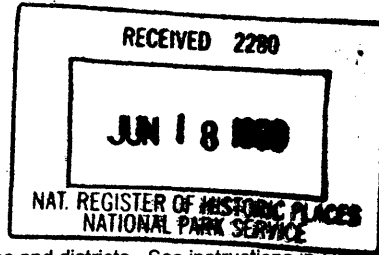


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

888



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bonaparte Pottery Archeological District

other names/site number Archeological Site 13VB200; Architectural Site #89-006-093

2. Location

street & number 411-419 First Street N/A not for publication

city or town Bonaparte N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Van Buren code 177 zip code 52620

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Patricia Sherkley DSIRP 6-10-99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Edson W. Beall Signature of the Keeper
7/15/99 Date of Action

Bonaparte Pottery
Name of Property

Van Buren County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
1	0	sites
		structures
		objects
2	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: fachwerk

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone

walls BRICK

WOOD

roof METAL/Steel

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bonaparte Pottery
Name of Property

Van Buren County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHEOLOGY

Period of Significance

1866-1895

Significant Dates

1866

1876

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

England

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

University of Iowa

Bonaparte Pottery
Name of Property

Van Buren County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	[1]5	[6]0[1]3[6]0	[4]5[0]5[6]7[0]	2	[1]5	[6]0[1]4[2]0	[4]5[0]5[6]6[0]
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	[1]5	[6]0[1]3[6]0	[4]5[0]5[6]3[0]	4	[1]5	[6]0[1]4[2]0	[4]5[0]5[6]2[0]
							<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah D. Rogers/Consultant
organization _____ date May 5, 1999
street & number 217 NW 5th Street telephone 319-895-8330
city or town Mt. Vernon state IA zip code 52314

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Donald and Marilyn Thomas
street & number 411 First Street, P.O. Box 15 telephone 319-592-3620
city or town Bonaparte state IA zip code 52620

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 1 **Page** 1 **Bonaparte Pottery Archeological District
Van Buren County, Iowa**

Other Names/Site Number

Parker and Hanback Pottery; Hanback and Wilson Pottery; Wilson & Co. Pottery

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Bonaparte Pottery Archeological District
Van Buren County, Iowa**Section number 7 Page 2**Narrative Description**

The Bonaparte Pottery Archeological District (a.k.a. archeological site 13VB200) is located in the town of Bonaparte, Bonaparte Township, Van Buren County, Iowa. The site encompasses two outlots along the north bank of the Des Moines River on the south side of Front Street (a.k.a. First or Water Street) just east of the main commercial district in Bonaparte. The commercial riverfront district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (listed in 1989) but does not include the Bonaparte Pottery site. The site was previously determined eligible by the State Historical Society of Iowa and includes both archeological and architectural components. Contributing components are the archeological remains of the Bonaparte Pottery operation dating from 1866-1895 and the standing pottery factory building (a.k.a. Site #89-006-093) completed in 1876 following the destruction of the original pottery factory building in November 1875. Non-contributing components include two buildings post-dating 1895 and associated with the Smith lumberyard operation that took over the site after the pottery had shut down.

The Bonaparte Pottery archeological site and architectural properties have been the focus of four previous investigations including the Van Buren County Historical Inventory Project (re: Inventory Number 60); the Area XV cultural resources study (Naumann 1980; Till and Nansel 1981); a riverbank stabilization study conducted for the Rock Island Corps of Engineers (Till 1983; Page 1983); and an archeological and historical investigation conducted by the Office of the State Archaeologist through a grant-in-aid agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa to assess damage to the site from the floods of 1993 (Rogers et al. 1995). These architectural, historical, and archeological studies all demonstrated the significance of the Bonaparte Pottery site and resulted in a determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The archaeological site actually extends farther to the west than the nominated boundaries into the adjacent property, which is presently under separate ownership. It is recommended that the boundary of the district be expanded in the future to encompass the entire archaeological site as owner permission allows.

The architectural components of this property include the 1876 pottery factory building, an L-shaped lumber shed, and the former lumberyard office now used as a residence by the property owners. In addition are the structural remains of two former pottery kilns. The factory building is a contributing component to the nominated district, while the lumber shed and former office are non-contributing because they post-date the period of significance for the district.

The factory is a two-story, heavy timber-framed building with a limestone foundation and a front-gabled roof orientation. Sheds for lumber and storage were added by the lumberyard to the east and west sides of the factory building. Another shed addition was made to the south side but this has since been removed. The exterior of the pottery building is clad with vertical wood siding, while the interior wall construction consists of heavy timber framing with brick masonry infill, a type of construction that can be referred to as "fachwerk," with the masonry infill referred to as "nogging" (Harris ed. 1977; Howe et al. 1987:103). The brick nogging extends all the way from the first floor into the gable ends of the attic. This type of construction is a European Medieval traditional building style that was brought to this country during the Colonial Period by European immigrants (Harris ed. 1977:275; Howe et al. 1987:109). It has been noted that "this construction technique later spread to the Midwest as Germans migrated there in the nineteenth century" (Howe et al. 1987:109). The identification of the builder of the Bonaparte pottery factory is unknown.

Structurally, the pottery building is in poor condition. Although, "with some minor repairs and reinforcing of structural elements, the structure can be made adequate to support limited loading" (Prairie Architects 1994). The stone foundation is sound despite the deterioration and loss of much of the mortar or sand that had been placed between the courses. The first floor framing consists of wood joists supported by solid timber beams on the interior and the stone foundation walls on the exterior. At present, there are six supporting beams; however, several of these were either completely displaced or were tilting as a result of the 1993 and past flood episodes. The loss of several of these beams resulted in an initial assessment following the 1993 flood that the building was in danger of catastrophic collapse; however, metal floor jacks were placed at locations in the basement as indicated by a structural engineer to temporarily shore up the missing supports.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 3**Bonaparte Pottery Archeological District
Van Buren County, Iowa**

The interior construction is also characterized by a partial suspension system as originally built; wherein, the southern half of the building is supported not by posts but by steel hanger rods that suspend from the bottom chord of the roof trusses directly above. These rods support both the first and second floors on the south half. This type of structural system allowed for more open interior space, which was needed in this factory setting. However, through the years, the undermining of the basement floor support posts on the north half has caused an imbalance in this suspension requiring the addition of floor support posts in the basement on the south half. In short, the building, because of the dynamics of its interior construction, is literally shifting at an incline to the north, placing additional pressure on the already tenuous support posts. On the upper floors, this leaning effect is evidenced by the "rolling-over" of some of the joists, the separation of some of the timber beam splice joints over the posts, and the destabilization of the brick wall infill on the south wall. In fact, a section of this infill is in danger of collapse inward along this wall on the second floor. A segment of this infill in the attic is also in danger of collapse (Prairie Architects 1994).

While the building is in poor structural condition, it retains extraordinarily good integrity and is considered itself a significant artifact of the pottery site. The interior of this structure was left virtually unchanged by the lumberyard usage of this property, and as a result, evidence of the pottery operations is still visible in the form of patterns of clay spatters on the beams, walls and ceilings, clay spills through the floorboards from the first floor into the basement, clay hand prints from where the pottery workers wiped their hands on ceiling beams, and even graffiti on the second floor interior door which looked out over the circular kiln area to the east.

The pattern of clay spatters and hand prints on the second floor shows four areas where the spatters are on the ceiling, with four of the support beams at the north end also covered with clay. The area on the south wall not only has spatters on the ceiling but has a thick layer of clay on the wall itself. There was obviously a wheel or lathe close to the wall at this location, which is in-between the southern doorway to the outside and a window and was in a well-lit area. However, the build-up of clay on the brick wall was caustic to the brick and mortar resulting in the deterioration of a section of the wall. To redress this situation, a wooden plank was nailed to the timber framing while the pottery was still in operation. This plank also shows the wear and deterioration from continued clay build up indicating that the wheel or lathe remained in place despite its obvious detriment to the structure. There is no other area on the building's interior where a similar activity is shown.

According to the 1893 fire insurance map of the pottery building, the "moulding room" was on the first floor, with the "finishing" done on the second floor. This would indicate that some of the clay spatters on the second floor are from lathe-turning of molded wares and/or the application of slip to finished wares. There is no evidence of clay spatters or other patterns on the first floor; however, the interior of this floor was painted and in some areas covered over with siding during the lumberyard's usage. As a result, it is difficult to determine the location of pottery-related activities on this floor. However, there are areas visible on the basement ceiling where clay had dripped through from the floorboards above. This clay could be evidence of slip-casting, the application and/or mixing of slip glazes, or of wheel throwing.

The basement also documents the pottery operation in the patterns of clay drippings on the ceiling, locations where leather straps are nailed or otherwise attached to floor joists, a metal rod driven in-between the stones of the foundation, and a plank nailed to the joists that are evidence of where clamps and a drive shaft were once attached. The shaft was associated with the horse-powered clay pug mill, the archeological remains of which were discovered in the basement floor deposits (Rogers et al. 1995).

