

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Vermont
COUNTY:	Rutland
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:	Forestdale Iron Furnace
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East of junction of Vermont Route 73 and Furnace Road, Forestdale			
CITY OR TOWN: Brandon		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vermont District	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Rutland	021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" 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: State of Vermont, Division of Historic Sites	STATE: Vermont
STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building	
CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier	
STATE:	CODE
Vermont	50

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

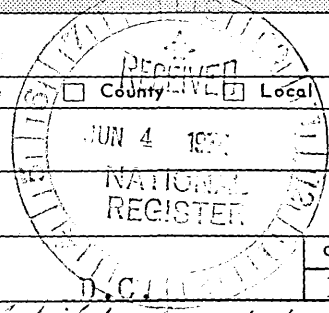
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Town Clerk's Office	STATE: Vermont
STREET AND NUMBER: 44 Center Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Brandon	
STATE:	CODE
Vermont	50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Engineering Record	STATE: Vermont
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress	
STREET AND NUMBER:	CODE
Washington	11

No, this is merely an inventory and records belong to collector to justify this claim.
D.C. 6/10/74

Talked to Chester about this and he agreed. Asked that it be changed to State Survey 1976.



STATE: Vermont	COUNTY: Rutland	ENTRY NUMBER: 1	DATE: JUN 13 1974
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" 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

The Forestdale Iron Furnace site is located east of the junction of Furnace Road and Middle Road between the Neshobe River and Vermont Route 73 at the east end of Forestdale Village in the town of Brandon. The site boundaries are outlined on the surveyor's map included with this submission.

The major part of the site is level. A steep ridge, traversed by Vermont Route 73, forms the southern boundary. The site is approached from the west by a path known as Boarding House Road which runs from Furnace Road on the west to the Neshobe River on the east. Several hundred feet from the west boundary and standing beside the ridge is the ruin of the furnace stack, the most prominent feature on the site.

The stack is approximately 60 feet high, 32 feet square at the base and tapers toward the top. Its walls are constructed of random coursed, random sized stone slabs. A round-headed archway, framed by rough cut stone voussoirs, is located at ground level in the center of the east, south and west elevations of the stack. Each archway is approximately eight feet wide by eight feet high and tapers inward to a depth of ten feet. The archways end at the outer surface of the bosh. At the back of each archway a secondary arch, located within the bosh wall, frames an 11 inch outside diameter iron pipe. A diagonal iron flue pipe protrudes obliquely from either side of each secondary arch. Early photos indicate that the north archway was slightly larger than the others. It is now partially caved in exposing a large portion of the bosh.

The bosh is circular in shape with a concave bottom and, like the stack, tapers toward the top. The bosh is constructed of refractory bricks. Its inside diameter at the bottom is approximately ten feet. The interior of the bosh can be entered through the fallen north archway. Two rows of slotted iron tie bars rise vertically along the exterior walls above each archway. About 100 feet south of the furnace is the stone lined wheel pit, which originally housed a large iron overshot wheel. Water was carried to the wheel from a dam upstream on the Neshobe River via a wood penstock and left the wheel pit via a subterranean tail race to re-enter the river downstream. The wheel was scrapped around the time of the first world war.¹

A stone retaining wall an average of four feet in height and parallel with the south elevation of the stack extends 70 feet to the west and 50 feet to the east of the furnace stack eight feet from the stack along the base of the ridge. Approximately 30 feet up the ridge, parallel to the lower wall, is a second stone wall. This second wall was probably an abutment for the bridgeway which provided access to the orifice of the bosh.

(continued on continuation sheet)

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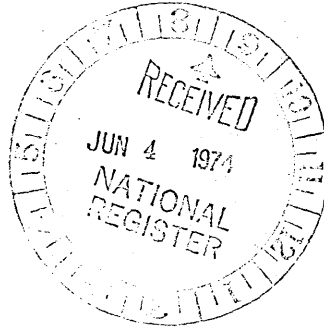
Section 7

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The area around the furnace stack is littered with stones, probably from the foundations of buildings and machinery which once encircled the stack. Several other stone foundations are clearly visible on the site.

1. The Vermonter, Vol. 23, No. 6, 1918, p. 158.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1810-1855**

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

The Forestdale Iron Furnace site is a major industrial archeological resource which is likely to yield a substantial body of information on Vermont's early 19th century iron industry. The site was in almost continuous operation from 1810-1855. The man credited with building the works in 1810 was John Smith of Leicester.¹ The property passed through a variety of owners and was last known as the Green Mountain Iron Company during the 1850's.²

The site correlates in iron smelting and hydraulic technology with a number of other late 18th and early 19th century furnaces in Vermont and the northeastern United States. The Forestdale works utilized nearby beds of brown hematite ore and used locally made charcoal to produce iron. Most of the iron went into the production of stoves, implements and hardware.³

Transportation costs, low output, and competition with more advanced iron founding operations such as the Burden Iron Works and others in Troy, New York were the principle factors responsible for the disappearance of Vermont's iron producing industry in the second half of the 19th century. Attempts were made to upgrade the obsolete Forestdale facilities. The furnace was enlarged in 1854 and blown with anthracite coal but without success. The site was abandoned in 1855.⁴

The site was donated to the State of Vermont by Welland S. Horn of Forestdale in 1974. The state plans to carry out excavation, information retrieval, stabilization and interpretation of the Forestdale Iron Furnace as part of the overall development of a park on the furnace property.

1. A History of Brandon, Vermont 1761-1961, Published by the Town of Brandon, 1961, pp. 47-50.

2. J. P. Lesley, The Iron Manufacturers Guide to the Furnaces and Rolling Mills, Forges and Steel Works of New England in 1866, American Iron and Steel Institute, 1867, pp. 215-219.

(continued on continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Brandon, Vermont 1761-1961, published by the Town of Brandon, 1961, pp. 47-50.
 Lesley, J. P., The Iron Manufacturers Guide to the Furnaces and Rolling Mills of the United States, John Wiley, New York, 1859, p. 25.
 Neilson, William, Charcoal Blast Furnaces, Rolling Mills, Forges and Steel Works of New England in 1866, American Iron and Steel Institute, 1867, pp. 215-219.
 The Vermonter, Vol. 23, No. 6, 1918, p. 158.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

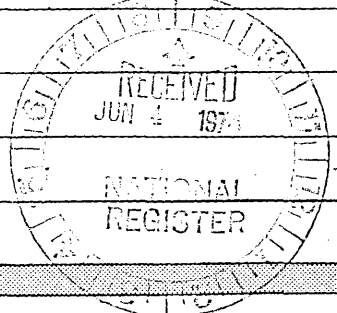
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	43	49	50
SE	° ' "	° ' "	73	02	53
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

18/656920
 4854840
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9.8 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Chester H. Liebs, Supervisor**

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites** DATE: **5/29/74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Pavilion Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montpelier** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

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: William B. Timney

Title: Director of Historic Sites
State Historic Preservation
Officer

Date: 5/30/71

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

Went A. Connolly
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Associate Director
 Professional Services

Date: JUN 13 1974

ATTEST:

Charles D. Henry
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-12-74

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Section 8

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(Number all entries)

3. Richard S. Allen, "Furnaces, Forges and Foundaries",
Vermont Life, Vol. XI, No. 11, Winter 1956-1957, pp. 2-9.
4. J. P. Lesley, The Iron Manufacturers Guide to the Fur-
naces and Rolling Mills, Forges and Steel Works of New England
in 1866, American Iron and Steel Institute, 1867, pp. 215-219.

