

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 100 10-12  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

DATE 6 1998

1. Name

historic Trapp and Chandler Pottery (38 GN 169)

and/or common Site of Trapp and Chandler Pottery

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Kirksey  vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Greenwood code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property



5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greenwood County Courthouse

street & number Greenwood County Courthouse

city, town Greenwood state South Carolina 29646

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of historic places in South  
title Carolina has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The site of the Trapp-Chandler Pottery (38 GN 169) a mid-19th century Alkaline glaze pottery (Photo 1), was recorded by Michael J. Rodeffer, Lander College, Greenwood, S.C., during his archeological survey of Greenwood County in 1978. The Trapp-Chandler pottery site is the last known intact site of a production center of Edgefield slip decorated stoneware. This factory like others in the Edgefield District produced a stoneware product which is unique when compared to pieces made in other areas of the country at the same time. The major differences between Edgefield pottery and pottery made elsewhere was a distinctive use of alkaline glaze, a unique style of decoration and the heavy reliance upon slave labor before 1865 in its manufacture. The high iron content of local clays was also partly responsible for this distinctiveness of Edgefield pottery, as it caused the ware to become discolored during firing, changing its color to a light gray or buff color. The pottery factory at Kirksey's Crossroads established by Trapp and Chandler, was one of the best known of the alkaline glazed stoneware factories which grew up in the old Edgefield District of South Carolina.

On the present site there is a kiln foundation with partial wall structure, an undisturbed waste pile composed of thousands of alkaline glazed (Photo 2) and bisque ware sherds, an adjacent clay pit, and an accumulation of quartz rock (Figure 1). Mr. Rodeffer conducted test excavations at the site. His surface collections and excavations turned up alkaline glaze sherds with the makers marks "Chandler and Trapp" and "Chandler Maker" (Photo 3). The waster pit located at the site suggests that much of the distinctive decorations associated with most of the Edgefield potters was developed and produced by Chandler.

## Environment

The site is situated in a pine forest, with much briar and poison ivy undergrowth.

## Archeological Investigations

One 3 x 3 foot test square was excavated at 38 GN 169 by staff members of the Greenwood County Archeological Survey. The unit was placed in an area defined as the sherd waster dump from the kiln. Due to the high density (50,000+), the sterile ground surface was never reached. The surface collections and test excavation revealed a variety of marked and decorated sherds. The discovery of the Trapp and Chandler marked pieces was exciting because they proved that this was indeed the Chandler Pottery. Because so little is known about alkaline glaze ware, it is imperative that this site be protected for future archeological research.

## Intrusions and Data Limitations

Disturbances at the site include post-occupation farming, twentieth century pine plantation clearing, and pot hunters. The disturbance from the former two sources are considered minimal [REDACTED]. The pot hunters' disturbance is concentrated primarily in the central portion of the sherd waster dump and as the materials have been recovered, the loss in terms of data is considered minimal. [REDACTED]

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) black history

Specific dates NA Builder/Architect NA

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The site of the Trapp and Chandler Pottery is the last known intact site of a production center. This site has the potential needed to allow for the study of Mid-19th century Piedmont pottery production and techniques of Edgefield decorated stoneware. The site consists of a kiln foundation with partial wall structure, an undisturbed waste-pile composed of thousands of alkaline glazed and bisque ware sherds, an adjacent clay pit, and an accumulation of quartz rock. Historical sources show that the pottery owned by John Trapp in 1845 began production of Alkaline glazed utilitarian stoneware around 1834 and continued production until the later part of the nineteenth century. This is one of the most historically significant pottery manufacturers operating in the old Edgefield District before 1860. The district is considered by some researchers to be the heartland of Alkaline glaze ware.<sup>1</sup> "The district was a center for the manufacturing of pottery, having two thirds of the establishments and over 80 percent of the "value of production" and employees for all of South Carolina in 1860."<sup>2</sup> Most of the information about the Edgefield District's alkaline glaze ware has been learned by archival research, talking with collectors of Edgefield pottery, and preliminary archeological survey. The Trapp and Chandler pottery site is especially important because it will reveal through further archeological research, information about the manufacture of alkaline glaze ware as well as a cross section of the variability of vessels. Also it may delineate a pottery's specialized activity area. This site of the Trapp and Chandler pottery contains a large quantity of tangible evidence of Thomas Chandler's six-year span potting at the manufactory. Chandler's work is deserving of recognition through the preservation of this site on which he masterfully created feldspathic glazed slip decorated stoneware, a distinct type of pottery unparalleled in United States ceramic history.

## Additional Information

The location of the pottery was firmly documented by a preliminary study of sherds excavated from the waste pile of the pottery. A sherd analysis and documentary evidence verify that pottery was being made on this site previous to the Trapp-Chandler business venture. The pottery was originally owned by John Pressley, who employed various production potters from the Edgefield District of South Carolina. Pressley owned the pottery until 1840 when it was bought out by a local interest headed by John Durham, also a potter. Durham owned the factory until 1845 when he defaulted on a mortgage payment and the factory and twelve acres of land went to Reverend John Trapp, a local Baptist Minister and sawmill owner. According to marks on the ceramics as well as historical records, slaves worked at the potteries.<sup>3</sup> Consequently, alkaline glaze ware is being represented as a Black American art form and in that respect is quite unique.

