

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 name Mt. Torry Furnace ^(update) 007-0871
other names/site number Virginia Furnace

2. Location

street & number Route 664, on Back Creek
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

not for publication

city or town Sherando vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Augusta code 015
zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official Date

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:

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
 National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action**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

(Do not include previously listed properties in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
		structures
		objects
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) The Iron Industry of Virginia, 1620-1920

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction
Iron Furnace

Recreation and Culture
Interpretive area of George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

foundation: Stone
walls: Stone
roof: N/A
other: N/A

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)

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

Period of Significance

1800-1853 _____
 1861-1865 _____
 1866-1892 _____

Significant Dates

_____ 1804 ca. _____
 _____ 1861; 1864; 1866 _____
 _____ 1892 _____

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 5

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>17</u>	<u>678850</u>	<u>4201475</u>	D	_____	_____
B	_____	_____	_____	F	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	F	_____	_____
	<u> </u> 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.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Heather Crowl; Emlen Myers, PhD, Project Archeologistorganization Dames & Moore, Cultural Resource Servicesdate 9-26-96street & number 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700 telephone (301) 652-2215city or town Bethesda state MD zip code 20814**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 George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, USDA Forest Service
C/O Mike Barberstreet & number 5162 Valley Pointe Parkway telephone (540) 265-5100city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24019-3050



United States Department of the Interior
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CONTINUATION SHEET

Mt. Torry Furnace
name of property
Augusta, Virginia
county and State

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Description of Historic Resources

Mt. Torry Furnace is situated at the foot of Torry Ridge, north of Route 600 and Back Creek. The furnace is located within the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in an area of young deciduous trees.

Original

The Mt. Torry iron furnace complex included the iron furnace and its support facilities, as well as structures necessary to support the workers and animals who operated the furnace. The original cold-blast charcoal stack was built in 1804; its original dimensions are unknown. It was converted for hot blast in 1853, and was 35' tall and 11' across the bosh. The furnace was constructed of dry-laid local stone with a brick chimney. It was connected to an embankment to the northeast by a charging bridge over which iron ore, limestone flux, and charcoal were wheeled and dumped into the central, brick-lined cavity. A casting house where molten iron was formed into pigs and sows in sand molds was located on the tap arch side of the furnace. The tub bellows that produced a blast were powered by a waterwheel set close to the stack. A race ran to the waterwheel north of the furnace. The furnace structures were burned during the Civil War, but were rebuilt in 1866.

Present

The extant Mt. Torry Furnace is a stone square trapezoid. The outside stone structure is about 30 feet wide, and 40 feet tall. The northeast side of the furnace has collapsed and the stack has caved in. Although parts of the exterior structure are intact, much reconstruction and stabilization has taken place since the Forest Service acquired the property. The tap arch has metal supports and is 15' wide and about 25' high. No brick or lining material is evident. Historically the furnace was approached from the north. The ramp up to the bridge to the charging deck begins to the north. There is a multi-acre slag pit between Back Creek and Route 664, southeast of the furnace. An unnamed tributary of Back Creek was the feeder source for the wheel race. Neither a wheel pit nor the tuyere arch was located; these may have been located on the side that has collapsed. A stone wall that may have supported blast equipment is northwest of the furnace.

Route 664 and two modern bridges over Back Creek represent the only non-contributing landscape features at Mt. Torry.



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Mt. Torry Furnace
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History

Mt. Torry Furnace was constructed as a cold-blast, charcoal furnace around 1804 for Robert Long. Iron from the Mt. Torry Furnace was transported on wagons to the James River and floated down to Richmond. Transportation improved when the Howardsville and Rockfish Turnpike was built. Much of the pig iron produced at Mt. Torry was sold locally. The furnace was converted to hot-blast in 1853.

In 1855, the furnace shut down due to competition with anthracite iron in Pennsylvania. It was brought back into blast seven years later after Anderson of the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond wrote a letter to the owners asking them to refire the furnace to support the Confederate Army. Tredegar bought the furnace in 1863 in order to control the entire output of pig iron, although Anderson had a hard time finding enough men to work the furnace. Brigadier General Duffie of the Union Army burned Mt. Torry in 1864. Preparations were made to rebuild the furnace, but plans were not undertaken until after the Civil War. Mt. Torry changed hands many times, and was called Virginia Furnace after 1878. The furnace finally went out of blast in 1892.

The USDA Forest Service has installed an interpretive sign at Mt. Torry. It reads:

Mount Torry Furnace

Built in 1804.

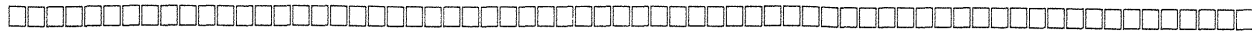
Destroyed in June 1864 During the War Between the States.

Rebuilt in January 1865 and operated until 1884.

Significance and Integrity

Mt. Torry is a representative example of nineteenth-century architecture and landscape associated with iron production. The furnace reflects the trends in furnace construction during this time period in Virginia. It was built on the plan common to the early nineteenth century, and later altered in an attempt to compete with more modern iron production methods employed in the north.

