



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

adobe brick – a brick made in early times from clay and placed in a mold in the sun to dry and cure.

apprentice – one who enters into an agreement to serve an employer for a stated length of time to learn a trade.

arch – a section of masonry work that spans an opening and supports not only its own weight, but also the weight of the masonry work above it.

architect's scale – ten different scales placed on a rule used to measure dimensions of drawings and plans; scale ranges from 3/32" to 3".

bearing wall – a masonry wall which supports a load other than its own weight.

blueprints or building plans – detailed drawings of a structure showing measurements and the various views which are necessary to build the structure. The term blueprint commonly refers to the reproduction of plans with white lines on a blue background. Persons in the masonry trade commonly call all plans blueprints.

bond – the process of (1) tying together various parts of a masonry wall by lapping units one over another or by connecting with metal ties; (2) the pattern formed by exposed face of the units; (3) the adhesion between mortar or grout and masonry units or reinforcement devices.

brick – a solid unit of clay or shale which has been burned in a kiln; usually rectangular in shape.

brick kiln – a brick structure used to burn brick at a controlled heat.

building code – the legal requirements established by different governing

agencies covering minimum construction practices.

cavity wall – a wall consisting of 2 tiers of wythes of masonry units separated by a continuous air space not less than 2" wide. The space may be retained as insulation or filled with grout and steel reinforcements.

cinder block – a concrete block in which cinders are used as the aggregate.

cinder brick – a brick made from cement and cinders.

composite wall – any bonded wall consisting of wythes or tiers of different masonry units, such as brick and concrete wall.

concrete block – a hollow or solid block made from Portland cement and aggregate.

contractor – the person(s) who undertakes a job to construct a structure under a contract or agreement.

coping – the masonry covering laid on top of a wall. Coping is usually projected from both sides of the wall to provide a protective covering as well as an ornamental design.

corbelling – the projection of masonry units to form a shelf or ledge.

cultured stone – manufactured product from cementus material to imitated natural stone.

details – in masonry, specific drawings of elements of construction such as lintel layout, flashing details, and installation of bolts in the wall. These are shown on a larger scale to simplify necessary procedures.

face brick – a brick used in the front or face side of a wall; usually a better grade of brick.

firebrick – a brick made from a highly fire-resistant clay found at a great depth in the ground.

fluted block – concrete block made with projected vertical ribs on face of block; used for textured walls.

general contractor – the main or prime contractor on a job. They have the responsibility of coordinating all of the subcontractors' work to complete the structure according to the terms of the contract.

glass block – insulated, modular, manufactured glass product laid in masonry.

grout – (1) a very thin mortar which is poured between two walls for reinforcement; (2) a liquid concrete that is poured in the centre of a reinforced masonry wall. Consists of a portland cement, lime, and aggregates.

halfback – concrete block that has the insides of two cells cut out.

hard brick – a brick with a very dense composition and very low water absorption rate.

journeyman – a skilled worker who has served as an apprentice in a trade or profession and is now fully recognized as competent in that trade.

keystone – the wedge-shaped piece (stone or brick) at the top centre of an arch which locks together the other pieces that form the arch ring.

lintel – a horizontal member or beam placed over a wall or opening to carry or support the weight of masonry work.

masonry – a material such as concrete block, bricks, or stone bonded together with mortar to form a wall or structure.

load bearing – the term referring to a wall or other masonry work which supports a load.

natural stone – material which is obtained in its natural state (ie) Fieldstone, or Quarry stone.

parging – the application of a thin coat of mortar to the back of a wall to waterproof the wall.

pilaster – a wall portion projecting from wall faces and serving as a vertical column and/or beam.

portland cement – the fine, grayish powder formed by burning limestone, clay, or shale and then grinding the resulting clinkers. The result is a cement which hardens under water and which is used as a base for all mortar. Portland cement is a grade of cement, not a brand.

ready-mix concrete – a concrete that has already been mixed and is delivered to the job in drum-type concrete trucks

reinforced masonry – a type of masonry work consisting of 2 tiers of masonry units with reinforcements of steel and grout in the centre for extra strength.

rock face block – a concrete block made in a mold which resembles a stone wall.

solid masonry wall – a wall built of masonry units laid with full mortar joints between them and with no type of framing present.

specifications – the detailed written description of the work to be accomplished in a building. Specifications accompany the plans and describe such things as quality of materials used, workmanship, and method of construction.

standard brick – the brick most often used in masonry, with nominal dimensions of 8" x 4" x 2 2/3".

texture – the arrangement of particles in masonry materials which accounts for the brick's appearance. The various effects created by tooling mortar joints are also considered part of the texture.

Tyndall stone – limestone from the Tyndall, MB area.

veneered wall – a masonry wall with a facing which is attached, but not bonded, to the backing to act as a load-bearing wall.