

“Building Stones of North Carolina”

(in 1902)

By Joseph Hyde Pratt

Stone, An Illustrated Magazine Devoted to Stone,
Marble, Granite, Slate, Cement, Contracting and Building,
Frank W. Hoyt, Publisher, New York
Vol. XXVII, No. 2, December 1903, pp. 147-148

The article begins:

“There was a considerable increase in the total production of building stones in North Carolina in 1902, and the value of this production was \$366,727, this being an increase of \$81,983, as compared with the value of the total production of 1901, which was \$284,744. This increase was due principally to the production of granite....”

This article, which begins on the next page,
is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

Peggy B. Perazzo
Email: pbperazzo@comcast.net
March 2016

BUILDING STONES OF NORTH CAROLINA.



HERE was a considerable increase in the total production of building stones in North Carolina in 1902, and the value of this production was \$366,727, this being an increase of \$81,983, as compared with the value of the total production of 1901, which was \$284,744. This increase was due principally to the production of granite. There should be a still greater growth in the building stone industry in North Carolina, for the State is exceptionally well provided with stone suitable for these purposes which are found abundantly in the middle and western counties, including sandstone, granite, marble, limestone and slate.

The sandstone industry has always been small in North Carolina, although there is a sandstone of good quality in Anson, Moore, Chatham, Durham and Wake counties, which is extensive and well adapted for building purposes. If sufficient capital would take hold of these quarries and develop them extensively and introduce the stone to the general market, there would undoubtedly arise a considerable demand for it. The production of sandstone in 1902 was principally from Moore County, with a small amount from Anson. The total value of this production was \$4,825, all but \$75 of which was used for building purposes. This is a decrease of \$6,857, as compared with the production of 1901, which was valued at \$11,682.

The granite industry is the most extensive of any of the building stone industries in the State, and the total value of all the granite produced in 1902 was \$338,749, which is an increase of \$73,843, as compared with the production for 1901 of \$264,906. The number of operators engaged in quarrying granite was 27, who worked at 30 different localities in the following 12 counties: Buncombe, Cabarrus, Catawba, Forsyth, Gaston, Henderson, McDowell, Orange, Rowan, Surry, Vance and Wake. The county of Rowan had the largest number of operators, which was 12, and also made the largest production, which was valued at \$122,319. Gaston County, with 5 operators, had the lowest production, which was valued at \$2,666. Surry County, with but one operator, was second in the value of its production.

Over one-half of the granite produced in the State during 1902 was used for building and monumental purposes, which is an increase of \$59,065 as compared with the value of the granite used for the same purposes in 1901. In the table below is given the different purposes for which the granite quarried in 1901 and 1902 was used:

USES OF GRANITE PRODUCED IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 1901 AND 1902.

Uses.	1901.	1902.
Building and monumental purposes.....	\$108,574	\$167,639
Paving blocks	10,662	6,986
Curbing and flagging	56,245	82,615
Crushed stone for roadmaking, railroad ballast, etc.	89,425	77,759
Other purposes	3,750
Total value	\$264,906	\$338,749

There was no production of marble in North Carolina during 1902, although there was some development work carried on by a number of companies organized to quarry this stone in Swain and Cherokee counties. The main difficulty regarding the production of marble in this State has been the distance from the market.

The production of limestone during 1902 was valued at \$23,153, which is an increase of \$14,796 as compared with the production for 1901, which was valued at \$8,356. None of the production was used for building purposes, by far the larger portion being used for making roads. This production of limestone was obtained from Henderson, New Hanover and Pender counties. All of the production of New Hanover County was used for road purposes and the others for burning into lime.

In the following table is shown the uses for which the production of 1901 and 1902 was used:

USES OF LIMESTONE MINED IN 1901 AND 1902.

Uses.	1901.	1902.
Building purposes	\$237.50
Made into lime.....	3,688.00	2,090.00
Road materials, curbing, etc.....	4,668.00	21,063.00
Total value	\$8,356.50	\$23,153.00

JOSEPH HYDE PRATT.