

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mt. Torry Furnace

other names/site number Virginia Furnace

2. Location

street & number Route 664, on Back Creek
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

not for publication

city or town Sherando vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Augusta code 015

zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide _____ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction

Iron Furnace

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture

Interpretive area of George

Washington and Jefferson

National Forests

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone

walls: Stone

roof: N/A

other: N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Architecture
Industry

1800-1853
1861-1865
1866-1892

Significant Dates

1804 ca.
1861; 1864; 1866
1892

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

- X previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 5

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 6 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row A: 17, 678850, 4201475. Row B: empty. Row C: empty. Row D: empty. Row E: empty. Row F: empty. Includes 'See continuation sheet.'

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Heather Crawl; Emlen Myers, PhD, Project Archeologistorganization Dames & Moore, Cultural Resource Servicesdate 9-26-96street & number 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700telephone (301) 652-2215city or town Bethesdastate MDzip code 20814**Additional Documentation***Submit the following items with the completed form:*

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)name George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, USDA Forest Service
C/O Mike Barberstreet & number 5162 Valley Pointe Parkway telephone (540) 265-5100city or town Roanokestate VAzip code 24019-3050

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Mt. Torry Furnace
name of property

Augusta, Virginia
county and State

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History

Mt. Torry Furnace was constructed as a cold-blast, charcoal furnace around 1804 for Robert Long. Iron from the Mt. Torry Furnace was transported on wagons to the James River and floated down to Richmond. Transportation improved when the Howardsville and Rockfish Turnpike was built. Much of the pig iron produced at Mt. Torry was sold locally. The furnace was converted to hot-blast in 1853.

In 1855, the furnace shut down due to competition with anthracite iron in Pennsylvania. It was brought back into blast seven years later after Anderson of the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond wrote a letter to the owners asking them to refire the furnace to support the Confederate Army. Tredegar bought the furnace in 1863 in order to control the entire output of pig iron, although Anderson had a hard time finding enough men to work the furnace. Brigadier General Duffie of the Union Army burned Mt. Torry in 1864. Preparations were made to rebuild the furnace, but plans were not undertaken until after the Civil War. Mt. Torry changed hands many times, and was called Virginia Furnace after 1878. The furnace finally went out of blast in 1892.

The USDA Forest Service has installed an interpretive sign at Mt. Torry. It reads:

Mount Torry Furnace

Built in 1804.

Destroyed in June 1864 During the War Between the States.

Rebuilt in January 1865 and operated until 1884.

Significance and Integrity

Mt. Torry is a representative example of nineteenth-century architecture and landscape associated with iron production. The furnace reflects the trends in furnace construction during this time period in Virginia. It was built on the plan common to the early nineteenth century, and later altered in an attempt to compete with more modern iron production methods employed in the north.

The activities of Mt. Torry Furnace altered the local landscape through deforestation for charcoal production, and brought money and people into this area of Virginia. Mt. Torry follows closely the history of iron production in Virginia as a whole. Like many of Virginia's iron furnaces, Mt. Torry was constructed in the early nineteenth century, shut down in the 1850s due to northern competition, resurrected during the Civil War, again declined following the war, and finally was defeated by competition following a brief revival in the 1880s. Mt. Torry Furnace gained national importance as a key producer of iron for the Confederacy during the Civil War and as the target of destruction at the hands of Union Troops.



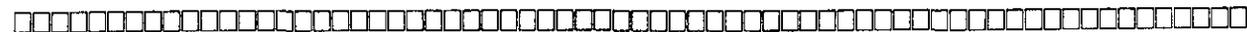
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Mt. Torry Furnace
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Augusta, Virginia
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The potential for archaeological investigation is significant at Mt. Torry. Research could provide information about workers' living conditions, ethnicity, and economic background. Transportation of raw materials and finished products could be investigated as well as the relations between the rural furnace and the urban manufacturer, Tredegar Iron Works. The furnace and surrounding features could contribute information on iron extraction technology, innovation, and change through time.

Although Mt. Torry Furnace is deteriorating, important features of the complex are still evident. The area contains information which could contribute to our understanding of the nineteenth century iron industry in Virginia. Mt. Torry is on the National Register of Historic Places.



NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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name of property
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Bibliography

Capron, John D.

1968 *Mt. Torry Furnace, Augusta County*. Personal Files of John D. Capron. Typescript dated December 11, 1968. Lynchburg College, Virginia.

