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NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



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HISTORIC CHICAGO



DESIGN GUIDELINES

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Introduction EYSTONE

Like no other building type, Greystones define the look and character of Chicago's turn-of-the-century neighborhoods. With their luminous limestone facades, vertical proportions, and intricate craftsmanship, their urbanity bolsters Chicago's long standing position among America's grandest and most elegant cities. At the same time, Greystones have been residential housing workhorses, giving shelter, oppor-



tunity, and pride to generations of Chicagoans. Now, after a century of service, many Greystones are in need of repairs to protect their unique architectural features, update their mechanical systems, improve their energy efficiency, and accommodate the evolving needs of contemporary homeowners.

ducating homeowners about the care and preservation of Greystones is a central part of the mission of the Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative[®]. In 2007, the Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative[®], together with NHS Redevelopment Corporation, the City Design Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Landon Bone Baker Architects, undertook the model rehabilitation of a Greystone two-flat in North Lawndale to explore how these historic homes could be modified to better meet the needs of modern residents. Lessons learned from this project were documented in the *Historic Chicago Greystone: A User's Guide for Renovating and Maintaining Your Home,* which provides guidance for anyone undertaking a moderate to extensive rehabilitation of a Greystone.



During the project, more questions about the care and maintenance of Greystones emerged than could easily be answered in one publication. Additional questions tended to fall into two broad categories: The first group focused on rehab "best practices," *e.g.*, "How do I properly repair my Greystone's brick and limestone masonry?" or "How do I maintain my historic wood windows?" The second group focused on historic preservation considerations, *e.g.*, "How do I repair or update my Greystone without compromising its distinctive architectural features or materials?" The purpose of the Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative's Greystone Design Guidelines Booklet is to serve as an introductory resource to help Greystone owners begin to answer these questions.



How to Use the Greystone Design Guidelines Booklet After more than 100 years of use, Greystones can exhibit a range of maintenance and repair needs. Common issues include:

- * Damaged or deteriorating limestone and brick
- Leaking roofs
- * Damaged or deteriorating cornices, pediments, and chimneys
- * Damaged or deteriorating front porches, stairs, and entries
- * Aging windows and doors
- * Antiquated/unsafe heating, plumbing, and electrical systems
- Ongoing deterioration arising from the use of improper materials or repairs (*e.g.*, mortar that is too hard for repointing masonry or sandblasting to clean buildings)

() help identify and properly treat these issues, the Greystone Design Guidelines Booklet looks at the components of a typical Greystone - masonry, front porches, windows, roofs/cornices, interiors, and mechanical systems. The Booklet focuses on each of these parts, providing simple "Do" and "Don't" guidance and illustrations to help homeowners better consider what repairs need to be made and what architectural features/materials need to be protected or preserved during the home improvement process. However, it is important to remember that Greystones are complex structures and that a particular repair issue may actually be the symptom of a larger building problem. For example, deteriorating masonry may be the result of water seeping into a wall from a leaking roof. If the masonry is fixed without identifying and repairing the leaking roof, the damage will continue, and the money that paid for the masonry repairs will have been wasted.

Regular maintenance and repair are the keys to the preservation of Greystones. The Greystone Design Guidelines Booklet can aid in the planning of repair and rehabilitation projects, but its contents are by no means exhaustive. Be patient and thorough in researching and planning home improvement projects (a list of additional resources is included at the end of this booklet). Seek out contractors who demonstrate the skills and expertise needed to make proper repairs, including providing successfully repaired comparable projects and references. Greystone owners are the stewards of an architectural legacy that, with proper care and maintenance, will continue to shelter and captivate generations of Chicagoans.

What is a REYSTONE?

