

VLR - 6/15/76 NR40-3/2/83  
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 Roaring Run Furnace

other names/site number Deane's Furnace

2. Location

street & number Route 621, on Roaring Run Creek  
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

city or town Strom not for publication vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Botetourt code 023

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)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- 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>      </u>	buildings
<u>  4  </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>  7  </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
	<u>  0  </u>	objects
		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   1  

Name 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)*

Industry/Processing/Extraction

Iron Furnace

*Current Functions*

*(Enter categories from instructions)*

Recreation and Culture

Interpretive area of the

George Washington and

Jefferson National Forests

**7. Description**

*Architectural Classification*

*(Enter categories from instructions)*

No Style

*Materials*

*(Enter categories from instructions)*

foundation: Stone

walls: Stone

roof: N/A

other: Brick-Lined Stack

*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)

Period of Significance

Architecture  
Industry

1832-1854  
1861-1865

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1832  
1847  
1865

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>597450</u>	<u>4173825</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 By**name/title Heather Crawl; Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historianorganization Dames & Moore, Cultural Resource Servicesdate 9-30-96street & number 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700telephone (301) 652-2215city or town Bethesdastate MDzip 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 Parkwaytelephone (540) 265-5100city or town Roanokestate VAzip code 24019-3050

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Roaring Run  
*name of property*

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### Description of Historic Resources

Roaring Run Furnace is situated on the north bank of Roaring Run Creek, on Route 621. The furnace is located within the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, in an area of young deciduous trees.

### Original

The Roaring Run iron furnace complex included the iron furnace and its contributing facilities, as well as facilities necessary to support the workers and animals who operated the furnace. The original hot-blast charcoal stack was 36' high, and 8.5' across the bosh. The furnace was constructed of dry-laid local dressed stone. The blast was heated through recirculation around the furnace. Roaring Run 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 hot-blast were powered by a waterwheel set southwest of the stack. A tail race ran from the wheel to Roaring Run Creek. The furnace was reconditioned in 1847 and 1861 in an effort to increase output.

### Present

Roaring Run Furnace is in good condition. It is a square trapezoidal stone furnace with two tuyere arches and one tap arch. Each arch is fairly intact, although some stabilization has taken place in the hearth areas exposed within the arches. The interior stack is intact except for collapsed sections near the hearth which permit access.

The wheel pit walls are extant, as is the under-flowing, stone-lined tail race. The tail race only exists for about ten feet before it is filled in, and its remaining course to the creek is unknown. The retaining walls that line the ridge on the west and northern edges of the furnace are intact, although they may have been reconstructed for the furnace interpretation.

The casting area is on the east side of the furnace, parallel to the ridge. A stone retaining wall about twenty feet from the furnace's east face is aligned on a north-south axis parallel to the furnace face opposite the tap arch. It follows the slope of the ridge, providing a terminus for the casting area. This terminus is roughly ten feet above the furnace floor, where it meets the retaining wall of the charging area. The retaining wall along the western edge may have held blast equipment. A sheet metal cap covers the top of the charging deck.

About twenty feet northwest of the furnace, two piles of ore sit ready for charging. Two hundred feet north of the furnace a road leads to a possible charcoal storage area. A pile of charcoal appears to have been dumped from the road; however, due to the existence of reconstructed collier pits nearby, the charcoal pile may not be original. The immediate area appears heavily mined for ores used in the furnace; several cuts, test trenches, and pits exist within a few hundred feet of the furnace, as do several piles of large ore pieces.

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Southwest of the furnace is a trench feature that is aligned with the height of the falls on the creek. It may have been part of the head race or flume way to the furnace. Because there are similar pits in other areas of the site and no further evidence of the flume, it is not possible to confirm the function of this feature. After acquiring the property in 1937, the USDA Forest Service repaired areas of the furnace with portland cement to prepare the furnace for interpretation.



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## History

According to some sources, Roaring Run Furnace was built around 1832 for Samuel C. Robinson of Richmond; information from 1935 lists a millwright named Flaherty as the builder of the tub bellows. Other resources record the lease of the furnace in 1844 by Langhorne and Scruggs to Samuel C. Robinson. In 1844, the furnace had a contract to supply J. R. Anderson with pig iron. This hot-blast charcoal furnace used running water provided by Roaring Run, a tributary of Craig Creek, for power. It originally had a 36' high stack that measured 8 1/2' across the bosh. The furnace is located five miles from the James River. The property included numerous livestock, a grist mill, and a sawmill. A lot in Lynchburg was used to store pig iron from Roaring Run Furnace.

