

Advocates for Historic Architecture

Membership Meetings

November 15, 2022 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 7:00 PM

December 13, 2022 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 6:30 PM Members and friends are invited to our annual holiday gathering at the beautifully decorated Hauberg Mansion. Please bring a sweet or savory "small bite" dish to share. Beverages and table service will be provided.
Note this is a CHANGE in both DATE and TIME from our regular meeting schedule

January 17, 2023 Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Tuesday 7:00 PM

*An email reminder with the Meeting Agenda will be sent prior to each meeting with confirmation of time and location of each meeting.
Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar for monthly RIPS meetings and activities*

PRESERVATION AWARDS

It's that time of year that exterior work on our historic homes are finishing up before the cold sets in. If you've noticed exterior improvements to historic Rock Island buildings, let us know. If there is work going on but it's not yet complete, let us know that, too. We'll put it on our radar for future awards.

We'll be evaluating candidates early next year. Usually the restoration work is done in the previous year but since we didn't give any awards last year, we will have at least two years' work to evaluate. And if something was completed a few years ago that we weren't aware of, let us know that, too.

Our awards recognize good stewardship of historic properties and, we hope, encourages owners to continue with appropriate repair and regular maintenance.

WINTER IN BLOOM AT THE HAUBERG ESTATE

Sunday,
Dec. 4, 2022
from
Noon ~ 5PM

A visit to the
beautifully
decorated
Hauberg Mansion
is a perfect way
to start the
holiday season.



This family friendly event includes beautifully decorated trees, crafts and games for kids, cookies and cocoa, a visit from Santa, and horse-drawn carriage rides.

The event is free and open to the public.

Everyone is invited.

**Hauberg Civic Center
1300 24th Street, Rock Island**

STONE BUILDINGS IN ROCK ISLAND



We have a significant number of stone buildings in Rock Island. But when we are able to find the source of those stones, it's never Rock Island. That was a mystery to me until a geologist told me that the stone that indeed underlies Rock Island and the original Rocky Island (now the Arsenal Island), "made good gravel." The QCA does have a few very early buildings that were presumably made from local stone, including the Little Stone House at Saukie; the apartment structure on Gaines just off the Centennial Bridge; and parts of Old St. Anthony's church, the latter two in Davenport. In each case, the stones are relatively small in contrast to stones from other sources.

Because many stones have similar appearances, especially to non-geologists, we have to research historic building accounts to determine the stone type used. And while this isn't comprehensive, it's a good start for your own viewing of our stone structures.



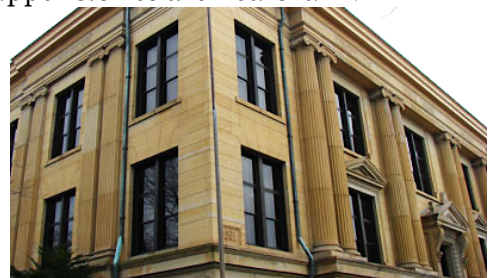
One of the most extensive collections of local stone buildings is on Arsenal Island. Those massive stones came from Joliet-Lemont IL and Anamosa IA quarries. Many of our older basements are constructed of the yellow Joliet limestone, as is Broadway Church. All limestones are made of calcium and magnesium carbonates in various proportions and are 'sedimentary,' from ancient sea deposits. In the Joliet-Anamosa type the sedimentary layers are usually distinguishable and require that stones be laid with the layers vertical. Otherwise over time these layers will flake off. The Joliet stone was sometimes marketed as Athens Marble. Marble is also a type of limestone.



Our downtown library looks a great deal like the Joliet limestone, but it is actually sandstone quarried in Ohio. Sandstone is also sedimentary but, as the name implies, comprised of fused grains of sand. That means it's primarily silica rather than carbonates. Like the Joliet stones, the library stone is gray in color when first cut, but, because it contains iron, slowly 'rusts' and gains a yellow tone.



