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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:	F-6-45
COUNTY: Frederick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Catoctin Furnace Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Catoctin Furnace

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East side of U. S. Rt. 15, twelve miles northwest of Frederick

CITY OR TOWN: Catoctin Furnace

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maryland	24	Frederick	021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☐ Private ☒ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☒ Park	☒ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: State Highway Administration
Multiple public and private

STREET AND NUMBER: (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE

STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus, College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN	STATE	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

COUNTY: Frederick

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN	STATE	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

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

The Catoctin Furnace Historic District is located twelve miles northwest of Frederick, Maryland, on U. S. Route 15. It is just west of the Frederick-Emmitsburg Turnpike, Maryland Route 806. The major portion of the District is in Cunningham Falls State Park, the remainder is privately owned.

The District is comprised of sites, buildings and objects identified in the Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks from numbers F-1230 through F-1267. With the exception of "Auburn" it is an archaeological site with some above-ground remains. Much of the terrain is covered by underbrush and woods. The MACHINE SHOP SITE (F-1240, photograph appended) illustrates the general character of the terrain at Catoctin Furnace.

The most obvious of the standing remains (1971) at Catoctin is STACK #2, "ISABELLA" built by Jacob Kunkel (F-1234, photograph appended) and its stone furnace bunk. Stack #2 is a rectangular stone structure with a stone arch in each face. Immediately behind the furnace stack is a high stone wall, the furnace bunk wall. Stack #2 was originally thirty-three feet high and nine feet by nine feet on the interior of the stack. Constructed in 1853 it produced 3,300 tons of pig iron annually in the 1890's. It was a steam-operated, cold-blast charcoal furnace. The truncated stack has vegetation growing on its top and sides.

Southeast of Stack #2 are the workers' cottages. Over fifty tenant cottages existed at Catoctin in the 1870's. Today less than a dozen of these are identifiable as the workers' cottages. The simple dwellings were constructed of log or stone. The LOG DUPLEX HOUSE (F-1260, photograph appended) exemplifies the log structures. In this case two dwellings share a common wall and a later tin "A" roof. Under the white siding can be seen the roughly hewn square logs. The gable is clapboard. The interior chimneys, one at each end, are brick.

The WORKERS' COTTAGES (F-1246 through 1253; 1260 through 1262; photograph of F-1261 appended) illustrate the stone domestic architecture at Catoctin. The house (F-1261) is very simple with an "A" roof, an enclosed chimney with a brick cap, and two window openings. On the principal facade the only openings in the standing stone wall are the door and one window underneath a porch. It dates from the early nineteenth century.

These two buildings (F-1260, 1261) are typical of the existing cottages. These structures and similar ones lining

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE F-6-45 Maryland	
COUNTY Frederick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Catoctin Furnace Historic District

#4. OWNER continued

Contact: State of Maryland, Department of Forests and Parks
Charles Sandy, Superintendent
Cunningham Falls State Park
Thurmont, Maryland Code: 24

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

both sides of a short section of Maryland Route 806, form an interesting composition and have a significant association with the entire complex.

On the west side of U. S. Route 15, just south of Little Hunting Creek, the remains of race ditches, iron control gates, stone and mortar dams, spillway race, and a race pond are still visible. The race ditch that provided water for Stack #2 and Stack #1 (F-1268), the latter totally demolished (1971), existed west of Catoctin Manor House.

To the south of the furnace stacks are a series of parallel race ditches and a raised ore-cart path which was later converted into a railroad bed. Both of these paths were used in transporting limestone from the limestone pit south of the stacks, and ore or limestone from the second pit 600 feet south of the first limestone pit. In 1969 an archaeological investigation of the races and sluices between both limestone pits uncovered the base of an IRON ORE CART (F-1265) in addition to wooden ties probably part of a narrow-gauge railroad running from the pits to the furnace. The same "dig" uncovered a mechanism interpreted as a pulley-eye and base used to haul mined limestone from the bottom of a deep quarry.

