

P#000153

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Alabama	
COUNTY: Cherokee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 27 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cornwall Furnace

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Confederate Army Iron Furnace

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Two miles north by northeast of Cedar Bluff,
Alabama - T 9 S, R 10 E, Secs. 16 7 21

CITY OR TOWN:
Cedar Bluff

STATE:
Alabama

CODE: 01 COUNTY: Cherokee CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Rudolph Patterson and Alabama Power Company

STREET AND NUMBER:
10 Castlewood Drive 600 North 18th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Rome Birmingham, Alabama

STATE:
Georgia CODE: 010

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the Probate Judge, Cherokee County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main

CITY OR TOWN:
Centre

STATE:
Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

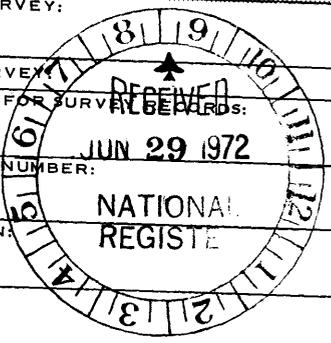
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 Federal State County Local

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:

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DATE

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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

This basically unaltered cold blast furnace is one of the best preserved furnaces of its period in Alabama. Its secluded location in a rural area has served to preserve it.

In 1864 all flammable parts of the furnace were destroyed, and were rebuilt in 1867; however, the furnace itself is all that remains today.

It is constructed of massive brown or red hematite ore type rock averaging 20" x 20" x 4' and weighing perhaps three tons each. The stack is approximately 30' x 30' at the base, 15' x 15' at the top, and 45' high.

The stones were hauled to the site by ox cart, some three miles from Dirt Cellar Mountain and put in place in a relatively short period of time.

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RECEIVED



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

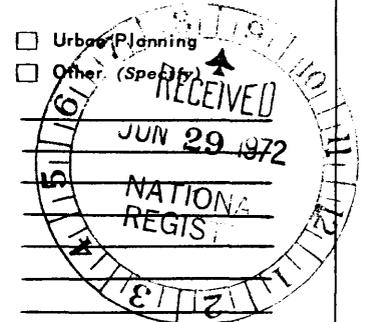
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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)

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 Confederate States of America in 1862 commissioned the Noble Brothers of Rome, Georgia to erect a blast furnace in Cherokee County to produce much-needed pig iron for the war effort. They selected a site approximately two miles north by northeast of the town of Cedar Bluff adjacent to the Chattooga River.

The skilled labor required was obtained or detailed from Confederate Army personnel and hundreds of Negro slaves were hired from their owners on nearby plantations. Because of the size of the projected furnace operation, the canal and the tunnel to be built, a rather large labor force was required to complete it in a short time. (It has been estimated that one thousand persons worked on the construction project using the unsophisticated equipment of the 1860's.)

A tunnel through the hill east of the furnace site and a canal extending a half-mile to the stream bed of the Chattooga River was necessary to obtain the required water power to operate the blowing engines for the furnace.

The Noble Brothers designed and built the machinery required for the operation of their foundries in Rome, Georgia. The machinery was moved by steam boat on the Coosa River to Cedar Bluff and then hauled by ox wagons to the site at Cornwall.

The Nobles named the site "Cornwall" after their native county of Cornwall in southwest England.

The furnace was put into operation in early 1863. The red hematite ore was hauled to the furnace in two-wheel ox carts from Dirt Cellar Mountain approximately three miles from the site. The laborers broke the mined ore into usable sizes with sledge hammers.

Many farmers and plantation owners in the surrounding area were engaged in the manufacture of charcoal for the operation. Samuel Porter Jones, the great national evangelist in the 1800's, labored as a driver of one of these ox drawn carts during the 1870's.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alabama Blast Furnaces, Woodward: Iron Co., 1940

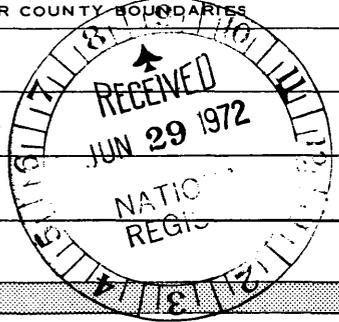
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34 ° 14 ' 36 "	85 ° 36 ' 6 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One acre 4

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:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **May 26, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
305 South Lawrence Street

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 *Milo B. Howard, Jr.*

Title *SLO*

Date *May 26, 1972*

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

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

Date *9/27/72*

ATTEST:
William M. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date *9/26/72*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
ALABAMA	
COUNTY	
CHEROKEE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 27 1972

(Number all entries)

8 Significance Continued

The Confederate States contracted for the entire production of the furnace, which was shipped by boat to Rome, Georgia, to manufacture Confederate cannon, carriage and caisson for its artillery regiments.

The output of the furnace by today's standards was small, but at the time was considered average for its size and an important asset to the Confederacy.

Cornwall's contribution to the Confederacy's military armaments did not last for long. With the Union Forces penetrating deep into the Confederate States, it was not long before Cornwall was discovered. Major General J. M. Schofield, commanding the U. S. Army of the Ohio, with about 9,000 troops occupied Cedar Bluff in October 1864 and ordered Brig. Gen. Frank Blair to destroy all of Cornwall that would burn.

With the end of the war on April 9, 1865, the Noble Brothers began immediately to rebuild their foundry and shops at Rome, Georgia, as well as Cornwall Furnace. It was rebuilt and went into operation again in 1867 as a cold blast charcoal furnace.

However, due to the internal friction which developed between the operating organization and those supplying the capital, the furnace was never placed on an economically sound operating basis and in 1875 the furnace was blown out forever. It is today the best preserved of all the stone furnaces of this period standing in the State, and possibly the Southeast.

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