

VLR 10/2/13
NRHP 2/1/10

(Rev. 10-90)
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 names Old Forge Farm

other names/site number Zane's Furnace, Stephens Fort, Marlboro Iron Works; DHR File No. 034-0125

2. Location

street & number 7326 Middle Road N/A not for publication
city or town Middletown X vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Frederick code 069 Zip 22645

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 12/23/03
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
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

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: other (explain): _____

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the

National Register

Signature of Keeper

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

Date of Action _____

 removed from the National Register

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 6 </u>	<u> 4 </u>	buildings
<u> 4 </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 11 </u>	<u> 4 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling; Secondary Structures</u>
<u>INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/</u>	<u>Manufacturing Facility: Gristmill</u>
<u>EXTRACTION</u>	<u>Extractive Facility: Iron Foundry</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling; Secondary Structures</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

roof METAL: Tin ASPHALT

walls STONE: Limestone WOOD: Weatherboard STUCCO

other SYNTHETICS: Aluminum or Vinyl Siding

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)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X 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.
- X 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)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

ARCHAEOLOGY

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance 5000 B.C. – 1600 A.D.
ca. 1750-1954

Significant Dates ca. 1750, 1756, 1767, 1795, 1930, ca. 1932

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
ISAAC ZANE

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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.
 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

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 29

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

- Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 17/731300/4328880 2 17/731520/4328400
3 17/731420/4328400 4 17/731120/4328730
 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.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Helen Lee Fletcher

Organization: _____ date September 11, 2003

street & number: 273 Broad Avenue telephone 540/667-9308

city or town Winchester state VA zip code 22602

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 Gene Dicks

street & number 8022 Church Street telephone 540/869-2155

city or town Middletown state VA zip code 22645

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 7, Page 1

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Old Forge Farm is located in the southwest corner of Frederick County in the lower Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The property has twenty-nine acres and encompasses both sides of Middle Road (State Route 628) and contains Fawcett Run, which empties into Cedar Creek west of a bridge on Middle Road that links Frederick and Shenandoah Counties. The foundation of a covered bridge that burned in 1930 is evident on both sides of Cedar Creek. A grain mill built in the 1930s on the foundation of an eighteenth-century gristmill destroyed in the same fire that claimed the covered bridge, is located between the mouth of Fawcett Run and Middle Road. The acreage on the east side of Middle Road is the site of the former Marlboro Iron Works, also known as Zane's Furnace.

The dwelling is located on the west side of Middle Road. It is a two-story, asymmetrical, three-bay, limestone house with a two-story addition on the north elevation connecting the main house to a one-story former summer kitchen. The eighteenth-century part of the house has a single pile, hall-parlor plan. The two-story addition contains a kitchen on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor. There are one-story porches on the south façade and the north elevation. An enclosed porch fronts the addition on the south façade and there is a small open porch on the north elevation of the summer kitchen. Other contributing outbuildings include an eighteenth-century hexagonal icehouse of unusual design, an early twentieth-century root cellar, privy, and shed. Additional contributing resources include a prehistoric archaeological site, a family cemetery, and an earlier privy. There are four non-contributing sheds on the property.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Exterior of Dwelling

The oldest and largest portion of the dwelling is a two-story, asymmetrical, three-bay building on a limestone foundation. It measures twenty feet by forty feet, has limestone walls covered with stucco painted white and a crimped-v metal gable roof. Stucco applied prior to 1924 indicates a change between the east section and adjoining section of the limestone portion of the house. The east section was probably built in the mid-eighteenth-century and was the house that was cited in Frederick County Deed Book 11, page 555, when Isaac Zane purchased it from Lewis Stephens. In a 1783 broadside, Zane advertised a "20' by 40' mansion" for sale. These are the dimensions of the existing limestone portion of the house. According to Robert G. Van Meter's report for the Works Progress Administration in 1936, there was a fire during the ownership of Michael Griselman between 1875 and 1883. The house was rebuilt probably using the surviving sturdy limestone walls. An exterior-end chimney on the west end of the main structure is now enclosed by an addition. An interior-end chimney is on the east gable end. Both chimneys are

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia**

Section 7, Page 2

brick. The windows have two-over-two, double-hung wood sashes, flanked by louvered wood shutters painted black. A one-story wood porch, with standing-seam metal roof extends the length of the limestone section of the house on the north elevation. There is a small, one-story, flat-roofed porch on the west elevation. Both porches have sawn decorations, and an elaborate bargeboard is situated in the east gable end of the house.