The interior of the extant building, therefore, documents that all three levels of the factory were in use during the pottery's operation, with the basement used for the processing of the clay, the first floor used for molding and possibly wheel throwing, slip casting, and/or the application or mixing of slip glaze, and the second floor used for finishing the molded wares on lathes, the application of slip glazes, and possibly for wheel throwing. The 1893 fire insurance map also showed that the first floor had the hot air dryer for the drying of greenwares, with a one-story storeroom attached to the west side. A walkway shown leading from the pottery building south to the circular kiln on the 1893 map may have been a walkway from the second floor level out to the second level of the kiln, which was 30 feet in height. A similar arrangement was shown in an 1875 illustration of the pottery in Eddyville, Iowa (Andreas 1875).

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Van Buren County, Iowa**

After the Bonaparte pottery ceased operations c.1895, the property was converted for use as a lumberyard. As noted above, three sheds were added to the pottery factory building at that time, with one of the sheds since removed. All of the sheds were attached to the exterior walls of the pottery building and only superficially impacted that structure. These sheds could just as easily be removed with no adverse effect to the original building. Other buildings were added to the pottery property by the lumberyard operation including a standing L-shaped shed and a rectangular office building. The shed is now used for storage, with the office building converted for use as a residence. Both of these buildings are non-contributing to the historic district.

The only other structural remains of note are the foundations for two pottery kilns, both of which were uncovered during the post-1993 excavations (Rogers et al. 1995). The older of the two kilns is located on the south side of the pottery factory building and designated as Feature 3 (ibid.). This is a linear kiln at least 7 meters in length and 1.9 to 2.2 meters in width. This feature is in close proximity to the standing factory building; much too close for the two to have been contemporaneous in operation. The kiln would have been too hot to be this near to the wood-clad factory building. This proximity would have been particularly odd given that the first pottery building was destroyed by fire. Therefore, it is concluded that the linear kiln was associated with the 1866-1875 operations of the pottery. The structure of this kiln consists of parallel walls constructed of common red brick, with the outer walls composed of four to two courses of brick and the inner channel walls being only two brick courses wide. The width of the exterior walls widens near the east end of the feature. A bag wall or baffle, perpendicular to the channel and exterior walls is present near the west end. The purpose of a baffle is to direct the flow of hot air through the kiln, prevent strong cross drafts, and to protect the wares from sudden or excessive heat (Smith and Watrin 1986:140; Sweezy 1984:64). Three firing channels or flues are formed by the parallel walls on the interior. The interior fill of these channels attests to the intense heating of a kiln structure and consists of decomposed brick dust cemented with coal slag and fused ash and clinkers. The form of this kiln is similar to scove or clamp-type kilns, although unlike these types of kilns, Feature 3 was a more permanent construction. It was likely used to fire brick and/or drain tile or possibly to fire terra-cotta flowerpots. Flowerpots and drain tile were among the early products of the Bonaparte Pottery, with brick produced at least by 1875 (Andreas 1875; Rogers et al. 1995:57).

The second kiln is a circular kiln designated as Feature 1 (Rogers et al. 1995). This kiln was represented on the 1893 fire insurance map of the Bonaparte Pottery and was indicated as having been 30 feet in height. The diameter of the kiln base is 17.44 feet (5.3 meters). Only the bottommost layer of brick and the limestone foundation base were intact, the upper levels and courses of the kiln having been removed in June 1895 when the *Weekly State Line Democrat* (1895a) noted that Wallace Smith was removing the kilns and "fixing up the property" prior to the moving of his lumberyard to this site. Fortunately, the kiln removal was not complete leaving enough of the foundation and base of the kiln to identify the kiln type. Feature 1 is specifically an updraft kiln, with the 30-foot height suggesting that it may have been a double-level kiln. This may also be supported by the theory that there was a walkway out from the second floor east-side door of the pottery factory out to the kiln. The structural remains of the circular kiln show four transept firebox/flue channels that rise towards a common intersection at the center of the kiln, and a surrounding, circumferential air channel that still retains its arched roofing, albeit collapsed. The location of the fireboxes at the end of each transept is evidenced by crimson-colored burned earth, charcoal, and ashes. An area of dense charcoal and burned earth was also noted in-between the two fireboxes on the north side around the exterior of the kiln. Perhaps this was an area where materials cleaned out of the fireboxes were discarded. A similar area was noted on the southeast corner of the kiln where a high concentration of cinders and slag were deposited just outside the kiln. Based on the kiln type and the types of artifacts recovered from within and around this feature, it can be concluded that this updraft kiln was used to fire stoneware (both mold-made and wheelthrown), drain tile, and flowerpots. One of the more notable finds within the Feature 1 deposit was the remains of three, nearly whole five-gallon crocks that were wheelthrown and salt glazed. These crocks were largely reconstructable having been broken into a number of sherds. These sherds showed no evidence of having been fired over or reheated suggesting that these vessels were in the last firing of the kiln, broke in the process of firing or unloading, and were left in the kiln and never cleaned out. If this is the case, then it can be stated positively that the pottery's production included both mold-made and wheelthrown techniques through the end of its operations. Both kilns are significant

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Van Buren County, Iowa**Section number 7 Page 5

architectural and archeological components of the pottery site but are considered to be archeological features and therefore contribute to the archeological component of this district.

Other archeological features of note encountered in the various investigations of site 13VB200 include a large waster midden along the riverbank designated as Feature 8 and measuring 140 feet in length, 40 feet in width, and over 2 meters in depth in places; a waster pit designated as Feature 5 and located off the southeast corner of the extant pottery building; the remains of the pug mill clay pit and horse path in the basement of the extant pottery building and designated as Features 4 and 6, respectively; and a well located off the southeast corner of the extant pottery building and designated as Feature 13 (Rogers et al. 1995; Till 1983).

The waster midden (Feature 8) extends from the top of the terrace on which site 13VB200 is located down into the present river channel. It consists of a dense deposit of stoneware sherds and some whole vessels, kiln furniture and fabric, and brick. In general, it was found that the stoneware discarded in the upper midden area generally dates from the later years of operation and contain primarily wares of the "middle range" of production, i.e., milk pans and bowls. This phenomenon of waster midden composition was also observed at the Lincoln Pottery site in Nebraska (Schoen and Bleed 1993).

The waster pit (Feature 5) is a round-bottomed pit containing a dense deposit of stoneware sherds (primarily wheelthrown), kiln furniture, and kiln fabric. Maker's marks are from the Parker and Hanback operation of the pottery indicating an association of this feature with the early years of operation of this pottery from c.1866-c.1871, when the company changed partnerships after which the Parker and Hanback stamp would probably not have been used.

The pug mill clay pit (Feature 4) and the surrounding horse path (Feature 6) were encountered underneath flood silt deposits in the basement of the extant pottery building. The clay pit is a wood-lined square or rectangular pit that had posts at the corners and vertical and horizontal wooden boards in its walls and floor construction. The pit was filled with potters clay in two colors; a pink (5YR 7/2; dry) clay and a light gray (2.5Y 7/2; dry) clay. The pink clay may have been the material used for the terra-cotta flowerpots and drain tile, while the gray clay would have been used in stoneware production. This deposit represented the final, unused deposit from the pottery operation when it closed c. 1895. The wood-lined pit was probably used to store the pugged clay prior to its shipment upstairs where it would be turned into wares. Surrounding the pit feature, underneath the same depth of flood silt overburden, was a worn, circular path having a circumference of 25 ft, which was the industry's recommended minimum space for horse power of this type in the late nineteenth century (Haswell 1867). The use of horse power in the basement was also documented on the 1893 fire insurance map, thus all three levels of the pottery factory building were put to efficient use in the manufacture of stoneware pottery.

The artifacts recovered from the recent excavations, and the study of curated pieces of Bonaparte pottery and plaster molds from this factory in private collections, has yielded a wealth of information about the actual operations of this particular pottery and its evolution through time. Based on the recovered stoneware assemblage, a typology of wares was formulated for the Bonaparte pottery, which will provide a comparative framework for future studies of other potteries in the Midwest. The operation reflected by this assemblage consisted of both wheelthrown, handmade wares and mold-made wares, with both still being manufactured in tandem to the end of the pottery's operation. In addition, the factory produced drain tile, flowerpots, and brick.

The archeological investigation found that the features and artifact assemblages from the Bonaparte Pottery site have some redundancy in comparison with similar sites; however, overall, the site has produced information concerning pottery production, features types, and site utilization that is not well documented at other sites. The linear kiln, in particular, is an unusual type of kiln to survive in such good condition and has the ability to provide data about this type of kiln and its actual use that might not otherwise be available at other sites or in the literature. The archival documentation for the Bonaparte Pottery, while providing some very useful and enlightening information, is too sparse and has too many gaps to tell the whole story of this site's history. The archeological and architectural components, therefore, are the best preserved documentation of this site and have the ability to close some of the data gaps.

