

Owner/Applicant: Touchdown Realty, 319 Main Street, North Kingstown, RI 02852
Architect: David Sisson Architecture PC, 345 Taunton Ave, East Providence, RI 02914

Proposal: The scope of work proposed consists of Major Alterations and includes:

- requesting permission for the painting/staining of the stone exterior.

Issues: The following issues are relevant to this application:

- At the 08/22/22 meeting the applicant received final approval for the rehabilitation of the structure into residential apartments with the modification of the roofline, addition of dormers and the introduction/removal of fenestration and doors. A sub-committee was formed to review construction details;
- The applicant contacted staff to discuss the potential painting/staining of the building due to issues with the condition of the stone and repointing, which is producing an uneven appearance. Staff stated that the Standards do not allow for painting of unpainted masonry. If the applicant wished to explore, Staff recommend doing a few discrete samples with different colors on the building and having the sub-committee convene to look at the samples and make a recommendation; the applicant agreed to this. Unfortunately, there was a miscommunication between the applicant and painters and portions of the building have now been painted/stained black. Staff contacted the applicant and requested no further work be done, and would schedule matter before full Commission. Applicant agreed.
- The applicant has submitted the following to me via email and will provide additional information at the meeting:
 - "Jay, please see photos of the current state of unpainted stone and mortar @ 126 Adelaide. As you can see, the stone and mortar are still very much in distress even after being treated, and re-mortared. After being neglected for decades and uncared for, the stone needed extensive work, far beyond anything we imagined nor budgeted for. Water was seeping in to the building due to compromised areas on the stone, cracks etc, and failed mortar in countless areas. Well before esthetics, stopping the water from penetrating the interior was our top priority, and a different task to say the least. Once water leaks were mitigated (large expense), we then realized just how bad the condition of the stone was overall, with massive amounts of discoloration, previous make-shift mortar jobs, and algae build up scattered throughout. The above issues alone sparked the thought to unify the stone with paint.

When we spoke last you asked me to look at "natural colors" for the paint. I did have renderings created with various shades of grey to match the deep taupe cedar stain, and I can say with honesty - that nothing compares to the black obsidian paint, which has worked like magic unifying the stone and will dramatically highlight the revived stained-glass windows surrounding the building as well. For clarity, the style of the building is Gothic and calls for a deep exterior. Black is a natural color. Whether it is obsidian, basalt, or the many black gemstones you can find scattered throughout our planet, there isn't a more complete natural color I'd rather use on the stone @ 126 Adelaide Avenue than black. When I researched the metaphysical meaning of the Obsidian Black, I found that it is known for protection & healing. I saw this as alignment, as the previous usage as a church had the same underlying purpose - to protect & heal. I was happy to find that not only were their active churches with black exteriors as shown in the attached photos, but I was also able to find that a family converted a historic church and used the same color concept - black painted masonry body with a wood exterior door. It goes to show how appealing this color concept is.

In closing I have attached a handful of historic restoration project Touchdown has designed and completed with our architect Dave Sisson. I share this info for 2 reasons A.) give you a glimpse into our design style, and B.) though only a few are shown in links below - I'd like to make you aware that we have converted SEVERAL deeply distressed historic buildings throughout the state, transforming them from long forgotten structures into award winning/magazine featured statement pieces I say the above not to boast, but more to show how dedicated we are to our design work at Touchdown. delivering original re-creations that gleam authenticity. We spend the time researching the era and time period each historic structure originated, then merging it with bold, modern concepts that breathe new life into these structures - gracefully combining our ideas with history itself. You will notice every one of our historic restorations is black in some for or fashion."

Recommendations: The staff recommends the PHDC make the following findings of fact:

- a) 126 Adelaide Ave is a structure of historical and architectural significance that contribute to the significance of the Providence Landmarks District-Residential, having been recognized as a contributing structure to the Elmwood National Register Historic District;

- b) The application for Major Alterations is considered complete;
- c) The Commission's Standard for REPAIRS, IN-KIND REPLACEMENT AND RESTORATION, MASONRY, state that "Masonry that has not previously been painted should not be painted unless deterioration has progressed so far that a protective surface coating is needed. In such cases, use a breathable masonry paint in a color consistent with the natural masonry"; and,
- d) The work as proposed is not in accord with PHDC Standards 4 & 8 as follows: Minimal alteration of the building, structure, site or environment shall be made (Standard 4), and the proposal as submitted destroys the historic character of the property or the district and is aesthetically incompatible with the property and district and will have an adverse effect on the property and district (Standard 8).

Staff recommends a motion be made stating that: The application is considered complete. 126 Adelaide Ave is a structure of historical and architectural significance that contribute to the significance of the Providence landmarks District-Residential, having been recognized as a contributing structure to the Elmwood National Register Historic District. The Commission denies Approval of the proposal as submitted as the proposal is not in keeping with the Standard for REPAIRS, IN-KIND REPLACEMENT AND RESTORATION, MASONRY, state that "Masonry that has not previously been painted should not be painted unless deterioration has progressed so far that a protective surface coating is needed. In such cases, use a breathable masonry paint in a color consistent with the natural masonry" and is not in accord with PHDC Standards 4 & 8 as follows: Minimal alteration of the building, structure, site or environment shall be made (Standard 4), and the proposal as submitted destroys the historic character of the property or the district and is aesthetically incompatible with the property and district and will have an adverse effect on the property and district (Standard 8).

