



Anacortes Historic Preservation Board



Find It!

The porch columns on this fine Arts and Crafts house, built c. 1910, are made of clinker brick, a type of brick that is dark colored and often misshapen.



Clinker bricks are formed during the firing process when wet bricks are placed too close to the heat source. Originally, clinkers were discarded because of their dark, uneven color, and their odd shapes made them difficult to lay in even rows. Later, during the Arts and Crafts movement of the early 20th century, architects and builders were drawn to their interesting earthy texture and colors and often incorporated them into their designs. Clinkers—from the Dutch word “*klinken*” meaning “sound”—were so named because when tapped they make a distinctive clear sound.

Clinker bricks are found in a wide array of decorative details from chimneys to fireplaces to exterior trims. Anacortes has several very distinctive chimneys built from clinker brick in addition to the fine detail of the pictured porch at 1109 7th St. We'll feature those chimneys in a later edition of Find It!

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