

Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 011-0091
Property Name(s): <u>Moore Lime Company Lime Kilns</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1847, 1886-87</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>Church Street & Railroad Avenue</u> City: <u>Eagle Rock</u> Zip: <u>24085</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Botetourt</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Eagle Rock</u>	

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: <u>2.22</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: The Moore Lime Company Lime Kilns are situated on a narrow grass-and-gravel-covered site between State Route 43 (Church Street) and the railroad, which follows the path of the adjacent James River. Three kilns are the located on the north edge of the site and abut loose boulder retaining walls at their sides. The site was graded flat to allow for the construction of the kilns and their attendant processing and storage buildings. Downtown Eagle Rock fronts onto Railroad Avenue and is directly to the east of the site.	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: Foundation walls and railroad tracks remain in situ from the operational phase of the site. A concrete retaining wall is located at the westernmost edge of the site and appears to have provided a raised area for loading railroad cars. A vehicular gate and a visitor kiosk have been installed on the site by the Eagle Rock Improvement Association, the local community organization that maintains the landscaping of the site. The rail line along the southern edge remains active.	
Ownership Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

Individual Resource Information	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...	
<u>Lime kiln</u>	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>Public park</u>	
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>No style</u>	
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>Moore Lime Company</u>	
# of stories <u>N/A</u> Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated	
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>Neglect to architectural fabric of kilns and retaining walls, Vacant</u>	

<p>Resource Component Information</p> <p>Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer “n/a.” If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.</p>
<p>Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete. Continuous foundation wall constructed of a combination of rubble stone and brick masonry.</p>
<p>Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known. Combination of rubble stone and parged brick masonry.</p>
<p>Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles. Rubble stone and parged brick masonry.</p>
<p>Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? N/A</p>
<p>Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. N/A</p>
<p>Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material. N/A, see structure.</p>
<p>Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible. The hearth and flue of each kiln is lined with brick laid in a common bond. The chimneys are parged brickwork.</p>

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)*

The Moore Lime Company Lime Kilns consist of three relatively well-preserved industrial structures. The western and middle kilns are nearly identical, with a square base built of stone topped with a conical form of cement-parged brick. The earlier eastern kiln has an almost round, many-sided polygonal shape, built of parged brick with some stone and iron. The older eastern kiln shows the greatest deterioration of the three, especially on its conical top. The kilns are built partially into the ground to provide easy loading access at the top of the furnace. In concert with the adjacent loose boulder walls, the kilns support the upper ground along north edge of the site.

Despite the difference in form, the three kilns operated similarly. Each kiln was loaded with quarried limestone at the top. Several arched openings were built into each side of the kiln to allow for the insertion of fuel, either coal or wood, into the firebox to heat the limestone. As the limestone was heated, the processed lime was removed via a draw door at the bottom which opens into a partially below-grade opening in the front of the kiln.¹ The lime was received from the draw chamber of the kiln by small rail cars on a sloping track. Likely the cars were then pulled into the since-removed processing buildings that once surrounded the kilns.

The below grade pits of the draw area now hold standing water, potentially contributing to decay of the structure. The draw doors and their operating equipment of the kilns are extant but in various states of decay. Each kiln shows decay of its iron members due to rust, most notably at the lintels above the draw door. The wood lintels at the draw opening of the middle and western kilns show significant rot. Ivy has grown on much of the exterior of the eastern kiln and may be contributing to decay of the structure.

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

2016 update (DHR archive): The kilns are a rare survival from the once-widespread commercial lime industry, which was historically significant to the rural region's economy, and was crucial to the growth and prosperity of Eagle Rock during its heyday. The group of three kilns has become a well-known, highly visible local landmark in central Botetourt County. The property appears to be eligible under Criterion A in the area of Industry/Processing/Extraction and Criterion C in the area of Architecture/Engineering.

The Moore Lime Company Lime Kilns possesses significance corresponding to National Register of Historic Places criteria A and C.

In relation to National Register Criterion A, the lime kilns are associated at the local level with the broad patterns of history as these structures are the principal representation the commercial lime industry that fostered the development of Eagle Rock. Iron ore and limestone deposits were mined and quarried across Botetourt County in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Nearby deposits made Eagle Rock an attractive site for the manufacture of lime and the arrival of the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad in 1881 allowed for the rapid growth of the industry. Botetourt County companies sold to a large cement manufacturing plant in Alleghany County in addition to customers outside the region.² Lime production continues in present-day Botetourt County, but has since ceased in Eagle Rock. Despite the departure of the industry, all three of the kilns from the site's operational phase are extant.