A stone foundation of unknown original use exists to the south of the furnace stack. One foundation may have supported a log structure. Two more depressions to the south of the stone foundation may have been building foundations. They are located on the east slope of the limestone pit.

The CATOCTIN MANOR HOUSE (F-1), or Iron Master's House ruins (photograph F-1 appended) stands to the north of Stack #2. It was originally a two-story structure of an "end-hall" plan c. 1800 (floor plan appended). The roof was an "A" frame and there was a massive chimney flush with the gable. The exterior of the building has been stuccoed and scored to give an appear-

Catoctin Furnace Historic District

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

ance of dressed stone construction.

By the mid-nineteenth century, Catoctin Manor House had developed into a formal, five-bay, center-hall dwelling, resulting from a two-story extension onto the west end. A short time later a two-story wing was built to the north thereby forming a "T" plan. The north end of the north wing has late nineteenth-century stone buttresses built to reinforce a cracked wall.

Left unoccupied for some time the Catoctin Manor House is in ruins (1971).

About one-half mile south of the furnace, on the west side of U. S. Route 15, AUBURN (F-1267, photograph appended), a stone mansion built c. 1802-1806, was remodeled and enlarged at a later date. The "mansion" having been built on the same tract is included. It is thought that the house was lived in by Baker Johnson, Jr., c. 1830, who at one time was a part owner of the furnace complex. Auburn could have been built in 1803 by Baker Johnson, Senior. This two-story, stone structure is five bays in length with an "A" frame roof and massive, flush gable chimneys. There is a kitchen wing of a later date. In the center of the facade is a columned portico covered by a gable set perpendicularly to the roof ridge.

Numerous outbuildings stood at Auburn including a spring house and an eighteen-foot square structure which was used as the bath house. Two twentieth-century stone pillars on Maryland 806 south of the house were entrance gates to Auburn. Just north of these two stone pillars are a series of stone walls and earthen embankments that supported a large artificial lake between c. 1845-1890. The lake was located between U. S. Route 15 and Maryland Route 806 ("What Is the Future of Catoctin Furnace? A Preliminary Historical and Archaeological Survey 1971" 51-52).

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

stonesmith's shop, barns, stables, a corn house, fifteen to twenty workers' houses; a charcoal house, a casting house and a forge.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☒ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1774 to 1904

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☒ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Catoctin Furnace complex, significant to American industrial history and industrial archaeology, and its related living quarters, illustrates the growth and development of the iron industry between 1774 and 1904--the operative period. The ability to be self sustaining proves to be unusual, permitting the company from the start to mine, refine and forge products within close proximity of each related operation and within the company-owned area. Raw material in the company-owned forests and some of the pits were adjacent to the furnaces, factories and workers' cottages, facilitating the self-sustaining quality which resulted in economic success. The facilities were expanded and "modernized" as technology advanced during the operative period.

The history of Catoctin Furnace begins in the mid-1770's when Thomas Johnson, later Governor of Maryland, a leader of the American Revolution, and his brothers, began operation of the first iron furnace at Catoctin with Stack #1 which is no longer extant (1971). Correspondence between Johnson and the Council of Safety in Annapolis (in the Archives of Maryland) confirms its existence. The exact extent of the output of the furnace making iron products for the American Revolution has not yet been determined.

In the first years of the nineteenth century Governor Johnson's brother, Baker Johnson, Senior, obtained sole ownership of the furnace. From 1803 until his death in 1811 Baker Johnson operated the furnace, expanding and developing its capacity. "Auburn," which stands to the south of the furnace was built during this period. Catoctin Manor House ruin stands immediately to the north of the furnaces and dates between 1790 and 1850.

