

# Laboratory Analyses Of Masonry Mortars From Fort Washington, Maryland



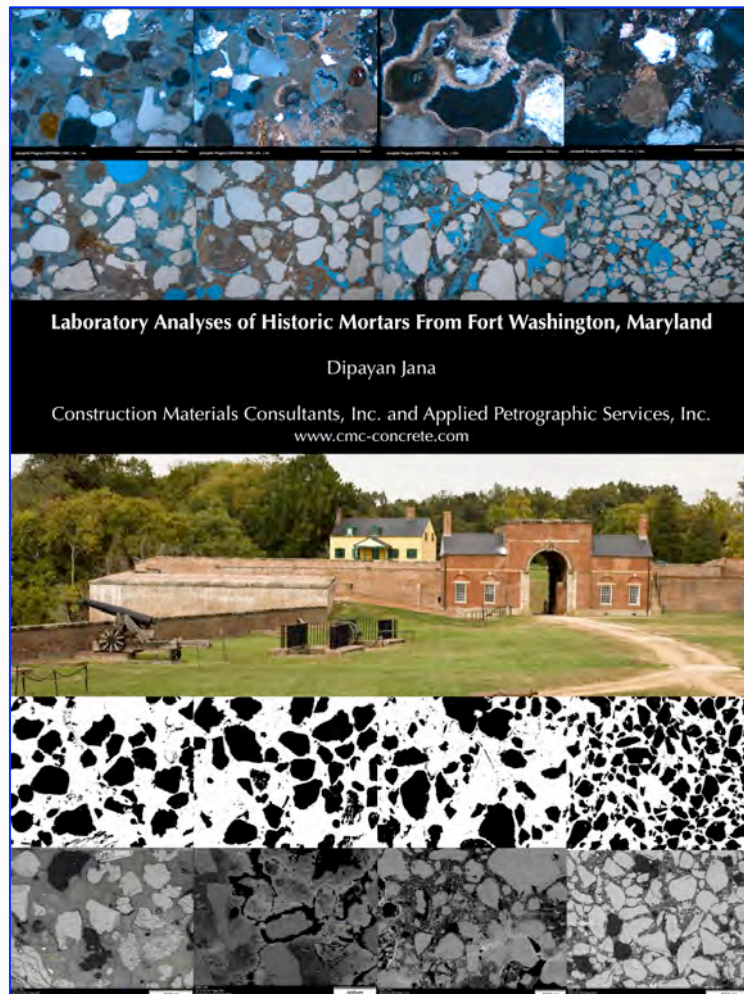
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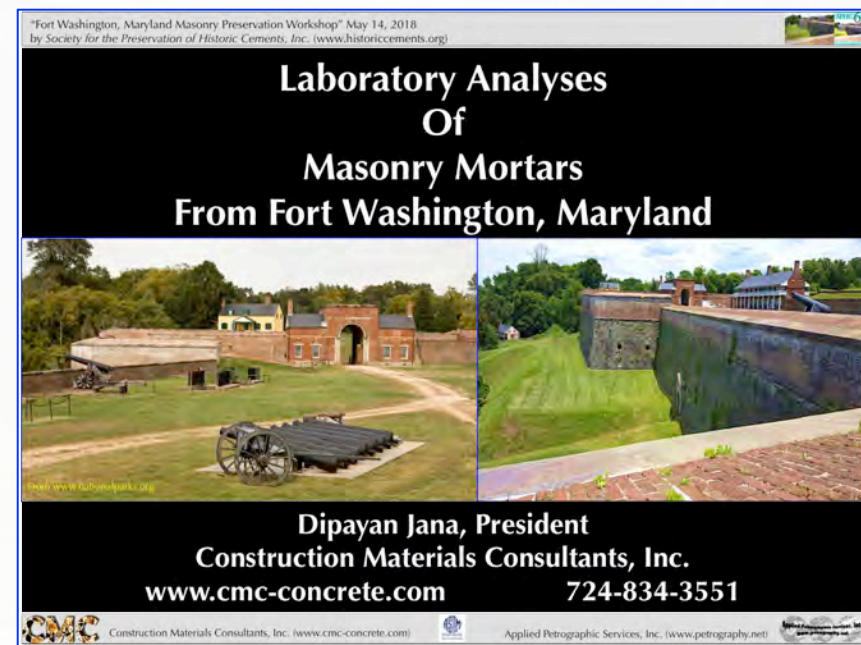


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### Professional Report



### Presentation



# Why Do We Need Laboratory Analysis Of Masonry Mortar?

## Mortar Sands

- ✦ Natural vs. Manufactured Sand
- ✦ Siliceous Sand
- ✦ Calcareous Sand
- ✦ Mixed Sand
- ✦ Sea Shells
- ✦ Ceramics

## Mortar Binders

- ✦ High-Calcium (Non-Hydraulic) Lime
- ✦ Magnesian or Dolomitic Lime
- ✦ Hydraulic Lime (Natural Hydraulic Limes)
- ✦ Natural cement
- ✦ Portland Cement
- ✦ Blended Cement
- ✦ Slag Cement
- ✦ Masonry Cement

## Mortar Types

- ✦ Lime Mortar
- ✦ High-Calcium vs. Dolomitic Lime Mortar
- ✦ Non-hydraulic vs. Hydraulic Lime Mortar
- ✦ Natural Cement – Lime Mortar
- ✦ Cement-Lime Mortar
- ✦ Masonry Cement Mortar

## Mix Proportions

- ★ Lime-Sand Ratio (Lime Content, Sand Content)
- ★ Cement-Lime-Sand Ratio (Lime-Cement-Sand Contents)
- ★ Improper Mix – Over-sanded, Under-sanded, Improper lime-to-cement ratio for a masonry unit

## Pigments, Fillers, Pozzolans

- ⊙ Pigments (Carbon, Mineral Oxides)
- ⊙ Fillers (Limestone Fines, Quartz Fines, Ceramic Dusts)
- ⊙ Pozzolans (Natural vs. Manufactured)

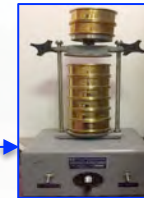
## Mortar Deteriorations

- ☑ Shrinkage
- ☑ Expansion
- ☑ Softening, Dusting
- ☑ Lime Leaching
- ☑ Secondary Calcite Precipitation
- ☑ Secondary Gypsum From Acid Rain
- ☑ Efflorescence
- ☑ Salt-related Distress





## Acid Digestion – Mason's Favorite Test



**Sand color &  
grain-size  
distribution**

*Assumption*  
*Binder entirely  
dissolves in acid*

**Problem**

- Gypsum, Clay, Pigments
- Hydraulic Component, Pozzolans
- Multiple Binders
- Leaching, Alterations

**Residue = Sand Content (lb.)**

*Mortar weight  
minus Sand weight*

**Dissolved = Binder Content (lb.)**

**Binder**  
(bulk density  
40 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>)

**Sand**  
(bulk density  
80 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>)

**Binder : Sand, by volume**

*Assumption*  
*Sand does not  
dissolve in acid*

**Problem**

- Calcareous sand
- Marine shells
- Beach sands
- Mixed siliceous-calcareous sand
- Soluble constituents in silica sand



## Acid vs. Water Digestion – Mortar From The Fort Wall



Sand from Acid-Insoluble  
Residue = 68.6%  
Binder = 31.4%

Sand Bulk Density = 80 lbs./ft<sup>3</sup>  
Binder Bulk Density = 40 lbs./ft<sup>3</sup>

Sand Volume = 0.858  
Binder Volume = 0.785

**Binder : Sand = 1:1.1**

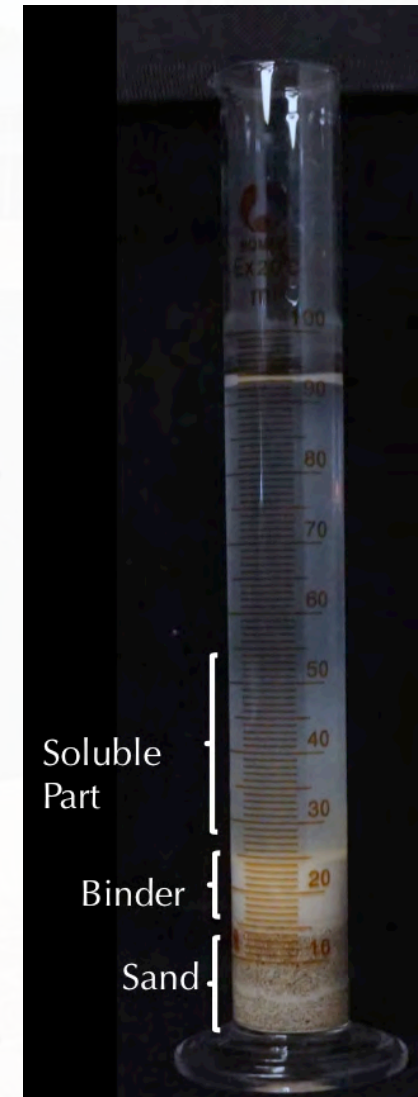
Acid  
Digestion

Water  
Digestion

**Binder :  
Sand = 1:1.6**

*Grossly underestimated sand*

*Underestimated sand*



# Laboratory Analysis of Masonry Mortar

## 1. Optical Microscopy

- Sand Type
- Sand Size Distribution & Color Variations
- Binder Type(s), Raw Feed
- Mortar Types
- Texture & Microstructure
- Mix Proportions
- Calcareous Sand, Sea Shells
- Pozzolans, Slag, Filler, Pigment
- Mortar Deteriorations, Alterations

## 2. Scanning Electron Microscopy & X-ray Microanalysis

- Binder Types From Paste Chemistry
- (Lime, Hydraulic Lime, Natural Cement, Portland Cement Binders from CaO-MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub> contents of Paste)
- Hydraulicity from CI of Paste
- Mortar Types
- Calcareous Sand, Sea Shells
- Pozzolans, Slag, Filler, Pigment
- Mortar Deteriorations

## 3. Acid Digestion (Wet Chemical)

- Binder to Sand Ratio from
- Acid-Insoluble Residue (Siliceous Sand) Content
- Sand Size Distribution & Color Variation (Siliceous Sand)
- Filtrates for Soluble Silica, XRF, AAS, ICP (Dissolved Binder)

### Problems with Acid Digestion

- Calcareous Sand, Sea Shells
- Pigments, Pozzolans, Slag, Clay, Gypsum
- Leaching and Alterations

## 4. Gravimetry

- Loss on Ignition at
- 110°C (Free Moisture Content)
- 550°C (Combined Water Content)
- 950°C (Carbonates and Carbonation)

### Problems with Gravimetry

- Calcareous Sand, Sea Shells
- Pigments, Pozzolans, Slag, Leaching

## 5. Instrumental Chemical Analysis

(XRF, AAS, ICP)

- Bulk Composition
- Binder Composition
- Soluble Silica From Binder

## 6. X-ray Diffraction

- Sand Mineralogy
- Binder Mineralogy
- Deleterious Constituents
- Efflorescence and Other Salts
- Pigments, Additives, Fillers

## 7. Thermal Analysis

(DTA, TGA, DTG, DSC)

- Binder and Mortar Type
- Hydrates, Sulfates, and Carbonates
- Dolomitic Lime Content from Brucite
- Deleterious Constituents, Salts
- Quantitative Analysis

## 8. Ion Chromatography

- Soluble Salts (e.g., Cl<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>)

## 9. Infrared Spectroscopy

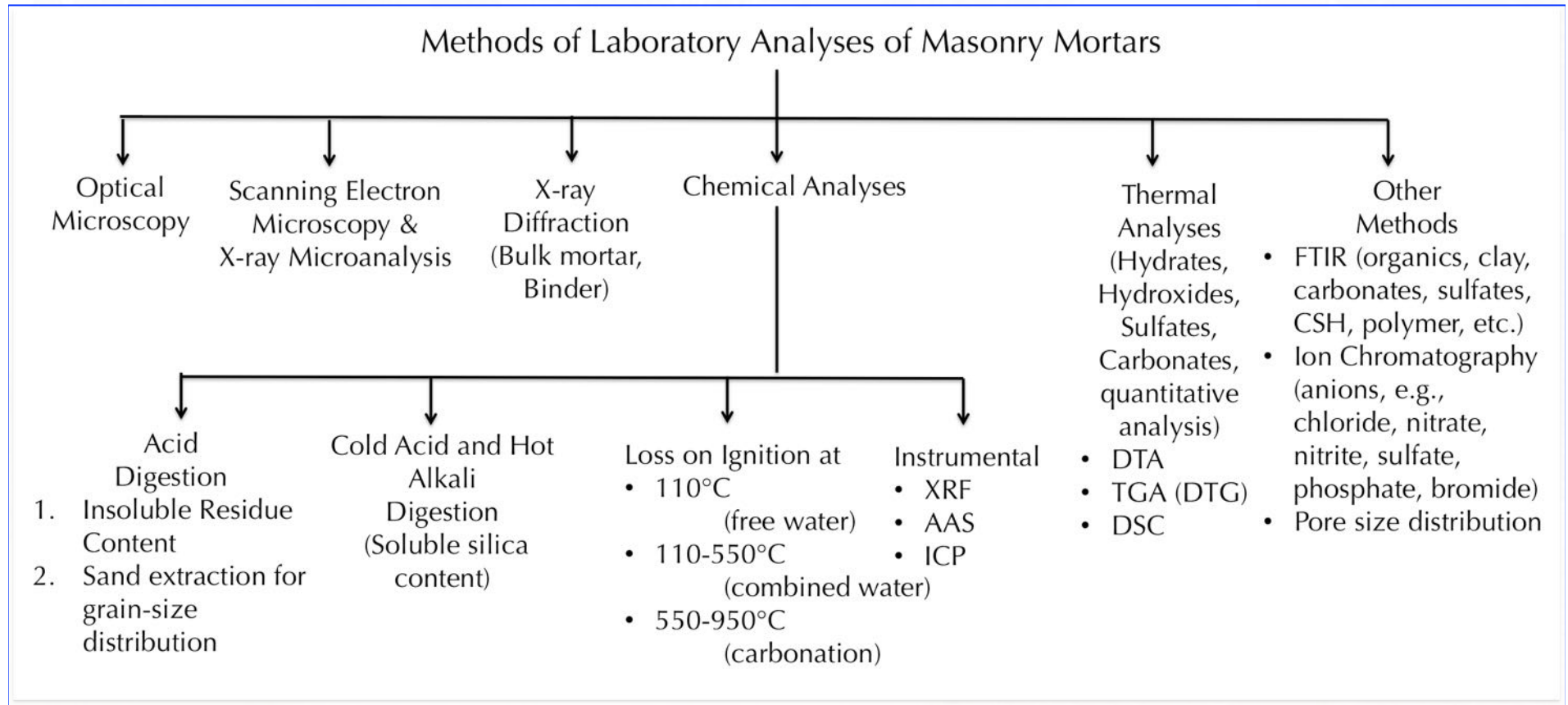
- Organic compounds
- CSH, Sulfate, Carbonate, Hydrates

*Sequence of steps to be followed in laboratory analysis*





# Laboratory Analysis of Masonry Mortar



*Sequence of steps to be followed in laboratory analysis*

"Fort Washington, Maryland Masonry Preservation Workshop" May 14, 2018  
by Society for the Preservation of Historic Cements, Inc. (www.historiccements.org)



# Test Methods on Analysis of Masonry Mortar - ASTM C 1324, RILEM (Middendorf et al. 2005)

Designation: C 1324 - 06

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS  
100 Bar Harbor Dr., West Conshohocken, PA 19380  
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## Standard Test Method for Examination and Analysis of Hardened Masonry Mortar<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fast designation C 1324; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript (e) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers procedures for petrographic examination and chemical analysis of samples of masonry mortars. Based upon such examination and analysis, proportions of components in masonry mortars can be determined.

Note 1.—Some historic mortars may contain non-mandatory components that may influence. However, significant information may be obtained by petrographic examination.

1.2 Interpretation and calculations of chemical results are dependent upon results of the petrographic examination. The use of the chemical results alone is contrary to the requirements of this test method.

1.3 Procedures for sampling, petrographic examination, chemical analysis, and calculations of component proportions are given in the following sections.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.5 This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:  
C 91 Specification for Mortar for Masonry  
C 114 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Hydraulic Cement<sup>2</sup>

C 125 Terminology Relating to Concrete and Concrete Aggregates<sup>3</sup>

C 144 Specification for Aggregate for Masonry Mortar<sup>4</sup>

C 270 Specification for Mortar for Unit Masonry  
C 294 Descriptive Nomenclature for Constituents of Natural Mineral Aggregates  
C 295 Guide for Petrographic Examination of Aggregates for Concrete<sup>5</sup>

C 437 Test Method for Microscopical Determination of Parameters of the Air-Void System in Hardened Concrete<sup>6</sup>

C 823 Practice for Examination and Sampling of Hardened Concrete in Construction<sup>7</sup>

C 836 Practice for Petrographic Examination of Hardened Concrete<sup>8</sup>

C 1084 Test Method for Portland-Cement Content of Hardened Hydraulic-Cement Concrete<sup>9</sup>

C 1152 Test Method for Anti-Soluble Chloride in Mortar and Concrete<sup>10</sup>

D 1191 Specification for Reagent Water<sup>11</sup>

3. Terminology

3.1 Terms used in this test method are defined in Terminology C 125 or in the referenced ASTM standards.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method provides procedures for petrographic examination and chemical analysis of mortars for components of masonry mortar. These components may include portland cement, hydrated cement or dolomite lime, masonry cement, aggregates, and air.

4.2 The test method consists of procedures and sub-procedures, each requiring a substantial degree of petrographic and chemical skills and relatively elaborate instrumentation.

4.3 The chemical data considered together with results of petrographic examination of a mortar provide for calculation of component proportions and thus allow a determination of mortar composition as represented by Types M, N, S, and O in Table 10/Proportion Specification Requirements) of Specification C 270.

4.4 Failure of a mortar to have the composition of any type as defined in Table 1 of Specification C 270 does not necessarily mean that the mortar does not meet the requirements of Specification C 270. The mortar may meet the alternative requirements of Table 2 (Proportion Specification Requirements) of Specification C 270.

4.5 The matrix color method of analysis is not applicable for the analysis of mortar because it is greatly influenced by

Designation: C1713 - 15

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS  
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## Standard Specification for Mortars for the Repair of Historic Masonry<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fast designation C1713; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript (e) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers mortar for the repair of masonry that was constructed with methods and materials that pre-date the origination of current standards of construction that are compatible with it. The mortar may be used for non-structural purposes such as repairing of the masonry, or for structural purposes such as, but not restricted to, reconstruction or repair of mortar joints that contribute to the structural integrity of the masonry.

1.2 Mortar includes the following units laid in mortar: (1) cast stone, (2) clay masonry unitwork, and (3) terra cotta, (4) natural stone, and (5) terra cotta.

1.3 This specification may be used to pre-qualify mortar for a project.

1.4 Mortar testing using this specification are laboratory-prepared mortars and do not represent in-place, site mortars.

1.5 Use of this specification should be based on a thorough understanding of the function, maintenance, and repair requirements for the preservation and continued performance of the masonry in the context of the building structure and long-term performance. The use of this specification is responsible for examining all criteria and selecting the appropriate mortar formulation and properties required.

1.6 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.7 This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:  
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4.4 Failure of a mortar to have the composition of any type as defined in Table 1 of Specification C 270 does not necessarily mean that the mortar does not meet the requirements of Specification C 270. The mortar may meet the alternative requirements of Table 2 (Proportion Specification Requirements) of Specification C 270.

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## RILEM: Investigative methods for the characterization of historic mortars

- Part I: Mineralogical Characterization
- Part II: Chemical Characterization



Available online at [www.rilem.net](http://www.rilem.net)

Materials and Structures 38 (October 2005) 761-769

RILEM TC 167-COM: "Characterisation of Old Mortars with Respect to their Repair"

## Investigative methods for the characterisation of historic mortars – Part I: Mineralogical characterisation

Prepared by B. Middendorf<sup>1</sup>, J. J. Hughes<sup>2</sup>, K. Callebaut<sup>3</sup>, G. Barone<sup>4</sup> and I. Papsayannis<sup>5</sup>

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TC Membership - Chairman: Capuc Groot, The Netherlands; Secretary: Geoff Ashall, United Kingdom; Members: Giulio Barone, Italy; Peter Bontas, United Kingdom; Louise Blaud, Italy; Jan Elens, Belgium; John Hughes, United Kingdom; Jan Erik Lindqvist, Sweden; Paul Marchandise, Canada; Ioanna Papsayannis, Greece; Margaret Thomson, USA; Koen Van Balen, Belgium; Rob Van Hest, The Netherlands; Alf Walden, Norway.



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Materials and Structures 38 (October 2005) 771-780

RILEM TC 167-COM: "Characterisation of Old Mortars with Respect to their Repair"

## Investigative methods for the characterisation of historic mortars – Part 2: Chemical characterisation

Prepared by B. Middendorf<sup>1</sup>, J. J. Hughes<sup>2</sup>, K. Callebaut<sup>3</sup>, G. Barone<sup>4</sup> and I. Papsayannis<sup>5</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

The mineralogical characterisation of historic mortars is performed for a number of reasons related to the conservation of historical structures. The reasons for analysis and the questions posed during the conservation, repair or restoration of an old building determine the analysis methods that will be chosen. A range of mineralogical characterisation methods is available for the study of historic masonry mortars. These include X-ray Diffraction (XRD), Optical Microscopy, Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), Thermal and Infrared methods. Sample preparation is important; adequate separation of binder from aggregate is required for instrumental analysis as opposed to microscopic investigation methods. An ordered scheme of analysis can be developed and is presented in this report. It is difficult, and perhaps useless, to analyse a mortar with only one method of characterisation. Combination of evidence of identification and quantification for mineralogical composition is best supported by a combination of methods, including chemical analysis methods. All methods of characterisation require qualified and experienced people to carry out the analyses.

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### RÉSUMÉ

La caractérisation minéralogique des mortiers historiques est réalisée pour des raisons différentes qui sont liées à la conservation des constructions traditionnelles. Les raisons de l'analyse et les questions posées lors de la conservation, la réparation ou la restauration d'une construction historique déterminent les méthodes d'analyse choisies. Une gamme de méthodes de caractérisation minéralogiques est disponible pour l'étude des mortiers historiques de réparation. Ces méthodes comprennent la diffraction aux rayons X (DRX), la microscopie optique, la microscopie électronique de balayage (MEB), les méthodes thermiques et infrarouges. La préparation de l'échantillon est importante; la séparation adéquate du liant et du grès est obligatoire pour les analyses instrumentales (comme les analyses chimiques), ce qui n'est pas le cas pour les méthodes d'investigation microscopiques. Il est difficile, et peut-être sans intérêt, d'analyser un mortier avec une seule méthode de caractérisation. Un schéma systématique relatif aux analyses à exécuter peut être développé et est présenté sous forme d'organigramme. Toute les méthodes de caractérisation exigent des personnes qualifiées et expérimentées pour exécuter les analyses.

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doi:10.1617/14281

### ABSTRACT

In addition to the mineralogical characterisation of components of binder and aggregate in historic mortars, it is sometimes necessary to perform a chemical analysis on the materials in historic mortars. Acid dissolution/separation of binder from aggregate is the simplest method, and allows the determination of the chemical composition of the acid-soluble binder and, after separation, information on the mortar's aggregate. It is limited, when aggregate is acid-soluble. A range of analytical methods can be used including for soluble silica that relates to hydrated calcium silicates in the binder, and for the hydroxyls of the binder. Other wet chemical analysis can be performed on the acid-soluble or soluble residue of Fe, Al, Ca, Mg, S, Na and K. There may also be a requirement for the identification of organic substances, pigments and salts within a historic mortar. Chemical analysis from a "part" of a possible scheme of characterisation of historic mortars that is presented in a flowchart. Chemical analysis also utilizes requirements for information input to conservation, repair and restoration works on historic buildings for the choice of compatible replacement materials. Combination of evidence of identification and quantification for chemical composition is best supported by a combination of methods, including analytical methods. All methods of characterisation require qualified and experienced people to carry out the analyses.

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### RÉSUMÉ

En plus de la caractérisation des composants de liant et de grès dans des mortiers historiques, il est parfois nécessaire de faire des analyses chimiques sur les matériaux de ces mortiers. La méthode la plus simple est la dissolution ou séparation par acide du liant soluble des grès; cette méthode permet de déterminer la composition chimique du liant soluble dans l'acide et, après séparation, fournir des informations sur le grès du mortier. Les méthodes de séparation par acide sont limitées lorsque le grès est soluble dans l'acide. Il est parfois utile d'analyser avec une gamme d'analyses chimiques, pour identifier la dissolution de silice soluble, qui fait partie de silicates hydratés ou de calcium de liant, et par conséquent, sur l'hydratation du liant. D'autres analyses chimiques peuvent être faites sur le résidu soluble de Fe, Al, Ca, Mg, S, Na et K. Il y a peut-être aussi un besoin d'identifier des substances organiques, des pigments et des sels dans des mortiers historiques pour des raisons de conservation, de réparation et de restauration relatives aux constructions historiques. La combinaison des preuves d'identification et de quantification pour composition chimique est mieux soutenue par une combinaison de méthodes, incluant les méthodes d'analyse chimique. Toutes les méthodes de caractérisation nécessitent des personnes qualifiées et expérimentées pour exécuter les analyses.

