

WASC 702. / 1-5.

WASC 702
WAI 134

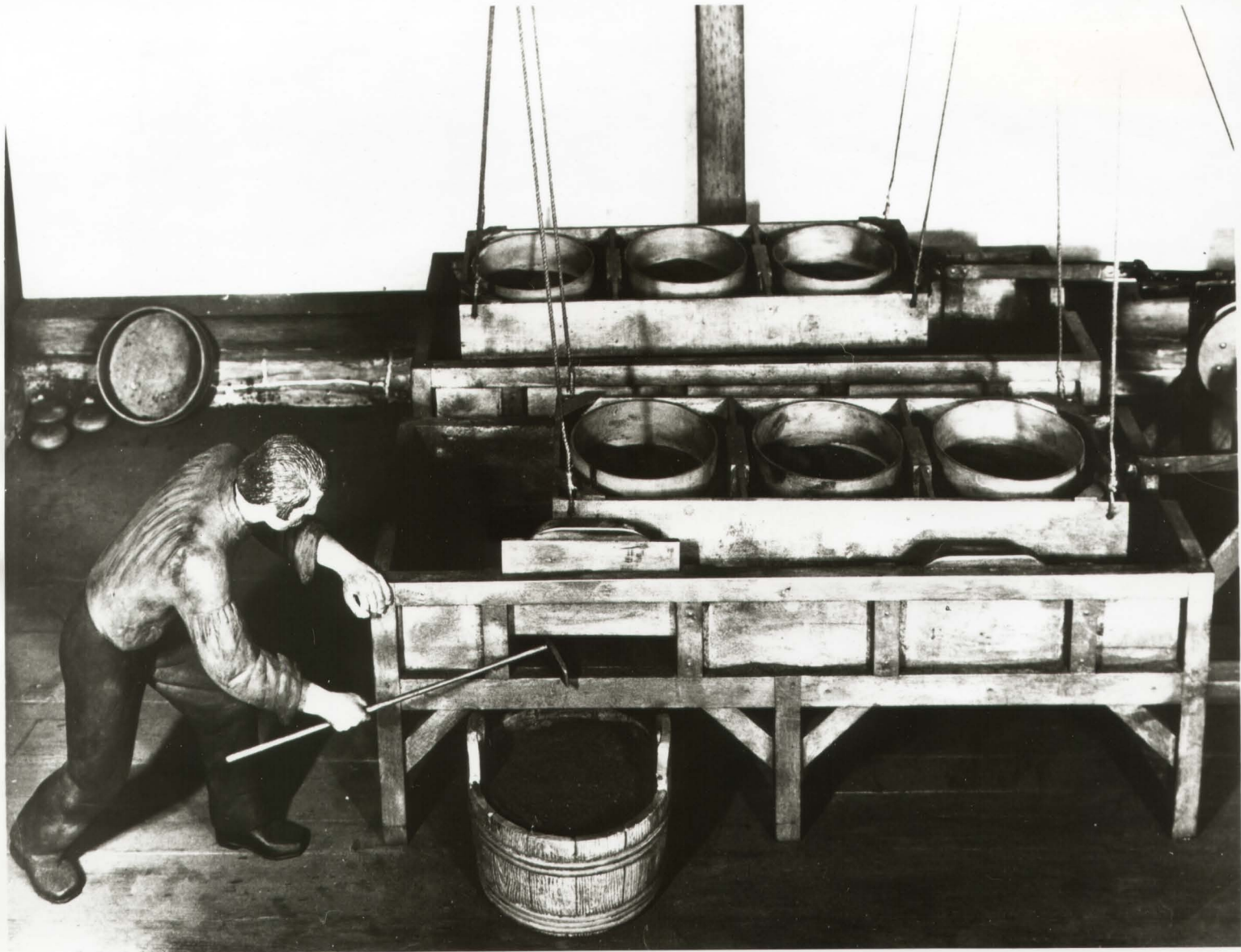


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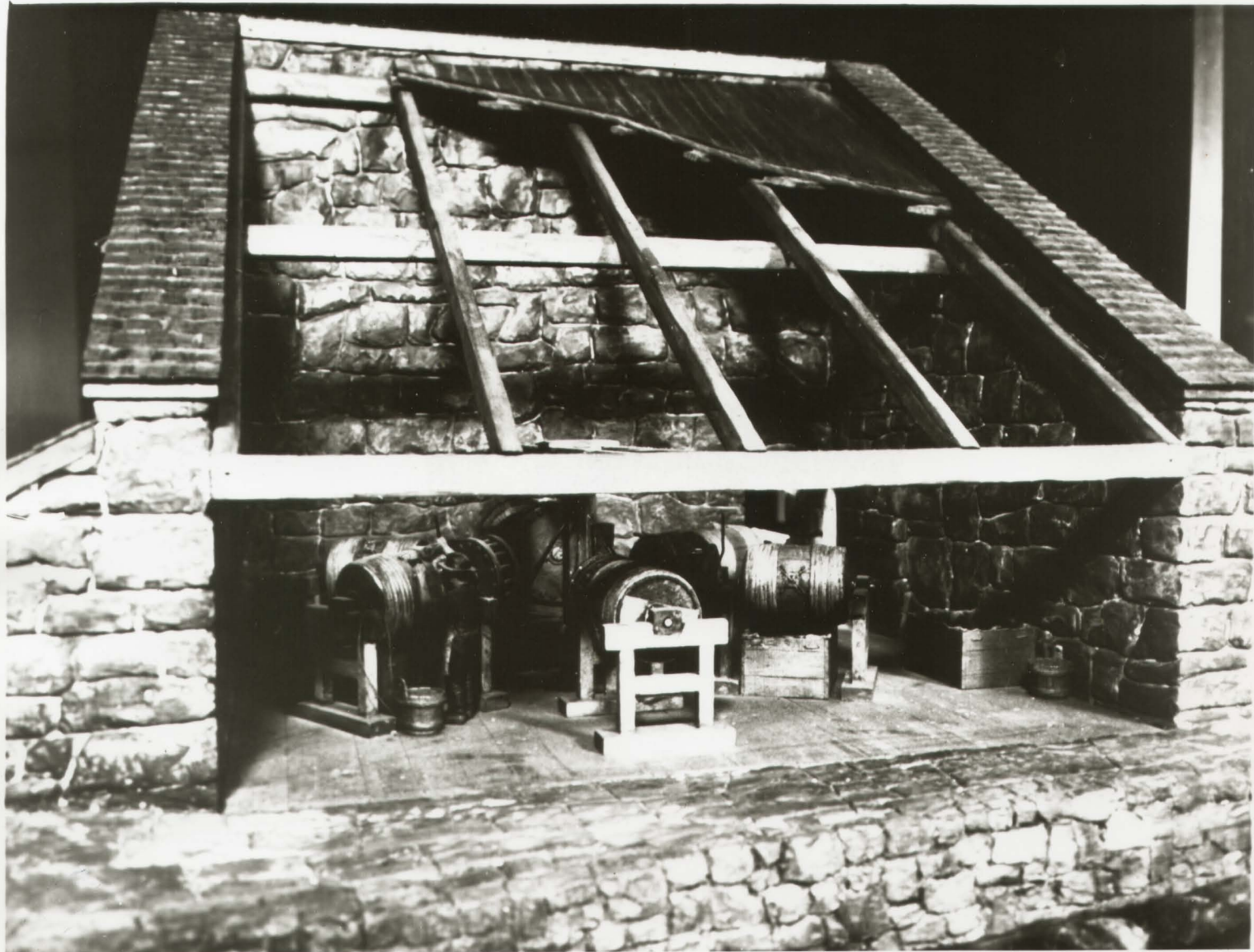
WAI 0134

Hagley Museum exhibits of DuPont Gunpowder Buildings. b/w photographs 1-6

- 1 Gunpowder graining
- 2 Mixture of ingredients by pounding of heavy pestles
- 3 Process in the glazing mill (use of graphite)
- 4 DuPont Co's Powder Mills (HN 207)
- 5 Refining saltpetre in a Gunpowder Factory
- 6 Powder taken to the dryhouse







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Photo Copyright Eleutherian Mills - Hagley Foundation
Greenville, Wilmington, Delaware 19807 USA

Sketch by Pierre Gentieu (powderman) of the Du Pont
Company's powder mills on Brandywine Creek, near
Wilmington, Delaware in 1878.

Reproduced in N B Wilkinson, Explosives in History,
Rand McNally & Co, Chicago, 1966, p. 20

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NN 207.

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REFINING SALTPETRE in a gunpowder factory

