


AGENDA ITEM:

MEETING DATE: May 29, 2007

STAFF PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Erin Hause, Historic Preservation Board Administrator 
Jeffrey Watson, Assistant Director for Community Services

DESCRIPTION: **Silicated Brick Company Landmark Application
MI06-017**

SUMMARY: This application requests local landmark designation for the Silicated Brick Company site. The site is owned by the Roxborough Park Foundation and is located in the northwest corner of the County in the Southdowns at Roxborough. The property borders the northern boundary of Roxborough State Park. The Silicated Brick Company played a significant role in bringing industrial development, rail lines, and additional population to the sparsely settled northwest corner of Douglas County. The company operated as a brick manufacturing plant from 1904 to 1916. Brick manufacturing ended at the plant in 1916 with the failure of the company, and by 1919, the property was acquired by the Helmer family and the area returned to ranching and mining mineral resources.

The Silicated Brick Company site conforms to the Landmark Criteria:

- The site is at least 50 years old.
- It played a significant role in the County, state, or nation.
- It is representative of an era of history, or made a potential contribution to history or prehistory.

The property also meets the following area of significance:

- Industry

HPB ACTION: Approval at a landmark hearing on May 3, 2007. 

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION: Approval

APPROVED FOR AGENDA: Peter A. Italiano, Director of Community Development

REVIEWED FOR FISCAL CONTENT:

REVIEWED BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

LANDMARK HEARING

MAY 3, 2007

SILICATED BRICK COMPANY

MI06-017

INTRODUCTION:

DC Historic Preservation Board (DCHPB) chairman Bob Terwilliger called the hearing to order. Erin Hause of DC Community Development Department and HPB Administrator introduced and presented the landmark nomination. She noted the landmark application process includes application, review by a committee of Historic Preservation Board members, a landmark hearing by the Historic Preservation Board and finally a meeting before the Board of County Commissioners.

PRESENTATION:

Introduction

Erin Hause noted the landmark application being presented to the Historic Preservation Board is for the Silicated Brick Company, file number MI06-017, for designation as a Douglas County Landmark. The nomination was prepared by Susie Trumble and the property is owned by the Roxborough Park Foundation.

The 1.5-acre property is located in the northwest corner of the county in the Southdowns at Roxborough. The property borders the northern boundary of Roxborough State Park. The location of the remaining lime kiln was noted on a DC map.

Overview and Significance of Property

The property is being nominated based on the following nomination criteria: 1) the part it played in county, state or nation and 2) its representation of an era of history, or potential contribution to history or prehistory. Its area of significance has been identified as Industry.

The Silicated Brick Company played an important role during the 1900 to 1920 time period in the development of industry and rail transportation in the northwest region of Douglas County. The brick company was also responsible for an increase in population of this sparsely settled corner of the county.

The Silicated Brick Company operated as a brick manufacturing plant from 1904 to 1916. In 1909, the Colorado and Southern Railroad extended a branch line to the site to haul bricks and raw materials into Denver. In 1910, the company employed 27 men in the mining of local mineral deposits and the manufacture of silica bricks. By 1912, the company was struggling and the Silica Brick and Clay Company was formed to take over the operation of the brick plant. By 1916, this company also failed. By 1919, the property was acquired by the Helmer family and the area returned to ranching and mining mineral resources.

The rise and fall of the Silicated Brick Company and the small community of Silica is representative of the early 20th century industry and growth.

Erin showed several pictures of the proposed landmark.

Review Process

Erin stated this nomination meets the criteria for landmark designation. An HPB review committee comprised of Clyde Jones, Joni Jones, Joyce Rovetta, Caroline Smith, Bob Terwilleger and Johanna Harden met on April 6th and are recommending approval of this nomination to the Historic Preservation Board.

DISCUSSION BY HPB AND ADVISORS:

The HPB thanked Susie Trumble for her significant and longtime efforts in preparing such an outstanding nomination, one that will serve as a model for future applications.

It was noted the name and date for the landmark plaque will read:

Silicated Brick Company – 1904

MOTION AND RESULT:

Motion was made by Caroline Smith for **Approval** of landmark status for the Silicated Brick Company. The motion passed unanimously.



Douglas County Landmarks Program

DOUGLAS COUNTY REGISTER OF LANDMARK PROPERTIES

NOMINATION FORM

Form A for Buildings, Constructions, & Sites¹

File Number: MI06-017 Official Use Only

Date Nomination Received: May 9, 2006

1. Name of Property

Historic Name Silicated Brick Company also known as Silica Brick and Clay Company
Current Name Silica Kiln

2. Address of Property

Street Address 6900 Roxborough Drive
City Littleton County Douglas Zip 80125

3. Legal Description of Property

NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 12 Township 7S Range 69 W

Lot(s) Part of Commercial Building Area 1 Southdowns at Roxborough 8.25 am/1

Parcel # 2355-123-02-004 Account # 0031456

The boundaries encompass a rectangle with the following boundaries:

Northern boundary - northern property line of Commercial Building Area 1

Eastern boundary - 150 feet east of the kiln and perpendicular to the northern boundary

Southern boundary - 175 south of the northern property line

Western boundary - Little Willow Creek

Total acres being landmarked - approximately 1.5 acres

Please see the map delineating landmark boundaries in the map section.

4. Present Owner of Property

Name Roxborough Park Foundation

Address 6901 S. Pierce Street Phone 303-979-7860

City Littleton State Colorado Zip 80128

(if multiple ownership, please give the names and addresses of each owner on continuation sheets)

5. Preparer(s) of Nomination

Name Susan Trumble Date May 7, 2006

Address 6407 Willow Broom Trail Phone 303-973-8622

City Littleton State Colorado Zip 80125

Representing Douglas County Historic Preservation Board

¹Follow the Landmark Nomination Form Instructions when filling out this form, available through the Douglas County Department of Community Development.

Nomination Form A

Historic Name Silicated Brick Company also known as the Silica Brick and Clay Company

6. Classification of PropertyType: building site other

Has the property, or portions thereof, received any other landmark designations?

 no if yes ► individual in district date designated _____ if only portion previously designated, please describe on a continuation sheet

designated by _____ (Name of municipality, county, state, or federal agency)

7. Condition of Property excellent good fair deteriorated ruins original location moved (date of move _____)**8. Use of Property**

Historic Brick Manufacture

Current Picturesque historic ruin

9. Original Owner Silicated Brick Company also known as the Silica Brick and Clay Company

Source of Information Silicated Brick Company Articles of Incorporation

10. Year of Construction 1904

Source of Information Silicated Brick Company Articles of Incorporation

11. Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer possibly Amos Whetstone

Source of Information Oral history from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Slocum

12. Architectural style/Engineering type Industrial site - All that remains of the original structure is the internal brick core of the kiln.**13. Description of Property**

The description of the current condition and original appearance of the land and structures is on page 6.

14. Alterations to the Property

The description and dates of significant changes to the property is found on page 8.

Nomination Form A

Historic Name Silicated Brick Company also known as Silica Brick and Clay Company

15. Significance of Property**A. Nomination Criteria**

Property, structure, or resource is at least fifty years old. (Check applicable criteria. See Landmark Nomination Form Instructions for complete criteria language #15A 1-9): Please see page 8 for nomination criteria details.

1. Part it played in county, state, or nation
2. Location or physical characteristics
3. Site of significant event
4. Identified with significant person(s)
5. Exemplifies architectural style or period
6. Work of influential builder, designer, or architect
7. Superior artistic or innovative construction
8. Representative of an era of history, or potential contribution to history or prehistory
9. Retains its physical integrity, historic context, and restoration has been adequately documented.

