical is splashed onto the skin, wash immediately with soap and water.
5. Available from construction specialties distributor, hardware store, paint store, or printer's supply distributor.

2.03 EQUIPMENT

A. Brushes.

1. Use nylon bristle brushes for water-based paints.
2. Use natural bristle brushes (pre-conditioned by soaking in linseed oil for 24 hours) for oil-based paints.
3. NOTE: DO NOT USE THE SAME BRUSH FOR BOTH TYPES OF PAINT.

B. Garden hose or low pressure water spray equipment.

C. Paint rollers.

D. Paint spray.

PART 3---EXECUTION

3.01 SURFACE PREPARATION

A. Make sure all stucco repairs have been made and the surfaces to be painted are sound and dry.

B. Using scrapers and stiff bristle brushes, remove any loose, flaking paint.

C. To remove any old chalking paint:

1. Wash surfaces with a non-ionic detergent using low pressure water (80-100 psi) or a garden hose.

- a. If mildew is a problem, add bleach to the detergent.

- b. For guidance on cleaning exterior masonry and stucco, see "Removing Biological Growth from Exterior Masonry and Stucco".

2. NOTE: DO NOT USE DETERGENT CONTAINING AMMONIA.

3. Thoroughly rinse the surface with clean, clear water and allow to dry.

D. If recommended by the paint manufacturer, apply a masonry conditioner/sealer which has been thinned if necessary according to manufacturer's instructions:

1. Apply using brush, roller, or spray, only as much as surface will absorb.

2. NOTE: DO NOT ALLOW A VISIBLE GLAZE TO APPEAR ON THE SURFACE OF THE STUCCO. DO NOT APPLY TO A DAMP SURFACE BECAUSE THE GLAZE WILL NOT SUFFICIENTLY PENETRATE A DAMP SURFACE.

3. Allow to dry as per manufacturer's instructions.

E. Scrape or brush off all loose paint. Spot prime before reapplying paint.

3.02 ERECTION, INSTALLATION, APPLICATION

A. Follow manufacturer's instructions when selecting and applying paint.

1. Use a brush or roller to apply two coats of paint to ensure complete coverage. Spray equipment may also be used.

2. NOTE: SOME PAINT MANUFACTURERS DO NOT RECOMMEND ROLLER APPLICATION. CONSULT MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS FOR PROPER APPLICATION METHODS.

3. Allow adequate drying times between each coat of paint.

NOTE: FOR OPTIMAL RESULTS WHEN USING ACRYLIC LATEX PAINTS, MAINTAIN A TEMPERATURE OF 50 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT FOR AT LEAST THE FIRST 24 HOURS AFTER APPLICATION.

B. If using oil/alkyd paint, any new patches must be allowed to cure for at least a year before painting, unless a masonry conditioner/sealer has been used. Apply two top coats, using a brush for complete coverage.

1.3 Preservation and rehabilitation guidelines for stucco

According to *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings*, the proper procedure for preservation and rehabilitation is to respect the significance of the original materials and features, repair and retain them wherever possible, and replace them only when absolutely necessary (Grimmer 2017) .

The following recommendations for care of historic stucco are to be thoroughly read and understood before a treatment is specified. Table 1 (preservation) and Table 2 (rehabilitation) contain information excerpted from Grimmer 2017. Any related NPS or GSA guidelines should also be consulted to determine the appropriateness of any treatment.

Table 1. Preservation treatment for stucco (Grimmer 2017, 31–36).

