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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Indiana Limestone Company Building

other names/site number Bedford College Center Building, 093-038-26009

2. Location

street & number 405 "I" Street N/ not for publication

city or town Bedford N/ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Lawrence code 093 zip code 47421

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Patricia R. Roberts* 11/2/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
*Patricia S. Christman* 12-21-93

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
4	0	objects
6	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Business

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Business

EDUCATION: College

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1927-1943

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Granger and Bollenbacher;

Colvin, Leslie

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Indiana Limestone Company Building  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Indiana  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6	5	4	4	8	1	0	4	3	0	2	8	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert K. Poinsett, Academic Dean; Craig Charron, DHPA Intern  
A branch of  
organization Bedford College Center - Oakland City College date January 4, 1993  
street & number 405 "I" Street telephone 812/279-8126  
city or town Bedford state IN zip code 47421

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Oakland City College  
street & number 143 Lucretia Street telephone 812/749-4781  
city or town Oakland City state IN zip code 47660-1099

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Indiana Limestone Company Building  
Lawrence County, IN

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The Indiana Limestone Company/Bedford College building, located in Bedford, Indiana is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical style, popular in the first decades of the twentieth century. Designed by the firm of Granger and Bollenbacher of Chicago in 1927, and constructed from limestone, the building was to serve as the headquarters of the company and showcase the the variety of work which the company was capable of producing.

The famous limestone of southern Indiana is the primary building material, and was used throughout the entire building in both structural and detail elements. The building plan takes the form of a large L, with the base of the letter facing north running east to west. Originally planned to have to symmetrical wings projecting from the rear of the building, only the northern wing was constructed.

The building is constructed almost entirely of limestone, with the roof of the building hidden from view by a classically inspired cornice. The design and consistent use of limestone ashlar block, closely set, contributes to create an almost monolithic mass, with the openings appearing to be sculpted out of the wall surface. The main facade is oriented to the east facing I street, and organized into three shallow projecting bays with the central one serving as the primary entrance to the building.

The fenestration is organized into recessed bays each of which contain two, 12 light metal casement windows. The windows of the first and second floor are set within the same articulated stone frame as the ones on the projecting bays. These in turn are set over the smaller 12 light casement windows which emit light into the basement offices.

The rear facade of the building shares the same cornice detail as the front facade. The wall surface lacks the projecting bays found on the front. The windows on the rear of the building are of the same configuration as the front and are set within identical recessed frames.

The presence of the main staircase is expressed externally by the placement of three elongated parallel windows which span the height from the landing between the first and second floor up to

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Indiana Limestone Company Building  
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the same height as the surrounding windows. Beneath these tall windows are smaller casement ones which illuminate the basement offices. Each of the windows are set within a stone frame of the same design as the other windows on the building.

The north and south stairwells are accessed from the outside by a single doorway. These doors are replacement metal frame and glass, housed within a stone doorway of a similar design as on the main facade with out the detailing.

The grounds of the property are also embellished with four monolithic stone light poles. These border the stone sidewalk which runs along I street. The curbing along I street is also of limestone.

An ornamental limestone wall is located at the rear of the building which encloses a small courtyard. This wall is divided into 25 panels, each of which is finished in a different architectural stone finish.

Upon entering the building through the east entrance, the first space encountered is a foyer area. This space is a storey and a half in height and lit primarily through the glass transoms and replacement doors. The interior of the foyer is detailed with paired Art Deco styled Ionic pilasters. The wall space in between is rendered in large ashlar blocks with stone lattice work grilles opposite each other. The pilasters and grilles rest upon a shallow ledge that caps a smooth faced wall surface which is also constructed of stone.

The first floor is accessed by six stone steps which carry the visitor up to the main corridor which runs along the north-south axis of the building. This landing is floored with limestone and helps visually define the north and south corridors.

The corridor is further divided into north and south wings by the large stair case which divides the interior of the building on the first and second floors. This central stairway is constructed entirely of limestone and is articulated in an Art Deco inspired manner. The treads of the steps begin their ascent from between two massive newels which return upon themselves and are capped by

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a running mold of limestone which rises the entire length of the stair.

