

GLOSSARY

ABSORBENT: Capable of taking in water or moisture.

ABSORPTION: The weight of water a brick or tile unit absorbs when immersed in either cold or boiling water for a stated length of time. It is expressed as a percentage of the weight of the dry unit.

ABSORPTION RATE: The weight of water absorbed when a brick is partially immersed for one minute, usually expressed in either grams or ounces per minute. Also called suction or initial rate of absorption.

ABUTMENT: A supporting wall carrying the end of a bridge or span and sustaining the pressure of the earth next to it. Also: a skewback and the masonry which supports it.

ACCELERATOR: A material which speeds hardening of concrete or mortar.

ACID-RESISTANT BRICK: Brick suitable for use in contact with chemicals, usually used along with acid-resistant mortars.

ADHESION TYPE CERAMIC VENEER: The inner sections of ceramic veneer held in place by adhesion of mortar to unit and backing. No metal anchors are required.

ADMIXTURES: Materials added to mortar as water-repellent or coloring agents or to retard or hasten setting.

ADOBE BRICK: Large roughly-molded, sun-dried clay brick of varying size.

AGGREGATE: Inert particles which are mixed with portland cement and water to form concrete, mortar and the like.

AIR-ENTRAINING AGENT: A material used to trap air in mortar to improve its workability and durability.

AIR SPACE: A cavity or space in the wall, or between building materials.

ALL STRETCHER BOND: Bond showing only stretchers on the face of the wall, each stretcher divided evenly over the stretchers below it.

ALUMINA: A mineral contained in clay used for brick-making.

AMERICAN BOND: That bond consisting of from five to seven stretcher courses between headers.

ANCHOR: A piece of material usually metal, used to attach building parts (e.g., plates, joists, trusses, etc.) to masonry. Also: Masonry materials or a metal tie used to secure stone in place.

ANCHORED TYPE CERAMIC VENEER: Thicker sections of ceramic veneer held in place by grout and wire anchors connected to backing wall.

ANGLE BRICK: Any brick shaped to an oblique angle to fit a

salient (sharp) corner.

ANGLE IRON: A structural piece of steel in the form of a 90 degree angle used, in certain situations, to support brick-work.

APRON: A plain or molded piece of finish below the stool of the window covering the rough edge of the plastering.

APRON WALL: That part of a panel wall between window sill and wall support.

ARCADE: A range of arches, supported either on columns or on piers and detached or attached to the wall.

ARCH: A curved compressive structural member, spanning openings or recesses; also built flat. Also a form of construction in which a number of units span an opening by transferring vertical loads laterally to adjacent units and thus to the supports. An arch is normally classified by the curve of its intrados.

ARCH AXIS: The median line of the arch ring.

ARCH BRICK: Wedge-shaped brick for special use in an arch. Also: Extremely hard-burned brick from an arch of a scove kiln.

ARCH BUTTRESS: Sometimes called a flying buttress; an arch springing from a buttress or pier.

ARCHITECTURAL TERRA COTTA: Hard-burned, glazed or unglazed clay building units, plain or ornamental, machine-extruded or hand-molded and generally larger in size than brick or facing tile.

AREA WALL: The masonry surrounding or partly surrounding an area. Also: The retaining wall around basement windows below grade.

ARRIS: The external edge formed by two surfaces, whether plane or curved, meeting each other.

ARTIFICIAL: Made to resemble a natural product—synthetic.

ASHLAR: A squared or cut block of stone, usually of rectangular dimensions. Also: A flat-faced surface generally square or rectangular having sawed or dressed beds and joints.

Coursed Ashlar: Ashlar set to form continuous horizontal joints.

Random Ashlar: Ashlar set with stones of varying length and height so that neither vertical nor horizontal joints are continuous.

Stacked Ashlar: Ashlar set to form continuous vertical joints.

ASHLAR LINE: The main line of the surface of a wall of the superstructure.

