

Walking Tour – Houston Building Stones

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Houston Gem and Mineral Society

Start at Main Street Metro North Bound (NB) on the east side of the map [wakingtour.gif](#). (The walking tour used to start at the public library, but its reconstruction in 2007 and the easy access of the rail line suggested I move the starting point.) The whole tour takes about 90 minutes.

During business hours you should start with #6.

6. **Jesse Jones Building – JPMorgan Chase** 712 Main St. – built in the old style with lots of decorative stone. Outside is scored Indiana limestone. Interior has marble, travertine (a flowstone deposit)
5. **Esperson Building** 808 Travis, 815 Walker
Town Mountain Granite from Austin, Bedford oolite, marble and serpentine (Verde Antique)
<http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rmr/tmg.html>
http://www.vermontmarbleandgranite.com/marble/vermont_verde_ant.htm
3. **One Shell Plaza** - 900 Louisiana
Italian travertine. (Travertino Romano) Deposited by algae in freshwater hot springs.
<http://www.iltravertino.com/pagine/thecompany.html>
4. **Dynergy**
Black facing stone is a basic rock from Norway called Larvikite.
<http://www.toyen.uio.no/geomus/nettutstillingen/Osloriften/larvikitt-eng.html>
Pavement is granite with zoned and poikilitic feldspars
1. **Houston Public Library** - 55 McKinney
South Dakota Mahogany Granite with pegmatite veins.
The granite works has a great web site with lots of details.
<http://www.dakgran.com/web/story.asp>
2. **Houston City Hall** – 901 Bagby
Walls are Austin Stone (Cordova Shell) containing fossil shells. Cretaceous in age. Lots of *Trigonia*, gastropods, some rudists. <http://www.cordovastone.com/about.htm>
Pavement is Indiana Bedford Oolite . It is cut parallel to bedding showing excellent festoon trough cross bedding. Corner stone is also Bedford oolite. <http://www.kiva.net/~jonjeff/Limestone.htm>

On the way back, you might visit.

7. **Jones Hall for the Performing Arts** - 615 Louisiana - Italian travertine

On the way we will see **gneiss, various colors of granite, flame cut granite paving, sculptured granite, and talk about modern construction techniques for facing with thin slabs.**