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## ASTM C 1324: Laboratory analysis of hardened mortar

- Petrographic Examinations (Optical Microscopy, SEM)
- Chemical Analyses (Insoluble Residue, Soluble Silica, Loss on Ignition)
- XRD
- Thermal Analysis

## ASTM C 1713: Mortars for the Repair of Historic Masonry



Construction Materials Consultants, Inc. (www.cmc-concrete.com)



Applied Petrographic Services, Inc. (www.petrography.net)



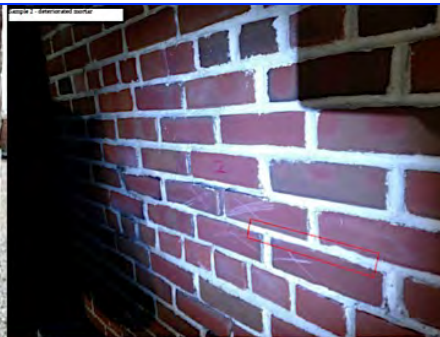


## Laboratory Analysis – Proper Sampling is the Key

1. Take a photo of the location from where mortar sample will be taken



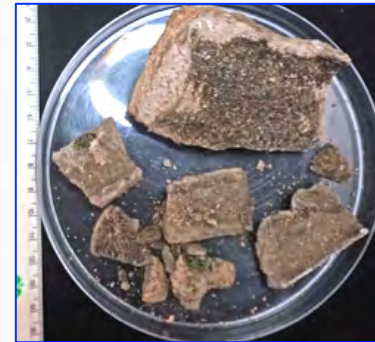
2. Take a photo of the joint from where mortar sample will be taken



3. Use a flat head chisel and hammer to carefully remove the jointing mortar as intact as possible

4. Mark the Sample ID and exposed side on the sample

Please be liberal in sampling



- Provide at least 50 grams to 100 grams of sample in a sealed Ziploc bag
- Preferably multiple intact pieces, not powders
- Of uniform appearance
- Representative of the purpose of examination



- Avoid providing multiple sample types, e.g., brick chips mixed with mortar, or original mortar mixed with later repointing mortar



- From multiple intact pieces adequate representative samples can be selected for microscopy, chemical, XRD-XRF, sand size distribution, and other laboratory tests



## Mortar Samples From Fort Washington

<p><b>Fort Wall 2-ft Interior Gneiss Stone</b></p> <p>1 Gneiss Mortar</p>	<p><b>Fort Wall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One light gray intact piece with a gneiss stone coating</li> <li>Total weight = 1151.23 grams</li> <li>Dimension of largest piece = 169 mm x 120 mm x 55 mm</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jointing Mortar</b></p> <p>1</p>	<p><b>Air Shafts Gunpowder Magazine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One medium gray intact piece, and some powder (boxed)</li> <li>Total weight = 57.8 grams</li> <li>Dimension of largest piece = 80 mm x 55 mm x 7 mm</li> </ul>	<p>6</p>				
<p><b>From Chimney, Interior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three small beige intact pieces and some dust (boxed)</li> <li>Total weight = 15.76 grams</li> <li>Dimension of largest piece = 39 mm x 25 mm x 17 mm</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chimney</b></p> <p><b>From Chimney, Exterior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two beige intact pieces one with adhered remains of brick masonry</li> <li>Total weight = 25.21 grams</li> <li>Dimension of largest piece = 75 mm x 17 mm x 7 mm</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jointing Mortar</b></p> <p>1 2</p>	<p><b>Corner Step Riser SW Terri plane</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One medium gray intact piece, one medium piece, and some powder (boxed). Largest piece is a jointing mortar having green algal deposits on concave joint surface, followed by a light gray carbonated mortar</li> <li>Total weight = 259.55 grams</li> <li>Dimension of largest piece = 147 mm x 697 mm x 15 mm</li> </ul>	<p>1</p>				
<p><b>Brick</b></p> <p>1</p>	<p><b>Base of Interior Buttress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One dark gray intact piece of brick, and some powder (boxed)</li> <li>Total weight = 207.53 grams</li> <li>Dimension of largest piece = 80 mm x 57 mm x 18 mm</li> </ul>	<p><b>From Chimney, Exterior</b></p> <p>1 2</p>	<p><b>From Chimney, Interior</b></p> <p>1 2</p>	<p><b>From Stone Repointing</b></p> <p>1 2</p>	<p><b>Corner Step Riser, SW Terri Plane</b></p> <p>1 2</p>	<p><b>Air Shafts Gunpowder Magazine</b></p> <p>1 2</p>	<p><b>Base of Interior Buttress</b></p> <p>1 2</p>	<p><b>Fort Wall 2-ft Interior Gneiss Stone</b></p> <p>1 2</p>
		25g	15g	26g	260g	58g	208g	1151g

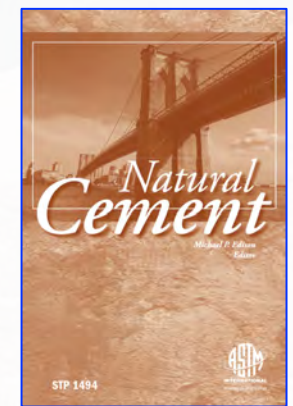
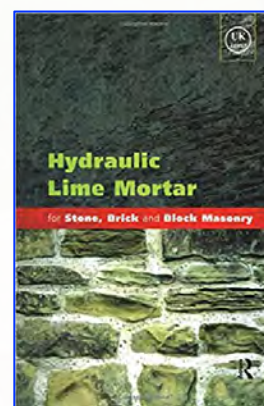
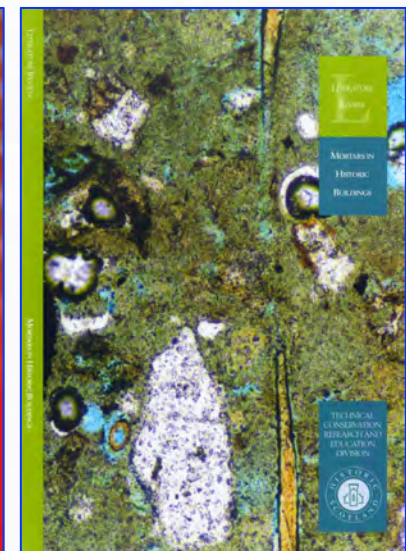
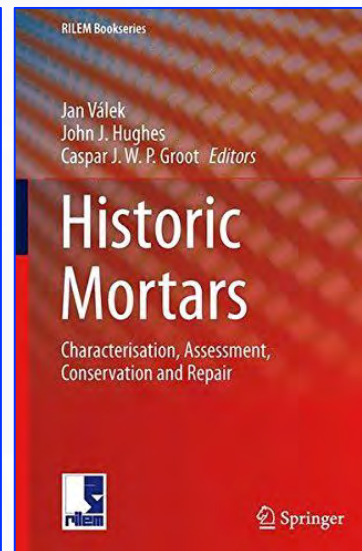
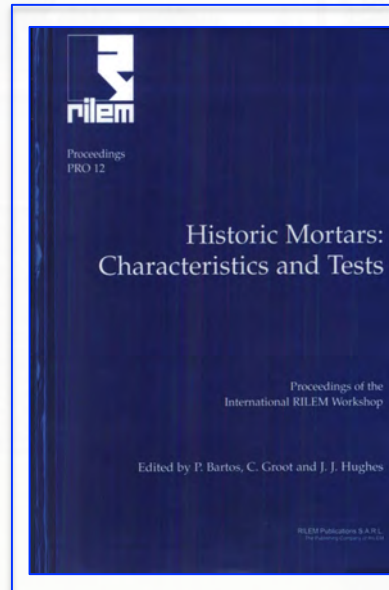
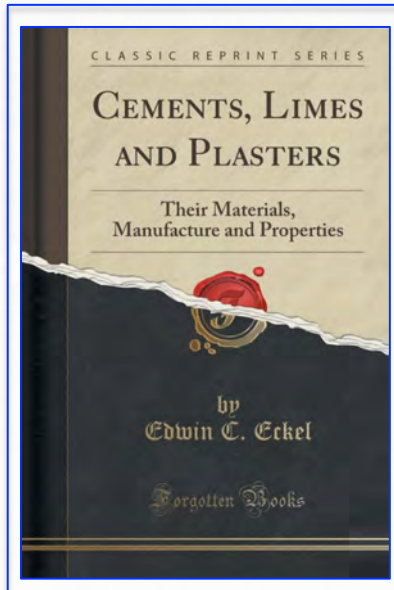


# Publications on Historic Mortar Analysis

A Masterpiece!

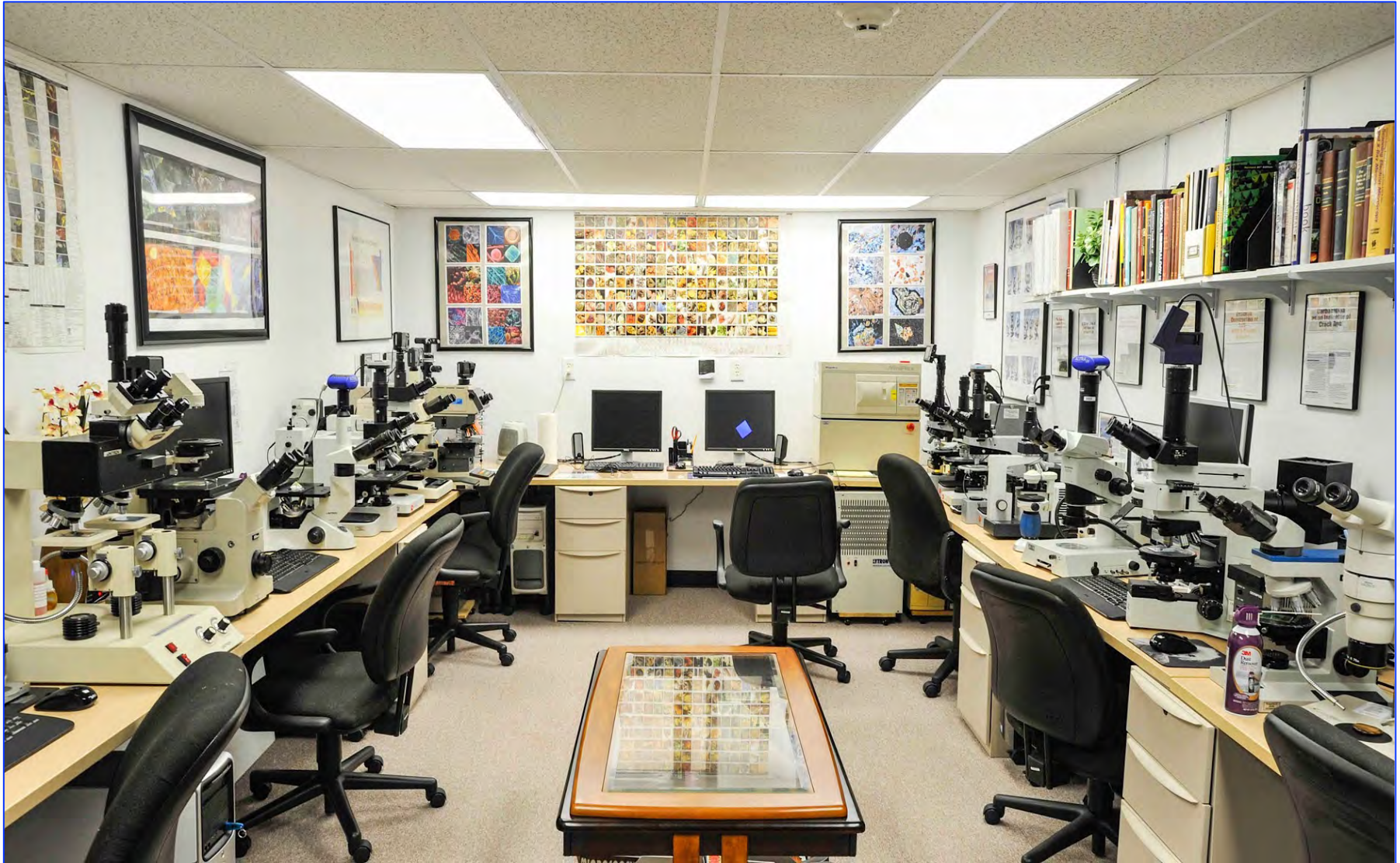
Three Excellent Resources on Laboratory Testing of Historic Mortars

Eckel 1922



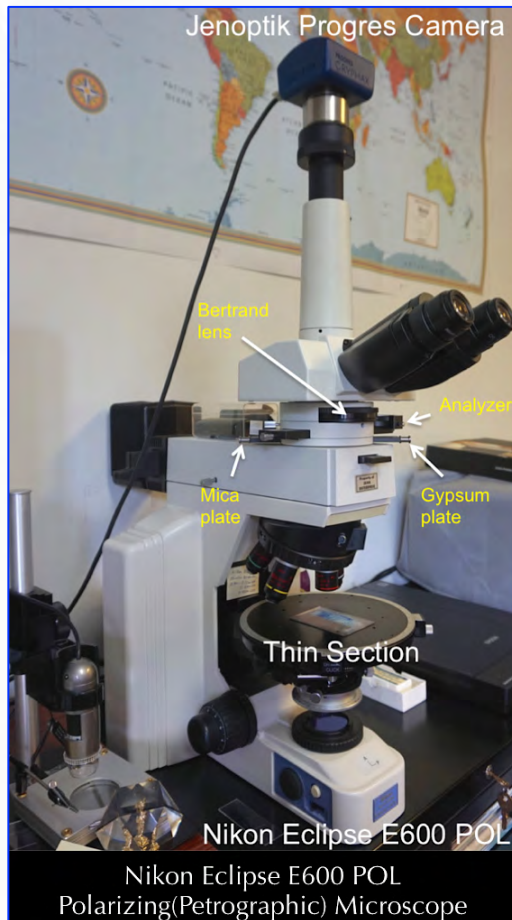


## Optical Microscopy





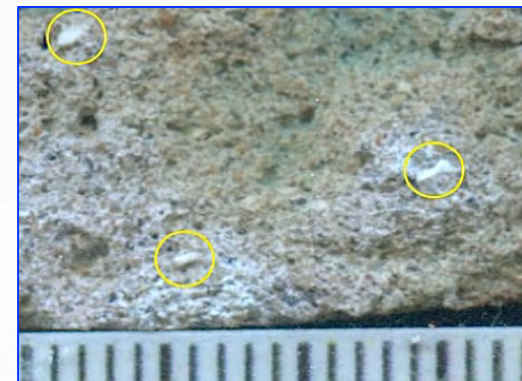
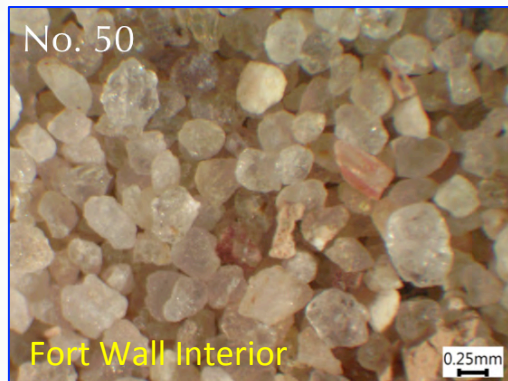
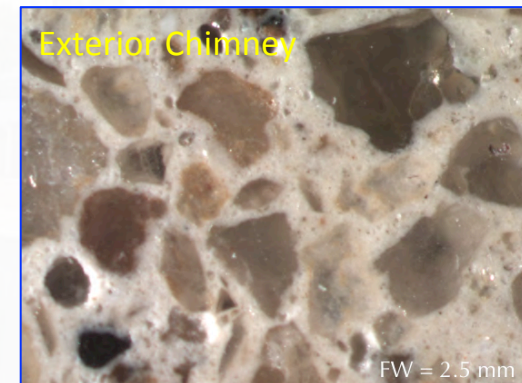
## Three Essential Optical Microscopes for Mortar Analysis



Lumenera  
Infinity  
Camera



## Low-power Stereo Microscope for Mortar Analysis

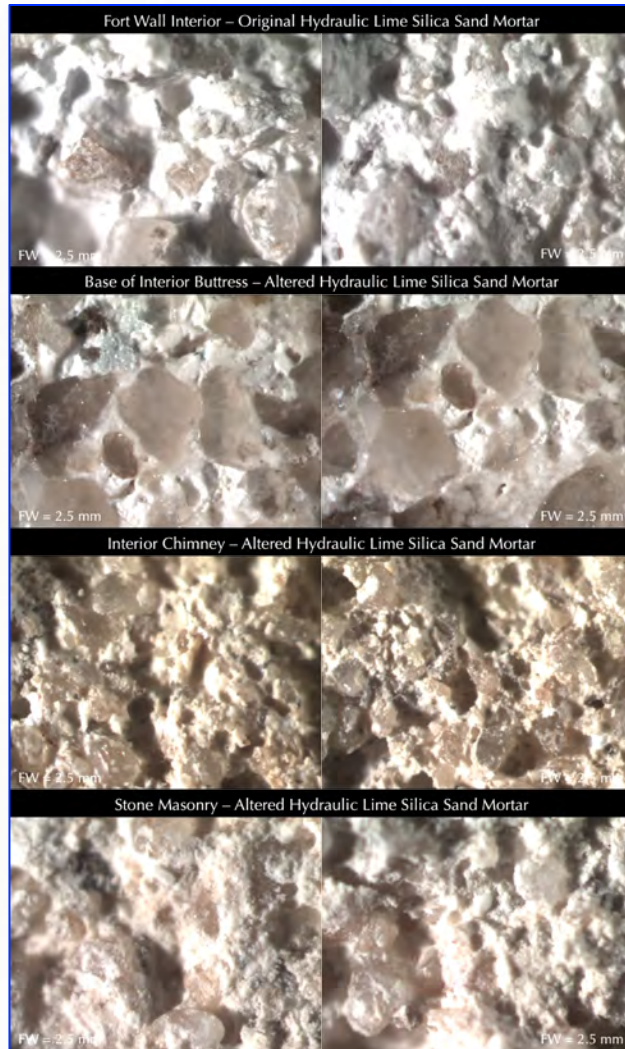


*Sand types, color, size, shape, angularity, gradation, paste color and hardness,  
lime lumps, air entrainment*

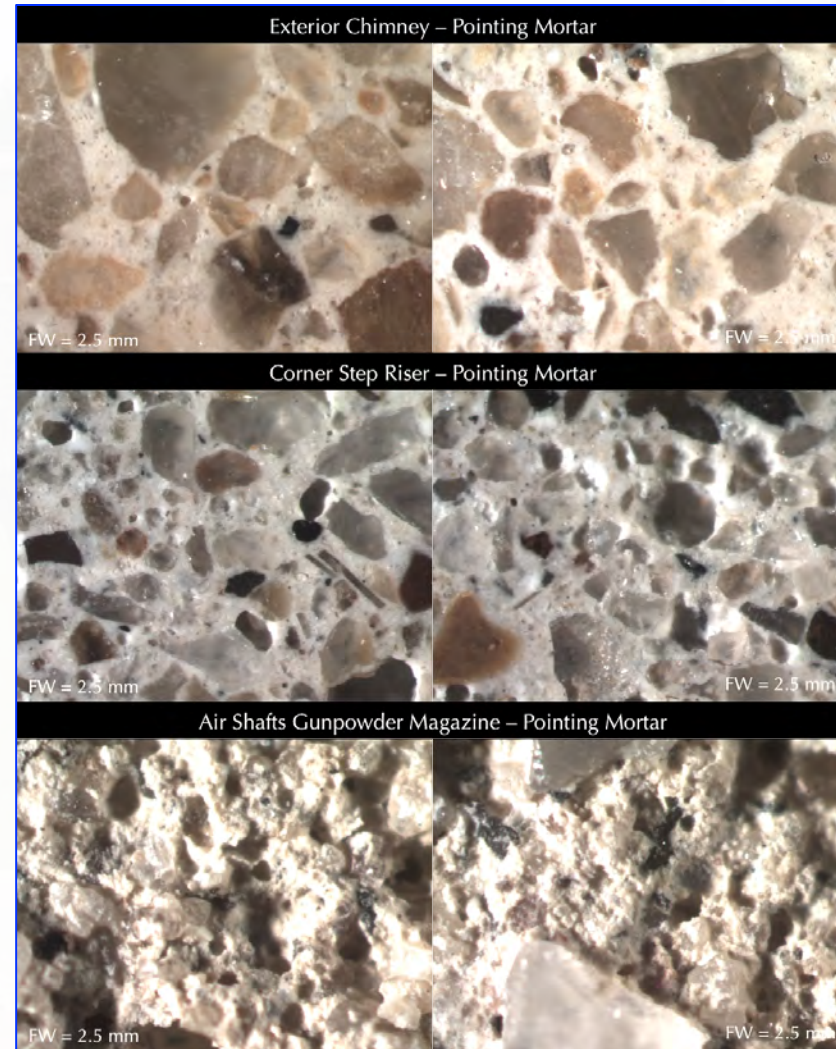


## Low-power Stereo Microscope for Mortar Analysis

Original Lime Mortars



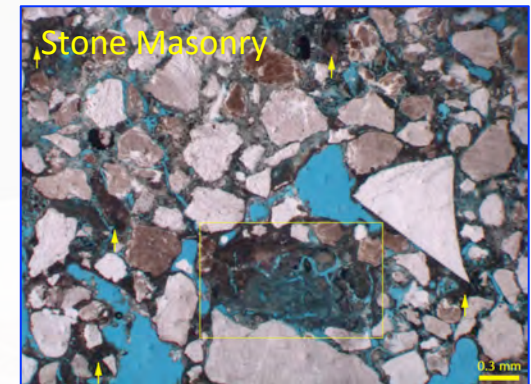
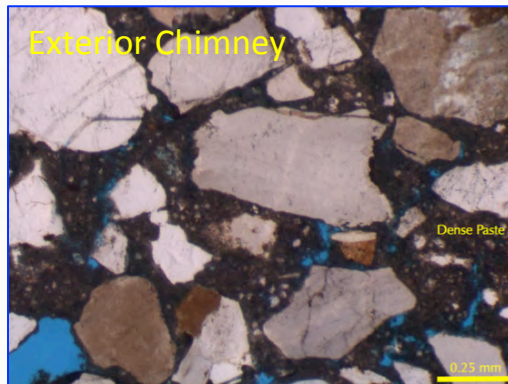
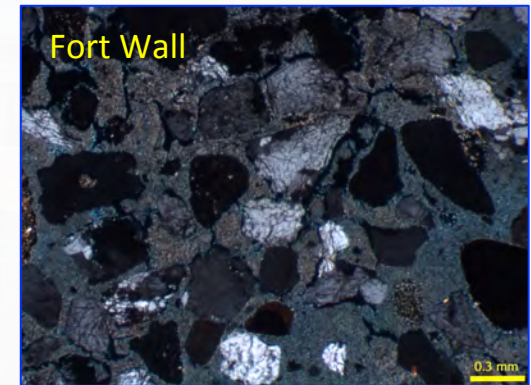
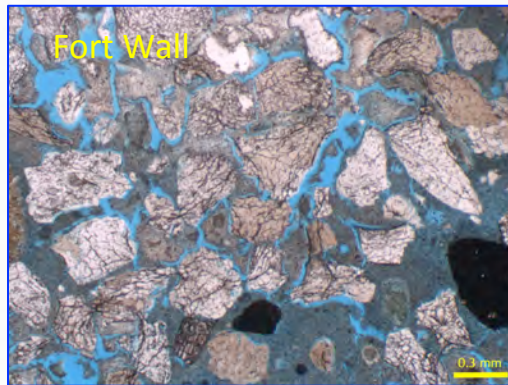
Later Cement - Lime Mortars



*Sand types, color, size, shape, angularity, gradation, paste color and hardness, air entrainment*



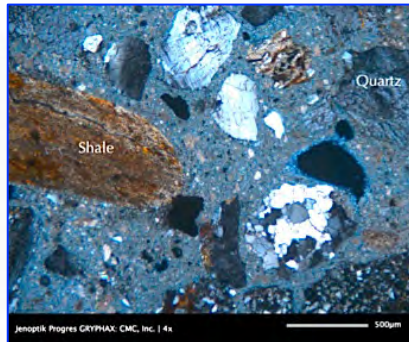
## Transmitted and Polarized-Light Stereo Zoom Microscope for Mortar Analysis



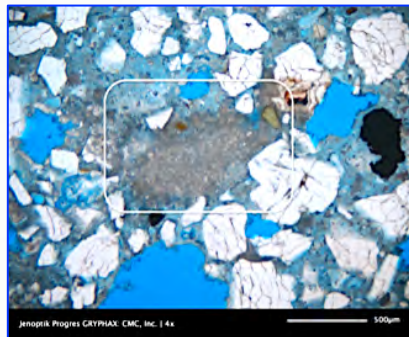
*Dense vs. porous paste, carbonated paste, shrinkage microcracks, sand type, lime lumps, air entrainment*



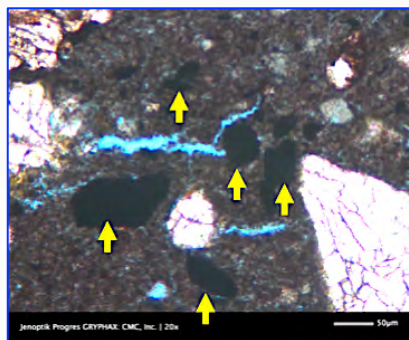
# Petrographic Microscope for Mortar Analysis



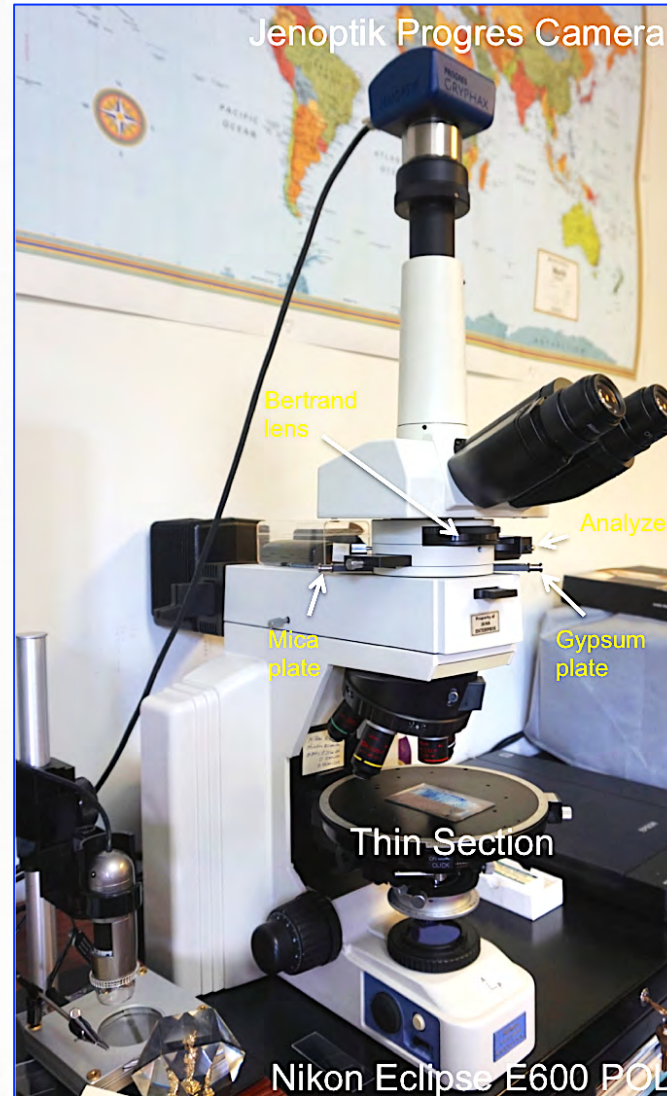
*Sand Mineralogy, Texture, Type, Soundness*