In 1847 the furnace was rebuilt in an effort to compete with Pennsylvania anthracite furnaces. The present lintels in the tuyere arches are marked as having come from Jane Furnace located twelve miles east of Roaring Run; Jane Furnace was abandoned in 1850. Roaring Run furnace was incorporated by Samuel C. Robinson, F. B. Deane, Jr., and George C. Wright in 1850. In 1851 Langhorne and Scruggs sold the furnace to F. B. Deane, Jr., who became an equal partner with Samuel C. Robinson. The renovation and attempt to compete with Pennsylvania was unsuccessful and the furnace was abandoned in 1854.

The furnace only operated during the summer; charcoal production and ore mining took place during the winter. The Roaring Run mines were located near the furnace. Iron was transported on boats towed by two horses on the James River and Kanawha Canal. Roaring Run Furnace is also near the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and on the Richmond & Allegheny Railway. In addition to canal and rail routes, most of the estate was accessible by fairly good roads. The Covington and Fincastle turnpike, a well graded road, crossed the property. Other roads traversed most of the property, leading to the James River, the opened ore mines, and to Baldwin Station on the Richmond & Allegheny Railway. The railroad connects with rails to the east and west, and allows access to the coking coals and iron markets of the Ohio River.

Roaring Run Furnace was brought back into blast in 1861. Some of the iron was processed in a local foundry to produce "hollow ware", but most was shipped to Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond. Tredegar leased the furnace in 1864 in order to control the entire output, and to supplement the iron produced in other furnaces that were damaged by General Hunter's Union Forces. However, the output of Roaring Run Furnace was insignificant and the furnace was abandoned in 1865. Although the property was sold a number of times after this, the furnace was never brought back into blast.

In 1880, J. H. Bramwell purchased the property, and considered constructing a new furnace; no evidence that this was undertaken has been found. In 1882 Harry L. Horton of New York purchased the area. He made elaborate plans to operate a modern coke-blast furnace with a sixty-five foot high stack. However, this was never constructed and Horton only sent shipments of ore to existing furnaces. The USDA Forest Service acquired the property in 1937, and developed it into an interpretive picnic area with hiking trails. Roaring Run Furnace was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

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### Significance and Integrity

Roaring Run iron furnace is in good condition and is a representative example of nineteenth-century architecture associated with iron production in Virginia. It reflects the nationwide trends in furnace construction during this time period. It was built in the plan common to the early nineteenth century, and later altered in an attempt to compete with iron producers in the north.

The activities of Roaring Run Furnace altered the local landscape through deforestation for charcoal production, and brought money and people into the area of the Valley of Virginia. Roaring Run Furnace parallels the struggle of Virginia iron works to compete with northern producers, and the industry's eventual failure after an episode of growth during the Civil War.

The potential for archeological investigation is significant at Roaring Run Furnace. 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 would yield information on iron extraction technology, innovation and change through time. Roaring Run Furnace is also an important area for education and recreation.

Although areas of Roaring Run Furnace have been reconstructed, important features of the original complex are still evident. The area contains information that could contribute to our understanding of the nineteenth century iron industry in Virginia. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.



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**Bibliography**

Capron, John D.

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Hotchkiss, Jed, editor

1882 *The Virginias.*

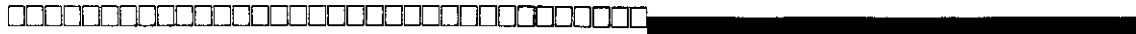
1888 *Report on Roaring Run Iron Estate, Botetourt County, VA.* Staunton, Virginia: The Staunton Vindicator Print.

Lesley, J. Peter

1859 *The Iron Manufacturers Guide to the Furnaces, Forges and Rolling Mills of the United States.* New York, Wiley.

