

#9, #10, and #11 were built of large concrete blocks. Throughout the 19th century, attempts were made to cast concrete into building blocks, but this was not successful until Harmon S. Palmer invented a cast iron concrete block machine, patented in 1900, that made large hollow concrete blocks one at a time. The advantages of concrete blocks advertised included: they were inexpensive and could be installed faster than traditional materials; they were also fireproof and needed little care. The early block machines came with a variety of face plates that imitated other materials, like rusticated stone.



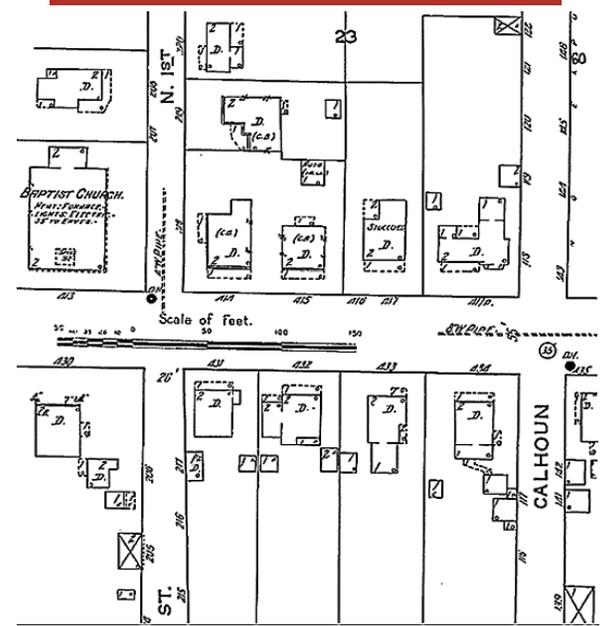
#9 11 N. Sixth Street
This 2 story rusticated concrete block house was constructed around 1910. It is built on an L-plan with a central 3-story tower and a wrap-around porch with concrete posts and balustrade.

#10 135 Main Street
This 2-story, 4-bay American Foursquare (ca. 1910) is built of rusticated concrete block. The concrete porches have wooden columns and rusticated concrete block balustrades. The American Foursquare was a popular house type during the early 20th century; the name is derived from its square shape and 4-room plan. The Foursquare is characterized by a cube-like form, 2 stories, 2 rooms deep, and 4 principal rooms on each floor with one of the first floor front rooms serving as the entry space.

#11 141 Main Street
This 2 story American Foursquare (ca. 1910) with a hipped dormer is built of rusticated concrete block. The porches are built of the same material.

#12 145 Main Street
This 2 1/2 story, 2-bay stuccoed American Foursquare has Classical Revival style features, including a dentilated cornice and a porch with fluted columns and pilasters.

Before the late 19th century, stucco consisted primarily of hydrated or slaked lime, water, and sand, with straw or animal hair included as a binder. Often the color of the stucco was determined by the color of the sand used, but early stucco was also tinted with natural pigments or whitewashed. Natural cements were often used after the 1820s. Portland cement was first manufactured in the U.S. in 1871, and it gradually replaced natural cements until it was frequently used after 1900. With the addition of Portland cement, stucco mixes became harder and less flexible. **Hint: Before repairing stucco, try to learn more about the mix of the original application.**



The 1915 Sanborn Insurance Company map above shows the houses along Main Street in Warrenton between Calhoun Street and 1st Street (now named 6th Street). As you can see on the map, sites #9, #10, and #11 are marked "C.B." for concrete block construction, and site #12 is marked "stuccoed," signifying that the houses along the south side of Main Street were not sided in stucco at that time. Concrete block and stucco designation were important to note on the insurance map due to the probable fire-resistance properties of these materials perceived at that time.

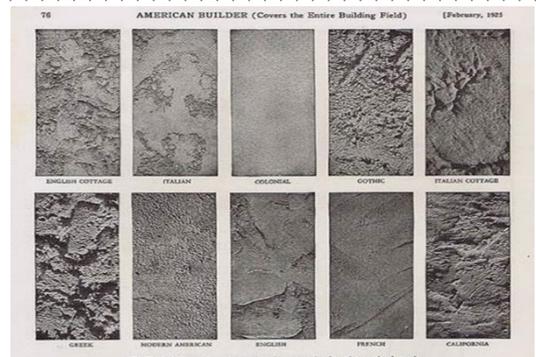
A product of the:
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10 Hotel Street, 3rd Floor
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Warrenton Walks



Walk 2: Examining Stucco



The Portland Cement Stucco textures here shown are taken from photographs of actual stucco jobs. Any competent workman in the plastering trade can reproduce these beautiful, permanent and economical finishes.