Preservation Treatment for Stucco	
RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED
Identifying, retaining, and preserving masonry features that are important in defining the overall historic character of the building (such as walls, brackets, railings, cornices, window and door surrounds, steps, and columns) and decorative ornament and other details, such as tooling and bonding patterns, coatings, and color.	<p>Altering masonry features which are important in defining the overall historic character of the building so that, as a result, the character is diminished.</p> <p>Replacing historic masonry features instead of repairing or replacing only the deteriorated masonry.</p> <p>Applying paint or other coatings (such as stucco) to masonry that has been historically unpainted or uncoated.</p> <p>Removing paint from historically-painted masonry.</p>
Stabilizing deteriorated or damaged masonry as a preliminary measure, when necessary, prior to undertaking preservation work.	Failing to stabilize deteriorated or damaged masonry until additional work is undertaken, thereby allowing further damage to occur to the historic building
Protecting and maintaining masonry by ensuring that historic drainage features and systems that divert rainwater from masonry surfaces (such as roof overhangs, gutters, and downspouts) are intact and functioning properly.	Failing to identify and treat the causes of masonry deterioration, such as leaking roofs and gutters or rising damp.
Cleaning masonry only when necessary to halt deterioration or remove heavy soiling.	Cleaning masonry surfaces when they are not heavily soiled to create a “like-new” appearance, thereby needlessly introducing chemicals or moisture into historic materials.
Carrying out masonry cleaning tests when it has been determined that cleaning is appropriate. Test areas should be examined to ensure that no damage has resulted and, ideally, monitored over a sufficient period of time to allow long-range effects to be predicted.	Cleaning masonry surfaces without testing or without sufficient time for the testing results to be evaluated.
Cleaning soiled masonry surfaces with the gentlest method possible, such as using low-pressure water and detergent and natural bristle or other soft-bristle brushes.	<p>Cleaning or removing paint from masonry surfaces using most abrasive methods (including sandblasting, other media blasting, or high-pressure water) which can damage the surface of the masonry and mortar joints.</p> <p>Using a cleaning or paint-removal method that involves water or liquid chemical solutions when there is any possibility of freezing temperatures.</p> <p>Cleaning with chemical products that will damage some types of masonry (such as using acid on limestone or marble), or failing to neutralize or rinse off chemical cleaners from masonry surfaces.</p>
Using biodegradable or environmentally-safe cleaning or paint-removal products.	
Using paint-removal methods that employ a poultice to which paint adheres, when possible, to neatly and safely remove old lead paint.	
Using coatings that encapsulate lead paint, when possible, where the paint is not required to be removed to meet environmental regulations.	
Allowing only trained conservators to use abrasive or laser-cleaning methods, when necessary, to clean hard-to-reach, highly-carved, or detailed decorative stone features.	
Removing damaged or deteriorated paint only to the next sound layer using the gentlest method possible (e.g., hand scraping) prior to repainting.	Removing paint that is firmly adhered to masonry surfaces.
Applying compatible paint coating systems to historically-painted masonry following proper surface preparation.	Failing to follow manufacturers’ product and application instructions when repainting masonry features.
Repainting historically-painted masonry features with colors that are appropriate to the building and district.	Using paint colors on historically-painted masonry features that are not appropriate to the building or district.

(Table continues on next page.)

RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED
Protecting adjacent materials when working on masonry features.	Failing to protect adjacent materials when working on masonry features.
Evaluating the overall condition of the masonry to determine whether more than protection and maintenance, such as repairs to masonry features, will be necessary.	Failing to undertake adequate measures to ensure the protection of masonry features.
Repairing masonry by patching, splicing, consolidating, or otherwise reinforcing the masonry using recognized preservation methods.	Removing masonry that could be stabilized, repaired, and conserved, or using untested consolidants, improper repair techniques, or unskilled personnel, potentially causing further damage to historic materials.
Repairing masonry walls and other masonry features by repointing the mortar joints where there is evidence of deterioration, such as disintegrating mortar, cracks in mortar joints, loose bricks, or damaged plaster on the interior.	Removing non-deteriorated mortar from sound joints and then repointing the entire building to achieve a more uniform appearance.
Removing deteriorated lime mortar carefully by hand raking the joints to avoid damaging the masonry.	
Using power tools only on horizontal joints on brick masonry in conjunction with hand chiseling to remove hard mortar that is deteriorated or that is a non-historic material which is causing damage to the masonry units. Mechanical tools should be used only by skilled masons in limited circumstances and generally not on short, vertical joints in brick masonry.	Allowing unskilled workers to use masonry saws or mechanical tools to remove deteriorated mortar from joints prior to repointing.
Duplicating historic mortar joints in strength, composition, color, and texture when repointing is necessary. In some cases, a lime-based mortar may also be considered when repointing Portland cement mortar because it is more flexible.	Repointing masonry units with mortar of high Portland cement content (unless it is the content of the historic mortar).
Duplicating historic mortar joints in width and joint profile when repointing is necessary.	Using "surface grouting" or a "scrub" coating technique, such as a "sack rub" or "mortar washing," to repoint exterior masonry units instead of traditional repointing methods. Changing the width or joint profile when repointing.
Repairing stucco by removing the damaged material and patching with new stucco that duplicates the old in strength, composition, color, and texture.	Removing sound stucco or repairing with new stucco that is different in composition from the historic stucco. Patching stucco or concrete without removing the source of deterioration. Replacing deteriorated stucco with synthetic stucco, an exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS), or other non-traditional materials.
Using mud plaster or a compatible lime-plaster adobe render, when appropriate, to repair adobe.	Applying cement stucco, unless it already exists, to adobe.
Sealing joints in concrete with appropriate flexible sealants and backer rods, when necessary.	Repointing masonry units (other than concrete) with a synthetic caulking compound instead of mortar.
Cutting damaged concrete back to remove the source of deterioration, such as corrosion on metal reinforcement bars. The new patch must be applied carefully so that it will bond satisfactorily with, and match, the historic concrete.	Patching damaged concrete without first removing the source of deterioration.
Using a non-corrosive, stainless-steel anchoring system when replacing damaged stone, concrete, or terra-cotta units that have failed.	