Greystones are a unique form of residential building that defines the character of many of Chicago's historic neighborhoods - the same way that "Brownstones" define neighborhoods in Brooklyn, NY. The term "Greystone" refers to a style of construction - a masonry building with a front facade constructed of Bedford limestone quarried from southcentral Indiana - rather than a singular architectural style. Popular between 1890 and 1930, Greystones were built in a wide range of sizes (e.g., workers cottages, two flats, row houses, and mansions) and architectural motifs (e.g., Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Chateauesque, and Classical Revival/Beaux Arts). Regardless of size or style, a Greystone's limestone-facade was always oriented to the street, taking full advantage of the narrow frontage afforded by Chicago's standard 25' x 125' lots. There are an estimated 30,000 Greystones remaining in the City of Chicago.

Most Greystones are found in a "Greystone Belt" extending roughly three to seven miles from Chicago's downtown Loop (See map next page). Neighborhoods located within the Greystone Belt include: Andersonville, Lakeview, Lincoln Park, Logan Square, Wicker Park, Humboldt Park, East and West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing, Washington Park, Kenwood, Oakland, Hyde Park, and Woodlawn. Greystones can also be found as infill buildings as far north as Rogers Park and as far south as Roseland. Prominent concentrations of Greystones are located along and adjacent to Logan Boulevard, Douglas Boulevard, Grand Boulevard, and King Drive.



In 2008, the Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative[®] expanded its focus to include sandstone, redstone, and brownstone-clad buildings built between 1890 and 1930. While these buildings are less common than Greystones in Chicago, they share many of the same architectural and building characteristics, as well as exhibit many of the same care and maintenance needs. Additionally, sandstone, redstone, and brownstone are typically found interspersed on blocks with their lime-stone-clad counterparts.





The "look" of most Chicago Greystones is derived from a handful of architectural styles popular at the turn of the 20th century, as well as the increasingly common use of Neo-Classical ornament, such as Greek or Roman style columns and cornices, modeled on the exhibition halls built for the influential 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Most Greystones, however, incorporated a mix of architectural styles that reflected the particular taste of the builder-developers who constructed these homes between 1890 and 1930. Below is a summary of the core features of the architectural styles that commonly influenced the design of Greystones. The summary is taken from the Style Guide provided by the City of Chicago's Landmarks Division, and can be found on their webpage at: www.cityofchicago.org/landmarks.

Romanesque Revival \Lambda

 Heavy, rough-cut stone walls Round arches and squat columns Deeply recessed windows Pressed metal bays and turrets

QUEEN ANNE B

Rich but simple ornament
 Variety of materials, including wood, stone,
 and pressed metal
 Expansive porches
 Pressed metal bays and turrets
 Irregular roofline with many dormers and chimneys

CHATEAUESQUE 🔘

 Vertical proportions Massive-looking masonry walls Ornate carved stone ornament High-peaked hipped roofs, elaborate dormers, and tall chimneys

CLASSICAL REVIVAL/BEAUX ARTS 🕕

Symmetrical facades
 Minimal use of bays, towers, or
 other projecting building elements
 Classical ornament, including columns, cornices,
 and triangular pediments
 Wide variety of materials, including brick,
 stone, and wood

















Mason<mark>ry</mark>)

Be it smooth or rough, stone is the defining feature of a Greystone. Regularly inspect stone and brick walls for deteriorating mortar joints, cracks, or damaged masonry units. These can be symptoms of a larger building maintenance issue such as water penetration into walls from a leaky roof, the freezing/thawing of moisture in walls from cracks and leaks, settling foundations, or previous repairs with improper materials. These larger problems should be fixed prior to making other masonry repairs – prioritize primary causes of damage first.