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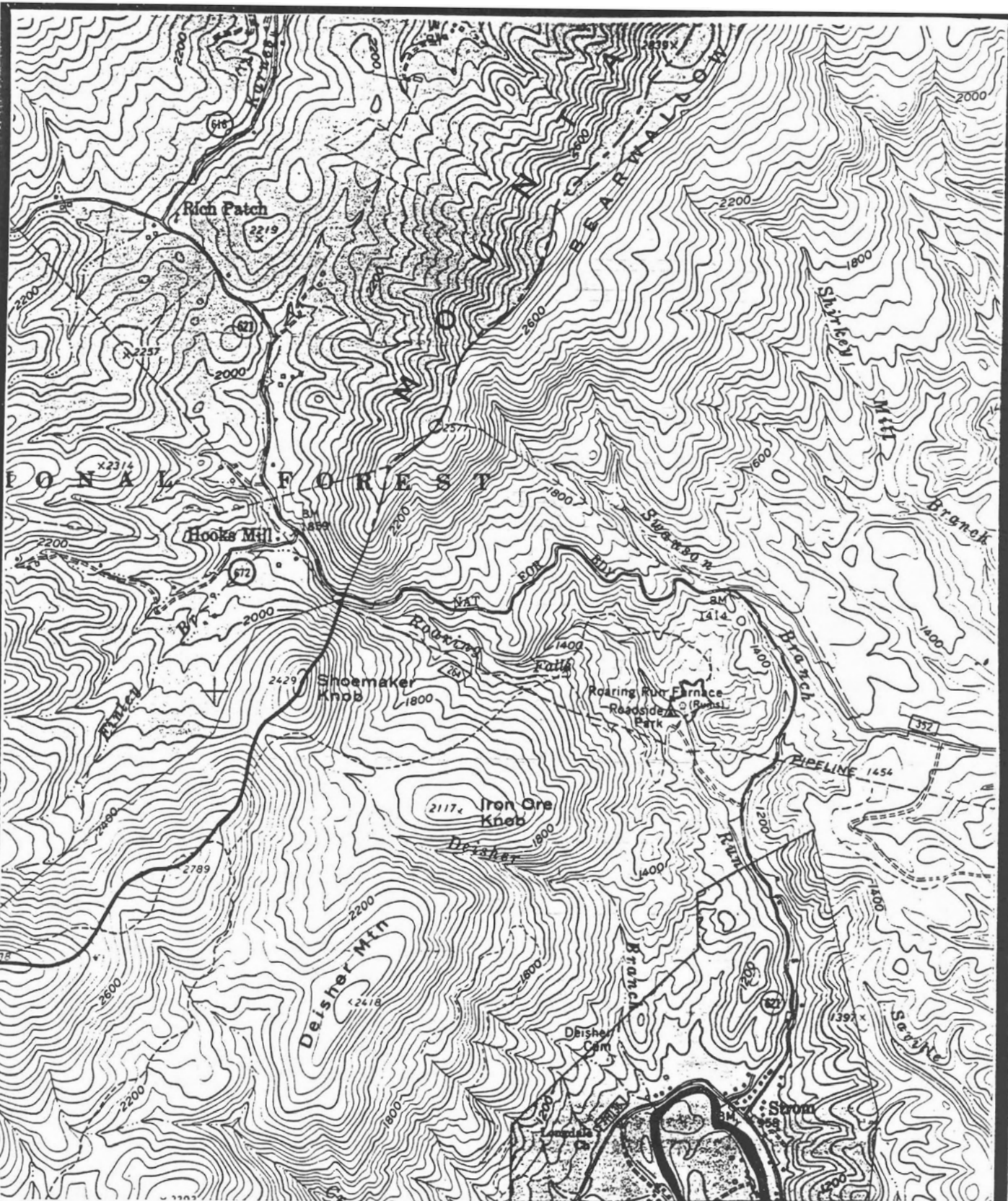
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**Boundaries**

The boundaries of the Roaring Run Furnace property are Roaring Run, its unnamed tributary, and the 1200' contour line. The boundary includes the furnace, race, charcoal storage area, mine cuts, retaining walls, and all other possible features and supporting structures that retain integrity and are likely to yield information about the nineteenth century Virginia iron industry.



ROARING RUN FURNACE Strom, VA Quadrangle, 1962, Photorevised 1979