A two-story addition on the west side of the original structure dates to the early nineteenth century. It is wood frame with weatherboard cladding and has a standing-seam metal roof. The addition has an enclosed porch with paired windows and an entrance on the south elevation. A brick chimney on the north side of the addition vents a wood stove in the kitchen that is located on the first floor. A boxed staircase leads to a bedroom on the second floor. There is a door through to the dining room on the first floor, but there is no connecting door on the second floor. The reveals of the connecting doorway are twenty-three inches thick, indicating the exterior wall of the earlier structure. There is a one-story summer kitchen attached to the west side of the addition. It is wood frame with weatherboard cladding and has a composition-shingle gable roof. The summer kitchen has two small windows on the south façade, a single window on the west side, and an open shed-roofed area on the north elevation.

Because the exterior of the primary structure was covered with stucco sometime prior to 1924 when the present owner's grandfather bought the property, it is impossible to see features that reveal the early history of the house. However, the thickness of the walls, together with a few indications of alterations under the stucco, and the known durability of mid-eighteenth-century limestone houses in Frederick County, are reasons to believe that the exterior walls at least are those built in the mid-1700s.

Interior of Dwelling

The interior of the limestone portion of the dwelling features a single-pile, hall-parlor plan with the primary entrance from the porch on the south elevation. This door opens into a room that is used for a dining room, which contains the only remaining fireplace in the house. The fireplace surround has wood pilasters and a frieze of the Greek Revival style with a heavy wood shelf. The windows in the dining room and adjoining living room are recessed sixteen inches. The living room has a door and window on the east wall. All the plain, wood window trim and door surrounds appear to date to the late nineteenth century. The flooring in the dining room was replaced in the 1920s and the one in the living room in the 1960s. The replaced floor was alternating chestnut and walnut, tongue-in-groove wood boards, laid on hewn logs according to Gene Dicks, the current owner.

All doors have four raised, vertical panels. Tongue-in-groove beaded wainscoting covers the fireplace wall and on the north wall that encloses a stair up to the second floor. A closet under the stairs has late-nineteenth-century hardware. The stair has plain balusters, a rounded handrail and a tapered, chamfered

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 7, Page 3

newel. The stair opens onto a small hall with doors leading into a master bedroom over the living room and a contemporary bathroom and a smaller bedroom over the dining room. Just like the connecting wall on the first floor, the wall between the master bedroom and the others on this floor is twenty-three inches thick, and the windows are recessed sixteen inches. A narrow, twenty-three inch-wide, closed staircase directly in front of and perpendicular to the primary staircase leads to the unfinished attic. The rafters are circular-sawn boards nailed into a ridge board and date to the mid- to late nineteenth century.

Secondary Contributing Buildings

“Stephens Fort” is the popular name for a rare hexagonal-shaped building, a contributing resource, that is located between the dwelling and Cedar Creek. It has limestone walls that are eight feet high, one foot thick, and coated with stucco painted white. The building, commonly called an icehouse, measures fourteen feet across the center. It has had many uses and is probably the one described in a sale broadside issued by Zane in the 1780s as a “compting house” (copy attached). It is the only structure with a deep cellar on the property. The building has a pyramidal, composition-shingle roof, which replaced an early wooden shingle roof shown in photographs taken around 1930. Two small entrances, one on the north side and one on the east side, have plank doors and early hardware. Two windows, in adjoining sides on the south side of the building have plank shutters. An opening of unknown use is situated high up in the southwest wall. The ground floor is covered in wide planks replaced probably around 1920. From the ground floor, directly in front of the north door is an open wooden stair down to a storage level. A wooden ladder connects this level with the cellar floor, which is nineteen feet below ground. The building has a circular limestone foundation. The structure is in good condition and used for storage. It was used in the mid-twentieth century as a museum.

