

visit**bloomington**.com





Contributions by Jim Owens, Indiana Limestone Institute; Visit Bloomington; Dr. Nelson R. Shaffer, Brian D. Keith, Walter Gray, Indiana Geological Survey; Dr. Elizabeth Vallance, Indiana University; and Ron Bell, author.

Photographs by John M. Day and Barbara T. Hill, Indiana Geological Survey, Visit Bloomington, Lawrence Co. Tourism.

Edited by Elizabeth Vallance, Indiana University and Deborah DeChurch, Indiana Geological Survey

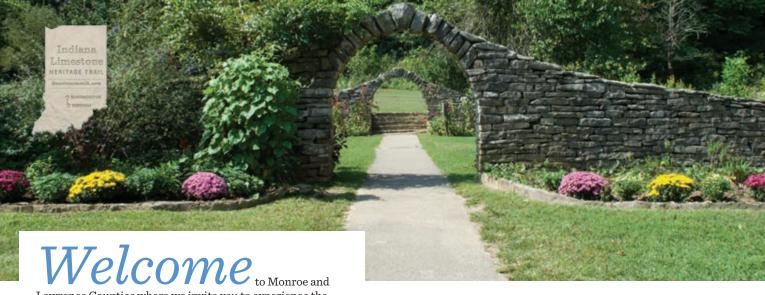
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Indiana Limestone

HERITAGE TRAIL





Lawrence Counties where we invite you to experience the Indiana Limestone Heritage Trail. We are very proud of the ongoing legacy of Indiana limestone, particularly the local stone corridor, known as Salem Limestone, which is 35 miles long and 10 miles wide, and formed from fossils in an ancient inland sea.

Many of America's famous buildings were built of stone quarried from the Salem Limestone. This stone—thick, uniform, and pure—is a preferred building material because of its warm neutral color, consistent fine quality, ease of shaping, and proven durability.





"The nation's building stone" has been used in magnificent commercial, government, and college buildings, including the Empire State Building, Chicago's Tribune Tower, the National Cathedral, the Pentagon, the Immigration Center on Ellis Island, and on many college campuses and twenty-seven U.S. state capitols.





 ${\it Using this Brochure}$

This brochure will help you navigate the sights and amenities of the limestone belt of southern Indiana, and includes information about the geology, the limestone industry, and where to see examples of the beauty of Indiana limestone.

Monroe and Lawrence Counties have forged a partnership to educate visitors about our proud limestone industry heritage. From monuments to walking tours, restaurants to state parks, this guide provides the visitor with many opportunities to learn more about Indiana limestone and its long history (and bright future) in south-central Indiana.

This self-guided tour features limestone sites where you are welcome to enter and explore, including parks, cemeteries, public streets, museums, and many restaurants and other businesses.

Sites are listed in roughly north-to-south order along the limestone trail, from McCormick's Creek State Park in southeastern Owen County, through Bloomington and Indiana University in Monroe County, and through Oolitic and Bedford, to Mitchell and Spring Mill State Park in Lawrence County.

Note that this guide also lists some "windshield sites"
marked with a on the map listing; these sites are
on private property and are visible only from the road,
and include the quarries themselves. The massive piles
of cut rectangular blocks ("grout piles") beside the roads
throughout the region mark the visible edges of both
working and long-abandoned quarries.

• Enjoy the private sites as windshield sights, or for a bird'seye view of quarry country, go to Google Earth (*www.earth. google.com*), type in the names of towns listed here, and look for rectangular greenish water. Those are the quarries, and you can zoom in to view them in more detail.

• Please note that all quarries and the mills that shape the quarried stone are on private

property, can be dangerous, and are not accessible to the public except on scheduled tours.

 Enjoy the wide range of limestone-related attractions listed in this guide, and please come back often!





LIMESTONE MONTH:

"Limestone Month,"
held annually in June,
celebrates southern
Indiana's limestone
heritage with tours, carving
workshops, exhibitions,

and other special activities throughout Monroe and Lawrence Counties. For more information, go to limestonemonth.com.