Lesley, J. Peter

1859 *The Iron Manufacturers Guide to the Furnaces, Forges and Rolling Mills of the United States*. New York: Wiley.



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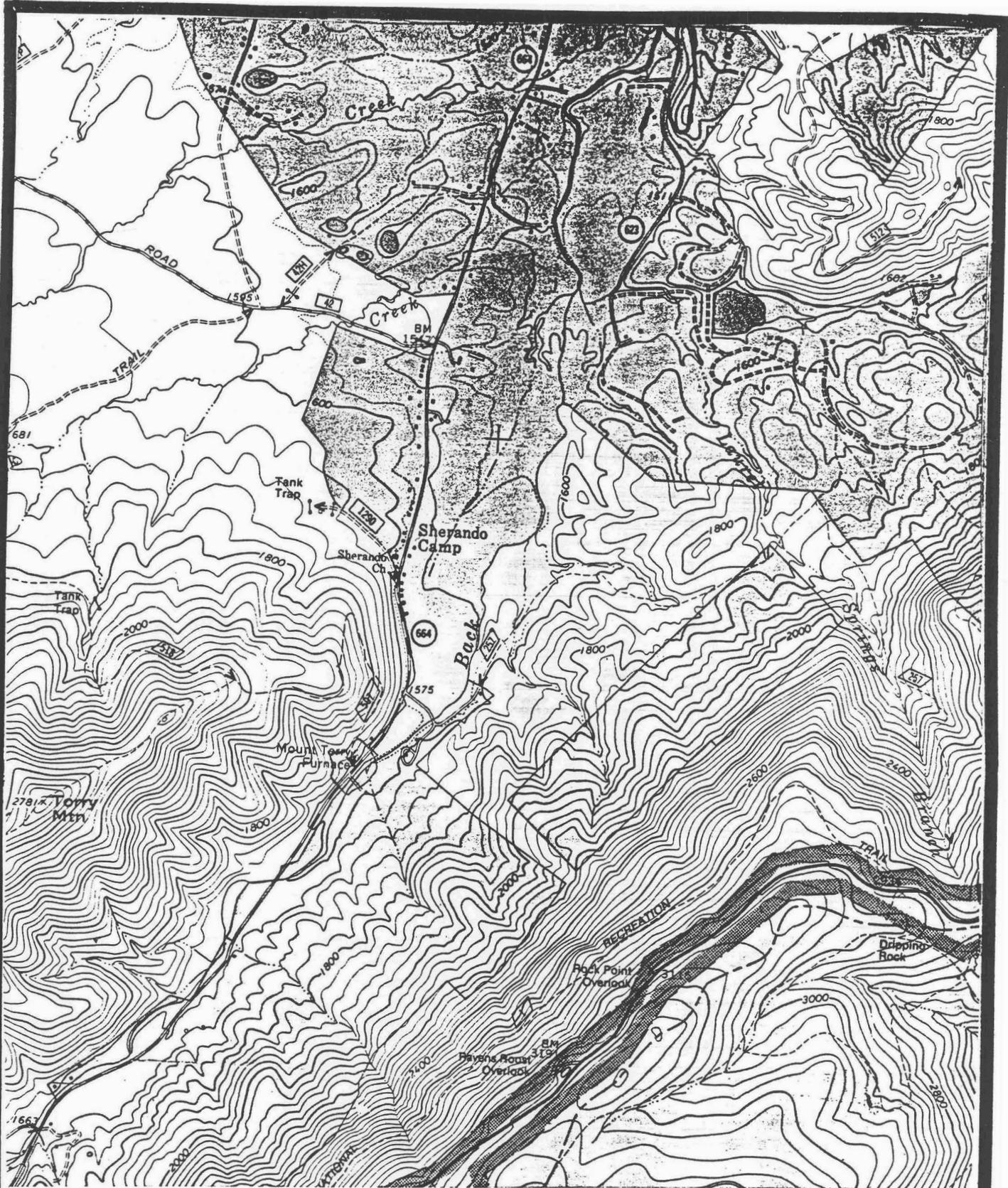
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Boundaries

The Mt. Torry Furnace property is bounded on the southeast by the Back Creek, on the southwest by a modern bridge, on the northwest by the 1680 foot contour line, and on the northeast by a modern residence. The boundary includes the furnace, race, slag pile, and all other possible features and supporting structures that retain integrity and are likely to yield information about the nineteenth century iron industry in Virginia.



MT. TORRY FURNACE

Sherando, VA Quadrangle, 1967, Photorevised 1980