A hammer mill, a contributing resource, built around 1932 after a fire destroyed an earlier mill on the same foundation, was used for grinding feed until the 1950s according to Gene Dicks, the current owner, whose grandfather owned the property during those years. The north and west walls of the foundation are limestone, set into the bank of Cedar Creek on the south edge of the property. Open wood slats compose the south and east walls on the lower level of the mill. An intact small wooden wheel, conveyor, and pulleys are on this level. The mill works are topped by a frame structure with weatherboard cladding. On the west side is a metal waterwheel rated at twenty-five horsepower. When working it turned six revolutions per minute, and the hammer wheel turned 2800 revolutions per minute when at full speed. The roller system had the capacity to produce a barrel of flour an hour. The mill is in fragile condition but provides evidence of its former use and earlier operations. The deep impression of a millrace clearly shows the path of the water from Fawcett Run used to operate this mill and previous mills on the site.

A rectangular wood frame shed, a contributing resource, with brick-tex covering is located east of the mill. The shed probably dates to the early 1920s. It has a standing-seam metal roof and is used for storage. A previous use was as the polling place for the Marlboro Precinct of Frederick County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 7, Page 4

In the north yard, behind the dwelling, are two contributing resources. One is a single-hole, wood privy, built during the early twentieth century and the other a root cellar, which probably dates from the late nineteenth century. It is a wood slab shed above ground that has a corrugated metal roof and is still in use by the owner who maintains a large vegetable garden to the west of the dwelling. Below grade the structure is brick and limestone with a wood stack to provide ventilation.

Contributing Structure

To the east of the mill is a stone abutment, a contributing structure, of a covered bridge which burned in 1930 that carried travelers on Middle Road (State route 628) over Cedar Creek from Frederick County to Shenandoah County. Photographs of the mill and the bridge as late as 1929 are in the Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives of the Handley Regional Library in Winchester, Virginia.

Contributing Sites

Across Middle Road is a plowed field, unplanted at this time. It is bounded on the property line by Cedar Creek and is the site of Zane's Furnace. Ruins of the furnace were evident close to Cedar Creek until after the 1930 fire that destroyed the covered bridge on Middle Road. When the Virginia Department of Highways moved the roadbed and rebuilt the bridge, the owner L. L. Link, grandfather of the present owner, permitted the use of refuse from the ruins in building the new bridge.

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia (ASV) conducted investigations in 2002 that revealed evidence of Middle Archaic and Late Woodland Periods occupation, 5000 B.C. to 1600 A.D. The site (44FK546), located to the southwest of the property across Fawcett Run, produced over 2,400 points, including Gilford points from the Middle Archaic period and Clarkville points from the Late Woodland period. Surface collection was done on twenty-five foot squares. The plow zone is ten inches deep. Shovel Test Pits (STPs) were done at twenty-five foot intervals. In addition to the points some pieces of Woodland pottery were found. Materials revealed included quartzite, quartz, chert, chalcedony, and flint. In a STP in the northeast corner flakes of siliceous limestone were found on the edge of the Conococheague Geological Belt. Five three-foot squares were opened, the deepest one being four feet in square one. Analysis of the site is ongoing according to Marcus Lemasters, archaeologist representative of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the ASV.

A site located in the north yard, which is now marked by a clump of bushes, was a former privy. This is a contributing site as it may provide artifacts and useful information about early valley settlers.

A small family cemetery, another contributing site, is located to the west of the property near Fawcett Run.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia**

Section 7, Page 5

Non-Contributing Buildings

Next to Fawcett Run to the west of the mill is a large shed on a concrete foundation. Built in 1983, it is wood frame with metal sheathing and has a standing-seam metal roof. It is a non-contributing resource currently used for the storage of farm machinery.

