

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 26 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Antietam Iron Furnace Site and Antietam Village

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION *Town of Antietam et al*

STREET AND NUMBER:
Confluence of Antietam Creek and the Potomac River

CITY OR TOWN:
Antietam and vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24** COUNTY: **Washington** CODE: **043**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Abby Draper (furnace site) and multiple private owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Sharpsburg

STATE:
Maryland

CODE:
24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

STATE:
Maryland

CODE:
24

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:

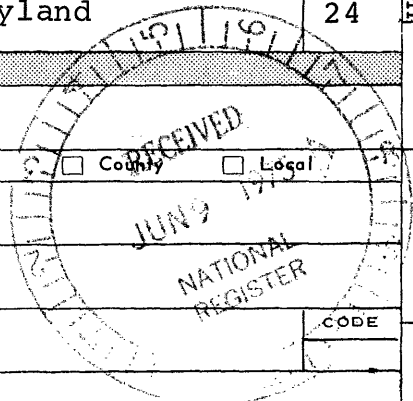
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maryland**

COUNTY: **Washington**

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE



FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

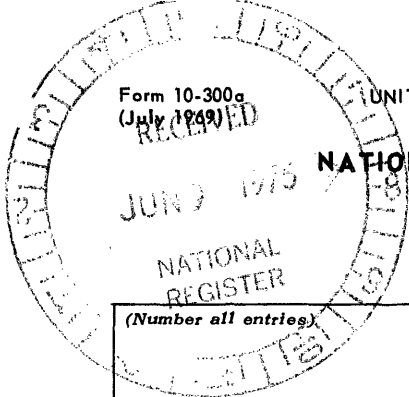
At a bend in the Antietam Creek, just upstream from the Antietam bridge, there is about half a dam. Anchor points on both banks are intact, but Antietam Creek passes through a substantial breach on the north side. The dam is constructed of large blocks of cut stone, with numerous iron rods, one inch in diameter, projecting vertically from the top layer of stone. It is over 50 feet long, ten feet thick and about ten feet high, on the downstream side.

There is an opening for a race at the south end of the dam. The race is formed by two walls of cut stone, set 20 to 25 feet apart. Most of the race walls are intact, especially the south wall, which forms an embankment for the current road (Harper's Ferry Road). The entire race is over 200 feet long and the west (downstream) end of it leads into a narrower, stone-lined passage which continues west until graded over by a cottage site. The north wall of the race is breached twice, apparently by design, in order to convey water north, i.e. parallel to the dam. On the north side, parts of the race wall include both cement, and iron reinforcing rods. From current ground level, the height of the walls varies from six to fifteen feet. The north race wall is ten feet thick. During the summer of 1972, a bulldozer scraped part of the race and passed through a hole in the north wall, partially disarranging the walls.

Between the north wall of the race and Antietam Creek, there are at least two parallel walls. These are constructed of cut stone, and measure three feet wide, over twenty feet long, and are of varying heights. They are 20 feet apart and are set perpendicular to the flow of the creek. They appear to be the remains of either a water wheel pit, or a building.

Occupying the area between the downstream side of the dam, the north wall of the race, and the upstream side of the above-mentioned parallel walls, there is a raised earthen area, flat on top and measuring about 70 feet square and from 3 to 15 feet above the surrounding ground level. Mr. Joe Prentice of the National Park Service has suggested that this is the site of an iron furnace stack, probably the most recent one constructed at the Antietam site. While this area is almost entirely silted over, there are some outcroppings which suggest large stonework within. An abandoned frame cottage, with outhouse and trash dumps, now occupies the top of the site. In the immediately adjacent portion of the race,

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Antietam Iron Furnace Site and
Antietam Village

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

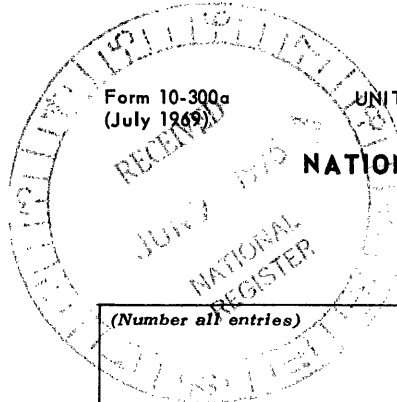
a number of cast iron fragments and iron reinforcing rods (of different style from those on the dam), and large quantities of black slag, are visible.

