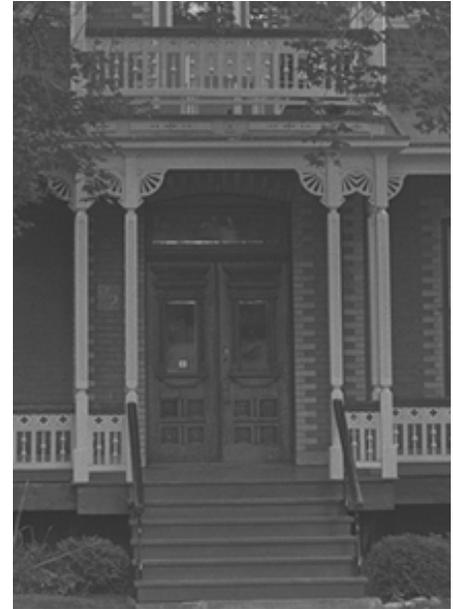


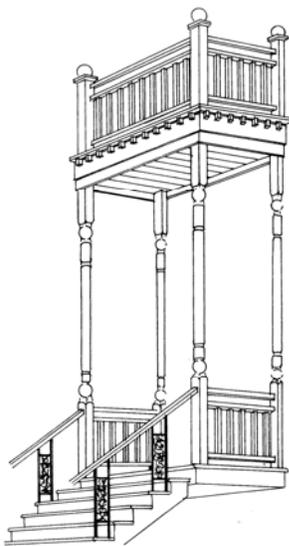
## 2. Exterior Walls

Preserve all significant defining features of exterior walls of existing buildings. The exterior walls of additions or of new buildings should harmonize with existing buildings.

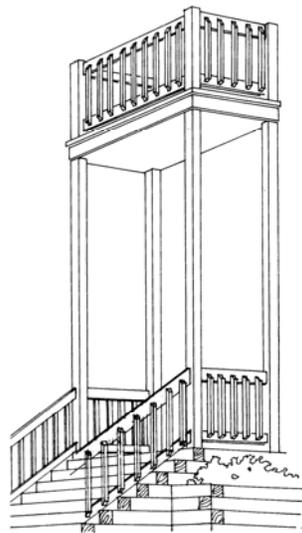
*One of the features that distinguish Westmount buildings from those of most other communities on the continent comes from the fact that the exterior walls are required to be in masonry. Thus, we have a city made up almost entirely of solid brick and stone buildings, usually the greystone from local quarries or red brick from local clay. The visual appeal of most Westmount buildings is further enhanced by design features such as entranceways, porches and balconies as well as decorative wood detail such as cornices, canopies, brackets and decorative "gingerbread".*



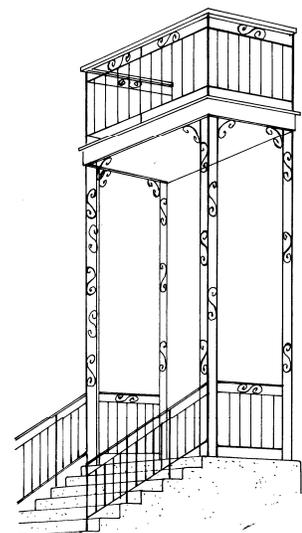
*Exterior woodwork, such as wood columns, balustrades and decoration contribute much to a building's character.*



1.



2.



3.

*Do not replace original details (1) with inappropriate alterations such as (2) or (3).*



*Woodwork deterioration sometimes looks worse than it is. Often minor repairs and repainting are sufficient.*