The double loaded corridor to the south of the staircase houses the administrative offices of Bedford College. The walls of the corridor were historically plastered and are presently covered with vinyl wall covering. The floor is linoleum edged with polished limestone. The doors in this corridor and throughout much of the building are of oak and have two panels surmounted by a single large pane of glass. Above the doors are single transom lights and the whole is surrounded by a wood frame. The ceilings of the first floor are of the dropped tile variety and house fluorescent light tubes which has replaced the historic artificial lighting.

The northern portion of the first floor is much the same as the southern regarding flooring, door and ceiling treatments. Several unique and character defining rooms and their appointments are also located on this floor, particularly along the the building's east side. Immediately opposite the receptionist's desk is a small waiting room. The distinguishing features of this space are the stone fire place and leaded glass windows with art glass figurative rondels. The room is rendered in a Tudor motif, with stone walls and floors. Entrance into the room is via two pointed arch, solid wooden doors, without transoms. Inside the room the limestone walls are of blocks of irregular size. Light is emitted through two pairs of leaded glass casement windows each with eight lights and set within wooden frames and are highlighted with four art glass rondels, each depicting a different phase of the stone working process. Above each window is a leaded glass transom light. Beneath the sills are wrought iron grilles used to mask the radiators which are recessed within the wall. The ceiling plane is defined by a moulded plaster crown. The floor material is polished limestone blocks.

The main feature of this space is the large stone fireplace. Also rendered in the Tudor style, this element projects out from the wall face within its own soffit and is detailed with a variety of moldings, pilasters, floral details and a pointed arch which defines the mouth of the fire box. A large wooden door, in the same pattern as the exterior ones, provides access to the restroom

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located behind the southern wall of the space. Cast iron light fixtures mounted on the wall provide artificial light.

Immediately south of the waiting room is the Board Room. This significant space remains virtually unchanged since the building was opened. The ceiling of this room is ribbed and has been rendered in plaster "al secco", with colorful geometric patterns and pictures of various stone working tools worked together in a heraldic manner within a painted cartouche. Also suspended from the ceiling are the original hand wrought light fixtures. These fixtures stylistically match the wall mounted sconces in design and materials.

The walls of this room are of two materials, with the bottom three quarters of the wall constructed of limestone masonry. The upper quarter of the wall is physically divided by a running mould of stone above which is an area of plastered wall. The majority of the eastern wall area is taken up by paired casement windows similar to the ones in the waiting room, without the art glass rondels.

The five doors within this space are considerably more elaborate than ones which are found in the other parts of the building. Each is of a a ten panel pattern and is elaborately detailed with moldings setting apart each panel. The door frame itself is capped by the running belt couse within the room previously mentioned. The two doors which flank the fireplace on the rooms north wall are "blind" doors and do not open up into the adjoining room, which is the waiting room. The projecting fireplace is also derived from the Tudor tradition. The fire box is framed by two corinthian order column capitals set upon a octagonal shaft. These in turn support a broad lintle which is decorated with a central escutcheon. The lintle is further defined along the top by a dentil and egg and dart moulding. The chimney rises from this arrangement and tapers into a pyramidal shape on the three exposed sides.

To the immediate north of the board room is the former Indiana Limestone company presidents offices. These rather spartan rooms are detailed primarily by the door surrounds which are stone with dentil detailing.



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Indiana Limestone Company Building  
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The remainder of the north wing and the eastern wing is presently taken up with the offices of the Indiana Limestone Company. These rooms share much of the same details and materials as the southern portion of the building with the exceptions that the doors here have sidelights and there is the presence of a dividing wall with side lights and transoms.

The second floor follows much of the same pattern as the first. Again the double loaded corridor opens to small offices and classroom spaces. These rooms have been altered with the use of wood paneling and dropped ceilings to cover up the historic surfaces. Carpeting is also found on the floors of all the spaces. The same door pattern is also present on this floor. A large room, presently housing a lecture hall had historically been the primary drafting space for the Indiana limestone Company. Alterations to this space have been the carpeting of the floor, paneling and a dropped ceiling. Historically the north wall had been broken by a row of metal casement windows and are presently sealed behind the paneling.