The activities of Mt. Torry Furnace altered the local landscape through deforestation for charcoal production, and brought money and people into this area of Virginia. Mt. Torry follows closely the history of iron production in Virginia as a whole. Like many of Virginia's iron furnaces, Mt. Torry was constructed in the early nineteenth century, shut down in the 1850s due to northern competition, resurrected during the Civil War, again declined following the war, and finally was defeated by competition following a brief revival in the 1880s. Mt. Torry Furnace gained national importance as a key producer of iron for the Confederacy during the Civil War and as the target of destruction at the hands of Union Troops.



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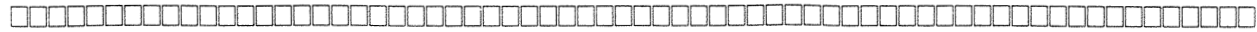
Mt. Torry Furnace
name of property

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The potential for archaeological investigation is significant at Mt. Torry. Research could provide information about workers' living conditions, ethnicity, and economic background. Transportation of raw materials and finished products could be investigated as well as the relations between the rural furnace and the urban manufacturer, Tredegar Iron Works. The furnace and surrounding features could contribute information on iron extraction technology, innovation, and change through time.

Although Mt. Torry Furnace is deteriorating, important features of the complex are still evident. The area contains information which could contribute to our understanding of the nineteenth century iron industry in Virginia. Mt. Torry is on the National Register of Historic Places.



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Bibliography

- Capron, John D.
1968 *Mt. Torry Furnace, Augusta County*. Personal Files of John D. Capron. Typescript dated December 11, 1968. Lynchburg College, Virginia.
- Lesley, J. Peter
1859 *The Iron Manufacturers Guide to the Furnaces, Forges and Rolling Mills of the United States*. New York: Wiley.



NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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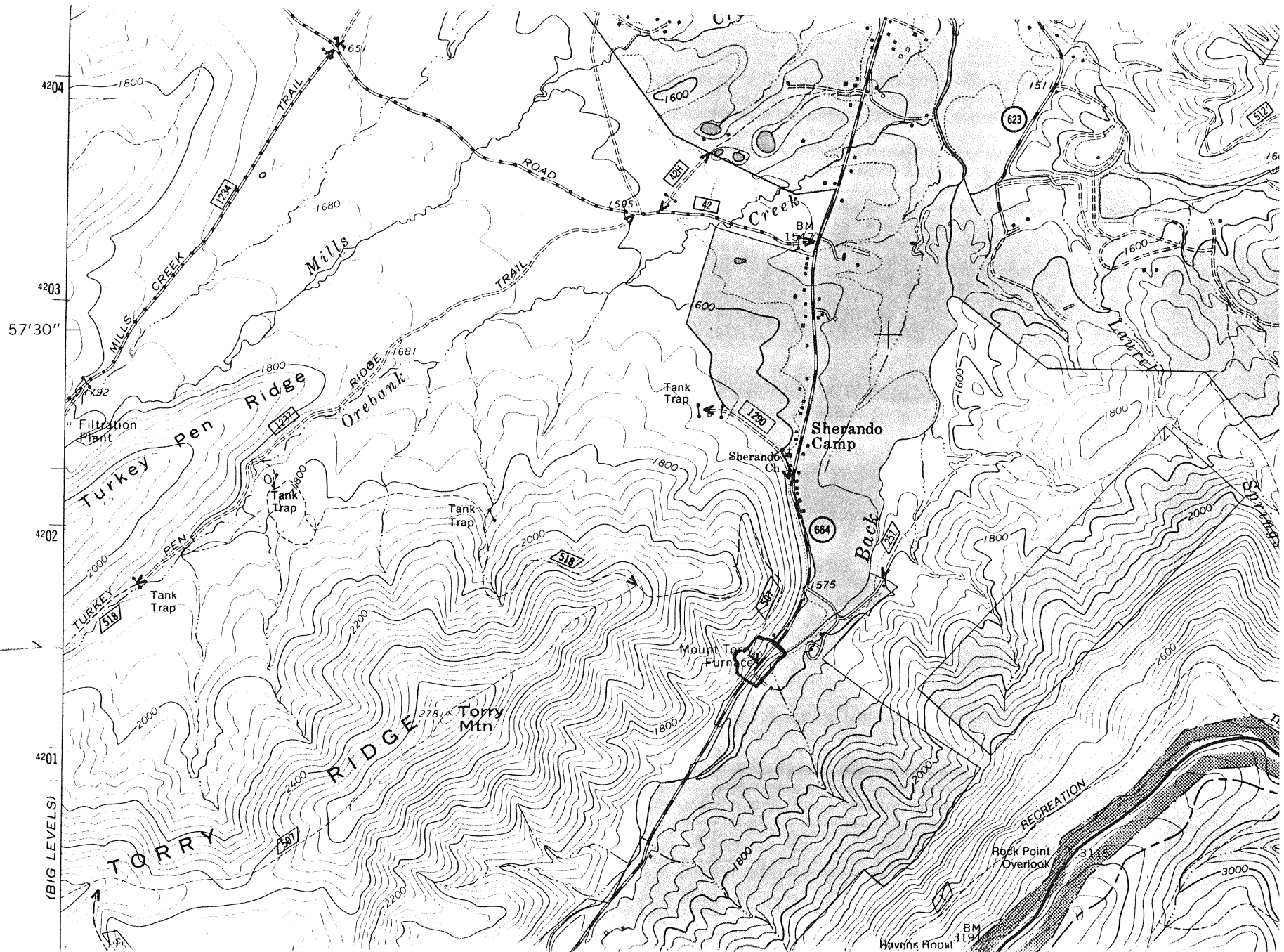
Mt. Torry Furnace
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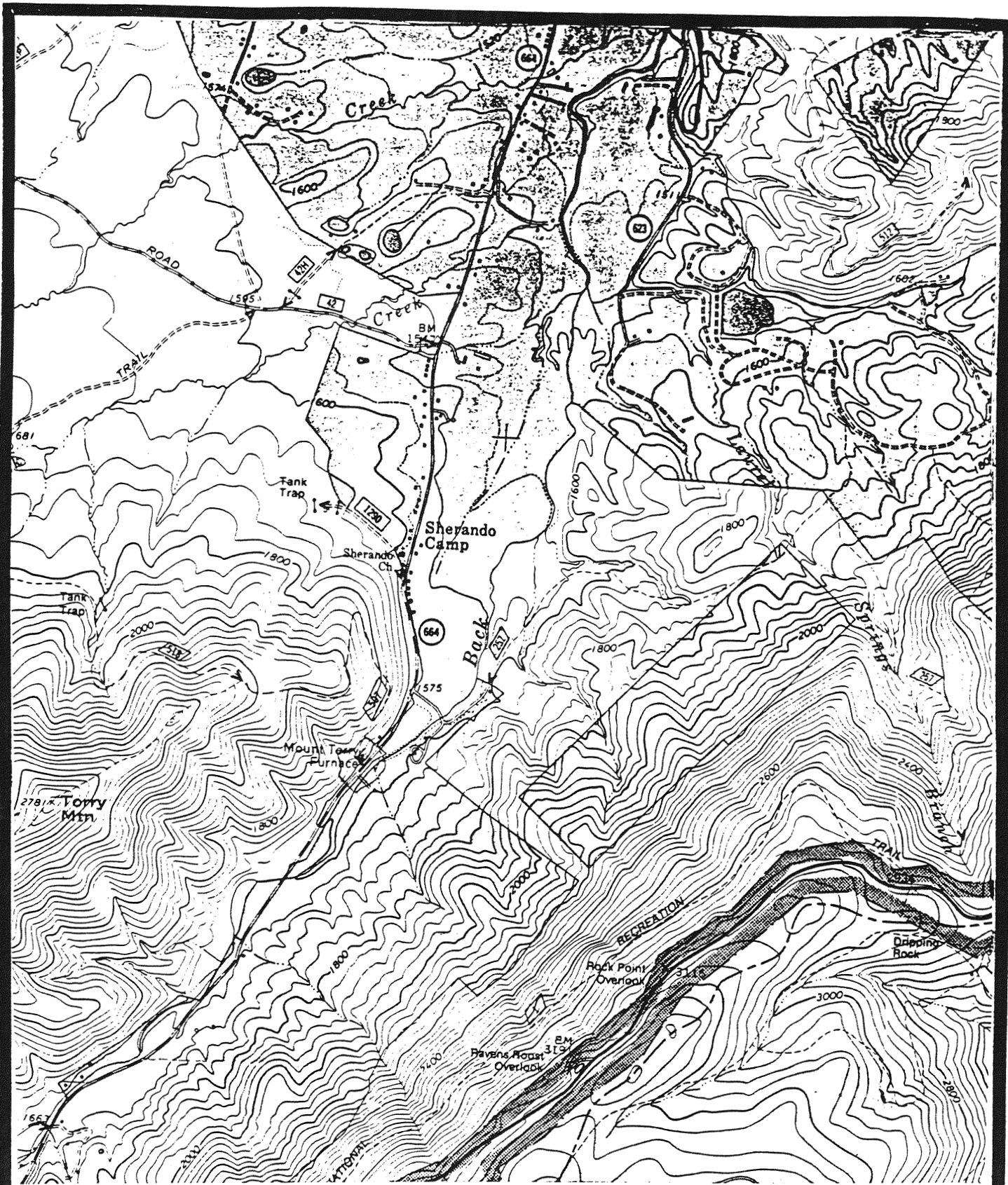
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Boundaries

The Mt. Torry Furnace property is bounded on the southeast by the Back Creek, on the southwest by a modern bridge, on the northwest by the 1680 foot contour line, and on the northeast by a modern residence. The boundary includes the furnace, race, slag pile, and all other possible features and supporting structures that retain integrity and are likely to yield information about the nineteenth century iron industry in Virginia.

Howler Trail





MT. TORRY FURNACE

Sherando, VA Quadrangle, 1967, Photorevised 1980

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Maps Page 1

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