B. Areas of Significance: (check as many as you think appropriate)

Select one or more areas of significance for the property from the list below. Areas of significance must be justified in the Statement of Significance (#16). Please see page 9 for details on the areas of significance.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology – prehistoric and history | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning and
Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Social History |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

16. Significance Statement

An explanation of the nomination criteria and the areas of significance may be found beginning on page 9.

17. Bibliography

The books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form are found on page 16.

Nomination Form A

Historic Name Silicated Brick Company also known as Silica Brick and Clay Company

18. Plaque Name

Recommended name and date to be placed on the plaque

Silicated Brick Company - 1904

19. Additional Nomination Material to be submitted (see check-off list.)**Submittal A – Maps**

Vicinity Map

U.S. Geological Survey, Kassler Quadrangle Topographic Map

Silicated Brick Company Site Map – Summer 2004 Aerial

Map of Route of the Silica Branch from *Tracking Ghost Railroads in Colorado* by Robert Ormes

Submittal B – Photographs

Historic Photographs – Courtesy of Roxborough State Park

1. Silicated Brick Company – View looking east
2. Silicated Brick Company – View looking west
3. Silicated Brick Company – View looking south
4. Silicated Brick Company miners
5. Silica town site – View looking east of homes and brick manufacturing building
6. Silica town site – View looking northeast
7. Benn Ranch – View looking north, home made of silica brick
8. Horace Persse Homestead – view looking north, home made of silica brick

Historic Photograph – Courtesy of Denver Public Library – Western History Collection

9. Narrow gauge train on the Silica branch of the Colorado and Southern Railroad
circa 1941 #OP-6239

Current Photographs

10. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-View looking southwest
11. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-View looking southeast
12. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-View looking west
13. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-close-up of doors
14. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-internal structure
15. Silica Brick

Appendices

Appendix A - Summary of Operations for the Silicated Brick Company and Silica Brick and Clay Company from annual reports filed with the Colorado Secretary of State

Appendix B - Summary of 1910 Census data – Persons employed by Silicated Brick Company

DOUGLAS COUNTY REGISTER OF LANDMARK PROPERTIES

PAGE 5

Nomination Form A

Historic Name Silicated Brick Company also known as Silica Brick and Clay Company

OWNER CONSENT FORM

Each partial owner must sign a separate form. Reproduce form needed. All signatures must be notarized.

I, T. L. Peterson
(type or print name)

General Manager for the Roxborough Park Foundation
(title)

certify that I am the authorized representative for the Roxborough Park Foundation owner of the land and property located at

6900 Roxborough Drive
street number street name

Littleton Colorado
city county

and that I hereby give my written consent and approval for this property's nomination to and inclusion in the Douglas County Register of Landmark Properties.

[Signature]
signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in my presence,
this 11 day of DECEMBER, 2006, a
Notary Public in and for the

(county), (state) JEFFERSON, COLORADO

My term expires: DECEMBER 20, 2010



[Signature]

Notary Public

ANTHONY WILLIAMS
Print Name

DOUGLAS COUNTY REGISTER OF LANDMARK PROPERTIES

Nomination Form A – Continuation Sheet

Historic Name Silicated Brick Company aka Silica Brick and Clay Company

13. Description of the Property

Introduction

The site of the Silicated Brick Company lies immediately south of the parking lot for the West Metro Fire Station #15 found at the intersection of Rampart Road and Roxborough Park Road in the northwest corner of Douglas County. The site slopes upward to the south and includes a mined outcropping of the Dakota Hogback and the banks of Little Willow Creek. The site is vegetated with a variety of grasses, native shrubs, Gambel oak and box elder.

Historic photographs taken about 1910 may be found in Appendix B. They show that the site of the Silicated Brick Company once comprised several structures. These included a limestone kiln, brick manufacturing building, superintendent's office, boarding house, a railroad coach or mail car converted to dormitory housing and several outbuildings. A spur line of the Colorado and Southern Railroad known as the "Silica Branch" ran from Platte Canyon (at Waterton Canyon) to the site of the brick company. A small community, known as Silica, was identified on the 1915 and 1937 maps of Douglas County. A group of 6-8 homes immediately west of the brick yard was named Silica.

Current Conditions

This landmark designation comprises approximately 1.5 acres and contains the remains of the lime kiln, cart track south (above) of the kiln and some remaining walls of the brick manufacturing building west of the kiln. The most visible feature remaining of the Silicated Brick Company is a red brick cylindrical structure which was the lime kiln's internal core. Photographs #10-#14 found in Submittal B document the current condition of the structure. The internal core of the kiln stands approximately 35 feet in height and approximately 16.5 feet in diameter. The internal core is comprised of 5-6 layers of brick with the inner layer being fire brick. The exterior layer of brick is comprised of bricks that measure 8" x 2 1/4" with a 3/8" to 1/2" mortar joint. The sandstone block fascia which once covered the exterior is now rubble around the base of the structure. However, equally spaced flanges constructed of rubble stone still exist at several locations around the brick structure. These structural flanges tied the exterior stone face to the inner brick core.

The lower portion of the structure was the furnace. The main chamber is dome shaped and rises to about 24 feet. The rest of the interior is chimney. The interior is lined with fire brick. The north facing side of the kiln has a half round opening that is formed with a brick soldier course. The arch is approximately 7'-2" wide. Three to four inches beyond this arched opening is a white fire brick wall which is the interior

wall of the kiln. This wall has two openings with steel doors and a steel lintel above. The opening measures 5.5 feet wide.

The overall condition of the structure is deteriorated. The hard brick outer surface, which was never intended to be exposed to the elements, has deteriorated and the softer inner face is now exposed – leading to further damage to the outer layer of brick. The mortar is also weathering. A large crack in the structure runs almost top to bottom on the northeast side.

The nominated property contains several other physical features left from the Silicated Brick Company operation. Behind the kiln structure, the indentation left from the ore car track used to feed the lime kiln is still visible. Two segments of a stone and brick retaining wall found west of the kiln are believed to be part of the back wall of the brick manufacturing plant.

Description of the Site in 1910

Historic photographs taken of the site in about 1910 are included in this nomination in Submittal B. Photo #1 documents the location of the kiln on the south end of the original site. Photographs #1 and #2 show the kiln had a rock fascia secured by horizontal metal bands. It appears to have had a conical smoke stack rising above the main chamber surrounded by a wooden catwalk. A boardwalk connected the kiln to the hillside to the south.

Photographs #1 and #2 document the brick manufacturing building as a long rectangular building located immediately north of the kiln. The north and east portions of the building were one story; the south portion of the building was two story with a small third story addition. A smoke stack rose from the south east section of the two-story portion of the building.

A one-story, frame “salt box” building believed to be the superintendent’s office can be seen north of the manufacturing building in Photograph #3. It has been referred to locally as “the Governor’s house.” This common name is a reference to the fact that Elias M. Ammons, (Colorado Governor from 1913-1915) owned property bordering the brick company. The Roxborough Land Company leased an acre of land from Ammons, and later the property was purchased by the Silicated Brick Company.

A frame two-story building sat to the east of the manufacturing building. It is referred to as the Ash House, once belonging to homesteader John Ash. This building may be seen in the center right of Photograph #2. According to an oral history interview with Mary Jane McQuain this structure was used as a boarding house.

Photographs #5 and #6 show some of the homes in the Silica community.

