

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCPS use only

received JUL 7 1982
date entered

1. Name

historic ¹⁹⁷⁴ ~~Nineteenth-Century Pottery Kilns of Denton County Thematic Group~~ ^{Co. TR} (5)
and/or common (Cranston, Roark-Griffith, Wilson-Donaldson, Lambert, Serren)

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet N/A not for publication

city, town Denton vic. ☒ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Texas code 048 county Denton code 121

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet

street & number

city, town ^{N/A} vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Denton County Deed Records, Denton County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Denton state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Texas Historical Commission - files ^{County} has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1978 and 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission & Texas Archeological Research Lab

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☒ ruins
☒ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The five kiln sites of Denton County include the remains of mid to late nineteenth century manufacturing and occupation sites. These consist of locally owned, locally built workshops, firing kilns, and clay pits located in a newly settled portion of the state. Correlating to census records, these sites represent the only pottery works in the county dating to their century.

Denton County is located in the north-central portion of Texas and has a topography of Eastern Cross-Timber forests and Grand-Prairie farmland. Anglo organization of the county was initiated in 1846, and the city of Denton was established by 1857 (Webb 1952: 491-492). As a mercantile center and county seat, the Denton area grew steadily, and one of the initial industries was pottery. All five sites in this nomination are local to Denton and were originally positioned to take advantage of outcroppings of potter's clays from the Eagle Ford Geological Formation. All five were in operation at various intervals of the late nineteenth century and are identifiable today on the basis of ceramic debris, borrow pits, kiln structures, and historic records. At each site, one or two potters manufactured wheel-turned utilitarian vessels in wood burning kilns. "Salt and Slip" glazed wares were the major earthenware forms produced a technology involving the addition of salt to the fire in order to produce a soda-glass coating of the pottery. This simple technique allowed private potters to produce a high gloss finish on utilitarian pieces with minimum supply cost and was a popular technique of the time. (Spargo: 1926).

Individual site descriptions and histories are presented on separate site inventory sheets.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1850-1899

Builder/Architect

N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

These pottery kilns are significant: A) to the local area as examples of primary businesses and homesteads, and B) to the region as family operated ceramic manufacturing centers existing at a time of increasing industrialization and mechanization of this industry. The ceramics show a portion of, and the development of variation within the American pottery tradition, particularly in respect to salt-glazed utilitarian stoneware.

As mentioned previously, the Denton County kilns were established in the initial Anglo settlement phase of the area. The lasting impact of adaptation to these locals is illustrated in the fact that clay mining and brick manufacture continues there today. Since most commercial clays in the state originate from the Wilcox Formation (to the east), mining the Eagle Ford Formation is unusual in itself and provides potential for source analysis of other archeological finds from this time. It has also been determined from census records that the potter community was small, probably forming a unique local manufacturing tradition.

Archeologically, an array of small potteries, all of which operated between 1850 and 1900, has been documented. All of the sites produced salt or slip glazed stoneware with evidence of variations in forms, surface markings, and decorations. Also notable is the fact that at least three different forms of kilns (two at Cranston, one at Roark-Griffith) were used to produce similar types of pottery. Although all of the potters were Anglo-Americans, their places of birth varied by region, possibly being one of the causes for the site variations. Proper excavations of the sites to demonstrate functional or sequential differences in both kiln forms and vessels would do much to improve our knowledge of the nineteenth century local economic system.

As with Section 7, individual site details are presented on the separate site pages.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deed and Probate Records of Denton County, Texas
Rice, Heinrich

1908 Clays of Texas. University of Texas at Austin. Bulletin No. 102.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property See continuation sheet

Quadrangle name See continuation sheet

UMT References See Continuation sheets

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

1. Cranston (41DN16) This encompasses approximately three acres of land in the John S. Dickson Survey:

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Georgeanna H. Greer (private), U.K. Kleinschmidt (Texas Historical Commission)

organization Texas Historical Commission

date 7-4-79 and 1-20-81

street & number 213 Black Hawk (Greer)

telephone 512/494-3103 (Greer)

city or town San Antonio (Greer)

state Texas

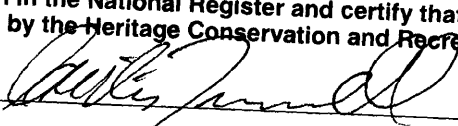
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/2/82

For HCRRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See continuation sheet for findings
Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Spargo, John

1926 Early American Pottery and China. New York: The Century Co.
The Texas State Gazetteer and Business Directory: For 1890, 1892, 1896, and 1897.

Webb, Walter P. (editor in chief)

1952 Handbook of Texas. Volume 1. Austin: The Texas State Historical Assoc.

United States Census Population Schedules of Denton County Texas: For 1850, 1860,
1870, 1880.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name 19th Century Pottery Kilns of Denton County Thematic Resources
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

*automatically
listed*

Date/Signature

1. Cranston Site
(41DN16)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

8/21/82

NB

Attest

2. Lambert, J. C. Site
(41DN74)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

8/21/82

NB

Attest

3. Wilson-Donaldson Site
(41DN19)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

8/21/82

NB

Attest

4. Roark-Griffith Site
(41DN18)

Substantive Review

Keeper

8/21/82

NB

Attest

5. Serren, A. H., Site
(41DN75)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

8/21/82

NB

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest