

**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

May 6, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick, Architectural Historian vepatrick@ncdot.gov
NCDOT/EAU/Historic Architecture Group

FROM: 
Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Additional information, B-5716, Replace Bridge 140 on SR 1138 over the Dan River, Rockingham County, ER 16-1529

Thank you for your March 30, 2020, memorandum providing additional information about the Pine Hall Brick Plant 3A (RK1648), about which we had raised earlier questions. Based on the new information, we concur that the brick plant is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C and will add this to our files for the project and property.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT mfurr@ncdot.gov

Received: 04/13/2020

Historic Preservation Office



ER 16-1529

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

DATE: March 20, 2020

Due: 4/28/2020

TO: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
NCHPO

H--

FROM: Vanessa E. Patrick
Architectural Historian
NCDOT

SUBJECT: *Historic Structures Survey Report. Replacement of Bridge No. 140 on SR 1138 (Lindsay Bridge Road) over the Dan River, Rockingham County. T.I.P. No. B-5716, PA No. 16-01-0087. ER 16-1529.*

Several years ago, in August of 2016, we submitted for your review a National Register eligibility assessment for the Pine Hall Brick Plant 3A (RK1648) in Madison, Rockingham County. The plant is located in the northwest quadrant of the Bridge No. 140 (Lindsay Bridge) project area (T.I.P. No. B-5716). We received your response, dated September 12, 2016, and shortly thereafter work on the project ceased. The project is now active once again, and we can resume our discussion of the brick plant's eligibility.

The first of the two questions posed in your September 2016 memorandum concerns the disposition and condition of the tunnel kilns housed within the main building of Plant 3A (Resource #1, see pp. 9-13, and 26-31 of the eligibility assessment):

Are the tunnel kilns intact on the interior of Resource #1 (Plant 3A)? Are the kilns separate equipment kept inside the building? Or, were the individual arched roof buildings each a kiln in itself? We believe it is important to understand this technological aspect of the older manufacturing buildings.

Sarah David, then of CALYX and who prepared the eligibility assessment, has offered the following clarifications. The tunnel kilns stand independently inside the building and were "decommissioned ... and partially disassembled to make way for sand sifting and storage [around 2008]. Remnants of the kilns, which appear to be insulated metal rather than brick, remain, but none appear to be entirely intact." Sarah has also provided a definition of tunnel kilns, which we failed to include in the assessment: they are "long, heavily-insulated metal or brick tunnels through which bricks move on a platform that a

hydraulic system pushes along a track or rails.” The tunnel kiln, developed in the mid-nineteenth century, became increasingly prevalent in commercial brick-making during the twentieth century, much favored for its enhanced temperature control, fuel economy, speed, and product consistency. Typically contained within long, low buildings usually sheathed and roofed with metal, tunnel kilns represent a distinct architectural change in brick plant design, as they and their buildings replaced the earlier beehive kilns of very different form and appearance. As Sarah notes in the assessment, tunnel kiln buildings are the definitive features of post-World War II brick factories in North Carolina like the circa-1955 Pine Hall Brick Plant 3A.

The second question in the September 2016 memorandum addresses a period of significance for the Pine Hall brick plant (see pp. 6-22 and 31-33 of the eligibility assessment:

Given that the oldest resources at Plant 3[A] date from the 1950s, what is the period of significance for the industrial complex? If the period of significance extends to 1966, then all resources, additions, and alterations that date up to 1966 should be considered part of the integrity of the complex.

When we prepared the eligibility assessment we did not include a stated period of significance, as required for a fully developed National Register nomination, but opted for recording and evaluating every component resource of the property, both contributing and non-contributing. In response to your question Sarah has identified a period of significance beginning “circa 1922 with the railroad siding, which was, presumably, constructed during the first phase of use of this site for brick manufacturing. The earliest structures and buildings on the site date from the mid-1950s or possibly as early as the late 1940s. The period of significance extends to 1966, to the fifty-year cut-off for National Register eligibility.” The latter reasonably may be extended to 1970. All features of the plant – including those located outside the proposed National Register boundary (Plant No. 4 (#15), its associated silos and storage shed (#16 and #17), and the showroom (#18)) – are accounted for in the eligibility assessment and factored into determining its integrity.

Sarah’s investigation of brick plants included speaking with former and current Pine Hall managers and inspecting those few comparable factories still standing in North Carolina. Her research establishes the characteristic siting, composition, and design of a mid-twentieth-century brick factory – qualities expressed especially by a riverine site served by rail and buildings echoing the definitive tunnels kilns within. The Pine Hall Brick Plant 3A is the most intact example of this type remaining in the state. Still in operation, it also continues to reflect the significance of brick-making to the North Carolina economy: the state was the leading producer in the country during the years immediately following World War II (today only Texas exceeds North Carolina in brick manufacturing). Thus we are recommending the Pine Hall Brick Plant 3A (RK1648) as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, as detailed in the assessment.


Thank you for considering and also helping to refine our recommendation. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

B-5716, Rockingham County -- Pine Hall Brick Plant 3A (RK1648) Eligibility. ER 16-1529.

Patrick, Vanessa E <vepatrick@ncdot.gov>

Mon 3/23/2020 5:20 PM

To: DCR - Environmental_Review <Environmental.Review@ncdcr.gov>

 1 attachments (89 KB)

B-5716RockinghamMemotoHPO.pdf;

Hi Renee: Attached is our response to your memo dated September 12, 2016 (!) concerning the National Register eligibility of the Pine Hall Brick Plant 3A (RK1648). The B-5716 project has recently come back to life. Thanks. Vanessa

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