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**Bonaparte Pottery Archeological District
Van Buren County, Iowa**

The results of the archeological and architectural investigations demonstrated the high integrity of the pottery site and its ability to yield important information concerning the history of this particular pottery, and of the early pottery industry in Iowa in general. Despite its continued use as a lumberyard into the late twentieth century and its continued use as a private residential property, none of the post-pottery activities has adversely affected the significant remains of the Bonaparte pottery. Part of the reason for this is the low-impact nature of its long-term use as a lumberyard and part is the burial of portions of the site under deep flood silt layers. Unfortunately, this flooding continues and is threatening the architectural component with continued decay and eventually collapse. The present owners, Donald and Marilyn Thomas, are seeking to preserve this property and restore the pottery factory for use as a historical museum. At the very least, they hope to stabilize the building to preserve it for future generations. By nominating the site to the National Register of Historic Places, the Thomases hope the preservation process will be aided and that the significance of this property will be fully realized.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 Bonaparte Pottery Archeological District
Van Buren County, Iowa

Statement of Significance

The Bonaparte Pottery Archeological District in Van Buren County, Iowa, is significant at the state and local levels under Criterion A for its association with the early historic pottery industry in the state of Iowa; under Criterion C for the survival of the 1876 pottery factory building, a rarity in the state of Iowa, particularly in the excellent state of its preservation, and for the structural remains of two kilns; and under Criterion D for the demonstrated potential of the site's archeological remains to yield important information about this early industry and to provide comparative data significant to the study of the pottery industry in Iowa and the Midwest. The period of significance is from 1866-1895, encompassing the years of operation of the Bonaparte Pottery. Significant dates include 1866 when the pottery was first established and 1876 when the extant pottery factory building replaced the original factory building that was destroyed by fire in November 1875.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Bonaparte Pottery is significant at the state and local levels for its association with the late nineteenth century pottery industry of Iowa. As a mid-sized pottery in comparison, the Bonaparte Pottery could never have successfully competed with the "giants" in the industry in the Midwest (i.e., the Red Wing and Western Stoneware companies in Minnesota and Illinois, respectively). However, it did constitute an important local industry that often went hand-in-hand with Iowa's coal mining industry and generally followed the frontier westward through Iowa.

Site History

Four men played important roles at the Bonaparte Pottery: Sidney Parker, Thomas Hanback, Robert Wilson, and Henry Jones. Parker and Hanback founded the business in 1866, with Wilson and Jones becoming later partners in the business. Thomas Alvin Hanback was born in the United States and migrated to nearby Vernon, Iowa, in 1852 at the age of 15 where he became an apprentice potter to his brother-in-law Robert Dickson, who was married to Hanback's sister, Melinda. Hanback remained in Vernon for 15 years before embarking on his own pottery enterprise in 1866 across the Des Moines River in Bonaparte in partnership with Sidney Parker under the company name of the "Parker and Hanback Pottery." Parker, a native of Burslem, Staffordshire, England, had also been an apprentice to Dickson at the Vernon pottery beginning in 1855.

A newspaper account indicated that Parker and Hanback began producing stoneware within three months of their purchase of the property in Bonaparte. The July 11 edition of the *Bentonsport Signal* (1866a) states:

Parker & Hanback, who have established themselves in the stoneware business at Bonaparte, present their card to the public in this week's issue telling the people what they can do for them in that line. We will go to our bottom dollar that all they say is true, and no brag, for they are straight forward enterprising and industrious men who rely upon their works for success. We congratulate the people of Bonaparte on so valuable an acquisition and commend the public to Parker and Hanback for good work and square dealing.

The first advertisement for the pottery appeared on July 18, 1866, in the *Signal* where it was noted that Parker and Hanback were producing a variety of products from the outset: "Stoneware of all kinds, also Cans, Flower Pots, Draining Tile" (*Bentonsport Signal* 1866b).

By 1870, the industrial census for the Bonaparte Pottery noted that "Parker, Hanback & Co." employed four men and operated a full 12 months out of the year. A total of \$1,775 was paid in wages, with \$3,000 in capital invested in the business. Production was valued at \$7,500. This compared favorably with the nearby, 18-year-old factory of Robert Dickson, whose Vernon pottery had six employees paid total wages of \$2,400, had a total of \$7,000 in capital invested in the business, and a production value of \$8,000 (1870 U.S. Industrial Census).

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A new player entered the scene as early as 1870. Robert Wilson, who was born in Staffordshire, England, and emigrated to the United States in 1856, worked in potteries in Peoria, Illinois, and Farmington, Iowa, before settling in Bonaparte around 1870. In Farmington, Wilson had been partners in a steam-powered pottery operation along with J.A. Campbell and Henry Jones. The latter had been born in Cobridge Villa, Staffordshire, England, and emigrated to the United States in the 1850s where he settled first in Zanesville, Ohio, before moving to Iowa by 1859. Reportedly, Jones' father was "the establisher of the Staffordshire potteries," although the validity of this claim is not presently known (*Daily Gate City* 1867; *Keosauqua Republican* 1902a; Rogers et al. 1995; *Western Historical* 1878). It can be stated that all four of the major players in the Bonaparte pottery operation brought to this business many years of prior experience in making and manufacturing pottery, with three having been born and raised in the great pottery center of Staffordshire, England.

Wilson became directly involved in the Bonaparte Pottery operations in 1871 when Sidney Parker and his wife sold their portion of the pottery business for \$625, dividing it equally between Thomas Hanback and Robert Wilson. Interestingly, in 1873 Hanback and Wilson sell that same portion of the business back to Parker, who six months later once again sold it back to Hanback and Wilson. Archival sources indicate that Parker continued to be listed as a potter in 1878, 1880, 1885, and 1895 censuses (Iowa State Population Census 1884, 1895; United States Population Census 1880; *Western Historical* 1878). In addition, Parker's obituary from 1914 suggested an active involvement in the pottery until 1895 (*Bonaparte Record* 1914).

After 1873, the pottery was known as the Hanback and Wilson or the Bonaparte Pottery, with Thomas Hanback referred to as the senior partner and traveling salesman (*Bonaparte Journal* 1887). By 1875 the pottery was producing brown glazed stoneware, terra cotta drain tile, and fire proof brick (Andreas 1970). At the time of the fire in the main pottery building on November 17, 1875, it was noted that

there was in the building 8,000 gallons of ware ready to burn....This shop was the largest in Van Buren County and furnished employment to about a dozen workmen (*Daily Gate City* 1875).

Reconstruction of the burned factory began immediately, with 12 men at work on the building, which was said to be twice as large as the old one (*Birmingham Enterprise* 1875). By March 8, 1876, "the new pottery (was) now in full blast, turning out a great many gallons of the best ware in the state" (*Daily Gate City* 1876). By 1878 the company was producing 75,000 gallons of stoneware per year, with a tile factory added by that date. The tile factory had a capacity of 6,000 feet per day. Ten men were employed at that time (*Western Historical* 1878). The 1880 Gazetteer listed the pottery as producing both tile and sewer pipe (Polk and Danser 1880).

By 1887 the Hanback and Wilson Pottery was advertised as keeping on hand

...a full line of the best Glazed Ware in the State. They also manufacture and deal in Flower Pots, Drain Pipe, Fire-Proof Brick, Fruit Cans, With Metal Covers, etc....8, 10, 12, and 15 Gallon Jars made to order (*Bonaparte Journal* 1887:30).

The "fruit cans" noted in this advertisement were likely the dodecagonal preserves jars that the Bonaparte Pottery was producing during Wilson's tenure. The form of this twelve-sided jar is very similar to a type associated with the Peoria Pottery, and its reproduction at the Bonaparte Pottery reflects Wilson's prior experience in Peoria.

Another write-up in the *Bonaparte Journal* states that six to ten men and two teams were producing 125,000 gallons of pottery per year. Two years later, Hanback and Wilson had reportedly increased their production by 20 percent:

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One of the most flourishing industries of Bonaparte is the pottery works of Hanback & Wilson, on lower Front street...The business is a large and growing one, and they manufacture in the neighborhood of 150,000 gallons of pottery per year. The clay is taken from beds about 2.5 miles north and is of remarkably fine quality. This superior clay together with an extra quality of glazing used, giving a very fine, smooth hard finish mark their ware as No. 1 and secures for it a ready market. With a growing business they keep constantly prepared to meet the demand and can fill any orders on short notice. A noticeable feature is the growing demand for stone fruit jars, which the large crop of fruit this year will no doubt make doubly great. Mr. Hanback, the salesman of the firm, is well known to the trade all over the...[remainder of article is missing] (Entler 1889).

The exact proprietorship of the pottery during its final three years of operation is not precisely known. The Gazetteer for 1892-93 (Polk 1892) lists the "Wilson & Co. Pottery, Robert Wilson, proprietor." In the 1895-96 edition (Polk 1895), the firm name is the same as in 1892, but both Robert Wilson and Henry Jones are listed as proprietors. No property transfers between Hanback and Wilson or Hanback and Jones are found in the land transfer books. Jones' obituary refers to him as a "partner with Robert Wilson in the pottery for two years" (*Keosauqua Republican* 1902b). The 1895 Iowa Census lists Robert Wilson and Sidney Parker as potters, Thomas Hanback as a farmer, and Henry Jones as a Justice.

On May 30, 1895, the following piece appeared in the *Weekly State Line Democrat* (1895b) about the Bonaparte Pottery:

The pottery shop is not running this year. Perhaps never will again. Improved methods and a better quality of clay at other places gives other localities a decided advantage.

Various factors, including the financial panic of 1893, increasing difficulty throughout the county in obtaining credit, changes in transportation routes, the introduction of mechanized production, and population shifts must have played major roles in the closure of the Bonaparte Pottery. It is known that town of Bonaparte was experiencing a severe decline in manufacturing beginning in the 1890s. The pottery, unable to compete with mechanized, mass-producers, and located a greater distance from population centers than other manufacturers, like many industries in the area had no choice but to cease operations. It had been in business for 28 years and appears to have enjoyed a measure of success before succumbing to hard times.

