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Lightweight EIFS Panel Installation Process

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Pre-existing building



Blower door testing was conducted to measure pre-retrofit air tightness. A post-retrofit test will also be conducted.



Prep work includes removing an unused chimney and building out the roof overhangs at the gable ends to accommodate the four-inch-thick panels.



The second floor deck is cut back to allow panels to pass behind, removing a potential thermal bridge.



The siding on the second floor is removed, revealing the water resistive barrier beneath. Protruding brickwork (part of an original façade design treatment) were also broken off on the first floor.



The water resistive barrier on the second floor has been removed and the first floor brick coated with a liquid applied water resistive barrier. The seams of the second floor sheathing are taped and coated.



The surface of the second floor sheathing is coated with the liquid applied water resistive barrier.



Knocking off the protruding bricks left small gaps in the façade which are filled with spray foam.



The next step is to apply the panels. Panels will be field-notched around brick window sills.



Measuring the panel for notching around the window sill.



Cutting the notch with a circular saw.



Removing some foam from the back of the panel to accommodate the sill.



The adhesive is mixed on-site.



Applying the adhesive to the back of a panel using a notched trowel. Vertical notches allow any water that gets behind the panels to drain down to exit at the bottom of the wall.



The lightweight panels are lifted into place by hand.



Pressing the panel to the wall.



Metal tabs extend about $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edge of the panel. These are screwed to the wall to provide temporary support while the adhesive sets.



An opening is being cut into this panel to accommodate a light fixture.



The panel is put in place with the opening over the light fixture location.



The electrical wires will be pulled through the opening and connected to the light fixture which will be fastened through the panel into the wall behind.



A panel over a window is placed and leveled.



The panel below the window is installed.



Backer rod is installed in the joints between panels.



Sealant is applied over the backer rod – masking tape prevents sealant from getting on the panels,



Panels are also made with openings to accommodate small windows and other penetrations. The edges of the panels are pre-finished at the factory.



This side of the building is nearly complete. All that remains is a few small panels, joint sealant and small pieces that will cover the brick returns and sills at the lower floor windows and doors.