(Table continues on next page.)

RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED
Applying non-historic surface treatments, such as water-repellent coatings, to masonry only after repointing and only if masonry repairs have failed to arrest water penetration problems.	Applying waterproof, water-repellent, or non-original historical coatings (such as stucco) to masonry as a substitute for repointing and masonry repairs.
Applying permeable, anti-graffiti coatings to masonry when appropriate.	Applying water-repellent or anti-graffiti coatings that change the appearance of the masonry or that may trap moisture if the coating is not sufficiently permeable.
<i>The following work is highlighted to indicate that it represents the greatest degree of intervention generally recommended within the treatment Preservation, and should only be considered after protection, stabilization, and repair concerns have been addressed.</i>	
Limited Replacement in Kind	
Replacing in kind extensively deteriorated or missing components of masonry features when there are surviving prototypes, such as terra-cotta brackets or stone balusters, or when the replacement can be based on documentary or physical evidence. The new work should match the old in material, design, scale, color, and finish.	Replacing an entire masonry feature, such as a column or stairway, when limited replacement of deteriorated and missing components is appropriate. Using replacement material that does not match the historic masonry feature.

Table 2. Rehabilitation treatment for stucco (Grimmer 2017, 82–87).

Rehabilitation Treatment for Stucco	
RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED
Cleaning soiled masonry surfaces with the gentlest method possible, such as using low-pressure water and detergent and natural bristle or other soft-bristle brushes.	Cleaning or removing paint from masonry surfaces using most abrasive methods (including sandblasting, other media blasting, or high-pressure water) which can damage the surface of the masonry and mortar joints. Using a cleaning or paint-removal method that involves water or liquid chemical solutions when there is any possibility of freezing temperatures. Cleaning with chemical products that will damage some types of masonry (such as using acid on limestone or marble), or failing to neutralize or rinse off chemical cleaners from masonry surfaces.
Using biodegradable or environmentally-safe cleaning or paint-removal products.	
Using paint-removal methods that employ a poultice to which paint adheres, when possible, to neatly and safely remove old lead paint.	
Using coatings that encapsulate lead paint, when possible, where the paint is not required to be removed to meet environmental regulations.	
Allowing only trained conservators to use abrasive or laser-cleaning methods, when necessary, to clean hard-to-reach, highly-carved, or detailed decorative stone features.	
Removing damaged or deteriorated paint only to the next sound layer using the gentlest method possible (e.g., hand scraping) prior to repainting.	Removing paint that is firmly adhered to masonry surfaces, unless the building was unpainted historically and the paint can be removed without damaging the surface.
Applying compatible paint coating systems to historically-painted masonry following proper surface preparation.	Failing to follow manufacturers' product and application instructions when repainting masonry features.
Repainting historically-painted masonry features with colors that are appropriate to the historic character of the building and district.	Using paint colors on historically-painted masonry features that are not appropriate to the historic character of the building and district.
Protecting adjacent materials when cleaning or removing paint from masonry features.	Failing to protect adjacent materials when cleaning or removing paint from masonry features.
Evaluating the overall condition of the masonry to determine whether more than protection and maintenance, such as repairs to masonry features, will be necessary.	Failing to undertake adequate measures to ensure the protection of masonry features.
Repairing masonry by patching, splicing, consolidating, or otherwise reinforcing the masonry using recognized preservation methods. Repair may include the limited replacement in kind or with a compatible substitute material of those extensively deteriorated or missing parts of masonry features when there are surviving prototypes, such as terra-cotta brackets or stone balusters.	Removing masonry that could be stabilized, repaired, and conserved, or using untested consolidants and unskilled personnel, potentially causing further damage to historic materials. Replacing an entire masonry feature, such as a cornice or balustrade, when repair of the masonry and limited replacement of deteriorated or missing components are feasible.

