

“The Kasota Quarries”

Dolomites and Dolomitic stones in southeastern Minnesota

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“The Kasota Quarries”

(Dolomites and Dolomitic stones in southeastern Minnesota)

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“The dolomites and dolomitic limestones of Minnesota, which are most largely represented as surface rocks in the southeastern portion of the State, are among the most valuable of building stones. Indeed, it is not saying too much of them to state that they are among the very best – all things considered – for building purposes in the United States. They have been extensively used throughout the State, and in adjoining States, and after many years of exposure they exhibit very slight evidences of change from atmospheric influences.

“The Kasota quarries yield a dolomitic limestone. The location is at the town of Kasota, in Le Sueur county. The rock here is extensively quarried, and shipped to distant points, under the name of Kasota stone, the same stone is quarried at Shakopee and Louisville, in Scott county, at St. Peter and Mankato, and elsewhere in the adjacent region.

“Geologically, the dolomitic limestone of Kasota is one of the members of the Lower Magnesian or Calciferous series, and figures in the classification of the State Survey as the Shakopee limestone. The Jordan sandstone, which is the only other surface rock in the county (Le Sueur), underlies the other, and is soft and easily eroded. The persistence of the hard limestone above the soft sandstone has given rise to formation of terraces which extend over considerable distances. This limestone formation is nearly horizontal in stratification, and has a thickness in its outcrops in Le Sueur county of from 10 to 25 feet. The rock is buff or fawn colored (or light and dark pink).

“Kasota has the best quarries, found in the Shakopee limestone in Minnesota. They are situated beside the railroad just west of the town, about a mile south of St. Peter. The stone is in beds from 6 inches to 2 ½ feet thick. It is a pinkish-buff in color and very uniform in texture. It can easily be cut into any desired form, and is very durable under exposure to the weather. The quarries of Mr. C. W. Babcock, located at Kasota, have been worked for fifteen years, and yield stone of three colors – white, light and dark pink. It has been used in a number of important buildings in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and much of it is at present shipped into adjoining States.

(Continued on the next page.)

“Mr. Babcock has sent us the accompanying tabular comparison of the qualities of the various stones used in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and other points in the northwest in which Kasota stone figures. The table has been compiled from data published by Gen. Q. A. Gillmore, Prof. G. Henrichs, Lieut. P. Butler and Prof. N. H. Winchell:

KIND OF STONE.	Crushing strength. Pounds per sq. inch.	Hardness, scale of 10, Minnesota red stone being 10.	Toughness, or dur- ability, under friction, scale of 10.	Durability in frost and wet, scale of 10.	Specific gravity.	Weight per cubic foot in pounds.
Dolomitic limestone (light), Kasota, Minn....	12,000	5 ⁶ / ₁₀	6 ¹ / ₁₀	6 ¹ / ₁₀	2.6	157.4
Dolomitic limestone (pink), Kasota, Minn....	11,000	5 ⁴ / ₁₀	6	5 ⁹ / ₁₀	2.6	158.5
Dolomitic limestone, Frontenac, Minn.....	7,000	5 ⁴ / ₁₀	6	6	2.5	151.3
Dolomitic limestone, Stone City, Iowa.....	5,150	4	4	5	2.3	136.0
Gray sandstone, Berea and Euclid, O.....	8,000	5 ⁴ / ₁₀	5 ⁴ / ₁₀	5 ³ / ₁₀	2.2	131.3
Brown sandstone, Duluth, Minn.....	5,125	5	4 ¹ / ₅	5	2.2	138.8
Gray granite, Quincy, Mass.....	15,000	9 ⁴ / ₁₀	9 ⁴ / ₁₀	10	2.7	170.6
Gray granite, St. Cloud, Minn.....	16,000	9 ⁴ / ₁₀	9 ¹ / ₁₀	10	2.7	168.2
Minnesota red stone, Pipestone, Minn.....	23,000	10	10	10	2.8	170.6
North River blue stone, Rondout, N. Y.....	22,450	8 ⁴ / ₇	9	8 ⁷ / ₁₀	2.7	169.8

[Note: The following stones are compared in the above table:

Dolomitic limestone (light), Kasota, Minnesota; Dolomitic limestone (pink), Kasota, Minnesota; Dolomite limestone, Frontenac, Minnesota; Dolomitic limestone, Stone City, Iowa; Gray sandstone, Berea and Euclid, Ohio; Brown sandstone, Duluth, Minnesota; Gray granite, Quincy, Massachusetts; Gray granite, St. Cloud, Minnesota; Minnesota red stone, Pipestone, Minnesota; & North River blue stone, Rondout, New York.]

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Visit the following online links for more information on Kasota stone / limestone:

“**Kasota Limestone**,” on Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kasota_limestone

“**Kasota, Minnesota**,” on Wikipedia (includes a section on the local stone industry)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kasota,_MN