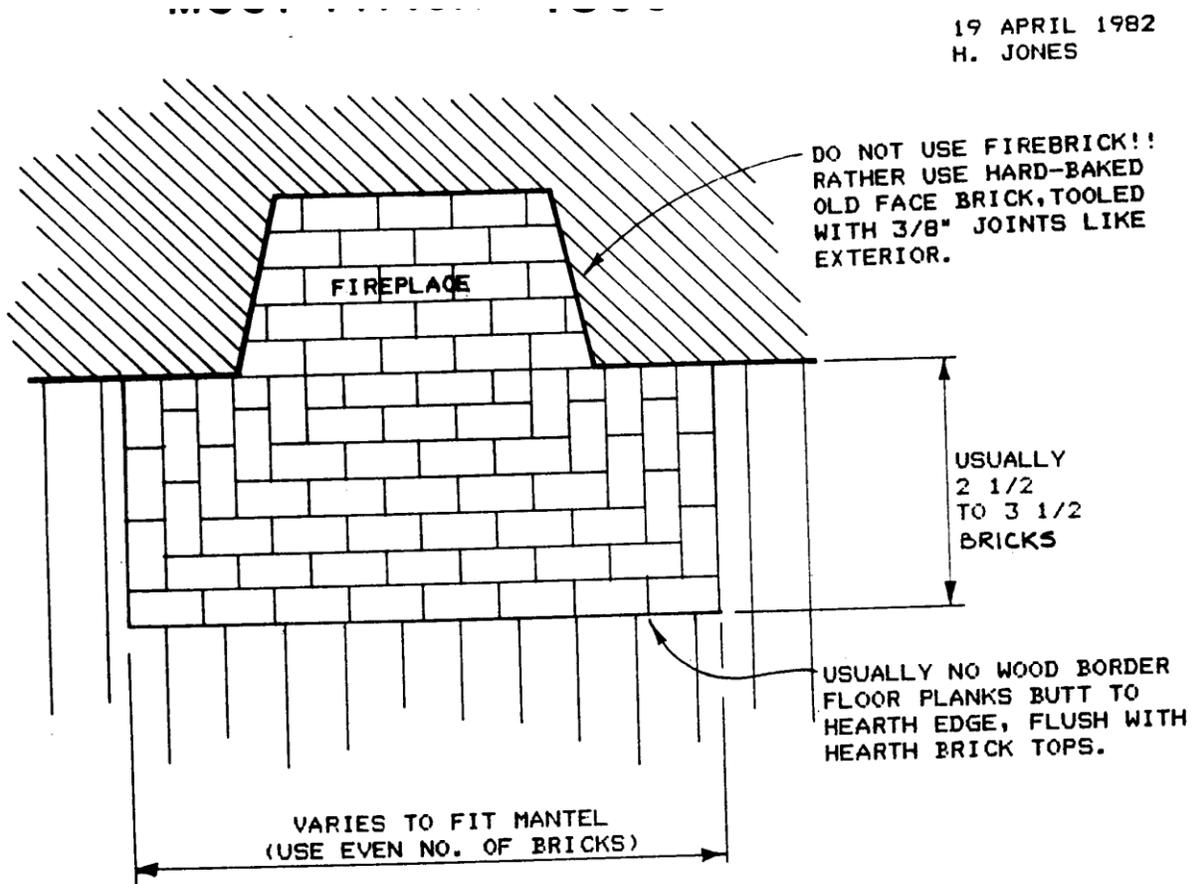


Essay #7 of a series written by Alabama preservationists to supplement the *Handbook for Owners of Alabama's Historic Houses*, Alabama Historical Commission, 2001

HEARTH PATTERN

Harvie Jones, F.A.I.A.