When Baker Johnson Senior died, Catoctin Furnace was valued at $12,500. It comprised several thousand acres of land, a large blast furnace and Stack #1; a wheel and bellows; Catoctin Manor House, where the iron master was believed to have lived; two warehouses, a chopping mill, a

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

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Frederick	
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Catoctin Furnace Historic District

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Baker Johnson's heirs sold the furnace to two Mayberry brothers from Philadelphia who operated the company until 1820. It then became the property of John Brien who manufactured hollow ware. Brien modernized Stack #1, then approximately fifty years old; added a carriage house, an ice house, two mills, and a large garden.

In 1856 the next owner built Stack #2, "Isabella," the above-ground remains of which stand extant (1971). The operation which then covered 7,000 acres included railroad tracks and cars for the transportation of ore. Previously horse and mule-drawn wagons had been used.

In the mid-1850's Jacob Kunkel took over the Catoctin Furnace complex and operated the company for thirty years. Kunkel erected Stack #3, "Deborah," and added 3,000 acres to the furnace company lands. His ownership marks the peak of the furnace complex as to production and physical plant size. He employed 300 wood choppers and coal makers, 100 miners and 100 men working at the blast furnaces which operated twenty-four hours a day. He also took full responsibility for the private railroad. After Kunkel's death in 1886 there was a period in the history of the company which was plagued with financial difficulties. In an era when large-scale steel production dominated the economy of the United States, high operating costs, low prices, and decreased demand for pig iron contributed to the decline of this company.

#9. REFERENCES continued

The Architectural description was derived from the text of "What Is the Future of Catoctin Furnace? A Preliminary Historical and Archaeological Survey 1971" by J. Glenn Little II, Contract Archaeology, Inc., Alexandria, Virginia, for the Maryland State Highway Administration, 1971, pp. 49-52.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: J. Richard Rivoire, Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust; J. Glenn Little II, Contract Archaeology, Inc., 824 Arcturus on the Potomac, Alexandria, Virginia 22308.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	39° 34' 57"	77° 26' 08"
NE	39° 34' 58"	77° 25' 57"
SE	39° 34' 34"	77° 25' 55"
SW	39° 34' 33"	77° 26' 06"

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds
° ' "	° ' "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 52.8 acres

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: Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

DATE: Dec.29, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 [X] Local [ ]

Name Orlando Ridout IV

Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date December 30, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

