

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Unicoi	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Clarksville Iron Furnace

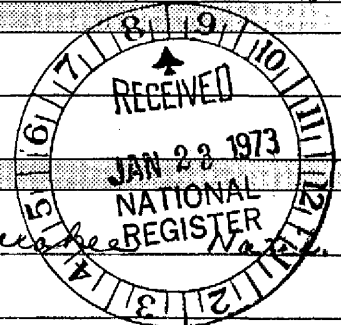
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *1.7 miles south of Highway 107 in Cherokee National Forest*

CITY OR TOWN:
S.W. of Erwin

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Unicoi CODE: 171



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Forest land</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Forestry Service

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Duke Barr, Unaka District, Cherokee National Forest

CITY OR TOWN: Erwin STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Unicoi County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Erwin STATE: Tennessee 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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Unicoi

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DATE: JUN

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)
 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)
 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)
 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ruins of the ore stack of the Clarksville Iron Furnace are within a very short distance of the Unicoi and Washington county lines. It is an important industrial site dating from 1833. Built of native stone, the ore stack remains about two stories high. It is located off a narrow, dirt country road in an overgrown area. Recently, the state placed an historical marker on the nearest main road which is actually some distance from the site.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

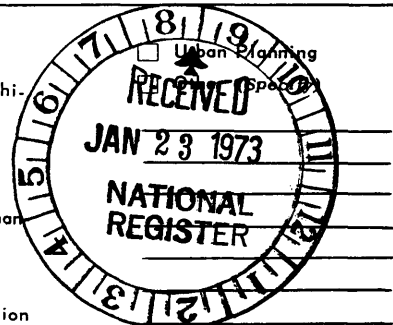
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- 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"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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

Iron furnaces were in abundance in Tennessee during the nineteenth century, as indicated by such documents as the census records. Unfortunately, little research has been done on this important industry and there are few physical evidences of it left in the state. The following historical description of the Clarksville Iron Furnace was researched and written by Washington County historian, Paul M. Fink, one of the few individuals to pursue data on early iron furnaces in Tennessee.

"Elijah Embree, associated with his brother Elihu and others at various times, had been in the business of producing iron from Bumpass Cove (also on the Unicoi/Washington county line) since about 1815. During at least part of this time, the tiny business was called the Thomasville Iron Works and developed a plant for the manufacture of nails as well as pig and wrought iron.

To enlarge the operations, in 1833, Embree, Montgomery Stuart, and Edward West, Jr., formed a firm under the name of Edward West & Co. to make pig iron and castings....The stack was built in the spring of 1833, at a cost of \$829.43, but when completed was found to be standing on public land. An entry of 400 acres was then made in the names of West, Embree, and Stuart, this to include the furnace stack. Other necessary improvements such as bellows house, pot house, bridge and coal houses were then built, as well as dwellings for the men working at the plant. The plant was to be known as Clarksville Iron Furnace.

The ore was mined near the head of Bumpass Cove, some 2½ miles from the furnace. A road was built, and by one account the ore was hauled along it by wagons. Another story is that the ore was packed on the backs of horses and mules to the top of the ridge, then dumped down the side of the mountain, there to be picked up and hauled the rest of the way.

The furnace went into blast either late in 1833 or early in 1834. Part of the product was sold locally as castings; some went to Embree to be manufactured into wrought iron or nails; and part was shipped down the river on flatboats, even as far as northern Alabama.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fink, Paul. "Clarksville Iron Furnace," in Wonders of the Unakas, Unicoi County, by Pat Alderman. Erwin, Tennessee: Pat Alderman, 1964.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

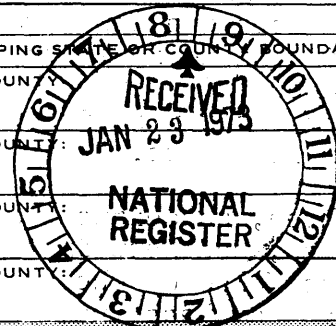
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36°	08'	53"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		82°	31'	41"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
17/30256
4001266
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8

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:
Ellen Beasley

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **1/15/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

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: Michael J. Smith
Title: Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission
Date: 1/15/73

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/4/73

ATTEST:
W. Bradford
Keeper of The National Register
Date: 5/31/73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

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Tennessee	
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Unicoi	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

The operation was fairly successful at first, but the operators could not work in harmony, and in 1837 West sold his one-third interest to the others. Further litigation concerning the operation of the furnace took place in 1841.

The Clarksville Furnace went out of blast permanently in 1844. Like other furnaces of the day, the great bellows for the air-blast was driven by a waterwheel, the mill race for which ran along the side of the mountain. This race is supposed to have given in, letting a flood of water descend on the furnace, quenching the fire and chilling the charge in process of being smelted. In order to resume production it would have been necessary to have torn down and rebuilt the stack, so the operation was abandoned."