14. Alterations to the Property

The property has been greatly altered over the last 85 years. The brick company ceased operation in December, 1916. The property was acquired by Mary Helmer in 1919. All of the buildings were eventually dismantled.

Photograph #9 taken in 1941 shows that the rock facing of the brick kiln was removed or fell away exposing the internal structure. There is no roof showing in this photo and the kiln appears in 1941 to look very much as it does today.

A portion of the brick manufacturing building appears in the 1941 photograph but the smokestack is no longer visible. By 1978, the entire building was gone.

The superintendent's office is standing in the 1941 photo. A porch was added to the front of the building by the time this photo was taken. The building was torn down before the Roxborough Park Metro District Firehouse was constructed in 1988. The structure's stone foundation is still visible and is located northwest of the present day fire station. This foundation is on property owned by the West Metro Fire Department and is outside of the boundaries of the landmark nomination

The two story frame house was no longer standing by 1978. It is unknown when it was demolished. Originally, it stood in what is now the outbound lane of Roxborough Drive.

The superintendent's home located west of the brick yard became Toney Helmer's ranch headquarters. The railroad coach or mail car was moved to the headquarters site. The ranch headquarters was demolished shortly after the Woodmoor Corporation purchased the property in 1967 with the exception of the barn which stood until about 1984.

Summary

The nominated property contains approximately 1.5 acres. The red brick inner core of the kiln is the most visible remnant of the Silicated Brick Company and the associated community of Silica. During a reconnaissance of the site with architect Barbara Darden on April 18, 2005, two segments of a stone and brick retaining wall were located. It is believed that they could be part of the back wall of the brick manufacturing plant. Two pieces of unidentified rusted mining equipment were also found on the site. Traces of the ore cart track used to feed the lime kiln are visible as well as scars left from mining the Dakota Hogback.

The site was recorded by O.D. Hand in 1987. It is listed as 5DA 727 in the records of the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

The "salt box" and frame two-story building were located on property that is now owned by the West Metro Fire District and are not part of this nomination. There is

no longer any evidence of the community of Silica, therefore, it is not part of this nomination.

15. Significance of the Property

A. Nomination Criteria

The Silicated Brick Company meets the following nomination criteria.

Nomination Criteria #1

Part it played in county, state or nation

The Silicated Brick Company is considered significant to Douglas County because it played an important role during the 1900-1920 time period in the development of industry and rail transportation in the northwest segment of the County.

Nomination Criteria #8

Representative of an era of history

The rise and fall of the Silicated Brick Company and the small community of Silica was representative of the early twentieth century industry and growth. The brick operation took advantage of the mineral resources of the local area. For a period of time, Silica boomed. A railroad spur was constructed in 1909 to transport brick and clay to Denver. The Silica Brick and Clay Company took over the affairs of the Silicated Brick Company in January, 1913. The company was short lived and met its demise in 1916.

B. Areas of Significance

Category - Industry

This nomination recognizes the role the Silicated Brick Company played in the industrial development of Douglas County. During the early part of the twentieth century much of the County was comprised of large ranching properties with emphasis on agrarian activities such as cattle raising, dairy production and haying. By contrast, the Silicated Brick Company played a significant role in bringing industrial development, rail lines and additional population to the sparsely settled northwest corner of Douglas County.

The Silicated Brick Company, later known as the Silica Brick and Clay Company, operated as a brick manufacturing plant from 1904 to 1916. In 1909, the Colorado and Southern Railroad extended a branch line to the site to haul bricks and raw materials into Denver. In 1910, The Silicated Brick Company employed 27 men in the mining of local mineral deposits and the manufacture of silica bricks. By 1912, the company was struggling and the Silica Brick and Clay Company was formed to take over the operation of the brick plant. By 1916, this

company failed too. By 1919, the property was acquired by the Helmer family and the area returned to ranching and mining mineral resources.

16. Significance Statement

Formation of the Silicated Brick Company

The Silicated Brick Company was incorporated according to the laws of the State of Colorado on January 4, 1904. The corporation was founded with capital stock of \$50,000.00 consisting of 50,000 shares with a face value of \$1.00 each. The corporation named five directors to manage its affairs until their successors could be elected and qualified. These directors were:

Robert E. Dolan
J. J. Weicher
Harry M. de Hart
T. D. Baird
Edmund J. Churchill

The objectives for the corporation are summarized as follows:

1. To engage in the general business of the manufacture, purchase, sale and disposition of brick of all kinds, tiling, fire brick, fire clay, lime, and kindred products;
2. To acquire by purchase, location, grant, exchange, and in any other lawful method, lands of all kinds, mineral and otherwise;
3. To erect, construct, purchase, lease, let, equip, operate and maintain such mills, machinery, equipment, buildings and other erections as may be required for the manufacture of any of the products herein provided;
4. To purchase materials for such manufacture from any and all sources;
5. To acquire by purchase, lease or other lawful manner, any lands containing coal or other fuel products necessary for the operation of such business;
6. To own livestock of all kinds as may be necessary for the general conduct of its business;
7. To erect, equip, maintain, and operate such tramways and other means of transportation of the products of this company to the markets and raw materials to its manufactories as may be expedient;

8. To construct, operate and maintain such telephone and telegraph lines as may be for the best interests of this company; also to construct, operate and maintain such lighting and power plants as may be requisite for the conduct of business;
9. To erect, own, lease, handle, control, and maintain all buildings required by employees of said corporation;
10. To erect, construct, lease, let and control such hotels as may be deemed advisable and to conduct the hotel business at its said works;
11. To own, construct, lease, let, operate, manage and conduct a general store business at its several works and to sell there any and all articles and things of every sort and nature whatsoever;
12. To take, own, possess, sell and dispose of and enjoy the stocks, bonds and other evidences of property, property rights and indebtedness coming into the ownership of this corporation through the due course of business;
13. To sell and dispose of any and all assets, rights, privileges and franchises of this company whenever necessary;
14. To own, acquire, operate, use, possess and enjoy all water rights, ditch rights and rights to the use of water, for all of the purposes enumerated;
15. To borrow money for the proper conduct of its business;
16. In general, to have and possess all and singular the powers conferred upon corporations generally, organized under the General Incorporation Laws of the State of Colorado.

The Articles of Incorporation stated that the principal office of the company was in the City and County of Denver and that principal business was to be carried out in the City and County of Denver and the County of Douglas.¹

Silicated Brick Company and the Roxborough Land Company Relationship

The Roxborough Land Company was incorporated in the State of Colorado on May 7, 1902. The Board of Directors was made up of three men, Henry S. Persse, John J. (J. J.) Weicher and William F. Gray. On January 6, 1904, the Roxborough Land Company signed a 20-year lease with the Silicated Brick Company giving them control of property not to exceed 160 acres of land in sections 11, 12, 13, 23 and 25 in Township 7 South, Range 69 West. The lease granted the Silicated Brick Company

rights for the purpose of erecting, constructing and maintaining manufacturing plants for the manufacture of lime, brick of all kinds, tiling, fire clay, fire brick and kindred products. The Silicated Brick Company was given one year to complete the construction of the brick manufacturing plant and commence making brick.

The lease stipulated that monthly payments from the Silicated Brick Company to the Roxborough Land Company would be made based upon royalties of the following products:

Ten cents per ton for all brick, fire brick, and fire clay
Twenty cents per ton for all lime manufactured
Twenty cents per ton on all clays, silica and kindred products
Forty cents per ton on all lime rock
A minimum royalty of \$1,000.00 per year was established.²

Silicated Brick Company Business Operations

The stockholders met on the 19th of April, 1904, and voted to increase their capital stock to \$100,000.00. The Board of Directors was increased in number from five to seven including the following individuals.