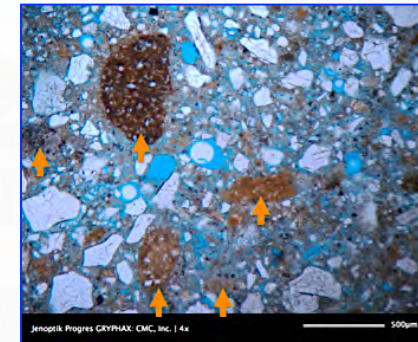
*Dolomitic Hydraulic Lime Mortar*



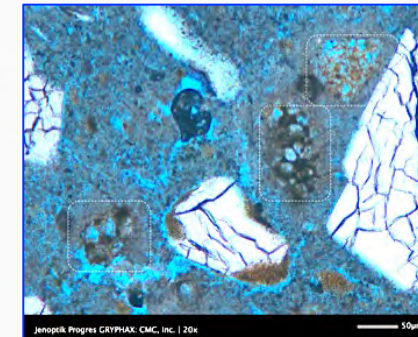
*Pigmented Lime Mortar*



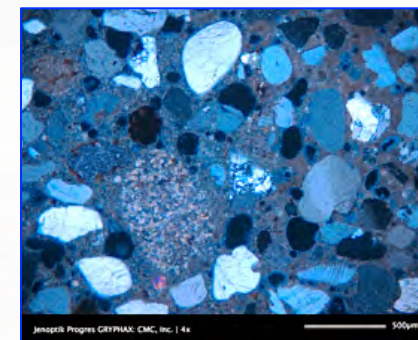
*Petrographic Microscope – Powerhouse of Mortar Analysis*



*Natural cement - Lime Mortar*



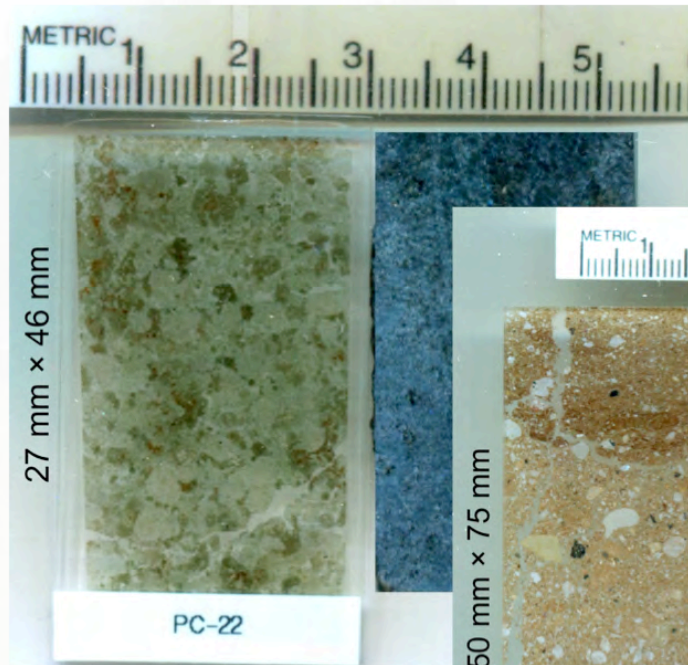
*Portland cement - Lime Mortar*



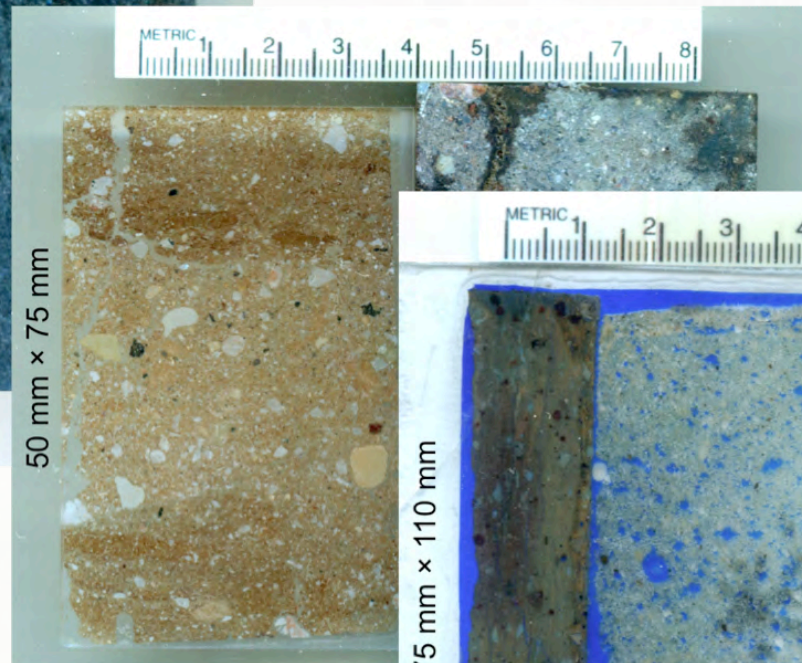
*Masonry cement Mortar*



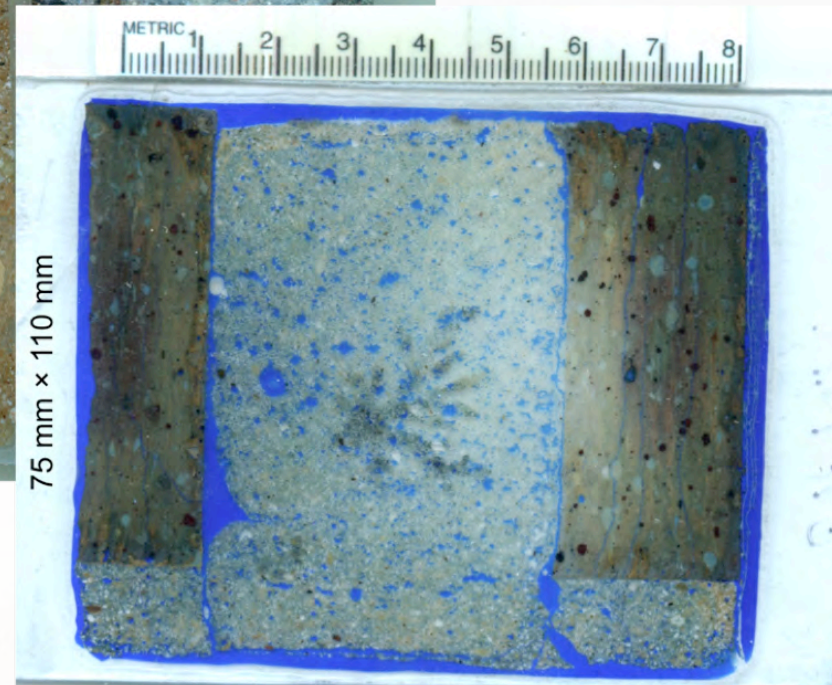
## Thin Section Microscopy – At the Heart of Mortar Analysis



Rocks



Concrete

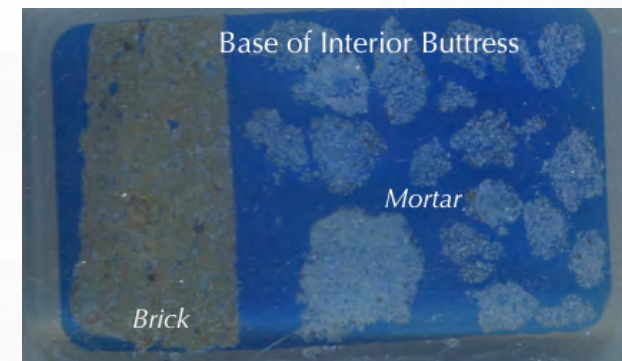
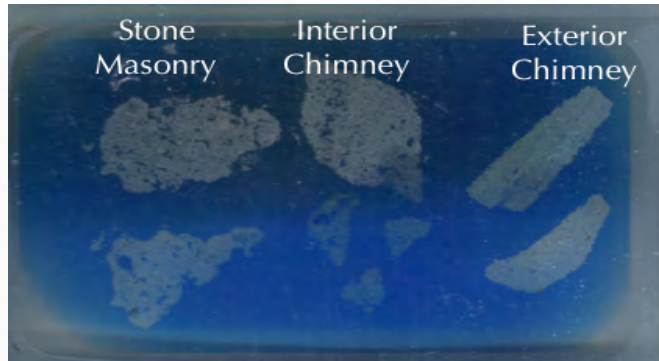


Masonry

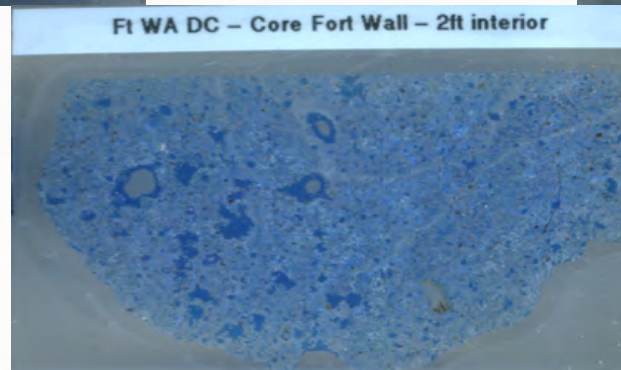
- Impregnation
- No Epoxy
  - Clear Epoxy
  - Colored Epoxy
  - Fluorescent Epoxy



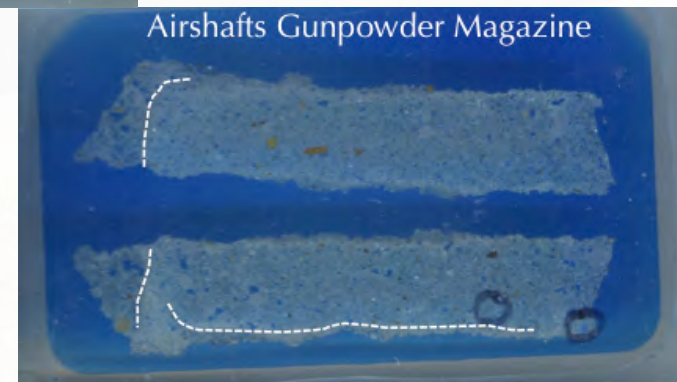
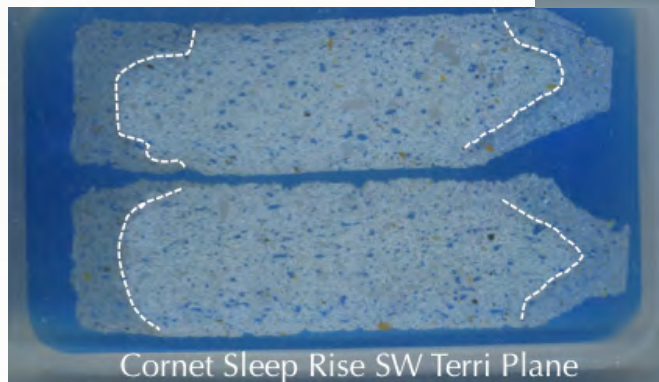
## Thin Section Microscopy – At the Heart of Mortar Analysis



50 mm × 75 mm size  
blue dye-mixed epoxy-  
impregnated thin  
sections

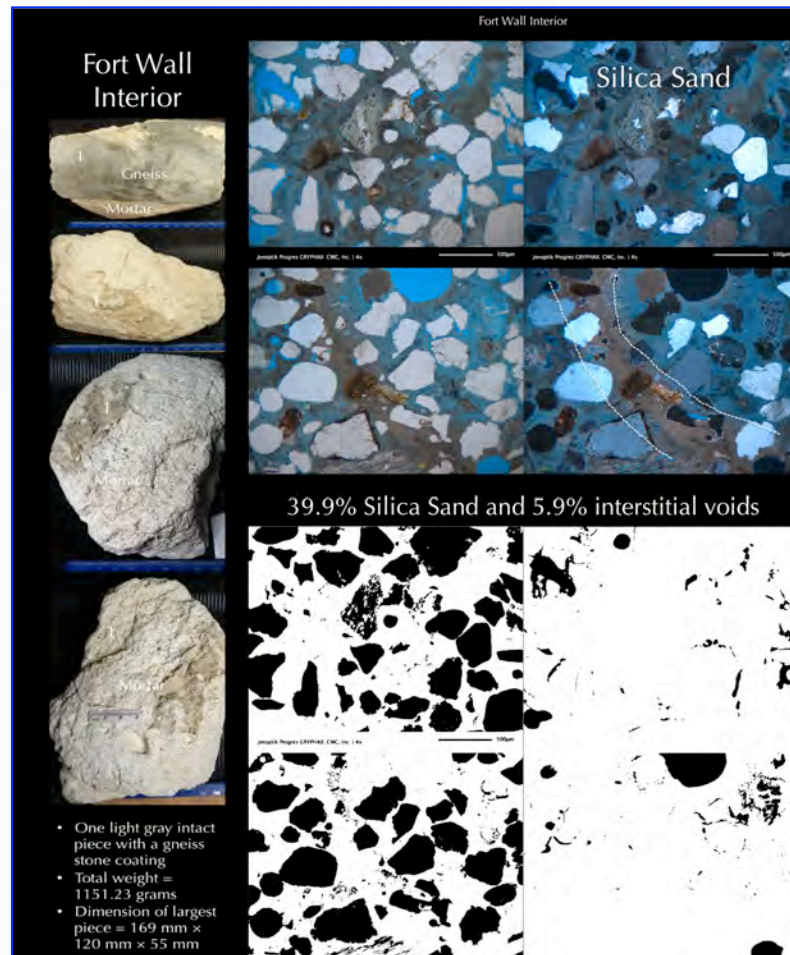


Blue dye highlights  
pore and void spaces,  
cracks, and porous  
areas of paste

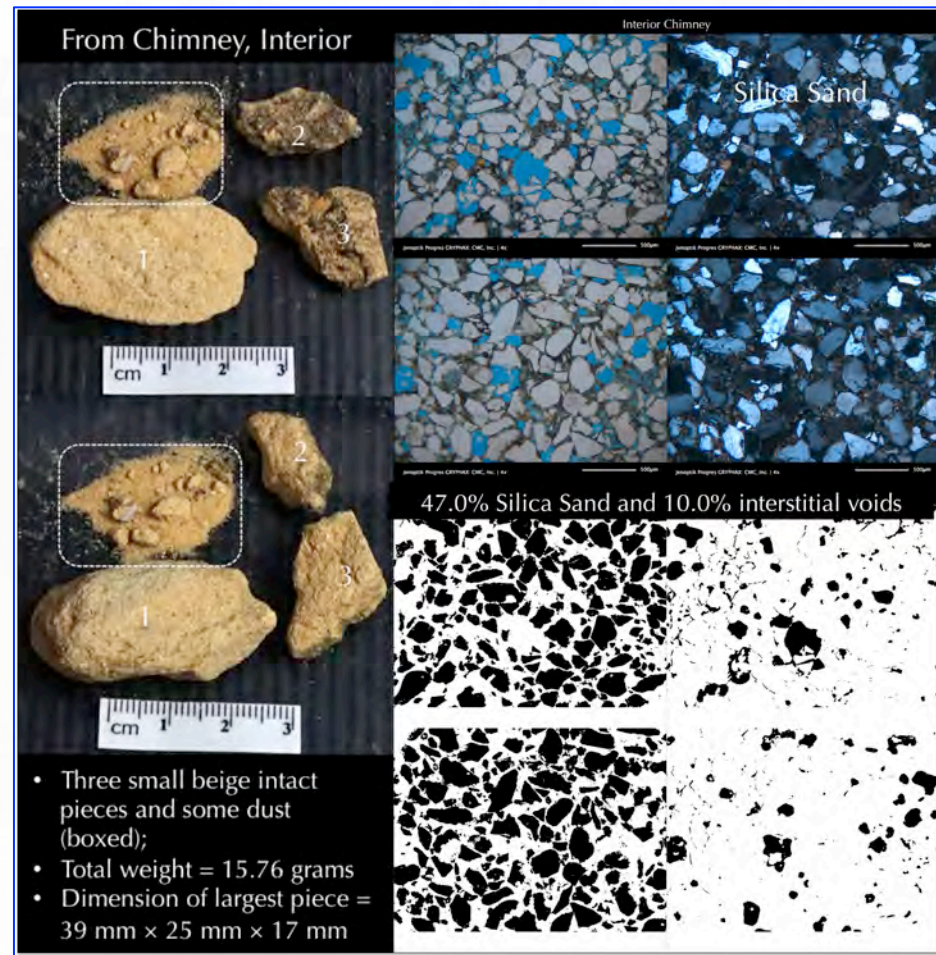




## Optical Microscopy & Image Analysis



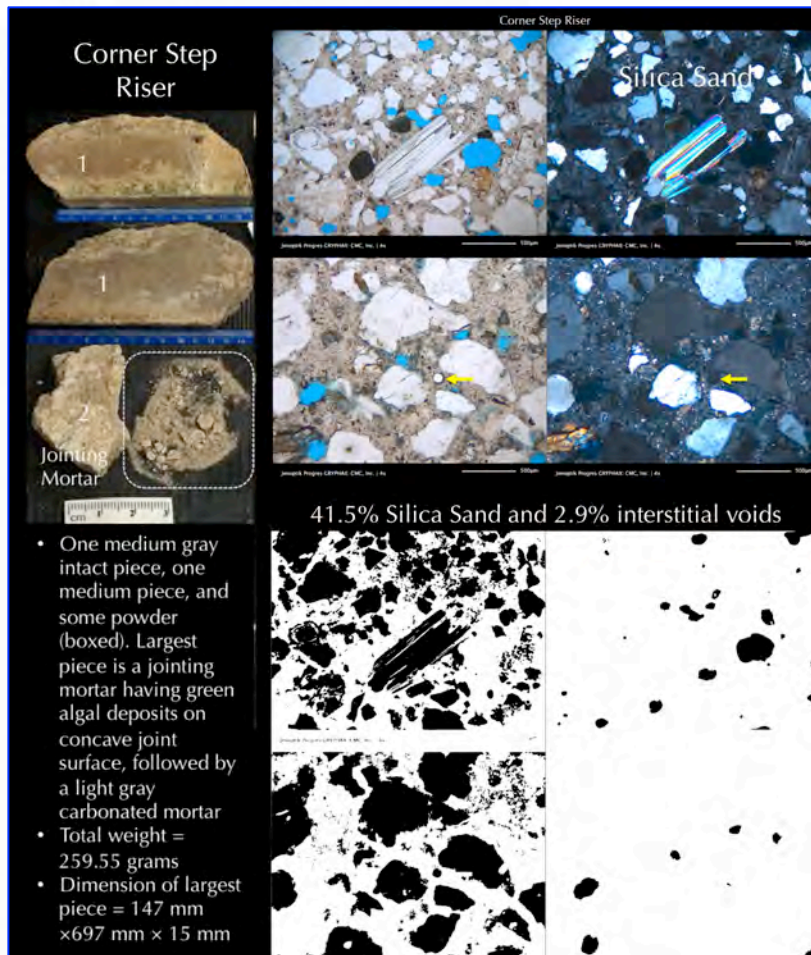
Sand in most samples from the Fort as in mortar from interior of Fort Wall



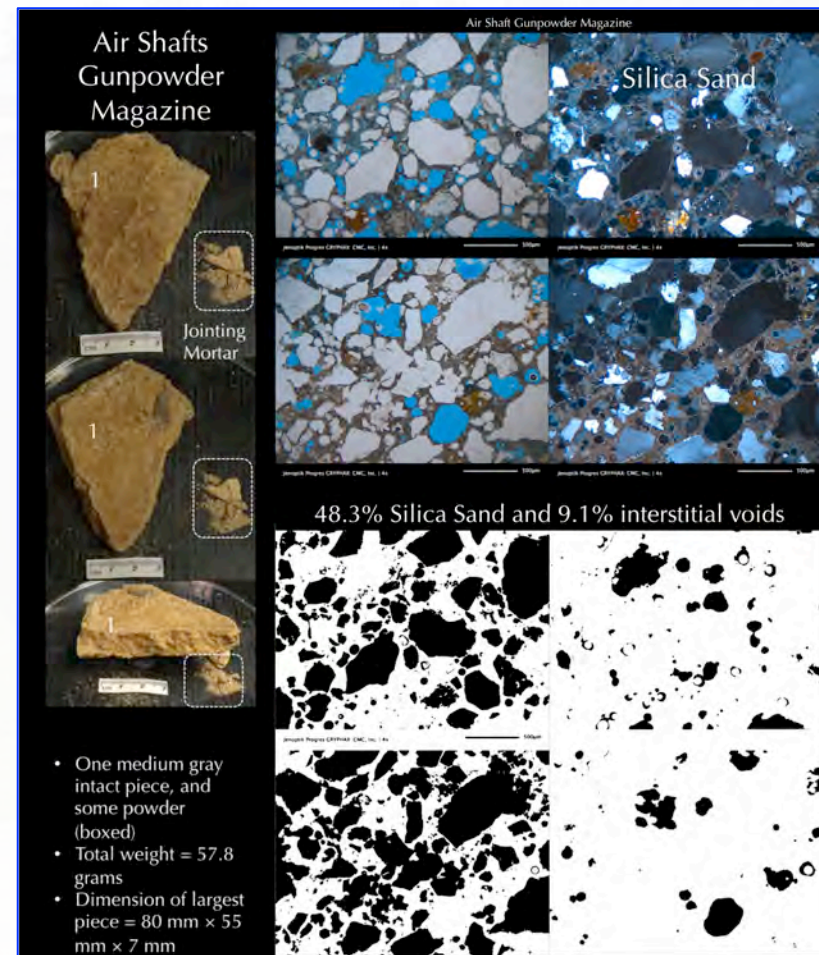
Finer, crushed sand in mortar from Interior Chimney



## Optical Microscopy & Image Analysis



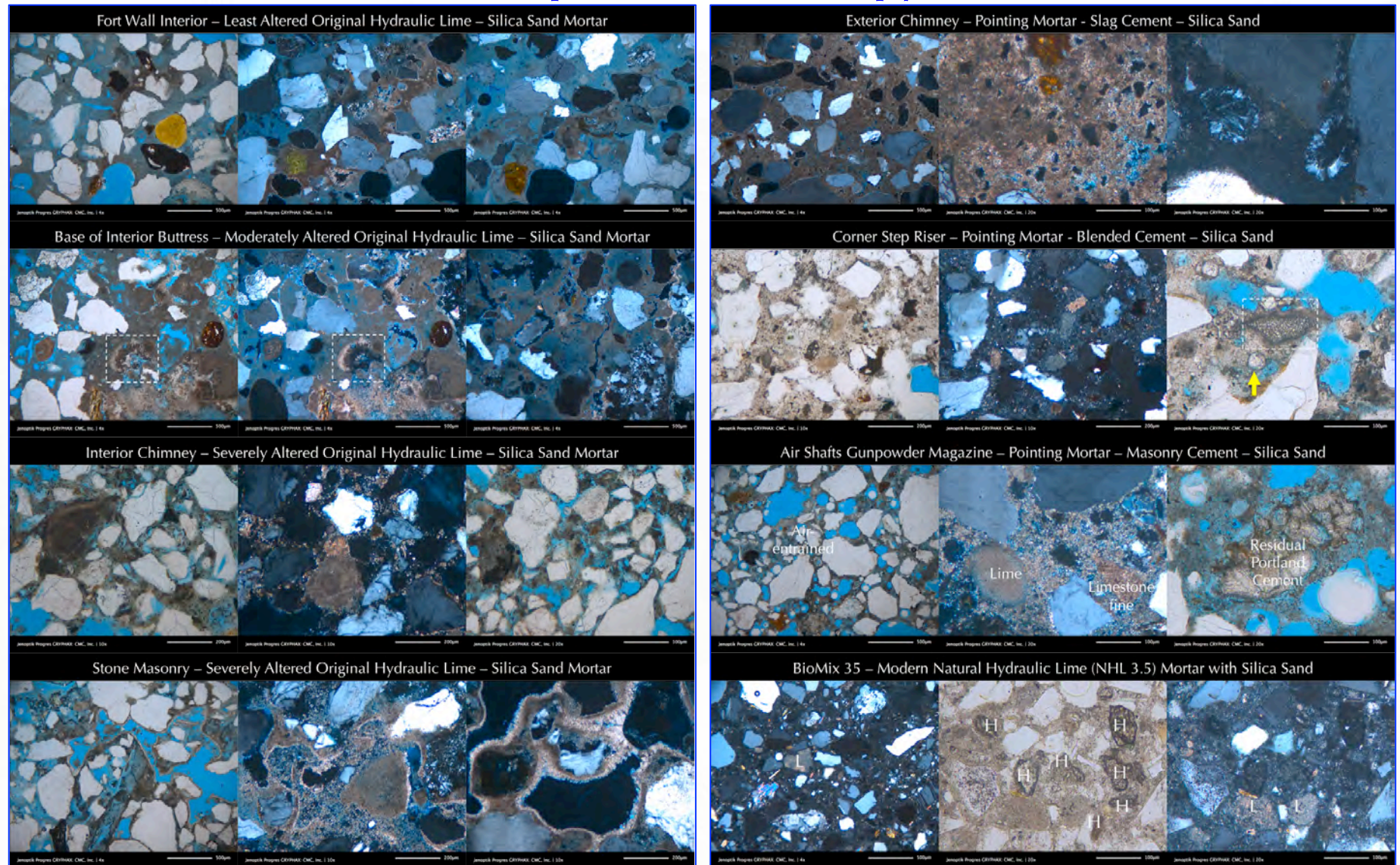
Dense, non-air-entrained Corner Step Riser Terri Plane mortar