Also, whites made and used this utilitarian stoneware and gradually the technology seems to have spread westward into Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas.<sup>4</sup> However, the application of kaolin and iron slip decor to the stoneware body (an art form indigenous to only the Edgefield District of South Carolina during the second quarter of the 19th Century) was not implemented at this pottery site until John Trapp acquired ownership through a mortgage default.

The earliest reference to John Trapp's association with this pottery site on the [redacted] is a mortgage agreement dated April 27, 1843.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property [redacted]

Quadrangle name [redacted]

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UTM References

A [redacted]  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 C [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 E [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 G [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 Zone Easting Northing  
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 F [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 H [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

Verbal boundary description and justification

[redacted]

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	NA	code	NA
state	NA	code	county	NA	code	NA

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Novick/ ~~McGuire~~ / Rodeffer/Terry  
 organization I.A.A. Greenwood Archeo. Survey McKissick date 1979, 1984  
 street & number University of SC. Lander Coll. USC telephone 777-8170  
 city or town Columbia Greenwood Columbia state South Carolina

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Charles E. Lee*  
 Charles E. Lee  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/25/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Delores Byer*  
 Keeper of the National Register date 1-6-86

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

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Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

Page 2

The agreement states that John Durham would pay \$200.00 to John Trapp by January 1845, or relinquish title [redacted] pottery attached."<sup>5</sup> Trapp secured ownership of the property upon Durham's delinquency in payment.

The Rev. John Trapp was born in S.C. on October 27, 1798, and died August 27, 1876.<sup>6</sup> He was a Baptist minister associated with various churches within the District. He was pastor of Mountain Creek Church for 42 years.<sup>7</sup> He lived most of his adult life in the Kirksey Crossroads area. He was a preacher, farmer, landowner and a gristmill and sawmill owner.<sup>8</sup> No evidence has surfaced that would indicate that Trapp ever turned pottery himself; therefore, he was probably the financial backer of the Trapp & Chandler Manufactory.

Thomas M. Chandler was a master potter whose skills provided financier Trapp with the means to keep his pottery in operation. He was born in 1810 in Acamac County, Drummontown, Virginia. Archival records list his profession as both a musician and stoneware potter. In 1838, he married Margaret Durham of the Edgefield District.<sup>9</sup> The 1840 census lists Chandler as living nearby the proprietors of the Phoenix Factory, a stoneware manufactory [redacted] This factory was a source of experimentation and continuous improvement in the art of applying kaolin and iron slip decor to Feldspathic glazed stoneware.<sup>10</sup> Chandler worked at Phoenix for several years prior to his partnership with Trapp. Phoenix factory ware and pottery turned at the Trapp and Chandler pottery are strikingly similar in decoration and body forms. Much of the pottery made at both of the sites is decorated in Kaolin and iron slip motifs as follows: a swag and tassle design, flowers, loops, medallions and various floral themes; artisanship attributed to the work of Chandler. Extant vessels stamped and incised Chandler, and Trapp and Chandler, turned at the Trapp and Chandler pottery are also decorated in the Chandler style of applying Kaolin and iron slip decor to the stoneware body.

The Trapp and Chandler partnership probably spanned at least six years, beginning when Trapp acquired the site ca. 1844 and dissolving when Chandler found it to be economically advantageous to establish his own stoneware pottery ca. 1850. No records exist showing a land transaction between the two, so it appears Chandler merely leased the pottery and land. The Trapp and Chandler wares appear to be of high quality and great diversity. Diversity is not only reflected by vessel form, but by the vessel color as well. Some are deep olive while others are a pale green. Designs of both iron oxide and kaolin are found on the vessels.

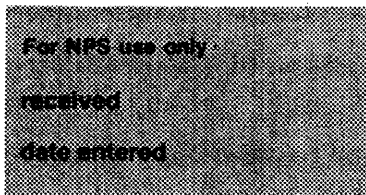
The Chandler factory was listed in the 1850 Census of the U. S. Manufactures. Chandler solicited business in an advertisement in the May 15, 1850, edition of The Edgefield Advertiser.

S t o n e W a r e !

The Subscriber believing that a good article of this useful and necessary Ware is much needed, has come to the conclusion to make and keep on hand a splendid article, which he will not only recommend, but will warrant to be good.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 2

Item number 8

Page 3

He, therefore, most respectfully solicits the patronage of those who deal in and use this kind of Ware, knowing that they will be satisfied with this ware and prices.

All orders directed to me at Kirksey's X Roads, Edgefield District, SC will meet with prompt Attention

My jugs are marked "Chandler Maker, -- Warranted."