T. D. Baird, president
Robert E. Dolan, secretary
C. L. Hanna
J. J. Weicher
George Fruth
Charles T. Austin
Amos E. Whetstone³

The Silicated Brick Company was listed in the 1904 Ballenger and Richards Denver Business Directory as doing business at 49 Bank Building at the corner of 17th and Arapahoe.

Construction of the brick plant is believed to have begun in 1904, according to the terms of the lease. Amos E. Whetstone was the chief engineer. It is said that his calculations were so accurate that the machinery fit into place with almost no adjustments needed. Mr. Whetstone remained with the company until 1907, when he accepted a position in the State of Washington.

The brick company filed annual reports with the Secretary of State, State of Colorado for the years 1904-1918. These reports have been summarized and may be found in Appendix A.

On January 15, 1907, the stockholders met and voted to increase the capital stock to \$150,000.00. Samuel Alexander Parnall was listed as president of the company and John Carruthers as the secretary.⁴

Brick Manufacturing

The brick-making process used by the Silicated Brick Company was described by Robert Woodhouse.

*These bricks were made from a mixture of ground lime rock and silica sand. As they were made they were placed on small cars and pushed into a long steel boiler. At night the boiler was shut up tightly and steam turned on. These bricks were not baked but steamed with high pressure steam.*⁵

The bricks were white in color with a distinctive "S" stamped into the face. Photograph #15 shows the distinctive design of the silica brick.

The site yielded the raw materials necessary for the production of silica or cement-type bricks. Limestone was mined from the Niobrara Formation directly east of the site. The limestone was then burned in the kiln to form lime. The other key ingredient, silica, was mined from the Dakota Hogback. The heat source for the operation of the lime kiln and the brick plant was coal mined from sources in the Laramie Formation approximately one mile east of Silica. Water was available from Little Willow Creek flowing immediately west of the brick factory.⁶

Transportation

A rail spur known as the Silica Branch was constructed from the main Colorado and Southern Railway at the Platte Canyon station (Waterton). It was built by the Colorado Railroad Company, a subsidiary of the Colorado and Southern Railway. Construction began in September, 1908 and the line was completed and placed into operation in August, 1909. It was a narrow gauge line 3.89 miles in length terminating at Silica. A ten-car siding was constructed at Silica.⁷

Use of Silica Bricks

In addition to shipping bricks to Denver, several local homes were constructed of silica brick. The homestead dwelling built in 1908 by Horace Persse was made of these white bricks. The homes on the Joe Benn ranch and the Waterhouse property were also of silica brick. The Horace Persse and Waterhouse homes are still standing but are in poor condition.

Life at Silica

The 1910 United States Census provides a listing of the people living at Silica. Twenty-seven men were employed by the Silicated Brick Company according to the census. A. E. Woodward is listed as the foreman. He was 44 years old in 1910 and was born in Maine. James Smith, born in Illinois, was employed as a lime burner. Twenty-five other men ranging in age from 17 to 69 were reported working in the brickyards as laborers. Elizabeth Lewis and Margarett Curtis worked as cooks in the boarding house.⁸ A summary of the census information is found in Appendix B.

Elizabeth Sobey Lewis ran the boarding house at Silica from 1904 to 1913.⁹ In an oral history interview, granddaughter Mary Jane McQuain, stated that Elizabeth fed as many as 45 boarders per week at the cost of five dollars per week. She referred to living in an old house near the brick yard known as the Ash House.¹⁰

In addition to the men listed in the census as employed by the brick company, many of the local ranching families gained income from part time work at the Silicated Brick Company. These included Homer Childers, Joe Benn, Lawrence and William Waterhouse, members of the Helmer family, Ray Cramer, and Mel Head.¹¹

Failure of the Silicated Brick Company

The Silicated Brick Company discontinued business on December 31, 1912. The Silica Brick and Clay Company was incorporated in August, 1912, for the purpose of taking over the affairs of the Silicated Brick Company. The 1912 Annual Report stated that the amount of indebtedness shown by the Silicated Brick Company was inherited by the new corporation. The Silica Brick and Clay Company emerged with a capital stock of \$250,000.00 and took over the brick operation on January 1, 1913.¹²

The Silica Brick and Clay Company attempted to reverse the difficulties of the original company. George Fruth was elected as president of the new company. Joseph Mitchell continued as vice president and John Carruthers retained the secretary/treasurer position.¹³

The difficulties prevailed. On November 22, 1916, the Roxborough Land Company notified the Silica Brick and Clay Company that they had broken their lease agreement. The notice cited the failure to provide records of products produced and failure to pay royalties due to the Roxborough Land Company.¹⁴

On January 2, 1917, the Roxborough Land Company gave notice of the termination of the lease with the Silica Brick and Clay Company and of a lien made against the improvements the Silica Brick and Clay Company made on their property for the non payment of royalties and taxes due.¹⁵

The Silica Brick and Clay Company annual report for 1917 stated that the company had ceased operation in December, 1916. It reported an indebtedness of \$14,928.08 without interest. The report stated that "assets consist of second hand machinery now in litigation by various creditors. Machinery was probably worth \$5,000.00 as second hand material."¹⁶

The District Court of the City and County of Denver awarded the sum of \$4,491.98 to Fannie M. Carruthers from the sale of the goods and chattels of the Silica Brick and Clay Company. Mrs. Carruthers also attended the Sheriff's Sale of the one acre of property owned by the company. She purchased it for \$3,500.00 on February 26, 1917. Fannie M. Carruthers was the wife of long-time Silica Brick and Clay Company secretary/treasurer John Carruthers.¹⁷

Mary Helmer, the matriarch of the Helmer family, purchased the property leased to the Silica Brick and Clay Company from the Roxborough Land Company on February 1, 1919. Although bricks were no longer manufactured at Silica, the Helmer Brothers Company mined clay and silica from the area until the 1960's.

The Silica Branch of the Colorado and Southern Railway operated intermittently until 1940. The line was abandoned and the tracks were dismantled in 1941.¹⁸

Endnotes

¹ Articles of Incorporation, Silicated Brick Company, Recorded with the Colorado Secretary of State Reception #58609 Book 104 Page 129 - Colorado State Archives.

² Lease between Roxborough Land Company and the Silicated Brick Company recorded with the Douglas County Clerk and Recorder, Castle Rock, Colorado on April 28, 1904, Book 31 Page 153.

³ Certificate of Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation, Silicated Brick Company, Recorded with the Colorado Secretary of State, Reception #38903 Book 103 Page 589 – Colorado State Archives.

⁴ Certificate of Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation, Silicated Brick Company, Recorded with the Colorado Secretary of State, Book 119 Page 440 – Colorado State Archives.

⁵ Marr, Josephine Lowell, Douglas County – A Historical Journey, B. & B. Printers: Gunnison, Colorado, 1983 page 102.

⁶ Conversation with Dr. Charles and Mary Jo Kluth, April 24, 2005.

⁷ Poor, M.C. *Denver, South Park & Pacific*, page 305.

⁸ 1910 United States Census for Platte District #2, Douglas County, Colorado pages 2A-2B.

⁹ Douglas County Historical Society, *Our Heritage, People of Douglas County*, page 270.

¹⁰ Colorado Historical Society Oral History Interview with Mary Jane Benn McQuain, 14 March, 1968.

