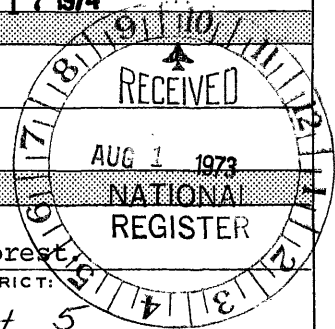


PH0024223

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky
COUNTY: Estill
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 17 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:
Iron Fitchburg Furnace Red River Iron Furnace

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ky. in State Highway 975 on the Daniel Boone National Forest

CITY OR TOWN:
Fitchburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
District 5

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21** COUNTY: **Estill** CODE: **065**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<u>Can be</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>visited by public for</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<u>personal enjoyment.</u>	

4. AGENCY

U.S.D.A. Forest Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
R-8 Atlanta, Georgia

STREET AND NUMBER:
27 Carol Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Winchester

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (Land Description)

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Irvine

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
ENTRY NUMBER:	MAY 17 1974
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
DATE:	

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

Original Appearance:

This furnace was unique in that it consisted of two furnaces in a single structure. Built in 1868 of carefully cut stone, it was 65 feet high and 115 feet long. It is reputed to be the largest furnace of its type in the world. Whereas there was generally no effort made to smooth the 3 or 4-foot blocks of sandstone used to build furnaces, this furnace was unique. It was constructed of cut and smoothed stone and even had a cornice at the top which was carefully and beautifully carved. Various buildings and structures were built for the operation.

Present Appearance:

Since no maintenance has been done, considerable change has taken place. Nothing remains but the stone furnace. Even here, numerous stones have fallen, one front corner has been blasted out with dynamite, large cracks running from the top nearly to the bottom have opened up and trees are growing on the top. In back of the furnace, the fill, from which a ramp went to the top of the furnace, has slid in against the back and closed portions of the access openings. (See picture.)



The date stone on the furnace reads Red River Fur. However, the book "History of Kentucky" - Judge Lewis Collins written in 1874 calls this the Fitchburg Furnace. A town of Fitchburg sprang up when the furnace was built; perhaps this is why the furnace was called Fitchburg. The furnace, to this day, is known as the Fitchburg Furnace. Nothing remains to indicate the town of Fitchburg ever existed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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) 1869

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 checked="" 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

Designed by Fred Fitch and built by Sam Worthley in 1868, it is unique in that it consists of two furnaces in a single structure. It was built of carefully cut stone and is 65 feet high and 115 feet long. It operated from 1870 to 1874 and employed 1000 men. In 1870, this furnace produced 10,000 tons of pig iron valued at more than \$60,000.

The production of pig iron was one of Kentucky's earliest industries. A major producer of iron since 1791, Kentucky ranked third in the U.S. in the 1830's and 11th in 1865.

After 1879, the industry declined due to the obsolescence of the process and the opening of the iron area in the Northern Great Lakes area. The old charcoal furnace era finally ended with depletion of ore and timber.



The date stone on the furnace reads Red River Fur. However, the book "History of Kentucky" - Judge Lewis Collins written in 1874 calls this the Fitchburg Furnace. A town of Fitchburg sprang up when the furnace was built; perhaps this is why the furnace was called Fitchburg. The furnace, to this day, is known as the Fitchburg Furnace. Nothing remains to indicate the town of Fitchburg ever existed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Kentucky
 Judge Lewis Collins
 Page 168

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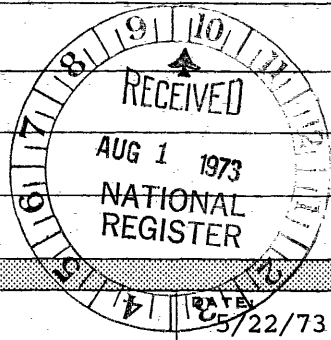
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		N	W	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 43' 58"	83° 51' 10"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.96

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: **S.F. Postlethwait - Forester**

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

STREET AND NUMBER: **27 Carol Road** PHONE: (606) **252-2671**

CITY OR TOWN: **Winchester** STATE: **Kentucky 40391**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- Yes
- No
- None

Mrs. Simeon Willis
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State

Local

Leo Bond 7/30/73
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Director of Recreation

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

A. B. Wooten
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/17/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.16.74