Limestone – the geologic story



Formation

Indiana limestone, also called Bedford Stone, is named Salem Limestone by geologists. It graces some of the most enduring and recognized buildings in the United States. Amazingly, this massive, solid, and durable stone is composed

of untold numbers of tiny, fragile shells formed by organisms more than 300 million years ago. During the Mississippian Period of geologic time, Indiana was located near the equator and was covered by a vast shallow tropical ocean that extended over much of the present-day United States.

The prolific life in this tropical sea generated a thick accumulation of carbonate shells that storms and waves reduced to sandsized particles and washed free of clays and most

other



impurities. Shell debris was cemented together with calcite to become what geologists call the Salem Limestone, so named because of exposures near the town of Salem, Indiana. Look at a piece of this limestone closely and you will see the preserved shells of this ancient life.

The Salem is one of many layers of stone created during the long Mississippian Period. The Mississippian Sea existed for tens of millions of years, forming a stack of various limestone beds. Two sets of beds, the Ramp Creek Formation and Harrodsburg Limestone, pre-dated the Salem and

lie upon rocks formed in an even older river delta system. The Ramp Creek and lower part of the Harrodsburg are laden with the quartz-rich geodes prized by collectors. These older delta sediments (called the Borden Group) consist of fine-grained shale, siltstone, and sandstone rocks that form the beautiful

hilly topography of Brown County and eastern Monroe and Lawrence Counties. This older siltstone and sandstone is used on many buildings of the region and is known locally as Brown County stone. These three



units (the Borden Group, the Ramp Creek Formation, and the Harrodsburg Limestone), along with the Salem Limestone, are exposed in the tall road-cut exposures along S.R. 37 near the Monroe Reservoir Dam exit and in the impressive spillway cut at the dam.

Above the Salem Limestone lies the St. Louis Limestone, and above that lies the Ste. Genevieve Limestone. Portions of these top two formations are quarried for crushed stone aggregate.

The high-quality Salem Limestone is quarried in a narrow belt approximately 3 to 10 miles wide and 35 miles long running from Stinesville in northern Monroe County to Bedford in central Lawrence County. The map shows the narrow band where Salem Limestone is exposed at the surface. It is the Salem that provides the nation's premiere dimension stone (building stone).

Today there are ten active dimension stone quarries in Monroe County and four in Lawrence County operated by several different companies. These quarries produce almost 118,000 cubic yards (or 238,950 tons) of limestone annually.

Quality

Thick, relatively uniform-appearing beds in the Salem contain the most suitable building stone. Its quality and value are affected by the size of the fossil shells, the color of the stone, the presence of



fractures and veins, and the degree of uniformity; uniform, fine-grained, buff-colored stone commands the greatest price in the market.

Gray-colored stone is less valuable. Exposure to ground water oxidizes trace amounts of impurities and changes the gray color to the more valuable buff color. Building stone quality or appearance can be affected by original features of sedimentation such as crossbedding, coarse-grained zones, stromatolites (layered algal forms), hard grounds, shaley layers, and trails of organisms, as well as other less common



features. Later geologic processes have formed stylolites or "crow's feet," mud seams, grikes (vertical solution features), and color variations that affect the stone's appearance and value. Because of its overall chemical purity (97 percent pure calcium carbonate), Salem Limestone is in demand not only for construction but also as a chemical raw material for industrial uses, including removing sulfur from coal-fired power plants.

The Terrain

Even though the stone strata in Lawrence and Monroe Counties look flat and level, they actually slope down towards the southwest at the rate of about 30 to 40 feet per mile. Erosion has exposed older Borden Group to the east, and the younger St. Louis are at the surface west of the Salem belt—and the topography varies considerably.

Limestone is slowly dissolved by groundwater over long periods of time, and so millions of years of weathering and dissolution of the limestone have produced the rolling landscape of central Monroe and Lawrence Counties. This landscape, called karst topography, is dotted with sinkholes, springs, and beautiful and mysterious caves. The area has well-known examples of karst features including several parks, nature preserves, commercial caverns, and National Park Service Natural Landmarks.

The Indiana limestone belt in Monroe and Lawrence Counties has been an important component of the economy in the area for 150 years, and is an integral part of the region's history, culture, and scenic beauty; it has also played an important role in building America.