In relation to National Register Criterion C, the Moore Lime Company Lime Kilns at a local level exhibit the characteristics of a type and period of construction and design. The kilns are the most visible remnants of the industrial architecture that once lined the James River in the community. The design of the kilns reflects a once-prominent 'beehive' form. The first kiln was constructed in a polygonal shape, while the two later kilns employ a more typical square plan.

Additional Discussion

The Moore Lime Company Lime Kilns were built in two phases. The first kiln was constructed in Eagle Rock in 1847. The kiln's operator, Sheets & Company, was sold to the Moore Lime Company of Richmond, Virginia in 1884. The new owner added two additional kilns in 1886-87.³ In the 1890s two additional kilns, no longer extant, were constructed on a second site located at the east end of town.⁴ Limestone was quarried in and around Eagle Rock and delivered to the site for processing. One such quarry was located on the west side of the James River.⁵ Towers were built on each side of the river and attached via cable system to transport the raw material to the Moore Company site for processing.⁶ The Eagle Rock Lime Company, another lime producer, was also located on the west side of James River. The company had four lime kilns at its peak. Several buildings tied to that company and its leadership remain.⁷

Several extant houses and a commissary were constructed by the Moore Lime Company to house employees and attract additional workers.⁸ In addition, the company provided utilities not only for its industrial services but also to its employees. During the second quarter of the twentieth century, the company's utility provisions contributed to a capacity of service in Eagle Rock that was exceeded only by the town of Buchanan in all of Botetourt County.⁹

In 1933, the kilns were purchased and operated under the name of Virginia Lime Products.¹⁰ This facility closed in 1942. J.P. Thayer then purchased the site and the kilns remained in operation until 1954.¹¹ Today, the lime industry no longer operates within Eagle Rock. In 1991, owners Mr. and Mrs. Anson Jamison donated the site and structures to the Stoner Eagle Rock Garden Club, a since-defunct local community organization.¹²

All three kilns exhibit a high degree of integrity of their historic fabric. Foundation walls remain for the associated support buildings previously demolished. No encroachments have disturbed the site. Local residents and visitors acknowledge the site's prominence through their maintenance and visitation of the site.

Notes

¹ "History of the Lime Kilns." Historical Society. Wabash and Erie Canal Association. Accessed June 20, 2017. www.wabashanderiecanal.org/history-of-the-lime-kilns.

² Worsham, Gibson. "Botetourt County Reconnaissance Level Survey." Virginia Division of Historic
9/5/2017

Landmarks and the Museum of American Frontier Culture, July 1988. BO-33. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 140.

³ McClane, Debra A. *Botetourt County*. Images of America. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Pub, 2007, 77.

⁴ Worsham, Gibson. "Botetourt County Reconnaissance Level Survey." Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks and the Museum of American Frontier Culture, July 1988. BO-33. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 107.

⁵ McClane, Debra A. *Botetourt County*. Images of America. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Pub, 2007, 77.

⁶ "Yesteryear Lime Kiln Operations in Eagle Rock." Eagle Rock Improvement Association, n.d, 2-3.

⁷ Worsham, Gibson. "Botetourt County Reconnaissance Level Survey." Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks and the Museum of American Frontier Culture, July 1988. BO-33. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 141.

⁸ Worsham, Gibson. "Botetourt County Reconnaissance Level Survey." Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks and the Museum of American Frontier Culture, July 1988. BO-33. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 129.

⁹ Cohen, Irwin Bernard, Robert Nofsinger Gilliam, William Hadley Hodill, and University of Virginia School of Rural Social Economics. *An Economic and Social Survey of Botetourt County*. Charlottesville, Va: University of Virginia, 1942. 101-103.

¹⁰ Cohen, Irwin Bernard, Robert Nofsinger Gilliam, William Hadley Hodill, and University of Virginia School of Rural Social Economics. *An Economic and Social Survey of Botetourt County*. Charlottesville, Va: University of Virginia, 1942. 106.

¹¹ "Yesteryear Lime Kiln Operations in Eagle Rock." Eagle Rock Improvement Association, n.d, 3.

¹² McClane, Debra A. *Botetourt County*. Images of America. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Pub, 2007, 77.

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
Miss Ms. Hon. _____
(Name) (Firm)

(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____
•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: ()

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
Miss Ms. Hon. _____
(Name) (Firm)

1909 #1 Jefferson Park Ave Architect
(Charlottesville) (VA) (22903)
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

apm3xa@virginia.edu 757-749-8746
(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
Miss Ms. Hon. _____
(Name) (Position)

(Locality) (Address)

(City) (State) (Zip Code) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.
The site represents the most significant historic resource of the unincorporated community of Eagle Rock, a locale which has experienced several major losses of prominent historic properties. Honorific acknowledgement of the site may spur additional tourism opportunities to the small community and help increase its visibility within a rural part of the county.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No
Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes No