

Abstract: Stone quarries in the New World – what worked and what did not

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The United States has an interesting history in building stone. As the European settlers moved westward they opened up thousands of stone quarries for building construction. Most of this occurred in the 18th and 19th Centuries. The various building stones that were quarried untested and most of these quarries eventually closed down but came to be used for gravel and aggregate only. Caring for these buildings can be challenging because the stonework cannot be exactly replicated.

One building stone that has endured the test of time is Indiana Limestone which is still quarried and is the “strongman” in the North American market. It has been used to clad American skyscrapers such as the Empire State Building, Chrysler Building and the Chicago Tribune Tower. But standards have changed with its grading and use which still poses a challenge in the restoration of building facades clad with this stone.