

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Johnson Furnace (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER F/S Furnace Ford Road next to Monocacy River

CITY, TOWN

Maryland

STATE

— VICINITY OF Tuscarora

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Frederick

COUNTY

Map 110 P21 52

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                 | OWNERSHIP                                  | STATUS  | PRESENT USE                                |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)     | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE           | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE       | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH              | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                  | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT          | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT     |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT        |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL        |
|  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY          |
|  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM            |
|  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
|  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS         |
|  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC        |
|  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION    |
|  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER             |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Taves Office Building

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

— VICINITY OF

Maryland 21401

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 975

Folio #: 254

STREET & NUMBER

N. Court St.

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Historical Sites in Western Montgomery and Frederick Counties

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails 1975

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

F-7-9

**7 DESCRIPTION**

|                                    |   |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>CONDITION</b>                   |   | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                   | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED         | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD      | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS                | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED |                                    |   |

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

A slag heap and charcoal pits are all that remains on the site of the Johnson Furnace. Traces of roads which led from the furnace to the forge, and elsewhere, are evident throughout the area. The area is owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and so is offered a degree of protection. A professional archeological excavation of the area is in order to find the exact location of the entire complex to find out more about its operation. Rudimentary interpretation of the area is planned for the future.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

F-7-9

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899            | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY    | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1787

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Johnson Brothers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"This furnace was part of the extensive holdings of the Johnson brothers who moved to Frederick County in the mid 1770's. They were active in the American revolution; Thomas was the first governor of the state of Maryland, and from confiscated factories they supplied the army with guns. After the war they were able to expand their holdings by buying land owned by loyalists. The family was active in the industrial development of the region. They were able to tap the mineral, lumber, agricultural and water resources of the Sugarloaf region. In their iron operations they employed large numbers of workers, including both slave and free blacks. From Sugarloaf Mountain they obtained the limestone and charcoal needed in operating the furnace. The iron ore came from Washington Junction ore beds, just outside Point of Rocks. Men fed the furnace with baskets of ore, limestone, and charcoal, keeping the furnace "in blast" as the big water wheel turned and the bellows forced air into the crucibles of molten lead. Once or twice a day the iron founder, Mr. Bennett, would order the furnace tapped and the molten iron came pouring forth into the sand molds of the casting bed. The cast iron could be transported to the Bloomsbury forge to be worked into wrought iron, or it could be shipped to Baltimore or the western frontier."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Information researched by Pat Holland and Ed Kwik for Inventory of Historical Sites in Western Maryland and Frederick Counties, Maryland. Sugarloaf Regional Trails

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alexander, John Henry. Report on the Manufacture of Iron Maryland Legislature 1840.  
Schultz, George W. Antique Iron Works and Machines Pamphlet, National Geographic Society Collection. 1927  
Singewald, Joseph T. The Iron Ores of Maryland The John Hopkins Press: Baltimore 1911.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 730 Acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Cherilyn Widell, Sites Analyst  
ORGANIZATION Frederick City Office of Historic Preservation DATE 3/6/78  
STREET & NUMBER Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St. TELEPHONE 663-8300 ext. 266  
CITY OR TOWN Frederick STATE Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

POOLESVILLE

~~DIMAS~~  
QUADRANGLE

F-7-9

27 30" 758

1 M. TO U.S. 15

5562 IV SW  
(BUCKEYSTOWN) 790

791

25

793