The stair well landing is similar in decoration to those on the first floor. Here the paired Art Deco Ionic pilasters are used to define the stone stairwell area from the rest of the plastered wall space of the north and south portions of the corridor.

At the north and south entrances of the building stairwells link the basement through the second floor. The hand rails and balustrade are of iron grille work detailed with squares and a wooden hand rail. The landings are surfaced with terrazzo tile and entrance to the floors is through wooden double doors with a central light in each. The whole door is surmounted by a large single pane transom light.

The basement level of the building mirrors the floors above in layout and appointments. Access to the basement is through the two stairwells at the north and south ends of the building. In addition to the classrooms and faculty offices a small apartment has been created to house the overnight guests of the Indiana Limestone Company. This apartment was a later creation and retains no historic features. At the western terminus of the

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northern wing is the room which contains the heating and HVAC system. The halls are all still of the original plaster and the ceiling retains its original height. In addition to the historic doors and surrounds, other original features have remained such as the stone splash guards at the base of the wall and fixtures such as a firehose.

With the exception of the later paneling and dropped ceilings, the interior retains a great deal of its original features and the transition from its primary focus as a corporate headquarters to an academic institution has had little impact on the structure.

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The Indiana Limestone Company building is significant under criterion A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. This significance is in part derived from the properties association with the limestone industry and the construction of some of this nations most recognizable buildings. Under criterion C, this property embodies design elements and workmanship which rank it as a truly unique construction. Criterion Exception A also applies to the building. Though owned by Oakland City College, which is affiliated with the General Association of General Baptists, the building serves no religious function currently.

Designed by the firm of Granger and Bollenbacher of Chicago, and constructed by Leslie Colvin of Indianapolis, the building remains a notable example of Neo Classical Architecture. The design combined with the natural qualities of the building material serves to hi-lite the product of the Indiana Limestone company in a elegant and simple way.

The stone quarried by the Indiana Limestone Company has been used for some of the nations most recognizable buildings. Limestone quarried in the area has been used for the construction of such famous buildings as the Empire State Building in 1931, the Pentagon in 1940, three state capitals and numerous other private, state and federal buildings.

## I. HISTORY OF THE INDIANA LIMESTONE COMPANY, INCORPORATED

From its conception, the Indiana Limestone Building was an example of the material the company was formed to quarry and fabricate. Indiana limestone has been a premier building product for the past one hundred fifty years and has been used in every state of the Union and many foreign countries.

This building has been used as the office for the Indiana Limestone Company since 1926. Many world renowned architects and engineers have convened in its Directors' Room, where many historical discussions have been made concerning the use of Indiana limestone on world famous buildings.

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The story of Indiana Limestone Company, Inc., does not start in 1926 when it was formed; instead, the story begins in those earliest days of the infant limestone industry, when men were just learning to tear stone from the earth and putting it to good use.

In 1860, Nathan Hall built a small mill in Bedford, Indiana, and began the first commercial quarrying effort of Indiana limestone. At that time, men quarried by blasting one year's supply of limestone in one crashing heap, hand sawing the stone and hauling it from quarry to mill by horse and oxen. In 1866, the first steam-powered saws were purchased which revolutionized the industry.

The first commercial shipment out of Bedford was consigned to John Rawle of Chicago. This was a shipment that would be of great importance to the Indiana limestone industry.

Rawls became interested in Indiana limestone after the great Chicago fire of 1871. He began encouraging architects and builders to increase their use of this durable, beautiful, and fireproof material. Limestone rapidly became the material of choice in the Windy City.

A. E. Dickinson became president of the Consolidated Stone Company in 1925. He would become one of the driving forces that would form the Indiana Limestone Company.

That same year (1925), Dickinson and presidents of several other limestone companies would meet with Whiting & Company; a banking house in Chicago. They discussed the possibilities of the limestone industry. After an extensive investigation, Whiting & Company was convinced "that a great corporation owning and operating limestone quarries, saw mills and cut-stone plants, backed by sufficient capital who has connections would be in a position to advance the limestone business not only at a profit for itself, but also for the benefit of the district as a whole."

