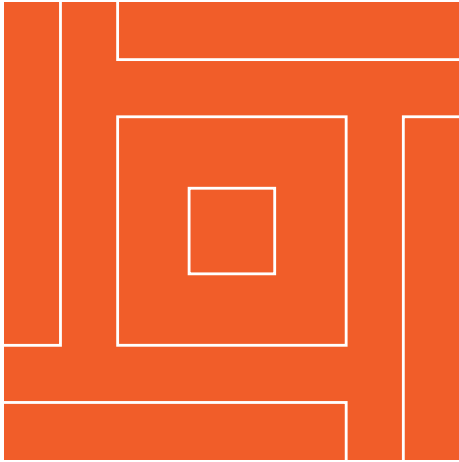


T H E G A R D E N W A L L



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## THE STATE OF THE HOUSE SPRING 2003


Exterior brick restoration, returned mobility to the fireplace arm and miscellaneous interior work waiting for warm weather.

**T**he last of the indoor, cold weather work wrapped up with the disassembly of the brick fireplace hob. The steel fireplace crane emblazoned with Wright's red square and festooned with hooks from which to hang kettles, frozen in place for decades was broken free to pivot freely once again. Wood stripping began to restore the original warmth and luster to the living room windows and cabinetry.

A major brick restoration is not for the weak of heart. It can be the most expensive part of a building restoration and easily the most painful. It is complicated by the fact that bricks aren't what they used to be. Not by three eighths of an inch at least. And that is only the beginning. The search for salvage brick is no longer a viable option. Making custom brick likewise is also not as easy as it sounds. Complicated cleaning chemistry, weeks of grinding followed by weeks of mortar matching, then even more weeks of tuck pointing turned out to be an exercise in extreme patience for masons, homeowners and neighbors.



Deteriorated gallery brick screen.

The raked back joints and colored vertical head joints, an acute learning curve even for the professionals. 

Following is a photo essay on spring restoration accomplishments at the Willey House.



## RADIATORS

Sandblasted and primed radiators were repainted to wall color and moved back into place. 



## INTERIOR WOOD


Wood cleaning began in earnest, wardrobe closet during and after stripping. 





### FIREPLACE CRANE AND HOB


Disassembly of the fireplace hob to free up the swinging arm. All bricks are numbered to return to original position. (photo 1). Entire top layer of brick was loose due to torquing action of the seized arm (photo 2). All loose

brick are removed (photo 3). Arm is broken free with a torch (photo 4). Freed arm is reset, bricks to be relayed over Summer (photo 5). 



## EXTERIOR BRICK INSPECTION

The brick is dirty and discolored, mortar is mismatched from previous repairs and the colored mortar in the head joints is faded to pink, no longer matching the brick (top left). The need for restoration is evidenced here in the missing


and deteriorated mortar in the gallery window screens (top right). Dirty brick (bottom left). Vertical crack in the garden wall runs top to bottom (bottom right). 






## EXTERIOR BRICK CLEANING

Section of exterior brick wall after cleaning (photo 1).  
Cleaning highlighted weak mortar and necessary repairs.

Photo 2 was taken at the junction of the garden wall and  
master bedroom. Photo 3 is of a terrace pier/planter. 



## WORK ENCLOSURES

Plastic enclosures were erected around the house to contain clouds of mortar dust. Tuck pointers worked in space suits. 






### THE GRIND BACK

Every bed joint (the horizontal ones) and head joint (the vertical ones) must be carefully ground out. Plywood

protects the kitchen window frame. 




### JOINTS

Joints ground back 3/4". 



## RESTORING THE GARDEN WALL

The deteriorated rowlock and a part of the second brick course were removed from the top of the garden wall.

Repair of the wall crack. 



## OTHER BRICK RESTORATION

Weep holes long mortared over were reintroduced to the gallery window screens.


Wall repair outside the master bedroom. 





### MATCHING MORTAR


Bed joint mortar was matched using previously unexposed samples of original mortar.

Test samples of colored head joints. Original head joints used a fine silica sand which was eventually emulated. 



### HEAD JOINTS

Colored head joints are painstakingly pointed up after the bed joints are raked back to remove excess material

and bricks have been chemically cleaned. 



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