¹¹ Marr, Josephine Lowell, Douglas County – A Historical Journey, B. & B. Printers: Gunnison, Colorado, 1983, page 102.

¹² The 1912 Silicated Brick Company Annual Report filed with the Colorado Secretary of State on February 13, 1913, Reception #32078.

¹³ The 1912 Silica Brick and Clay Company Annual Report filed with the Colorado Secretary of State on February 13, 1913, Reception #32079.

¹⁴ Notice Roxborough Land Company to the Silica Brick and Clay Company recorded with the Douglas County, Colorado, Clerk and Recorder on November 22, 1916 Book 52 Page 272.

¹⁵ Notice Roxborough Land Company to the Silica Brick and Clay Company recorded with the Douglas County, Colorado Clerk and Recorder on January 2, 1917, Book 52 Page 320.

¹⁶ The 1917 Silica Brick and Clay Company Annual Report filed with the Colorado Secretary of State on February 27, 1918, Reception #69082.

¹⁷ Certificate of Sale, sheriff of Douglas County to Fannie M. Carruthers recorded with the Douglas County Clerk and Recorder on March 2, 1917, Book 52 page 387.

¹⁸ Poor, M.C. *Denver, South Park & Pacific*, page 305.

17. Bibliography

Books

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Ormes, Robert. *Tracking Ghost Railroads in Colorado*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Green Light Press. 1992.

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Government Records

United States Census Records 1900, 1910, 1920.

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Instruments recorded with the Colorado State Secretary of State – Colorado State Archives.

Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation - Site Form 5DA -727.

Douglas County School Census Records – District #19, 1903-1916.

Oral History Interviews

Mary Jane McQuain

Alex Kaminski

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Slocum

Interviews

Ms. Barbara Darden, historic architect. April 11, 2005.

Dr. Charles and Mary Jo Kluth, geologists, April 24, 2005.

Special thanks for research and assistance

Barbara Anderson, geologist and Roxborough historian.

Johanna Harden, Douglas County History Research Center Archivist.

Roxborough State Park - use of historical research compiled by Paula Ehresman,
Terri Shorzman, Dale Cavanagh and Chere Mitchell.

Photographs courtesy of

Roxborough State Park.

Denver Public Library-Western History Collection.

DOUGLAS COUNTY REGISTER OF LANDMARK PROPERTIES

Nomination Form A

Historic Name Silicated Brick Company also known as Silica Brick and Clay Company

Submittal A Maps

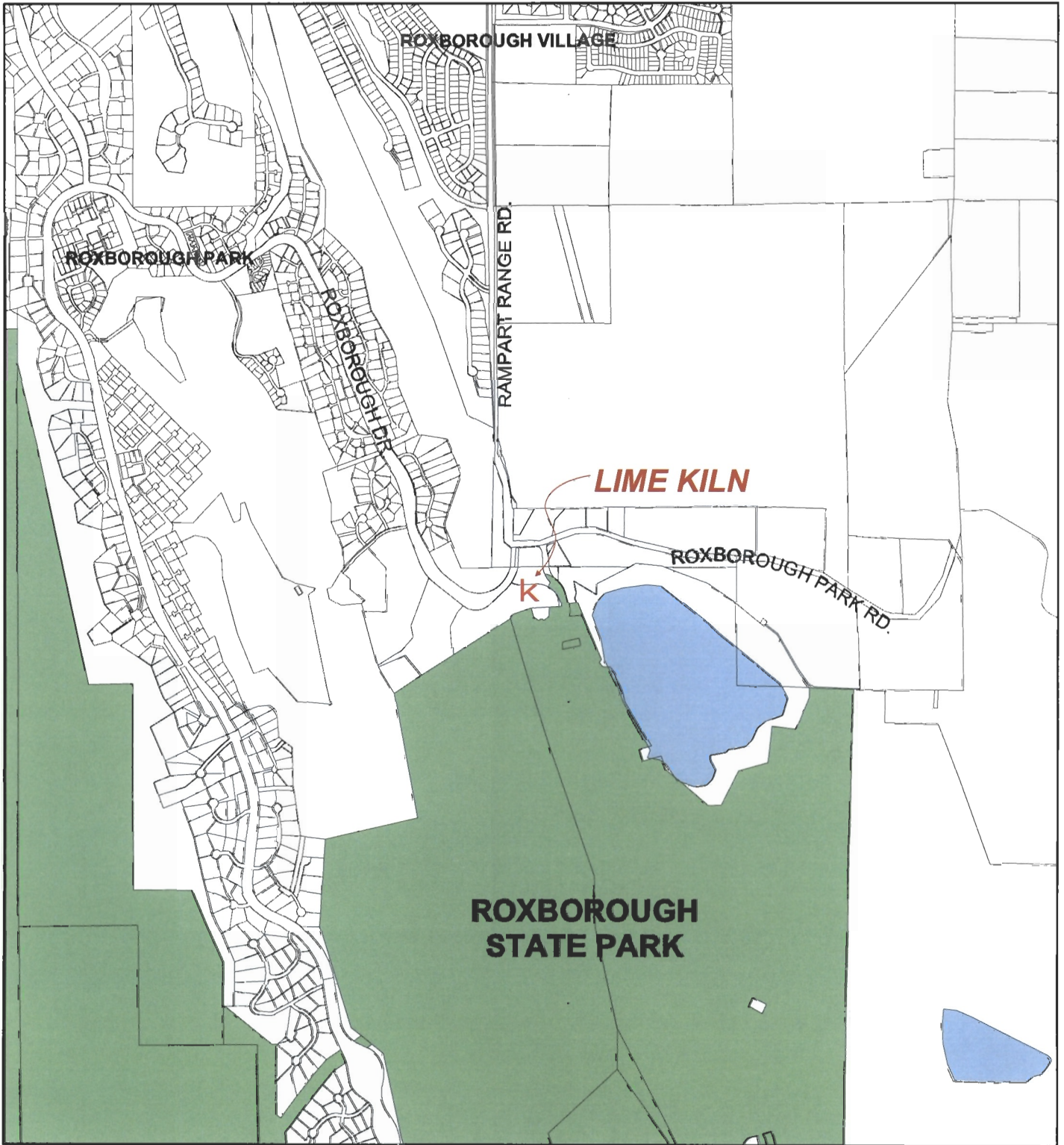
Vicinity Map

U.S. Geological Survey, Kessler Quadrangle Topographic Map

Silicated Brick Company Site Map – Summer 2004 Aerial

Map of the route of the Silica Branch narrow gauge railroad from *Tracking Ghost Railroads in Colorado* by Robert Ormes

