

MINE Your Business

This site was once a thriving white clay mining operation.

From 1912 to 1942, a small team of men dug deep in this ground. They worked for the Newark China Clay Company, mining the region's unique white clay known as kaolin.

Kaolin mining was a large industry, with many operations in northern Delaware and the wider region. This site involved all steps of kaolin processing—mining, washing, screening, pressing, and drying.

This map represents the Pleasant Hill area in the 1930s, including the Newark China Clay Company site in front of you.

Kaolin pits were dug by hand, 50 to 100 feet deep. They were typically lined with reusable wood timbers. This image shows a mine in the southeastern United States.

Temporary rail lines moved kaolin to the plant, where it was washed and then screened, as shown above.

After the kaolin was screened, it was pressed and dried. This image shows kaolin drying on hot steam pipes.

There are no known images of the Newark China Clay Company in operation. These images of similar facilities illustrate the steps of processing kaolin.

Above images public domain, accessed via the University of North Texas Digital Library

Wilmington businessman and cooper, Victor Ullman (center) founded the Newark China Clay Company here in 1912.
Image courtesy of John Mookit

Local Frank Morris (on left) led the company's day-to-day operations.
Image courtesy of Rebecca Rose

DELAWARE STATE PARKS
THE GREAT OUTDOORS

WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK
dostatoparks.com

Mine Your Business

This site was once a thriving white clay mining operation.

From 1912 to 1942, a small team of men dug deep in this ground. They worked for the Newark China Clay Company, mining the region's unique white clay known as *kaolin*.

Kaolin mining was a large industry, with many operations in northern Delaware and the wider region. This site involved all steps of kaolin processing – mining, washing, screening, pressing, and drying.

Kaolin pits were dug by hand, 50 to 100 feet deep. They were typically lined with reusable wood timbers.

Temporary rail lines moved kaolin to the plant, where it was washed and then screened.

After the kaolin was screened, it was pressed and dried.

Wilmington businessman and cooper, Victor Ullman founded the Newark China Clay Company here in 1912.

Local Frank Morris led the company's day-to-day operations.