Air entrainment from masonry cement in Air Shafts Gunpowder Magazine



## Optical Microscopy

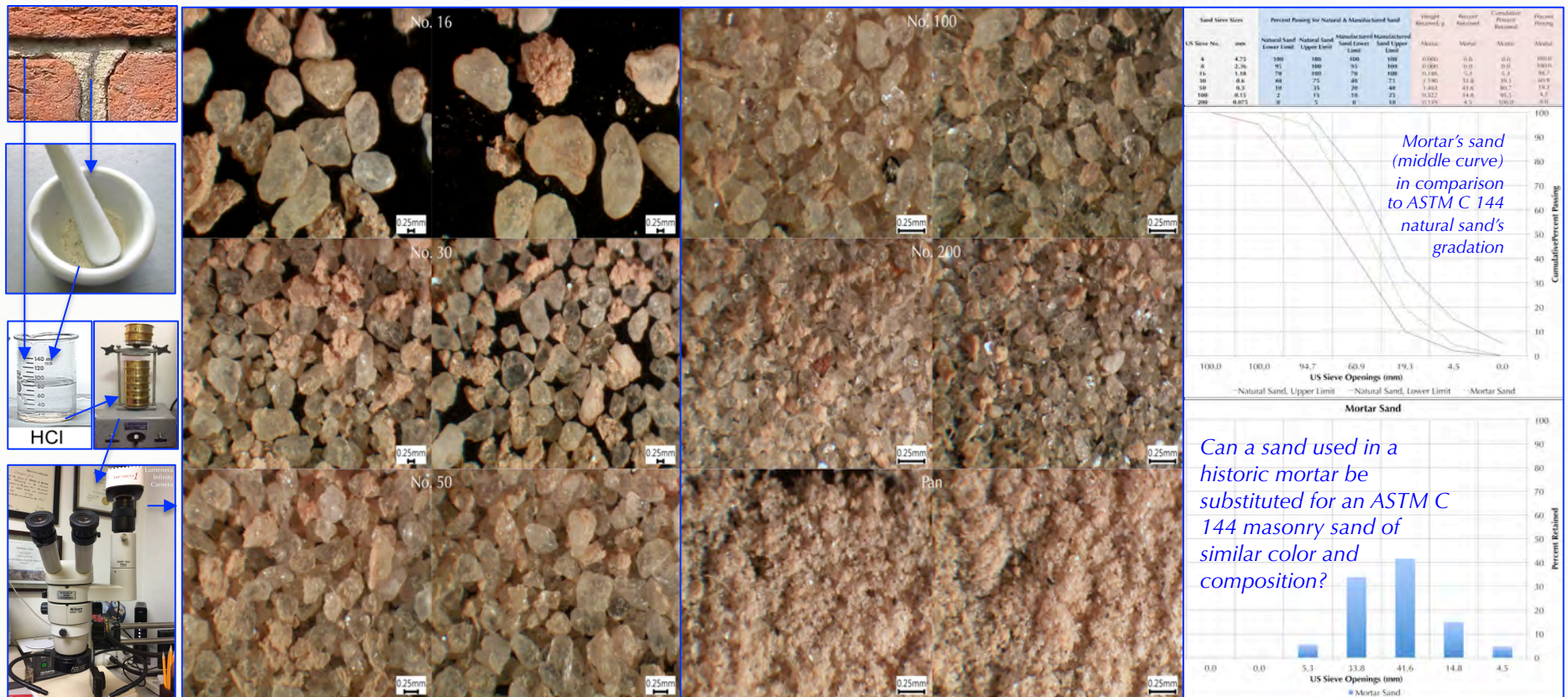




# Sand Extraction, Size Distribution & Color Variation

Sand extraction by acid digestion with minimal or without crushing followed by Sieve Analysis in Gilson Mini Sieve Shaker and examination in a stereo microscope

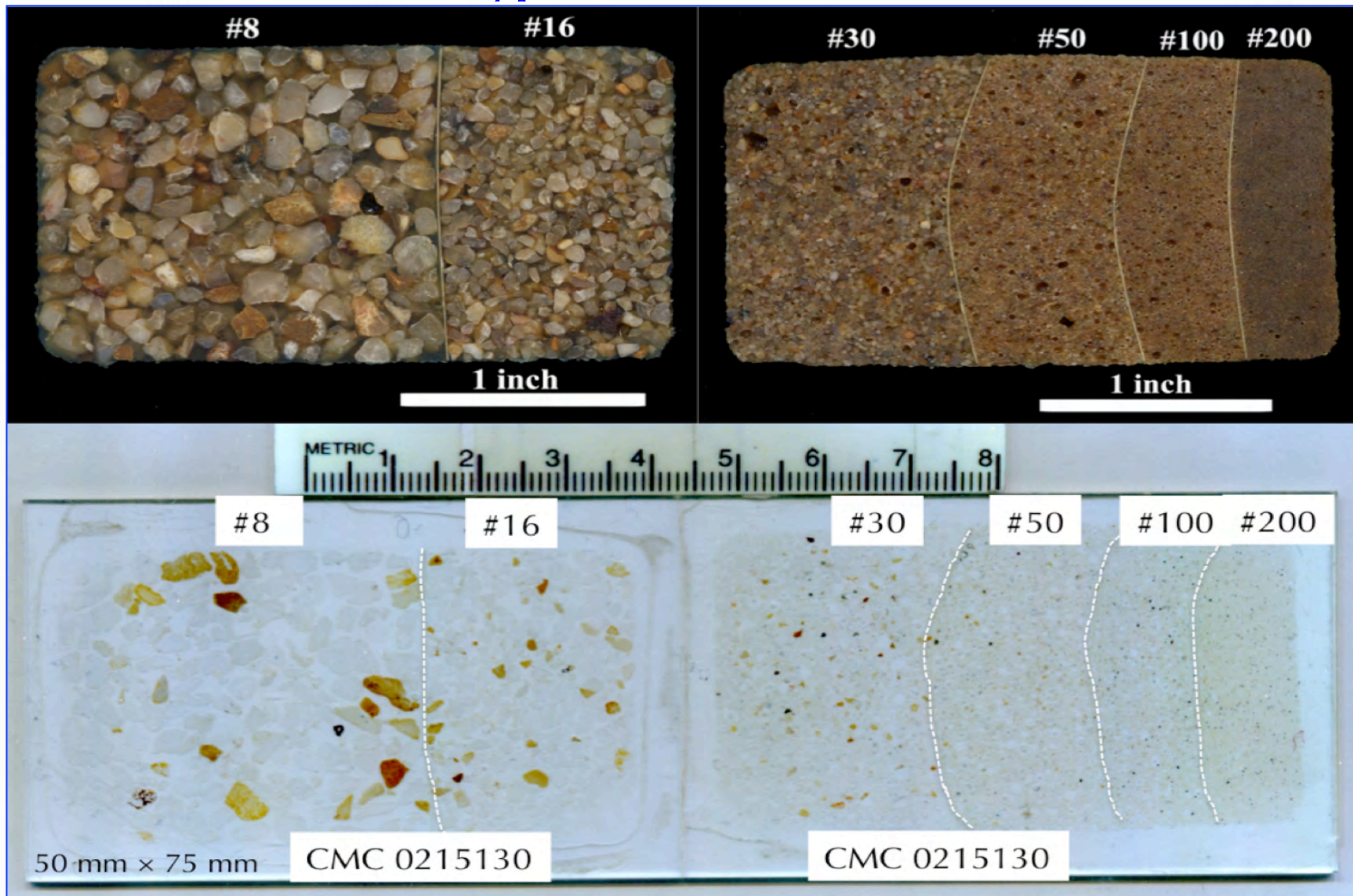
## Photomicrographs of sand retained on various sieves



*Sand gradation has a strong influence on workability, water retention, binder content, appearance, and performance of a pointing mortar.*

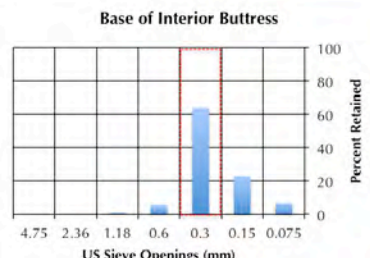
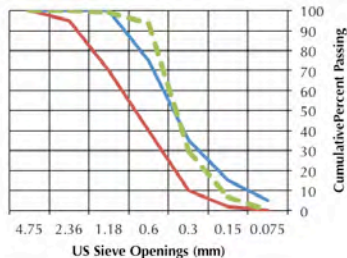
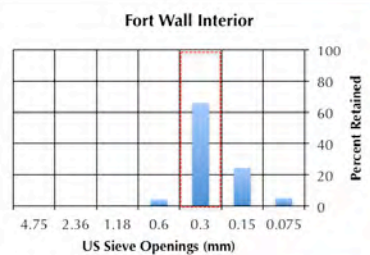
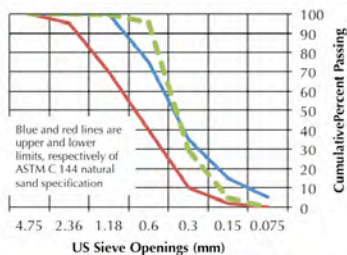


## Sand Types In Individual Sieves





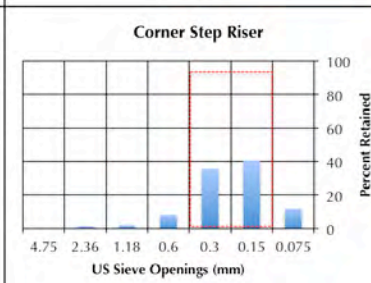
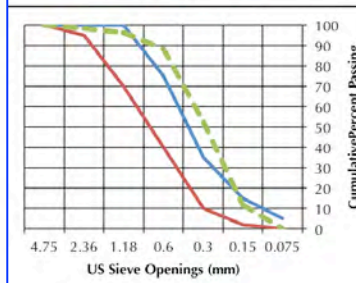
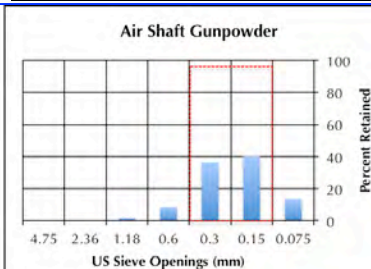
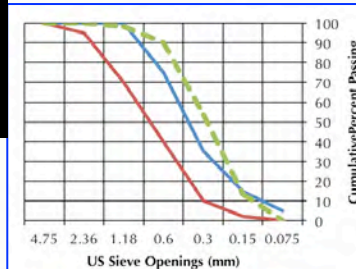
## Sand Size Distribution & Color Variation



Sands used in original mortars and later pointing ones have different grain-size distribution.

Sands used in Air Shafts Gunpowder and Corner Step Riser have very similar grain-size distribution

Sands used in Fort Wall Interior and Base of Buttress have very similar grain-size distribution



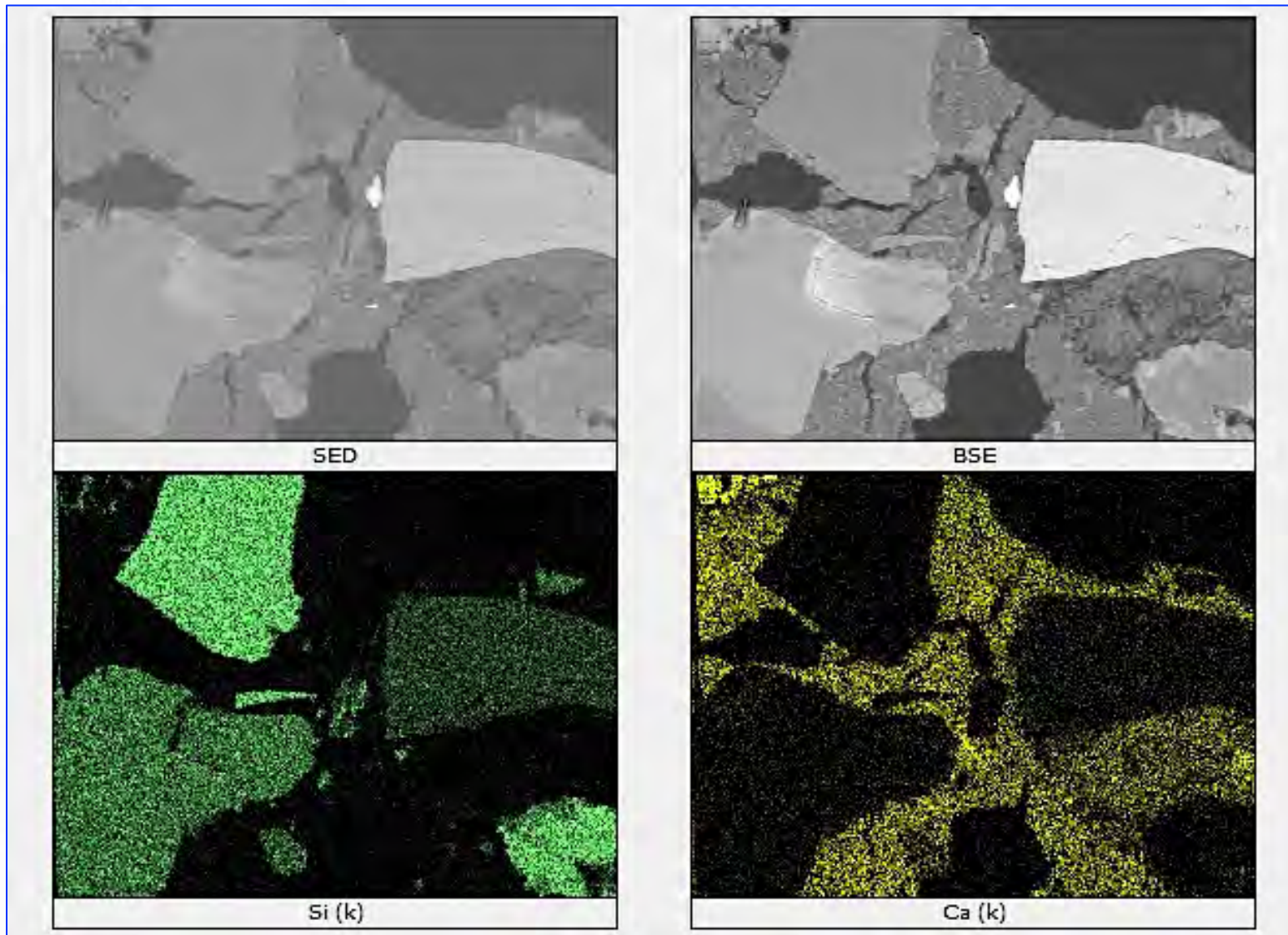


## Scanning Electron Microscopy & X-Ray Microanalysis





## Application of SEM-EDS: Chemical Variations in Sand and Binder

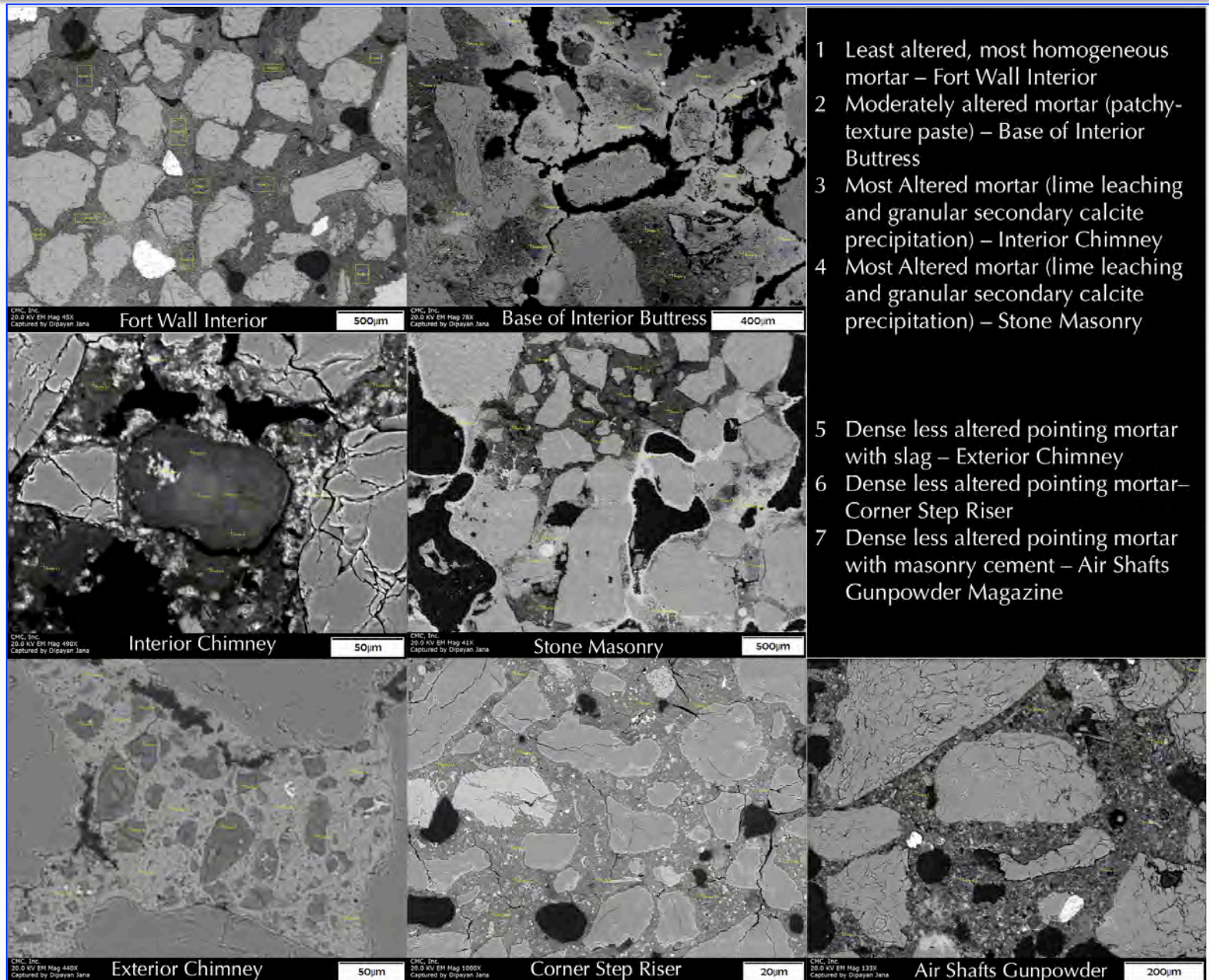




## Application of SEM-EDS: Microstructural Variations in Paste

Degree of alteration of paste from lime leaching to secondary calcite precipitation from darker to brighter paste patches, respectively in BSE images in Buttress, Interior Chimney, and Stone Masonry mortars.

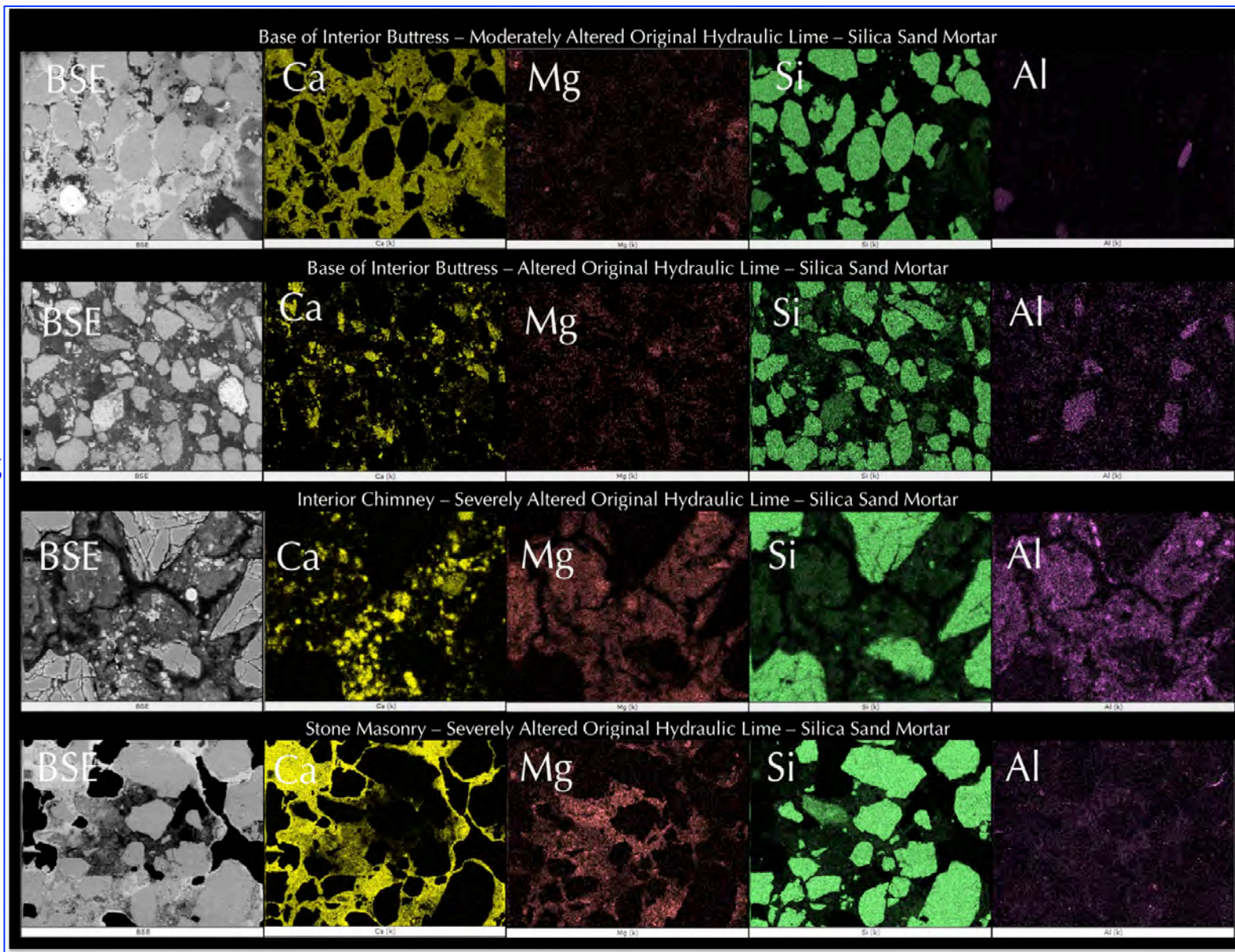
Relatively homogeneous paste in mortars from Fort Wall, Exterior Chimney, Corner Step Riser, and Air Shafts.





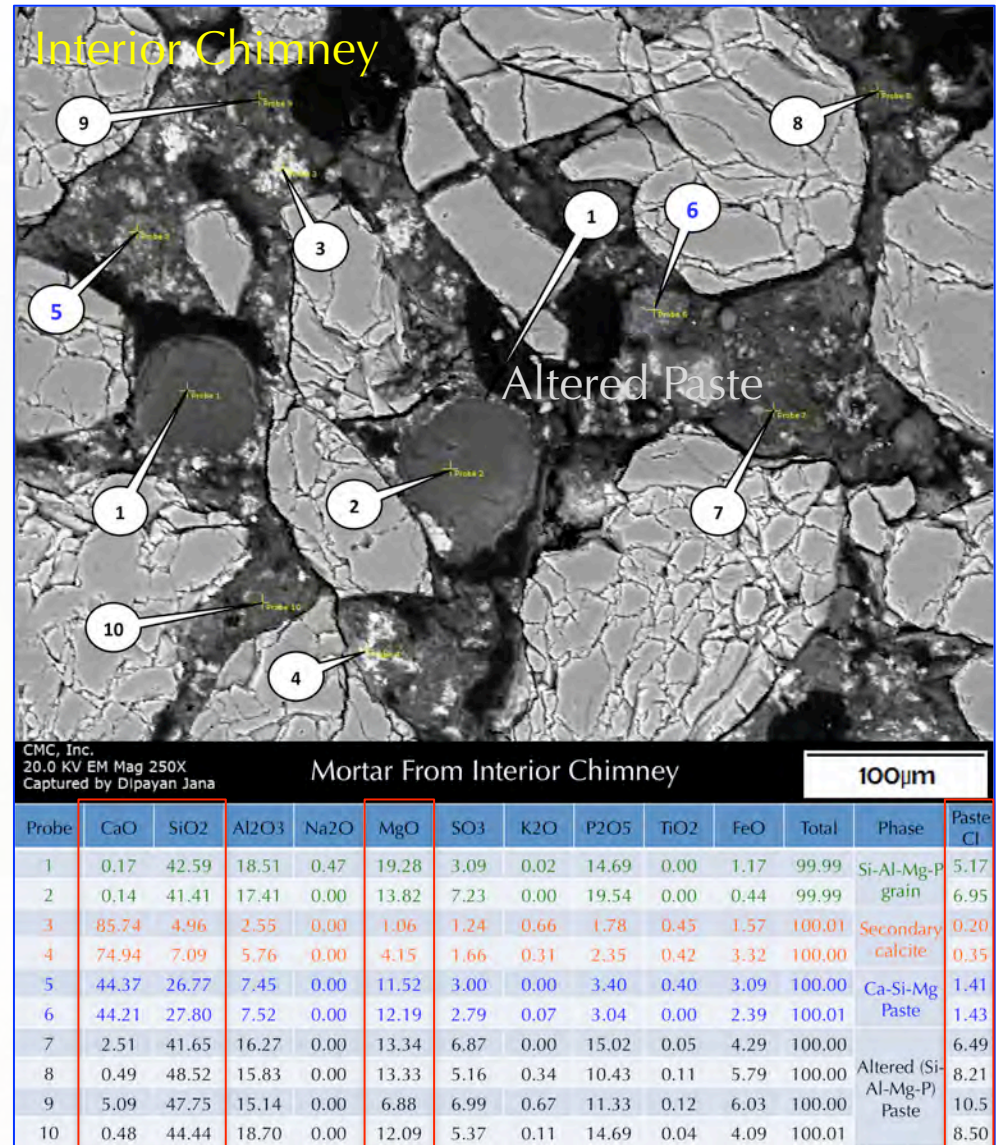
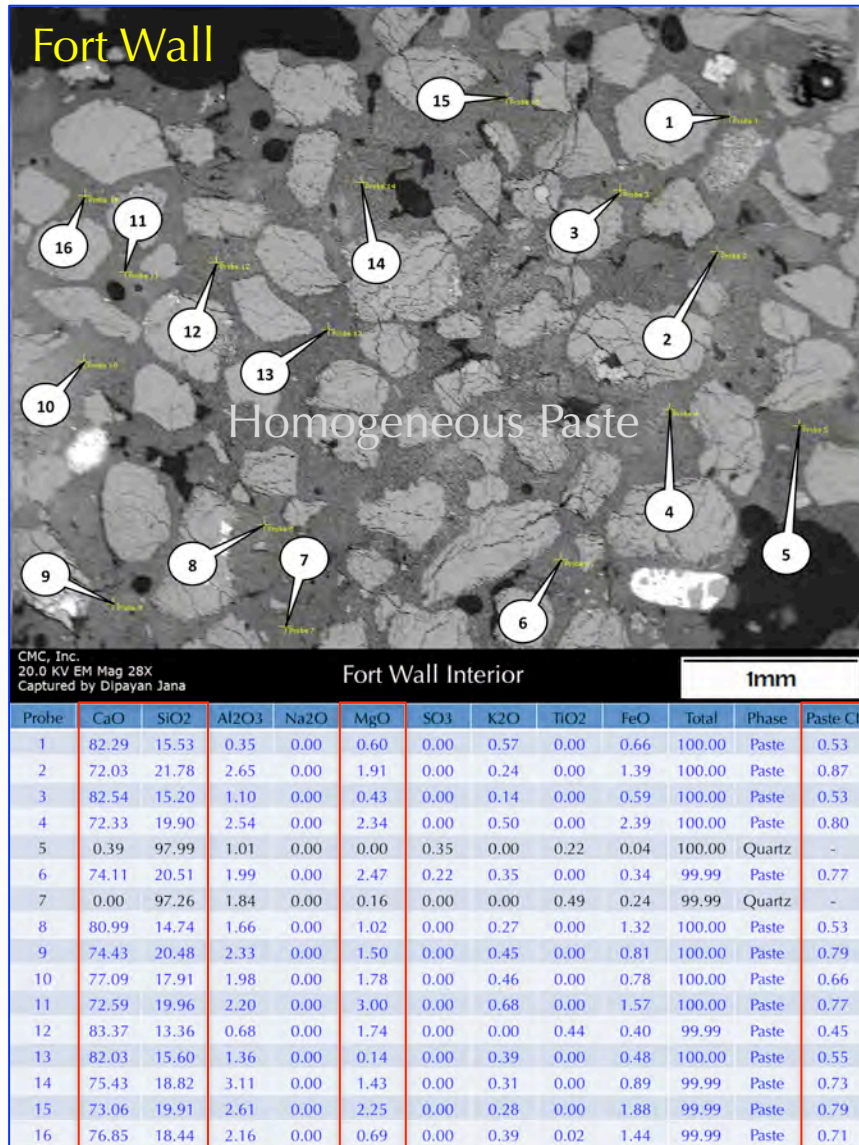
## Application of SEM-EDS: Compositional Variations in Paste From Elemental Mapping