The limestone industry – a short history

The First 100 Years

Commercial quarrying began in the 1820s; early settlers used limestone for cabin sills and foundations. The first known commercial quarry was opened in Stinesville (Monroe County) in 1827, by Richard Gilbert. The first quarry in Lawrence County was probably the Blue Hole Quarry, opened by Dr. Winthrop Foote in the early 1830s.

Twenty years later, when railroads came to the area, transport of stone to distant locations became possible. Demand for stone, especially the superior Indiana limestone, increased in the 1870s after fires in Boston and Chicago destroyed structures made of wood. The number of quarries doubled between 1889 and 1895, to twenty-five in Lawrence County alone.

Limestone was used nationally and worldwide through the 1920s and even through the Depression, as orders for ongoing federal projects kept the quarries and mills busy.

Early steady demands on the quarries and mills brought workers and their families to the Bedford/Bloomington area in the late 19th century, largely from England, Scotland, and Italy, some stopping to work in the granite industry in Vermont on the way. Some of the earliest "channelers" came from Belgium. Channelers worked as cutters in the quarries, carvers in the mills, on the railroads and in the towns that supported the industry. Their tombstones are distinctive in area cemeteries, and their descendants now populate the entire limestone region.





The Modern Era

Technological advances in both quarrying and milling helped the local limestone industry to compete against newer man-made building materials such as steel and glass; the early skyscrapers clad in limestone (such as the Empire State Building and Chicago's Tribune Tower) kept the industry vibrant.

World War II saw a slowdown in demand for limestone (the Pentagon was an exception), and postwar modern architectural styles featuring steel and glass cut the demand for stone enough that many quarries and mills did not re-open after the war.

For those that remained, the postwar construction boom on college campuses was a mainstay. Donors preferred to fund magnificent buildings of limestone rather than other materials. Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Vassar, University of Chicago, and our own Indiana University are clad in local stone.

The oil embargo of 1973 dealt a blow to the modern Bauhaus/ International Style of sleek glass buildings that were inefficient to heat, and stone buildings became fashionable again, with Indiana limestone the reliable stone of choice.



The Limestone Corridor

As you travel through limestone country, be alert to the many monuments and structures made of limestone in every town. It is impossible to list them all here, but watch for limestone used in public buildings, private homes both grand and humble, limestone porches on houses made of other materials, stacked-stone walls, yard ornaments, tombstones, the "grout piles" of huge cut stones at the perimeters of active and abandoned quarries, and wood-frame railroad trestles that bore the trains carrying the limestone to the world.

Starting in the north...



1. McCormick's Creek State Park

Stone for the basement of the Indiana State Capitol was quarried here in southeastern Owen County, near the border with Monroe County; this quarry is accessible from park trails. The Capitol was completed with stone from elsewhere, because so much was required and the railroad bridge over the White River repeatedly washed away. The quarry was closed and its equipment moved elsewhere.

250 McCormick's Creek Rd., Spencer (912) 829-2235 mccormickscreekstatepark.com

Monroe County & the Bloomington Area



2. Bloomington & Monroe County Visitors Center

The Visitors Center provides information about attractions and amenities throughout Monroe County and elsewhere in Indiana, including paper copies of this brochure and a brochure about area

museums. Downloadable copies of both brochures are available at the Website.

2855 N. Walnut Street, Bloomington (800) 800-0037 visitbloomington.com/limestone

3. Stinesville

Downtown Stinesville has several limestone buildings, and the town hosts an annual "Quarry Days" festival in September. The area's first commercial quarry, which opened in 1827, is 1/4-mile south of town. Several small quarries opened in the area and their stone was used both



locally and elsewhere. One 1854 quarry in Stinesville had a steam stone mill with a six-gang rocker shaft saw. Stone blasted from the hillside with black gunpowder was hauled by teams of oxen on carts with wheels 12 feet tall; this stone, pure white when cured, was shipped to Louisville as "White River Stone."



4. Oliver Winery

Indiana's oldest and largest winery, the grounds feature a beautiful limestone Stonehenge-esque sculpture at its entrance, visible from State Road 37.

8024 N. Highway 37, Bloomington (812) 876-5800 • www.oliverwinery.com

5. Limestone Symposium

This annual event, held over a threeweek period in June, provides an opportunity for carvers of all talent



levels to work on site at Bybee Stone. This event also features open-house workshops that give the public an opportunity to observe carvers in action.

