

ISAAC A. PACKER FARM, LIME KILN
Legislative Route 18011, 2.4 miles
northwest of Jay Street Bridge
Lock Haven Vicinity
Clinton County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5500-C

HABS
PA
18-LOKHA.V,
5C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Northeast Field Area
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ISAAC A. PACKER FARM, Lime Kiln HABS No. PA-5500-C

- Location:** Legislative Route 18011, the Farrandsville Road, approximately 2.4 miles northwest of the Jay Street Bridge, Lock Haven Vicinity, Clinton County, Pennsylvania
- USGS Lock Haven Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18. 292770. 4559930
- Significance:** The lime kiln is significant for its important role in the expansion of the Packer farm operations, and as an extant example of a traditional manufacturing process (see History, below). Apparently, Kinley D. Packer built the kiln in the early twentieth century to supply not only the Packer farm with lime, but also to supply others. The lime was spread on the fields prior to planting, and was used as a component in mortar. The integrity of the lime kiln is fair; the masonry and inner chamber are intact, but the stove apron has been destroyed. It is unclear if there were any other lime kilns in the vicinity of the Packer farm.
- Description:** The lime kiln is constructed of limestone and is built into the embankment across Farrandsville Road from the bank barn. The kiln is approximately ten feet by ten feet, and its height along Farrandsville Road is also approximately ten feet. The inner chamber, where the limestone was stacked to be fired into lime, is lined with brick and has a steel, cylindrical drum protruding from the top of the kiln. The drum probably served as an obstacle to keep fill, twigs, or branches from falling into the chamber. A rudimentary stone arch, which framed the pit where the coal was placed, is evident on the roadside facade of the structure. Above the arch is a small opening in the masonry. It is unclear if this served as an air intake or vent, or is simply the result of some stones being removed.
- History:** The lime kiln was built in the early twentieth century by Kinley D. Packer, who was responsible for expanding the family's farm operations. Kinley was a subsistence farmer, and may have developed the kiln as a side-business venture. Isaac Packer had owned a quarry in Castanea Township, and upon Kinley's inheritance of the property, this probably served as a steady source of limestone. The kiln was no longer used after the death of Kinley Packer in 1935, and eventually fell into disrepair.
- It is unclear if Kinley profited from the production of lime. The making of lime was an intensive, laborious process. It required limestone to be brought to the kiln and stacked loosely in the inner chamber. The next step was to build a fire at the bottom of the chamber. The Packer kiln used coal. The fire, over the span of days, would break down most of the stone into powder. The fire would then be extinguished and the kiln was sealed for a number of days, further breaking down the stone. The kiln would then be opened and the powder removed.
- Documentation of the Isaac A. Packer Farm, Lime Kiln was undertaken in October and November 1991 and serves as a mitigative measure for the treatment of this historic property, as it would be affected by a proposed

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Lock Haven flood protection project under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. The lime kiln will remain, as is.

Sources: Brown, Lenard E. *Capitol Reef, Historical Survey and Base Map*. Report prepared for the National Park Service, June, 1969.

Goodwin, R. Christopher, and Associates, Inc. *Phase II Intensive Survey of Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Components at the Packer Site (36CN79), Clinton County, PA*. Draft Report prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, January, 1989.

See Isaac A. Packer Farm (HABS No. PA-5500).

Graphic
Documentation:

See Isaac A. Packer Farm (HABS No. PA-5500).

Historians:

Martin B. Abbot and Susan C. Nabors
Kise Franks & Straw
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