

## SAVANNAH HISTORIC DISTRICT BOARD OF REVIEW

### SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MASONRY REPOINTING PROJECTS ON HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Repointing of an historic building has the potential to alter the visual character of a structure in relationship with the neighboring contributing building, particularly when the structure to be repointed is part of a block or row of buildings. Additionally, the use of an incorrect mortar mix has the potential to cause permanent damage to buildings, causing the long-term erosion of soft paste brick. The *Secretary of the Interior's Standard's for Rehabilitation and Preservation Brief 2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings* are explicit concerning the manner, methods, and materials that are appropriate for the repointing of historic masonry and as such these Standards are incorporated into the historic district section (8-3030) of the city zoning ordinance. As such, the following procedures must be followed in applications incorporating the repointing of **historic** structures:

1. All applications shall include photographs of all elevations where repointing is proposed.
2. All photographs shall mark the specific areas which are proposed for repointing.
3. The proposed mortar mix shall be specified as to proportions of cement, lime, and sand by unit, i.e. by parts by volume (such as 1 part Portland cement, 1 part lime, 4-6 parts sand).
4. A four foot by four foot test patch of the proposed repointing as it will appear finished (that is including final finish pointing style and relationship to the brick face) shall be installed in an inconspicuous location on the building.
5. In any application in which repointing is the *only* rehabilitation proposed, staff may approve the project after review of the test patch and submissions. If the test patch and submissions are not acceptable or the application desires to do more masonry repairs than are consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*, the project should be posted on the HBR agenda and considered by the entire Board.