Another sandstone building is the First United M E Church on 5th Avenue and 19th Street. Reportedly its stone was quarried nearby in Colona, IL. The extravagantly beautiful bank on 18th Street and 3rd Avenue, originally Central Bank & Trust, has a four-foot foundation of Mt. Airy NC granite, while the upper stories are Bedford IN limestone with brick. Granite is an exceptionally hard and durable stone composed mostly of silica. It is formed when molten bedrock solidifies. It is often used for monuments because it will take a high polish.



Bedford stone is the premium limestone, both for durability and appearance. Many public buildings, including the Washington Monument and our historic courthouse are made of Bedford. Even when buildings are of brick or a different stone, Bedford is frequently specified as foundation or trim material.

Take a look at the courthouse stone while you still can. It was actually made from two different colors of this fine textured stone – blue for the foundation and buff for the upper stories. It is smoothly tooled, typical of the use of Bedford. All floors of the courthouse rotunda and the stairs as well have wainscoting of "pink Tennessee marble." This is an uncommon limestone which has been given a high polish. Reportedly there is at least one quarry still offering this.



SOLVING DRAFTY WINDOWS ISSUES

It's that time of year – to turn up the heat and prepare for what may seem to be the most expensive heating season in recent history. And it's time for the window replacement hawkers to be out in full force. So how can you save money and still have a comfortable home?

One of the most expensive ways yet the least effective is to replace your historic windows. Despite the ads, windows account for only 10-20% of energy loss in a typical home (much less than attics and doors). When weather-stripped properly, old windows can be very efficient. And while new insulated windows are effective for several years, an old-fashioned window in good repair with a storm window nearly matches the performance of the new window. And the storm window can even have low-e glass if you want to spend the money. The benefit? The historic window will last decades longer – lifetimes even with modest repair. Insulated window panes have a finite lifetime and may be very difficult to repair as standard window sizes change. Most new windows are only guaranteed against failure for 15-20 years. This isn't usually enough time to recoup the initial cost in fuel savings. And if the window is vinyl, there's a finite life there, too. Even a wood replacement window is not made of the same old growth lumber as your historic window. Finally, historic windows add to your home's value.

A drafty window makes you uncomfortable. If you have storms, remember to close them! It is not uncommon for folks to complain and yet the storm windows are open. Secondly, make sure your windows are in good condition – not missing glazing material, for example. Thirdly, make sure the windows are locked. There's a reason that the meeting rails in double hung windows are tapered – it seals against drafts.

If the glazing (the putty-like material that holds the glass in on the outside) is failing and creating gaps, it is an easy fix but you'll have to remove the window sash to do it. If you have drafts around the edges, this is both easy and inexpensive to fix. One way is to use a self-adhesive, lightweight plastic weather-strip that folds in half to create a springy seal. Another easy way is to use "rope putty" and put it around the inside edges of particularly leaky windows. This is removable next spring and doesn't damage the wood.

Some people like to use the transparent plastic that can be heat shrunk inside. But beware -while this is effective, the double-faced tape that holds it in place is difficult to remove and often pulls off paint and varnish when you take the plastic off next spring. A more expensive but longer term solution is a product such as Indow window insert, which is a rigid and removable interior storm window (Google for more information). It is lightweight and completely transparent, but is still something you likely want to remove and store in nice weather.

Another source of drafty windows is, surprisingly, your furnace. Unless you have a new super high efficiency one, which has an outdoor air supply for combustion and no chimney, inside air is used for combustion and to feed a constant air supply up the chimney for the 'draft diverter.' That air has to come from somewhere, and it will flow from the weakest part of your house envelope which might be the window by your TV chair. Provision for a controlled air supply (make up air) will keep your home fresh and comfortable as well. Sometimes historic homes had direct outside air intakes to the furnace returns ensuring a controlled flow of fresh air. When these furnaces are upgraded from the old gravity style, these intakes are also eliminated for no good reason. Learn more from these short videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/Negative Air Make-Up Recovery Using Ducts>

