

Are You Lookin' For Limestone?

If you are looking for limestone either for a building project, or to do a bit of landscaping, the Coalition is aware of limestone available to repurpose.

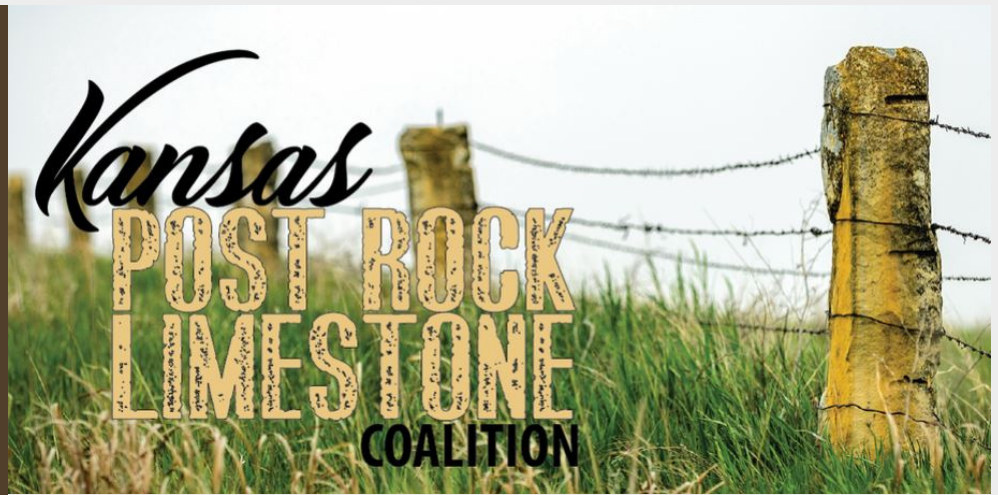


This limestone wall is part of what remains of a building on Main Street in McCracken, Kansas. The stone will be available at no cost for anyone willing to take on the task of dismantling and cleaning up the site. The wall is located adjacent to the city's library and is in danger of collapse. There are a few stones with markings that the city's historical society wants to preserve, but all others are available.

If you are interested in acquiring this stone, please contact the Coalition and we will get you in touch with the owner.



Post Rock and Barbed Wire, symbols of central Kansas standing proud for over 140 years. (Photo from KPRLC collection)



Skyscrapers and Steeples

The Kansas Stone Age

by: Colton Potts, KPRLC Intern

On June 10th the coalition hosted the Skyscrapers and Steeples bus tour. This tour is a part of "The Kansas Stone Age," which is a series of educational tours of various historic sites in the Kansas Post Rock Region. Our tour was hosted by committee members Bradley Penka and Neil Unrein and began in Hays at 8 AM and lasted until around 5 PM.

On the way to the first stop, Neil discussed the town of Schoenchen and the Volga-German building crew that built their church. He also mentioned Father Emmeram Kausler and how large of an impact he had on the creation of many local churches and monasteries in the early 1900s.

Further along the trip, we passed the former site of the "Entre Nous College" where Brad discussed how local educator Howard Barnard created a large schoolhouse that housed many modern amenities such as central heating, a grand piano, a telephone, and more.



Holy Cross Shrine in Pfeifer, Kansas. The steeple of the 1918 Catholic church towers 165 feet above the small community established by Volga-German settlers in 1876.

The first stop of the tour was the "Skyscraper of the Plains" in Ness City. Guests were able to visit all three floors of the structure, as well as check out a local store housed in the lower level of the building. After that, we drove past the "Christ Pilot Me" hill outside of Bazine and drove through the town of Alexander to see a schoolhouse that was built in 1916. We then passed through Rush Center and discussed its history.

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Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition is scheduled for **Thursday, July 13** in Hays, Kansas in the Hays Welcome Center, 2700 Vine Street. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am and everyone is welcome. Lunch will be available.

Your RSVP is requested by July 12 to: kansaspostrock@gmail.com

Sites We've Seen...



On Saturday, May 27, the Coalition participated in the first annual Dorrance Decoration Days celebration in Dorrance. Vendors lined the park with food, craft items and more. A highlight of the weekend were hourly bank robberies in the recently restored bank building now known as the Dorrance Bankery. The Bankery and adjacent museum is open during the summer Saturday and Sunday mornings. While there, grab some dough for yourself (aka homemade rolls.) For more information, visit:

<https://dorrancebankery.com>



In May, the Coalition held their annual meeting in the historic Santa Fe Depot in Dodge City. A highlight of the day was a tour of the Mueller-Schmidt House, aka Home of Stone, at 112 E Vine St. in Dodge City. Built in 1881, it is the oldest building in Dodge City on its original site and the only limestone home in Ford County. Now operated as a museum by the Ford County Historical Society, it is open from Labor Day to Memorial Day. For more information, visit:

<https://www.visitdodgecity.org/>

Skyscrapers & Steeples

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Our second stop was in La Crosse at the site of the Post Rock Museum and the Kansas Barbed Wire Museum. This is where we had an authentic German buffet that featured bierocks, sauerkraut, and chicken noodle soup, amongst other dishes. Neil also gave guests a live demonstration of breaking limestone rock where he discussed the different techniques used by builders in the early 1900s.

After we ate we visited St. Joseph's Church in Liebenthal. Two local caretakers explained the history of the building and its importance in the community. We then passed by St. Mary's Church in Loretto on the way to our next stop.

The next stop was the Holy Cross Church in Pfeifer. We had 3 local tour guides give us an overview of the church and its long history. The guests also received a snack break where they got to try various flavors of authentic German spitzbuben cookies. Then we moved on to the last stop of our tour, which was the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. The basilica is also known as the "Cathedral of the Plains" and is currently listed as one of the 8-wonders of Kansas.

The Coalition plans to offer more tours like this in the future, so watch the newsletter and website for more ways in the future to experience Kansas Post Rock Limestone.

Below left, participants tour the historic "Skyscraper of the Plains" building in Ness City. Below right, Neil Unrein demonstrates rock breaking and dressing outside of the Post Rock Museum in La Crosse.



KPRLC Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership in the Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition. Your support helps us continue our mission of "promoting, preserving, and protecting the history, art, and architecture of the Kansas Post Rock Limestone region through education and tourism."

To join or renew, visit our website www.kansaspostrocklimestone.org/ and select membership. To pay by check, download and print an application, then mail to: Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition, PO Box 44, Lucas, KS 67648.