

Preservation Guidelines: Chimneys

Chimneys

Chimneys usually make an important contribution to a building's architectural character. They create visual interest by adding balance, variety and liveliness to roofs and walls. Most Bennington chimneys are brick, with stone, stucco and other materials occurring sometimes as well. Early Bennington chimneys usually emphasize the balance and symmetry of the Federal and Greek Revival styles; later chimneys reflect the variety and richness of later styles. Chimneys are especially subject to damage because of their exposure to wind, rain and temperature extremes; but with occasional maintenance they can last as long as any other part of a building.

Basic Guideline

Maintain the dimensions, design and materials of old or original chimneys. Avoid sloppy repairs, repointing with hard mortar, or coating of masonry with asphalt.

Appropriate

- A** Keeping old or original chimneys at their existing height and design.
- B** Repointing chimneys and replacing missing bricks using materials which closely resemble the existing in color, texture and hardness. A mortar made up of 6 parts sand, 1 1/2 parts cement and 3 parts lime is recommended.
- C** Installing necessary new chimneys only at the rear of buildings or other less visible places.

Not Appropriate

- 1** Painting chimney masonry which was never painted before, or coating chimneys with stucco, asphalt or other surface materials which clash with the original appearance.
- 2** Replacing masonry chimneys with metal, concrete block or other materials out of keeping with a building's character.
- 3** Installing new chimneys through walls or in other highly visible locations.
- 4** Removing chimneys which are sound or can be reasonably repaired.

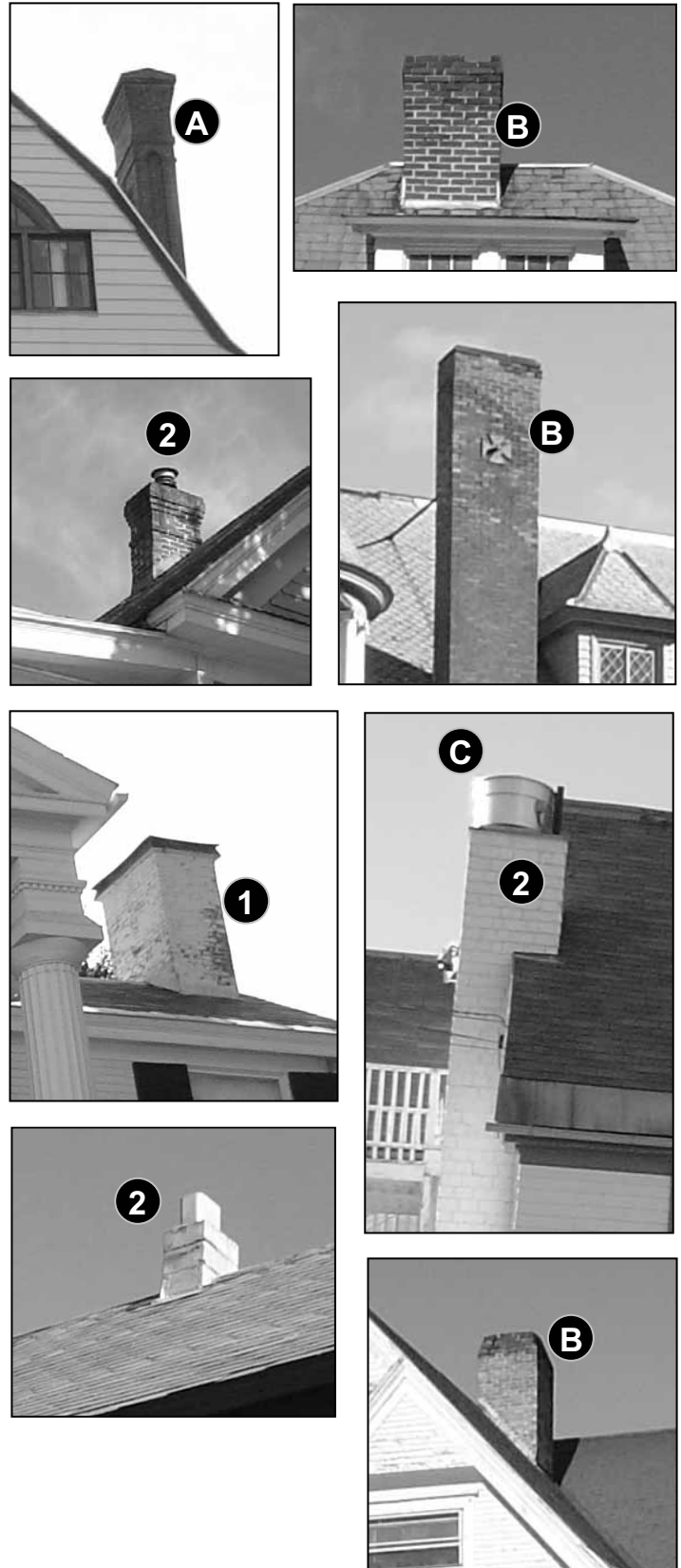


Fig. 5-47: Examples of different chimneys within the Historic District.