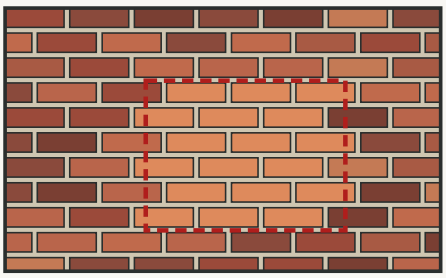
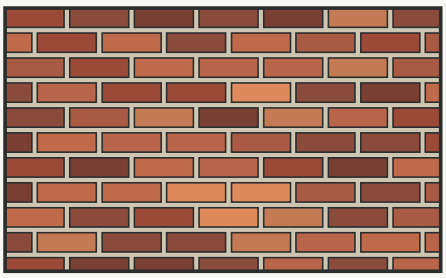
RESTORATION GUIDE · RECLAIMED BRICK

Matching old brick

Repairing an 1800s brick front so the new work looks as if it was always there.



× PATCHED **One new shade**

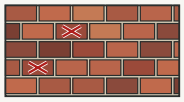


✓ BLENDED **Spread through**

Why 1800s brick is hard to match

- **Color varies** within one wall, deep red to orange, with darker bricks.
- **Size varies,** and often isn't today's size. A brick too tall throws off every course.
- **The surface has aged:** soft edges, weathered faces.
- **The mortar is part of the look:** soft lime, worn back from the face.

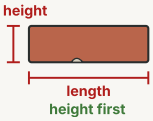
1 Keep sound brick



replace only the damaged

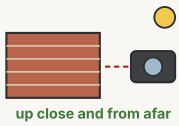
The best match is the wall's own brick. Clean and reuse it.

2 Measure several



Length, height, depth and joint width. Height has to line up.

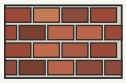
3 Look in daylight



up close and from afar

Photograph the wall close up and from across the street.

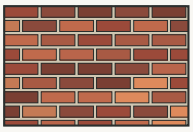
4 Sample panel



test it before ordering

Lay a few candidates with the planned mortar in a hidden spot.

5 Blend, don't patch



Mix bricks from several pallets through the repair.

6 Keep spares



for the next repair

A few of the same bricks make the next repair simple.

For the oldest walls

Brick	**Reclaimed NY Antique**
Age	**Early to late 1800s**
Colors	**Dark red and purple to orange**
Average size	**8 × 3.5 × 2.25"**
Pallet	**504 bricks**

Send daylight photos and measurements first, then see the bricks at our yard in Nanuet, NY.

Match the mortar too

Old brick was laid in soft lime. Hard cement mortar can trap moisture and stress softer brick.

NHL 3.5 lime mortar for joints ⅜" and wider. One 38.5 lb bag lays about 30 bricks at ½" joints.

Match joint width, color and finish to the wall. Your architect or mason sets the mix.

Who decides

- ✓ **Your architect**
  What is repaired or replaced, and the specification.
- ✓ **Landmarks Preservation Commission**
  Reviews exterior work on a designated building.
- × **Non-structural use**
  Reclaimed bricks aren't tested to current structural standards.

Three ways to buy

Reclaimed New York bricks · pallet coverage with ½" joints

A sample

A sample of 4 antique bricks by priority mail, 1–3 days.

By the brick

Any number, from just one. Good for repairs and matching.

By the pallet

	Full bricks	Antique	Bump
Bricks	504	504	450
Covers	**82 ft² wall**	**82 ft² wall**	**86 ft² wall**

Count your bricks
Scan for the brick calculator

Chief Bricks · 15 Fisher Ave, Nanuet, NY 10954 · (718) 379-1232 · chiefbricks.com