Degree of alteration of paste from lime leaching to secondary calcite precipitation from darker to brighter paste patches, respectively in dot maps of Ca in Buttress, Interior Chimney, and Stone Masonry mortars





## Application of SEM-EDS: Chemical Variations in Pastes





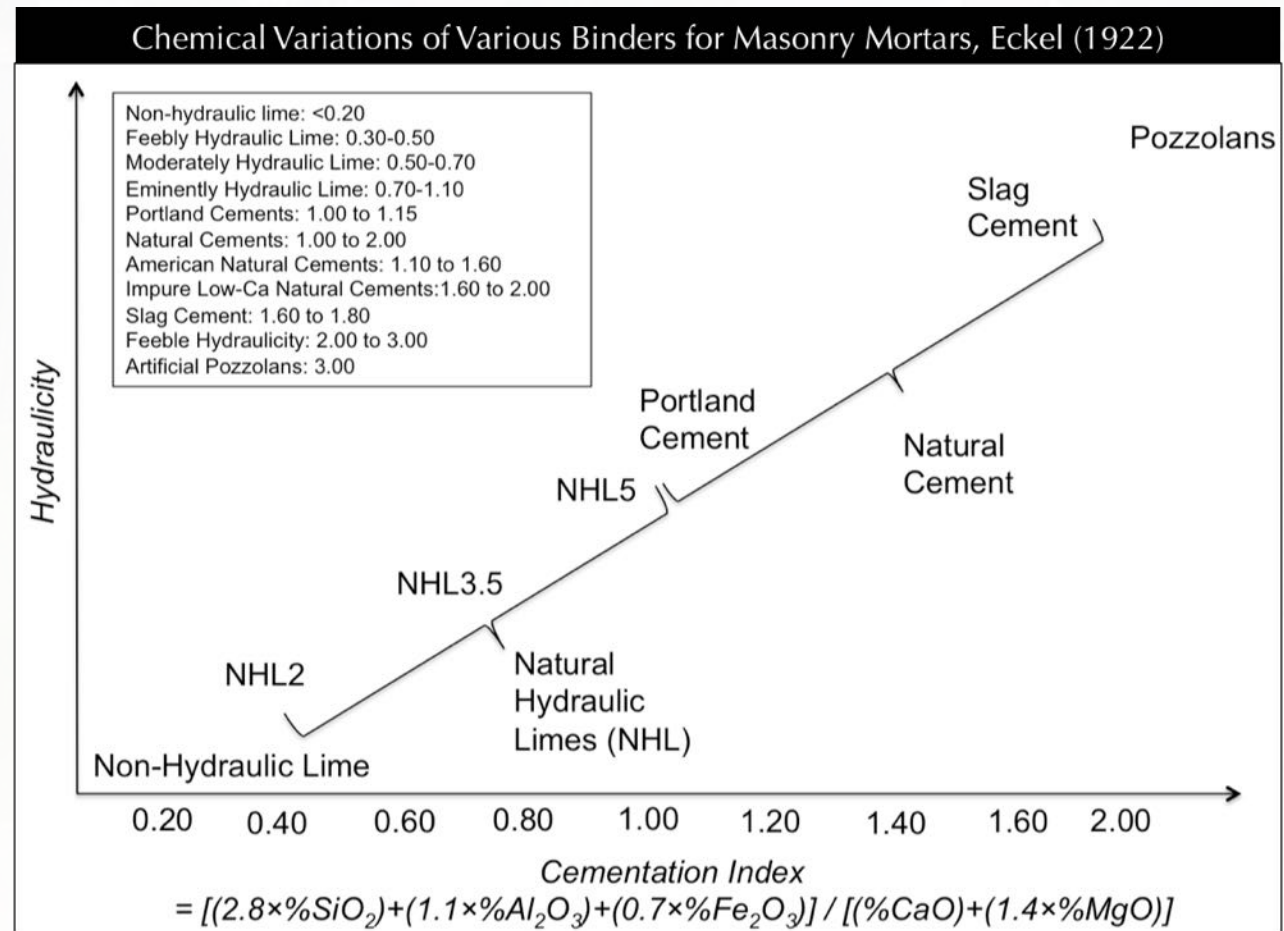
## Application of SEM-EDS: Chemical Variations in Paste from Cementation Index, CI (Eckel 1922)

Cementation Index  
(CI, Eckel 1922) =

$$\frac{[(2.8 \times \text{SiO}_2) + (1.1 \times \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3) + (0.7 \times \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3)]}{[(\text{CaO}) + (1.4 \times \text{MgO})]}$$

divided by

$$[(\text{CaO}) + (1.4 \times \text{MgO})]$$



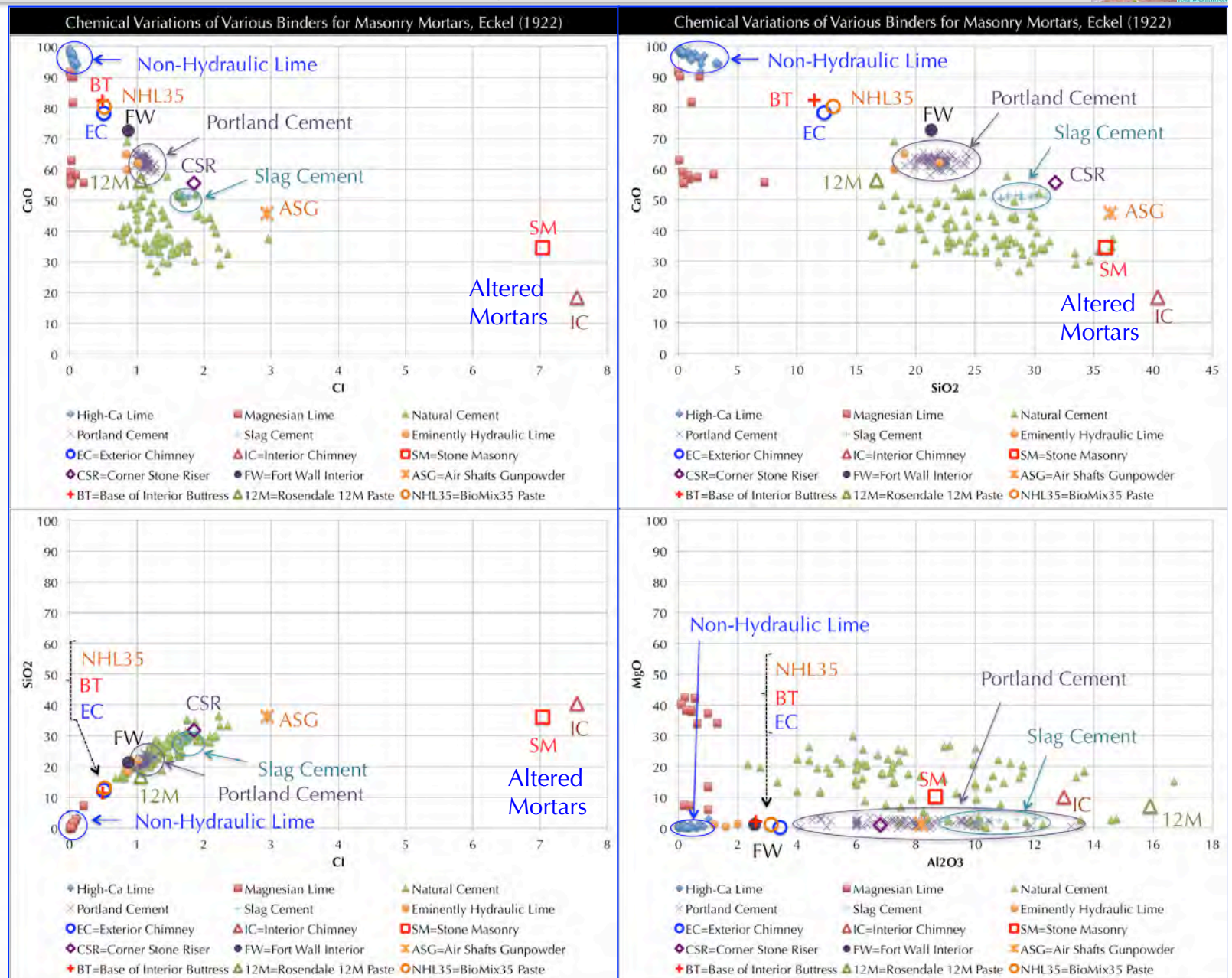


# Application of SEM-EDS:

Chemical Variations In Paste Of The Present Mortars

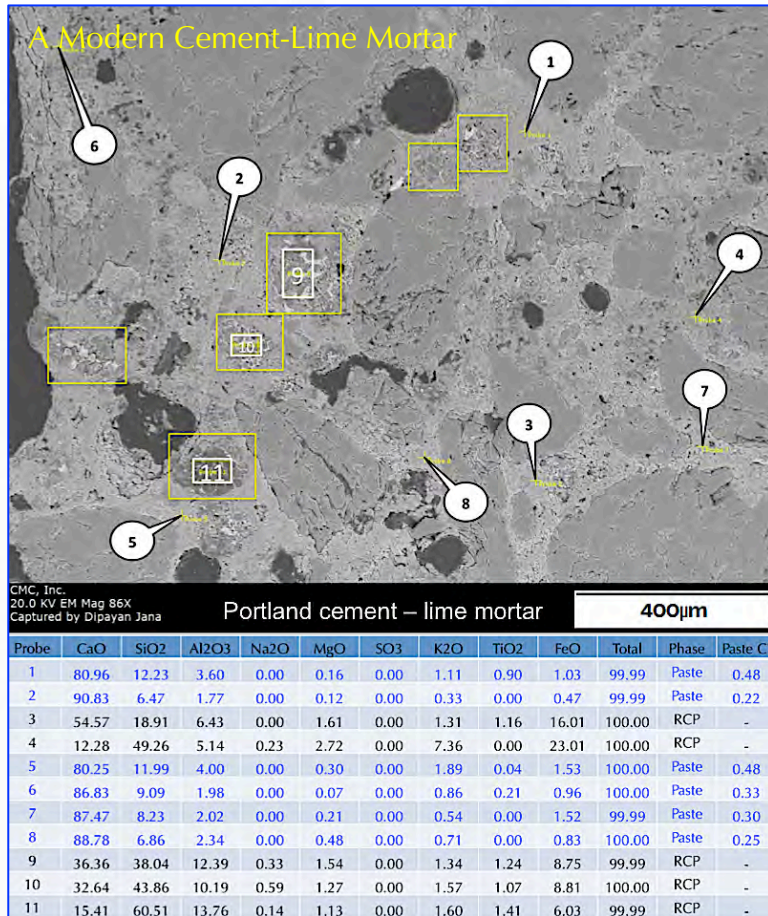
Compared To -

Common Masonry Binders From Eckel (1922)



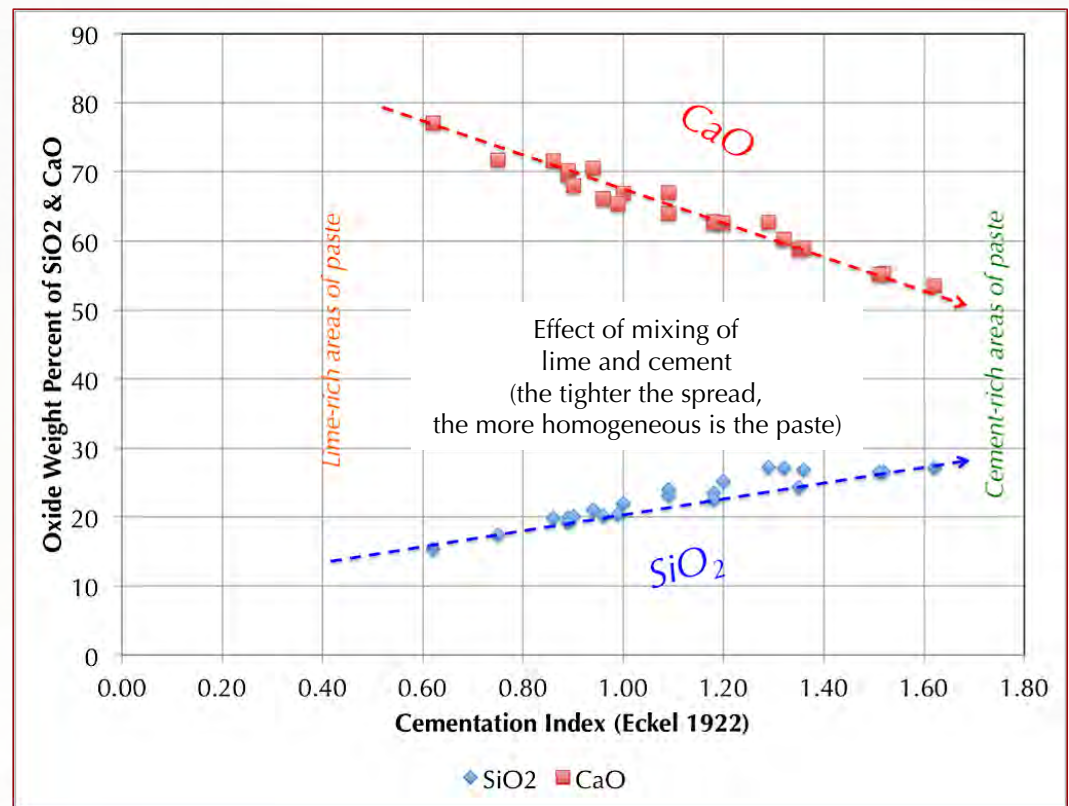


## Application of SEM-EDS: Chemical Variations in Portland Cement-Lime Mortar Paste



SEM-EDS analysis of a paste fraction of a cement-lime mortar. Yellow boxes show residual cement particles, white boxes show area-mode analysis of residual cement particles and tips of callouts show locations of analysis of paste. The Table below shows results of analysis of paste and residual cement particles (RCPs).

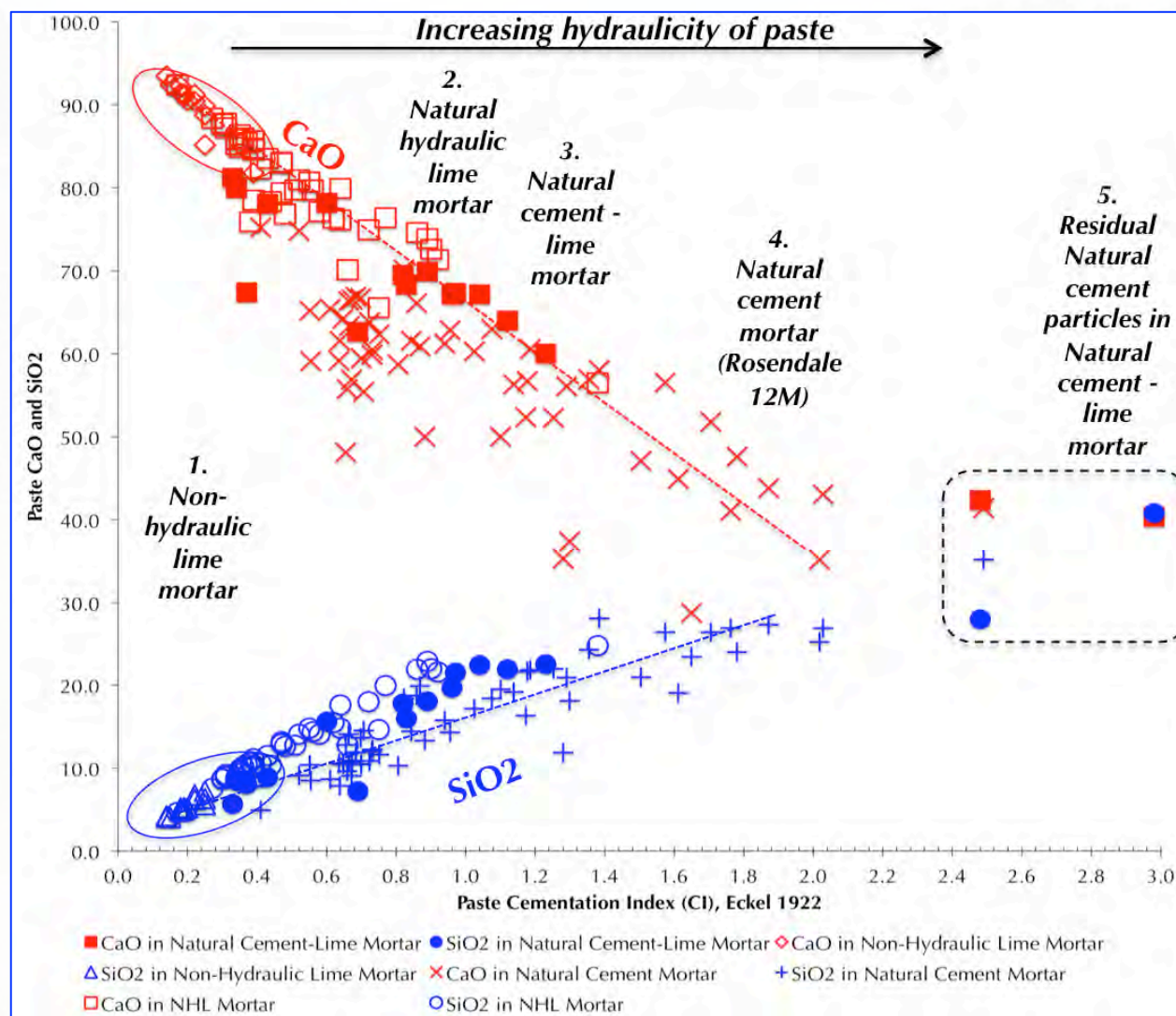
CI, or Cementation Index, after Eckel 1922, which is  $[(2.8 \cdot \text{SiO}_2 + 1.1 \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + 0.7 \cdot \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3) / (\text{CaO} + 1.4 \cdot \text{MgO})]$  is a parameter of hydraulicity of a mortar, e.g., a lime mortar has a CI of  $< 1$  whereas a cement-lime mortar has a CI of  $> 1$ . Hence determination of CI of a mortar's paste from SEM-EDS analysis can provide the first-hand clue of its hydraulicity. CI of paste progressively increases from non-hydraulic lime mortar to hydraulic lime mortar, natural cement-lime mortar, natural cement mortar, and Portland cement – lime mortar.





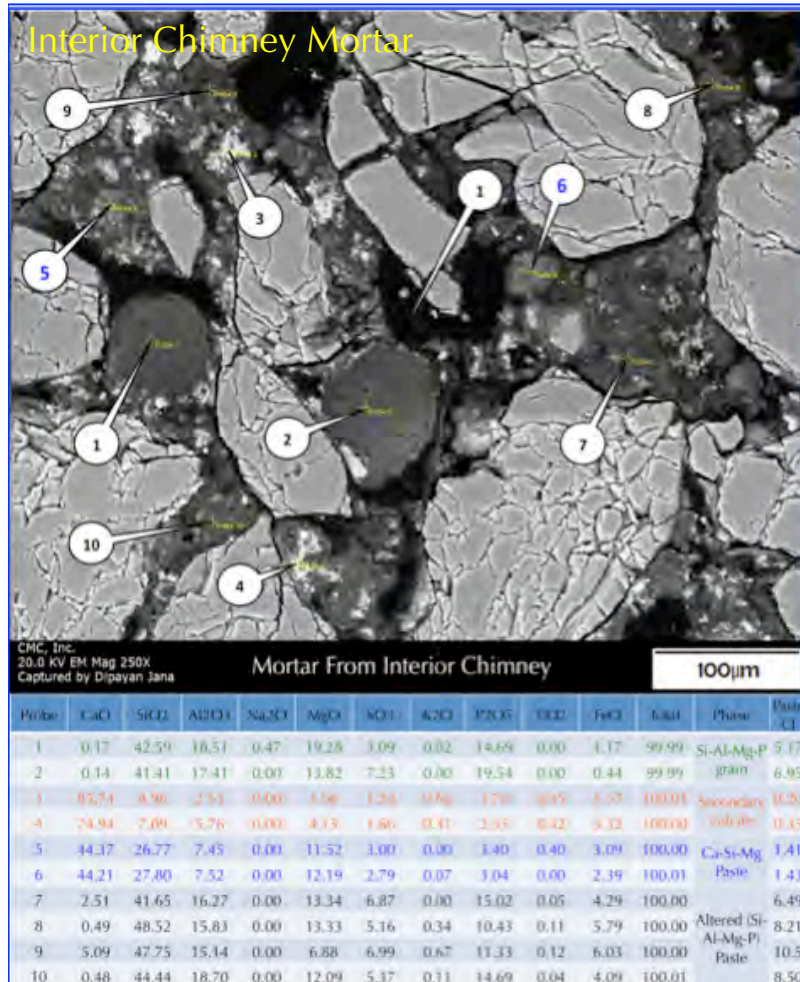
## Application of SEM-EDS: Chemical Variations of Pastes in:

1. A Historic Non-Hydraulic Lime Mortar;
2. A Modern Natural Hydraulic Lime Mortar (BioMix 35 having NHL 3.5);
3. A Historic Natural Cement – Lime Mortar
4. A Modern Natural Cement Mortar (Rosendale 12M)
5. Residual Natural Cement Particles

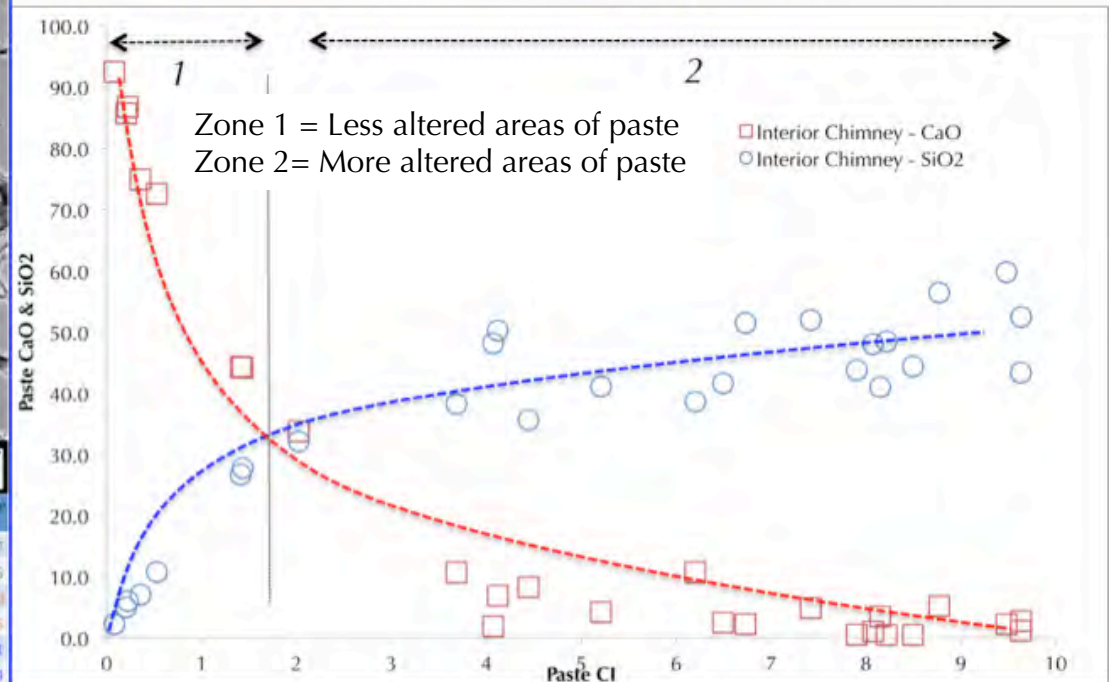




## Application of SEM-EDS: Effects of Alterations In Chemical Composition of Paste



Unlike an unaltered modern cement-lime mortar, an altered historic mortar shows significant spread in paste-CI due to various alterations during service, e.g., lime leaching (causing very high CI) to secondary calcite precipitation (causing very low CI).