SILICATED BRICK COMPANY SITE VICINITY MAP

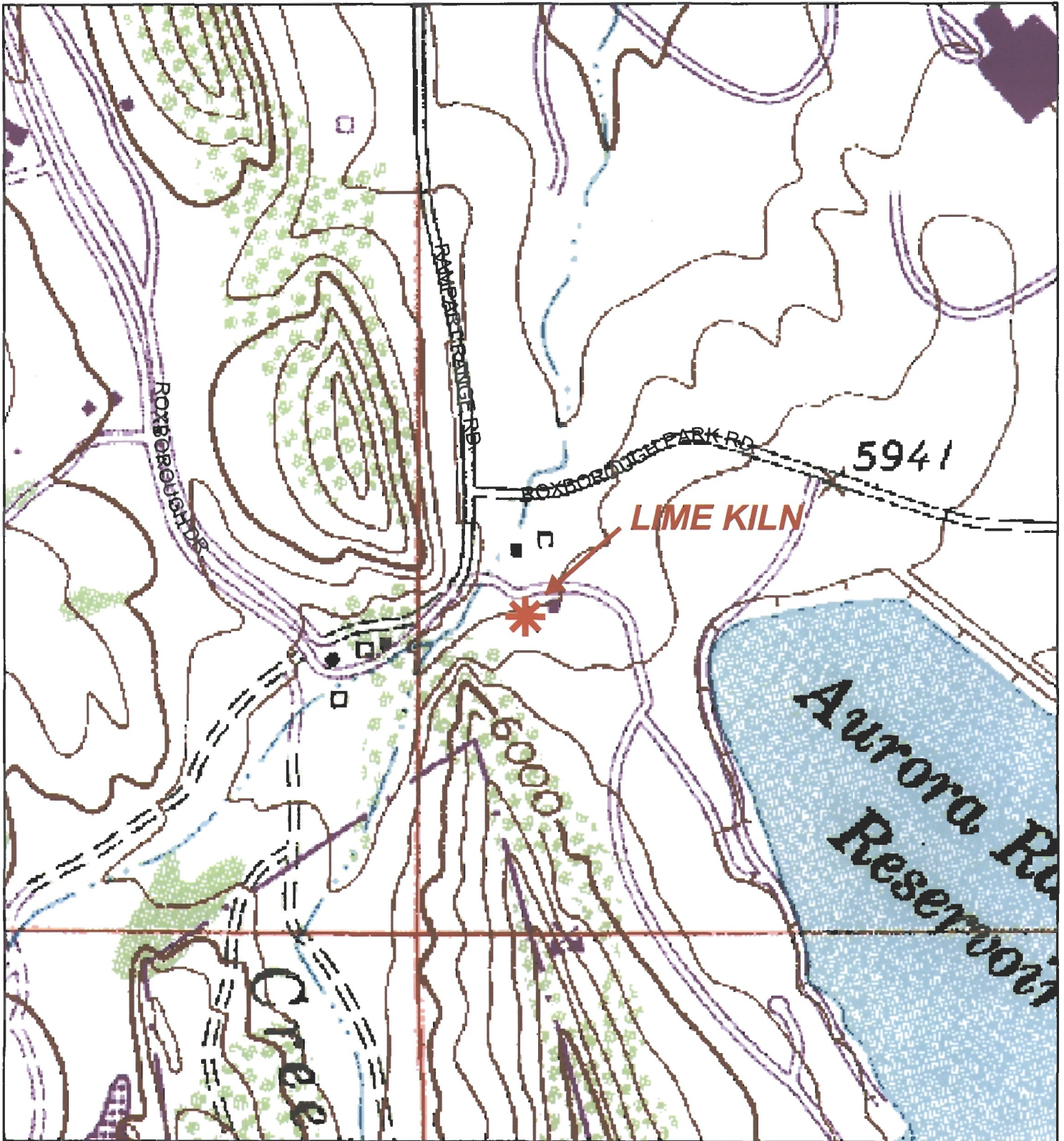


0 190 380 760 1,140 1,520 Meters

Map Fraction 1:24000
Silica Brick Kiln Site property center
is approximately UTM 13 493836E 4366950N
Kassler Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

January 2007
p/krenande/Historic/
Silicated Brick Company UTM.mxd

SILICATED BRICK COMPANY
U.S.G.S. KASSLER QUADRANGLE MAP



0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Meters

Map Fraction 1:24000
Silica Brick Kiln Site property center
is approximately UTM 13 493831E 4366951N
Kassler Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum



January 2007
p/krenande/Historic/
Silica Brick Kiln UTM.mxd

**SILICATED BRICK COMPANY
U.S.G.S. SUMMER 2004 AERIAL MAP**

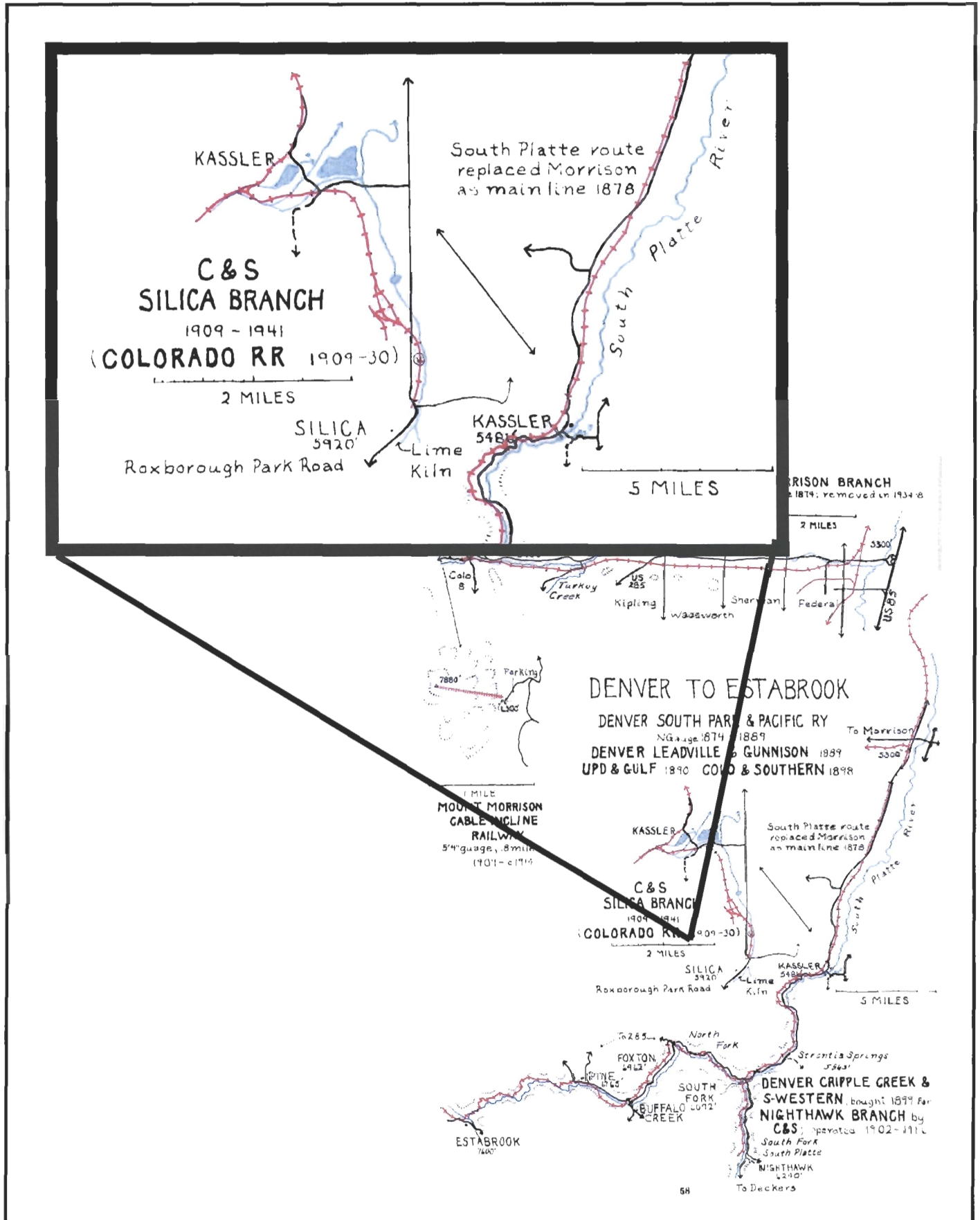


0 20 40 80 120 160 Meters

Map Fraction 1:24000
Silica Brick Kiln Site property center
is approximately UTM 13 493836E 4366950N
Kassler Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

March 2007
p/krenande/Historic/LandmarkApps
SilicaBrickKilnUTMaerial.mxd

SILICATED BRICK COMPANY



Source: Ormes, Robert. *Tracking Ghost Railroads in Colorado*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Green Light Press. 1992.