In addition there are three non-contributing sheds located in this north yard area built of wood after 1960. They are used for storage, dog pens, and chicken coops.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 8, Page 6

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Forge Farm is located in the southwest corner of Frederick County in the lower Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is significant in all four qualifying criteria. The property has a rich history, including its use during the French and Indian War when the owner, Lewis Stephens, offered protection to other settlers. Stephens later founded nearby Stephens City after he sold the house, forge, mills, and several parcels of land to Isaac Zane in 1767. Zane developed the forge into the largest industrial operation in the Shenandoah Valley, employing more than one hundred persons in the process of creating pots, stoves, fire-backs and bar iron. During the American Revolution, Zane's furnace, also called Marlboro Iron Works, was one of the largest suppliers of ordnance to the Continental Army. Isaac Zane was among the earliest settlers in the lower valley, contributing in a major way to the industrial growth and development of Frederick County. Continuing the industrial use of the property, a mill on the nominated property is situated on the partial foundation of earlier mills operated by both Stephens and Zane. Rebuilt in the 1930s after a fire destroyed an earlier mill, it was grinding feed into the 1950s. Other contributing resources include a stone manor dwelling, probably rebuilt within the walls of the original eighteenth-century home of Stephens and Zane, and an eighteenth-century stone icehouse that is architecturally significant for its rare hexagonal shape and may be the only hexagonal icehouse surviving in Virginia. Early-twentieth-century contributing resources include a shed used as a polling place in the 1920s, a root cellar and a privy. On the nominated property are a family burying ground with unidentified graves, the foundation of a covered bridge, the site of the furnace, and the site of an earlier privy. In 2002, an archaeological investigation provided evidence of Archaic and Woodland era occupation on the nominated property. While analysis of the site is ongoing, the artifacts found to date have the potential to provide a better understanding of a significant prehistoric community at the riparian site. This complex of existing structures and archaeological sites is a resource of major importance in defining the early settlement and industrial history of Frederick County and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As early as 1743 Lewis Stephens purchased large tracts of land in what was then Orange County and later Frederick County.¹ *Old Forge Farm* is part of a tract he purchased from John Kountz in August 1745. Stephens erected a mill on the property at the confluence of Cedar Creek and Fawcett Run, and mill operations continued in that location until the 1950s in spite of at least two fires that required rebuilding, one around 1890 and the other in 1930.² Lewis Stephens and his wife, Mary, lived in a two-story stone house "located near an iron furnace or bloomery which he had built along Cedar Creek near what is now the community of Marlboro" and according to the early Valley historian, Samuel Kercheval, Lewis Stephens sheltered neighbors during several Indian raids.³ At the request of Lewis Stephens, troops

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 8, Page 7

were dispatched by George Washington to protect the homestead during the French and Indian War.⁴ Local lore maintains that the hexagonal-haped icehouse still standing close to the confluence of Cedar Creek and Fawcett Run was the "Stephens Fort" mentioned in accounts of frontier happenings.

According to Cecil O'Dell in his *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia*, Stephens mortgaged 195 acres "where he now lives" for 200 pounds sterling to Lord Fairfax in August of 1750 and this date represents the beginning of the Marlboro Iron Works. Further he states that on June 10, 1767, Lewis and Mary Stephens "sold 195 acres (where they still lived) as well as an adjacent 171-acre tract (which Lewis had purchased from Lord Fairfax on 13 March 1752) to Isaac Zane, Jr., Ironmaster."⁵ In addition to the house, a forge, gristmill, sawmill and springhouse were on the property when Zane purchased it from Stephens.⁶

By all accounts, Zane's furnace and forge was the largest operation of its kind in the Valley. As he added to his holdings, a small community developed within close range of the iron works. At times Zane employed more than 100 men and he owned a dozen or so slaves. By 1772 the iron works produced tons of stoves, pots and bar iron using a two-hammer forge and ten-foot-square furnace. "The products of this industry were hauled by wagon to Alexandria on the Potomac and Falmouth on the Rappahannock, where they were shipped to Bristol, London, Glasgow, or Boston."⁷ During the Revolutionary War, Zane's Marlboro Iron Works became a munitions factory producing four- and six-pound ordnance, shot, langrage, swivel balls, and chain shot.⁸