History of the Pottery Industry of Iowa

In the state as a whole, the ceramics industry was one of the important economic enterprises in the Euro-American settlement of Iowa during the mid- to late nineteenth century. Suitable clays for ceramic products were found throughout the state, particularly in association with coal deposits, which were exploited by settlers beginning in the 1840s and grew into a major commercial industry by the late nineteenth century. Fire clays were often extracted from the ground as a by-product of coal mining. Firms involved in ceramic production manufactured construction and paving bricks, drainage and sewer tiles, well tubing, chimney stacks, and utilitarian wares (Gradwohl 1976, 1995).

The earliest potteries in Iowa were make-shift kilns operated by part-time and itinerant workers. Within a comparatively short period of time, these operations saturated the local market with their wares. As a result, most of the earliest potters in Iowa "were a migratory lot, often following the waves of settlement into the state's interior" (Till 1983:100-101). Many of these early potters were immigrants from England and Germany, bringing with them knowledge of the European ceramic industry. The German immigrants were likely induced to emigrate to the United States because of the political and economic upheavals in Germany in the 1840s. English immigrants, particularly potters, may have immigrated because of labor troubles in the English pottery industry. Pottery laborers suffered from "low wages, oppressive employers, and a high rate of unemployment" (Walthall et al. 1991:1). In the early 1840s, a weekly paper, *The Potters' Examiner and Workman's Advocate*, printed articles and letters from English potters in the United States that encouraged potters to immigrate (Foreman 1938; Walthall et al. 1991). It may have been in response to such pressures and exhortations that Sidney Parker (who

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immigrated with his family from Burslem, England, in 1846), Robert Wilson (who immigrated from Staffordshire, England, in 1856), and Henry Jones (who immigrated from Staffordshire in the 1850s) all ended up in Bonaparte, Iowa, in the pottery trade.

As Iowa potteries became more established in particular areas, these operations employed full time and rather specialized personnel. What began as an essentially handcraft trade evolved into a mechanized, technologically complex industry (Gradwohl 1976). The location of potteries was at first dependent upon having suitable clay sources on or near the site; however, as the railroad expanded into Iowa, potteries could import clays and thus could be located wherever there were railroads and a market demand for their wares.

Till (1983:101) has noted that "economic expansion of the industry in Iowa seems to have occurred following the Civil War and reached its zenith in the 1880s." While pottery was "never a major Iowa product after the mid-19th century, [the] state occasionally led in regional pottery production" (Grieshop n.d.). In 1865 there were 17 potteries listed in the Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory, including the Dickson Pottery in Vernon, Van Buren County, Iowa. The Bonaparte Pottery was founded the following year, and by 1881 this same directory listed 27 potteries (Sweet et al. 1984:25-26).

During the second half of the nineteenth century, dozens of pottery kilns operated in Iowa. Some of these manufacturing operations were large and continued in production for several decades. Many more were small and in operation only intermittently. By comparison, the Bonaparte Pottery was a mid-sized operation. Overall, the pottery industry in Iowa was in decline by the early 1900s having peaked between 1865 and 1895. While the 1903 Directory of Clay Workers in Iowa listed 303 manufacturers of ceramics in the state, only six of these produced pottery (Gradwohl 1976, 1995).

The greatest concentration of potteries was along the Des Moines River Valley, where coal deposits were also abundant and worked from an early date. The major potteries tended to center around four urban areas: Fort Dodge, Sioux City, Davenport, and Des Moines, with that at Fort Dodge representing the state's largest stoneware manufactory (Ketchum 1991:150). However, most of the Iowa potteries were smaller, more rural operations that concentrated in areas where fire clays were available and transportation routes allowed a suitable market sphere. The pottery centers in Boone, Henry, Hardin, Marion, Van Buren, and Wapello counties led in this category. The very first pottery kiln in Iowa was a rural kiln built by William Welch just downriver from the future town of Bonaparte in Van Buren County in 1836. At the other end of the spectrum was White's Pottery in Fort Dodge, which at its peak, was the largest pottery in the state of Iowa. It was known in later years as the Fort Dodge Stoneware Company and operated from c.1870 until 1906.

There is evidence that there was a network of communication between Iowa potters concerning availability of jobs, pottery equipment for sale, and the setting of uniform prices for their wares (Schroeder 1979:40, 55-57). The Bonaparte Pottery was included in this network, with the Hanback and Wilson pottery listed on an 1882 price circular stating that the listed potters agreed to sell at set prices (ibid.).

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Bonaparte Pottery site is extraordinary in its preservation not only of the archeological but also the architectural remains of this late nineteenth century stoneware pottery operation. It is unique in this regard in the State of Iowa and perhaps much of the Midwest. It is, therefore, significant at both the local and state levels for the preservation of the 1876 pottery factory building and the ruins of two kiln features in the yard area surrounding the standing building.

The standing building served as the main pottery factory building between 1876 and 1895 and replaced the original factory which burned in November 1875. That building was smaller in size, with the new building constructed over its site destroying any evidence of the burned building in the process. The fachwerk construction of the new building is notable and was often associated with German immigrant builders who settled in the Midwest; however, in the case of the Bonaparte pottery building, this type of construction probably reflects a desire for interior thermal control and comfort more so than ethnic affiliation. The identification of the builder is unknown. While the 1876 building was subsequently used by the lumberyard for storage, it was left virtually unchanged from its 1895 condition. As a result, evidence of the pottery operations is still visible in the form of

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clay spatters and spills, clay hand prints, and graffiti. The locations of wheel and lathe machinery and activity areas are also discernible. The later use of this building by the lumberyard had a superficial impact on the interior and exterior of the building, and while it is presently in poor structural condition, it retains a high degree of integrity.

The structural remains of two kilns, both ruins, adds to the architectural significance of this site. The kilns include the base of a circular updraft kiln, that was still in operation in the 1890s at the end of the pottery operation, and the base of a linear kiln, which dated from the early years of operation from c.1866 until c.1876. The exact production of the linear kiln is as yet unknown, although it is suspected to have produced drain tile, brick, and some wares, while the updraft kiln was primarily for the firing of stonewares. Sufficient structural components remain of each of these kilns to provide additional data concerning the evolution of this pottery, the full nature of its production, and the engineering aspects of the kilns' respective construction techniques.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The site also retains a high degree of archeological integrity, with years of flood silt deposition serving to seal portions of the site particularly at the end of the pottery's life-span. The basement of the pottery factory building in fact was found to retain the intact working-floor surface of the c.1895 operation of the pottery buried underneath nearly one foot of flood silt overburden. As a result, such normally fragile features as the worn path made by the horses or ponies turning the pug mill, are extraordinarily well preserved and in a sealed context.

Intact features such as the pug mill clay pit, the horse path, the two kilns, the waster pit, and the waster midden, as well as the dense and varied artifact assemblage, have the ability to yield significant information concerning the nature and evolution of this important local industry and to substantially add to the body of data concerning the nineteenth century stoneware industry in Iowa and the Midwest.

While there is some archival data available about the Bonaparte Pottery, this information is uneven and spotty. What is particularly lacking from the archival documentation of this site are photographs and company records. As a result, the archeological and architectural records become the best documentation of the actual day-to-day operations of this company and the best documentation of what the site looked like throughout its history. Without the archeological record, much of the history of this site is left to speculation.

The archaeological site in its entirety extends beyond the western boundary of the nominated district into the adjacent lot. This lot was part of the original pottery property but is now under separate ownership. The site in its entirety has been determined eligible for the National Register, and the boundaries of the present district should be expanded in the future to include this property dependent on owner consent. There is also the potential for the expansion of the district to the north to include the Hanback house, which is directly across the street from the pottery factory, and what may prove to be a series of brick workers' cottages that line the street to the north of the pottery property. The expansion of the district boundaries will require additional research and owner permission as each of these properties is now individually owned.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Bonaparte Pottery Archeological District consists of what was platted originally as Outlot 8 and adjacent Lots 1 and 2 of the Original Town Plat for Bonaparte, Iowa. Outlot 8 is now known as the "270 ft Front South of Lot 16," with Lots 1 and 2 retaining their original designation.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary consists of the legal description for the main portion of the pottery business property, encompassing the pottery factory building and all but the east one-quarter of archeological site 13VB200 (see attached map). This includes all of the original pottery property that is in the possession of current owners, Donald and Marilyn Thomas, and contains the known components of the former Bonaparte Pottery. It is recommended that the boundary of the district be expanded in the future to include the remainder of the archaeological site and the original pottery property to the west dependent upon property owner cooperation.

