

Collection #
P 0456

INDIANA LIMESTONE COLLECTION CA. 1910–1984

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Processed by

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18 April 2005

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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 2 boxes and 1 OVB box

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1910–1984

PROVENANCE: Multiple

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 0000.0482, 1962.0805, 2000.0737, 2000.0738, 2000.1197, 2000.1198, 2000.1201, 2001.0598, 2001.0601, 2003.0479

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Limestone is the most widely used building stone in history, used by the ancient Egyptians, Incas, and Mayas. Limestone is a sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate. There are many varieties, which vary in color, texture, and other physical characteristics, but all were created in prehistoric oceans.

Limestone found in Indiana has been divided into three general types: oolitic (composed of fine-grained, round particles), crystalline (composed of interlocking grains), and flagstone (occurring in thin slabs).

Indiana Limestone is the commercial name for dimension stone produced from the oolitic rock formation known to geologists as the Salem outcrop. During the Mississippian era, about 340 million years ago, the Salem Limestone was deposited in a shallow sea that covered much of what is now the middle of the United States. In Indiana, the greatest production of limestone occurs in the area near Bedford and Bloomington. This “stone belt” is approximately two miles wide and thirty miles long. Indiana Limestone is produced in only three counties in the state: Lawrence, Monroe, and Owen.

The harder, more crystalline limestone is found in the eastern and southeastern parts of Indiana, especially in Decatur County. Flagstone is found largely in the northern regions of the state.

Even before Indiana became a state in 1816, pioneer settlers used limestone for primitive bridge piers, door and window sills, and grave markers. In 1827 Richard Gilbert established the state’s first quarry less than a mile south of Stinesville in Monroe County. Blocks of stone were carted to nearby construction sites from Gilbert’s quarry and from others that developed in the wake of his success. Stone cutters and carvers then shaped the stones and erected them into the buildings.

In the 1870s, limestone became very popular for building because of its superior appearance, its ability to accept and retain fine detail in carving and sculpture, and its resistance to fire damage. Indiana Limestone, in particular, was in demand because of its light color, ease of cutting, large block sizes, and endless availability. The industry grew tremendously from 1885 to 1900, as more architects and builders turned away from marble and granite and toward the harder, denser, and much less expensive Indiana Limestone.

In 1881, eighty percent of Indiana Limestone block production was used in Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois. With the growth of cities and the advent of the railroads, the Hoosier stone was transported and used much more widely. By 1891 nearly every Indiana quarry sent its largest amount of limestone to New York. Hoosier stone companies actively courted architects and contractors from major cities around the country, bringing them to the state by train to attend gala promotional events. By 1900, more than one-third of the total limestone sales for building construction in the country were for Indiana Limestone. By 1920, that figure reached more than eighty percent. Many important

buildings were constructed from Indiana Limestone, including the Empire State Building, the Pentagon, the National Cathedral, and many state capitols.

The popularity of limestone fluctuated in the twentieth century in response to world events and architectural fashion. By the 1990s Indiana Limestone had a resurgence with the Post-Modern era of architecture.

Sources:

McDonald, Bill. *A Short History of Indiana Limestone*. Bedford, Ind.: Lawrence County Tourism Commission. 1995. General Collection pamphlet: TN 967 .M33 1995

Perazzo, Peggy B. "The Limestone Industry: Nature, Origin, and Uses of Limestone." *Stone Quarries and Beyond* (http://www.cagenweb.com/quarries/articles_and_books/us_geo_survey1894_limestone.html). Accessed 18 April 2005.

Thompson, Todd A. "Bedrock Geology of Indiana." Indiana Geological Survey, Indiana University (<http://igs.indiana.edu/geology/structure/bedrockgeology/index.cfm>). Accessed 18 April 2005.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This is a collection, from various sources, of photographs related to limestone. The photographs show limestone quarries, mills, machinery, carvings, and buildings constructed of limestone. Many photos include workers also. The photographs are arranged into six series, as described below.

Series 1, Quarries and Mills: This series includes scenes of quarries and mills in Decatur, Lawrence, and Monroe counties. Workers and machinery are depicted in some photos. The Decatur County photos are from around 1910, most of the Lawrence County photos are from the 1920s, and the rest are not dated.

Series 2, Channeling Machines: This series consists of a business letter from the Indiana Limestone Company dated 1929 regarding channeling machines, and two accompanying photographs.

