

La Grande Brick Yards

Towery Brick Yards

Clay

NAME

OLD NAMES

PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

2S

37E

36

T

R

S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Union

COUNTY

Unclassified

AREA

ELEVATION

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

ROAD OR HIGHWAY

DISTANCE TO
SHIPPING POINT

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) Niels P. and Jack L. Jensen....

Address Box 636 LaGrande, Oregon

OPERATOR Niels P and Jack L Jensen

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by: N. S. Wagner
Date: January 16, 1947

LA GRANDE BRICK YARD

Unclassified Dist.
Union County

Niels Jensen has been in the brick business all his life and comes from a family which has been long identified with the brick business. His brother operates an established plant at Payette, Idaho.

Lack of adequate finance might exist here with Jensen, but on this point, I am not sure. The Chamber of Commerce and Robert Black of the Van Petten Lumber Company are both more than ordinarily interested in the promotion of this plant.

The existence of a bed of fine grade pottery clay was reported---tests having been made by the instance of some school teacher who took samples back east. The clay is red and supposedly works, holdsup and fires well. Mrs. Jensen is much interested in this, but Mr. Jensen is seemingly concerned only with brick production.

CONFIDENTIAL

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Grant Pass

LA GRAND BRICK YARD
(Old name-Towery Brick & Tile)

Supplementary report No. 1

Unclassified District
9 Union County

EQUIPMENT: Equipment which was in storage at the time of the initial visit to this property (January 16, 1947 and which had been set-up on only a temporary basis during the test run the previous season, is now permanently installed.

Excavation was accomplished by use of a caterpillar tractor and plow. A scraper is used for primary transportation to the grizzly where sand is mixed with the clay by hand in a proportion of one yard of sand to two yards of clay.

From the grizzly trap the mixed feed is elevated by a belt conveyor to a roll crusher. The crushed product is delivered by another belt conveyor to an auger mill. No screens were employed during the past season, but plans are to install a shaker screen ahead of the auger press.

Bricks are cut by a manually operated wire cutter and stacked 81 to a pallet. Pallets are hand carted to open air drying tiers when the bricks are allowed to dry for a period of approximately four weeks.

Firing has been done in temporary kilns of an average capacity of about 70,000 bricks. Slab wood has been used for fuel. Four such kilns have been burned since this company started operations and the fifth is now being constructed to fire the last batch of raw bricks

produced for this season. Approximately 360,000 salable brick, including the batch to be fired, have been produced at this plant during the two seasons it has operated.

Report by : N. S. Wagner

Date of Visit: January 16, 1947

Informant: Mr. Neils P. Jensen

Date of Report: Oct. 1, 1947