- DO address all deterioration of stone, brick, and mortar joints caused by leaking roofs, clogged gutters, settling/shifting foundations, or extreme weather exposure.
- DO clean masonry only when necessary to halt deterioration or remove heavy soiling that is damaging the stone or brick. First clean masonry surfaces with lowvelocity water. If chemical cleaning is necessary, it should be performed by qualified professionals using appropriate cleaning products.
- DO replace severely damaged masonry with matching materials.
- DO repoint mortar joints only where there is evidence of deterioration (i.e., disintegrating mortar, cracks in mortar joints, loose bricks, non-drying damp walls, etc.).
- DO repoint deteriorated joints with new "Type O" (350 psi) mortar that duplicates original in strength, color, and joint profile as closely as possible.
- DO remove deteriorated mortar to depth of 1½ times the width of the joint to ensure adequate bond.
- * DO require masonry contractor to perform mockup or sample of any repointing or cleaning work prior to start of rehab. This establishes the accepted quality standard for entire project.



Improper cleaning and repair of masonry can lead to long term damage and costly future repairs. Abrasive cleaning can make stone and brick more likely to stain or erode. Repointing with too strong a mortar can cause masonry units to deteriorate by trapping excess moisture in walls. Choose the gentlest and least invasive methods when making repairs. Many non-critical repair projects can be phased over time to reduce costs.

- DON'T remove or replace any historic masonry that can otherwise be repaired.
- * DON'T paint, stucco, or seal masonry. \Lambda
- DON'T apply imitation materials such as synthetic stucco, vinyl or aluminum siding, asphalt siding, pseudo stone, or metal panels over masonry.
- DON'T use abrasive methods, such as sandblasting, soda or grit blasting, or high pressure water washing, to clean masonry.
- DON'T use any cleaning method that involves water or liquid chemicals when temperatures are near or below freezing.
- * DON'T repoint historic masonry with Portland cement, concrete, or masonry cement.
- DON'T use a mortar type that is stronger than "Type O" (350 psi) mortar.
- * DON'T apply mortar onto the face of the stone or brick.
- ★ DON'T allow vines or other plant materials to grow on masonry walls.

DEFFINITIONS Mortar Mortar INITIONS There are five types of mortar - from strongest to weakest -M, S, N, O, & K. Type O mortar is generally the best suited for a Chicago Greystone. Type O mortar is 1 part cement, 2 parts hydrated lime or lime putty, and 8-9 parts sand. Repointing The process of cleanly removing existing mortar and installing new mortar. Mortar Joint The mortar between two bricks or stone

Joint Profile The shape of a mortar joint. Profiles include recessed, grapevine, or concave.







A Greystone's porch is one of its most prominent and visible architectural features. 'The porch may consist of a simple recessed landing with wood steps and cast iron railings or an elaborate entry with steps, columns, and overhanging roof built entirely of stone. Regularly inspect porches for water damage, settling foundations, rotting wood, or metal corrosion. Maintenance and repair of historic porch elements should be a top priority: they were designed to "fit" the particular style of the building and can be costly to replicate or replace.

- * DO retain original porches, entryways, and detailing whenever possible. 🔕 🚯
- * DO replace severely damaged or missing porches with a new porch that fits the historic "look" of the building. Retain and reuse original porch elements (*i.e.*, columns, stairs, cheek walls) in the new porch whenever possible.
- DO retain and restore original wood doors and hardware whenever possible.
- * DO maintain existing transom, side light, and portal window openings. 🕕
- * DO install new doors and hardware of similar size, shape, design, and proportions when historic doors or hardware are damaged beyond repair.

Porches & ____ Entry

- * DON'T replace porch or entry if the repair of materials and limited replacement of historic elements is feasible and appropriate.
- DON'T enclose porch or entries with windows, screens, siding, or additional masonry.
- * DON'T cut new entrance on primary elevation (*i.e.*, at front/side of building where it is visible from street) or expand the size and shape of existing entry.
- DON'T remove original stone cheek walls or cast iron pipe railings or replace them with contemporary metal railings.
- * DON'T carpet or paint stone porch stairs. 🔘
- * DON'T replace historic doors and sidelights with new ones that have a different size, shape, or proportions. ①

DEFINITIONS

Columns

Cheek Wall or Wing Wall

Transom

Side Light

Light

A vertical structural or decorative feature designed to support a porch balcony.A stone or brick wall that flanks an entrance, usually adjacent to porch stairs.A fixed or operable window located above a door or above a window.

