

VLR-7/17/73 NRHP-1/21/74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Page
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Catherine Furnace

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2 miles west of Newport on FDR 685

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Seventh; J. Kenneth Robinson

STATE: Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY: Page CODE 39

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industria	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. AGENCY**

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
George Washington National Forest

CITY OR TOWN:  
Harrisonburg

STREET AND NUMBER:  
210 Federal Building

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE  
51

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Page County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Luray

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE  
51

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
N/A

DATE OF SURVEY:  
Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Page

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Catherine Furnace was constructed in 1836. The furnace is pyramid in shape constructed of handlaid stone without the use of mortar. Originally the furnace interior was 8 feet in diameter and 32 feet high above the firebox. The furnace was designed to be loaded from the top with iron ore, limestone, and charcoal. Because of design, most all of the Virginia iron furnaces were built on the side of a hill. Another necessary ingredient needed in adequate and continuous supply was water. The water was used to turn a large water wheel which in turn operated the air bellows.

Catherine Furnace is still in good condition. The service structures that were once associated with this type of industry are long gone, but the presence of the stone structure is sufficient to bring back memories of the days gone by.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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)

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"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This furnace was instrumental in producing high quality pig iron that was used in the Mexican and Civil Wars. An article that appeared in Volume 3 of "The Virginias" states that "During the Mexican War of 1846-1847, every shot fired and shell thrown at the enemy was shipped from this Furnace." The article further referred to the fact that this furnace made shells for the Confederacy. History also states that the furnace was enlarged at the time of the Civil War. Facts leading to the rebuilding are incomplete at this time. The furnace could have been destroyed by Union forces and rebuilt or rebuilt to gain greater efficiency. In either case, the output of Catherine Furnace greatly increased. For various reasons, the furnace never went back into blast after the war. It was abandoned in 1885.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Virginias, Volume 3, page 90  
 Personal files of John D. Capron, Lynchburg, Virginia  
 A short history of Page County, Virginia, by H. M. Strickler, 1952

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
NW	0		"	0		"	78°	38'	10"
NE	0		"	0		"	38°	33'	28"
SE	0		"	0		"			
SW	0		"	0		"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>MELVIN L. ANHOLD, Recreation Staff Specialist</u>		DATE: <u>May 11, 1973</u>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <u>George Washington National Forest</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>210 Federal Building</u>		PHONE: <u>433-2491</u>
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Harrisonburg,</u>	STATE <u>Virginia</u>	CODE <u>51</u>

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>State Liaison Officer Signature</i></p> <p>In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Federal Representative Signature</i>                      <i>Date</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Title</i></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



472

471

1 MI. TO U.S. 340  
STANLEY (VIA U.S. 340) 9 MI.

4269

4268

4267

33° 33' 28"

32' 30"

51° 08' 28"

38° 53' 26"