

## **2012 Industrial Heritage Preservation Grant Application**

### **B. Project Summary:**

The Hilltown Glassworks, located in Hilltown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was one of only a handful of glass manufacturing enterprises operating in colonial North America. In 2006, a program of historical research and archaeological investigation, undertaken for the Bucks County Historical Society and the Hilltown Historical Society and funded by a grant from the Goodfellow Fund and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, took place at the former Hilltown Glasshouse site [36Bu332] in Hilltown Township. The existence of the Hilltown Glasshouse was previously known only from a few brief references in the historic record and scattered evidence of glassworking activities retrieved from the site by local historians and collectors in mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century. The recent archaeological work was undertaken with the goal of obtaining information concerning the extent and integrity of any surviving archaeological remains associated with the glassworks complex. The archaeological investigations encountered both structural remains of the glasshouse complex and other archaeological evidence associated with the Colonial era glass manufacturing process. The Hilltown Glasshouse site [36Bu332] was described in the report completed for the project (Hunter Research 2006) as being “undoubtedly eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.” Nomination of the site to the National Register was recommended in order to “confer some measure of protection on the site from Federally- and State-funded projects in the future.” We would like to use the Industrial Heritage Preservation Grant for preparing a PHMC Historic Resource Survey Form, completing National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination documentation for the site and for moving the nomination through the review process. The NRHP nomination process is very complex and we need professional help to successfully complete it. Therefore we would use the grant to hire Damon Tvaryanas, a highly skilled and experienced historian, to help us complete the process.

The proposed work to be funded by the grant will be undertaken in four stages: 1). completing a PHMC Historic Resource Form (HRF) and consulting with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in order to confirm the eligibility of the resource for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria D; 2). preparing a technically complete nomination documentation; and 3). making any required revisions to National Register of Historic Places nomination Materials and; 4). supporting the nomination at a meeting of the Pennsylvania State Review Board for Historic Sites.

Following review and comment by the PHMC staff, Mr. Tvaryanas will revise the nomination to address the comments and provide three paper copies of the nomination text; one archival-quality set of photographs and two standard-quality sets of photographs; one original and two partial photocopies of the relevant USGS quadrangle; and one archival-quality CD containing the nomination photographs in .TIFF format.

Mr. Tvaryanas will consult with PHMC staff to ensure complete documentation is submitted for State Review Board and NPS review. He will also attend one meeting of the Pennsylvania State Review Board for Historic Sites to present the nomination.

## **C. Application Narrative:**

### **1. Documentation of need for the project: What is the proposed project's significance to industrial heritage?**

Industrial enterprise in Great Britain's North American colonies was limited by both law and governmental policy. Iron and glass manufacturing were among the few industrial pursuits that did exist. Historians have firmly documented less than a dozen attempts to establish glassworks in Colonial North America. The Hilltown Glassworks represents one of these attempts but very little is known about the operation even though considerable effort has been expended in archival research. The physical/archaeological remains of the site represent the only remaining window on the history of this very early attempt at establishing an American manufacturing enterprise. Further study of the site would permit a better understanding of the basic details regarding the size of the operation, the scope of its ambitions, the technologies and processes employed, the duration of its operation and range of its products. In a broader sense, the site offers the opportunity to better understand the nascent development of industrial American and transformation from craft to industry with regard to American manufacturing. This project will not directly extract this information from the site but will help to insure its continued preservation so that future investigations can take place and will increase recognition of the site and its significance with regard to our industrial heritage.

There are only seven glassworks listed in the National Register of Historic Places – Albany, Amelung, Estallville, Core House, Gabler House, New England, and Pitkin. Unlike Hilltown, none of these date before 1780. (The site of the Wustarburgh/Wisterburg glassworks in Salem County, NJ – in operation from 1739 to 1789 - has yet to be nominated.) Therefore, Hilltown which predates the Revolution, is almost unique and is critical for our understanding of the development of early American industry.

Most early industrial sites can be studied both through the archival record and physical investigation of the site. This is one of the few sites for which Physical investigation is really the only way to actually access information about the site's history. This makes its continued preservation all the more important.

### **2. What research methods will you employ?**

Really not applicable, but we will assemble disparate sources of information about the site from regional archives and distill this information in to a well reasoned argument for the sites NRHP eligibility.

### **3. Who is responsible for your project?**

Damon Tvaryanas is Principal Senior Historian at Richard Grubb & Associates in Cranbury, NJ. He holds an M.S. from the University of Pennsylvania in Historic Preservation and a B.A. in Fine Arts from New York University. Damon has authored reports on many industrial archeology sites in New Jersey, Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania. Please see attached resume.

David B. Long is an independent scholar and a Bucks County historian. He currently works at Princeton University's Firestone Library as a Special Collection Assistant Level V in the Pliny

Fisk Library of Economics and Finance. He has a B.S. in economics with honors from Penn State University, a MPA in nonprofit administration and arts policy from Cornell University, and a MLIS from Rutgers University.

#### **4. What tangible products do you expect to produce with this project?**

We will prepare technically complete National Register of Historic Places nomination materials for the Hilltown Glassworks site and anticipate successfully listing the site to the National Register of Historic Places. This will assure that the site receives due consideration in the event that it is potentially impacted by any project or undertaking that is federally funded or that requires Federal permits. More importantly, however, listing on the National Register will provide the site with formal recognition of its historic significance and the potential it holds to provide additional information about the development of Industrial America.

Photographs will be printed and labeled in accordance with The National Register of Historic Places *Digital Photography Specifications Checklist*. The nomination will be prepared in accordance with National Park Service guidance contained in Bulletin 16A, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* and guidance provided by PHMC staff. Following review and comment by the client and the PHMC staff, Mr. Tvaryanas will revise the nomination to address the comments and provide five paper copies of the nomination text; two archival-quality set of photographs and three standard-quality sets of photographs; one original and two partial photocopies of the relevant USGS quadrangle; and three archival-quality CD containing the nomination photographs in .TIFF format.

Copies of the NRHP materials will be deposited at the Spruance Library of the Bucks County Historical Society, the SIA IHAP, the Hilltown Historical Society, and the Rakow Research Library of the Corning Museum of Glass.

#### **D. Budget:**

The budget for this project is a flat fee of \$3000 which will be paid directly to Damon Tvaryanas. This is considered a fair and reasonable cost for a project of this type in Pennsylvania. The project is expected to take 80 hours of work spread out over five months.

The Hilltown Historical Society is unable to provide any matching funds so we are forced to apply for this grant as individuals.

David B. Long is coordinating this project at no cost.

#### **E. Support Materials:**

Please send attached files including Damon Tvaryanas's resume, David B. Long's resume, a technical proposal for the NRHP project, a 2009 article on the Hilltown glassworks site that appeared in Vol. 29 (2010) of the *Canal History and Technology Proceedings*, a short article on the Hilltown glassworks that appeared in Volume 50 of the *Journal of Glass Studies*, and a 2008 pdf report on the Hilltown glassworks site by Hunter Research.