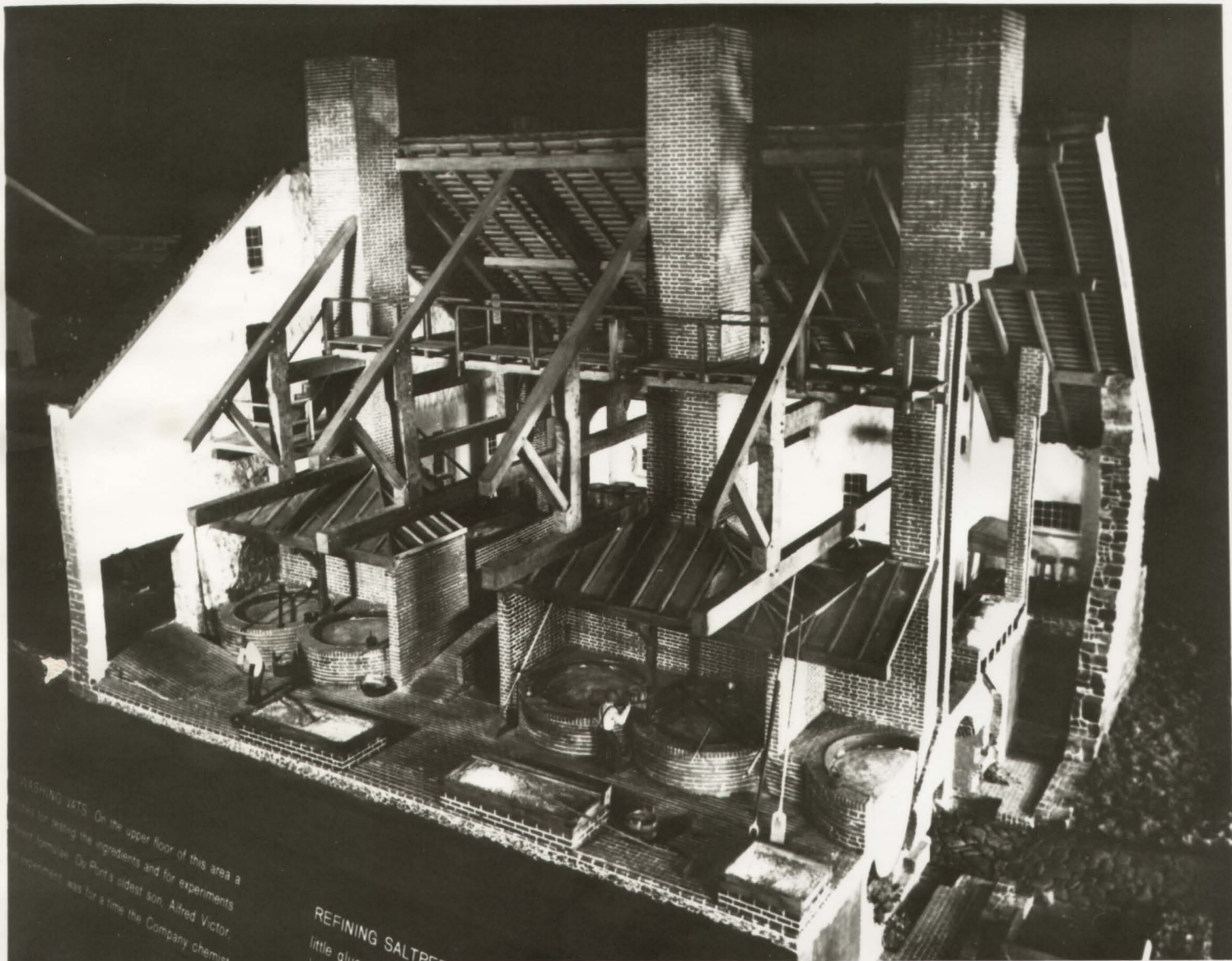
Though saltpetre (potassium nitrate, KNO_3) was usually roughly refined near where it had first been dug from the earth, it still contained considerable earthy materials and unwanted salts that had to be removed before it would be pure enough ~~for~~ to use. Refining it was accomplished by putting a large quantity of rough saltpetre with a proportionate amount of water into a huge kettle ~~xxx~~ mounted above a furnace. The mixture was heated to boiling point and held at that temperature for as long as ten or twelve hours. Having a lower~~x~~ melting point than the foreign salts it contained, the saltpetre liquefied, while the other salts remained solid and fell to the bottom of the cauldron. The refiner then ladled them out. Dirt and other foreign matter rose to the surface and were periodically skimmed off. The ladlings and skimmings were repeated until scum ~~ca~~sed to

form and no more ~~I~~ salts came from the bottom of the kettle.

Shown in this photograph: A worker in the refinery (right) skims off impurities rising to the top of a large kettle of boiling saltpetre.

Photograph Copyright Eleutherian Mills - Hagley Foundation
Greenville, Wilmington, Delaware 19807 USA

Reproduced in N B Wilkinson, Explosives in Industry,
Rand McNally & Co, Chicago, 1966, p 20 (from which
also description)



WASHING SALT. On the upper floor of this area a
series of steps for drying the ingredients and for experiments
were built. On the right side of the model, Alfred Victor,
the company chemist, was for a time the Company chemist.

REFINING SALT
little glass