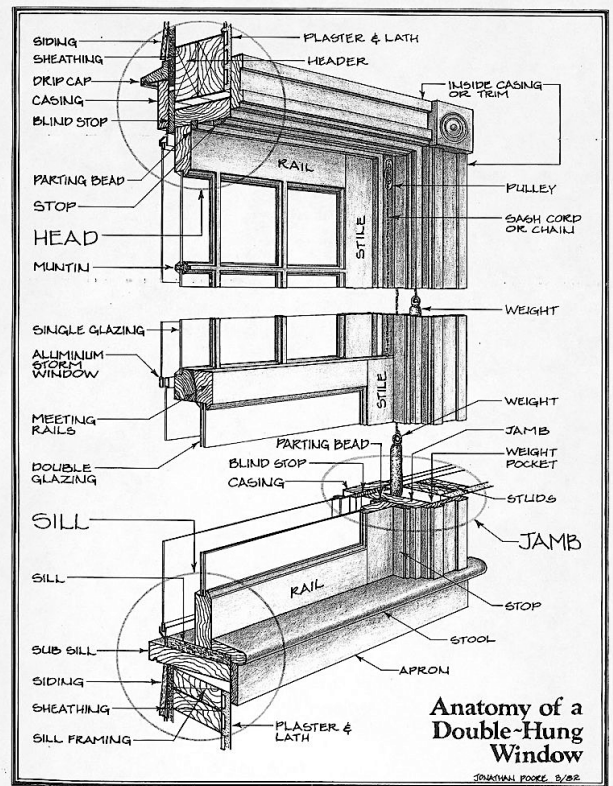
<https://www.youtube.com/Good-Cheap Fresh Air System>

<https://www.youtube.com/This Old House-Make Up Air>

Photos, previous page: On left, *The Old Stone House at Saukie Golf Course*; *A historic stone shop on the Arsenal* (photo from AUSA.org/Rock Island Chapter); *the former Broadway Presbyterian Church*; *First United M E Church*.

On right, Rock Island Public Library; the former Central Bank & Trust.

This page, Anatomy of a Double-Hung Window, The Old House Journal. Photos from RIGOV.Org unless otherwise noted.



The Old House Journal

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MASTERFUL STONE CUTTER



One name appears regularly when stone buildings are being planned or constructed: Charles J. Larkin. Mr. Larkin was born in 1852 in Schenectady NY but came to Rock Island as a 4-year old. Both of his parents were natives of Ireland and his father worked as a blacksmith. After graduation from Rock Island schools, Charles learned the stone-cutters trade and, by age 20, was contracting his work. Most accounts applaud his work with the Rock Island County Courthouse, but other buildings were singled out as well. Among them are included the Cathedral in Des Moines, both the Post Office and Courthouse in Davenport, and “all the school buildings” in Rock Island. These buildings were brick, but featured stone foundations and trim. Other accounts specify that the general contractor was John Volk and that Larkin was the stone contractor.



Newspaper accounts say that he built the Central Bank & Trust, featured in our “Stones” story as well as the stone work when the original Robinson building (SW corner 2nd Avenue and 18th Street) was remodeled. That building featured white marble wainscoting in public areas.

Larkin, his wife Anna, and their children lived at 556 30th Street. Surprisingly, his home was frame, not masonry. It still stands and is apparently undergoing restoration. A Google street view from 2019 shows unveilings and repairs.



The Larkin family, staunch Catholics, attended Rock Island’s “Irish” parish, Sacred Heart. When Charles died in 1940, he was buried at the old part of Calvary Cemetery (just east of Chippianock) on 31st Avenue.

Photos: Upper left, Charles J. Larkin; Lower left, Larkin home at 556 30th St.

Right, Old Lincoln School main entrance arch, made of Bedford stone, as the building was demolished in 2012.



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