

SIDING

GUIDELINES – SIDING:

Where it exists, it is always preferable to maintain the original siding of a building. When the condition of the siding has deteriorated to the point that it should be replaced, the owner should seek to preserve the appearance of the original siding to the greatest degree possible.

Clapboard siding:

- Materials should be natural – composite and man-made materials are not historically appropriate. Cedar is the most common clapboard material
- Reveal – the distance between the bottom line of two vertically-stacked rows of clapboards should match the existing reveal, or the original reveal, of the building.
- Detailing – there are three common styles of clapboards, and the building owner should replace in-kind:
 - Traditional (this is most common in the historic districts)
 - Dutch Lap (appeared in the 1880's)
 - Beaded (uncommon in Marblehead)
- Joints – modern clapboard installations typically use butt joints to continue clapboards in a single row. Butt joint are essentially 90° cuts at the end of clapboards that are then butted-up against each other leaving a vertical seam. While butt joints are effective for modern construction, clapboard installations prior to the 20th century joined clapboards with scarf joints. With a scarf joint, the ends are tapered so that consecutive boards overlap by 3" to 4". This overlapping, or scarfing, gives the siding on a building a uniquely historical character. There are simple jig designs (available with an internet search) that make the job quick and easy.
- Depending upon the age of the building, owners should seek to follow building styles that were in use during original construction. For example, a building constructed in 1744 would have had clapboards of no longer than 3'-4' with scarfed joints.
- Owners seeking to replace scarf jointed clapboards will be expected to install short length clapboards (3'-4') with scarfed joints to match the original.

Shingle siding:

- Materials should be natural – composite and man-made materials are not historically appropriate. Cedar is the most common shingle material
- Reveal – the distance between the bottom line of two vertically-stacked rows of shingles should match the existing reveal, or the original reveal, of the building.

*The Marblehead Old & Historic Districts Commission
Guidance*

Brick siding:

- Due to the scarcity of lime in Marblehead, brick buildings were uncommon in Marblehead's historic district before the 19th century. That makes brick buildings in the historic districts of particular significance to the town's history. Repairs to brick siding on homes should seek to match the appearance of existing materials. Using reclaimed, water-struck bricks and light-colored mortar will help maintain the consistency of appearance across the entire building. If reclaimed bricks are not available, new, water-struck bricks are acceptable.

Shiplap or Plank siding:

- There are only a small handful of examples in the district where shiplap or plank siding has been used. Repairs should match the original installation in appearance and size using natural materials (wood).