Isaac Zane's public service included being a justice of Frederick County in 1772, a member of the House of Burgesses in 1773, and a representative to the Colonial Conventions of 1775 and 1776. It was this service that made him known to other patriots of the time, including Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry.⁹ Jefferson sent a drawing to Zane for the improvement of his iron works after a visit to his friend on one of the future president's many trips to Philadelphia. Zane was an educated man who had traveled to England in his youth. He purchased the library of William Byrd III in 1778 for two thousand pounds. According to Carl Bridenbaugh in *The Colonial Craftsman*, Zane was "not only an ironmaster, but he also conducted a great farm to feed all his workers, a retail store, a distillery, and both saw and grist mills". Reared as a Quaker, Zane was disowned by the sect in 1773. His offenses included taking the oath to serve as a justice and in the House of Burgesses, and failing to attend meetings. Isaac Zane never married but kept a mistress, Elizabeth McFarland, and sired a son (Isaac Zane III) by her.¹⁰

When Isaac Zane died on August 10, 1795, he was buried in the Quaker graveyard at Mt. Pleasant, not far from his home. According to Robert G. Van Meter, who conducted a survey of historic landmarks in Frederick County for the Works Progress Administration in 1936, "Miss Sarah Zane had the grave enclosed with a fence but the grave is not marked". Miss Zane and another sister of Isaac's, Hannah Zane Pemberton, received the bulk of his estate, with legacies to both Elizabeth and Isaac III.¹¹

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 8, Page 8

At the time of his death, Zane was still in debt, mostly to his brother-in-law, John Pemberton, largely due to the fact that he was not paid for much of what he supplied for the Revolution, and because of his extensive land holdings, most heavily mortgaged. Although Zane tried to sell property during the 1780s, he was unsuccessful and he fell deeper and deeper into debt. In addition, as a brigadier general of the Virginia Militia after the war, he paid soldiers, widows and heirs pensions, often without reimbursement. The iron works was in ruins by 1783 and the house "was in dire need of a new roof".¹² Valley historian, T. K. Cartmell states that: "Lewis Stephens, in the year 1756, built a stone house, the ruins of which are now to be seen at the old iron works of the late Gen. Isaac Zane".¹³ This was the "Stone Mansion-House, two stories high, 40 by 20 feet" advertised for sale in the 1780s by Isaac Zane and most likely the outer walls of the dwelling at the Old Forge Farm.¹⁴ At the time Zane was trying to sell his holdings, he drew a map showing his home and its proximity to the waterways and road. (Copy of the broadside and map are attached.) John Bivens, Jr., in his well-documented article, *Isaac Zane and the Products of Marlboro Furnace*, believes the sketch map, was drawn by Zane for sales purposes. In 1797 Zane's executors deeded the property to Josiah Watson. The house and mills are mentioned in a deed of 1850 when Phillip Swann conveyed the property to Frances Miles. During the time the property was owned by Michael Geismen between 1875 and 1883, there was a serious fire at the dwelling.¹⁵ (The deed refers to Zane's old forge and merchant mill and sawmill).¹⁶ Rebuilding took place and Lake's 1885 *Atlas of Frederick County* marks the dwelling and the owner as Christian Ebersole. A fire at the mill occurred during the last decade of the nineteenth century. The owner from 1900 to 1920, D.C. Brill, made repairs and "installed modern appliances including a steel waterwheel twenty-nine feet high."¹⁷

Stephens Fort, the popular name for the hexagonal-shaped icehouse on the property was also called Zane's Magazine.¹⁸ Traditional lore says it was used for protection during the French and Indian War. It is most likely the "compting house" Zane described in his 1783 broadside. Further investigation may reveal an important relic of pre-Revolution usage. During the twentieth century the building was a museum and is now a storage place for many of the items previously displayed there.

L. L. Link bought the property in 1924. A fire on May 15, 1930 did heavy damage to the mill and burned the covered bridge that connected Frederick County and Shenandoah County. Link lost a great deal of value in the fire and was very discouraged.¹⁹ His son-in-law, T. T. Dicks, was the owner of the property in 1954 and told visitors that Link offered the stone in the furnace to the State Department of Highways for rebuilding the bridge. The new concrete bridge is shown on a 1932 highway map, slightly east of the former covered bridge.²⁰ The current owner, Gene Dicks, is the grandson of L.L. Link, and he recalls working at the mill in his youth. He also recalls times when repairs were made to the house.