6293 N. Mathews Dr., Bloomington limestonesymposium.com



6. Junction of State Roads 37 & 46

This is the Hunter Valley region, with visible remains of several quarries that opened in the 1890s. Look for the stone piles on both sides of S.R. 46 just west of S.R. 37,

with the typical green pools of rainwater at the bottoms of the quarries. In 1899, 450 rail cars filled with stone were shipped from quarries in this area to build the Immigration Center at Ellis Island (New York City).

7. Bloomington Brewing Company (BBC)

Southern Indiana's first micro-brewery and first post-Prohibition brewpub has an impressive bar made of limestone. The stone for the top and face pieces of the bar, installed in 1995, was quarried



by B. G. Hoadley Quarries in Bloomington. Lennie's, a favorite local restaurant, is adjacent to the BBC.

1795 E. 10th Street, Bloomington (812) 323-2112 • bbc.bloomington.com



8. Indiana University Campus

IU is home to one of the largest concentrations of Indiana limestone buildings in the world, dating from the 1890s to the present; many buildings boast carvings and adornments of local Indiana limestone. The buildings are not individually listed in this brochure, but they are obvious on a walk through the beautiful campus. For comprehensive IU limestone information, see "Follow the Limestone: A Walking Tour of Indiana University," by Brian

Keith, published by the Indiana Geological Survey and Visit Bloomington, available at either location and downloadable from both Websites.

igs.indiana.edu • visitbloomington.com/limestone

9. Herman B Wells Library

Designed (some say) to resemble a stack of books and featured at the end of the 1979 movie "Breaking Away."

1320 E. 10th St., Bloomington





10. Indiana Geological Survey

The diorama in the lobby of the IGS depicts a working quarry where large blocks were cut from bedrock using diamond saws. A walking tour brochure detailing the architecture and

history of 14 buildings is available in the IGS Bookstore.

611 N. Walnut Grove Ave., Bloomington (812) 855-7636 • igs.indiana.edu

11. Indiana Memorial Union Biddle Hotel & Conference Center

This enormous structure is one of the largest student unions in the world. The building is a wonderful testament to the possibilities of limestone architecture. Within the magnificent limestone walls of the Indiana



900 E. 7th Street on the IU campus (800) 209-8145 • imu.indiana.edu/hotel



12. The Old Crescent

The original buildings of the old campus showcase the limestone architecture used throughout. There's even a small 1850s quarry located in the woods

here. The Sample Gates serve as a monumental welcome to the visitors of the Indiana University campus.

Near Indiana & Kirkwood Avenues, Bloomington

13. Monroe County History Center

This museum, housed in the historic limestone Carnegie Library building, has a permanent exhibit on the history of Indiana limestone, with photos, tools and equipment, a video, and a small diorama of a working



quarry. The Museum Store sells the video, books on limestone history, and limestone souvenirs.

202 E. 6th Street, Bloomington (812) 332-2517 • monroehistory.org



14. Uptown Café

This Bloomington restaurant (just off the Courthouse Square) has a permanent exhibit of limestone art.

102 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington (812) 339-0900 • the-uptown.com

15. Monroe County Courthouse

Restored in the 1980s, the Courthouse celebrated its 100th anniversary with a new copper dome in 2008 and is a remarkable example of the use of local limestone. A walking tour can be downloaded from the city's Website.



301 N. College Ave., Bloomington (812) 349-2550

bloomington.in.gov/historic-monroe-county-courthouse

14



16. Bloomington B-Line Trail & Rail Trails

The B-Line Trail, a linear park along a railroad bed that runs through downtown Bloomington, is more than 3 miles long. The trail features significant public art installations, including a 20-foot-tall limestone sculpture of a table and chairs

entitled "Bloomington Banquet" by Indiana artisan Dale Enochs. Another featured sculpture is "Figured Base," a limestone music stand by Michael Van Vooren, at the corner of 6th and Morton Streets. The B-Line connects to two existing rail trails, over 2 miles long each, to the south of downtown. These trails pass working and abandoned limestone quarries, allowing visitors a chance to walk or bike close to the outer edges of quarries and their grout piles.

