

**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 NCRS use only

received JAN 29 1980

date dictated MAR 1 1979

1. Name

historic ROBINSON-RANSBOTTOM POTTERY ^{Thematic Resources} ~~INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES~~

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Roseville and Ironspot, Ohio not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 40-Clarence Miller

state Ohio code 039 county Muskingum code 119

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Muskingum County Court House

street & number Fourth and Main Streets

city, town Zanesville, Ohio state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Ohio Historic Preservation Office

city, town Columbus, Ohio state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Factory site:

The Robinson-Ransbottom Pottery Co. occupies a 5-acre site in the unincorporated village of Ironspot (formerly Beem City), on the east bank of Moxahala Creek. The site consists of a series of interconnected industrial buildings, mostly of brick construction. There are also several small unattached structures, including the former straw house, now used as the "Pot Shop," the company's on-site retail outlet. The entire production line, from raw clay storage to final shipping, is located on this site, as it has been from the beginning of the company over seventy years ago. Early photos (included with the nomination) show a V-shaped complex of attached one- and two-story industrial buildings. Over the years, various additions have been made inside the angle of the "V," resulting in the present industrial configuration. The precise date of most additions is not known. The only non-industrial-appearing structure within the factory complex is the office building (c. 1912), a one-story brick edifice with a Neo-Classical Revival flavor resulting from its small Doric portico at the entrance. The industrial artifacts housed within the complex range from the glaze-mixing operation to kilns to packing and shipping stations. Several early kilns are particularly notable, including two which pre-date the existence of the pottery itself, when the site was owned by the Oval Ware and Brick Co. These early kilns are periodic kilns, while later kilns, installed during the early 1930s, are of the continuous type. The pottery is also decorated on this site, using hand methods which date from the early twentieth century. Early methods of forming pottery are also continued today, including jiggering and casting, as well as the more modern machine forming technique.

C. W. Ransbottom House (1904), 291 Washington Street, Roseville, Ohio

This residence was built as a wood frame residential structure, but was sheathed with a buffed brick veneer in 1937 by a local bricklayer, Noel Allen. The facade features a one-story open porch with a rounded corner vaguely reminiscent of the Colonial Revival movement. Also seen on the facade is a hipped gable dormer with an oval window of stained glass; other stained glass fixed sash is also found on the first story.

Frank M. Ransbottom House (1905), 289 Washington Street, Roseville, Ohio

Like its immediate neighbor, this house also is a wood frame building covered with a brick veneer, done at the same time. A bay window with a gable roof and cornice with a partial return is located on the south elevation. A brick porch replaced the original frame porch along the front. Unaltered is a hip dormer with attenuated pilasters above the front porch. The original open back porch was replaced with a brick porch, partially enclosed.

Edward Ransbottom House (1912), 99 Main Street, Roseville, Ohio

This dwelling is constructed of ironspot brick trimmed with smooth concrete and smooth-dressed stone. The house is distinguished by a 2-story porch on the front with an open first story and an enclosed second. A cantilevered bay on the south elevation projects from the diningroom. The hipped roof is covered with locally-manufactured tile, probably produced by the Ludowici Co., in nearby New Lexington. Brick outbuildings include a garage, summer kitchen, and an open trellace.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

ROBINSON-RANSBOTTOM POTTERY: INDUSTRIAL & RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES
Muskingum County, Ohio

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

MAR 11 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Description 2

Mort Ransbottom House (1915), 152 North Main Street, Roseville, Ohio

This Georgian Revival residence, more than any of the other associated residence exhibits characteristics of an elite period of architectural design. The Georgian Revival features are localized through the use of a tile roof, like the Ed Ransbottom House, probably from the Ludowici works in New Lexington. A porte-cochere is noted on the north side of the house.