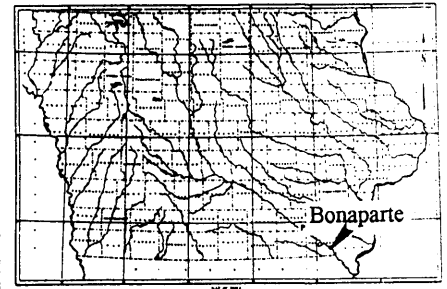
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Map of Bonaparte, Iowa, Showing District Location
Source: North West 1897



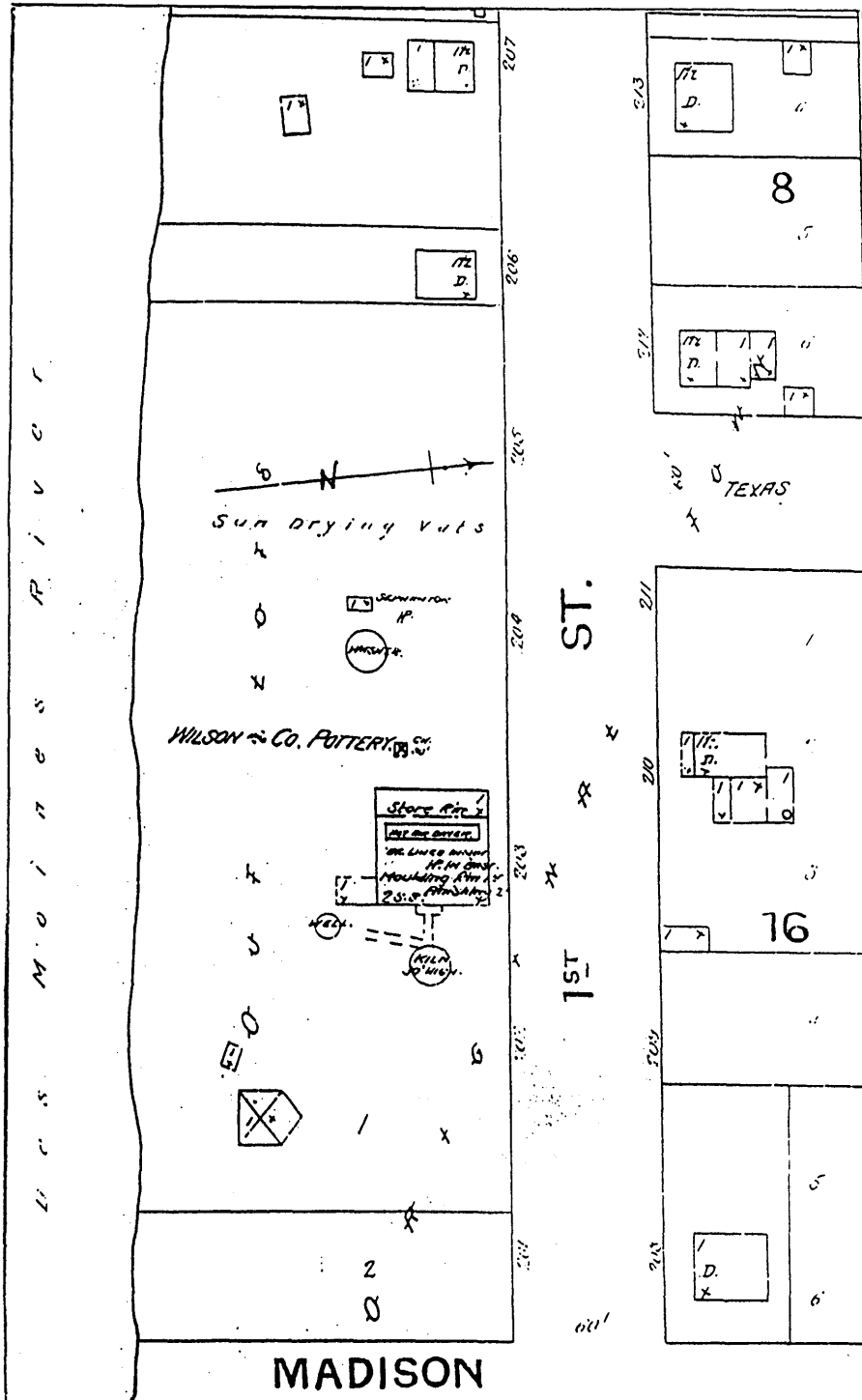
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1893 Fire Insurance Map of Bonaparte Pottery
Source: Sanborn 1893



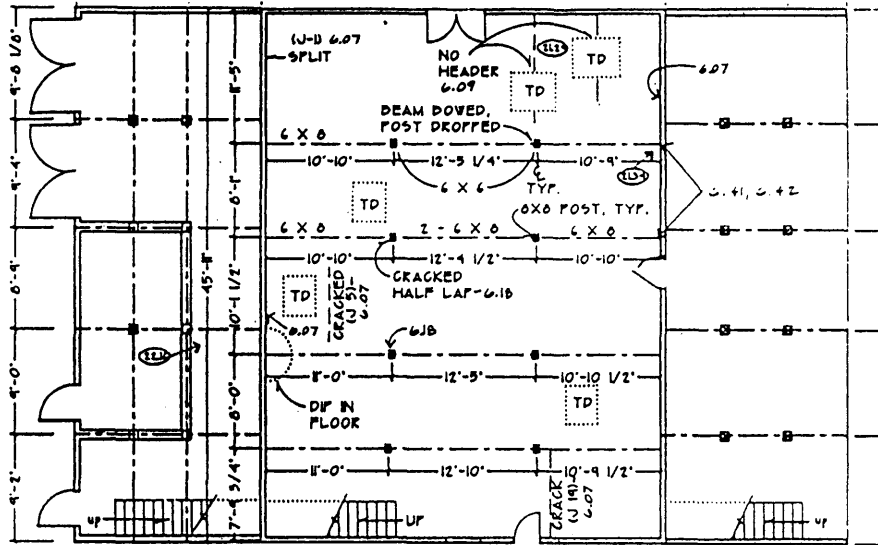
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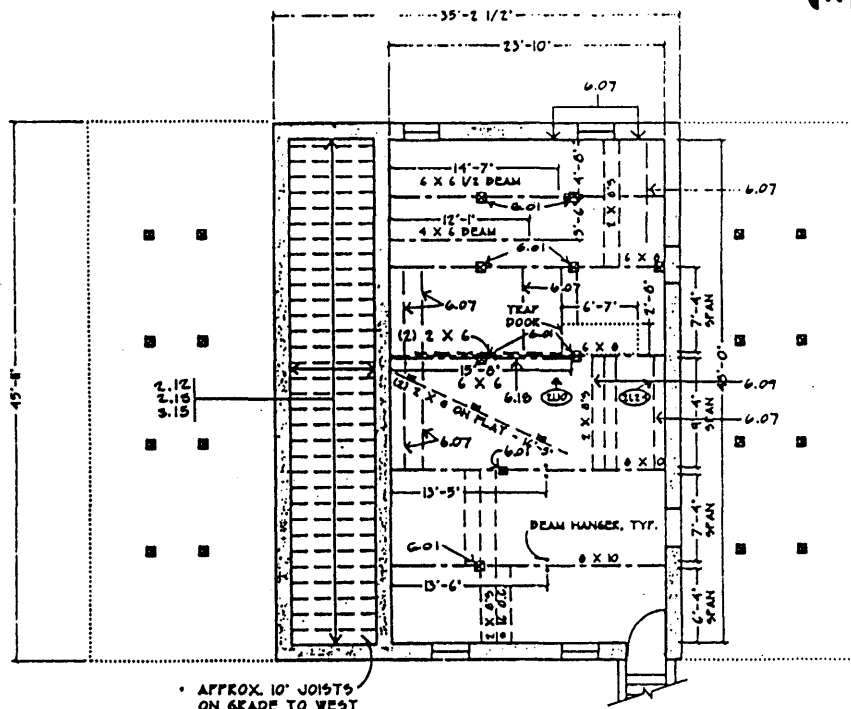
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Floor Plans of Basement and First Floor of Pottery Building
Maps compiled by Prairie Architects, Inc.



D FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

TD - TRAP DOOR
W-D - JOIST #1
GENERAL -
4.9



A BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

GENERAL:
4.09
15.02

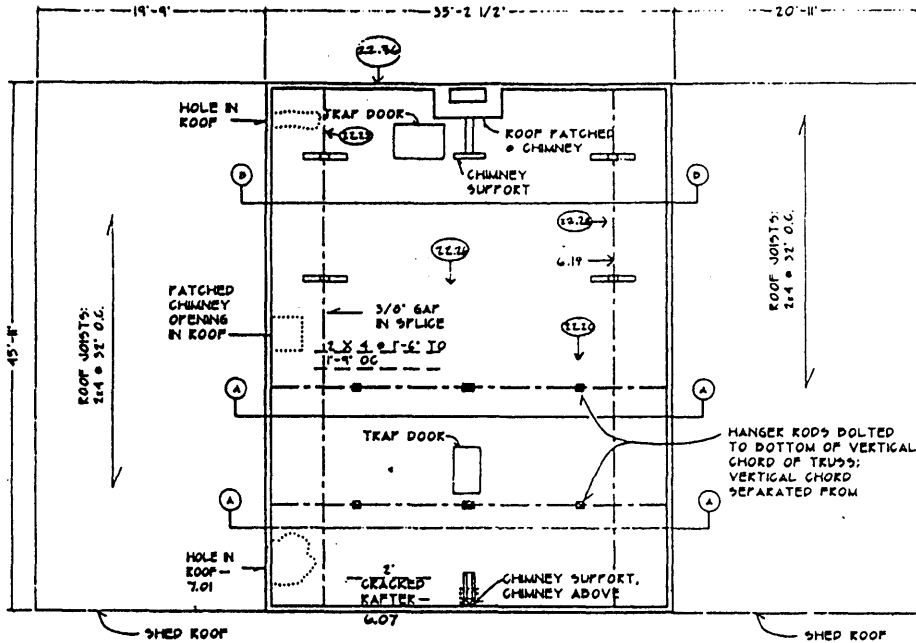
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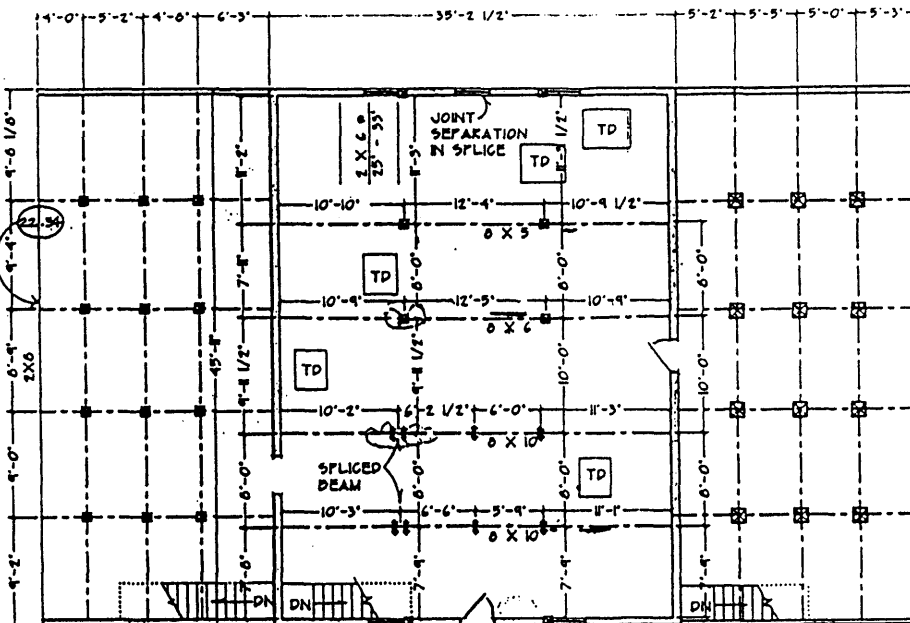
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Floor Plans of Second Floor and Attic of Pottery Building
Maps compiled by Prairie Architects, Inc.



(E) ATTIC PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



(D) SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

TD - TRAP DOOR

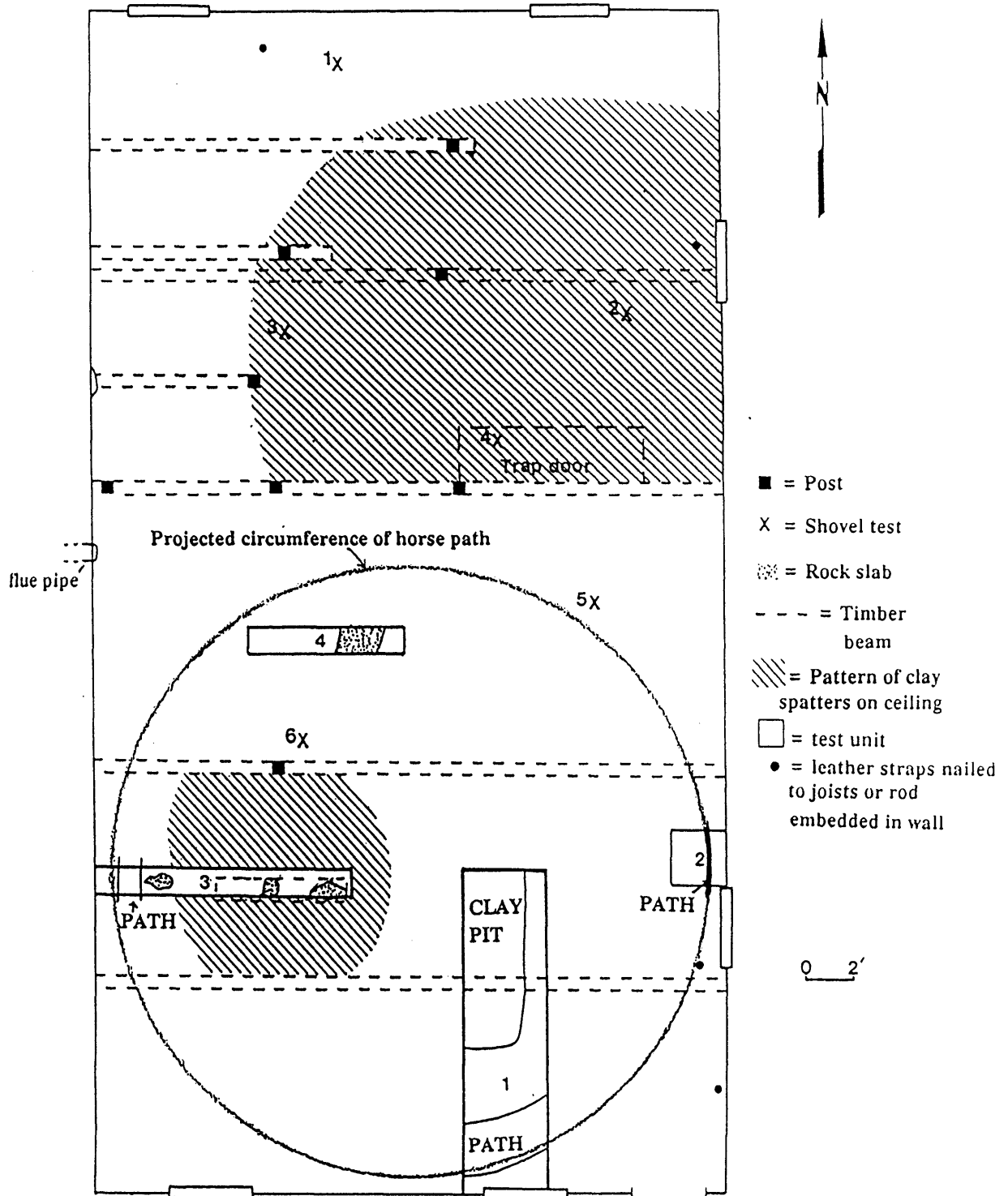
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Floor Plan of Basement Showing Archeological Features and Test Units
Source: Rogers et al. 1995

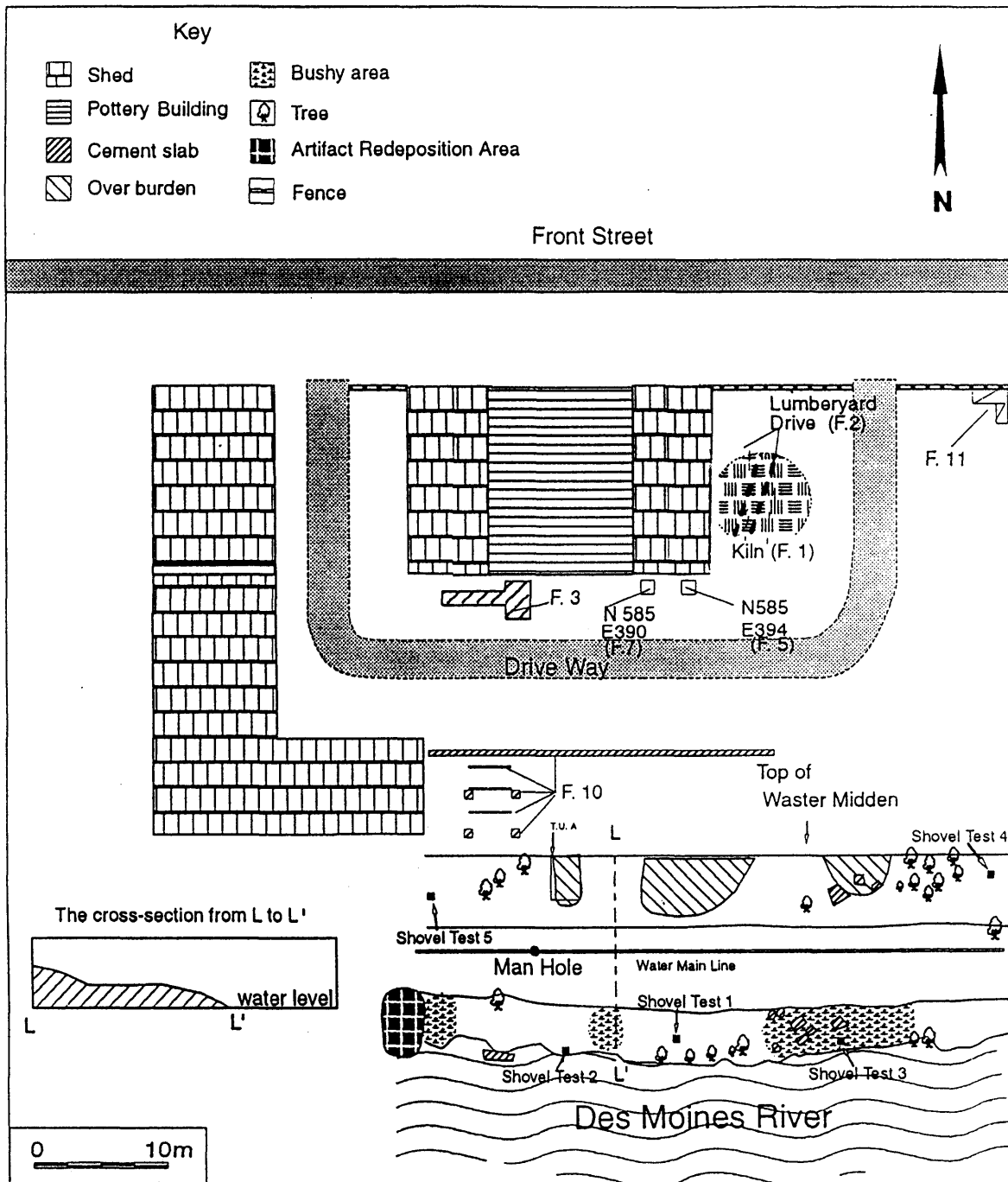


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Site Plan Map of Bonaparte Pottery District
Source: Rogers et al. 1995



