

## **McCormick Limekiln**

Draw kilns, also known as perpetual or running kilns, were sometimes found on farms. This particular kiln is located on Willow Mill Park Road and is a part of the McCormick Farmstead. Remnants of the kiln remain today but difficult to see beneath the Virginia Creeper. Silver Spring Township is rich in limestone. The stone was quarried in the 18<sup>th</sup> to the early nineteenth century by hand and loaded on wagons. This kiln was built and used by the McCormicks to make lime dust used to fertilize the fields, make whitewash and plaster.

Lime dust was made from the stone by dumping the stone into the top of the kiln. Below the stone, a wood fire burned, which caused high temperatures to convert the stone to dust. Limekilns were money producers. Once the lime turned to dust, it was put in wooden barrels and sent to masons who used the lime for mortar.







