

has become world-renowned as “Bedford limestone” and has been used in such national landmarks as the Biltmore Estate, Empire State Building and the Pentagon. In fact, 35 of the 50 state capitol buildings (and almost all 92 of Indiana’s courthouses) are constructed of Bedford limestone, considered the highest quality quarried limestone in the United States.

The Bedford Limestone Trail extends through many historic areas within the City of Bedford. As you walk, run, or bicycle along this multiuse pathway, many examples of diverse architecture from the 1800s and 1900s are alongside, or a short walk away, from the trail. Of course, local Oolitic limestone is featured in all of these delightful structures.

## Historic Architecture

### Highlights

The Bedford Limestone Trail may be accessed at any point on the route and travelled at your pace and direction of choice. The downtown portion of the trail forms a rectangle, with 14th Street and 17th Street forming the north and south sides of the rectangle, while J Street and L Street form the east and west sides (See trail map). The trail leaves the downtown area rectangle and extends north along L Street/Lincoln Avenue, ending at 10th Street where it joins the Milwaukee Road Trail. We have numbered many of the historic properties along the trail route on the map, and some additional properties that are just a block or two away off the trail route for your exploration.

### Beyond the Trail

Just a few blocks north of the junction of the Bedford Limestone Trail and the Milwaukee Road Trail, at Lincoln Avenue and 10th Street, is the Limestone Industry Worker Housing Historic District. Composed of ten houses along both sides of Lincoln Avenue (numbers 836-913), this area has a distinctive look and feel due to the finely crafted limestone porches on each of the residences...unusual design elements on such modest homes. The residents living here in the early 1900s worked as stone cutters, carvers, or masons, so it’s easy to understand how their unique porches came into existence.

Bedford’s architectural treasures and historical areas are not limited to the Bedford Limestone Trail. Please stop by the information center located in the restored Southern Indiana/Milwaukee Railroad Passenger Depot (#17 on the map) for more information on all the things to see and do in Bedford.



Use this QR code to access the “Historic Property Information” PDF and learn more about each location on the Bedford Limestone Walking Tour Route.

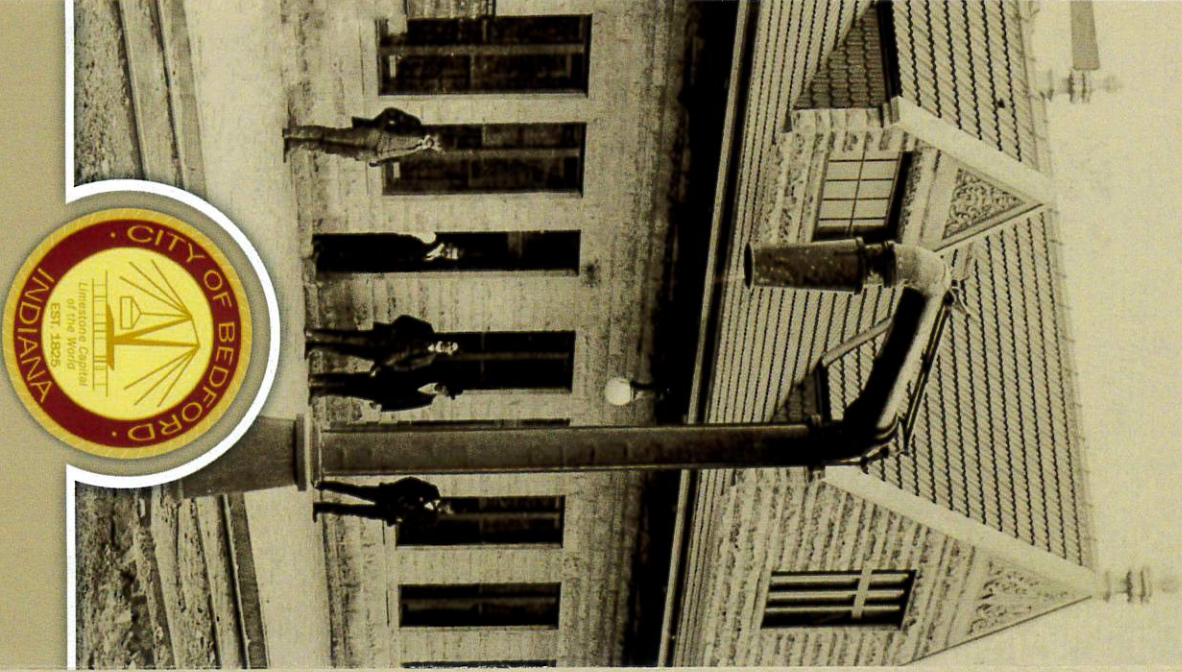
# BEDFORD LIMESTONE WALKING TOUR

## The History of Bedford

The land now comprising the City of Bedford was once home to Native Americans beginning at least 8,000 years ago. Very little is known about these prehistoric people; the information we have comes from the many archaeological sites found throughout the area. The first European-American settlers moving into the local landscape encountered people of the Potawatomi Tribe living along the East Fork of the White River and Salt Creek in 1810.

As more farms and settlements developed with emigrants arriving from the upland south and eastern states, Lawrence County was formed in 1818 and the town of Bedford was platted in 1825 as the seat of local government. Bedford’s early years of growth centered on supporting the local agricultural economy with mills grinding grains, sawing timber, and carding wool while blacksmiths, carpenters, potters, coopers, weavers and other tradespersons provided necessary tools for the farms and created marketable products from the land’s bounty. General mercantile stores, inns, and taverns formed an early commercial center in the town.

One unexpected gift from the ground was the discovery of Oolitic limestone near Bedford in the 1830s. With the arrival of railroads in the 1850s, stone quarries soon developed into a major industry. Limestone production was a driving force in the local economy through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that continues importance today. This excellent building material







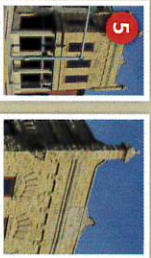
**Lawrence County Jail & Sheriff's Residence (former)**  
1904  
1002 17th Street

**Salvation Army (former)**  
1946  
1629 K Street



**American Four Square**  
1913  
1623 L Street

**Michael A. Mallot House  
(Current Bedford City Hall)**  
c.1850  
1102 16th Street



**Moses Fell Building**  
1918  
1545 J Street

**Lawrence County Courthouse**  
1872/1930  
918 16th Street



**Dunn Memorial Temple**  
1917  
917 15th Street

**Citizens National Bank  
(former)**  
1926  
1501 J Street



**Elks Lodge**  
1916  
1102 15th Street

**First Presbyterian Church**  
1901  
1504 L Street



**First Christian Church**  
1900/1987  
1101 15th Street

**W.C. Winstanley House**  
c.1865  
1407 L Street



**T. Stevens House**  
c.1860  
1401-1403 L Street

**First United Methodist Church**  
1899  
1409 K Street



**Bedford Public Library**  
1903/1984  
1323 K Street

**United States Post Office  
(former)**  
1909/1940  
1324 K Street



**Southern Indiana/Milwaukee Railroad Passenger Depot**  
1899  
1401 J Street

**House**  
c.1895  
1107 Lincoln Avenue



**House**  
1955  
1105 Lincoln Avenue

**Ruel W. Steele House**  
c.1920  
1013 Lincoln Avenue