A Texture for Each Period

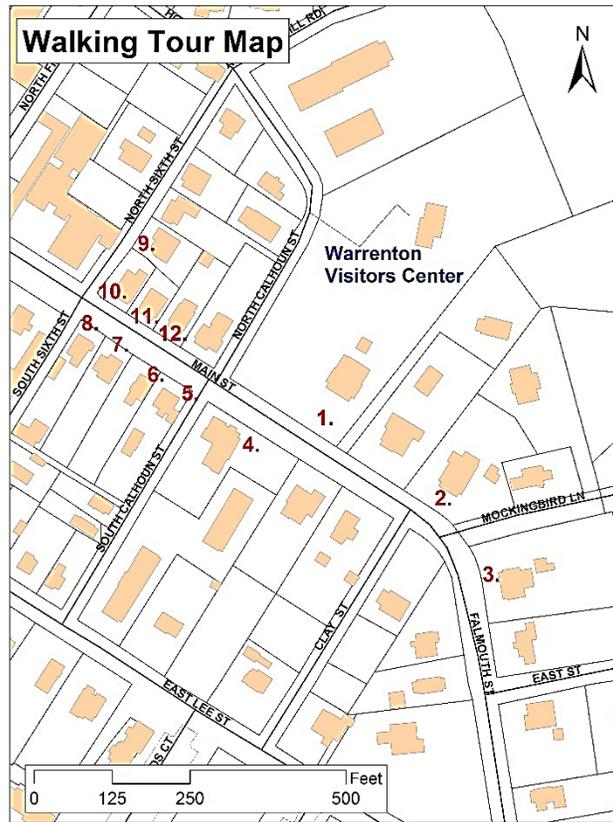
Stucco has been in use since ancient times. Still widely applied throughout the world, it is one of the most common traditional building materials. Although the term stucco was initially used in the American colonies to describe fine interior ornamental plasterwork, by the early 19th century, "stucco" had gained wide acceptance to indicate plaster applied to exterior walls as a protective, weather-repellent coating.

#1 173 Main Street. Brentmoor / Spilman House
Brentmoor (ca. 1859-1861) is a fine representation of a 2 story brick Italianate style house covered with stucco that has been scored to imitate stonework. Characteristic of the Italianate style, it has a hipped roof, bracketed eaves, windows with segmental-arched hoods, and a front porch embellished with paired chamfered posts & spindled brackets. An original brick meathouse and kitchen stand behind house. Built for Edward Spilman, a Fauquier County circuit court judge, by John Spilman, a prolific local builder, Brentmoor was later owned by two well-known Confederate officers, John S. Mosby, U.S. Consul to Hong Kong, and Eppa Hunton, a four-term congressman.

Italianate Style

During the mid-19th century, the Italianate style was inspired by farmhouses of the Italian countryside and was promoted by the noted American landscape theorist Andrew Jackson Downing. In his widely distributed pattern book *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850), Downing describes the Italianate style villa as a "simple, rational, convenient, and economical dwelling for the southern part of the Union. The broadly projecting roof and long extended veranda affords ample shade, so indispensable to all dwellings in a southern climate."

#2 197 Main Street. Dr. William Bispham House
Built ca. 1856, this 2-story Gothic Revival style house with projecting front gable and triple lancet-arched windows was originally covered with Gothic-style vertical board and batten siding. It was later sided in stucco. Dr. Bispham selected this site for his house because it was "the highest point in town." In the 1860 Census, Bispham is noted as being a dentist, & his dental surgery office was located near the courthouse. In 1902, this property was sold to Judge and Mrs. Edward Turner, and their improvements included adding a ½ story to the house, replacing the front porch, and creating an extensive garden landscape.



#3 211 Falmouth Street. Shackelford House
The dwelling at 211 Falmouth Street (ca. 1853) is a 2-story, 3-bay Italianate style house with an English basement, wide bracketed eaves, paired central chimneys, and an elaborate front porch with lattice and jigsaw woodwork. The stucco siding is scored in blocks to resemble cut stone. It is thought to have been constructed for Benjamin H. Shackelford who was a partner of the Warrenton law firm of Shackelford and Spilman. Benjamin Shackelford married Rebecca Green in 1852. Rebecca had a prenuptial agreement in which she retained the title of two house lots in Warrenton, one being this lot. By 1920, this lot still extended down to what is now East Street. It then included 4 acres with the main house, tenant house, stable, kitchen, chicken house, and corn house.



#4 162 Main Street. Thaddeus N. Fletcher House
(ca. 1860). A 2-story, 4-bay Italianate style house built on an L-plan with a projecting polygonal bay on the façade. The house features a wide cornice with dentals, curvilinear brackets in the eaves, and stucco siding. It is believed that the first house on the property was the "one room down and one room up Red Store" built in 1763 by Alexander Cunninghame, moved from its original location to this site. This building was enlarged around 1860 to present the L-shape you see today. Thaddeus Norris Fletcher (1844 - 1920) was Fauquier County Clerk 1870-1874. His sons Thaddeus and Albert Fletcher owned a large Warrenton mercantile, grain & feed store on Lee Street.

#5 152 Main Street. Jourdan M. Saunders House
(ca. 1830/ca. 1890). This Federal style dwelling is one of the oldest extant houses on Main Street. It is a 2-story, 4-bay house with 6/6 double-hung sash windows and an apparent false window at the NE corner. The stucco siding was added at a later time. Jourdan Saunders (b. 1797 d. 1875) was a slave trader, first as an agent for Franklin and Armfield in Alexandria and later in a partnership with David M. Burford as the slave trading firm of J. M. Saunders and Company.



#6 146 Main Street
This 2 story, 3-bay stuccoed vernacular house (ca. 1880) is built on a raised basement. The porch has octagonal section columns and a dentiled cornice. The house appears to incorporate an earlier 1-story stuccoed building at the rear.

#7 140 Main Street. Smith/Sowers House
(ca. 1858). Two story Greek Revival style house with stucco siding, paired interior end chimneys, & 1 story hipped roof porch with scrolled brackets and jigsaw railing. Property occupied by "famous Lukas sisters" who were renowned for their charm and admired by both Union and Confederate officers. In 1867, sold to Anne Adams Smith who subsequently willed it to her daughter Mary Frances (wife of Dr. James R. Sowers). The Smith/Sowers family owned it until the late 1940s when it was sold to Dr. George H. Davis who converted it into apartments.

#8 134 Main Street
This ca. 1855 2 story vernacular house (ca. 1855) has stucco siding, a hipped roof, and 1-story porch with hipped roof, chamfered posts and scrolled brackets.