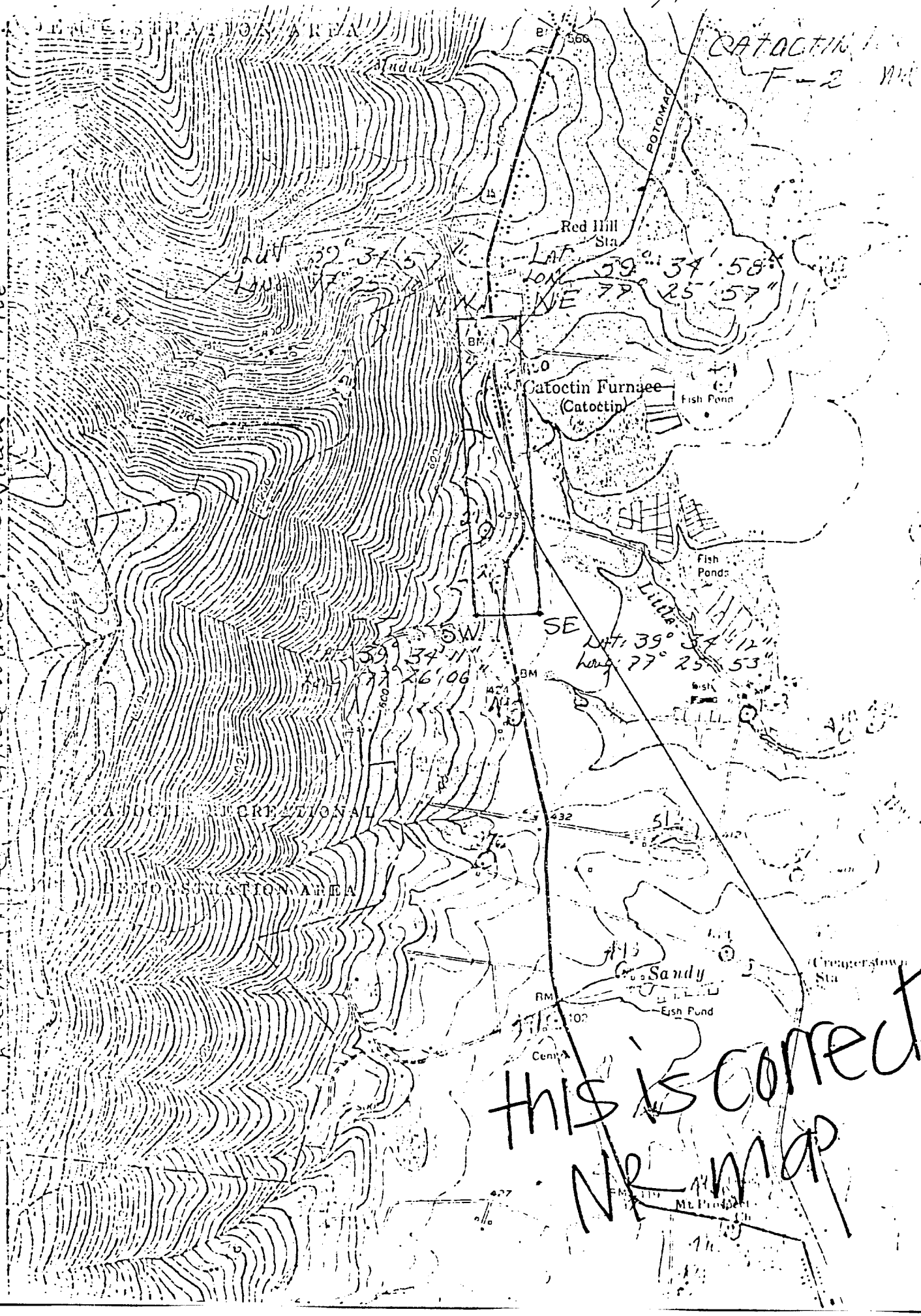
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Revised map 3/72 F-6-45



CATOCTIN F-2

this is correct NR map

Revised 3/72
Orlando Ridout IV
State Liaison Officer, Heritage Volume Preservation Act 1966

CATOCTIN FURNACE

F-2

F-6-45

Md. Historical Trust
94 College Ave.
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Michael Bourne 1967

WESTERN MARYLAND - FREDERICK COUNTY

F-6-45

CATOCTIN FURNACE

Catoctin Furnace
From top of embankment

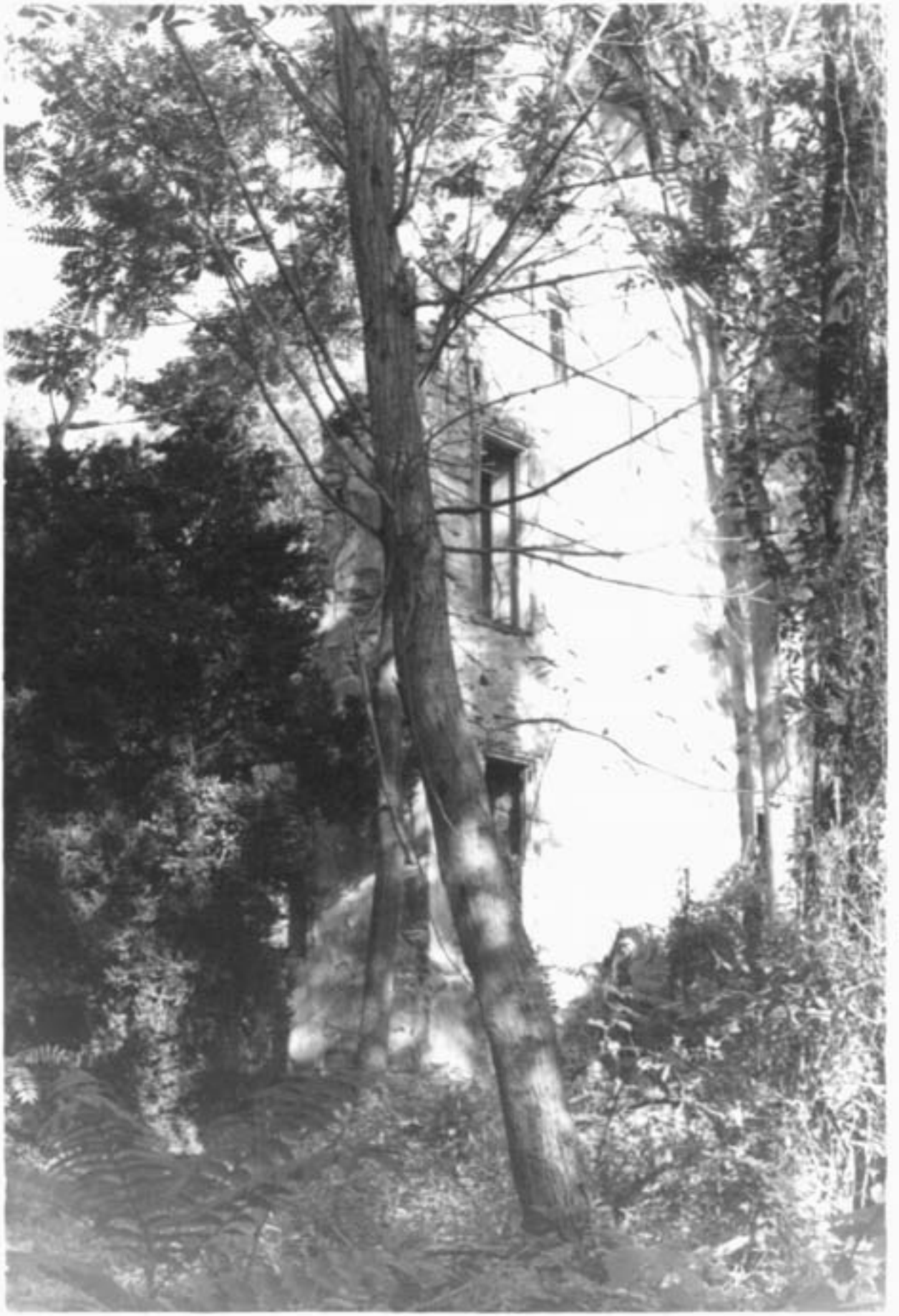
F-6-45

Catoctin Furnace

Stack # 2

F-6-45

Catoctin Furnace
close up of fire pit
showing door hinge
F-6-45



Ruin of iron-masters house near Catoctin Furnace

F-6-45

OCT • 77

F-6-45

Workers Cottage

1st one next to Ind. area

"

" 19" Owner (Anders House)

Cat - Turner

F-6-45

Stone cottage
owned by ?

Cabot Turner

JUN • 72

F-6-45

log cottage
left side going
to Catoclin Furnace
Historical Society
Right side owned by
Frank Haley
Cat Tum

OCT • 77

F-6-45

Stone
Worker's cottage

Owner
Paul Jordan

Cat. Furman

OCT • 77

F-6-45

Log cabin
owned by
Jesse Shelby

Cal. Turner

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F-6-45

Stone cottage
owned by
Clem Gardiner

Capt. Furman

OCT • 72

F-6-45

Workers
Cottage

C.W. Furman

OCT • 77

F-6-45

Warkers Cottage

Stone being restored

(Owner J. Eugene Anderson)

Cal. Turner

OCT • 77

F-6-45

Workers Collage

Cat. Furnace

OCT • 77

F-6-45

Warker's College

Cat. Furman

OCT • 77

F-6-45

Stone house
owned by?

Cat - Furman