



DSC TECHNICAL BULLETIN 04-04

Subject: Artificial Weathering of New Wood

Discussion:

In the process of reconstruction, restoration, rehabilitation, stabilization, or making repairs to a contemporary structure, the need sometimes arises to make new unpainted wood appear “weathered” in order to blend with existing wood in close proximity. An artificial weathering treatment has been used very successfully at Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, in Plains, Georgia. Most of the work consisted of reconstructing or rehabilitating unpainted farm structures that the park did not want to look new.

Recommendation:

- Spray a 50% solution of Baking Soda and water (1lb of Baking Soda dissolved in ½ gallon of water).
- The wood will weather gray after 4 to 5 hours of exposure to sunlight.
- Unlike stains, this is a “chemical reaction” and is permanent (not reversible).
- Apply only once.

Images:



Jimmy Carter National Historic Site after 4 years



Jimmy Carter National Historic Site just after construction