

PH0169013

1920

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Essex
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE 10/15/66

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Hammersmith

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
244 Central Street (Park Headquarters)  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Saugus  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
STATE:  
Massachusetts  
CODE  
25  
COUNTY:  
Essex  
CODE  
009

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <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 type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" 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"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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) _____ _____ _____

**4. AGENCY**

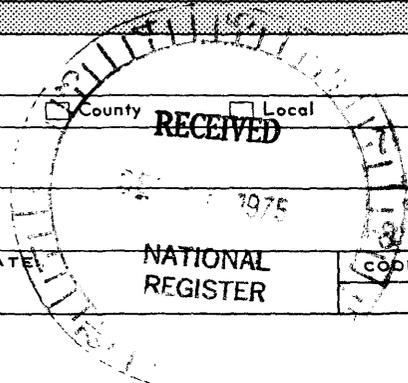
National Park Service  
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
North Atlantic Region  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Boston  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
150 Causeway Street  
STATE:  
Massachusetts  
CODE  
02114  
025

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Essex County Registry of Deeds  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
32 Federal Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Salem  
STATE:  
Massachusetts  
CODE  
01970  
025

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
DATE OF SURVEY:  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
STATE:  
NATIONAL REGISTER



STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Essex
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

✓ Saugus Iron Works located on the south bank of the Saugus River, is a careful-though partly conjectural-reconstruction based on archeologically excavated foundations and traces of the major portions of New England's earliest most sophisticated and integrated ironworking plant. The reconstruction completed in 1954, was deemed well done but due to an extended period of practically no maintenance, the buildings and their associated machinery are in a fair to very poor condition. The following structures and site comprise the Saugus Iron Works.

✓ 1. Ironmaster's House, Building No. 1 - Over the years, the Ironmaster's house was extensively altered by its various occupants. In 1915 the house was restored by Wallace Nutting to what he believed to have been its 17th century appearance. At the same time, however, a later addition to the house was enlarged and remodeled into a caretaker's wing.

The house consists of the original four rooms and entry hall, a rear lean-to which was added in either the late 17th century or the early 18th century, and the west wing which was enlarged in 1915. The ground floor of the original section is exhibited as a historic house with period furnishings. The remainder of the house, the lean-to, and the west wing are used for storage, administrative offices, and public rest rooms. Present condition of the house is good.

Significance: 2nd Order  
 Recommended treatment: Preservation  
 Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: \$100,000  
 Photograph enclosed

✓ 2. Slag Pile, Building No. 16 - The slag pile is composed of original materials but is presumedly smaller today than it should be. Weathering action and the fact that some of the material had been removed for fill has left the slag pile somewhat depleted. Despite its diminished condition, the slag pile remains one of the area's impressive attractions and prior to the reconstruction was the only surface evidence remaining from the original ironworks.

Significance: 2nd Order  
 Recommended treatment: Preservation  
 Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: none  
 Photograph enclosed

✓ 3. Furnace, Building No. 8 - The reconstructed furnace, where iron ore was separated into cast iron and slag, consists of the stone furnace and its wooden charging bridge, a wooden casting shed, a pair of large leather bellows, and a 16' waterwheel with its shaft, and associated sluiceway and tail race. Present condition of the structure is fair.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

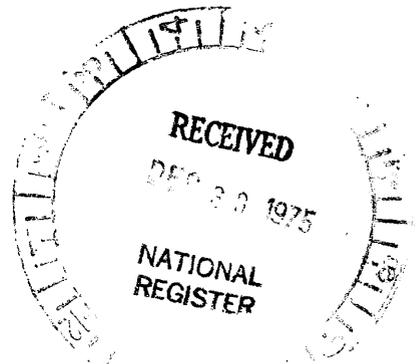
Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site was established to preserve the site of America's first sustained integrated iron works. An earlier ironworks at Falling Creek, Virginia, was destroyed during an Indian war before production could begin. A furnace and forge were built at Braintree, Massachusetts but the location of the furnace was poor and the operation was moved to Saugus by the ironmaster.

