

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Green Spring Furnace

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Maryland Route 56, about one mile west of Big Spring

CITY OR TOWN:  
Big Spring

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Washington

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Woodland with some slate quarrying being done adjacent to the site.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Charles M. Shoemaker

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Big Spring STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Washington County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 237/525

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

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

The site of the Green Spring Furnace is located on the north side of Maryland Route 56, about one mile west of the village of Big Spring. It is situated against a bluff near the Green Spring Run.

Although some ruins are faintly visible through dense undergrowth, little physical evidence of the furnace remains. Quantities of slag are to be found in the area, however.

Records indicate that the Green Spring Furnace was functioning prior to the Revolution. It was put to blast about 1770 and was operated by Lancelot Jacques and Thomas Johnson until Johnson became Maryland's first governor in 1776 and the partnership was dissolved. The furnace was sold to Rowland Chambers of Chambersburg, Pa., who owned it until 1780.

About 1848, a second furnace was erected on the site of the original establishment by J. D. Roman. After the death of Roman, J. B. Haines & Co. of Lancaster, Pa. bought the property and operated the furnace until 1873. It has remained idle since.

The Green Spring Furnace, along with the nearby Lancelot Jacques log house is marked by a state commemorative sign. Slate is currently being quarried near the site.

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Green Spring Furnace began circa 1770

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 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 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**

The importance of Green Spring Furnace lies in its contribution to the substantial early American iron industry. In addition to the production of iron, the furnace was reportedly supplying weaponry to George Washington's army at the beginning of the Revolution. No documentary evidence has been found, however, to confirm the production of cannon at Green Spring Furnace.

Thomas Johnson, co-owner of the furnace was the first governor of Maryland and an influential citizen of Maryland. Both Johnson and Jacques are said to have been friends of George Washington and visited him at Mount Vernon in 1775.

Green Spring Furnace should be recognized for its contribution to one of Maryland's most significant early industries as well as for its co-owner, Thomas Johnson's association with Maryland's early government as its first governor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Robbins, Michael W., "Maryland's Iron Industry During the Revolutionary War Era," prepared for the Maryland Bicentennial Commission, June, 1973.  
 Singewald, Joseph T., Jr., The Iron Ores of Maryland, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1911.  
 Williams T. J. C., A History of Washington County, Maryland, Hagerstown: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.  
 Information on file in the Western Maryland Room of the Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, Maryland

**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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreeage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	COUNTY:

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Washington County Historic Sites Survey      DATE: January, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Court House Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown      STATE: Maryland

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National       State       Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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