

APPENDIX G—MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

WOOD

1. Prevent water from making contact with exterior wood siding. Of particular importance is keeping all gutters and downspouts in good repair to keep water from infiltrating the wood surface.
2. All exposed wood should be kept painted, stained or treated with preservatives.
3. Repairs for wood siding such as cracks can be made through the use of waterproof glue. Large cracks may be filled with caulk followed by putty. The surface should then be sanded, allowed to dry, and painted.
4. Where exterior siding has to be replaced the use of siding to match in dimension, size and profile is recommended.
5. Use paints consistent (oil or latex) with the existing paint surface for exterior siding.

MASONRY

1. Keep exterior brick clean of mildew, efflorescence and dirt. Also keep exterior brick clean of vines, ivy, and other plant materials. Washing with detergents and water are best for exterior masonry and mortar. Sandblasting, water-blasting and other abrasive cleaning methods are detrimental to historic buildings and shall not be used.
2. Re-pointing of historic mortar should be with a mortar which matches the original in appearance and composition. Most mortar from before 1900 was composed of lime and sand and a mortar with similar content should be applied. The use of Portland cement is not appropriate due to the hardness of the mortar versus the softness of the brick.
3. Most silicone based and other waterproof coatings have limited effectiveness and may actually add to moisture problems by not allowing the brick to breathe. The use of these products is not appropriate.

ROOFS, CORNICES, CHIMNEYS

1. Check the roof regularly for leaks, deterioration of flashing, and worn roof surfaces such as rolled or asphalt shingles. An inspection of the upper floor or attic space during or following a rainstorm can also assist in detection of water related problems.
2. Know what metals are used in the cornice or roof flashing and use only similar metals during replacement or repair. Different metals should not touch each other or a galvanic reaction may occur leading to corrosion.
3. Metal roofs and cornices should be kept painted to prevent rust and deterioration. Appropriate paints include those with an iron oxide oil base. Asphalt based paints and aluminum paints should not be used on historic metals as they could accelerate the rusting process.
4. Chimneys should be regularly checked for cracking, leaning, spalling, and infestation by birds and insects. The use of chimney caps over chimneys or flue openings is recommended to keep out moisture. Refer to the chimney section – only certain types of caps and colors are acceptable.

PORCHES AND EXTERIOR ORNAMENTATION

1. Keep all porch and trim elements painted.
2. Deteriorated gutters and downspouts should be replaced with new gutters and downspouts. Half-round gutters and round downspouts are preferable to corrugated designs.

GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

1. Make sure gutters and downspouts are properly connected, are clean of leaves and other debris, and channel water effectively away from the building. Seal all cracks in downspouts with silicone caulk or sealants.

FOUNDATIONS

1. All water should drain away from a building and should not enter the foundation.
2. Trees, shrubs, and other plants should be kept well away from the foundation to prevent damage from moisture and root movement. Typically a minimum distance of 2' between the plantings and the foundation wall is recommended.
3. The use of splash blocks (slanted trays placed at the bottom of a downspouts to drain water away from the foundation) is recommended.

ENTRANCES

1. If original hardware is missing or is deteriorated, the use of reproduction locks and hardware suitable for the building is recommended.
2. Doors with a stained wood finish should be kept varnished; painting over the wood finish is not recommended.

WINDOWS

1. Windows should be kept caulked and sealed to aid in energy conservation.
2. Shutters should be kept painted and the hardware should be appropriately repaired.

AWNINGS

1. Awning hardware should be regularly checked for rust or loose mechanisms.
2. Awnings which become torn or otherwise deteriorated should be replaced.

SIGNS

1. Abandoned signs and sign hardware should be removed from buildings, unless historic.
2. Signs should be kept painted, and mounting bolts should be checked periodically to make sure they are secure.
3. Light fixtures, conduits, and wiring for signs should be inspected and replaced when necessary.