



# The historical Kacheltöpferei (tilemakers) – a technological monument in Waren (Müritz)



The Kacheltöpferei was built in 1905 along with the adjacent residential building at what is now Number 38 Goethestraße. The owner was Ernst Julius Kalg, a master potter from Angermünde, who had settled in Waren in 1869.

This was a time when the profile of the pottery trade was changing considerably, as the production of crockery and vessels took a back seat to the construction of stoves.

The town of Waren was experiencing an economic boom, from which master potter Ernst Julius Kalg also benefited. The numerous new houses being built in the town and the surrounding area required stove tiles, which were molded and fired at the Kacheltöpferei.



*The Kacheltöpferei around 1920*



*Master potter Ernst Julius Kalg and his wife Sophie*

The workshop building still shows the typical architectural hallmarks of a manufacturing or commercial building found in small businesses established at the turn of the century.

Its structure and design are an example of a purpose-built structure with the economical use of materials, which is only rarely found today and is the only one of its kind in Mecklenburg.

The kiln – the heart of the operation – was located on the ground floor of the workshop building. The ceiling above the ground floor was covered with Prussian vaults between iron girders, thus providing the necessary load-bearing capacity for the workshop above.



*The building before its renovation in 2000*

After the death of Ernst Julius Kalg, his son Felix Kalg took over the business in 1919. In 1927, a carpenter's workshop was set up in the annex to the left of the kiln building, which had previously been used as a firewood storage area.

Six years later, Felix Kalg had the building converted into an apartment with three rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a flushing toilet, into which he himself then moved.

Stove tiles continued to be molded and fired in the pottery workshop until about 1937. Later, machine tile production replaced the traditional handcraft approach.



*Display storeroom*

From the mid-1960s, the buildings of the former tilemaking factory served as a storage space and garage for the Waren sweet cider factory run by Erich Klein and the local retail cooperative, among others.

After 1990, Waren ceramic artist Franz-Ulrich Poppe and the Vereinigung Denkmalpflege e.V. monument preservation association fought to preserve the historic buildings in the old town. The preservation of the tile pottery workshop as technological monument and now a museum is also owed to Franz-Ulrich Poppe's efforts.

The city of Waren (Müritz) purchased the former production site in 2000, after which the tilemaking workshop was renovated through a project of the Waren Museums- und Geschichtsverein e.V. museum and historical society, the fundraising association of the Stadtgeschichtliches Museum (Museum of City History). Of the original building components, the kiln and the wood firing chimney, the clay cellar, a simple rope hoist, several workrooms, the molding floor, and an outhouse for the former employees on the premises have been preserved. A garage door that had been installed in the meantime was removed during the renovations and the facade was restored to its original state.

The former tile warehouse, the wooden shed, and the stables – the finished tiles were transported to the installation sites for the tiled stoves by horse-drawn carts – have either been altered or no longer exist.

A small but worthwhile exhibition on the history of pottery and tile stoves has been on display at the museum since 2002. Visitors can admire several tiled stoves from the collection of Franz-Ulrich Poppe and the city museum, recreated as show stoves. These include the „Schüsselkachelofen“ or „Topfkachelofen“, which is considered the „original model“ and features pot or bowl shaped tiles, and an elaborately designed Faience stove with painted hunting motifs.

The collection also includes a variety of tiles and stove accessories spanning several centuries, as well as molds for restoration work.

**You can find the opening hours of the Kacheltöpferei here:**

[www.waren-tourismus.de/stadtmuseum](http://www.waren-tourismus.de/stadtmuseum)



*Collection of various show stoves dating from 1700 to 1990*

Source: Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Waren (Müritz)