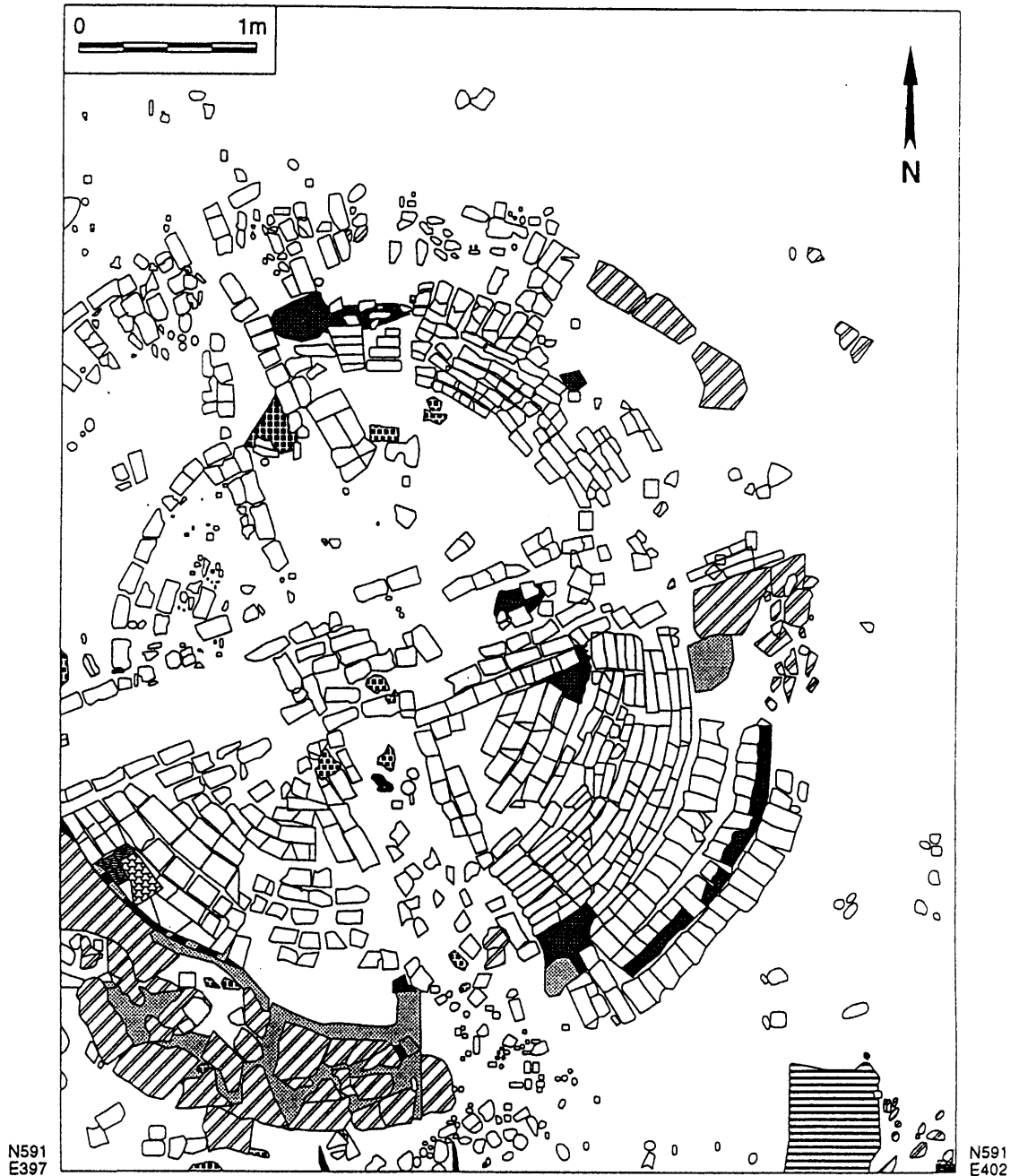
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Plan View of Feature 1, the Circular Kiln, Bonaparte Pottery Site
Source: Rogers et al. 1995



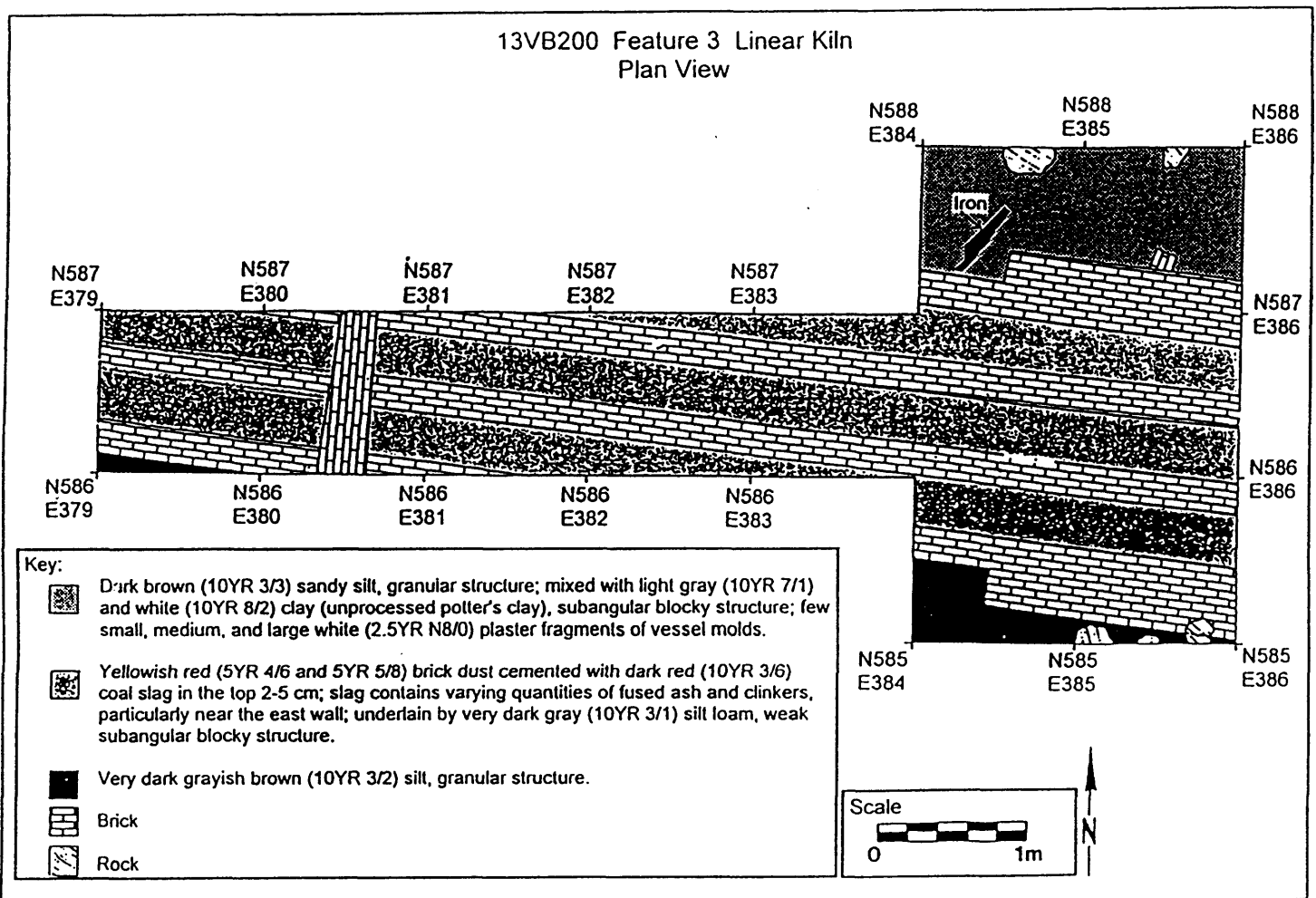
- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Yellow Brick | Gray decomposing brick smear |
| Oxidized cinders/slag | Glazed covered refractory brick/seggar |
| Miscellaneous metal fragment | Pottery Sherds |
| Brick | Cement |
| Decomposing mortar | Limestone dressed slabs |

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Plan View of Feature 3, the Linear Kiln, Bonaparte Pottery Site
Source: Rogers et al. 1995

