

We've Got the Rocks!



The Post Rock limestone miniatures are now available. They are cut from actual fencepost limestone and range in size from 6" to 10". We will have items available for sale in our booth at events next year or give us a call to find a vendor in time for the holidays!

Looking Ahead:



In 2026, Ellis, Rush, and Russell counties will be celebrating the Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the arrival of the Volga Germans in Central Kansas. The Volga German settlers were responsible for construction of many of the beautiful limestone churches in the area such as Holy Cross in Pfeifer, Kansas. Plans are underway, check back in the future for more details.

Next Meeting:

Meetings of the Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition are held every two months in locations across the Post Rock region and everyone is welcome. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 30, 2025 starting at 10:00 am in Great Bend. Location will be announced. Check our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for details.



Dorrance's Tony Mahoney recipient of 2024 Post Rock Limestone Preservation award

By: Jeannie Stramel, KPRLC Treasurer



The Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition (KPRLC) announces its 2024 Preservation Award to recognize successful efforts to preserve and restore structures built with native greenhorn limestone post rock. The award was recently presented to Tony Mahoney of Dorrance for his preservation efforts on his "Bankery" building. Many of the area's beautiful limestone structures were skillfully crafted more than 100 years ago, when early Kansas settlers used the sturdy and available native stone to build grand buildings in bustling new communities and fencing to protect crops and livestock. These reminders of our shared cultural history in rural Kansas deserve to be celebrated and restored, rather than demolished.

Tony Mahoney purchased the limestone building on Dorrance's Main Street in 2007. Originally built in 1905 when two town banks merged, it was the Citizen's State Bank until 1915, when it became the Dorrance State Bank. In 1933 the bank closed during hard times and over the years housed the Dorrance Telephone Company switchboard, a grocery store, an attorney's office, then for 21 years a barber shop. In 2007 Tony bought the building and began the renovations you see today.

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Sites We've Seen...



For the first time in over 20 years, the rectory and school at St. Joseph Kirche in Liebenthal were opened to the public on November 10 for a special Rush County Sesquicentennial event. Parishioners constructed the limestone rectory in 1918 after a fire destroyed gutted the church and destroyed the first rectory in 1917.



The interior of the limestone rectory remains in pristine condition although it has not been home to the parish priest for several decades.

The Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition Newsletter is distributed about four times per year for members and friends of the Coalition. Bradley Penka, editor.

Mahoney...

Tony filed paperwork to have the building listed on the Register of Historic Places which allowed him to apply for Kansas Historical Society funding through the Heritage Trust Fund for assistance in renovation costs. He used old photos and local knowledge and labor to re-build the bank teller counter and re-create the wall stenciling, at all times trying to keep the historic integrity of the building.

He calls his building the "Bankery" because on the weekends when he is open you can enjoy coffee and pastries as you admire his accomplishments and learn of Dorrance history. Other refreshments are available by donation.

Many aspects of Dorrance history and significance are on display in the Bankery building and his adjacent museum, using photo reproductions and wall displays to tell stories. Tony's Dad was a farmer and inventor and was the inventor of the "break-away" backstop used widely today in basketball. The world's largest wooden thrashing machine built by the Avery Company is on display in the back building.

You will not be disappointed when you visit the Dorrance Bankery. Tony is happy to share his knowledge of Dorrance history and share stories of his efforts to restore the building. The Bankery at 512 Main St in Dorrance is open Sat & Sun 9:30 am - 12:30 pm April - September, or by appointment at 785-666-4470. The space is available for special occasions and group events. To learn more visit dorrancebankery.com.

The Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition is proud to present this preservation award to Tony Mahoney for his dedication to the history and preservation of his building and the Post Rock Limestone region of Kansas.

Stay up to date with events and programs by visiting us online:
<https://www.kansaspostrocklimestone.org/events>

KPRLC Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership in the Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition. Your support helps us continue our mission of "promoting, preserving, and protecting the history, art, and architecture of the Kansas Post Rock Limestone region through education and tourism."

By being a member, you will help us to fulfill our mission, plus you and/or your business will have the opportunity to be featured in promotional materials and special events.

To join or renew, visit our website www.kansaspostrocklimestone.org/ and select membership. To pay by check, download and print an application, then mail to: Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition, PO Box 44, Lucas, KS 67648.

The Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition is a 501(c)(3) Kansas corporation and donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.