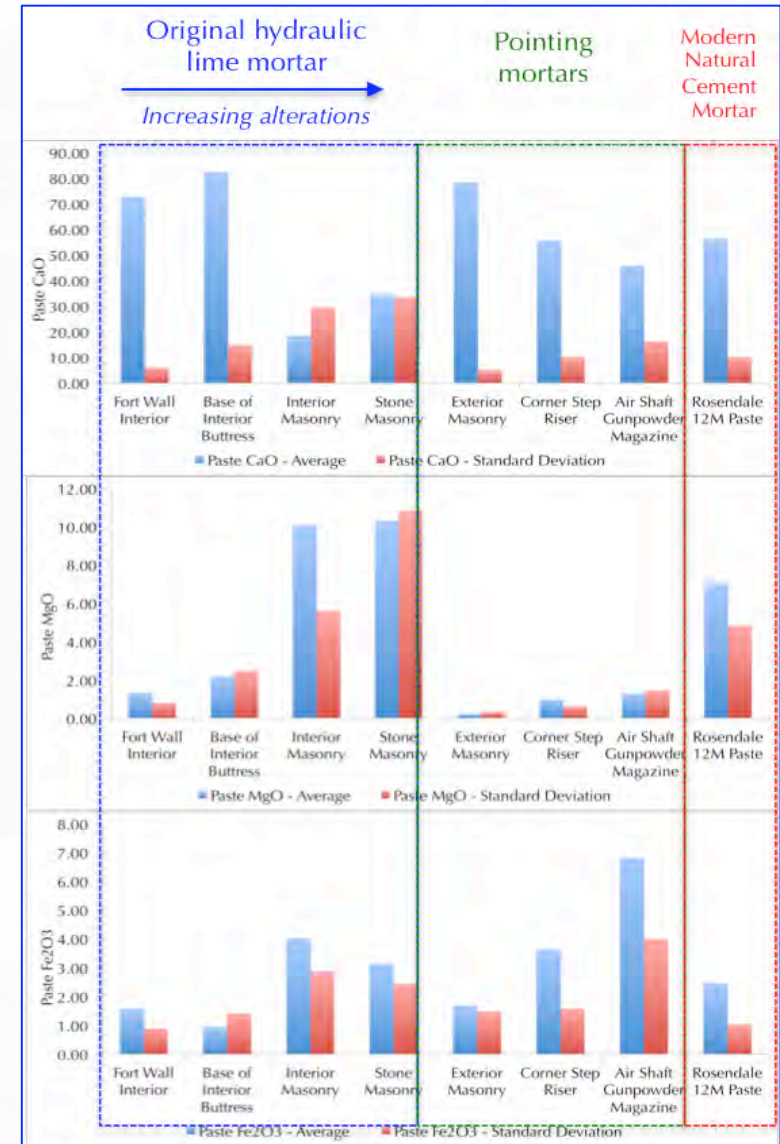
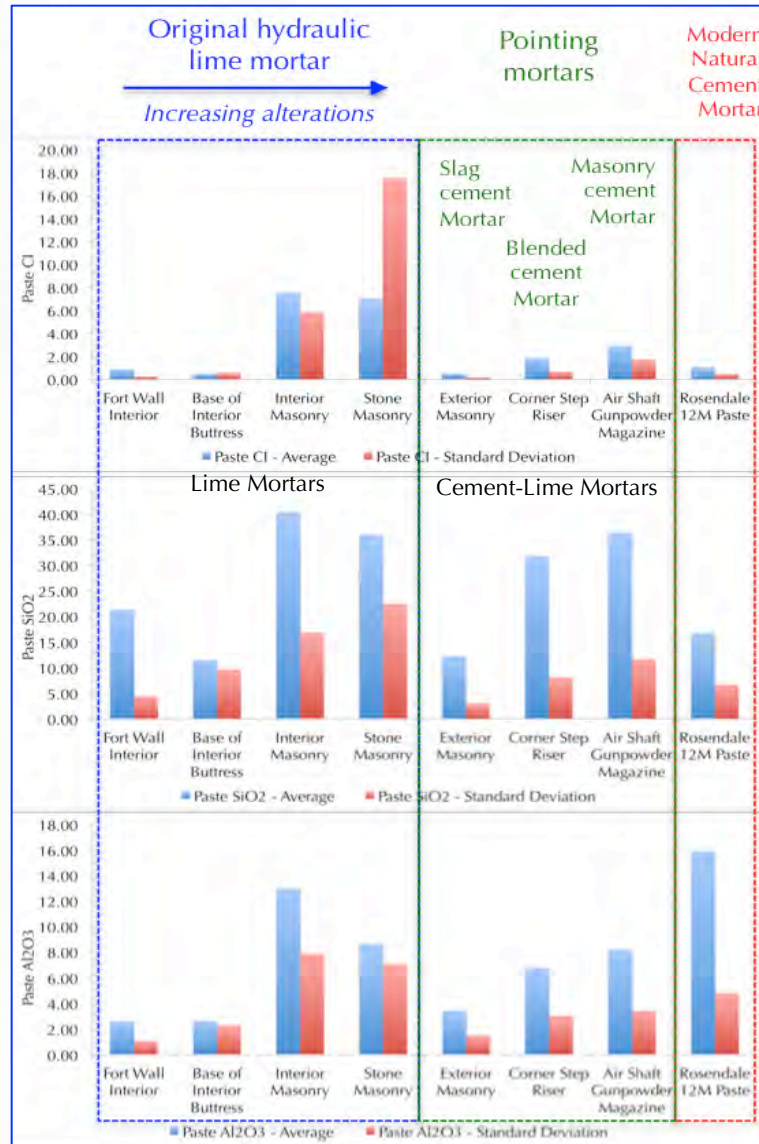
Region 1: Effect of mixing between lime (Ca)-rich and cement (Si, Cl)-rich components;  
Region 2: Effect of secondary alterations, e.g., lime leaching, secondary calcite precipitation, etc. that causes enrichment of silica, magnesia, alumina at the expense of calcium



## Application of SEM-EDS: Chemical Variations in Altered Paste

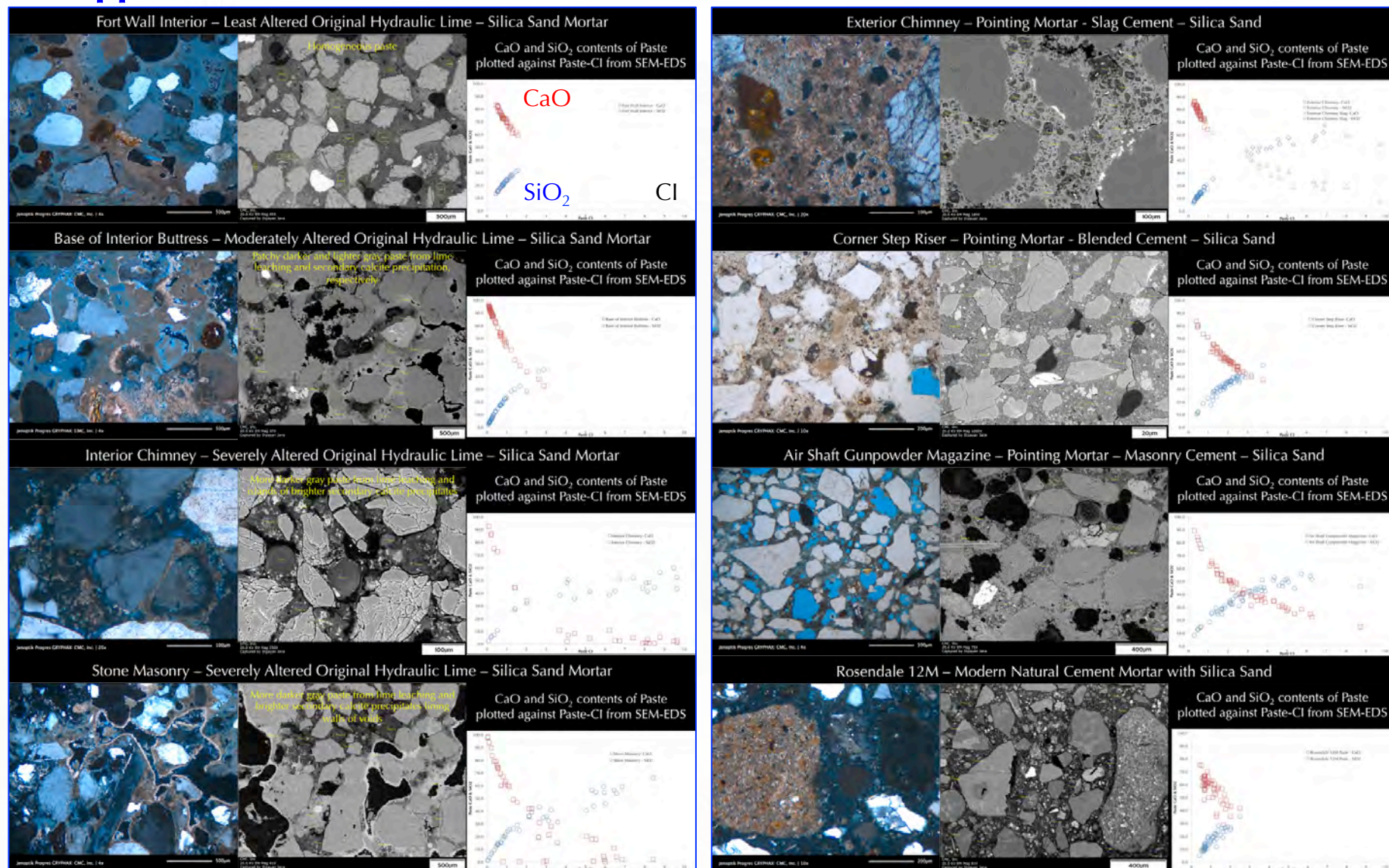
Measuring degree of alterations of paste from standard deviations of paste compositions from SEM-EDS.

The higher the red bars, the more altered are the pastes.



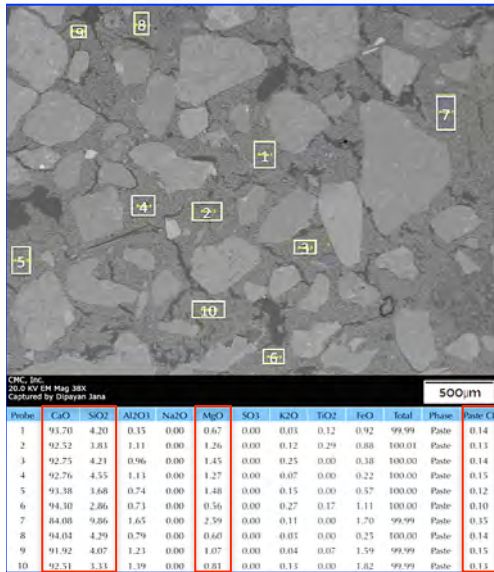


## Application of SEM-EDS: Microstructural & Chemical Variations in Pastes



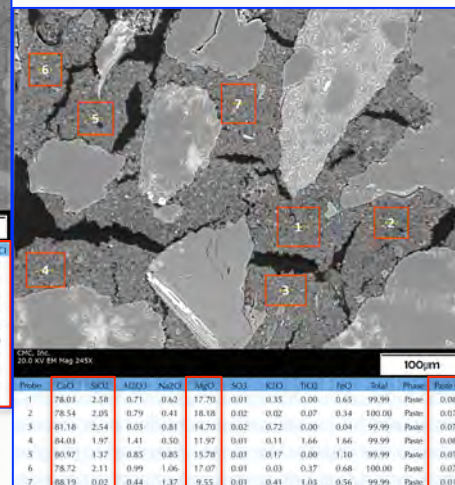


# Applications of SEM-EDS: Chemical Variations in Pastes of High-Ca Lime Mortar vs. Dolomitic Lime Mortar vs. Hydraulic Lime Mortar vs. Natural Cement – Lime Mortar



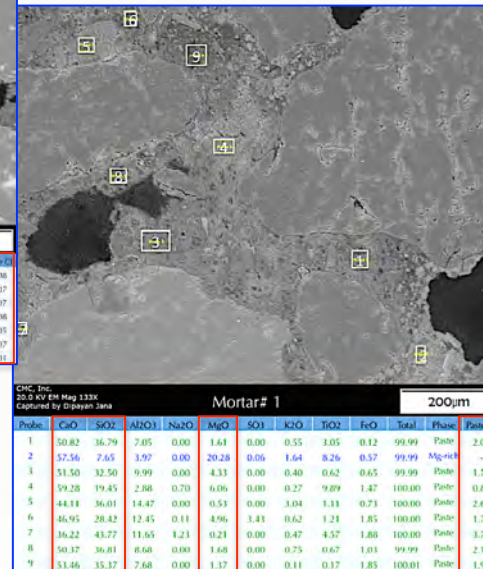
## 1. Non-Hydraulic High-Ca Lime Mortar

- Lowest Cl
- Highest CaO
- Lowest SiO<sub>2</sub>, MgO



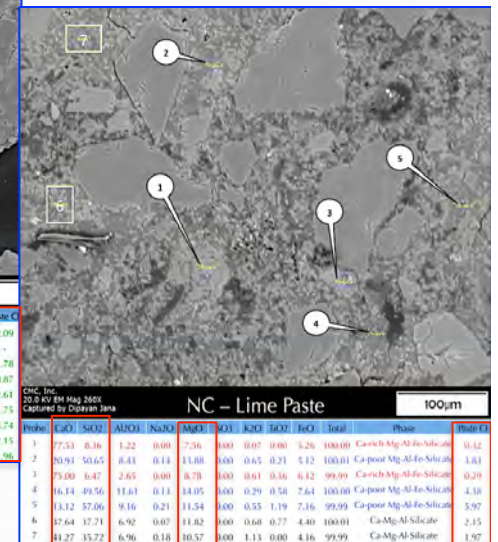
## 2. Non-Hydraulic Dolomitic Lime Mortar

- Lowest Cl
- Characteristically high MgO
- Lowest SiO<sub>2</sub>



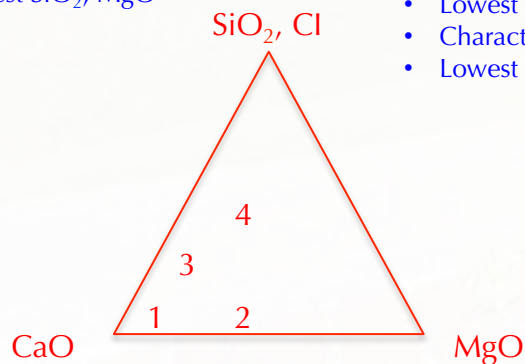
## 3. Hydraulic Lime Mortar

- Characteristically high SiO<sub>2</sub>
- Cl > 1



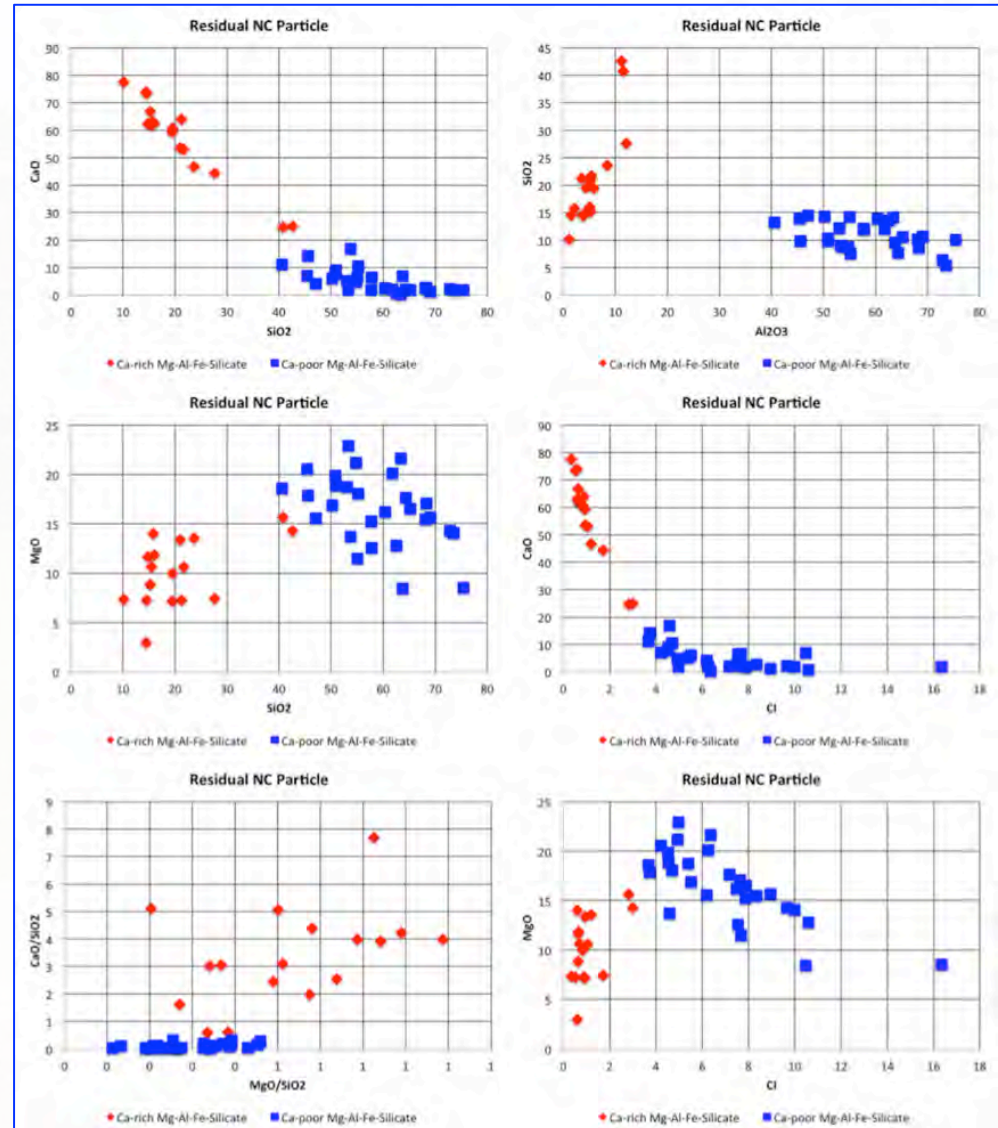
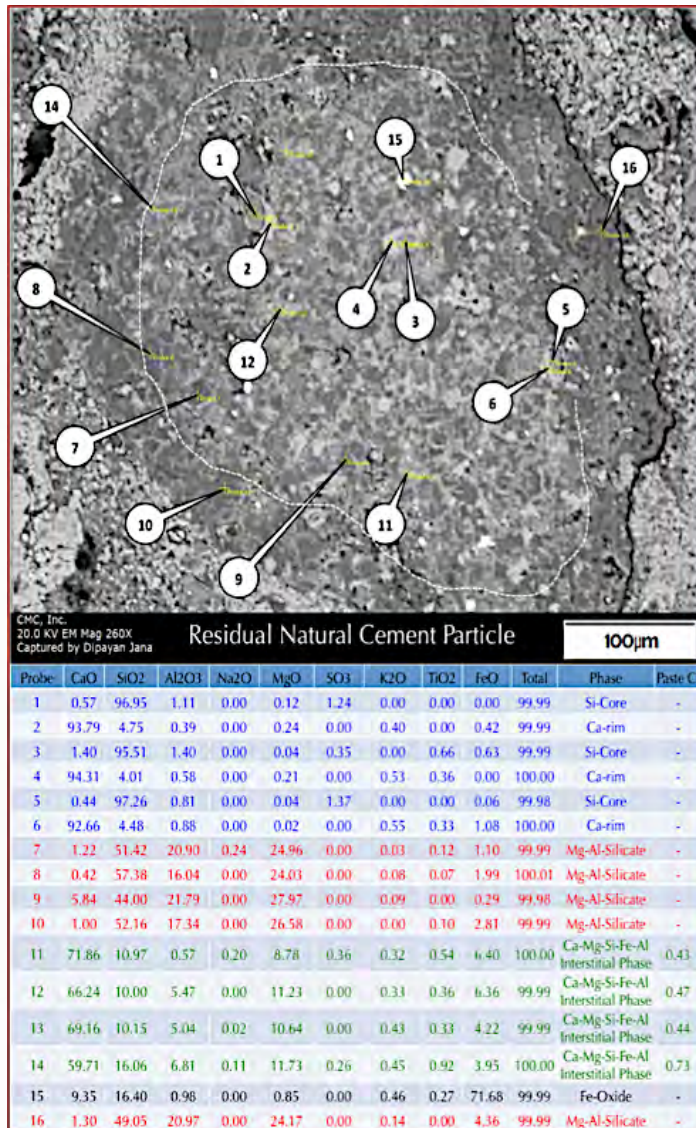
## 4. Natural Cement - Lime Mortar

- High MgO and SiO<sub>2</sub>
- Cl < 1 for Ca-rich areas and > 1 for Ca-poor areas



