

Salem Limestone: Carving and Sculpture



The versatile dimension stone called Salem Limestone is unique in many ways. Quarried in the Bloomington-Bedford area of Indiana, its most important feature is the absence of pronounced bedding or grain that would cause preferential direction of splitting. Because of this, the stone can be cut or carved with extreme delicacy in any direction.

Stone carvers are the artists of the stone industry. Using pneumatic cutting tools and hand tools, these skilled artisans create intricate ornamental designs and beautiful carvings with lifelike detail. Throughout North America, carvings done in Salem Limestone grace important buildings and monuments. One well-known example is the sculpture around the clock tower over the entrance of Grand Central Terminal in New York City (see below).

