

# **Birmingham Rocks!**

**HISTORY AND USE OF  
NATIVE SANDSTONE  
IN OUR ARCHITECTURE  
AND LANDSCAPE**



# Sandstone in Architectural Detail

*Photographic narrative, John Carraway*



Sandstone house with brick trim at windows. This method is used where the stone is irregular and will not form a good edge to an opening.

Chimney constructed of stone set with the bedding plane vertical. This is a very early example of sandstone in the area and is used only on the chimney. The stone was probably found near the site.

An example of stonework of the early 1950s with the sandstone trimmed so that its thickness can be set in regular courses.







This is an example of sandstone trim at openings where the sandstone has been dressed to a smooth surface and edged by mouldings. This is an unusual application for sandstone because of the hardness of the stone. Limestone, which is softer, is normally used for detailed trim.



An unusual example of sandstone being used as a roofing material. This application is found in England on much older houses, but rarely found in this area.



An example of sandstone used in the dressing around windows of a stucco house. The stone is irregular but with corners probably chipped to make somewhat square.





An entrance to a residential subdivision of the 1920s. The stone has only been dressed by chipping to make corners and the detail at the cap of the piers. Note that the bench is made of a slab of sandstone with sandstone supports.



Detail of the subdivision entrance showing the dressing of the cap piece.



Another example of stonework of the 1950s. Note that the stone was normally set under deep overhanging eaves which protects the original color of the stone from weathering.





Sandstone set in an irregular pattern with particular attention to the fitting of the stone in relation to one another.



A house of the late 1920s with dressed sandstone in the brickwork of the arch. A very good example of using the color and texture of sandstone with brick.



Another example of stone dressing in a stucco wall.





Dressed sandstone with a smooth surface in a brick wall.



This example shows the stone being used perpendicular to the bedding of the stone.



An example of sandstone set in thin pieces of stone in a very controlled pattern.





Sandstone retaining wall sitting on top of a natural sandstone outcropping, with stairs built into the stone landscape.



An example of a white sandstone that was quarried near the site. This color does not appear in this area often and is distinctly different from the typical orangish brown.

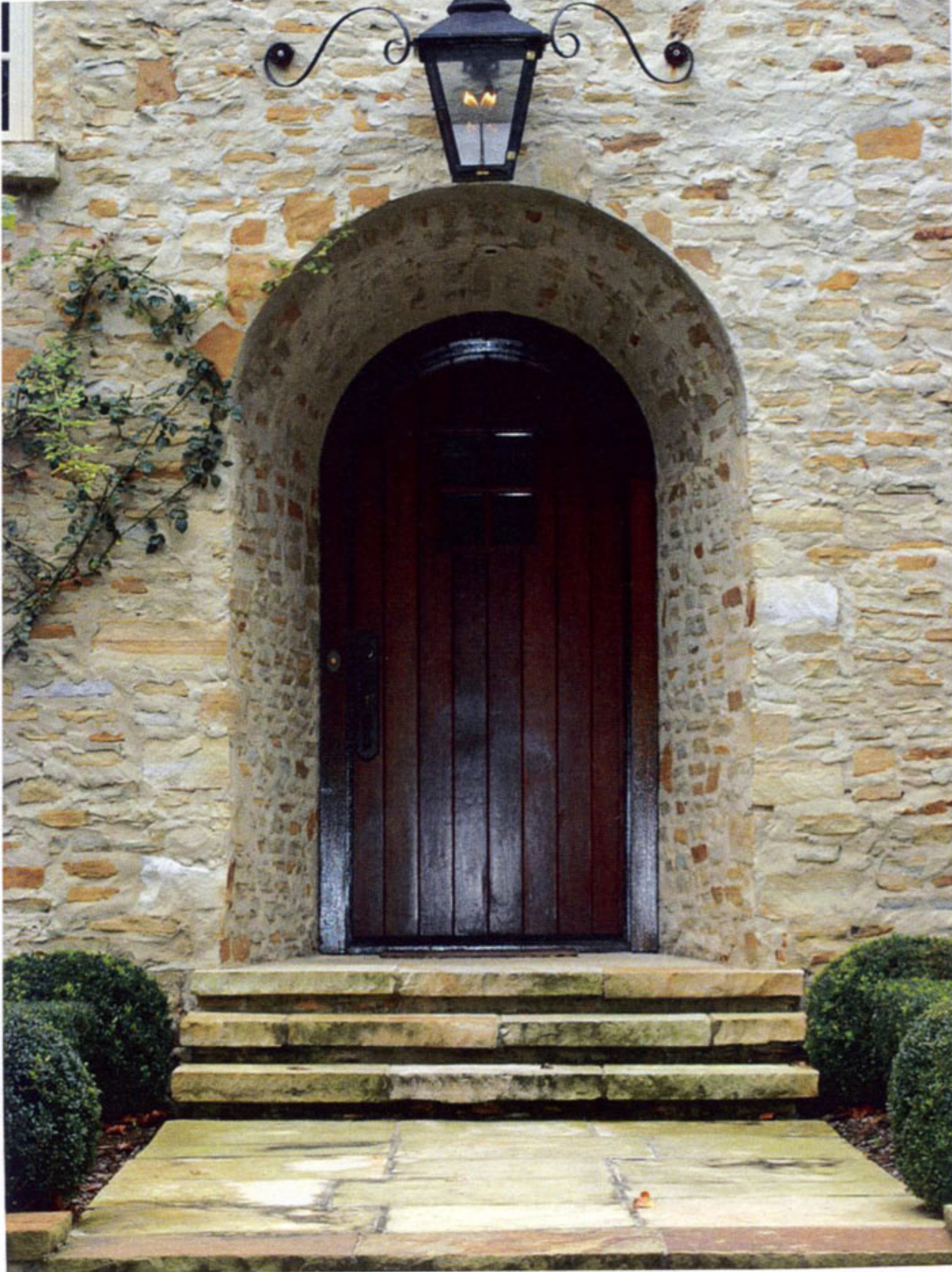


Stone pier with sandstone set both in the bedding plane and perpendicular to it.





Weathered sandstone wall with limestone trim.



Rubble sandstone set in thick mortar.



An example of solid stone treads with stone stringers.