Dicks was responsible for an archaeological investigation on the property in 2002 conducted by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia that revealed evidence of Middle Archaic and Late Woodlands Periods occupation on the property, 5000 B.C. to 1600 A.D. The

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia**

Section 8, Page 9

site (44FK546), located to the southwest of the property across Fawcett Run, produced over 2,400 points, including Gilford points from the Middle Archaic period and Clarkville points from the Late Woodland period. Surface collection was done on twenty-five foot squares. The plow zone is ten inches deep. Shovel Test Pits (STPs) were done at twenty-five foot intervals. In addition to the points some pieces of Woodland pottery were found. Materials revealed included quartzite, quartz, chert, chalcedony, and flint. In a STP in the northeast corner flakes of siliceous limestone were found on the edge of the Conococheague Geological Belt. Five three-foot squares were opened, the deepest one being four feet in square one. Analysis of the site is ongoing according to Marcus Lemasters, archaeologist representative of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the ASV.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 8, Page 10

ENDNOTES

¹ O'Dell, Cecil. *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia*. Marceline, Missouri, Walsworth Publishing Company, 1995. P.311. Deed book citations are given in several secondary sources, O'Dell's is the most comprehensive. The author of this nomination checked deed records at the Frederick County Court House.

² The current owner of the property is the Grandson of L. L. Link, who purchased the Old Forge Farm in 1924, and his recollections of information from his Mother and Grandfather are used in this narrative history. There is also an account of the mill's history in The Baltimore Sun, August 18, 1928, and of the fire in The Winchester Evening Star, May 16, 1930.

³ Samuel Kercheval first published *A History of the Valley of Virginia* in 1834 and he recounts conversations with survivors of the events mentioned.

⁴ The Papers of George Washington/Colonial Series 4, Nov. 1756-Oct.1757, edited by W.W. Abbott, UVA Press, 1984.

⁵ *Isaac Zane's Marlboro Ironworks/A Colonial Iron Plantation 1763-1795*. Thesis by Karen G. Cooper for MA in History at James Madison University, May 1991, p.10. Cooper has made an extensive study of Zane, using primary sources.

⁶ Ibid, p. 37.

⁷ *Some Old Homes in Frederick County, Virginia*. Garland R. Quarles. Revised edition 1999, p. 281. Many of the sources listed in the Bibliography recount this same information from primary sources, but Quarles is the most succinct.

⁸ John Bivins, Jr.'s account "Isaac Zane and the Products of the Marlboro Furnace" and Karen G. Cooper's "Zane's Marlboro Ironworks-A Colonial Iron Plantation 1763-1795" give detailed descriptions.

⁹ Quarles, p.282.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Zane Family Correspondence 1761-1806, Microfilm, Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, VA, from the collection at The Pennsylvania Historical Society. Again the information is best related in Karen Cooper's thesis. She also details the production at the furnace before and during the War. John Bivins, Jr., *Isaac Zane and the Products of Marlboro Furnace* in *The Journal of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts*, Vol. 11, No. 1, May 1985.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 8, Page 11

¹³ Cartmell, T. K. *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants; A History of Frederick County, Virginia, From its Formation in 1738 to 1908*, p. 437.

¹⁴ Sale Broadside, copy in Isaac Zane Collection, Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library, original in Pennsylvania Historic Society Collection.

¹⁵ VanMeter, Robert G. WPA Historical Inventory. *Zane's Iron Works*. Also Frederick County Deed Book 78, page 364.

¹⁶ Frederick County Deed Book 92, page 337.

¹⁷ *The Sun*, Baltimore, Maryland, Thursday, August 1929

¹⁸ Wayland, John W. *Scenic and Historical Guide to the Shenandoah Valley*. Page 57.

¹⁹ The Winchester Evening Star, May 16, 1930, page 1.

²⁰ This information is related in a letter to Mr. Link from Mr. J.D. Capron, President of Glamorgan Pipe & Foundry Co., Lynchburg, Va., dated October 22, 1954, and in telephone conversations with VDOT representatives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 9, Page 12

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abbott, W.W., editor. *The Papers of George Washington/Colonial Series 4, Nov. 1756-Oct. 1757*. UVA Press. 1984.

An Atlas of Frederick County, Virginia. Strasburg, VA: G.P. Hammond Publishing, 1997.

Ansel, William H. Jr. *Frontier Forts Along the Potomac and Its Tributaries*. Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing Company, 1984.

Baker, Norman L. *French & Indian War in Frederick County, Virginia*. Winchester, VA: Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 2000.

Bivins, John Jr. *Isaac Zane and the Products of Marlboro Furnace*. *Journal of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts*. Vol 11, No. 1, May 1985. Pages 15-61. Winston-Salem, NC: Old Salem Inc.

Brindenbaugh, Carl. *The Colonial Craftsman*. Phoenix Books, The University of Chicago Press, 1961.

Cooper, Karen G. *Isaac Zane's Marlboro Ironworks/A Colonial Iron Plantation/1763-1795*. A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty of James Madison University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, Department of History, May 1991.

Ebert, Rebecca A. and Teresa Lazazzera. *Frederick County, Virginia-From the Frontier to the Future*. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1988.

Frederick County Circuit Court. Deed Book Vols. 1, 11, 76, 92, 98, 126, 146, 152, and 528. Will Book Vols. 1 and 3.

Hotchkiss, Jed. editor. *The Virginias*. Maps of furnace 1880, Vol. 1 and 1882, Vol. 2. Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, VA.

Isaac, Rhys. *The Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790*. Williamsburg, Institute of Early American History and Culture 1882.

Kalbian, Maral. *Frederick County, Virginia: History Through Architecture*. Winchester, VA: Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 1999.

Kercheval, Samuel. *A History of the Valley of Virginia*. Harrisonburg, VA: C.J. Carrier Company, reprinted 1994.

Mitchell, Robert D. *Commercialism and Frontier: Perspectives on the Early Shenandoah Valley*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1977.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 9, Page 13

Moore, Merle D. *Iron Furnace/The Magnet*. Winchester, VA: self published, 1996.

Moss, Roger W. Jr., *Isaac Zane, Jr. A "Quaker for the Times"*. Virginia Magazine of History and Biography. July 1969. Vol. No. 77, Pages 291-306.

O'Dell, Cecil. *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia*. Marcelline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1995.

Quarles, Garland R. *Some Old Homes in Frederick County, Virginia*. Second Revised Edition, Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 1999.

VanMeter, Robert G. *Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory-Zane's Iron Works*. 1936. Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, VA.

Wayland, John W. *Scenic and Historical Guide to the Shenandoah Valley*. Dayton, VA. Joseph K. Ruebush Company. 1923.

_____, *Historic Homes of Northern Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia*. Staunton, Virginia: The McClure Company, Inc., 1937.

Winchester Evening Star, May 16, 1930, Page 1.

Zane Collection, (642 THL/WFCHS), and Zane Family Correspondence 1761-1806, Microfilm, Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives, from the collection at The Pennsylvania Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

