

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AUG 7 1975  
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DATE ENTERED OCT 31 1975

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Nassawango Iron Furnace ~~Archaeological~~ Site

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Nassawango Creek near intersection  
Old Furnace Road and Md. 12

CITY, TOWN Snow Hill VICINITY OF First

STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Worcester CODE 047

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

(See continuation sheet)

NAME (1) Worcester County Historical Society, Joseph E. Moore, President

STREET & NUMBER Market Street

CITY, TOWN Snow Hill VICINITY OF STATE Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Worcester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN Snow Hill STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks + HAER

DATE FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nassawango Iron Furnace Archaeological Site is located at the intersection of Nassawango Creek, Old Furnace Road and Millville Road west of Snow Hill, Maryland. The western boundary is a north-south line located approximately 750 feet west of the intersection of Old Furnace Road and Millville Road, the northern boundary is an east-west line located approximately 1,000 feet north of the intersection of Old Furnace Road and Millville Road; the southern boundary is an east-west line located 1,750 feet south of the same intersection terminating at its eastern end in the center of Nassawango Creek; the eastern boundary follows the center of Nassawango Creek north to a point 250 feet south of Old Furnace Road; the boundary then parallels Old Furnace Road for 1,125 feet and then turns north to intersect the northern boundary.

The site consists of one furnace stack, slag piles, cellar ruins, piles of brick, fragments of glass, brick, ceramics, shell and slag, and foundations.

The furnace stack is made of stone on brick. The upper portion retains the iron hot blast tubes as well as a majority of the integral hot blast apparatus.

Foundation ruins extend north of the stack on the east side of the private road. The head of the race was located in the middle of this area. The casting bridge ramp site is located to the west of the stack; a wheel pit site exists immediately to the south. Slag piles extend south east from the stack and exist on the north side of Old Furnace Road.

Evidence from a 1877 Worcester County map points strongly to the existence of foundations of two structures one on the west side of Millville Road and another on the east side of the unused county road which extends south from Old Furnace Road and two more on the south side of Old Furnace Road.

Four piles of brick exist (A-D) along the east side of the unused county road. One pair above the intersection with the private road and one pair below.

Six possible cellar foundations have been positively identified (1-6) along the unused county road near the furnace.

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nassawango Furnace was erected in 1830 by the Maryland Iron Company to smelt iron from the bog ore formations in the immediate vicinity. It is the only furnace in Maryland ever to make extensive use of bog ore. It operated only until 1849, and was reported to be in dilapidated condition by 1859.

The furnace produced about 700 tons of iron per year, but the quality and distribution of the bog ore may have caused the several financial failures which the ironworks underwent.

The most significant fact about the furnace is that it made use of hot blast techniques only a few years after the idea was developed in England in 1828-1830. If the Nassawango Furnace was built with the hot blast gear installed from the beginning, and not later converted, it would have to be one of the first hot blast furnaces in America. Even if the equipment was added late in the life of the furnace, it would still qualify as a very early example of the hot blast technology. Mr. Edward Heite, historical registrar of the State of Delaware, has studied Nassawango Furnace and has suggested that the blast apparatus was likely added to the existing stack during a time of ownership change, either in 1837 or 1840.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bastian, Tyler. "Suggested Boundaries for the Proposed Nassawango Furnace Archaeological-Historical District, Worcester County, Maryland." April 1, 1975, files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

(See continuation Sheet no. 1)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 190

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	45,9	4,0,0	4,2	2,8	8,3,0	B	18	45,9	4,3,0	4,2	2,7	9,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	18	45,8	4,6,0	4,2	2,7	9,2,0	D	18	45,8	4,5,0	4,2	2,8	8,2,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Miller, Historian

April, 1973

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*John M. Peace*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

August 4, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Acting*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/31/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/31/75

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

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OWNER OF PROPERTY - ITEM NO. 4

- (2) Glatfelter Pulpwood Company  
P. O. Box 1971  
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
- (3) Maryland Forest Service  
Adna R. Bond, Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
Tawes State Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
- (4) Estate of Georgia S. Foster  
c/o Mercantile-Safe Deposit & Trust Co.  
2 Hopkins Plaza  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Two modern logging trails exist, one paralleling the boundary of the Pocomoke State Forest and the other the Old Furnace Road meeting at the intersection of the Forest and the Road. Debris relating to the iron industry have been found in this area.

The boundaries of the Nassawango Site are extended beyond the immediate furnace area so as to include all known features related to the iron production as well as relevant cultural material as yet undiscovered. Fragments of glass, brick, shell and slag exist scattered throughout the boundaries. The boundaries include a church site on the west side of the unused county road and the dam site.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Robbins, Michael W. "The Maryland Iron Industry." 1972. Manuscript prepared for the Maryland Bi-centennial Commission, Annapolis, Maryland.