DOUGLAS COUNTY REGISTER OF LANDMARK PROPERTIES

Nomination Form A

Historic Name Silicated Brick Company also known as Silica Brick and Clay Company

Submittal B – List of Photographs

Historic Photographs – Courtesy of Roxborough State Park

1. Silicated Brick Company – View looking east
2. Silicated Brick Company – View looking west
3. Silicated Brick Company – View looking south
4. Silicated Brick Company miners
5. Silica town site – View looking east of homes and brick manufacturing building
6. Silica town site – View looking northeast
7. Benn Ranch – View looking north, home made of silica brick
8. Horace Persse Homestead – view looking north, home made of silica brick

Historic Photograph – Courtesy of Denver Public Library – Western History Collection

9. Narrow gauge train on the Silica branch of the Colorado and Southern Railroad circa 1941 #OP-6239

Current Photographs

10. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-View looking southwest
11. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-View looking southeast
12. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-View looking west
13. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-close-up of doors
14. Remains of lime kiln at the Silicated Brick Company site-internal structure
15. Silica Brick



1. Silicated Brick Company, circa 1910 - View looking to the east



2. Silicated Brick Company, circa 1910 - View looking to the west



3. Silicated Brick Company, Circa 1910 – View looking south, Alfred Woodward, brickyard foreman and wife Ollie



4. Mining the Dakota Hogback, circa 1910
George Woodward, son of brickyard foreman Alfred Woodward is seated. Brother-in-law James Mitchell is standing next to ore cart. Other miners are unidentified.



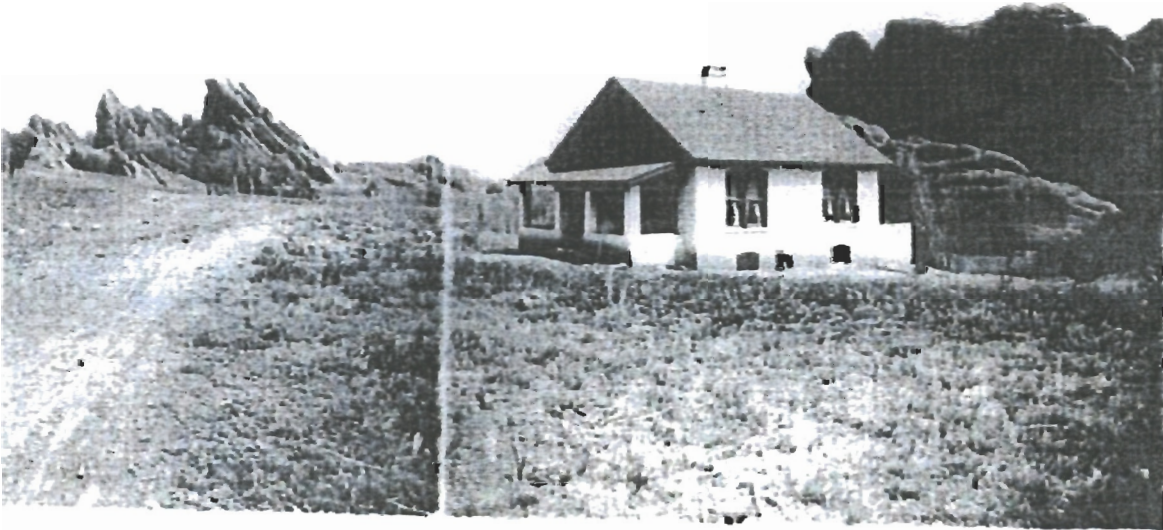
5. Silica town site, circa 1910 – View looking east of homes and brick manufacturing building



6. Silica town site, circa 1910 - View looking northeast



7. Benn Ranch, circa 1910 - View looking north
The Benn home was constructed of silica brick and is no longer standing.



8. Horace Persse House, circa 1913 – View looking north. The home was constructed of silica brick in 1908. This photo accompanied Persse's homestead application. The home is still standing.



9. Narrow gauge train on the Silica Branch of the Colorado and Southern Railroad, circa 1941
Courtesy of the Denver Public Library-Western History Collection #OP-6239



10. Remains of the Silica lime kiln at the site of the Silicated Brick Company- May, 2006
View looking southwest



11. Remains of the Silica lime kiln at the site of the Silicated Brick Company- May, 2006
View looking southeast



12. Remains of the Silica lime kiln at the site of the Silicated Brick Company- May, 2006
View looking west



13. Remains of the Silica lime kiln at the site of the Silicated Brick Company- May, 2006
Close-up view of the doors.



14. Remains of the Silica lime kiln at the site of the Silicated Brick Company- May, 2006
View looking northwest showing the internal structure of the kiln.



15. Silica Brick with the distinctive "S" design.

Appendix A - Company Operations

Information from Company Annual Reports submitted to the Colorado Secretary of State Incorporated as the Silicated Brick Company

Year	1905 Report for 1904	1906 Report for 1905	1907 Report for 1906
Sec of State #	6096	7362	10629
Filed	February 24, 1905	January 29, 1906	filed March 2, 1907
President	Dr. T. D. Baird Walsenburg, CO	Dr. T. D. Baird Walsenburg, CO	S. A. Parnall 1124 Vine Street
VP	C. L. Hanna Oxford Hotel	C. L. Hanna Oxford Hotel	C. L. Hanna Oxford Hotel
Secretary	Robert E. Dolan 590 S. Sherman	Robert E. Dolan 590 S. Sherman	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street
Treasurer	A. E. Whetstone 1356 Albion Street	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street
Superintendent	J. J. Weicher Silica, CO	A. E. Whetstone 1234 Josephine Street	S. A. Parnall 1124 Vine Street
Director	George Fruth Walsenburg, CO	M. Bradley Pueblo, CO	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson
Director	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street	George Fruth Walsenburg, CO	A. E. Whetstone 1171 Vine Street
Business Address	54 Bank Block	54 Bank Block	54 Bank Block
Capital Stock	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$150,000.00
Original Stock	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Increased Stock Date	\$50,000.00 April 19, 1904	\$50,000.00 April 19, 1904	\$100,000.00 19-Apr-04 January 15, 1907
Portion of Stock Paid	fully paid	fully paid	portion paid \$99,220.00
Cash	\$41,400	\$41,400	\$79,395.00
Property	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Amount Otherwise	\$43,600.00	\$43,600.00	\$5,824.00
Indebtedness	\$40,000.00	\$54,661.72	\$9.07
Douglas operation	yes	yes	yes
Comments	Company assets exceed amount of indebtedness		