The Antietam Iron Works Bridge carries Harpers Ferry Road across Antietam Creek near its juncture with the Potomac River. The four-arch span, built by John Weaver in 1832, is constructed of coursed local limestone. Its arches, which rest on rounded piers, are faced with upright cut stones. The bridge is a fine example of the type of bridge architecture prevalent in Washington County from 1819 to the 1860's.

Just upstream from this bridge, and below the dam, there is a stone wall running parallel to and adjacent to the creek. It extends about eight feet above the current water level and is about 20 feet long. It appears to be part of a building wall.

About midway along the race and on the south side of the Harper's Ferry Road, there is a stack set into the hillside, about 35 feet from the current road. It is 50 feet long at the base, exclusive of the adjacent retaining walls, and approximately 30 feet high. The stack is constructed of cut stone, smaller than the stone used in the dam and race. There are three arched entrances in the north face. Each opening is six feet wide, eight feet high and nine feet deep. Each is lined with brick and includes some iron reinforcement. The top of the stack is level and has three round holes, corresponding to the placement of the opening below. Two are partially filled with rubble, but the third is clear for most of the depth of the stack. It is cylindrical, about six feet in diameter, and appears to be lined with refractory brick. This track is most likely a lime kiln, although it does bear a superficial resemblance to an iron furnace. It is quite possible that material from an earlier iron furnace was rebuilt into a lime kiln configuration. Presence of lime-burning activities in the immediate area is corroborated by numerous quarries and the ruins of a lime kiln less than a mile along Lime Kiln Road--which intersects with Harper's Ferry Road. It is not known what connection, if any, this stack had with the area iron enterprises.

Near the stack and dam, along the roads, there are numerous (12) small houses of brick, stone and wood, making up



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Antietam Iron Furnace Site and
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7. DESCRIPTION, continued

the town of Antietam. Some of these probably housed iron workers. Just downstream from the stack are two buildings, a brick structure which was once the Antietam Post Office, and a stone and wood barn-like building. According to local informants, these two buildings were likely related to the 19th century iron business.

Typical of the houses in the Antietam village is the Mentzer house, a four bay, two story, stone structure constructed of roughly coursed fieldstone and painted white. It is situated on a bluff overlooking the furnace site and faces south. Openings with wide wooden framing are spaced randomly. All windows have two over two pane Victorian period sashes. The house is bisected by an interior stone wall located just east of the second bay from the west end. The first floor plan consists of three rooms on an axis. Interior partitions at the second story are tongue and groove boards. According to tradition, the Mentzer house is associated with the furnace. It is one of the oldest and largest dwellings remaining in Antietam Village.

On the north side of the creek, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Richard Burgon live in a house which was built on the foundations of a large house that had served as a boardinghouse for iron workers, according to a 19th century photograph in the Burgon's possession. The Burgons also own two fractured pieces of cast iron stove plate, and a cast iron "pig" which they found on their property.

The stack and the two nearby buildings, and about three acres along the south side of the Harper's Ferry Road are owned by Mr. Otzelberger, who lives in the old post office. The latter is said by local residents to have been a store which served the village and furnace workers. The remainder of the ironworks site, including dam, race and all foundations along the creek, is owned by Mrs. Abby Draper of Sharpsburg, Maryland.

¹Michael Robbins, "The Maryland Iron Industry," 1972, pp.33-34.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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)

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Antietam, at the confluence of Antietam Creek and the Potomac River, has been the site of extensive iron-working facilities during most of the century following 1765. In that year, a company was formed for the purpose of producing iron. Principals were Joseph Chapline, founder of Sharpsburg and owner of the Antietam land, Samuel Beall, Jr., David Ross and Richard Henderson. Henderson and Ross built the first furnace and forge on the site, which were likely in operation by 1775. Ore and wood for charcoal were obtained from the Company's large landholdings in the South Mountain area. Pig iron was the major product; it was used in the various forges then operating in western Maryland. The brothers Samuel and Daniel Hughes gained control of Antietam and other ironworks in the Antietam valley just prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