(812) 349-3700 • bloomington.in.gov/b-line



17. WonderLab Museum of Science, Health, and Technology

Explore the ancient ocean environment from which limestone formed. Several interactive exhibits at this award-winning science museum focus on the fossil clues to this ancient environment found in limestone today.

308 W. 4th Street, Bloomington (812) 337-1337 • wonderlab.org



This historic cemetery features many limestone grave markers in a tranquil setting; Hoagy Carmichael and Alfred Kinsey are some of its famous residents. Download a walking tour from www.bloomington.in.gov/rose-hill-cemetery.



1100 W. 4th Street, Bloomington (812) 349-3700



19. Homewood Suites by Hilton

On Bloomington's west side, the Hilton is proud of its "Home Is Where the Art Is" exhibit in the hotel lobby, featuring a carved limestone sculpture by local artist Michael Van Vooren.

1399 Liberty Drive, Bloomington (812) 323-0500 • bloomington.homewoodsuites.com



20. Woolery Mill

Easily visible on the north side of Tapp Road in Bloomington just east of S.R. 37 is an ongoing restoration and renovation project that is transforming a former working mill, opened in the 1920s, into a rentable space for indoor and outdoor events. Much care is being taken to replicate the mill where local limestone was carved to specification for building orders nationwide. To date, the site has hosted meetings, a craft beer festival, and other events.

2200 W. Tapp Rd., Bloomington



Alliance of Bloomington Museums

Many Bloomington museums feature limestone exhibits or architectural details. Look for information about

the museums listed here as well as several others. Copies of the Bloomington Museum Guide are available at the Visitors Center and all area museums, and can also be downloaded at *visitbloomington.com/museums*. Check area museums for temporary special exhibits.

Lawrence County - the Bedford & Mitchell Areas



21. Lawrence County Visitors Center

Provides information and directions to area attractions including all sites listed in this guide, as well as selfguided driving tours throughout Lawrence County.

533 West Main Street, Mitchell (800) 798-0769 • limestonecountry.com

22. Oolitic

Originally named Limestone in the early 1890s, the town was renamed in 1901. "Oolitic" refers to the tiny oolites, egg-shaped fossils, that are found in some limestone beds. Oolitic was built adjacent to several quarries owned by different companies, starting with the 1887 Kramer Quarry on a 180-acre farm near the junction of Main Street and S.R. 37 (now filled in and used by Indiana Limestone



Company as stone storage). Look for the old Oolitic High School with the steam channeler out front (once used to cut stone blocks in the quarries) the 1948 statue of comic strip character Joe Palooka in front of the Town Hall, the small stone jail northwest of the stop light, 1920s limestone houses on South Lafayette Street, and various commercial limestone buildings.



23. Land of Limestone exhibit at Oakland City University's Bedford Campus

This 1926 building, now on the National Register of Historic Places, was originally the home of the Indiana

Limestone Company. Go in to see the Land of Limestone exhibits in the hallways of the main and lower levels, and note the carved limestone fireplace in the room to the right of the I Street (main) entrance.

405 I St., at 4th St., Bedford (812) 279-8126

24.14th Street

This residential street is rich in limestone architectural details. Look for carved stone panels, porch columns, and various porch railing designs, as well as limestone sidewalk panels, street curbing, property retaining walls, and various house trimmings.



25. Limestone Café

Located just off the square in Bedford, the café features photos of the area's limestone heritage. Event space is available in "The Quarry on 16th" next door.

1015 16th Street, Bedford (812) 279-0499

26. Bedford City Square

Most of the square showcases Indiana limestone and many of the stone structures are from 1910–20s, but the east side has some 1890s stone buildings. The Masonic Temple on the north side is an example of stone pillar construction.





27. Lawrence County Museum

Located on the north side of the City Square, it includes early limestone carvings in the main gallery, and information and pictures of the industry in the research library.

929 15th St., Bedford (812) 278-8575 www.lawrencecountyhistory.org

28. Bedford Chamber of Commerce

Housed in a limestone building, it is a source of information about the area, including a printed walking tour guide to Bedford.

1116 16th St., Bedford (812) 275-4493



29. Stone Cutters Café & Roastery

Stone Cutters Café & Roastery is located on the square in downtown Bedford. The café features an extensive menu, handcrafted coffee roasted daily in-house from hand-selected beans.

