

Limekiln  
West side of Pike Creek Road, .3 miles south  
of Paper Mill Road (State Route #72)  
Newark Vicinity (Pleasant Hill, Mill Creek Hundred)  
New Castle County  
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-165

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PHOTOGRAPH  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. DEL-165

LIMEKILN

Location: West side of Pike Creek Road, .3 miles south of Paper Mill Road (State Route No. 72); Newark Vicinity, (Pleasant Hill, Mill Creek Hundred), New Castle County, Delaware.

Present Owner: Robert Ralcy, Pike Creek Road, R. D. #3, Newark, Delaware.

Present Use: Abandoned.

Statement of Significance: A large, 19th century limekiln which supplied quality lime to customers as far away as Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Joseph Eastburn, a later owner, believes the Black family opened the quarries. Abel Jeanes owned the property during the first half of the 19th century and Joseph Eastburn, Sr., became the owner later in the century.
2. Date of erection: c. 1830

B. Historical Events

On the Jeanes farm there were ten or twelve limekilns. The Eastburns later acquired either the title in fee or the wood leave to large tracts of timber, from which they cut the wood used in lime burning. Oxen were used for hauling and lime was delivered as far south as Middletown, Delaware, and Chesapeake City, Maryland, and as far north as Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Quarrying was done largely by hand labor. The owners were troubled by water from the strong springs which they uncovered and which at times flowed into the quarries but pumping remedied this problem until more modern methods of the great quarries in Pennsylvania, western Maryland, the Shenandoah Valley, and elsewhere, brought about the discontinuance of operations of Eastburn's Quarries around 1900.

C. Sources of Information

Cooch, Francis A. Little Known History of Newark, Delaware and its Environs. Newark, Delaware: Press of Kells, 1936.

Historical Society of Delaware, "Manuscripts - Abel Jeanes"

3 indentures, 2 deeds. Dated between 1822 and 1846.

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Prepared by William B. Bassett  
Architectural Historian  
National Park Service  
in cooperation with  
Robert L. Raley, AIA  
June 1965

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A structure of loose stone bubble containing the functional necessities of a large limekiln.
2. Condition of fabric: Ruinous.

### B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Present height of stonework--20'. Hearth - 9' wide by 7' high by 8' deep sloping back to a 5' radius. The opening to the conical kiln from above, has a 5' diameter at the bottom and 10' at the top (approximately 15' deep). The face of the hearth opening surface is 12' of stonework to the south and 4'-6" to the north, with 11' high wing walls (retaining walls) of stone at 45° angles. An indentation on the north side of the top kiln rim indicates a possible location of the feed. Keystone of the hearth opening measures 2' high by 1' wide.

### C. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The hearth opening faces east with the kiln set back some 200' west of Pike Creek Road.
2. Outbuildings: A number of structures related to the quarry were built by Abel Jeanes including a wheelwright shop, office and storeroom, large double tenant house, spring house, and across Pike Creek one of the largest stone-ended barns in Delaware, which burned in early 1940's.
3. Roads: A dirt access road north of the kiln leads east to Pike Creek Road.

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