Under the direct supervision of Samuel Hughes, Antietam furnace began producing cannon for the Baltimore Town Committee of Correspondence, for the Continental Marine Committee and, through Congress, directly for the Continental Army. Although four out of the first five iron cannon cast by Samuel Hughes exploded on the test-firing (killing George Matthews, a founder and would-be cannon maker for the Kingsbury Ironworks), Hughes settled down to producing quantities of nine, twelve, and eighteen, pounders and ammunition. The reputation of Hughes' products spread to General George Washington, who wrote the Board of War Headquarters on April 2, 1779: "Upon consulting General Knox, it is our opinion that the contract with Mr. Hughes for the thirty eighteen pounders should be renewed, as the cannon are absolutely necessary and it does not appear that they can be procured from any works so soon as from his...." Antietam cannon were used to fortify Whetstone Point in Baltimore, and the Continental frigate Virginia was armed with 24 twelve-pounders and 6 four-pounders from Mr. Hughes' works.

Cannon were cast, bored and proved by Hughes at the Antietam Iron Works (and probably at other Hughes-owned

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

UTM NE 26-2400 SW 26-710
(18) 4306170
SE 26-2400 NW 26-710
5306240

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	39° 25' 07"	77° 44' 42"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39° 25' 07"	77° 44' 23"				
SE	39° 24' 55"	77° 44' 23"				
SW	39° 24' 55"	77° 44' 42"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **50 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:
Michael Bourne and Nancy Miller

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **May, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

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 *John N. Pearce*
John N. Pearce

Title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer of Maryland

Date June 5, 1975

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

A R Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/26/75

ATTEST:

W. H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 25 1975

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8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Antietam Iron Furnace Site and
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ironworks as well). They were then transported by wagon to Baltimore for delivery. The price varied from \$36 10s to \$40 per ton of finished cannon.

At the end of the Revolutionary War, Samuel Hughes terminated his iron-making operations in Washington County and from 1786 to 1789 sold or leased his property there. Hughes moved to the Susquehanna River area and in 1786 got into the iron-smelting and cannon-casting business at Principio with what he called Cecil furnace (see above). After the departure of Samuel Hughes from Washington County, the furnace at Antietam may have been inactive for a time; Dennis Griffith's 1794 map of Maryland shows only a forge on the site at the mouth of Antietam Creek.

In the 19th century, the original furnace and forge operation continued, perhaps as late as the 1850's. It was joined by a number of other, related enterprises, all utilizing the power of Antietam Creek. In 1831, a nail factory, with 25 nail-making machines was set up, along with a small rolling mill, which consisted of two heating furnaces and two trains on rolls. These enterprises employed over 250 laborers, including some 60 slaves. The nail works, owned by John M. Brien, burned in April, 1841. It was rebuilt and increased in size, and continued to operate until about 1853, when Brien sold the ironworks to William B. Clark for \$54,500.

A second charcoal furnace was erected at Antietam in 1845. It was 50 feet high and 15 feet wide at the boshes. In one 20 week period of 1857, this furnace is reported to have produced 1,465 tons of iron, a capacity greater than that of the first furnace at Antietam. During the years preceding the Civil War, the entire works, in addition to the above-mentioned furnaces, included: a sawmill, which produced such items as shingles; a nail factory which produced 400 to 500 bages of nails and spikes per week; a forge with six heating fires and a 21-ton hammer; a rolling mill which produced plates, rods, nail stock and bar iron; three puddling furnaces and an air furnace which produced finished iron; and a merchant grist mill. Antietam Creek had a head of water of at least 20 feet of fall, and all these enterprises were operated by no fewer than nine water wheels.

During the late 1850's and early 1860's, the Antietam ironworks was owned by John Horine, who had other iron manufacturing interests, and the heirs of William B. Clark. It was managed

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DATE ENTERED	JUN 26 1975

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Antietam Iron Furnace
Site and Antietam
Village

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ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