A narrow window located immediately adjacent to a door.

A glazed opening in a wall or door.







Windows X

Windows are a key architectural feature of a Greystone that help define its visual character. Historic windows were manufactured by expert craftsman from high quality, old growth wood and other durable materials that are expensive or difficult to replicate today. These windows can often be repaired to improve operation and energy efficiency at a cost less than or comparable to that of new vinyl replacement windows. If repair is not feasible, the new window should match the design of the historic window as closely as possible.

- DO retain and repair original window frames, hardware, and glazing (glass) whenever possible, especially on primary facades (*i.e.*, those that can be seen from street).
- * DO keep and restore historic art glass or leaded glass windows. ^(B)
- DO re-caulk trim, replace cracked or damaged window putty, and install weather stripping to increase energy efficiency of historic windows.
- * DO install new thin-profile wood or metal storm windows to increase the energy efficiency of historic windows. Storm windows should be similar in size, shape, and color to existing windows.
- * DO install new windows of similar size, shape, design, and muntin bar configuration when historic windows or hardware are damaged beyond repair. ()
- DO use matching aluminum-clad wood replacement windows whenever possible, especially on primary facades, when the original wood windows are deteriorated beyond repair. All new windows should be double-glazed, have a low-e coating, and have a minimum U-value of .35.



- DON'T replace historic wood windows that can otherwise be repaired.
- DON'T change the number, location, size, or glazing (glass) patterns of windows.
- * DON'T remove historic art glass or leaded glass windows.
- * DON'T replace double or single-hung windows with casement, single fixed-glass picture or sliding windows.
- DON'T use vinyl replacement windows on primary facades (*i.e.*, those that are visible from the street).
- DON'T alter the size of original window openings to fit stock windows.
- * DON'T install glass brick in-fill windows on primary facades.
- ★ DON'T install window air conditioners, shutters, or metal or fabric awnings on primary facades.

DEFINITIONS

Casement Window	A window sash that opens on hinges at the side.
Double-Hung Window	A window comprised of an operable lower and upper sash.
Transom	A fixed or operable window located above a door or above a window.
Profile	The shape of a piece of trim in cross section.
Muntin Bar	A structural element in the sash that supports the separate panes of glass in a window with multiple "lights" or panes of glass.
U-Value	Measure of the insulating value of a window. The lower the u-value, the better the insulating value.











Roofs & Cornices

The roof and cornice add architectural interest and, often, an additional sense of height or verticality to a Greystone. The roof is also a home's first line of defense against the elements. Therefore, routine inspection and maintenance of all roof features are critical to prevent water infiltration that can cause other costly interior and exterior problems (*e.g.*, masonry damage, wood rot, plaster damage, and mold).

- DO inspect flashing, copings, pediments, chimneys, dormers, and roofing materials to identify and prevent water leakage.
- * DO repair or replace metal or copper gutters and downspouts where needed. Make sure all downspouts are long enough to keep water away from foundation.
- * DO preserve the shape, ridge line, pitch, and overhangs of original roof. (A)
- * DO repair original limestone, wood, or metal cornices with matching materials. B
- * DO replace missing or irreparably damaged cornices with new elements that match the historic character of the building. Use new metal, wood, or stone and match new elements to the size, scale, profile, and details of historic cornice. ()
- DO repair and repoint the chimney and parapet walls as needed. If rebuilding is required, use original or similar brick and stone and reconstruct to match historic design.



- * DON'T allow gutters and downspouts to fall into disrepair so that storm water flows directly onto masonry walls or pools against the foundation.
- * DON'T remove or replace any historic cornice materials that can otherwise be repaired
- DON'T use imitation materials such as synthetic stucco, vinyl or aluminum siding, or cement to repair parapet walls or cornice.
- * DON'T replace stone with brick or cement block.
- * DON'T install satellite dishes, TV antennas, etc. on cornices, pediments, or roof lines so that they are visible from the front of the building.