(Table continues on next page.)

RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED
Repairing masonry walls and other masonry features by repointing the mortar joints where there is evidence of deterioration, such as disintegrating mortar, cracks in mortar joints, loose bricks, or damaged plaster on the interior.	Removing non-deteriorated mortar from sound joints and then repointing the entire building to achieve a more uniform appearance.
Removing deteriorated lime mortar carefully by hand raking the joints to avoid damaging the masonry.	
Using power tools only on horizontal joints on brick masonry in conjunction with hand chiseling to remove hard mortar that is deteriorated or that is a non-historic material which is causing damage to the masonry units. Mechanical tools should be used only by skilled masons in limited circumstances and generally not on short, vertical joints in brick masonry.	Allowing unskilled workers to use masonry saws or mechanical tools to remove deteriorated mortar from joints prior to repointing.
Duplicating historic mortar joints in strength, composition, color, and texture when repointing is necessary. In some cases, a lime-based mortar may also be considered when repointing Portland cement mortar because it is more flexible.	Repointing masonry units with mortar of high Portland cement content (unless it is the content of the historic mortar). Using "surface grouting" or a "scrub" coating technique, such as a "sack rub" or "mortar washing," to repoint exterior masonry units instead of traditional repointing methods. Repointing masonry units (other than concrete) with a synthetic caulking compound instead of mortar.
Duplicating historic mortar joints in width and joint profile when repointing is necessary.	Changing the width or joint profile when repointing.
Repairing stucco by removing the damaged material and patching with new stucco that duplicates the old in strength, composition, color, and texture.	Removing sound stucco or repairing with new stucco that is different in composition from the historic stucco. Patching stucco or concrete without removing the source of deterioration. Replacing deteriorated stucco with synthetic stucco, an exterior finish and insulation system (EFIS), or other non-traditional materials.
Using mud plaster or a compatible lime-plaster adobe render, when appropriate, to repair adobe.	Applying cement stucco, unless it already exists, to adobe.
Sealing joints in concrete with appropriate flexible sealants and backer rods, when necessary.	
Cutting damaged concrete back to remove the source of deterioration, such as corrosion on metal reinforcement bars. The new patch must be applied carefully so that it will bond satisfactorily with and match the historic concrete.	Patching damaged concrete without removing the source of deterioration.
Using a non-corrosive, stainless-steel anchoring system when replacing damaged stone, concrete, or terra-cotta units that have failed.	
Applying non-historic surface treatments, such as water-repellent coatings, to masonry only after repointing and only if masonry repairs have failed to arrest water penetration problems.	Applying waterproof, water-repellent, or non-original historic coatings (such as stucco) to masonry as a substitute for repointing and masonry repairs.
Applying permeable, anti-graffiti coatings to masonry when appropriate.	Applying water-repellent or anti-graffiti coatings that change the historic appearance of the masonry or that may trap moisture if the coating is not sufficiently permeable.
Replacing in kind an entire masonry feature that is too deteriorated to repair (if the overall form and detailing are still evident) using the physical evidence as a model to reproduce the feature or when the replacement can be based on historic documentation. Examples can include large sections of a wall, a cornice, pier, or parapet. If using the same kind of material is not feasible, then a compatible substitute material may be considered.	Removing a masonry feature that is unrepairable and not replacing it, or replacing it with a new feature that does not match. Using substitute material for the replacement that does not convey the same appearance of the surviving components of the masonry feature.
<i>The following work is highlighted to indicate that it is specific to Rehabilitation projects and should only be considered after the preservation concerns have been addressed.</i>	
Designing the Replacement for Missing Historic Features	
Designing and installing a replacement masonry feature, such as a step or door pediment, when the historic feature is completely missing. It may be an accurate restoration based on documentary and physical evidence, but only when the historic feature to be replaced coexisted with the features currently on the building. Or, it may be a new design that is compatible with the size, scale, material, and color of the historic building.	Creating an inaccurate appearance because the replacement for the missing masonry feature is based upon insufficient physical or historic documentation, is not a compatible design, or because the feature to be replaced did not coexist with the features currently on the building. Introducing a new masonry feature that is incompatible in size, scale, material, or color.