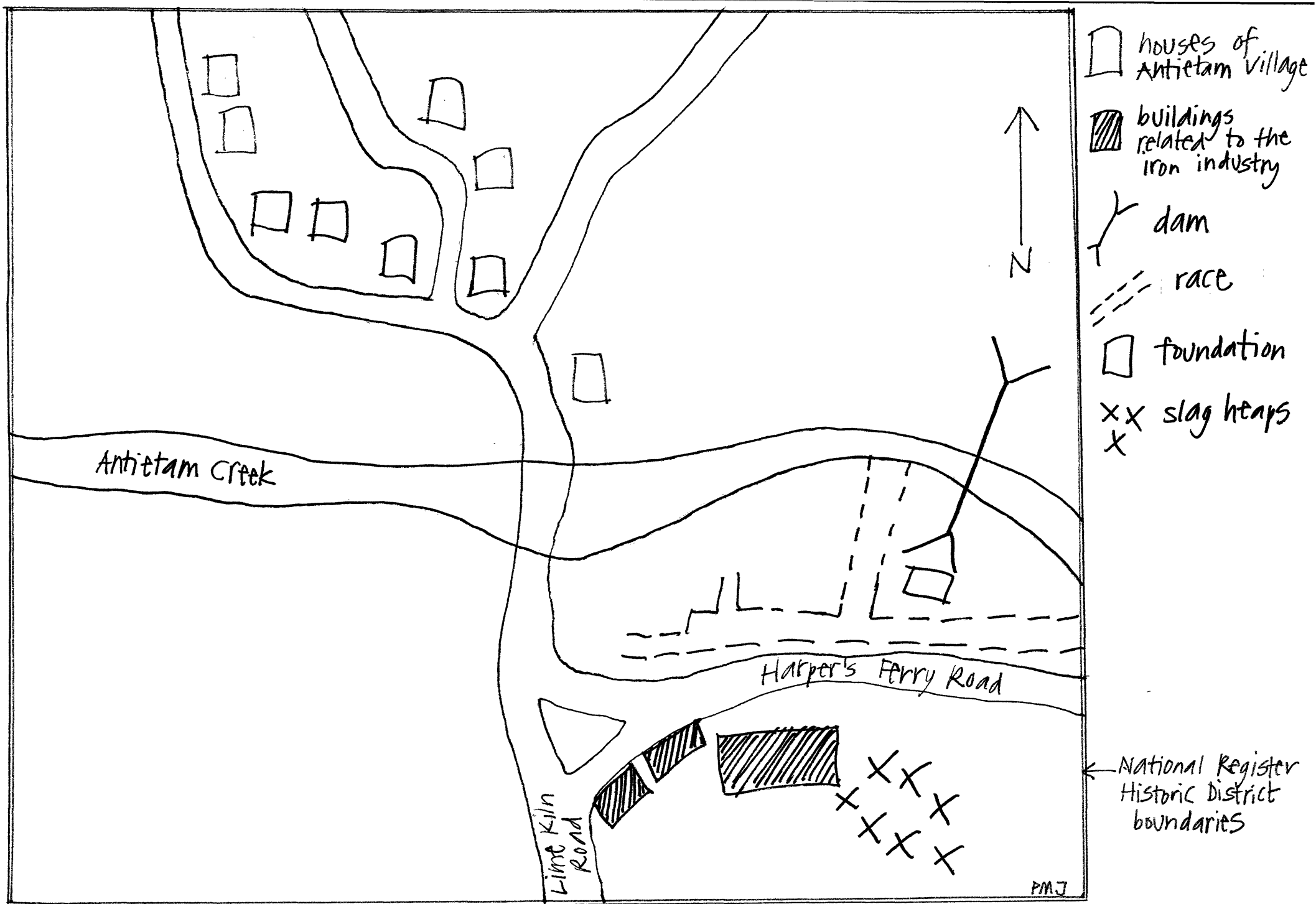
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by Jacob Hewitt of Sharpsburg. The works apparently suffered some damage during the Civil War. Afterwards, it was rebuilt and acquired by the Ahl family of Carlisle, Pa. (P. A. Ahl & Bros.), who converted the furnace to coke fuel and operated it until about 1880. In 1873, a flood broke the dam, and among the subsequent improvements was construction of an improved hot air oven. During this period, the furnace was smelting ore mined near Harper's Ferry, via the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. It was idle during most of the 1880's and was dismantled in 1891.¹

The Antietam Furnace is nominated principally as an archaeological site, on which no complete above ground buildings exist. But although the nomination is directed toward this Revolutionary period iron furnace site, it also includes the adjacent Antietam Village. The boundaries of the district were drawn to include both of these aspects of the Antietam area.