Significance 2

Ransbottom House (1912) was built by Zanesville, Ohio contractors, the Dunzweiler Brothers. It will be remembered that Ed Ransbottom was the first general manager of the pottery. After his death in 1923, his son, John, succeeded him on the Board of Directors and for many years was the plant's chief engineer. The home is presently the residence of Ed's granddaughter and her family. At 152 N. Main St. is Mort Ransbottom's home, executed along the lines of the Georgian Revival. He was president from the time of the corporation's establishment until his retirement in 1950 and was also a prominent Mason, a member of the Board of Roseville Savings and Loan, and active as a financier in Zanesville, Columbus, and Florida. The current president of the company is his son and until 1977 was chairman of the board. The other Ransbottom brothers, Frank and Johnie, built their homes side-by-side on Washington Street. Frank Ransbottom (1873-1937) was the company's secretary. In addition to his work with his brothers, in 1919 he organized the American Clay Products Co. and was an organizer and early president of the First Trust and Savings Co. in Zanesville. He moved from his Roseville home to Zanesville in the 1920s, but the mansion which he occupied there has been razed, leaving only this house to be associated with his productive years. C. W. "Johnie" Ransbottom, as noted earlier, was one of the foremost practitioners of his art in the area--a region rich in skilled artisans. When the Ransbottom Brothers Pottery was organized in 1906 he was selected to be vice president, but only enjoyed this position for eleven years, dying young in 1917, one year after his company became the world's largest manufacturer of stoneware jars.

Taken as a whole, these resources combine to add considerably to the heritage of one of the most important potteries in the area. Southern Muskingum County has long been the capitol of the clay industry, and the Ransbottoms and their pottery are an integral link in this industrial chain.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1900-1920s

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

These resources are nominated as the industrial and residential resources of the world's largest producer of stoneware jars, and as significant contributors to southeastern Ohio's position of leadership in the pottery industry. The nomination consists of the following related properties: the Robinson-Ransbottom Pottery Co. in Ironspot, Ohio, and four dwellings in the village of Roseville--homes of the four founding brothers of the company.

The Robinson-Ransbottom Pottery Co. is the oldest pottery in the area under continuous operation. The prime mover of the establishment of the industry was Frank M. Ransbottom (1873-1937). He had established a reputation as a distributor of clay products in the 1890s and, having been taught the trade by his father, Alfred (1832-1893), he was well-versed in all aspects of the industry, an industry crucial to the economy of part of southeastern Ohio for more than eighty years. In 1900, Frank Ransbottom learned of the availability of the Oval Ware & Brick Co., and he quickly organized a meeting with his three brothers, Edward, Mort, and C. W. "Johnie," to discuss the possibility of purchasing the factory. It should be noted that all the Ransbottom boys enjoyed outstanding reputations in the industry, even at an early age. Ed and Mort had held supervisory positions with Roseville Pottery, and Johnie had turned and jigged ware in many local potteries, including the internationally known Weller Pottery, where Sam Weller himself considered him to be the best ware maker that he had ever seen.

The Oval Ware & Brick Co. was purchased and remodeled, and in early 1901 began operation as the Ransbottom Bros. Pottery. The company's earliest products were jardinières, cuspidors, and red clay flower pots. The ensuing years marked a tremendous growth period and by 1906 the company was producing 12,000 gallons of stoneware per day. In 1908 the company was incorporated with Mort as President, Ed as General Manager, and Frank as Secretary and Sales Manager. Production of stoneware jars soared during the first decade of the corporation's life. By 1916, the factory was producing a railroad carload of ware for every working hour and became the world's largest manufacturer of stoneware jars, a position which it still holds today.

The Ransbottoms recognized the need to diversify and in the early 1920s merged with the Robinson Clay Products Co., a nationwide distributor of clay products. Although Robinson has now sold its interest, they remain the local company's largest distributor. Through the years products have changed somewhat from stoneware jars to gardenware such as birdbaths, large pots, and jardinières. Some items which were manufactured from the onset continue to be produced today. Also, many of the manual operations which were necessary for high-quality production are still necessary in the 1970s.

The Ransbottom houses which are included in this multiple-resource package are the only extant residences associated with the brothers Ransbottom. The Edward

9. Major Bibliographical References

Promotional flyer distributed by Robinson-Ransbottom Pottery.

Lewis, Thomas W. Zanesville and Muskingum County, Ohio (Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1927).

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Crooksville, Ohio

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See continuation sheet

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Regional Historic Preservation Officer

organization Ohio University-Zanesville

date 7 September, 1979

street & number 1425 Newark Road

telephone 614-453-0762

city or town Zanesville, OH 43701

state

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

David L. Taylor

title Chief, Div. of Hist. Pres., Ohio Historical Society

date 12/31/79

For HCRS use only

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

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date 3/1/80

date 3/2/80