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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ORIGINAL

Roaring Run Furnace was a hot-blast, charcoal furnace using water power. It consisted of one stack (8-1/2' x 36') and supporting wooden buildings. The center of the furnace was a hugh kettle. Surrounding the kettle is a hollow space which vented the hot gases from the firebox below the furnace. Running around the kettle in the hollow spaces were air ducts.

The water wheel located in the trough in front of the furnace drove the high billows that forced air through the ducts causing the air to become super heated and then blowing the air into the charcoal fire and resulting in a fire - hot enough to melt the ore and limestone.

Slaves pushing wheel barrows up the ramp connecting the hill with the top of the furnace would charge the kettle with layers of limestone and iron ore. The limestone would act as a flux to separate the iron from the other minerals in the ore. When the cooking was done, the molten iron was poured into sand molds. Small blocks were called pigs and large blocks called sows. The remaining blue-green residue was called slag.

PRESENT

Stone ruins and scattered pieces of slag.

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SPECIFIC DATES 1832 - 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roaring Run furnace was built in 1832 according to Lesley's Directory, by Mr. Robertson.

It was rebuilt in 1847, probably in an effort to compete with Pennsylvania anthracite furnaces. The economies effected were not enough, and the furnace was abandoned in December of 1845.

In 1859, Roaring Run was owned by F.B. Deane and Samuel C. Robinson. Iron from this furnace was exceptionally good, and it is not surprising that the furnace was again rebuilt early in the Civil War.

The furnace only operated during warm weather; the winter was used for burning charcoal and digging ore. Although it was stated that the furnace had a capacity of 10 tons a day, the average production for 35 weeks was actually only 3 tons a day.

Rearing Run went back in blast probably in 1861. Iron was used locally for the war effort, but most of the pig iron was shipped to the Tredegar Iron Works at Richmond. In order to control the entire output of this furnace, Anderson of Tredegar rented the iron works in December 1864. The production was negligible and the plant was abandoned thereafter.

SIMAJOR HIBL OGRAPHICAL PEFERENCES		
"The Iron Manufacturer's Guide", by Lesley (18	859)	
"The Virginias" (1382)		
John D. Capron, Lynchburg, Va. Lynchburg Co	ollege Library (papers of)	
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see attached for SHPO's approval -	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	
In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance isNationalFEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE	he nomination to the State Review Board and to	
TITLE	DATE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL	AL REGISTER	
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Federal Representative Signature

Title

Keeper of The National Register

CITY, TOWN

Roanoke

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ORIGINAL

The original Iron Plantation at Roaring Run consisted of the industrial complex itself plus support facilities to maintain it and the approximately 100 men and like number of oxen, horses, and mules. The keystone of the complex was the 36' tall 3 tuyere furnace stack. Built of dressed local stone, it was originally connected to the flanking hillside by a charging bridge over which iron ore, limestone flux, and charcoal was wheeled and dumped into the central, bricklined cavity of the stack. At the furnace front was attached a casting house where the molten iron was formed by sand molding processes into pigs and sows. The waterwheel which stood just west of the stack powered the tub bellows which either stood above or on an adjacent leveled embankment. Additional wooden structures would have included charcoal & ore sheds, stables, blacksmith shop and probable forge as well as stables, workers' houses, iron masters house, general store, etc. Transportation routes, iron and limestone mines and colliers' pits would also be present in the surrounding environment.

PRESENT

The iron stack still stands in excellent repair. The stone lined and supported waterwheel pit remains as well as stone walls on the hill face. In an archaeological context, the remains of building foundations, casting activities post supports etc. should be present. Evidence of slag, iron ore, limestone, and molded iron are visible.

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SPECIFIC DATE	ES 1832	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT	
1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X_1800-1899 1900-	XARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC —AGRICULTURE —ARCHITECTURE —ART —COMMERCE —COMMUNICATIONS	CONSERVATION CONSE	LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
PERIOD PREHISTORIC	AR ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHCOMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORY

Roaring Run Furnace was built in 1832 and rebuilt in 1847 to compete with the Pennsylvania Anthracite furnaces. Losing the competition, it was abandoned in December 1854. Owned by F.B. Deane and S.C. Robinson in 1859, it was soon producing iron for the war effort. Noted for its exceptionally good iron, it once again went into blast in 1861. Although some iron was used locally to support the war effort, most was transported to the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond. To better control production, the furnace was leased by the Tredegar Works in December, 1864. Roaring Run was probably never in blast in the Post-Civil War period.

SIGNIFICANCE

The furnace was significant on the local, state, and federal levels. Locally the furnace affected thousands of acres of land around it through deforestation and mining as well as impacted the employment possibilities and quality of life of local human populations. On the state level, the iron industry moved money, commodities and people into the western portion of the state providing a larger population base and accounting for patterns of human demography. On the national level, Roaring Run provided a necessary commodity to the cannon and armourments. Archaeology of stack area has great potential to lend insights into 19th century iron industry.

The Iron Manufacturer's Guide Lesley The Virginias 1882 "Papers of John Capron" Lynchburg College Library 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre UTM REFERENCES A 1 1 7 | 5 9 7 5 6 0 4 1 7 3 7 7 0 NORTHING VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Fenced in area around furnace and area behind which supported charging bridge (not to exceed 250' from furnace in any direction) LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE NA CODE COUNTY CODE STATE CODE COUNTY CODE II FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Charles A. Blankenship 1/3/75 ORGANIZATION DATE U.S. Forest Service (USDA) - Jefferson National Forest TELEPHONE 210 Franklin Rd., S.W. Caller Service 2900 703-982-6262 CITY OR TOWN STATE Roanoke, Virginia **CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION** STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION NO_ See attached approval (6-15-76) STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is X National XX State X Local FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE TITLE DEC 1 0 1982 FOR NPS USE ONLY HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

9 MAJOR BIBLIOG: APHICAL REFERENCES