Series 3, Workers Carving Stone: This series consists of four photos of men carving stone in Bedford (Lawrence County) in 1929.

Series 4, Stone Carvings: This series includes photos of architectural details such as capitals, columns, statues and other figures, tablets, and tympana. The carvings are for buildings at the Culver Military Academy in Indiana, and buildings in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New York, and unidentified locations. Many of these photos are from the 1950s.

Series 5, Buildings and Construction Sites: This series consists of photos of buildings during construction and completed buildings. Construction photos include a Post Office/Court House/Custom House complex in Detroit in 1933, and Trinity College Chapel in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1930–31, including some interior views. Other photos are of buildings in Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and unidentified locations. There are two postcards of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

Series 6, Photographs by Jeffrey A. Wolin: This series is composed of photos from the early 1980s of men at work in quarries and mills, other quarry and mill views, and machinery. There are also two photos of completed limestone buildings in Indianapolis: the State House and the State Library.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Quarries and Mills

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Decatur County—near St. Paul, ca. 1910: Three photos of Mead Quarry: stone crusher; stone mill; railroad track between two quarries.	Photographs, 1, Folder 1	Box
Lawrence County—Bedford, ca. 1924–29: Six photos of mill views, including carborundum wheels and planing machines, diamond jointing saw, diamond drag saw, gang saws, Salem Mill, and Dickinson Mill.	Photographs, 1, Folder 2	Box
Lawrence County—Bedford, 1929: Ten photos show men working in quarries and general quarry views, including electric channeling machines at Dark Hollow Quarry, stacking yards at Hunter Valley Quarry, P.M. & B. Quarry, cutting blocks with wires, and handling and loading blocks of stone.	Photographs, 1, Folder 3	Box
Lawrence County—Bedford, n.d.: Five photos show quarry, railroad track, exterior of building, exterior of a building in early stages of construction, and a carved column.	Photographs, 1, Folder 4	Box
Monroe County—Bloomington, n.d.: Men in B.G. Hoadley’s quarry.	Photographs, 1, Folder 5	Box
Unidentified location: half-tone print of men at unidentified quarry (courtesy: Indiana Limestone Corp.).	Photographs, 1, Folder 6	Box

Series 2: Channeling Machines

CONTENTS

Business letter from Indiana Limestone Company to St. Lawrence Marble Quarries in Gouverneur, New York, dated 1 October 1929 regarding steam and electric channeling machines and that the two photos described below were enclosed.

Photos accompanying letter described above, with the following captions: “7” Steam Ingersoll channelers from Walsh Quarry Stored at Fanning Mill 7-8-29” and “Indiana Limestone Company Ingersoll Air Electric Channeling Machines at Fanning Mill.”

CONTAINER

Photographs,
1, Folder 7

Box

Photographs,
1, Folder 8

Box

Series 3: Workers Carving Stone

CONTENTS

Four photos show men carving stone in Bedford (Lawrence County) in 1929.

CONTAINER

Photographs,
1, Folder 9

Box

Series 4: Stone Carvings

CONTENTS

Capitals, columns, etc.: Ten photos, including one of a carved capital identified as being for the Franklin Life Insurance Building in Springfield, Illinois (photo by the Starks Studio of Bloomington, Ind., 1951). Some other photos are by the Mitchell Studio and the Norbert Peace Studio, both in Bloomington, Ind. (1950, 1955, n.d.).

Statues and other figurative carvings: Fifteen photos, including one of a statue of Jesus for Zion Lutheran Church in Canton, Ohio (photo by Chas. C. Starks of Bloomington, Ind., n.d.). One photo of non-winged cherubim with fish and conch shells. Other figures include Jesus on the cross; Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; angels; other religious figures; unidentified male and female; and a carved grotesque. Photographers include Everett E. Mitchell, Norbert Peace Studio, and Chas. C. Starks, all of Bloomington, Ind. (1953, 1958, n.d.).

Tablets, tympana, etc.: Nine photos, including one of a carving for Memorial First Methodist Church in St. Charles, Illinois (photo by Norbert Peace Studio of Bloomington, Ind., n.d.), one for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cincinnati, Ohio (photo by Chas. C. Starks of Bloomington, Ind., n.d.), two for St. Williams School and Gymnasium in Cincinnati, Ohio (photos by Norbert Peace Studio of Bloomington, Ind., n.d.), one for St. Joseph Church in Lockport, New York (photo by Earl Sutherlin, 1955), two others unidentified (1955). Two photos of men looking at carvings (1956 1957).