Year	1908 Report for 1907	1909 Report for 1908	1910 Report for 1909
Sec of State #	14023	15243	17408
Filed	filed March 6, 1908	filed July 23, 1909	filed February 16, 1910
President	S. A. Parnall 1124 Vine Street	S. A. Parnall 1124 Vine Street	S. A. Parnall 1124 Vine Street
VP	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson
Secretary	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street
Treasurer	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street	John Carruthers 3355 Bryant Street
Superintendent	S. A. Parnall 1124 Vine Street	S. A. Parnall 1124 Vine Street	S. A. Parnall 1124 Vine Street
Director	C.L. Hanna Oxford Hotel	C.L. Hanna Oxford Hotel	C.L. Hanna Oxford Hotel
Director	A. E. Whetstone 1171 Vine Street	M. Bradley Pueblo, CO	M. Bradley Pueblo, CO
Business Address	509 Bank Block	509 Bank Block	509 Bank Block
Capital Stock	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Original Stock	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Increased Stock Date	\$100,000.00 April 4, 1904 July 15, 1907	\$100,000.00 April 4, 1904 July 15, 1907	\$100,000.00 April 4, 1904 July 15, 1907
Portion of Stock Paid	portion paid \$99,345.00	portion paid \$99,345.00	portion paid \$104,345.00
Cash	\$79,395.00	\$79,395.00	\$74,740.00
Property	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Amount Otherwise	\$4,949.00	\$4,949.00	\$14,600.00
Indebtedness	\$7,389.00	\$14,806.00	\$49,498.00
Douglas operation	yes	yes	yes
Comments			

Year	1911 Report for 1910	1912 Report for 1911	1913 report for 1912
Sec of State #	19863		32078
filed	January 11, 1911	no report found	February 13, 1913
President	Thomas H. Faull Lafayette, CO		Thomas H. Faull Lafayette, CO
VP	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson		Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson
Secretary	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.		John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.
Treasurer	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.		John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.
Superintendent	none listed		none listed
Director	Mumford Bradley Pueblo, CO		B. F. Springer Trinidad, CO
Director	C. L. Hanna Oxford Hotel		Joseph Aubrey 765 Emerson
Business Address	509 Bank Block		509 Bank Block
Capital Stock	\$150,000.00		\$150,000.00
Original Stock	\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00
Increased Stock Date	\$100,000.00 April 19, 1904 January 15, 1907		\$100,000.00 April 19, 1904 January 15, 1907
Cash	\$74,740		\$74,740
Property	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00
Amount Otherwise	\$16,931.00		\$16,931.00
Indebtedness	\$51,824.63		\$51,824.63
Douglas operation	yes		Discontinued business on December 31, 1912
Comments			

Reformed as the Silica Brick and Clay Company

Year	1913 Report for 1912	1914 Report for 1913	1915 Report for 1914
Sec of state #	32079	40674	47688
filed	February 10, 1913	February 16, 1914	February 25, 1915
President	George Fruth 1001 E. 12th Ave.	George Fruth 1001 E. 12th Ave.	George Fruth 1001 E. 12th Ave.
VP	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson
Secretary	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.
Treasurer	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.
Superintendent	none listed	none listed	none listed
Director	B. F. Springer Trinidad, CO	B. F. Springer Trinidad, CO	B. F. Springer Trinidad, CO
Director	T. H. Faull Lafayette, CO	James Aubrey 765 Emerson	James Aubrey 765 Emerson
Business Address	509 Bank Block	509 Bank Block	509 Bank Block
Capital Stock	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Original Stock	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Increased Stock Date	none	none	none
Portion of Stock Paid	\$84,170.00	\$84,170.00	\$84,170.00
Cash	blank	blank	blank
Property	blank	blank	blank
Amount otherwise	blank	blank	blank
Indebtedness	\$13,176.00	\$15,422.00	\$16,578.00
Douglas operation	yes	yes	yes
Comments	This company was incorporated in August, 1912, to take over the affairs of the Silicated Brick Company. The amount of indebtedness shown was inherited from that company. The Silica Brick & Clay Co. took over the property on January, 1913.	T. H. Faull also listed as Director	T. H. Faull also listed as Director

Year	1916 Report for 1915	1917 Report for 1916	1918 Report for 1917
Sec of state #	56257	59831	69082
filed	February 29, 1916	February 10, 1917	February 27, 1918
President	George Fruth 1001 E. 12th Ave. Walsenburg	George Fruth 1001 E. 12th Ave. Walsenburg	George Fruth 1001 E. 12th Ave. Walsenburg
VP	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson	Joseph Mitchell 1938 Emerson
Secretary	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.
Treasurer	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.	John Carruthers 2536 W. 34th Ave.
Superintendent	none listed	none listed	none listed
Director	B.F. Springer Trinidad, CO	T. H. Faull Lafayette, CO	T. H. Faull Lafayette, CO
Director	James Aubrey 765 Emerson	James Aubrey 765 Emerson	James Aubrey 765 Emerson
Business Address	509 Bank Block	509 Bank Block	632 Cooper Building
Capital Stock	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Original Stock	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Increased Stock Date	none	none	none
Portion of Stock Paid	\$84,170.00	\$84,170.00	\$84,170.00
Cash	blank	blank	blank
Property	\$84,170.00	\$84,170.00	\$84,170.00
Amount otherwise	blank	blank	blank
Indebtedness	\$12,927.19	\$14,928.00	\$14,928.08 w/o interest
Douglas operation	yes	NO not operated since Dec., 1916	

Comments

T. H. Faull was also listed as a Director.
The indebtedness shown above is principally
owed by the Directors & Officers of Company

Assets consist of second-hand machinery now in litigation by various creditors. Machinery probably worth \$5,000 as second-hand material. Indebtedness is stated above.

Appendix B
1910 United States Census Summary
Persons reported working at Brick Yard

County: Douglas
 Precinct: Platte Number 2
 Date: 28-29 April, 1910

Name	Age	Birthplace	Position	Employer
Lewis, Elizabeth	57	Illinois	Cook	Boarding House
Burnett, Charles	55	Illinois	Laborer	Brick Yards
Curtis, Margrette	28	Colorado	Cook	Boarding House
Woodward, A. E.	44	Maine	Foreman	Brick Factory
Woodward, George	19	Colorado	Laborer	Brick Yards
Smith, James	43	Illinois	Lime Burner	Brick Yards
Benn, Joe	48	England	Laborer	Brick Yards
Drenklan, Jack	25	Illinois	Laborer	Brick Yards
Kerr, Harry	33	Colorado	Laborer	Brick Yards
Falls, Herbert	19	Indiana	Laborer	Brick Yards
Urslain, V.	30	Germany	Laborer	Brick Yards
Brennan, James	69	Pennsylvania	Laborer	Brick Yards
Underwood, Jewell	28	Kentucky	Engineer	Brick Yards
Herrick, Harry	17	Colorado	Laborer	Brick Yards
News, L. S.	25	Colorado	Laborer	Brick Yards
Mararcif, Harry	39	New York	Laborer	Brick Yards
Emmerson, Harry	53	Iowa	Laborer	Brick Yards
Elston, Sam	55	Illinois	Laborer	Brick Yards
Allen, John	29	Texas	Laborer	Brick Yards
McAndrung, Joseph	23	Colorado	Laborer	Brick Yards
Cinaley, Arthur	40	Ireland	Laborer	Brick Yards
Gerrill, Thomas	21	New York	Laborer	Brick Yards
Kerstina, John	31	New Jersey	Laborer	Brick Yards
Shall, H. M.	22	Ohio	Laborer	Brick Yards
Daniels, William	24	Colorado	Laborer	Brick Yards
Mitchell, James	24	Kansas	Laborer	Brick Yards
Lewis, Charles	53	Missouri	Laborer	Brick Yards
McQuellen, John	26	Florida	Laborer	Brick Yards
Elmer, C. S.	20	Indiana	Laborer	Brick Yards