

## Lookin' For Limestone Gifts?



For some time, we've had requests for native limestone bookends and desk accessories. Many of our tried and true vendors have retired or are no longer with us leaving many people searching for these one-of-a-kind gift items.

You won't need to look much longer. We have secured a couple of good prospects and hope to have these items available in the very near future. Watch our Facebook page and webpage for the announcement when and where these items will be available for purchase.

## Did You Know?

The official Kansas State Rock is the Greenhorn Limestone. In 2018, after testimony from an Overland Park fourth-grader, the Kansas State Legislature made the designation.



### Post Rock Scout Museum:

[www.postrockscoutmuseum.com](http://www.postrockscoutmuseum.com)

### Crispin's Drug Store Museum:

[www.crispindrugstoremuseum.com](http://www.crispindrugstoremuseum.com)

## Next Meeting:

Meetings of the Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition are held every two months in locations across the Post Rock region and everyone is welcome. Our next meeting will be November 15, 2023 starting at 10:00am. Check our Facebook page and website for the location to be announced.



## Lincoln's Jack and Kathie Crispin Recipients of First Post Rock Limestone Preservation Award

by: Kris Heinze, KPRLC Board Member



The Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition (KPRLC) announces a new annual Preservation Award to recognize successful efforts to preserve and restore structures built with native greenhorn limestone post rock.

Many of the area's beautiful limestone structures were skillfully crafted more than 100 years ago, when early Kansas settlers used the sturdy and available native stone to build grand buildings in bustling new communities and fencing to protect crops and livestock. These reminders of our shared cultural history in rural Kansas deserve to be celebrated and restored, rather than demolished.

The first recipients of the inaugural Post Rock Limestone Preservation Award are Jack and Kathie Crispin of Lincoln, Kansas.

Recognizing the Crispin's long-time efforts to save, preserve, and repurpose a historic native limestone commercial building, the award was presented during Lincoln's Post Rock Festival parade Saturday, September 2, 2023.

Jack and Kathie purchased the Cummins Block Building, 161 E. Lincoln Ave., in 1997, after a majority of the building had been vacant for over 50 years. They immediately added a new roof for protection from further water damage and worked to list it on the National Register of Historic Places in the spring of 2000. While an application for a Heritage Trust Fund grant was not successful, the Crispin's moved forward with the preservation project.

Rehabilitation of the building included contracting with Mid-Continental Restoration out of Fort Scott, KS, to clean, tuckpoint, and repair the structure. Jack told more about these processes that take into account the nature of the native limestone and also approved historical procedures.



## Sites We've Seen...



Constructed in 1908, the South Fork Spillman Creek Double-arch Bridge is located 9 miles north of Silvan Grove, Kansas. Limestone bridges are one of the Post Rock wonders that dot the landscape in central Kansas. Examples from 1-arch to 4-arch can be found in almost every county in the Coalition region.



The 1936 Bison City Hall is an example of Vernacular architecture created by the Works Progress Administration. The WPA provided labor for a number of public buildings during the Great Depression.

### 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/](http://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.

## Jack & Kathie Crispin

(continued from page 1)

The exterior cleaning of the building is completed with a biological cleaner, rather than sandblasting, to remove black mold and restore the bright limestone with minimal erosion. Mortar repair requires a particular lime and cement mix, according to National Park Service standards, that dries the same hardness as the native limestone, and minimizes differing expansion rates over time from further separating the mortar from the rock.

Mid-Continental Restoration was also able to create a new doorway through the 18-inch-thick limestone wall, to connect the former corner bank and abstract office to the neighboring commercial space, which also included the original yellow pine stairway to the upper floor. Other contractors, including local contractor Corey Uhl, were hired for the windows, doors, floors, and installation of new mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

The Crispins completed a considerable amount of the rehab work themselves, at times donning personal protective gear that included suit and respirator mask, demoing the upper floor plaster and lathe, and restoring the rusty tin ceilings in the lower commercial building.

"The Cummins Block Building served as a financial, commercial, and community cornerstone in Lincoln in its early years. We believed that its historical importance, its architectural beauty, and its perfect fit for our future plans required that we do what we could do to rehabilitate it to its past glory.

We thank the Post Rock Limestone Coalition for this recognition of this building's importance to the heritage of this area and our efforts to restore it to usefulness," Jack Crispin said.

The fully restored Late Victorian Italianate style building that spans the southwest corner across from Lincoln's historic limestone courthouse, with striking round-arched windows and a bracketed

stone cornice to accompany the native limestone architecture, is now home to two museums curated by the Crispin's, and their loft residence on the upper floor.

The Post Rock Scout Museum was created by Kathie in 2004, with Girl Scout memorabilia, displays, uniform styles from past eras and much more.

While Girl Scouts is clearly one of her passions, she has also been involved with the Lincoln County Historical Society for more than 25 years, the United Methodist Church for 30 years, the Lincoln Carnegie Library, Lincoln County Election Board, Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln County Tourism Coalition, and Kansas Museums Association, often serving in leadership roles, and also served on many other special committees.

Jack owned a pharmacy in Lincoln for 26 years and is also a Civil War historian known locally for his engaging storytelling abilities. He served on the Lincoln City Council for a combined 32 years across two periods of service. He also served on the Lincoln Hospital Board, after working with the hospital as a pharmacist for 40 years.

He opened Crispin's Drug Store Museum in 2007, showing a small-town pharmacy from the 1880-1920 period. This transition period includes both crude drug ingredients and manufactured drugs. Collections include a large number of Kansas bottles, patent medicines, apothecary bottles, druggists' tools, and show globes. Museums are open by chance or by appointment most afternoons. Contact information is on page 1.

KPRLC hopes to continue its mission of promoting, preserving, and protecting the history, art, and architecture of the Kansas post rock limestone region by recognizing efforts, such as those like the Crispin's project, in the coming years with a nomination process and annual awards.