

PH 0509 477

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	DATA SHEET
RECEIVED NOV 29 1977	
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Site of the (J. H. Wilkerson) & Son Brickworks

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Off ^{SR} Road 409

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Milford

VICINITY OF

One

STATE

Delaware 19963

CODE

10

COUNTY

Kent

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Abandoned Industrial

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME J. H. Wilkerson & Son, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 78

CITY, TOWN

Milford

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware 19963

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER The Green

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware 19901

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, K-360

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware 19901

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The J. H. Wilkerson & Son Brickworks was located on the north side of the Mispillion River, just east of Milford. When the brick-making operation ceased, the site was abandoned undisturbed. Though the framing of the remaining buildings has deteriorated and the site is overgrown with weeds, the pattern of the brick-making process is still discernible in the layout of the extant machinery and structures.

Easy access to clay determined the sites of such small brickworks as Wilkerson & Son. The clay hole which fed this brickworks began at the Mispillion and fanned out to the southeast. The clay hole is now depleted and its site is now an open field which is not included within the area nominated.

The sheds, machinery, kiln, and other structures directly associated with the brick-making process encompass an area of about 360' by 260'. Some of the structures which housed the machinery remain standing, others have deteriorated or collapsed. Still standing are the storage shed, the shed over the brick-making machine, and one of the drying sheds. These structures are framed of wood and have tin roofs. Some sections are enclosed by walls of tin or wood. A few windows are in evidence in these sections, particularly in the elevated section over the main shed. All of the machinery is in place, including the disintegrators, the pug mill, the brick-making machine, and the brick cutter. The belts and cups which carried the clay through the operation are also present. Nearby is the machine which lifted the clay out of the clay hole and into the trucks which carried it to the works. Around the site are other pieces of equipment used in the brick-making process. These include the drying pallets, the metal wagons which carried the bricks to the drying shed and then to the kiln, and the wooden wheelbarrow used to empty the kiln. The walls of the kiln remain standing, just as they would have been left after the fired bricks are removed.

The brick-making process that took place at this site was documented by the Historic American Engineering Record in 1975. Their report is attached to this nomination.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) : Technology
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912/1919

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The brickmaking company of J. H. Wilkerson & Son ceased operation in 1957, the last of eleven similar small-scale brickworks in Delaware to close down. Though the various sheds which house the operations are deteriorating, the brickmaking equipment is essentially intact and in the same position as when the Wilkerson employees left work for the last time over two decades ago. The factory complex thus presents an unparalleled opportunity to examine a Delaware brickworks as it appeared when local brickworks characterized the industry.

Because of the great bulk and low value of both raw materials and finished product, brick manufacturers chose for factory locations sites close to both clay deposits and potential markets. Clay deposits are uncommon in Sussex County, and in 1919 Wilkerson and his son, C. Van Nuis, purchased the Milford Brick Company founded in 1912 and situated upon a prime source of clay adjacent to the Mispillion River. Wilkerson expanded the existing facilities and within a short time became a leading supplier of face and common bricks to a variety of customers within a forty-mile radius of Milford. The Milford Hospital on Clark Avenue is a notable example of the end use of Wilkersons' product.

Through the years there were relatively few modifications to the production methodology established by the company. It is true that steam power supplanted man and animal power and was, in turn, replaced by the gasoline engine in some phases of the process; however, basically, Wilkerson was not a technologically innovative firm and here the brickmaking process was little changed from that of the late nineteenth century.

The brickmaking season ran from April to October and the Wilkerson's average annual production came to approximately 1.25 million bricks of all grades. By the mid-1950's, the clay deposit was exhausted. Attempts to buy clay from other sources proved too costly and in 1957 the works closed. The company currently is a distributor for bricks made by other firms and for fuel oil.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Engineering Record Inventory (DE-5)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY About 1-1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4,6,4	1,9,0	4,3	0,7	6,5,0	B	1,8	4,6,4	1,6,0	4,3	0,7	6,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,8	4,6,4	0,6,0	4,3	0,7	6,4,0	D	1,8	4,6,4	1,0,0	4,3	0,7	7,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area forms a rectangle, 260' on its eastern and western sides, and 360' on its northern and southern sides. It is located between the foot of Wilkerson Lane and the Mispillion River. The northern corner is about 200' south-east of Wilkerson Lane and the southern corner is about 200' northwest of the river.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joan M. Norton, Architectural Historian; Dean E. Nelson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

October 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records, P. .. Box 1401

TELEPHONE

(302) 678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware 19901

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

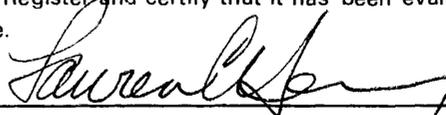
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Director, Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

11/21/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE

2/12/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature

DATE

7-6-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Site of the J.H. Wilkerson and
Son Brickworks

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

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Historic American Engineering Record Inventory (DE-5)

1974

Federal

Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.