

Zoar Historic Preservation Standards

Log Construction

Fog houses represent the earliest permanent Village and were constructed during the period 1817 through 1830. General characteristics of houses include:

SHAPE

Log Homes were typically simple rectangular floor plans of one room depth and one-and one-half or two stories in height. Roofs were of moderate to steep pitch (e.g. 9/12), side gabled, and with slight to moderate overhanging eaves.

CONSTRUCTION

Foundations were of cut sandstone. Logs were rough, square hewn with V-notched or half dovetailed corners, with chinking between wide-spaced logs. Roofing was originally wooden shakes and gradually flat local red clay tile.

WINDOWS AND DOORS

Exterior doors were generally of plain vertical plank-ing without windows or other entranceway embellishments. Windows may have been fixed or simple casement style but gradually becoming single or double-hung sash type with 4/4 or 6/6 glazing patterns. Windows were generally small and asymmetri-cally arranged.

CHIMNEYS

The earliest houses may have had chimneys of wood and clay construction located on the interior gabled ends. Later chimneys, when existing at all, were stone or brick.

DECORATIVE DETAIL

The early log homes were utilitarian in design and displayed little or no exterior decorative detail.

ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

Additions to the log houses included smaller room additions, usually on the gabled ends, and almost invariably, frame extensions of the original constructions. Front and rear porches were added, usually by



adding shed or dropped roofs with supports and rail-ings. Porches usually extended the entire length of the house.

FOUNDATIONS

Existing foundations should not be removed, replaced, or covered with other materials unless the founda-tion is structurally unsound. Repairs or replacement to the foundation, and foundations for new additions to existing buildings should be of similar materials to the original or other material consistent with the character and appearance of the original foundation, from the ground level to the point where the foundation meets the superstructure. Existing foundation walls should not be painted.

Since excessive moisture promotes and hastens both fungal and insect attack, it should be dealt with immedi-ately. Not only must the roof and gutters be repaired—if none exist, gutters should probably be added—but the foundation grade should be sloped to ensure drain-age away from the building. If the distance from the ground to the sill log or exterior sheathing is less than eight inches, the ground should be graded to achieve this minimum distance. Excess vegetation and debris such as firewood, dead leaves, or rubbish should be cleared from the foundation perimeter, and climbing vines whose leaves retain moisture and tendrils erode daubing, should be killed and removed. Moisture problems due to faulty interior plumbing should also be remedied. Solving or reducing moisture problems may in itself end or halt the progress of rot and wood-destroying insects.

COLORS

Color schemes used on buildings in the historic district varied from time to time, although a few generalizations can be made. The exteriors of the log houses, other than the frame additions, were not painted. The logs were treated periodically but the dark color was preserved. The colors of paints and stains used during the historic period were duller and more muted than today's colors due to the methods of manufacturing pigments. Color usage should reflect the historic appearances but specific color schemes and combinations are not prescribed. Examples of colors used in paints and stains for buildings during the historic period are available through the Ohio Historical Society.



Construction Permit

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service Cultural Resources
Heritage Preservation Services

PRESERVATION BRIEFS
Roofing for Historic Buildings
by Sarah M. Sweetser

Resource

Per the
Village of Zoar, Zoning Ordinance
any roof construction requires a
"Certification of Appropriateness" (COA)
Issued by the Zoar Historic
Preservation Commission in order to obtain a
"Project permit"
Approved by the Zoning Board and
issued by the Zoning Inspector.