Conversely, the Commission may consider that the masonry has deteriorated has progressed so far that a protective surface coating is needed. In such cases, a breathable masonry paint in a color consistent with the natural masonry is recommended. It is the applicant's assertion that the Obsidian color is a natural color and has been used in other historic applications and may be deemed appropriate. If the Commission agrees the staff recommends the PHDC make the following findings of fact:

- a) 126 Adelaide Ave is a structure of historical and architectural significance that contributes to the significance of the Providence Landmarks District-Residential, having been recognized as a contributing structure to the Elmwood National Register Historic District;
- b) The application for Major Alterations is considered complete;
- c) The Commission's Standard for REPAIRS, IN-KIND REPLACEMENT AND RESTORATION, MASONRY, state that "Masonry that has not previously been painted should not be painted *unless deterioration has progressed so far that a protective surface coating is needed. In such cases, use a breathable masonry paint in a color consistent with the natural masonry* (emphasis added)"; and,
- d) The work as proposed is in accord with PHDC Standard 8 as follows: the proposal as submitted, while diminishing the historic character, does not destroy the historic character of the property or the district and is aesthetically compatible with the property and district and will not have an adverse effect on the property and district (Standard 8).

Staff recommends a motion be made stating that: The application is considered complete. 126 Adelaide Ave is a structure of historical and architectural significance that contributes to the significance of the Providence landmarks District-Residential, having been recognized as a contributing structure to the Elmwood National Register Historic District. The Commission grants Approval of the proposal as submitted as the proposal is in keeping with the Standard for REPAIRS, IN-KIND REPLACEMENT AND RESTORATION, MASONRY, state that "Masonry that has not previously been painted should not be painted unless deterioration has progressed so far that a protective surface coating is needed. In such cases, use a breathable masonry paint in a color consistent with the natural masonry" and is in accord with PHDC Standard 8 as follows: the proposal as submitted, while diminishing the historic character, does not destroy the historic character of the property or the district and is aesthetically compatible with the property and district and will not have an adverse effect on the property and district (Standard 8)















































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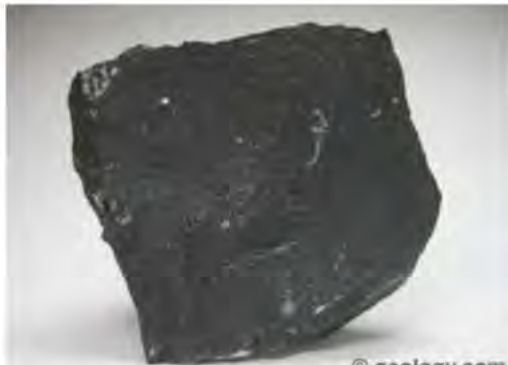
Basalt

What Is Basalt, How Does It Form, and How Is It Used?

Article by: [Hobart M. King](#), PhD, RPG

What is Basalt?

Basalt is a dark-colored, fine-grained, [igneous rock](#) composed mainly of [plagioclase](#) and [pyroxene](#) minerals. It most commonly forms as an extrusive rock, such as a [lava flow](#), but can also form in small intrusive bodies, such as an [igneous dike](#) or a thin [sill](#). It has a composition similar to [gabbro](#). The difference between basalt and gabbro is that basalt is a fine-grained rock while gabbro is a coarse-grained rock.



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Basalt: A fine-grained igneous rock that is usually black in color. The specimen shown is about two inches (five centimeters) across.

Earth's Most Abundant Bedrock

Basalt underlies more of Earth's surface than any other rock type. Most areas within Earth's ocean basins are underlain by basalt. Although basalt is much less common on continents, lava flows and flood basalts underlie several percent of Earth's land surface. Basalt is a very important rock.



63 Types of Black Gemstones: Properties, Uses and Benefits



Last Updated on September 29, 2023 by [Carla Jonas](#)

Black gemstones have been adorning us for millennia – but the darkest of gems have more than just a decorative appeal. They are highly valuable in various industries and in crystal healing, an ancient alternative medicine practice that is regaining popularity. From their healing benefits to their undisputable charm, iridescent and lustrous gems in shades of black are intriguing, mysterious and the heart of many legends.

Black Obsidian



Used For:

Protection
Purification
Transformation
Fulfilment
Metamorphoses
Manifestation
Practicality

Zodiac:

Scorpio, Sagittarius

Chakra:



THE
NOBLE

Westminster Unitarian Church

also known as Hood Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church

Show This

The Unitarians, who built this delightfully rambling complex in two stages moved here from a staunch Creek Revival temple designed and built by Warren, Tallman & Bucklin. The granite uncoursed rubblestone western section- Woodbury Memorial Chapel- was built first, followed by ashlar sanctuary. This rambling stone complex, designed by Howard K. Hilton, is quite a switch in architectural expression, from the congregation's urbanistically monumental former home to this nearly rural picturesque building. The latitude of belief within the Unitarian faith offers no immediate explanation for the formal choice found here. The Unitarians moved to East Greenwich in 1959, and a predominantly Swedish Methodist congregation occupied the building until 1977. Since then, this has been the religious home to Hood Memorial Church, a congregation first gathered in west Elmwood in the 1860s.

— 2003 Guide to Providence Architecture

When the church was included on the Most Endangered Properties list in 2014 and 2015, the building was unused and suffering from vandalism and structural damage. Visit [our website](#) for updates on the status of this property.



Address [126 Adelaide Avenue, Providence, RI, USA](#)

Date(s) 1901, 1906-07

Neighborhood [Elmwood](#)

Architectural Style [Gothic Revival](#)

Designer(s) [Howard K. Hilton](#)

List/District [Elmwood National Historic District](#), [PPS Ten Most Endangered List 2014](#), [PPS Ten Most Endangered List 2015](#), [Providence Landmarks District/Residential](#)

Share your Story

Something to add? An edit or correction to suggest? Community input about the history of these important places is welcome. All submissions are reviewed before posting.

Your Message



The family painted the church's exterior black.



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