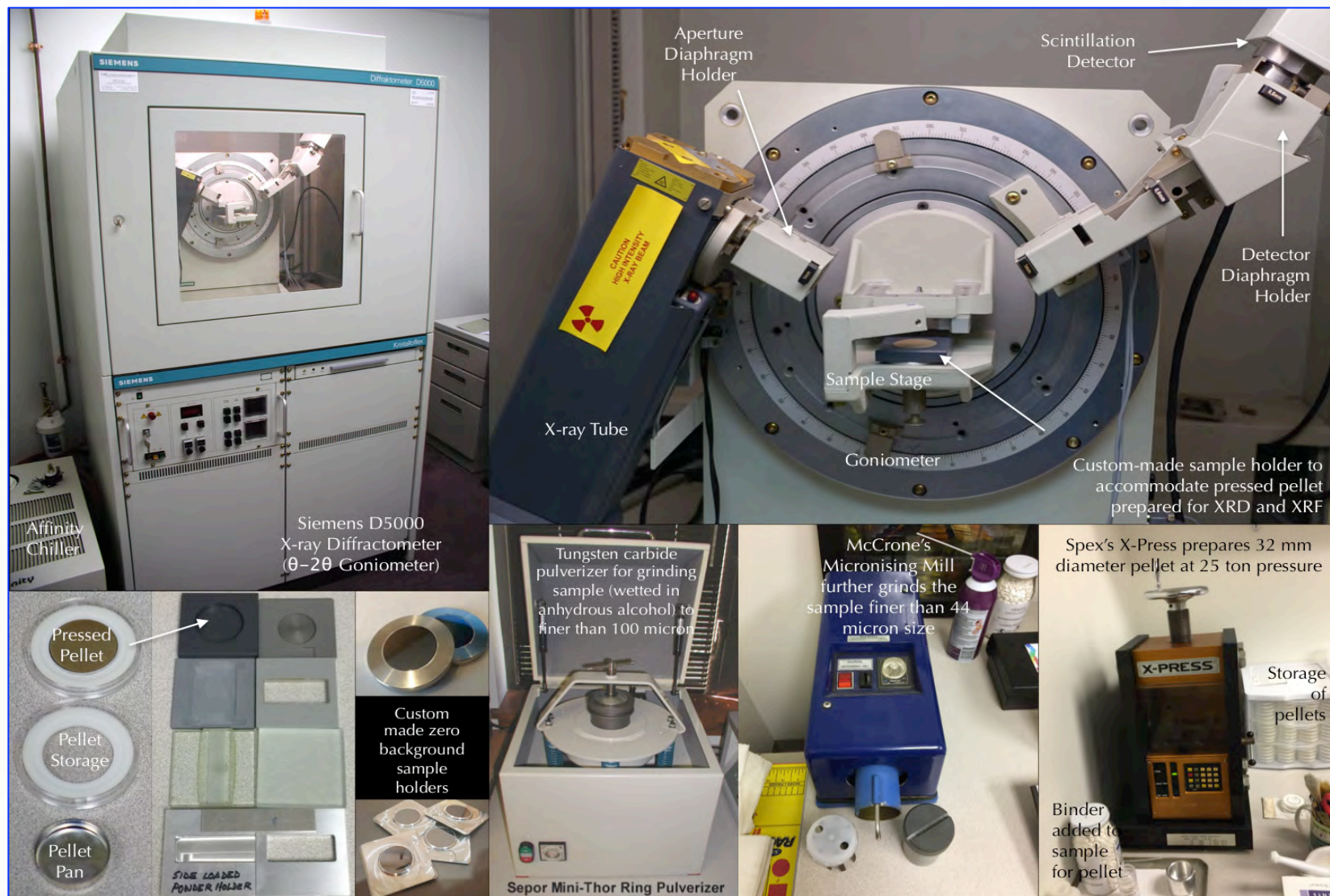


# Application of SEM-EDS: Chemical Variation in Residual Natural Cement



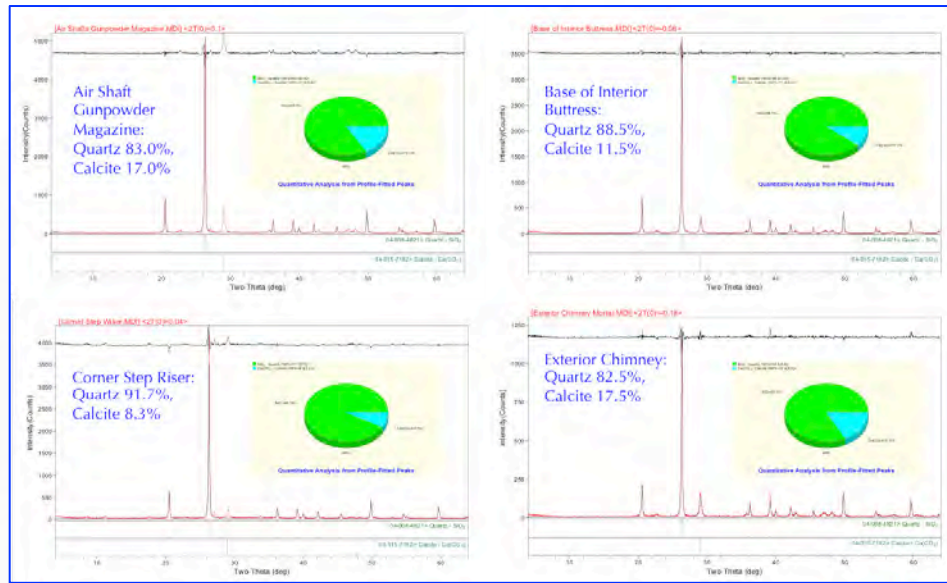


## X-ray Diffraction – Mineralogical Composition of Mortar



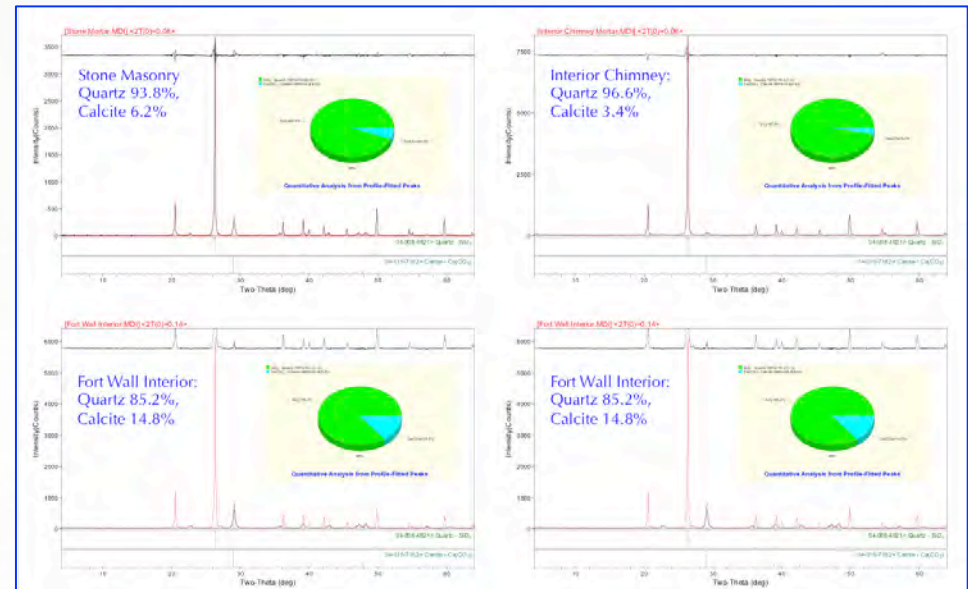


## X-ray Diffraction of Mortars From Fort Washington



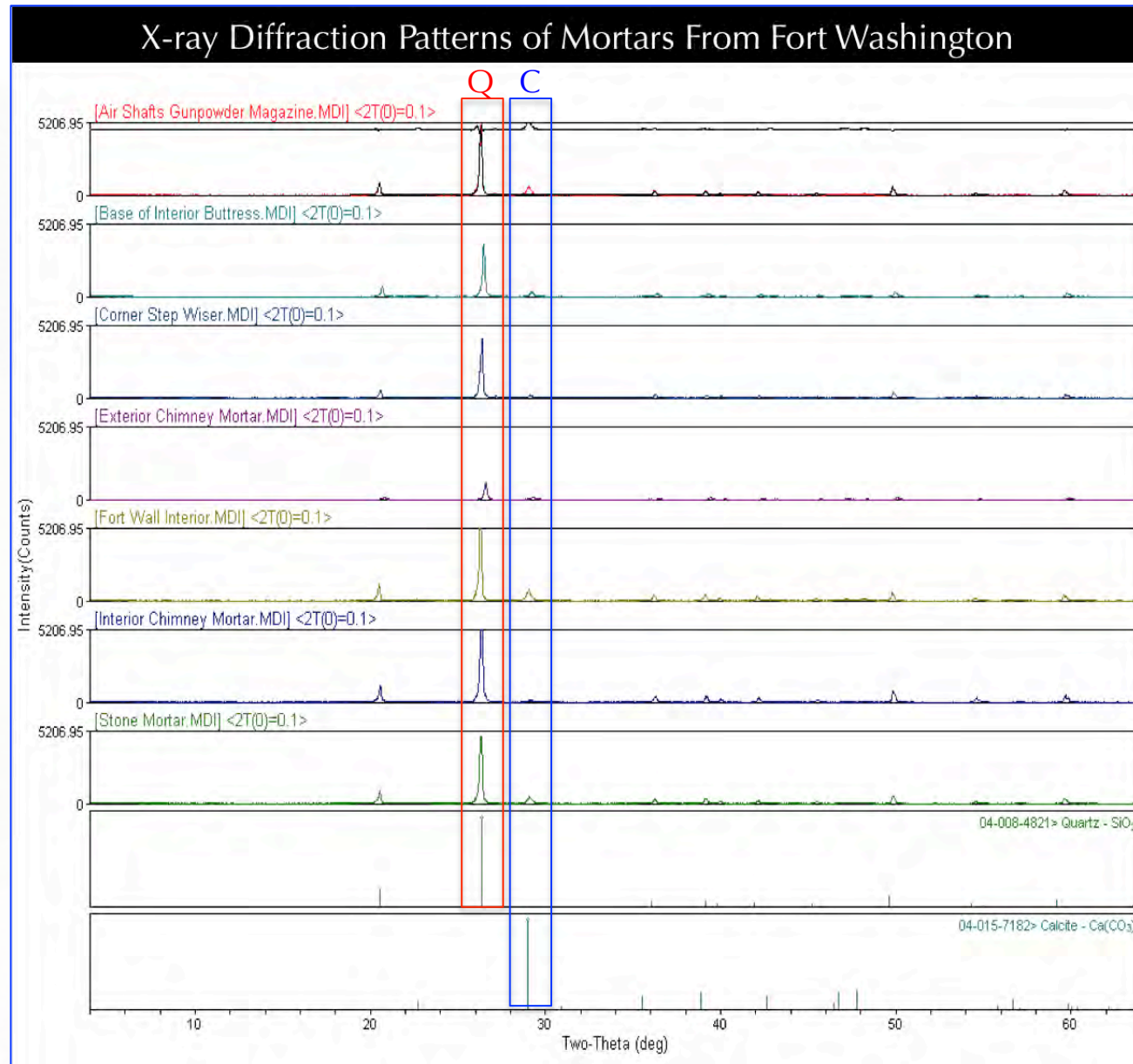
## Qualitative and Semi-Quantitative Estimates of Minerals From

- Sand
- Binder
- Salts
- Pigments



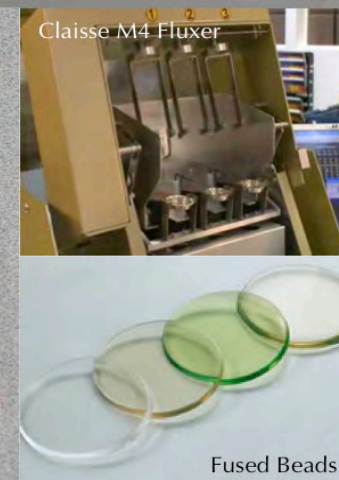
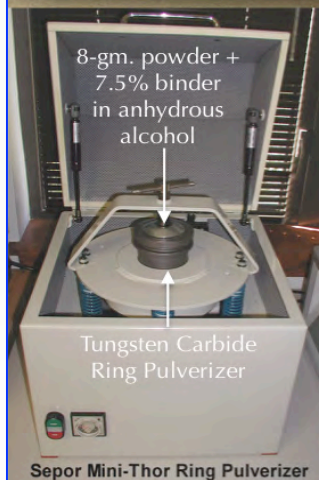
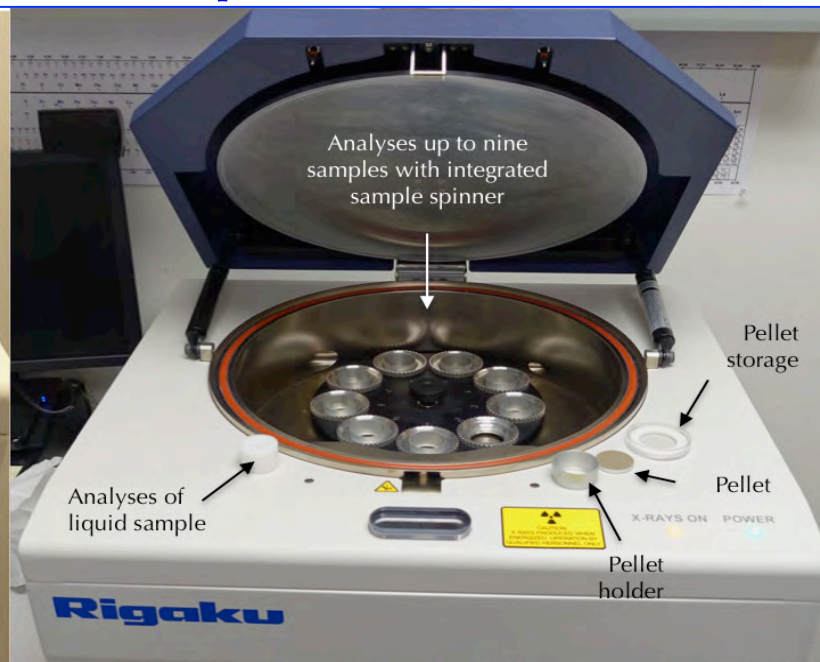
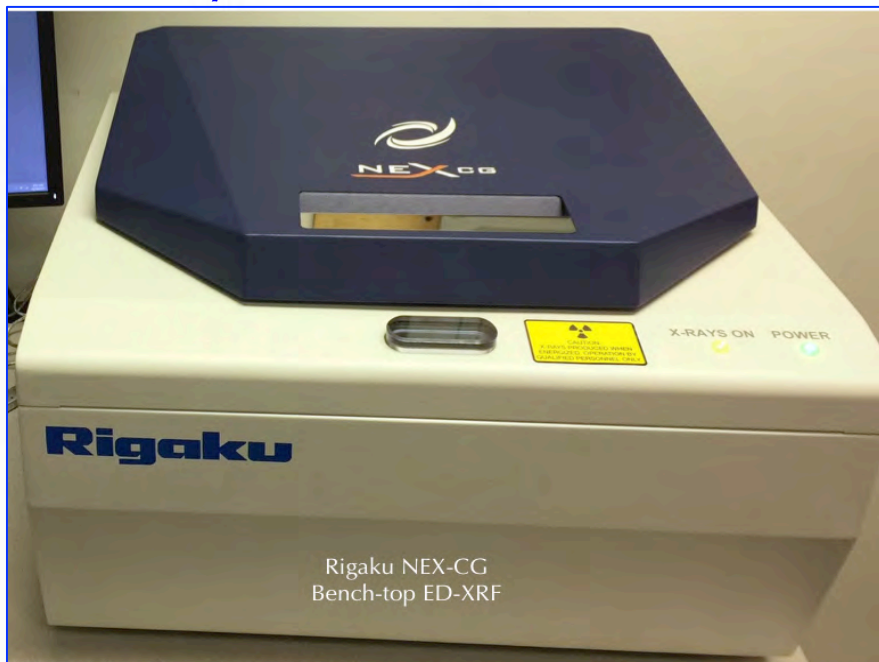


Relative  
Proportions  
Of  
Quartz  
and  
Calcite  
In  
Different  
Mortars From  
Fort  
Washington



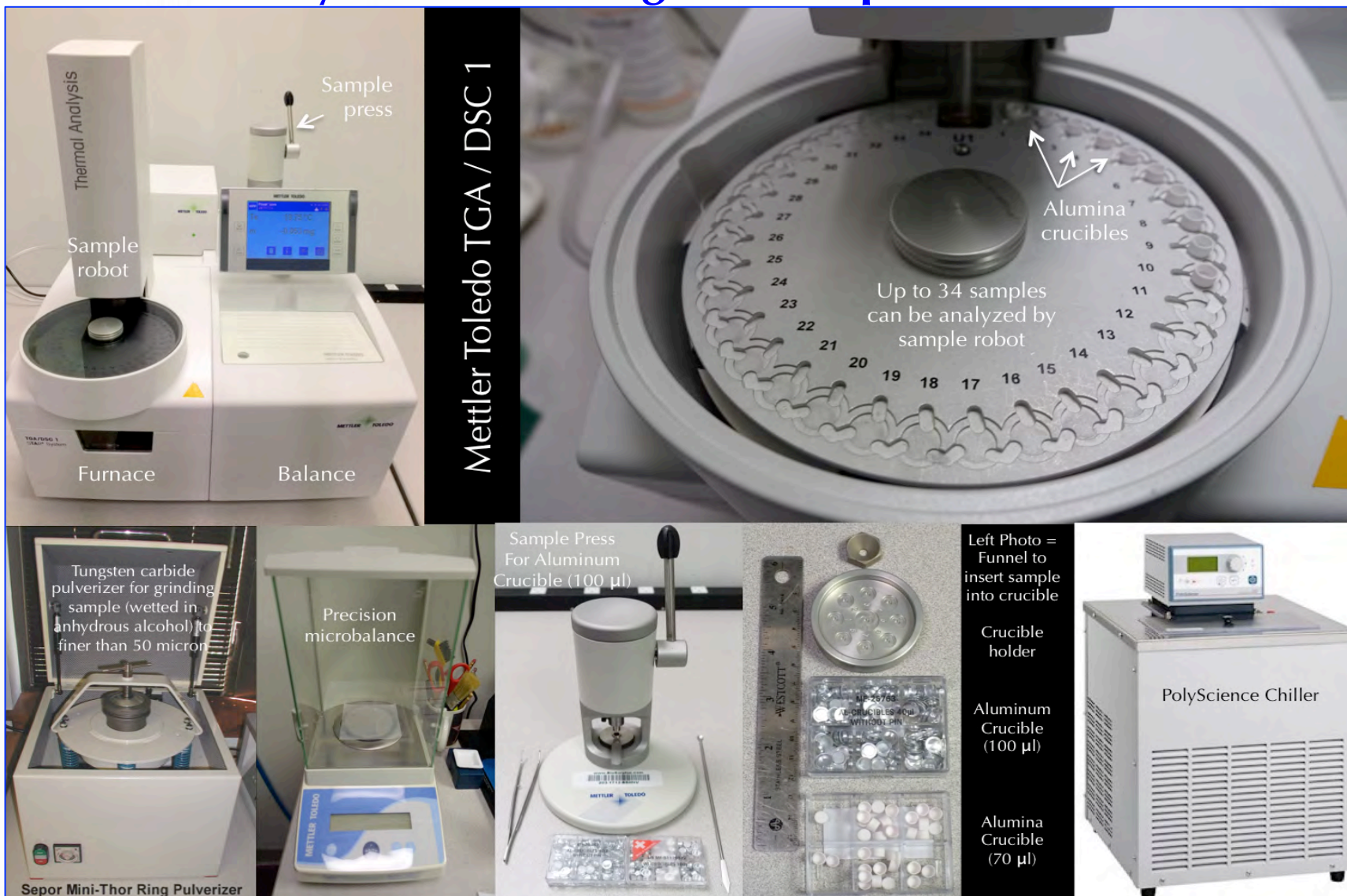


## X-ray Fluorescence – Chemical Composition of Mortar





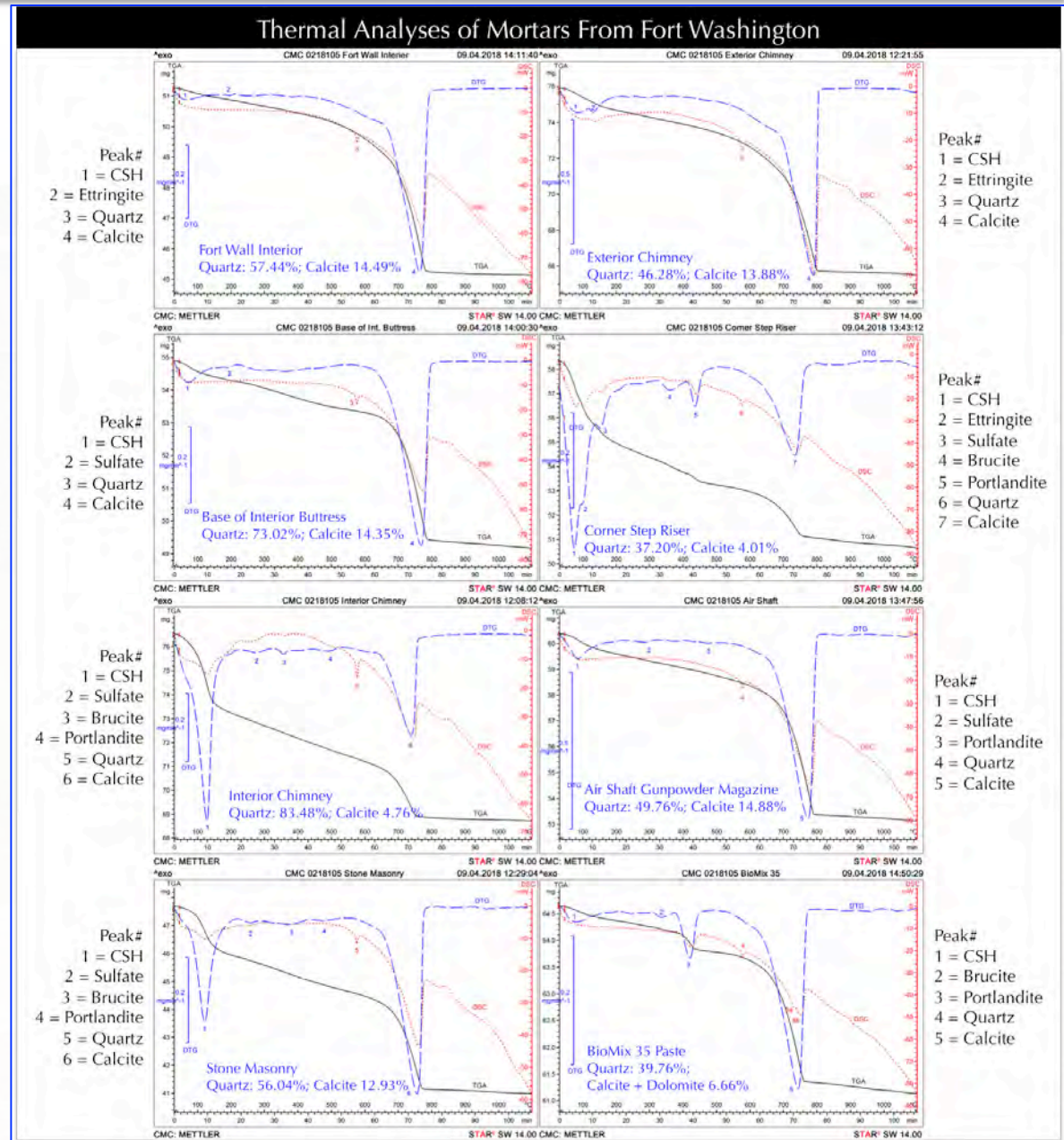
# Thermal Analysis – Mineralogical Composition of Mortar





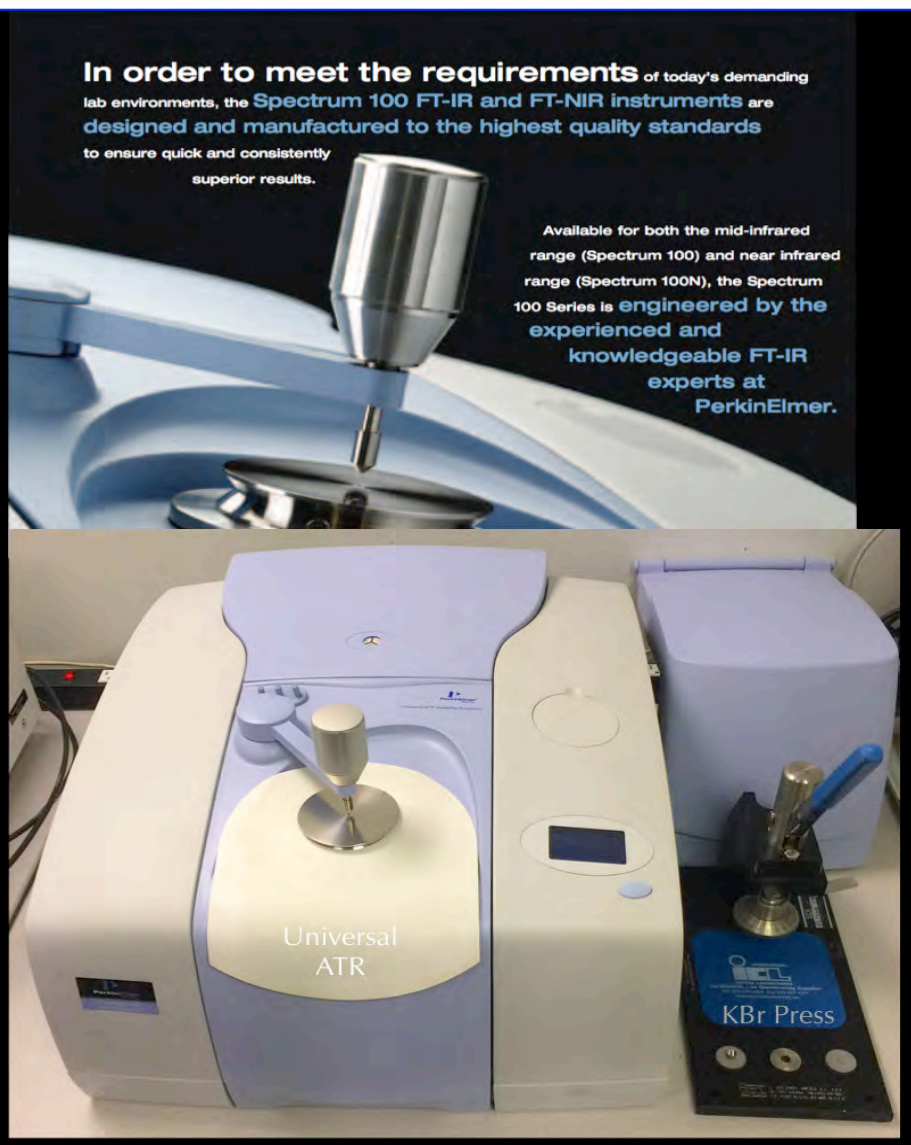
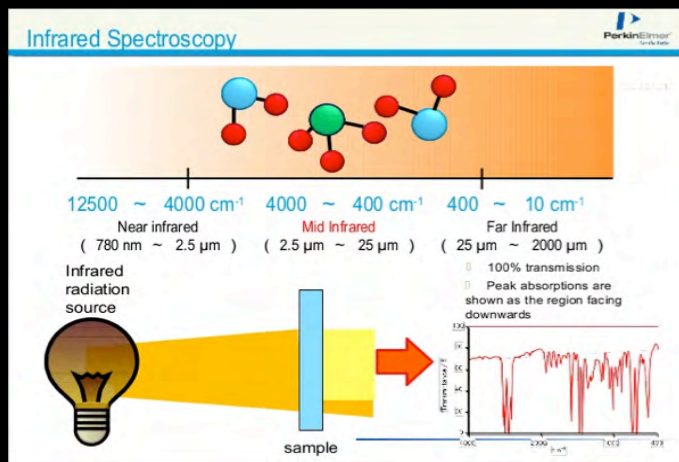
# Thermal Analyses Of Mortars From Fort Washington

- Lime mortars from Fort Wall, Interior Buttress have main peaks for Calcite and Quartz
- Altered Lime mortars from Interior Chimney, and Stone Masonry have main peaks for Hydrate water along with Calcite and Quartz
- Slag Cement – Lime mortar from Exterior Chimney has main peaks for Calcite and Quartz
- Blended Cement – Lime mortar from Corner Step Riser Terri Plane has most complex endotherms
- Masonry Cement mortar from Air Shafts Gunpowder has main peaks for Calcite and Quartz
- BioMix 35 has main peaks for Brucite, Portlandite, Calcite, Dolomite, and Quartz



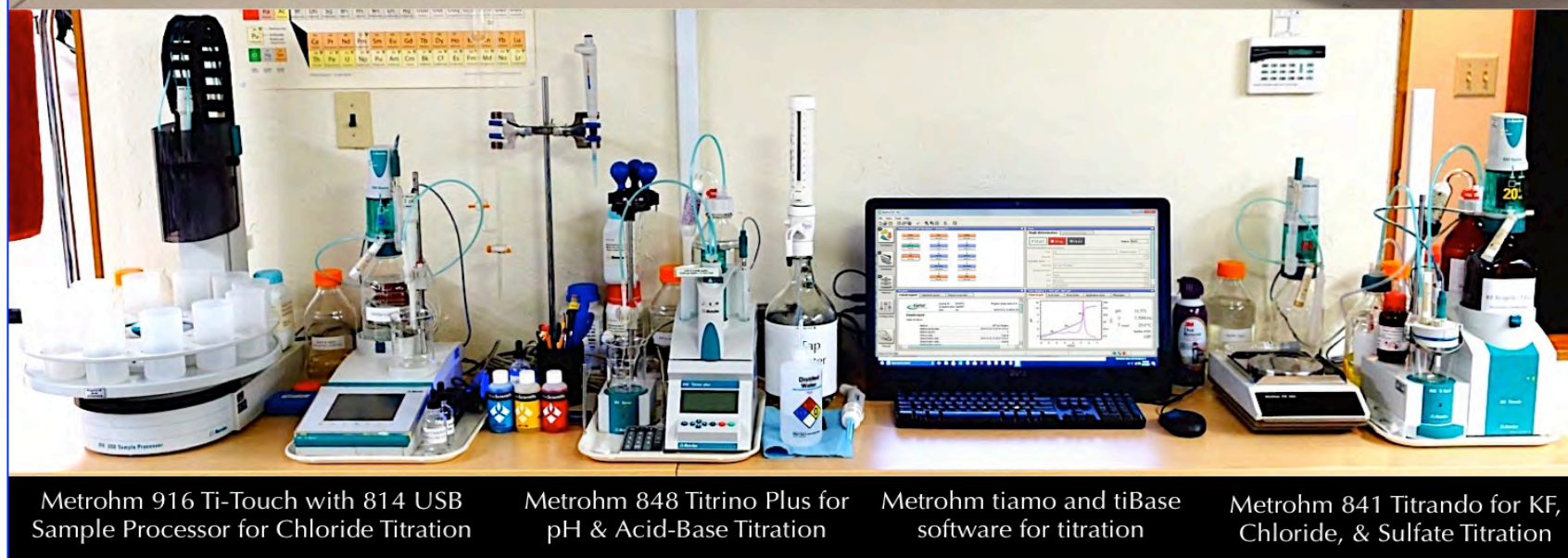
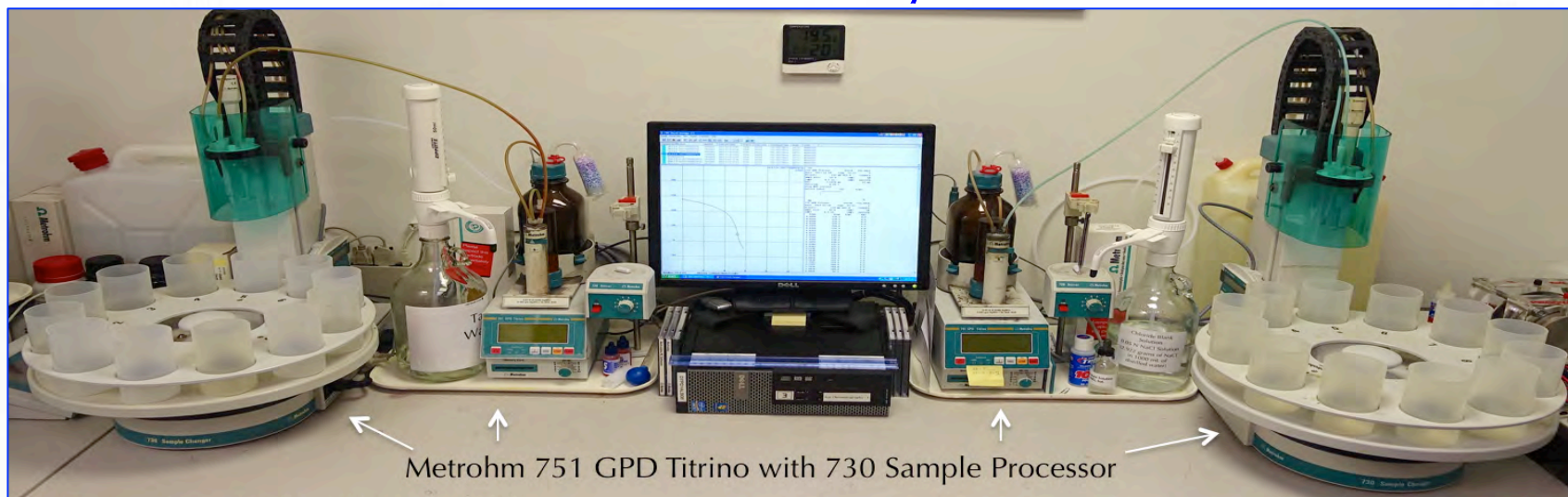


