**NAME**

Jens Larson Jenson / Lime Kiln

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

About two miles north of Richfield, Utah

**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>DISTRICT</em></td>
<td><em>PUBLIC</em></td>
<td><em>OCCUPIED</em></td>
<td><em>AGRICULTURE</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_BUILDING(S)</td>
<td><em>PRIVATE</em></td>
<td><em>UNOCCUPIED</em></td>
<td><em>MUSEUM</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>STRUCTURE</em></td>
<td><em>BOTH</em></td>
<td><em>WORK IN PROGRESS</em></td>
<td><em>COMMERCIAL</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>SITE</em></td>
<td><em>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</em></td>
<td><em>ACCESSIBLE</em></td>
<td><em>PARK</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>OBJECT</em></td>
<td><em>IN PROCESS</em></td>
<td><em>YES: RESTRICTED</em></td>
<td><em>EDUCATIONAL</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>BEING CONSIDERED</em></td>
<td><em>YES: UNRESTRICTED</em></td>
<td><em>ENTERTAINMENT</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Dale R. Ogden

18555 Ventura Boulevard

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Sevier County Courthouse

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

Utah Historic Sites Survey

1978
The Jens Larson Jenson lime kiln measures twenty feet high and about twenty feet in diameter, with a wall thickness of eight feet. Constructed into the red rock hill some two miles north of Richfield, the kiln was built of the red rock that characterizes the plateau region west and north of the town; and as such, appears to be synonymous with the hillside. Its shape is rectangular with a large semi-circular fireplace opening centered at the base. At one time large iron bars, fastened across the top of this opening, formed a grate to prevent rocks from falling into the fire.

The kiln opening is basically clear of material, and the rock work both inside and outside of the kiln is clearly visible. Its appearance remains much the same as when it was in use.
The Jens Larson Jenson Lime Kiln represents a remaining structure important in the development of communities in the Sevier Valley. Built by Jens L. Jenson, Richfield's "well-known" lime burner, the kiln cured lime which was used for mortar utilized in the construction of numerous rock and brick structures, as well as in the production of the whitewash used on structures basic to successful rural life.

Jens Larson "Limeburner" Jenson (sometimes spelled Jensen) was born in Dalby, Scona, Sweden, July 14, 1827. He was baptised into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1855, and arrived in Utah in 1859 as a member of the Rowley Handcart Company. Jenson lived the doctrine of plural marriage, being joined to three women; and later served a sixty-two day sentence for polygamy.

In the late 1880's Jens L. Larson returned to Richfield to settle, where he fostered his trade as a lime burner. His first kilns were small structures built in a wash near the town. According to a 1903 newspaper article, Jenson was planning to build "a more convenient commodious and rapid working plant," allowing for the continuous burning of lime.²

J. H. Kyhl, a local mason, submitted the plans to Jenson and the kiln was completed in the spring of 1903. As mentioned in the description the kiln measured twenty feet in height and twenty in diameter, with eight foot thick walls to withstand the pressure of limestone.

Workers quarried limestone in the nearby hills north and west of Richfield. The stone was dumped into the top of the kiln. A fire was then built under the grate to burn or "cure" the rocks, and left burning for three to five complete days. A three-day cooling period followed, after which time the lime was hauled in wagons to communities where it sold for a reportedly one dollar per three bushels.

Jens L. Jenson eventually lost his eyesight due to the intense heat in the limeburning process. He died January 3, 1907, but work was carried on by his sons and family until 1910, when the kiln was sold to Leonard Ogden. Ogden burned lime for many Sevier Valley structures, including the Richfield First Ward Chapel, and the Elsinore Sugar Factory at Austin.

²The Richfield Reaper, February 19, 1976, p. 3. Reprinted in this issue was an article dated February 12, 1903.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Richfield Reaper, February 19, 1976, p. 3

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one
QUADRANGLE NAME Richfield, Utah QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
One lime kiln measuring twenty feet high and twenty feet in diameter, located some two miles north of Richfield, Utah. T. 225 R.3W S.23(?)

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Philip F. Notarianni, Historian

ORGANIZATION Utah State Historical Society

DATE July, 1978

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'S SIGNATURE

TITLE J. Phillip Keene, III, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE October 12, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12/22/78

DATE 12/22/00
Work was eventually ended at the kiln (n.d.) but its presence against the hillside, overlooking the valley it helped to develop, forms a link between past and present. The valley development now poses a potential threat to the structure with proposed housing units, etc., expected to be built near its site. Its preservation is met with particular interest by the Sevier Valley Chapter of the Utah State Historical Society, who harbors plans for its restoration.