

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2, 13.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 6 1978

DATE ENTERED MAR 7 1979

**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

Birdsall Lime Kiln

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

NE of Decorah

STREET & NUMBER

Decorah Township

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY
Winneshiek

CODE

191

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: abandon

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

James Stevens

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52101

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Winneshiek County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This lime kiln, erected in 1877, is constructed of irregularly-cut undressed limestone, with exterior wood bracing. It is approximately 24 feet high, with base dimensions of 16' x 16'. There are three corbel-arched openings at the base of the structure, one of which has a keystone arch recessed behind the corbel arch. The interior walls are lined with firebrick, stamped "AW", probably made by the local firm of Alsip and Woodward in Decorah. The kiln has gradually deteriorated over the years, due to weathering. It is located in an overgrown, hilly area used for pasture, approximately one mile northwest of the site of the old Winneshiek Paper Company of Freeport,

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1877 BUILDER/ARCHITECT J.A. Birdsall

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Note: Please see continuation sheet for revision, 2/9/79.

The Birdsall Lime Kiln is significant as a remnant of a local 19th-century industry, the production of lime from the native stone so prominent in this region. It is also the last known element which may be associated with the Winneshiek Paper Company of Freeport, which operated from 1869 until destroyed by fire in 1905. Apparently, much of the lime produced at Birdsall's kiln was used by this company in its paper-making processes, but was also used elsewhere, as evidenced by advertisements offering free delivery within a five-mile radius of the kiln.

The kiln, called one of "Randall's Perpetual Lime Kilns" (Decorah Republican, 11 May 1877) was erected by J.A. Birdsall. Sold through distributors (such as Willam M. Fannon and later H.A. Hegg, both merchants in Decorah), the lime produced here was used in mortar for masonry construction, or, at the paper mill, mixed with sulphuric acid and straw.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Moe, N.L. Mills and Power Sites in Winneshiek County. Unpublished ms., 1940, Decorah Public Library.
 Secretary's Records of the Proceedings of the Winneshiek County Paper Mill Co., March 14 1869-June 3, 1871. Photocopy on file at Luther College Library, Decorah.
 Gazetteer and Directory of Winneshiek County, Directory of the City of Decorah. Vol. I. Decorah, Edmund A. Kirby, 1875, p. 1.
 Decorah Republican. 11 May 1877.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME LaCrosse, Wisc.;Iowa;Minn.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 606700 4796600

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11, T98N R8W

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

Mary Housker Klimesh, Historic Sites Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Winneshiek County Historical Society

DATE

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Luther College Library

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa 52101

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

9/11/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

3-7-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

3-2-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Birdsall Lime Kiln, Decorah vic., Winneshiek Co., Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Revision of Statement of Significance:

The Birdsall Lime Kiln is significant as a local example of one of Iowa's earliest, and now largely obsolete, industries. Production of lime for mortar, papermaking, and other uses was a significant element in the economy of northeast Iowa during the 19th century, due to the abundance of readily available stone, and hardwood (principally oak) to burn it. The largest producers of lime were located in Jackson County, but small-scale production could at one time be found in nearly all northeast, and some north central, counties in Iowa.

The Birdsall kiln near Freeport, built in 1874, is representative of the type of structure used in Iowa's 19th century lime industry. It was a very local operation, most of the output going to the Winneshiek Paper Company in Freeport. The rest was deliverable in a 5-mile radius from the kiln, or was sold through Decorah distributors such as William Fannon and H.A. Hegg.

The date at which J.A. Birdsall's kiln was abandoned is not known. It may have continued operations until the turn of the century, in competition with such large producers as Hurst in Jackson County. By 1900, however, cement, which used gypsum rather than lime, was becoming increasingly popular as a component of mortar. Also, the Winneshiek Paper Co., which used the bulk of Birdsall's lime, burned in 1905 and was not rebuilt.