

Walking Tour – Houston Building Stones

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Houston Gem and Mineral Society, Houston Geologic Society

Start at Main Street Metro North Bound (NB) on the east side of the map 'HoustonBuildingStones WalkingTour.gif. You need to do this tour during business hours when you can get into the buildings. The whole tour takes about 90 minutes.

IBC Bank – 1001 McKinney - Just inside the bld is a lobby faced with a limestone made of stoney bryozoa. Age unknown

Jesse Jones Building – JPMorgan Chase 712 Main St. – built in the old style with lots of decorative stone. Outside is scored Indiana limestone. Interior has marble and colored travertine (a flowstone deposit).

Esperson Building 808 Travis, 815 Walker

Town Mountain Granite from Austin, Bedford oolite, marble and serpentine (Verde Antique)

<http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rnr/tmg.html>

http://www.vermontmarbleandgranite.com/marble/vermont_verde_ant.htm

Granite Building with Texas Star decoration – No name. Enter on the McKinney side. Back lighted onyx in escalator lobby. Basement has a Cretaceous rudist limestone and a Paleozoic stromatoporoid limestone.

Wells Fargo Bank Building – flame cut poikilitic granite as pavement, zoned feldspars on the outside wall.

Dynegy – 1400 Smith St. Black facing stone is a basic rock from Norway called Larvikite.

<http://www.toyen.uio.no/geomus/nettutstillinger/Osloriften/larvikitt-eng.html>

One Shell Plaza - 900 Louisiana

Italian travertine. (Travertino Romano) Deposited by algae in freshwater hot springs. An inexpensive stone but a poor choice for an exterior stone.

<http://www.ultravertino.com/pagine/thecompany.html>

Houston City Hall – 901 Bagby

Walls are Austin Stone (Cordova Shell) containing fossil shells. Cretaceous in age. Lots of *Trigonia*, gastropods, some rudists. <http://www.cordovastone.com/about.htm>

Pavement is Indiana Bedford Oolite . It is cut parallel to bedding showing excellent festoon trough cross bedding. Corner stone is also Bedford oolite. <http://www.kiva.net/~jonjeff/Limestone.htm>

Houston Public Library - 55 McKinney – Restroom Stop

South Dakota Mahogany Granite with pegmatite veins.

The granite works has a great web site with lots of details. They use 14 foot diameter automated diamond saws.

<http://www.dakgran.com/>

While walking we will see many other types of stone and construction techniques.

This tour will likely be changed from time to time as I find other great buildings. You can find these documents on www.hgms.org on the Field trips page under Houston Building Stones Walking Tour.