Vernacular Element Landscape Design Guide for the ARHD

- **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 Georgia 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 posts, blocks, framing members, and some interior woodwork such as pews, doors, and wainscoting. 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 consists of a number of species of reddish yellow wood. Southern yellow pine flourished throughout the South and became the principal 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.

- **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 outbuildings 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.