919 15th St., Bedford (812) 675-8491 - stonecutterscafebedford.com



30. Foote's Tomb

Just off East 16th Street, at the intersection with D Street: turn north off 16th Street, opposite D Street, and go down the drive to the tomb. Carved out of a huge limestone boulder, the vault marks the grave of Winthrop Foote, who owned much of this valley and is considered the father of Bedford limestone development. The stone for Chicago's City Hall and Court House, the Indiana State House, and Vanderbilt's mansions in New York City came from Foote's original Blue Hole Quarry near this spot in Bedford.

31. Greenhill Cemetery

Enter the cemetery at Lincoln Avenue and 18th Street and park near the flagpole on the circle drive. The cemetery is replete with examples of limestone funerary art, many pieces carved by relatives or friends of the deceased. Notice the Baker Stone Cutters bench and the Stone Cutters statue. Explore among the monuments for personal statues and intricate limestone carvings as memorials to stone workers, their families, and children. A walking tour brochure for Greenhill Cemetery is available at the Bedford Chamber of Commerce and at the Lawrence County Visitors Center in Mitchell.



1202 18th Street, Bedford



32. Rosemount Motel

Constructed in 1906 by local stone carver Thomas Owens as his home, the motel offers clean accommodations and friendly service.

1923 M Street, Bedford (812) 275-5953 • rosemountmotel.com

33. Otis Park Band Shell

Built with WPA funds in 1939, this structure now hosts community concerts. The park is on the National Register of Historic Places.



607 Tunnelton Rd., Bedford (812) 279-9092 • otisparkgolf.com



34. Bluespring Caverns

A boat ride takes visitors along an underground river through a limestone cave.

1459 Bluespring Caverns Rd., Bedford (812) 279-9471 • bluespringcaverns.com

35. Grissom Monument

This limestone obelisk memorial to astronaut Gus Grissom (born in Mitchell in 1926) is located at City Hall in Mitchell, Indiana. Grissom was one of the seven original Project Mercury astronauts and pilot of the Liberty Bell 7 in 1961. As pilot for Gemini 3 in 1965, he was the second American to travel in outer space. The Gemini 3 space capsule is on display in the Grissom Memorial Museum at

Spring Mill State Park. In 1967, as commander of the Apollo 1 mission to the moon, Grissom perished with two other astronauts in a fire while training in the command module at Cape Kennedy. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously in 1978.

407 S. 6th Street, Mitchell



36. Spring Mill State Park

The park is the site of an 1817 working grist mill constructed of local limestone, as well as a historic cemetery with numerous limestone and whetstone markers from the early 1800s and pioneer-era

limestone kilns (pictured here).

3333 Hwy 60 East (812) 849-4129 in.gov/dnr/parklake/2968.htm



37. Spring Mill State Park Inn

Built in the late 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps of locally quarried Indiana limestone, the massive four-story inn is nestled within stately oaks and scenic hills in Spring Mill State Park. It offers a variety of cozy and comfortable lodge-type rooms, as well as a heated indoor/outdoor pool, game room, and conference facilities.

P.O. Box 68, Hwy 60 East, Mitchell (812) 849-4081 • springmillinn.com

38. Carousel Winery

The showroom features a carved limestone wine tasting bar. This site is one of the few businesses recently juried into the Indiana Artisans Development Project as an artisan site.



6058 Lawrenceport Road, Mitchell

(877) A-WINE-4-U • carouselwinery.com



39. Bishop Robert R. Roberts Memorial Center

This limestone grave marker was carved by Dave Hawkins in memory of Bishop Roberts (1778-1843), pioneer minister and circuit rider.

3036 Lawrenceport Road, Mitchell (812) 849-2805



40. Talbott Cemetery

See intricate limestone and whetstone carvings on monuments. Located about 1 mile southwest of Bono. Go past Spring Mill State Park entrance on S.R. 60 and turn left on Sportsman Club Road. Go to "T" in road, turn right. Within about 2 miles, turn left on Bono Road and follow to cemetery.



Thanks for touring Indiana's limestone corridor!

Come back often – you'll find more limestone with every visit. The history, architecture, industry, geology, and natural beauty make Monroe and Lawrence Counties a unique area to visit.

