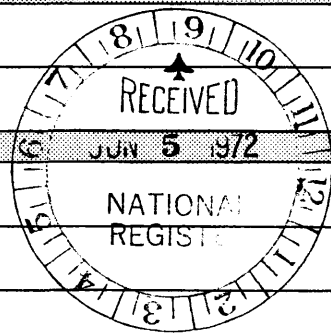


PH 0022594

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alabama	
COUNTY: Tuscaloosa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 24 1972	



1. NAME

COMMON: Tannehill Furnace

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Section 33 Range 5 W Township 20 S

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Tuscaloosa CODE: 125

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
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 _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Tannehill Furnace and Foundry Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 70

CITY OR TOWN: Bessemer STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: 714 Greensboro Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Tuscaloosa STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

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: Alabama

COUNTY: Tuscaloosa

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 24 1972

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The area consists of 66 acres of wooded land located 2 1/2 miles east of the Bucksville Exit on Interstate 59 near Bessemer and Tuscaloosa.

At the time the furnace complex was damaged by the Union Army, it consisted of a self-contained community with cast houses, transways, trestles and nearby settlement houses. There were two furnaces, one single and one double. A wooden flume on a bend in Roupes Creek brought the water to an overshot wheel which was mounted on a wooden axle that turned in stone bearing. To one end of the axle was attached a cam which operated the huge bellows by means of a lever. The stream also furnished the power to operate the forge hammer.

Surviving evidences include the two furnaces and the foundation where the overshot water wheel once turned.

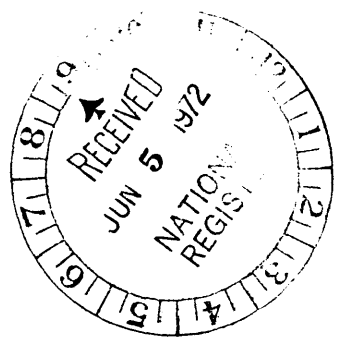
Stones for the furnaces, weighing between 200 and 400 pounds each, were quarried from the high ridge 50 yards west of the forge. The first stack measured some 35 feet high and 8 1/2 feet in the bosh.

Some claim the furnace was lined with brick from Stowbridge, England, but considering the difficulties of transportation of that day, the brick may have been produced from local clay by slaves.

The second furnace was built using the same type of construction as used on the first.

Camping facilities, hiking trails, picnicking, restrooms and a concession stand have been built in the area. Future plans include extensive camping facilities, a local post office, general mercantile store, a museum of the iron industry relative to the period, a rebuilding of the single furnace, a chapel, and a mill to grind corn meal.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

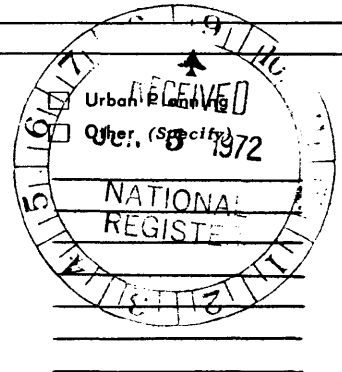
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- 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

The industrial economy of Alabama was founded upon the manufacture of iron and steel which originated in the early 1800's with very crude blast furnaces. They were made of stone and located in the proximity of an ore bed, a stream to furnish water power, an abundance of wood for burning into charcoal, and a hillside against which is built a trestle so that the furnace could be charged. This necessitated that the location of these early furnaces be some distance from existing settlements; therefore, small self-contained communities arose around them. Log houses were built to house the labor, and a small store was opened and operated by the ironmasters.

Such a site is that occupied by Tannehill Furnaces. Tannehill Furnace #1, built in 1859, is the seventh such furnace in Alabama; Tannehill Furnace #2, built in 1863, being the sixteenth installation to be constructed.

In 1829, many years prior to the construction of Furnace #1, a forge operation was begun at Tannehill. The land had been acquired by Abner McGehee from the U. S. Government. McGehee engaged Daniel Hillman to erect the forge and to operate it. In 1840 the property was sold to Ninion Tannehill and J. B. Green. Four years later Greek sold his interest to Tannehill.

Although there is some evidence that Moses Stroup, a widely-known ironmaster of the day, built a blast furnace at the forge site in 1855 after the property had passed into the hands of John Alexander, it is not mentioned in the official records until four years later in 1859.

The early-day furnace produced not over five or six tons a day. Slaves dug brown hematite ore from open pits on the Goethite deposit and hauled it two miles to the furnace bank, the first evidence of strip mining in Alabama. Later a little tramway, the remains of which can still be seen, was built for this purpose. Wood was cut from nearby pine forests and burned in dust pits. More than 3,400 acres of heavy virgin timber was consumed in making charcoal to fire the operation during its 35 years of existence.

Pig iron produced here cost \$17.40 a ton in 1859 just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War.

In 1862 the furnace was sold to William L. Sanders who, given a \$50,000 advance in Confederate bonds, built the second furnace and put in a steam plant to take the place of the unreliable water power. Although the expanded iron works was supplied with skilled labor from the Confederate Army, the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Summersell, C.G., Tannehill , Unpublished manuscript on file at Alabama Historical Commission.

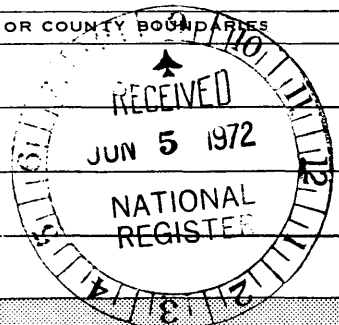
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	33 ° 15 ' 10 "	87 ° 04 ' 30 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	33 ° 15 ' 10 "	87 ° 04 ' 15 "				
SE	33 ° 14 ' 50 "	87 ° 04 ' 15 "				
SW	33 ° 14 ' 50 "	87 ° 04 ' 30 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 66 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dr. C.G. Summersell, Chairman, University of Alabama
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director History Department
 ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: May 28, 1972
 STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence St.
 CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

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 Miss B. Howard Jr.

Title SLC

Date May 30, 1972

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

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

Date 7/24/72

ATTEST:
Alfred Ford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/19/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	ALABAMA	
COUNTY	TUSCALOOSA	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
JUL 24 1972		

(Number all entries)

8. Significance continued

price for a ton of No. 1 cold blast pig iron rose to \$160 by 1864.

The plant operated continuously until the final months of the Civil War making cannon balls, gun barrels, ordnance pots, pans and skillets for Southern troops.

The end for the little iron works, however, was in sight with the advancing of Union forces into Alabama. On March 31, 1865, Capt. James A. Sutherland was detached by Brig. Gen. John T. Croxton, commander of the First Brigade under Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson, to march on the furnaces, destroy them, rejoining the detachment for the advance upon Tuscaloosa.

Three companies of the Eighth Iowa under Sutherland burned Tannehill's cast houses, tramways, trestles, and nearby settlement houses, but left intact the two huge stone furnace stacks, which still stand today.

Late in 1865 Alexander bought back the burnt-out furnaces from Sanders and may have planned to rebuild them but failed to do so. In 1868 he sold the property to David Thomas and in that manner it fell into the hands of the Republic Steel Corporation. The furnace site was later turned over to the University of Alabama with an eye toward preservation of the historical old iron producer, but somehow the project fell by the wayside.

In 1969 the University of Alabama deeded the 66-acre preserve to the Tannehill Furnace and Foundry Commission for purposes of a park. Under the direction of the Commission, the park was opened on a limited scale on June 5, 1971. Considerably more restoration is planned at Tannehill.

