

I support the City's plans to designate these buildings and appreciate this Sept. investigation by KingSett. It has revealed new opportunities. See Figure 2 by of the east elevation. Two areas from this picture are enlarged below.

There appears to be very little water damage to the brick since 1996 at 1354-1360 Queen St W at Brock, (ref "BQ"). Fig. 1.



Figure 2: 2021 picture by Ric Amis. East elevation.



Figure 1: 1996 picture. South elevation

Figure 3 below, shows paint chipping about the same degree as Figure 1, 26 years previous. This would be due to the protection of the Styrofoam and cement board seen below.



Figure 3: Crop 1 from Ric's image.

This double brick wall was designed to drain down internally between the two layers of brick. The broken bricks are difficult to explain. Perhaps this damage occurred while chipping off the Styrofoam.

Figure 4 shows that ERA appears to have been able to remove the covering from the dentil work at the top of the wall and the window arch, revealing beautiful red brick. There is a simple tuck pointing repair needed to the top of the arch.



Figure 4: Crop 2 from Ric's Image.

Figure 5 shows the static state of the the paint since1996.

Conclusions.

We might be best to leave the corner building as is and paint it a lighter colour that will not show the dirt but will reveal the remaining beauty. Eric Charron of SHS has found external insulation very favourable for heritage buildings. We trust the judgment of the Heritage department in this matter.



Figure 5: 1996 Picture of south elevation.

Supplementary Reference Information.

Were yellow and red brick usually soft until 1890? The difference is that red brick clay contains iron oxide that turns red when heated.

Re: yellow brick, the Ramsden Park / Yorkville area was also well known for a blue clay that produced light yellow bricks (also called white or buff bricks), which were particularly used prior to the 1890s. Here's an article by the Toronto Historical Association:

<http://www.torontohistory.net/yorkville-brickyards/>

Stickwood Brick Yard 1860-1910 Yellow Bricks from burning wood in Newmarket, 1860-1910.

<https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/remember-this/remember-this-legacy-of-stickwood-brickyard-visible-in-towns-yellow-brick-buildings-1126094>

Soft Yellow Brick. <http://www.walkervilletimes.com/37/yellow-brick.html>

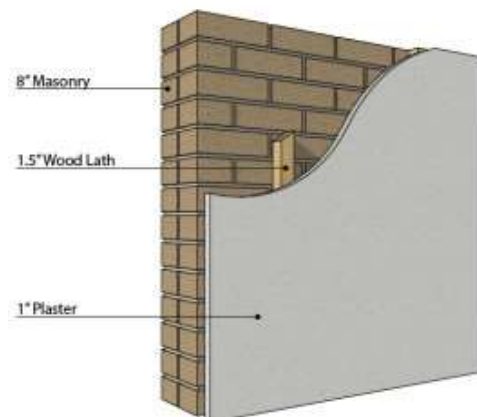
1865 clay for yellow brick found in Lambton County. <https://www.sarniathisweek.com/news/local-news/lambton-butter-yellow-bricks-were-once-big-business>

Don Valley Brick Works opened in 1890 and ushered in an era of harder and better bricks were made possible by the industrial revolution and gas furnaces. <https://www.waybacktimes.com/history/don-valley-brick-works/>

My friend ,John Scyths, who restored 32 Beaty, told me about soft yellow brick, double brick walls and drainage.

Charles Mussen Built BQ in 1880 and my own house at 170-174 Dunn Ave in 1883. Both buildings were Italianate styling. Like all builders, Mussen had a signature style. My house has double brick walls of soft brick with no hardened exterior. The walls rest on a sill board on the flat top of a 4 foot high and two foot thick foundation of large stones. The walls drain internally into the foundation and so are dry and stable. My bricks were painted red at some point but later sand blasted back to yellow or “buff” with no ill effects. You can gouge the “soft” brick with a screw driver, using strong force. I have insulated inside with no ill effects. The bricks in both buildings predated the 1890 brick revolution in the Don Valley that produced harder brick at lower cost.

Double brick wall illustration:



End.