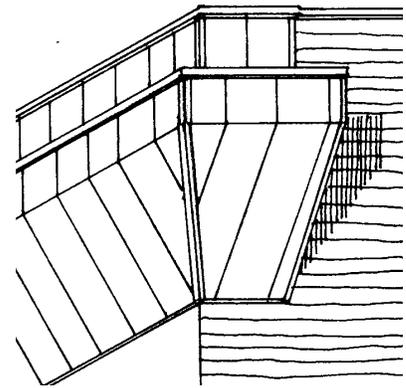
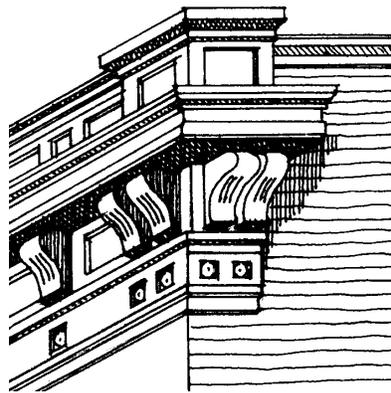
## 2.1 Preservation

Maintain all defining features of exterior walls in good condition. These include the overall shape including projections and indentations, the size and location of window and door openings as well as materials and their placement. If necessary, repair them or replace them to match the original.

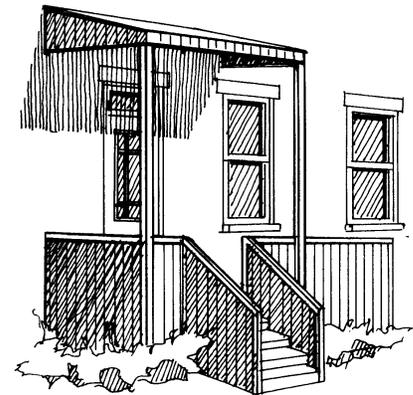
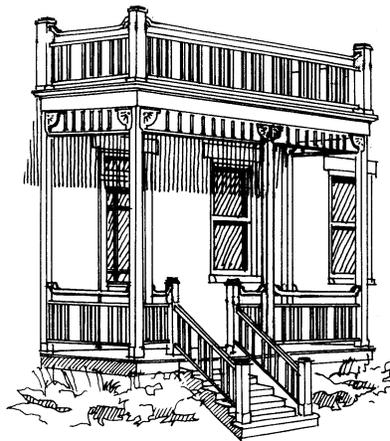
### 2.1.1 Repair and replacement

Retain the original materials and features whenever possible. If replacement is necessary, ensure that the new brick or stone work as well as other architectural features and trim elements match the appearance of the original as closely as possible, in colour, shape, texture and pattern.

*Note that it sometimes is possible to relocate needed original brick or stone from less visible parts of the building.*



*Deteriorated cornices should be repaired (left), not covered (right).*



*The design of porches, balconies and stairs should generally be open, in the character of traditional homes (left).*

### 2.1.2 Repointing masonry

The original mortar should be retained whenever possible, repointing deteriorated parts to preserve the wall and to reduce water penetration. Repointing should be done with mortar of the same strength and colour and with joints of the same size and profile as the original.

*Complete repointing of a wall is rarely necessary. To prevent damage to masonry, it is preferable to remove old mortar manually rather than use electric saws or chipping hammers. Lime-based mortar should be used with older masonry; pure Portland cement mortar is generally too hard and its use with older bricks and some stones can lead to their disintegration as walls shift or moisture escapes. Since most cracking is caused by movement, find the source of the problem before undertaking corrective repairs. If structural movement has ceased, all that may be needed is simple repointing. If the crack is still active, solve the structural problems before attempting repointing.*

### 2.1.3 Cleaning masonry

Do not clean masonry unless absolutely necessary. Use the gentlest methods to clean brick and stone.

*Unless there is a serious accumulation of surface dirt that is damaging the masonry, it is often better not to clean, leaving the weathered patina that the surface has acquired through the years. If a building is to be cleaned, water with the addition of detergent, or special chemicals, applied with soft bristle brushes and washed off with gentle spray of pure water usually suffices. Another gentle method called gommage involves spraying a fine powder that is then removed. Avoid using high-pressure water or abrasives such as sandblasting, as they damage the surface of stone and remove the hard outer layer of brick, which leads to rapid deterioration. These techniques also severely damage mortar joints.*