DEFINITIONS

Cornice	A stone, metal, or wood band, often decorative, running horizontally along the upper edge of a building.
Dormer	A structure projecting from a sloping roof, usually containing a window.
Parapet	That portion of any exterior wall that extends above the roof line, usually decorative in nature.
Coping	The cap or top masonry course of a wall, usually of stone or terra cotta, set to shed water.
Flashing	Sheet metal, usually galvanized steel, terne, cop- per, or lead, used to transition between a horizon- tal surface and a vertical or sloped surface in order to shed water. Typical joints include roof-valleys, roof-to-chimney joints, and roof-to-parapet joints.



Additions & DON'T

Greystones sometimes need additional space to accommodate expanding families, a home business, or more room to entertain guests. An addition can be a suitable way to add this space as long it does not overshadow the design, scale, and character of the original home or surrounding streetscape. Before constructing any addition, carefully consider your additional space, storage, and accessibility needs. Then determine if these needs can first be met by reworking underused interior spaces (*e.g.*, attics and basements) or expanding into the rear yard.

- * DO build additions that are compatible with the building's original mass, height, materials, proportion, and roof shape.
- * DO match window openings, trim, doors and other details as close as possible to the original building.

DON'T

- ★ DON'T build additions that are visible from the primary facade (*i.e.*, visible from the street).
- * DON'T build additions that obscure, damage, or destroy the character-defining features of the original building.



"Mechanicals" are defined as plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems. These systems help regulate the comfort of a Greystone and should be updated to meet current code regulations. Ideally, new systems should be as energy and/or water efficient as possible.







- * DO conduct home energy assessment/blower door test to identify air leaks, inadequate insulation, and inefficient mechanical systems. Complete all recommended air sealing, insulation, and system upgrades to increase home energy efficiency and lower utility costs.
- DO replace antiquated or inefficient furnaces, boilers, hot water heaters, and air conditioners with new EPA Energy Star[®]-rated models.
- * DO install central or high velocity air conditioning within existing walls and ceilings.
- * DO replace existing fuse box with circuit breakers. 🚯
- DO upgrade electrical wiring to meet current municipal building code.
- * DO replace antiquated toilets, faucets, and showerheads with water-conserving fixtures.
- * DO replace existing lead water main to the house with copper.
- ★ DO replace interior water supply and waste water piping to kitchen and bathrooms.
- * DO add floor drains in the basement.
- * DO add drain tile around the house as needed.
- DON'T add new electrical appliances and fixtures without increasing power capacity, upgrading wiring, and updating existing fuse box as needed.



Interiors DO & DON'T

Like the exterior, a Greystone's interior reflects a range of architectural styles popular between 1890 and 1930. When preserved, these historic interiors can highlight how people lived when the home was originally built. However, there is often a need to update Greystone interiors to accommodate changes in technology, lifestyles, and peoples' needs (*e.g.*, accessibility). The following principles offer guidance on how to update a Greystone's interior, while preserving the home's characteristic details.

- * DO preserve primary (in other words, significant) spaces that define the overall historic character of the building, such as entry vestibules, stair halls, dining rooms, living rooms, and parlors.
- * DO retain and restore historic interior decorative features and detailing such as molding and trim, staircases, interior doors and hardware, columns, built-in cabinets/storage, fireplace mantles, steps and railings, and flooring. B
- * DO rehab and modernize kitchens and bathrooms to meet contemporary code, energy/water efficiency, and accessibility needs. ()
- * DO rehab attics or basements to provide additional living space.

DON'T demage of historia factures t

- DON'T damage or dispose of historic features that can be reused or reinstalled during course of rehabilitation (*e.g.*, after installing new wiring or plumbing lines).
- * DON'T strip walls of historic plaster finish to expose brick or stone as finish material.
- * DON'T relocate staircases or add or remove walls in the significant or "primary" rooms.



