

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Monongalia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-1.47.0002	DATE 1/26/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Henry Clay Furnace

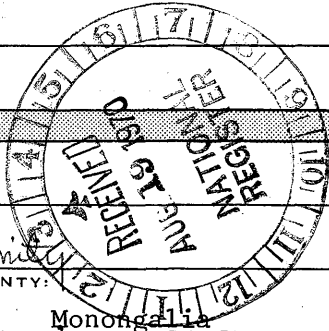
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Cooper's Rock State Forest

CITY OR TOWN:  
SE of Cheat Neck  
Monongalia County

STATE: West Virginia      CODE: 47      COUNTY: Monongalia      CODE: 061



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Division of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources, State of W. Va.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston      STATE: West Virginia      CODE: 47

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Monongalia County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown      STATE: West Virginia      CODE: 47

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:      DATE: 1/26/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Henry Clay Furnace is about one-half mile from the parking place for Cooper's Rock and is reached by a gently descending trail culminating in a small level spot confronting Clay Run, a stream about fifteen to twenty feet wide.

The external appearance of the furnace is little changed from the time of its building. It sets on a base about 30 feet square. The present height of the furnace is approximately 30 feet, but originally, with three or four more courses of stone at the top, it would have been about 34 feet.

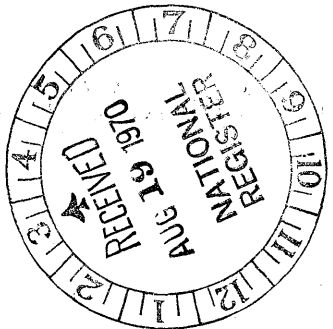
It was a cold-blast furnace run by steam and had a capacity of about four tons of pig iron each 24 hours. The iron produced was located down the river until 1839, when ownership of the furnace was conveyed to the Ellicotts, who built wooden-railed tramways connecting the ore pits to the furnace. Remnants of the tramway may still be traced.

The ore, limestone, and charcoal were charged into the top of the furnace by a tramway which ran along the top of the stone wall on the side of the furnace. From that bank on the top of the wall to the top of the furnace was a bridge across which the charge was hauled in wheelbarrows and dumped into the top of the stack. Below and by the side of that wall was a waterpit into which the melt was drawn to cool.

The exterior of the furnace is in the shape of a truncated pyramid, the width of whose top we can no longer determine, but the interior is still lined with smaller stones creating a barrel shape. Triangular discharge openings were structured into the front and right side of the furnace.

In the woods across Clay Run there is a mound, now covered with vegetation, formed by the waste discharge from the furnaces.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

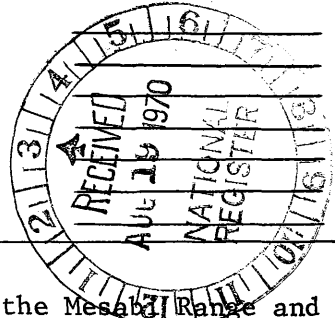
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Henry Clay Furnace

Around the commencement of the 19th Century, before the Mesabi Range and other extensive deposits of high-grade iron ore had begun to be exploited, the Cheat River area of northern West Virginia (Virginia) witnessed a 70-year development of an iron smelting industry utilizing low-grade native ores.

The iron taken from this area was utilized chiefly for the cut nail industry of southern Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia.

Pre-eminent among the ten or more abandoned iron furnaces still existing in northern West Virginia is the Henry Clay Furnace, standing south of State Route 73 in beautiful Cooper's Rock State Forest.

It was selected by the Department of Natural Resources for preservation because it was one of the earliest and most important furnaces, was in good initial condition, owned by the State, located near well-attended recreation areas, and was cited by The West Virginia Antiquities Commission as deserving of restoration. It was dedicated as an historical place by the Commission on September 26, 1968.

The earliest furnace in Monongalia County was very near the Henry Clay location, being operated by John Davis by at least 1798.

The Henry Clay Furnace was built between 1834 and 1836 by Leonard Lamb for Tassie & Bissell. The ore for the furnace came from bands of shale underlying a vein of Pittsburgh coal or associated with limestone formations. The furnace may have continued to operate until 1868, when all the Cheat River iron works ceased production. The opening of the Sault Saint Marie canal in 1855 signaled the beginning of the end for low-grade ore operations. By 1882 no native ore industry was left anywhere in West Virginia.

A life-time resident of Cheat Mountain recalled that in 1840 the furnace employed about two hundred men digging ore, making charcoal and smelting iron. They generated a community of five hundred persons living in approximately one hundred houses, all of which have disappeared save for a few foundation stones. This recalls that West Virginia, a state of extractive industries, has many ghost towns resulting not only from utilization of iron ore, but coal and lumber as well. Henry Clay furnace remains as a witness to the close relation of human population to an economic base.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maury, M. F. and Fontaine, W. F. Resources of West Virginia.  
 Wheeling, 1876. Pp. 252-257 deal with the ores that supplied  
 Henry Clay Furnace.

Paul H. Price, "Restored Henry Clay Furnace," Outdoor West Virginia  
 (November, 1968).

West Virginia Geological Survey, general series, Vol. IV, 1909.

HB  
 601370  
 174389240

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 39' 55.91"	79° 49' 06.25"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 2/3 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

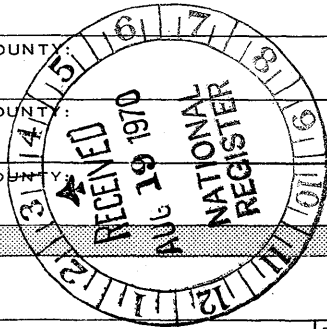
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Clifford M. Lewis, S.J.

ORGANIZATION: Acting for State Liaison Officer DATE: August 14, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: Wheeling College

CITY OR TOWN: Wheeling, West Virginia STATE: West Virginia CODE: 47



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Clifford M. Lewis, S.J.  
 Title: Acting for State Liaison Officer  
 Date: August 14, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Gurnea  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: OCT 15 1970

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: SEP 25 1970