Most Typical 1800-1860

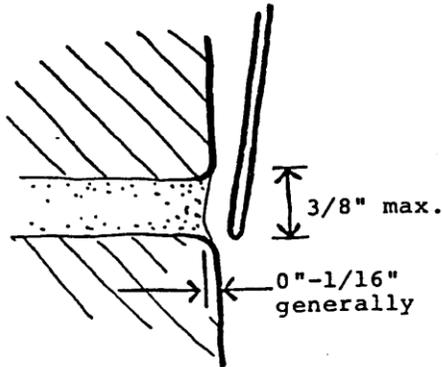


Approximately 4" x 8" smooth-top bricks, hard-baked, jammed tight together without mortar joints. Sweep dry sand and a little dry mortar into the joints, then wet to set. Clean mortar off of brick tops.

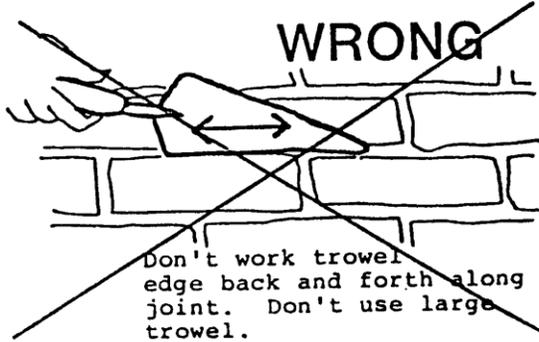
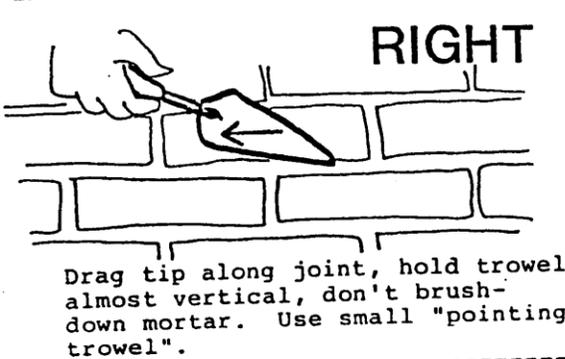
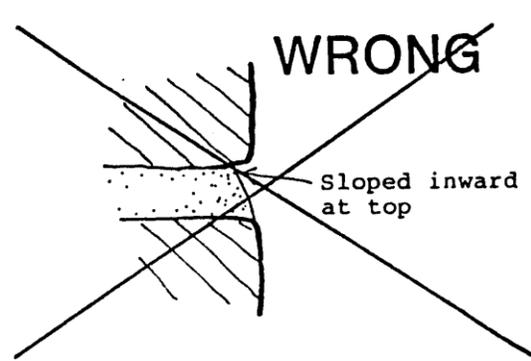
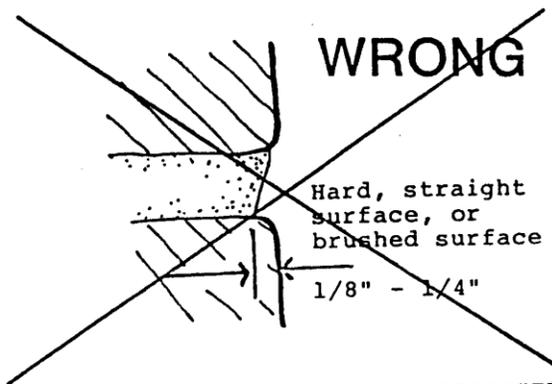
Width and front-to-back number of bricks varies. There should be an even number of bricks or half-bricks.

If necessary for fit at an existing hearth cut-out, use a flush wood border to make your bricks fit the cut-out in an even number of bricks or half-bricks. It would be better to begin the brick layout at the front of the hearth and fit in the bricks, without a border.

RIGHT



Use a small "pointing trowel". Hold trowel almost vertical, sloping slightly inward at bottom drag tip along joint. Tip ripples should result and remain. Do NOT work trowel edge back and forth along joint to smooth it up. Ripples should remain. DO NOT brush-down the fresh mortar after tooling it. Tool marks should be visible when mortar is dry.



NOTE: When matching existing walls, carefully study the unweathered existing joints and duplicate the same effect. Prepare a ± 3' x 2' wall sample for architect's inspection after architect shows an existing sample to the mason.