

Vernacular Element Landscape Design Guide for the ARHD

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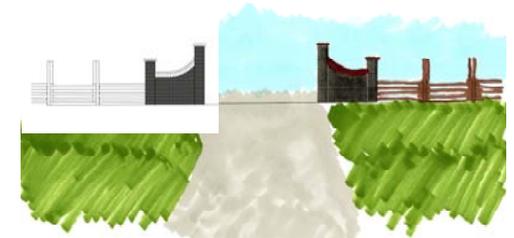


- **Cypress Wood** – A non-resinous softwood that grows in swampy lowlands of the Southeast. The tree was prized by early builders for its durability and was especially favored for shingles and weatherboards in the upper South. In the low country of South Carolina and Georgian where cypress was much more prevalent, the wood was not only used for shingles and boards, but for framing members and some interior woodwork.

- **Cedar Wood** – The Eastern red cedar is considered a juniper. A durable soft wood, its natural habitat is in dryer inland areas. It was used for building fence post, blocks, framing members, and some interior woodwork such as pews, doors, and wainscot. It was a resistant wood and proved to be too knotty for being split into shingles. The coniferous Atlantic white cedar, which thrived in coastal swamps, was ideally suited for shingles.

- **Heart Pine** – Pine was one of the most common soft woods used in building, pine consist of a number of species of reddish yellow wood. Southern yellow pine flourished throughout the South and became the principle building material in the Colonial and early National periods. It was used for framing, flooring, weatherboards, shingles, wainscoting, and other interior woodwork. Heart wood is the hard, inner part of the tree which has a tighter more even grain as well as an absence of sap that makes it more resistant to decay and insect damage.

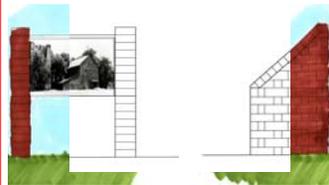
- **Wattle** – A thin, flexible branch, pole, withe, and by extension, a course basket work constructed with such materials. Wattle was used in the earliest years of settlement as an infilling between framing members. It was then covered with **daub**, a variable mixture of clay, mud or dung, and straw, and sometimes finished with plaster. Wattle was often times used for fences, which were never daubed, for enclosing gardens, pens for smaller animals, and domestic yards from the 17th into the 19th century.



- **Coquina Stone** – A sedimentary stone which contains fragments of shell and sand and naturally cemented with calcite. Traditionally, quarried coral and coquina stone is found in ocean communities such as Barbados and along the coast of Florida. These stones offer rich textures and unique visual appeal when used in architecture.

Examples in Charleston include the Pink House located at 17 Chalmers Street and the Peronneau Tenements at 141-145 Church Street.

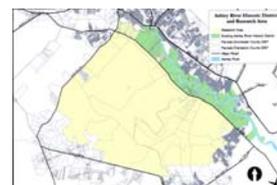
- **Hand-Made Brick** – A rectangular shaped building material composed of clay sand and water that has been hardened by firing in a kiln. Laid one on top of another in a regular series of horizontal row or courses, brick were bonded together by mortar or putty and were used to build wall, foundations, piers, columns, and chimneys. Majority of the brick used were made on site. Different regions around Charleston had varying hues of brick due to the differences in the clays used. Hand-made bricks were phased out by machine produced brick around the middle of the 19th century.



The Ashley River Historic District is a diverse collection of fifty-one historic, archaeological, and cultural properties including and associated with an approximately thirteen mile section of the Ashley River in Charleston and Dorchester Counties. The district includes houses, slave cabins, and other associated outbuildings, several of them preserved and open to the public; agricultural properties such as ricefields and a rice mill; landscape features such as gardens and a nursery; a collection of archaeological sites spanning the seventeenth through early twentieth centuries; transportation related properties such as a road and railroad trestle; and military properties such as fortifications. Several plantations are also included in the district (Drayton Hall and Middleton Place), as well as a schoolhouse and several underwater maritime sites. Architectural styles within the district include Colonial Revival, Georgian, Craftsman and Jacobean. The Ashley River itself is also listed in the nomination for its historic and cultural significance as a focal point for early settlement in the area, as a transportation route, and for its influence on life in South Carolina since 1670. Known as the Kiawah River by Native Americans, the river was named by the English for Lord Anthony Ashley Cooper. The Ashley River is only thirty miles long from its headwaters in Dorchester County to its mouth in Charleston Harbor. Listed in the National Register September 12, 1994.

Currently research is being conducted in a large area of land directly across US Highway 61 from the ARHD to access its significance to the district for possible expansion. If the area is deemed significant to the district the expansion would be important to protect the cultural resources of the area from encroaching development. The research is being conducted by Historic Charleston Foundation, Brookington & Associates, and the College of Charleston.

These designs and materials were chosen to reflect a local, vernacular building traditions that would have been commonly used by the inhabitants of the area during the Colonial Period.



- **Tabby** – A building material used primarily in coastal Georgia and South Carolina consisting of sand, lime, oyster shells, and water. The mixture was poured in plank formwork and allowed to settle and harden for a number of days. Tabby was used to construct a variety of buildings, including forts and churches to dwellings and outbuildings, from the late 17th century to the middle of the 19th century.

Charleston area examples include Ft. Dorchester, original fortification wall surrounding Charleston (section can be found in Marion Square), and out buildings at Bleak Plantation on Edisto Island.

- **Trex** – It is a composite product made of a unique combination of wood and plastic fibers. Trex gets its plastic and wood fibers from reclaimed or recycled resources. Including sawdust and used pallets from woodworking operations, and recycled plastic grocery bags from all over the country. This material has a wide range of applications from decking to fences. Although this is not an historic vernacular material it is a green material that goes along with the green design of many vernacular structures.

