

Fieldstone and Lime Mortar

BY NANCY E. BERRY



OTTO SCHMIDT PHOTO

The stone used in the Cold Springs Farm additions designed by Period Architecture Ltd. was taken directly from the site and laid in random layers and patterns called uncoursed rubble. The stone and mortar setting imitates the color and texture of traditional English masonry used in the eighteenth century.

The mortar between the stones is dash pointed, meaning it is rough and irregular—not raked

smooth. The new lime mortar was tinted brown to make the joints appear as if they had weathered over centuries. Another trick masons employ is to wash the stone wall with acid to burn the lime to tan and hosing down the mortar to expose grains of brown sand. Nature has added to the aging process by leaching a brown iron oxide film of rust across the fieldstones.

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