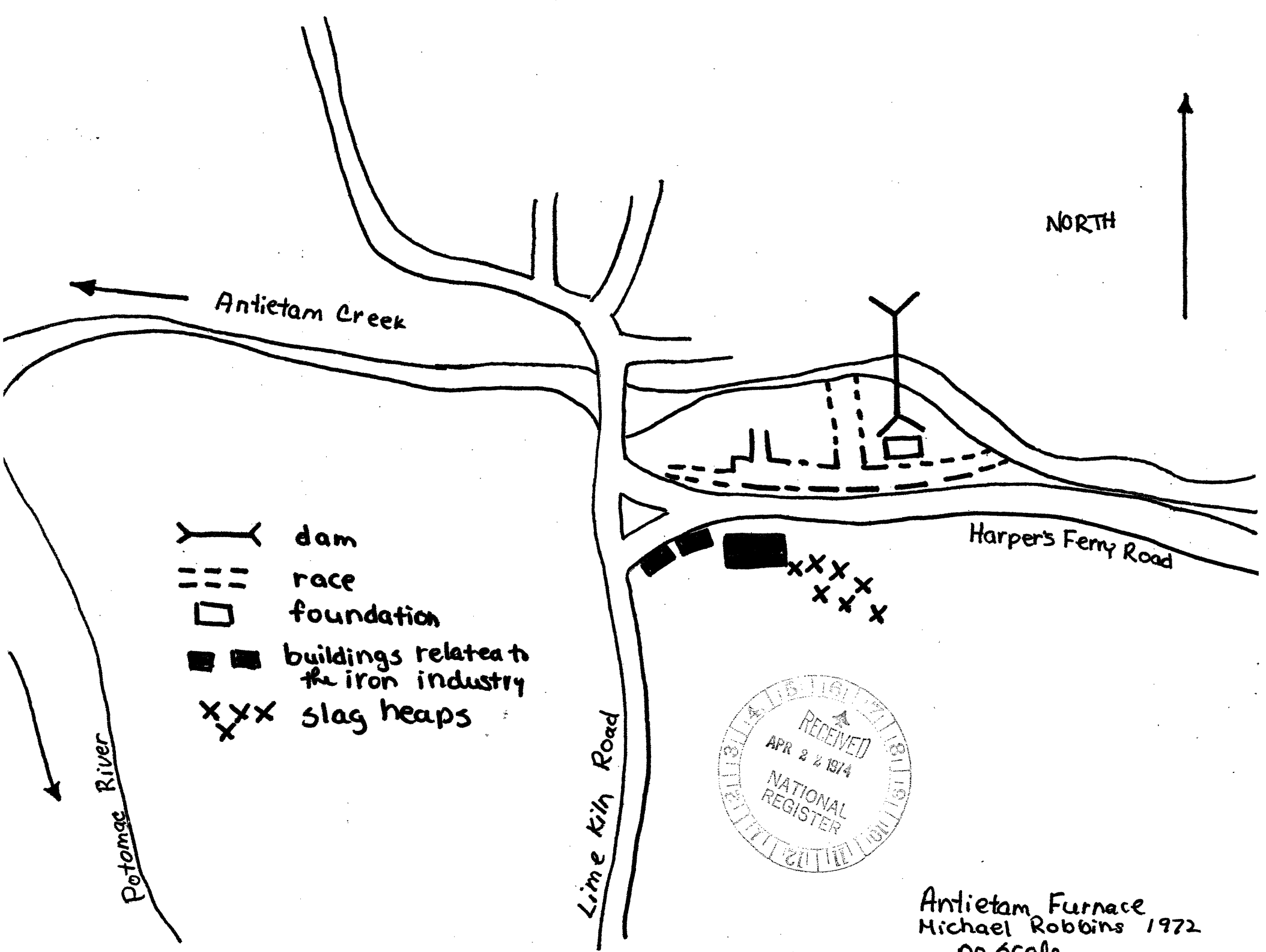
Today this village consists of at most two dozen buildings of which the majority date to the 19th century. These structures are two story houses with gable roofs. Most of them are of masonry construction with a porch. The row housing characteristic of larger industrial towns is absent here. Antietam is visually a company town, but rather a village of vernacular architecture of the 19th century which exists because of the iron furnace.

¹Michael Robbins, "The Maryland Iron Industry," 1972, pp.36-38.



Antietam Iron Furnace site and Antietam Village
no scale

Michael Robbins 1972



Antietam Furnace
 Michael Robbins 1972
 no scale