Greystones feature a diverse array of stone and metal decorative elements. These elements, such as elaborate carvings or copper-clad bays, add visual interest and distinctiveness to the design of each home. Like historic windows, they were often produced by expert craftsman from high quality materials and are now difficult or prohibitively expensive to replicate. Therefore, special attention should be paid to the inspection, maintenance and repair of all decorative elements.



- DO retain and repair all historic stone decorative features, including columns, window and door surrounds, ornamental carvings, and stone planters.
- DO retain and repair all historic decorative metal features, including pressed metal cornices or panels, bay window openings, ornamental downspouts, and window grills.
- DO replace missing or irreparably damaged decorative features with matching materials based on historic photographs or physical remnants of original.



- ✤ DON'T remove any historic decorative feature that could otherwise be retained and repaired.
- DON'T add any new decorative features (e.g., planters or statues) that do not fit the historic character of the building.



(D)



Fencing & Lighting

Fencing and lighting can add beauty and definition to the larger site occupied by a Greystone. In the front yard, for example, fencing helps separate the home from the busier realm of street and sidewalk, while proper lighting welcomes visitors and enhances visibility without flooding the surrounding area with excess light.



- * DO retain historic wrought or cast iron fencing, gates, and detailing whenever possible. 🔬
- * DO install metal fencing that fits the size, proportions, and placement of historic fencing on the street or in the neighborhood if a new fence is needed.
- * DO install, if necessary, metal security grilles (*e.g.*, for basement windows) that are minimally visible or otherwise fit the historic character of the building.
- DO install new or vintage entry light fixtures that fit the historic character of building. Use compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs in all light fixtures to reduce energy use.



- * DON'T install vinyl, wood, or chain link fencing in front or side yards. 10
- * DON'T install metal mesh security gates over windows.
- * DON'T install unshielded light fixtures that cast unnecessary light on neighboring buildings.

About the TORIC CHICAGO Greystone Initiative

The Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative^{*} is a unique partnership between Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (NHS), the City of Chicago, neighborhood residents, architecture and historic preservation organizations, and academic institutions aimed at preserving, restoring, and modernizing the City's Greystone residential buildings. Launched in September 2006, the Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative^{*} is an outgrowth of NHS' North Lawndale program and offers Chicago residents technical assistance and affordable financial resources to help them rehab an owner-occupied Greystone residence. The Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative^{*} is founded on the belief that preservation and rehabilitation of these ornate, limestone-clad homes can help strengthen pride in neighborhoods, celebrate a unique architectural gem, and spur additional revitalization based upon a community's heritage and culture.

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Additional RESOURCES

TECHNICAL RESOURCES

The Historic Chicago Greystone: A User's Guide for Renovating & Maintaining Your Home Produced by the Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative[®] and the City Design Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the book is a baseline resource for rehabbing and maintaining a historic Greystone.

Available at Amazon.com or through the University of Chicago Press

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards provide guiding concepts for protecting historic buildings, sites, structures, and districts. They address such issues as maintaining, repairing, or replacing historic materials, as well as designing new additions or making alternations. www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standards_guidelines.htm

Preservation Briefs

Produced by the National Park Service's Technical Preservation Services, Preservation Briefs provide topical "best practices" for preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic buildings. www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm

GOVERNMENT HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCIES

City of Chicago Landmarks Division 33 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1600, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312) 744-3200 www.cityofchicago.org/landmarks

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701 www.illinoishistory.gov

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVOCACY GROUPS

National Trust for Historic Preservation (Midwest Office) 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 350, Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 939-5547 www.preservationnation.org

Landmarks Illinois 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1315, Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 922-1742 www.landmarks.org

Preservation Chicago 4410 North Ravenswood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60640 (773) 334-8800 www.preservationchicago.org



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