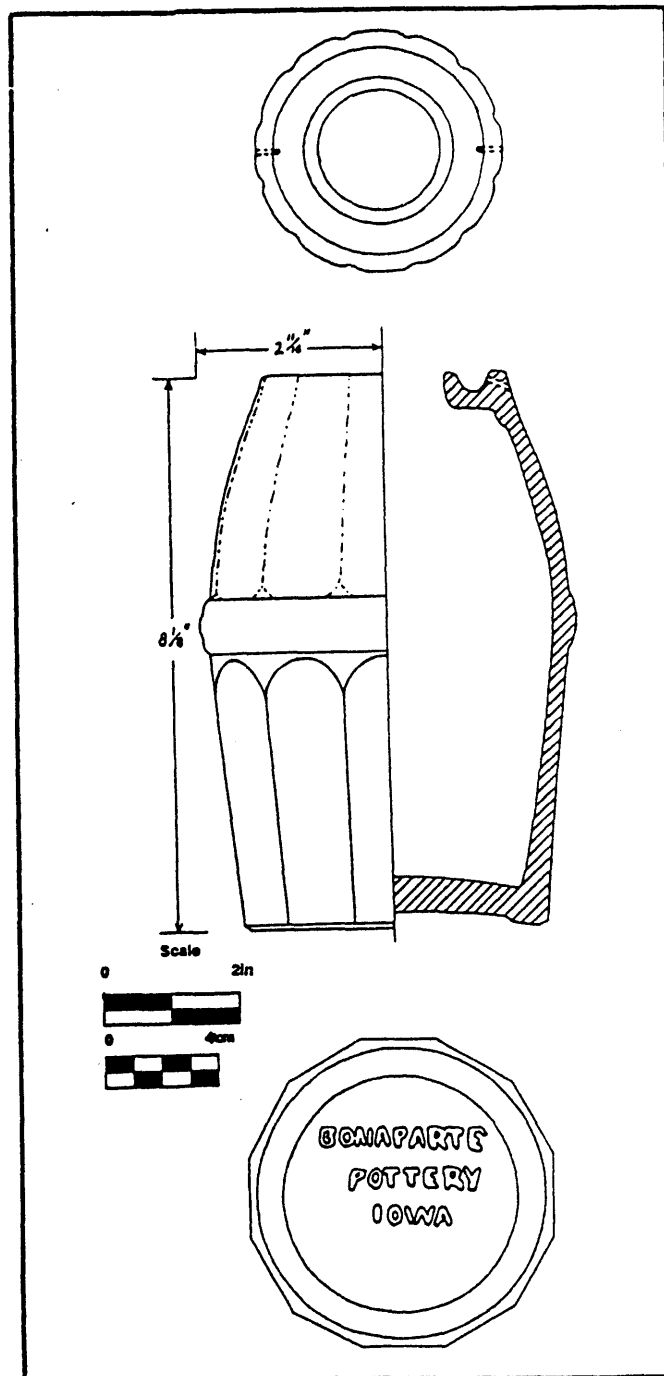


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Illustration of a Peoria-style Preserve Jar Manufactured at the Bonaparte Pottery
Source: Rogers et al. 1995



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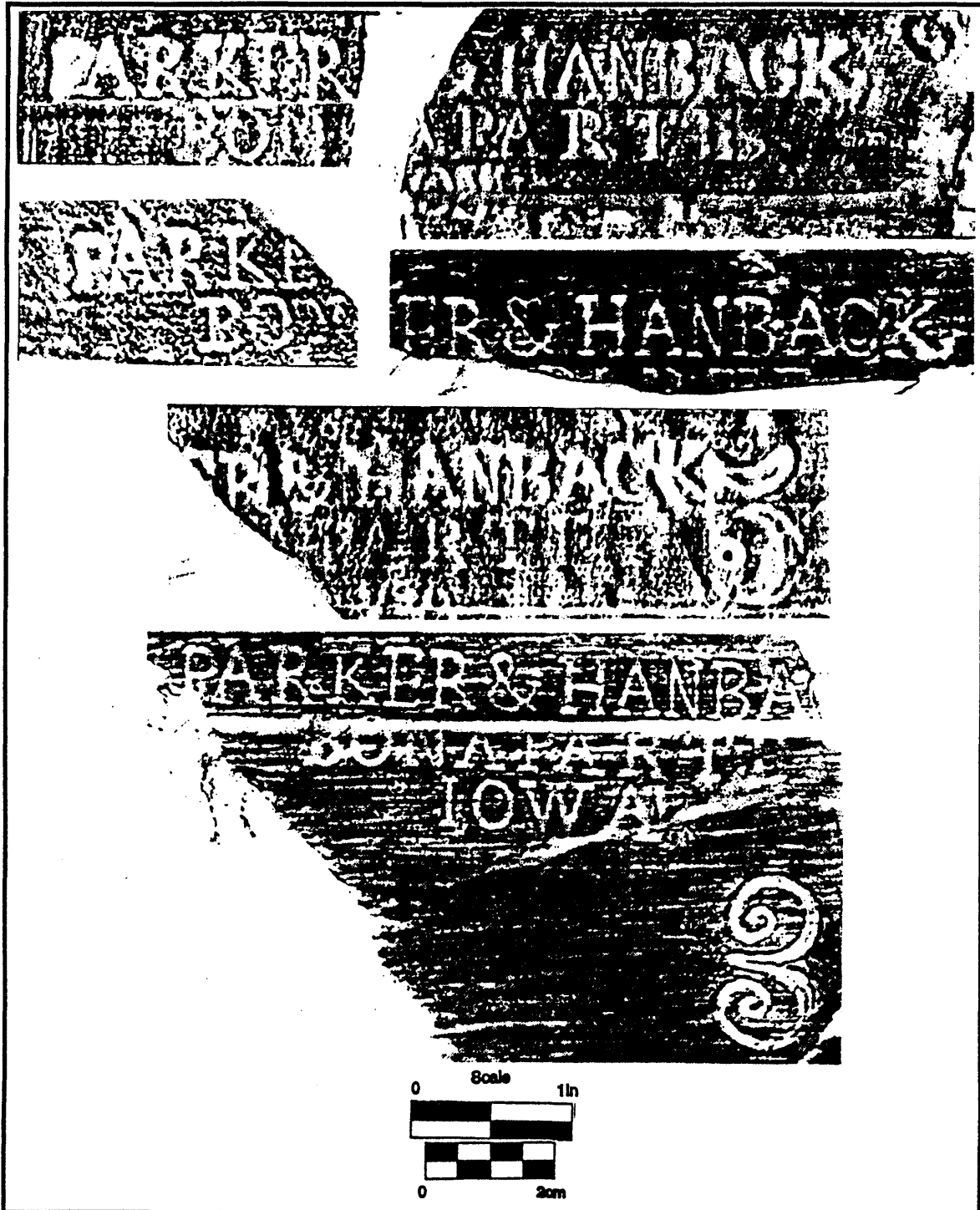
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Rubbings of the Parker & Hanback Logos from the Sides of Excavated Bonaparte Pottery Crocks
Source: Rogers et al. 1995



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Van Buren County, Iowa

Photographs:

Location of Original Negative for photographs #5-8, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City, with the negative for the photographs #1-4 curated by the property owner, Marilyn Thomas, Bonaparte, Iowa.

- #1 - Photographer: Marilyn Thomas
Date of Photograph: February 24, 1998
View: Front of Pottery Building showing side lumber sheds and lumberyard office (in foreground), view to the ESE

- #2 - Photographer: Marilyn Thomas
Date of Photograph: February 24, 1998
View: Rear of Pottery Building showing side lumber sheds, view to the ENE

- #3 - Photographer: Marilyn Thomas
Date of Photograph: February 24, 1998
View: Rear of Pottery Building showing side lumber sheds, view to the NNW

- #4 - Photographer: Marilyn Thomas
Date of Photograph: February 24, 1998
View: Rear of Pottery Building showing side lumber sheds with lumberyard office (in background), view to the WNW

- #5 - Photographer: Fred Finney
Date of Photograph: April 1994
View: General view of property looking towards Pottery Building and Lumber Office along First Street, View to the WSW

- #6 - Photographer: Fred Finney
Date of Photograph: April 1994
View: General view of property looking towards Lumber Office and Pottery Building along First Street, View to the SSE

- #7 - Photographer: Fred Finney
Date of Photograph: April 1994
View: Rear of Pottery Building, View to the WNW

- #8 - Photographer: Fred Finney
Date of Photograph: June 1994
View: Circular Kiln Feature 1 exposed, view to the NNE

- #9 - Photographer: Fred Finney
Date of Photograph: June 1994
View: Linear Kiln Feature 3 exposed, view to the East

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Van Buren County, Iowa

Photographs continued:

- #10- Photographer: Leah Rogers
 Date of Photograph: June 1994
 View: Interior second floor showing clay handprints left by workers on beams, view to the South
 View also shows tension-rod suspension system
- #11- Photographer: Leah Rogers
 Date of Photograph: June 1994
 View: Interior second floor showing clay spatters on ceiling, view to the SE
 View also shows tension-rod suspension system and spliced beam
- #12- Photographer: Leah Rogers
 Date of Photograph: June 1994
 View: Interior second floor showing area along south wall where caustic clay build up required a
 plank repair during the pottery operation, View to the South

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Van Buren County, Iowa

Map Showing Direction of Photographs