The Saugus Ironworks has been called the forerunner of American big business. It was an iron factory and could convert raw iron ore into finished cast and wrought iron products including rod stock for nails. The rolling and slitting mill was one of only about 15 in the world and the only one in the western hemisphere. More significant than the actual technology at the Saugus plant was that it served as a training ground for ironworkers. From Saugus they spread out to start new ironworks in New England and New Jersey.

The Saugus ironworks has also been called the first chapter in "America's book". Here were the first known instances of wage and price controls, military exemptions for specialized skills, of the assimilation of a "foreign" culture (the ironworkers) into a "settled" culture (the Puritans), and of geographical and vocational mobility.

The Ironmaster's house is an outstanding example of 17th century English architecture. It is the oldest non-Indian house in the National Park System.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

E.N. Hartley, IRONWORKS ON THE SAUGUS, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957  
 "A Collection of Papers Relating to the Iron Works at Lynn and More Particularly to the Suit between Mr. John Gifford, the Agent for the Undertakers of the Iron Works, and the Inhabitants of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Dated 1650 et seq.," manuscript located at the Baker Library, Harvard Business School library, Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
 "First Iron Works Gazette" an occasional paper published by the First Iron Works Association, Vol. 1 No. 1, March 1951 to Vol. 5 No. 2, Fall 1955.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

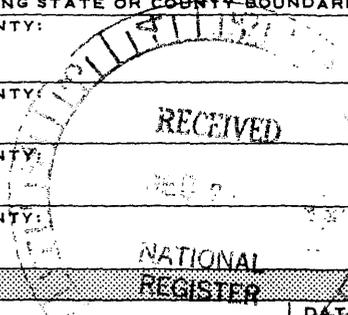
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	42° 28' 10"	71° 00' 37"				
NE	42° 28' 10"	71° 00' 26"				
SE	42° 27' 54"	71° 00' 26"				
SW	42° 27' 54"	71° 00' 37"				

*UTM on map*

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8.5 acres**

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: **William Gray, park Manager; updated 2/75 NARO** DATE: **8/17/72**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site**

STREET AND NUMBER: **244 Central Street** PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: **Saugus** STATE: **Massachusetts 01907** CODE: **025**

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes  
 No  
 None

\_\_\_\_\_  
 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

*[Signature]* 1978  
 Federal Representative Signature Date

**Deputy Assistant Director**  
 Title

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **8/17/72**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

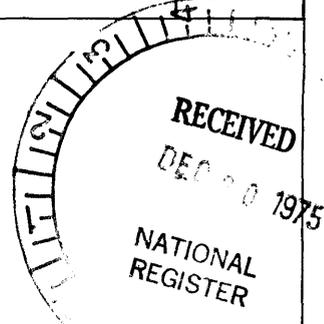
STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. (continued) Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site

3. Furnace, Building No. 8 (continued)

Significance: **2nd** Order  
Recommended treatment: Preservation  
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above \$100,000  
Photograph enclosed



4. Forge, Building No. 9 - In the forge, brittle cast iron was reworked into malleable wrought iron. This reconstructed building has two refining fires (finery) and one heating fire (chafery), three sets of bellows, a 500 pound water powered hammer, four waterwheels and their associated sluiceways and tailraces.

Significance: **2nd** Order  
Recommended treatment: Preservation  
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: \$100,000  
Photograph enclosed

5. Rolling and Slitting Mill, Building No. 10 - (Reconstructed)  
Wrought iron was rolled into long flat bars and slit into rods in the rolling and slitting mill. The rods were the basic product for making hand-made nails, a valuable commodity for colonial Massachusetts Bay. The building has two 17' waterwheels and their associated sluiceways and tailraces, an internal gear system for operating one of the rollers, and a wood fired oven for heating up the iron prior to rolling and slitting.

Significance: **2nd** Order  
Recommended Treatment: Preservation  
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: \$100,000  
Photograph enclosed

The machinery in all the above reconstructed buildings did operate, re-creating in large part the noise, dirt, and feel of working in a 17th century iron plant. Due to the current deterioration of the wood, most of the equipment is now unsafe to run.

6. The Fourth Ironworks Building to be reconstructed was the warehouse or ironhouse, Building No. 11. This small wooden structure was used to store products awaiting shipment to markets.

Significance: 2nd Order  
Recommended Treatment: Preservation  
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: \$1,000  
Photograph enclosed