1.4 Maintenance / management for stucco

All building materials deteriorate with age and exposure to the weather. Through routine inspection and cyclical maintenance, the useful life span of a building and its historic fabric will be greatly increased. Preventive maintenance involves regular inspection of those parts of the building that are most likely to develop problems. Having a checklist for each USMMA building is advised to help the USMMA CRM and maintenance department identify and keep an accurate record or inventory of the building's problems, to facilitate systematic repair and maintenance. Begin early in project planning to ensure that design scopes, qualifications, and budgets address preservation compliance requirements.

Repair, renovation, and replacement of character-defining features to the contributing features to the USMMA historic district, such as historic stucco elements, **MUST** be coordinated with the NY SHPO. If a character-defining feature has been previously removed or replaced on the contributing building, prior to this report, and as future renovations occur, these need to be replaced with elements that replicate the original character-defining features of that building. Historic photographs found in *Character-Defining Features of Contributing Buildings and Structures in the United States Merchant Marine Academy Historic District* (Smith, Enscoe, and Adams 2014) will help guide this process in coordination with the NY SHPO.

Successful stucco repair requires the skill and experience of a professional plasterer, and the following should be noted:

- After the cause of deterioration has been identified, any necessary repairs to the building should be made first before repairing the stucco. Such work is likely to include repairs designed to keep excessive water away from the stucco, such as roof, gutter, downspout and flashing repairs, improving drainage, and redirecting rainwater runoff and splash-back away from the building.
- Before beginning any stucco repair, an assessment of the stucco should be undertaken to determine the extent of the damage, and how much must be replaced or repaired. Testing should be carried out systematically on all elevations of the building to determine the overall condition of the stucco. Some areas in need of repair will be clearly evidenced by missing sections of stucco or stucco layers. Bulging or cracked areas are

obvious places to begin. Unsound or soft areas that have lost their key will echo with a hollow sound when tapped gently with a wooden or acrylic hammer or mallet (see Inspectioneering weblink in References).

- An analysis of the historic stucco will also provide useful information on its primary ingredients and their proportions, and it will help to ensure that the new replacement stucco will duplicate (as closely as possible) the old in strength, composition, color, and texture.
- Small hairline cracks usually are not serious and may be sealed with a then slurry coat consisting of the finish coat ingredients, or even with a coat of paint or whitewash.
- Commercially available caulking compounds are not suitable materials for patching hairline cracks.
- Larger cracks will have to be cut out in preparation for more extensive repair done by a skilled and experienced professional plasterer.
- Stucco surfaces are best cleaned by use of a mild detergent and a low pressure water rinse, or with the use of plain water applied at low pressure.

References

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14. ABSTRACT The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is located in Kings Point, New York. The Academy is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (#14000538). The historic district contains contributing mansions constructed during the Gold Coast Era and the Academy buildings constructed in 1942 to 1969. All buildings require regular planned maintenance and repair. The most notable cause of historic building element failure and/or decay is not because the historic building is old, but rather it is caused by an incorrect or inappropriate repair and/or basic neglect of the historic building fabric. This document is a maintenance manual compiled with as-is conditions of building materials at the Academy. The <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties on Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Repair</i> are discussed per material. This 8-volume report includes an overview volume plus volumes on each of the following elements: concrete, wood, brick, metal, roofing, stucco, and mechanical systems. All mentioned repair procedures are from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA): Historic Preservation Technical Procedures and/or the National Park Service's series of Preservation Briefs. This report satisfies Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended.					
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