# Infrared Spectroscopy



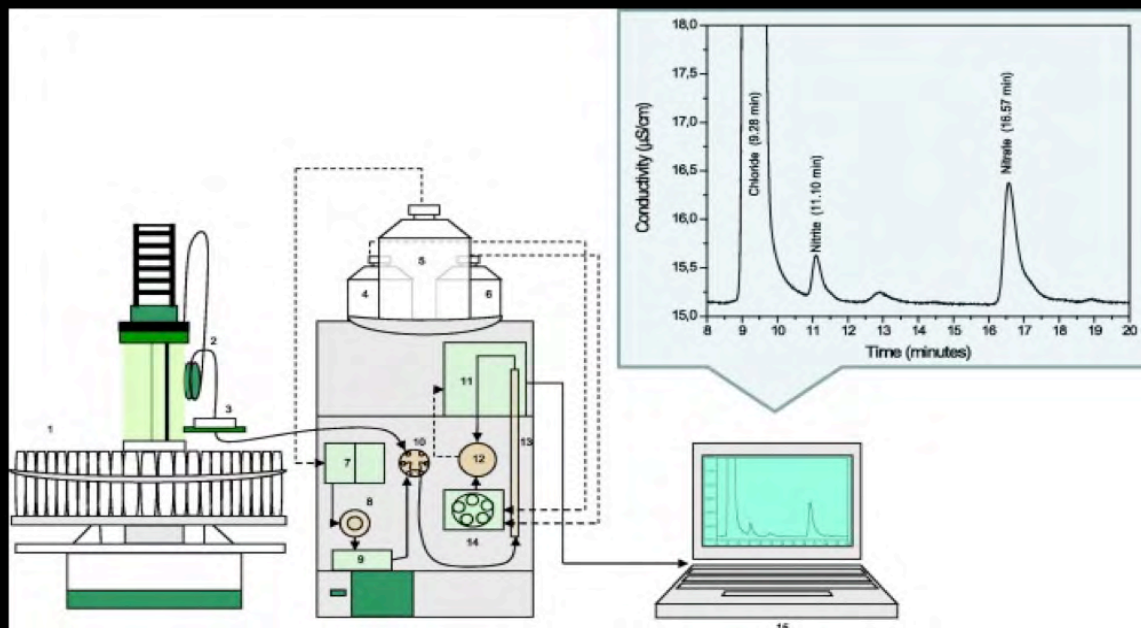


## Chloride Analysis



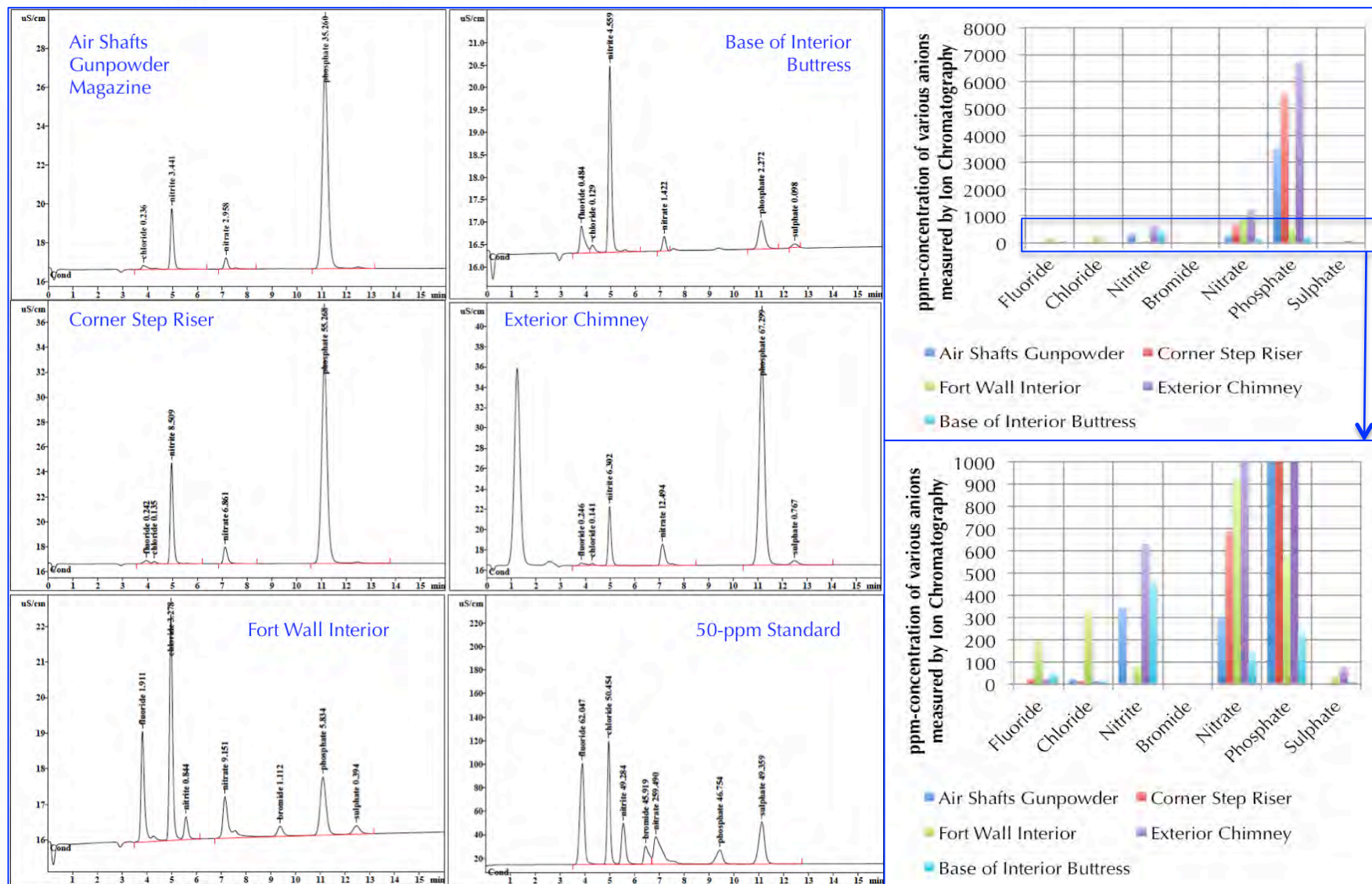


# Ion Chromatography (Chloride, Sulfate, Nitrate, Phosphate Salts)





## Water-Soluble Salts in Fort Washington Mortars From Ion Chromatography





## Making Sense From XRF - Chemical - XRD – Thermal Data

Data	Method	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SiO <sub>2</sub>	XRF	69.1	75.5	74.8	65.2	68.6	57.3	65.1	62.2	67.7	63.8	51.2	69.5	78.4	1.24
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	XRF	1.65	2.3	2.22	1.45	1.61	3.46	2.84	6.16	6.89	1.55	1.91	4.22	1.72	0.913
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	XRF	1.43	2.18	1.49	1.37	1.75	2.13	2.19	2.14	2.15	2.26	3.07	1.35	1.01	1.16
CaO	XRF	14.4	9.33	4.49	11.8	14.5	17.8	14.1	14.1	12.3	12.0	13.6	12.2	9.84	36.7
MgO	XRF	1.38	1.72	3.06	3.31	1.47	1.44	1.23	4.02	1.26	0.637	1.48	2.81	3.77	ND
Na <sub>2</sub> O	XRF	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	1.25	1.4	ND	ND	2.85	0.093	ND
K <sub>2</sub> O	XRF	0.507	0.588	0.111	0.099	0.239	0.738	0.865	2.06	2.27	0.315	0.56	0.917	0.101	0.598
TiO <sub>2</sub>	XRF	0.188	0.239	0.114	0.127	0.37	0.604	0.578	0.2	0.155	0.435	0.955	0.112	ND	0.094
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	XRF	0.046	0.127	0.103	0.042	0.049	0.081	0.101	0.081	0.087	0.026	0.012	0.292	0.044	0.226
SO <sub>3</sub>	XRF	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.907	0.456	0.1	0.625	ND	4.55	6.63	0.298	0.038	0.489
Balance	XRF	11.6	8.34	14	16.9	10.5	16	12.8	7.16	6.06	14.4	20.5	5.42	4.95	57.8
LOI @ 110°C 550°C 950°C	Wet	4.0	1.8	2.7	4.6	2.7	8.9	4.5	0.6	-	0.39	1.90	-	-	4.8
		3.4	2.8	4.9	5.4	2.4	3.7	2.2	2.8	-	2.00	4.10	-	-	8.6
		8.6	6.1	3.8	8.0	10.1	3.9	8.0	5.2	-	7.20	7.40	-	-	28.9
Acid- Insoluble Residue (%)	Wet	68.6	74.7	76.3	64.3	63.9	57.8	66.8	65.5	-	74.4	62.5	-	-	0.67
		52.4	53.9	-	-	-	53.7	61.8	-	-			-	-	-
Soluble Silica, wt. %	Wet	3.33	2.13	8.55	7.54	9.21	11.67	7.37	-	-			-	-	-
Quartz	XRD	85.2	88.5	96.6	93.8	82.5	91.7	83.0	-	-	66.9	63.2	-	-	2.8
	TGA/ DSC	57.4	73.0	83.5	56.0	46.3	37.2	49.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calcite	XRD	14.8	11.5	3.4	6.2	17.5	8.3	17.0	-	-	15.7	29.5	-	-	26.2
	TGA/ DSC	14.5	14.3	4.7	12.9	13.8	4.0	14.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.4

Original (lime) mortars of  
Fort Washington

Pointing (cement) mortars of  
Fort Washington

Rosendale  
12M  
BioMix  
35

Historic  
Non-  
hydraulic  
Lime mortar

Historic  
NC-  
Lime  
mortar

Fort  
Sumter

Fort  
Moultrie

Fort  
Zachary  
Taylor



# Mix Calculations – From Petrography, Chemical, Thermal Data

## Steps Followed During Laboratory Testing of Hardened Mortar

### STEP 1

Visual Examinations  
Photographs  
Mortar Petrography

- Sand Type
- Sand Mineralogy, Microstructure
- Sand grain-size distribution
- Sand size, shape, color, gradation, distribution, soundness, reactivity
- Binder Mineralogy
- Binder Type(s)
- Mortar Type

All from

- Optical Microscopy
- SEM-EDS
- XRD

### STEP 2

Mortar Chemistry

- Acid-digestion for acid-insoluble residue content (siliceous component of sand; silt and clay residue in a mortar with calcareous sand)
- Wet chemistry (Cold-HCl and hot-NaOH digestion) followed by instrumental analysis (XRF, AAS, ICP) for soluble silica content of mortar
- Instrumental analysis (XRF, AAS, or ICP) for bulk oxide compositions of mortar
- Free and Combined Water, & Carbonation from Losses on Ignition

### STEP 3

Mortar Mineralogy from

- X-ray diffraction (for sand content, salts, clay, secondary deposits, binder mineralogy, etc.)
- Thermal analysis (hydrous phases, CSH, sulfates, hydroxides, e.g., brucite, portlandite, carbonates, e.g., fine-grained carbonated paste, coarse calcite, dolomite, etc.)

### STEP 4

Methods of calculations of relative volumes of sand and binders

Assumed Compositions of the Binder Components

- Lime
- Historic Binder
- Portland Cement
- Masonry Cement
- Slag Cement
- Natural Cement

Assumed Densities of Mortar Ingredients

### STEP 5

Calculations of mix proportions of mortar from determined compositions of mortar and assumed compositions and densities of sand and binder

- Non-hydraulic Lime : Sand
- Hydraulic Lime : Sand
- Natural Cement : Sand
- Natural Cement : Lime : Sand
- Portland Cement : Lime : Sand
- Masonry Cement : Sand
- Final Mortar Type

Petrography → Chemistry → XRD, Thermal → Assumptions → Mix Calculations





## Mix Calculations Of Modern Masonry Mortars

## Problems in Mix Calculations of Historic Mortars

- Alterations
- Unknown Binder Composition
- Pozzolans

Binders and Sand	Assumed Compositions and Methods of Calculation	Assumed Bulk Density (lbs./ft <sup>3</sup> )
High-Calcium Non-hydraulic Lime	[CO <sub>2</sub> data from loss on ignition at 950°C divided by 0.594], where 0.594 is ratio of molecular weights of CO <sub>2</sub> to Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub> i.e. 44/74.09	40
Magnesian Non-hydraulic Lime	[100 times (brucite content in mortar from TGA/DSC/5.8)], assuming magnesian lime has 71% CaO and 4% MgO, or 5.8% brucite, since ratio of molecular weights of brucite to MgO (58.32 / 40.32) is 1.447	40
Dolomitic Non-hydraulic Lime	[100 times (brucite content in mortar from TGA or DSC divided by 42)], assuming dolomitic lime has 41% CaO and 29% MgO, or 42% brucite, since ratio of molecular weights of brucite to MgO (58.32 / 40.32) is 1.447	40
Calcitic or Magnesian Hydraulic Lime	[100 times (soluble silica in mortar/0.07] assuming hydraulic lime has 7% SiO <sub>2</sub> , or average SiO <sub>2</sub> content calculated from SEM-EDS data of paste	40
Dolomitic Hydraulic Lime	[100 times (soluble silica in mortar/0.07] assuming hydraulic lime has 7% SiO <sub>2</sub> , or average SiO <sub>2</sub> content calculated from SEM-EDS data of paste Or [100 times (brucite content in mortar from TGA/DSC/38)], assuming lime has 38% CaO and 26% MgO, or 38% brucite, since ratio of molecular weights of brucite to MgO (58.32 / 40.32) is 1.447	40
Portland Cement in Cement-Lime Mortar	100 × [Soluble silica in mortar / 21.0], assuming 21% silica in Portland cement	94
Calcitic Lime in Portland Cement-Lime Mortar	Lime content = 1.322 × CaO assignable to Lime, which is [CaO content of Mortar – (CaO assignable to portland cement, which is portland cement content × 0.635, assuming 63.5% CaO in portland cement)], where the factor 1.322 comes from ratio of molecular weights of Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub> to CaO i.e. 74.09/56.03	40
Dolomitic Lime in Portland Cement-Lime Mortar	100 times (brucite content in mortar from TGA/DSC/42)], assuming dolomitic lime has 41% CaO and 29% MgO, or 42% brucite, since ratio of molecular weights of brucite to MgO (58.32 / 40.32) is 1.447	40
Slag Cement	100 × [Soluble silica in mortar / 27.0], assuming 27% silica in slag cement, or average SiO <sub>2</sub> content determined from SEM-EDS data	90
Natural Cement	100 × [Soluble silica in mortar / 20.0], assuming 20% silica in natural cement, or average SiO <sub>2</sub> content determined from SEM-EDS data	75
Masonry Cement	(i) 100 – [Sand + Total Water], if sand is all siliceous and hence sand content is obtained directly from the acid-insoluble residue content; (ii) PC content (from the soluble silica data) divided by factor 0.50, 0.66, or 0.75 with an assumed masonry cement type of N, S, or M, respectively. MC Type (M, S, N) is determined from PC/MC = 0.75 (for M), 0.66 (for S), or 0.50 (for N) – if sand has calcareous component	70 (Type N) 75 (Type S) 80 (Type M)
Gypsum Plaster	Gypsum content from XRD or thermal analysis times 0.843 (ratio of molecular weight of plaster to gypsum)	70
Sand	If sand contains acid-soluble component (carbonates), Sand content = 100 – [Total Binder + Total Water from LOI to 550°C i.e. free plus hydrated water];  If sand has no acid-soluble component (i.e. all siliceous sand) Sand content is directly obtained from the acid-insoluble residue content	80



## Mix Calculations

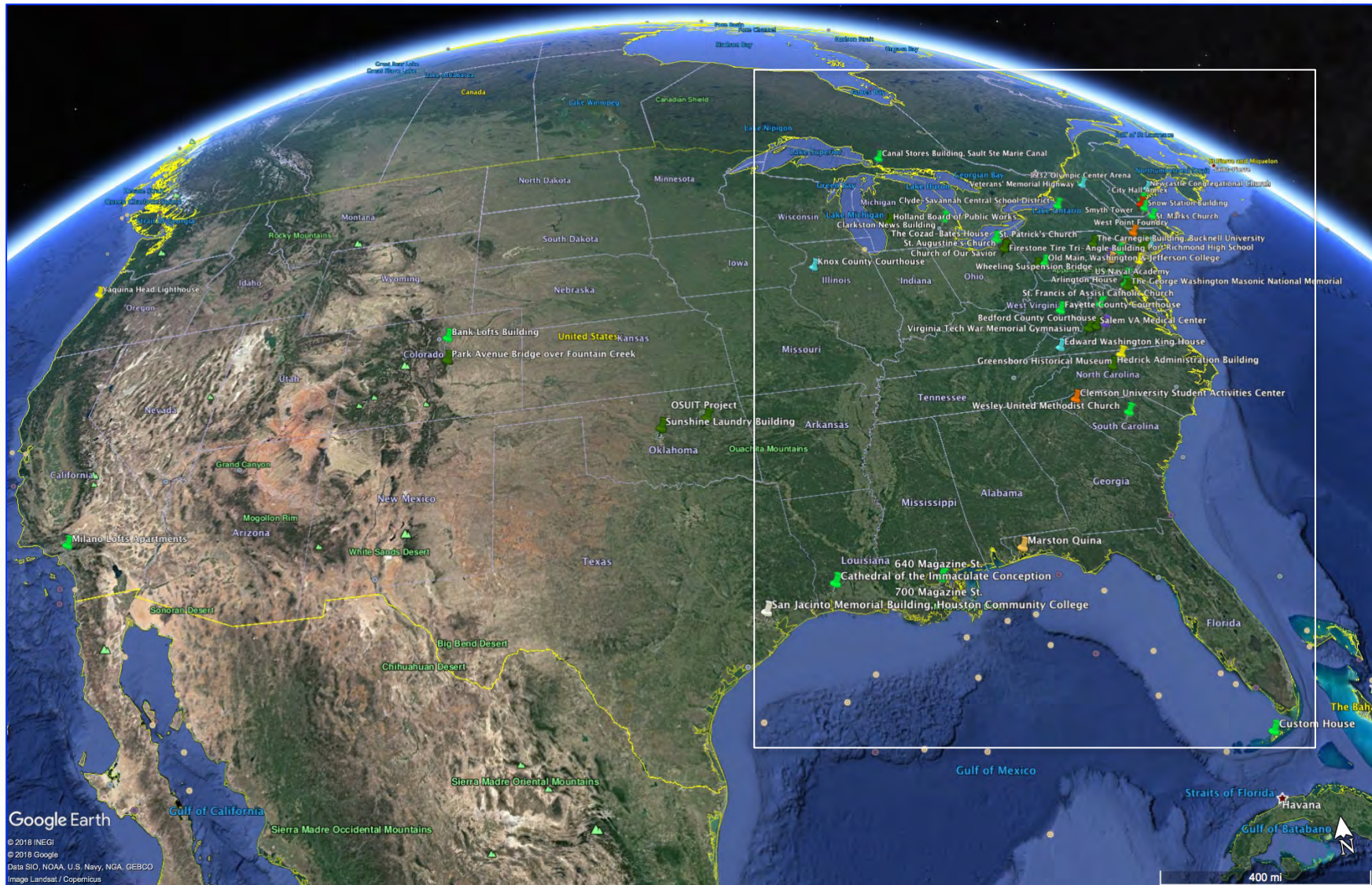
Locations	Fort Wall Interior	Base of Interior Buttress	Interior Chimney	Stone Masonry
Mortar Type	Least Altered <i>Hydraulic Lime – Silica Sand Mortar</i>	Moderately Altered <i>Hydraulic Lime – Silica Sand Mortar</i>	Highly altered <i>Hydraulic Lime – Silica Sand Mortar</i>	Highly altered <i>Hydraulic Lime – Silica Sand Mortar</i>
Calculated Hydraulic Lime: Sand, by volume	1-part lime to 2.2-part sand	1-part lime to 2.0-part sand	1-part lime to 1.8-part sand	1-part lime to 1.5-part sand
Proposed Lime-to-Sand Proportions, by Volume	<b><i>1-part hydraulic lime to 2-part sand, by volume</i></b>			
Suggested Pointing Mortars	BioMix 35 or 50 (Std. White to Std. Buff variety to try and match), or, 1-part BioLime NHL 3.5 (Buff to White variety to mix and match) to 2 to 2.5-part silica sand			

Locations	Exterior Chimney	Corner Step Riser Terri Plane	Air Shafts Gunpowder Magazine
Mortar Type	Slag Cement – Lime – Silica Sand Mortar	Blended Cement (Portland cement, Fly Ash) – Lime – Limestone fines – Silica Sand Mortar	Masonry Cement (Portland cement, lime, limestone fines) – Silica Sand Mortar
Calculated Binder: Sand, by volume	1 : 2.3	1 : 2.2	1 : 2.2
Proposed Binder-to-Sand Proportions, by Volume	<b><i>1-part binder to 2½-part sand, by volume</i></b>		
Suggested Repointing Mortars	Slag cement – Lime Mortar; ASTM C 270 Type N or S Cement-Lime Mortar; Natural Cement-Lime Mortar	ASTM C 270 Type S Cement-Lime Mortar	ASTM C 270 Type N Masonry Cement Mortar



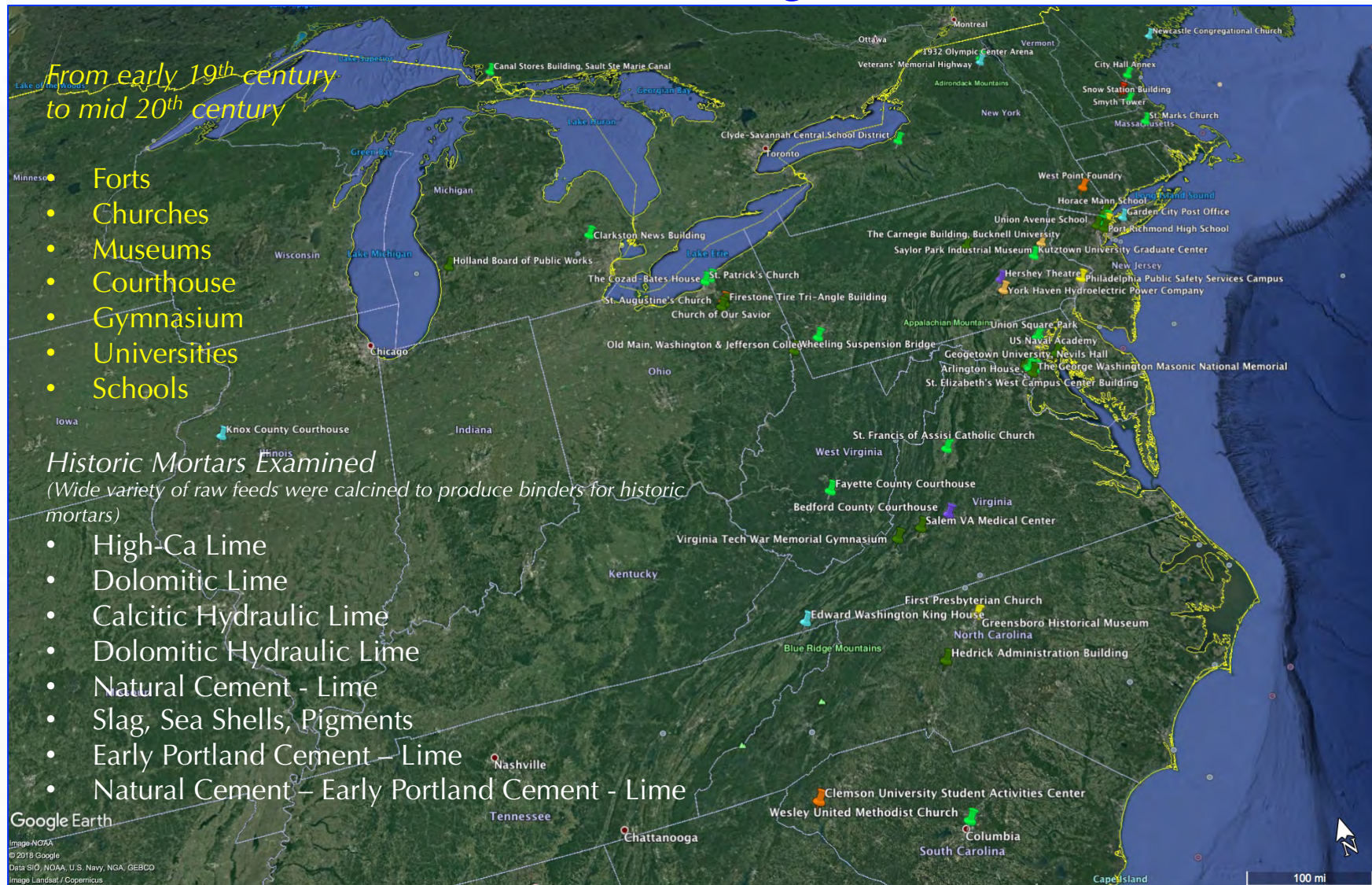


## CMC's Historic Mortar Testing from East to West Coasts





## CMC's Historic Mortar Testing From the East Coast





## CMC's Historic Mortar Testing From Various Forts



Fort Sumter (Charleston, SC)  
*Natural cement concrete*  
*Natural cement – lime mortar, circa 1850*



Fort Mott (Pennsville, NJ)  
*Natural cement – lime mortar, circa 1872*



Fort Jackson (Columbia, SC)  
*Masonry cement pointing mortar, circa 2009*



Fort Moultrie (Sullivan's Island, SC)  
*Dolomitic lime mortar, circa 1812*



Fort Zachary Taylor East (Key West, FL)  
*Natural cement – lime - beach sand mortar, circa 1845*



Fort Washington (Maryland)  
*Hydraulic lime mortar, circa early 1800s*

Think



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Testing  
Of  
Historic  
Mortars

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**Mike Edison**  
Edison Coatings,  
Inc.

"CMC, Inc. is an excellent resource for petrographic analysis of historic mortars. Mortar analysis for historic buildings must go beyond just understanding the components of the mortar to understanding how those components are contributing to the success or failure of that mortar over time. This is where CMC, Inc. succeeds in guiding architects towards the right restoration mortar mix. The reports are thorough yet concise with reliable turn-around times. Dr. Jana is always willing to discuss the findings and his clients can count on his expertise."

**Amanda Edwards**  
Sr. Architectural Conservator

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