Culver Military Academy , Culver, Indiana: Fourteen photos of stone carvings, including mascarons, capitals, and other architectural details. Most are stamped on back with “Memorial Chapel / Culver Military Academy.” Some are dated 1956.

St. Francis de Sales Church, Detroit, Michigan: Three photos of a statue and one of a painting, presumably of St. Francis de Sales (photos by Manning Bros. of Highland Park, Michigan, 1951).

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 10

Photographs, Box
1, Folder 11

Photographs, Box
1, Folder 12

Photographs, Box
1, Folder 13

Photographs, Box
1, Folder 14

Series 5: Buildings and Construction Sites

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Cincinnati, Ohio—St. Cecelia Church, n.d.: one photo of building made of variegated stone from the Bloomington Limestone Co.; architects: Crowe & Schulte.

Detroit, Michigan—U.S. Post Office, Court House, Custom House, etc., 1933: four photographs taken during construction.

Hartford, Connecticut—Trinity College Chapel: twenty-two photos showing construction, February – July, 1930 (photos by William G. Dudley of Hartford, CT).

Hartford, Connecticut—Trinity College Chapel: twenty-seven photos showing construction, August – December, 1930 (photos by William G. Dudley of Hartford, CT).

Hartford, Connecticut—Trinity College Chapel: twenty-six photos showing construction, January – June, 1931 (photos by William G. Dudley of Hartford, CT).

Hartford, Connecticut—Trinity College Chapel: twenty photos showing construction, August – December, 1931 (photos by William G. Dudley of Hartford, CT).

Hartford, Connecticut—Trinity College Chapel: eight photos of what appears to be a dedication ceremony (photos by William G. Dudley of Hartford, CT).

Hartford, Connecticut—Trinity College Chapel: six photos of interior views (photos by William G. Dudley of Hartford, CT).

Indianapolis—Bethlehem Lutheran Church (526 East 52nd Street), n.d.: one photo.

Washington, D.C.—National Cathedral: one black-and-white postcard showing rose window from the interior; one color postcard showing the Jerusalem Altar and Ter Sanctus reredos.

Unidentified buildings: One photo of construction of what appears to be a church (photo by Commercial Photo Co. of Washington, DC, n.d.). One photo of a church (photo by Sinclair Studio of Bloomington, Ind., [ca. 1930s?]).

CONTAINER

Photographs, 1, Folder 15 Box

Photographs, 1, Folder 16 Box

Photographs, 2, Folder 1 Box

Photographs, 2, Folder 2 Box

Photographs, 2, Folder 3 Box

Photographs, 2, Folder 4 Box

Photographs, 2, Folder 5 Box

Photographs, 2, Folder 6 Box

Photographs, 2, Folder 7 Box

Photographs, 2, Folder 8 Box

Photographs, 2, Folder 9 Box

Series 6: Photographs by Jeffrey A. Wolin

CONTENTS

Bybee Stone Co., Ellettsville (Monroe County):
Man working on a large shaped stone (1983). Large group of employees outside the company office (1984).

Bybee Stone Co., Ellettsville (Monroe County):
Men at work in mill (16" x 20") (1984).

Edinger Stone Co., Bedford (Lawrence County):
Worker with tool: Jimmy Leach (1983).

Elliott Stone Co., Eureka (Lawrence County):
Men working in quarry (1984).

B.G. Hoadley Quarry, Guthrie (Lawrence County): Blockmarker at work (1983).

Independent Limestone Co., Bloomington (Monroe County): Men working on last day of quarry season (1983).

Indiana Limestone Co., Oolitic (Lawrence County): "Turning a cut" (1983).

Maple Hill Quarry, Bloomington (Monroe County): "Pillows" (1983). Quarry workers (1983).

Woolery Stone Co., Bloomington (Monroe County): Derricks (1982). Gang saw bay (1982). Diamond sawyer Marvin Brinson (1982).

Unknown location: "Henry Morris' calipers" (1983).

Limestone buildings: Indiana State House (Indianapolis, 1984). Indiana State Library (Indianapolis, 1984).

CONTAINER

Photographs, Box
2, Folder 10

OVB Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs, Box
2, Folder 10

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0456).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.