### 2.1.4 Paint and protective coatings on masonry

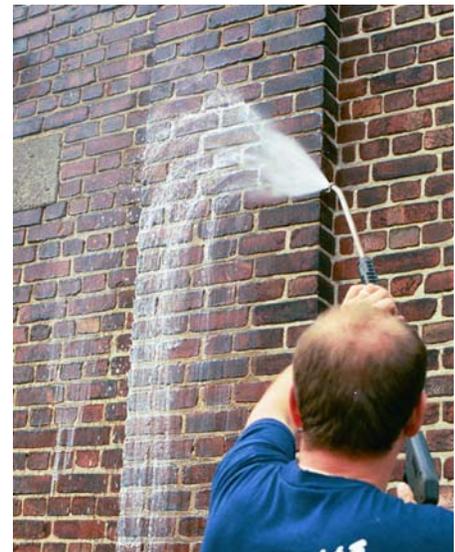
Leave brick, stone and concrete unpainted and, in general, avoid the use of protective coatings. If an already painted building is to be repainted, use neutral colours.

*Painting alters the appearance of the building and requires continuous maintenance and repainting. However, it is usually best to leave an already-painted brick wall painted, because of the difficulty of paint removal and the uncertain quality of the brick that will be found underneath (paint might have been used to hide unsightly repairs).*

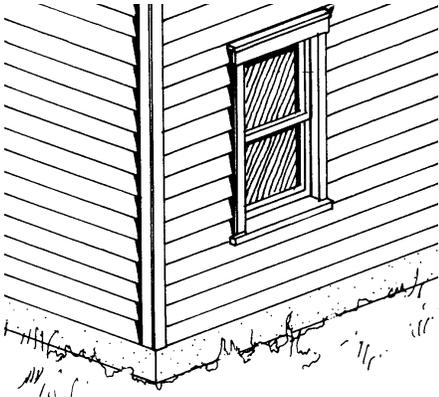
*Silicone and other protective coatings are usually unnecessary and often do more harm than good. Many types of paint and silicone create a surface coating on the masonry that traps moisture inside and can result in the outer masonry paint or protective coating to peel sometimes along with part of the masonry surface. If masonry is to be painted, it is best to match the original colour of the masonry or apply a neutral colour, i.e., natural tones of red, beige, grey or white.*



*When repointing part of a wall, avoid using a new mortar that does not match the existing in color and details.*



*Only the gentlest methods should be used to clean masonry walls.*



*It is important to keep the original details such as narrow siding, window trim and corner boards (top). Eliminating these changes the proportion and character (bottom).*

### 2.1.5 **Wood and stucco walls**

*Those few houses in Westmount with exterior walls in wood or stucco should have these materials preserved. Repairs or replacement should match the original in detailing.*

Traditional wood detailing generally used narrow, horizontal, wood siding (clapboard) with vertical corner boards and wood trim around windows and doors. In some houses in Westmount, the original wood siding has been covered or replaced with metal siding or stucco; owners are encouraged to restore the original wood siding.

### 2.1.6 **Trim Paint and Colour**

Maintain exterior wood by regularly applying paint or a coloured, opaque stain that does not let the grain show through. The colour should harmonize with the main materials of the building as well as other buildings in the area.

*Traditionally, all exterior woodwork was painted with the possible exception of the front door which, when not painted, was stained and varnished. Coatings protect the wood from sun and moisture, thus preventing rapid deterioration. The use of clear stain or wood coloured stain on windows and other woodwork is not only historically inaccurate, it also offers questionable protection from the sun's ultraviolet rays; also, it makes it hard to see when the finish has deteriorated and needs renewal.*

*The choice of paint colour should be based not only on personal taste, but also on factors such as historical precedent, the use of colour on other houses on the street, and the possibility of accentuating architectural details.*

## 2.2 **Modifications and new construction**

Changes to the exterior walls of existing buildings should be designed to minimize impact on the existing and nearby buildings. The exterior walls of additions or new buildings should harmonize in design and materials with the original or neighbouring buildings.

### 2.2.1 **Principal and secondary wall materials**

Refer to section 5.4 for guidelines on the choice of wall materials.