15 May

6m

T. M. Chandler

17

In 1852, Chandler made out his trust Deed.<sup>11</sup> He died at the age of 44 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, July 23, 1854.<sup>12</sup>

The Trapp and Chandler Stoneware pottery was an antebellum pottery factory. The business provided wares of necessity for the surrounding populace and also provided a source of income for many of the residents within the community. The pottery was a production center of utilitarian stoneware for household use and preservation of food-stuffs. Vessels in the forms of jugs, jars, pitchers, butter pots, bowls, and chamber pots were made at the pottery. These forms were identified by a study of the sherds from a preliminary test hole of the site's waster pile.

The Trapp and Chandler pottery site is the last known, intact site of a production center of Edgefield decorated stoneware. Edgefield stoneware is unique in the realm of ceramic production in this country. Today the pottery of Edgefield is acknowledged as a southern decorative art. It is an art which evolved from necessity, progressively improved by demand. The waster pile at the Trapp and Chandler site contains a large quantity of decorated sherds which are tangible evidence of Thomas Chandler's six-year span potting at the pottery. The potential is quite promising for reconstruction of vessels from excavated sherds; vessels representative of a potter's ingenuity in creating utilitarian wares of superb quality from native materials. Artistically and technically the works of Thomas Chandler stand alone as monuments to the potter's art in the manufacturing of southern stoneware. Trapp and Chandler's work is deserving of recognition through the preservation of the site on which he masterfully created feldspathic glazed slip-decorated stoneware: a distinct type of pottery unparalleled in United States ceramic history.

1. Georgeanna H. Greer, "Preliminary information on the use of Alkaline Glaze for Stoneware in the South 1800-1970; Conference on Historic Site Archeology Papers (1970) Vol. 5(2):155-170, "Alkaline Glazes and Ground hog kilns: Southern pottery traditions" Antiques (1977) Vo. CXI(4).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

3

Item number 8

Page 4

2. Julian Landrum Mims, "Radical Reconstruction in Edgefield County, 1868-1877" (M.A. Thesis, University of South Carolina, 1969) pp. 3.
3. Greer, 155-170. Harold F. Guiland, Early American Folk Pottery (New York: Chilton Book Company, 1971), pp. 39-73.
4. Personal Communication Georgeanna Greer to Stanley South, February 17, 1979.
5. Book CCC page 371, Edgefield District Deeds, County Records on Microfilm, South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.
6. Rev. John Trapp's Tombstone. Mountain Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Kirksey, Crossroads, South Carolina.
7. John A. Chapman, History of Edgefield County (Spartanburg: Reprint Company Publishers, 1980). p. 318.
8. United States Census of Manufactures, Industry, Seventh through Ninth Census 1850-1870, Abbeville-York, South Carolina (Washington: National Archives Microfilm publications, ). Roll # 1, Edgefield District, p. .
9. Carlee T. McClendon, Edgefield Marriage Records. (Columbia: The R. L. Bryan Company, 1970). p. 32.
10. "Feldspathic glazed stone" is a type of pottery characterized by the application of a glaze of kaolin flint, chalk and feldspar.
11. Book GGG, pp. 383, Edgefield County Deeds, County Records on Microfilm, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.
12. Stephen T. Ferrell and T. M. Ferrell, Early Decorated Stoneware of the Edgefield District, South Carolina (Greenville: Greenville County Museum of Art, 1976, exhibition catalog).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

4

Item number 9

Page 1

- Chapman, John A. History of Edgefield County, Spartanburg: Reprint Company Publishers 1980.
- Columbia, S. C. Department of Archives and History. County Records on Microfilm. Edgefield County Deeds. Book CCC.
- Columbia, S. C. Department of Archives and History. County Records on Microfilm. Edgefield County Deeds. Book GG.
- Ferrell, Stephen T. and T. M. Ferrell. Early Decorated Stoneware of the Edgefield District, South Carolina. Greenville, S.C.: Greenville County Museum of Art, 1976 exhibition catalog.
- Greer, Georgeanna H. "Preliminary information on the use of Alkaline Glaze for Stoneware in the South 1800-1970," Conference on Historic Site Archeology Papers, vol. 5, 1970.
- Greer, Georgeanna H. "Alkaline Glazes and Groundhog Kilns: Southern Pottery traditions," Antiques. vol. cxi (1977), 768-773.
- Greer, Georgeanna H. Personal Communication, 1979.
- Guiland, Harold F. Early American Folk Pottery. New York: Chilton Book Company, 1971.
- McClendon, Carlee T. Edgefield Marriage Records. Columbia: The R. L. Bryan Company, 1970.
- Mims, Julian Landrum. "Radical Reconstruction in Edgefield County, 1868-1877." M. A. Thesis, University of South Carolina, 1969.
- South, Stanley "A comment on alkaline glazed stoneware". Conference on Historic Site Archeology Papers, vol. 5, 1970.
- The Edgefield Advertiser (Edgefield District), 15 May 1850.
- U.S. Census: Original Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics, and Mortality Schedules For South Carolina 1850-1880. Industry. Seventh-Ninth Census, 1850-1870. Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Archives Microfilm Publications. Microcopy #2. Roll # 1.