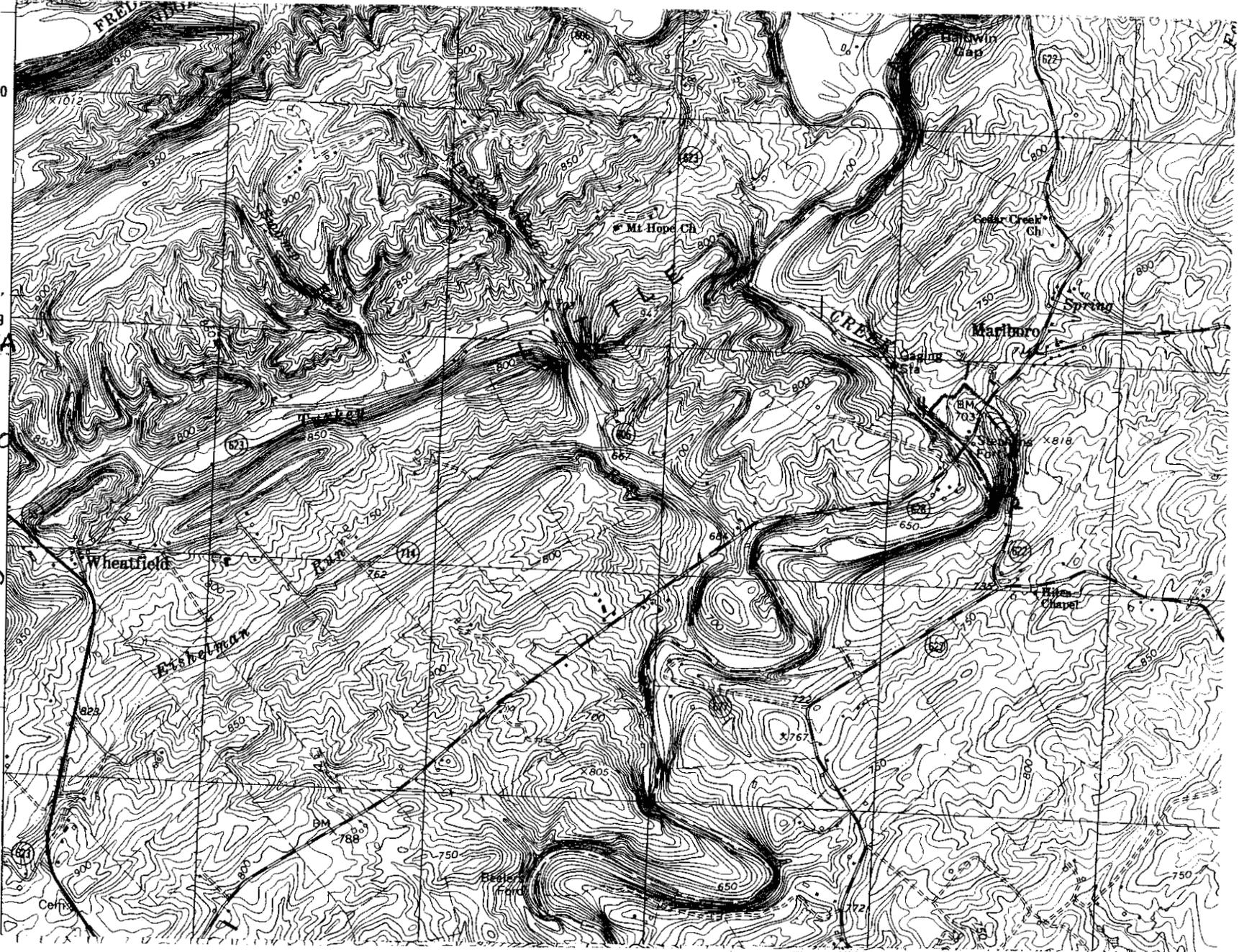
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLD FORGE FARM
Frederick County, Virginia

Section 10, Page 14

Boundary Description: Beginning at point on Cedar Creek above the Mill immediately opposite a ditch, thence leaving the Creek and running with said ditch north twenty-eight and one-half E. 14 poles to the Mill Race: thence with the middle of said Race N. 26 degrees E. 12 poles: N. 38 degrees E. 11 ½ poles to a Bridge, thence leaving said Race and running with a fence S. 57 ½ degrees E. 21 poles to a stake near the main road, thence S 36 ½ degrees E 54 poles with the road leading to Middletown, to a double sycamore on the top of a hill, thence continuing with the said road S. 1 ½ degrees E 22 poles, S 8 W 3 poles N 47 degrees W 45 poles, thence down the cliff to the creek, say about 5 poles to near a Spring but not to include the Spring, thence with the meandering and middle of Cedar Creek to the beginning containing 29 acres, more or less. Frederick County Deed Book 152, page 333 conveying the property to L.L. Link.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property was conveyed to Gene Dicks, the present owner in 1988. No surveys have been completed since the Link Deed cited above. The property contains the historic buildings, structures, and sites associated with the property since the eighteenth century.



OLD FORGE FARM
FREDERICK COUNTY, VA

- UTM REFERENCES:
- 1. 17/731300/4328880
 - 2. 17/731520/4328400
 - 3. 17/731420/4328400
 - 4. 17/731120/4328730

MIDDLETOWN
QUAD