On June 1, 1926, the Indiana Limestone Company, Inc., was made official. Twenty-four limestone companies were involved in the merger which included 21 quarries, 36 mills, and over 6,000 acres of land.

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These companies represented 90% of the area stone industry. They were purchased for a total of just under \$25,000,000 (sales from the first six months of the company's existence, June 1, 1926 to November 30, 1926: \$7,359,704).

In 1927, Indiana Limestone Company quarried a million tons of limestone and was running its mills 24 hours a day. As the rest of the country saw the high quality results, the popularity of limestone quickly spread. During 1928 and 1929, production topped 14 million cubic feet for both years, which was thought to be an all time high.

In the mid 30's, the depression hit hard. Times were especially hard for the limestone industry and its communities. In 1930, it was estimated that 67% of all building stone shipped nationwide was from Lawrence and Monroe counties in southern Indiana. By 1935, that figure was down to 41%. Since over half of all public construction during the period of 1933 - 1938 was being done by the federal government, federal contacts were essential. In 1940, Congress agreed to use Indiana limestone for the new Pentagon building.

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Major Bibliographical References

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Lawrence County Clerk's Office, Bedford, Indiana:

Civil Order Book V  
Probate Order Book 8

Lawrence County Recorder's Office, Bedford, Indiana:

Deed Record 10, 19, 34, 48, 50, 57, 59, 62, 77, and 85  
General Index Deeds Grantee H, K  
Miscellaneous Record 3-15, 7, and 18  
Mortgage Record XV

Monroe County Recorder's Office, Bloomington, Indiana:

Deed Record 61, 63, 72, 73, and 76  
Miscellaneous Record 2-9, 11, 14, 15, 16  
Tax Title Deed Record 4

PRIVATE DOCUMENTS

Minutes, Annual Board of Directors Meetings, American Quarries Company,  
1901-1926.

BOOKS

Batchelor, Joseph. An Economic History of the Indiana Oolitic Limestone Industry. Bloomington: 1944.

Blatchley, Ramond S. "The Indiana Oolitic Limestone Industry in 1907." In  
Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources, Thirty-Second Annual Report,  
edited by W. S. Blatchley. Indianapolis: 1908, Pp 301-459.

Bowen, B. F. & Co. History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana.  
Indianapolis: 1914.

Guthrie, James M. Thirty Three Years in the History of Lawrence County, Indiana: 1884-1917. Bedford: 1958.

\_\_\_\_\_. A Quarter Century in Lawrence County, Indiana: 1917-1941.  
Bedford: 1984.

History of Lawrence County, Indiana: 1818-1990 - Compiled by the Lawrence  
County Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. Limited Edition.  
Paducah, Kentucky; Turner Publishing, c. 1990.

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Major Bibliographical References

BOOKS (continued)

Hopkins, T. C., and Siebenthal, C. E. "The Bedford Oolitic Limestone of Indiana." In The 21st Annual Report of the Department of Geology and Natural Resources, edited by W. S. Blatchley, Indianapolis: 1896, Pp 291-427.

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Stuckey, Clay W. Gazetteer of Limestone Mills of Owen, Monroe, and Lawrence Counties to 1950. Unpublished, Bedford: 1989.

\_\_\_\_\_. Origins of the Indiana Limestone Company. Unpublished, Bedford: 1990.

Sulzer, Elmer G. Indiana's Abandoned Railroads Part I - Abandoned Railroads of Bedford. Indianapolis: 1959.

MISCELLANEOUS

Indiana Limestone Company, A brief history printed by the Indiana Limestone Company in 1926.

Indiana Limestone Company Inc. A color brochure printed by the Indiana Limestone Company circa 1993.

List of Old Companies, An undated list of all companies that were involved in the archives of the Indiana Limestone Company.

NEWSPAPER

Times-Mail Newspaper Office, Bedford, Indiana.

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Lawrence County, IN

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The building occupies lots 1,2,3, and 48 feet off the north end of lot 4 in block D of Noyes addition to the city of Bedford, Indiana.

Boundary Justification

These are the historic property boundaries for the Indiana Limestone Company according to the plat of the city of Bedford, Indiana.