

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Farrandsville Iron Furnace

other name/site number: Lycoming Coal Co.

2. Location

street & number: LR 18011 (N/A) not for publication

city, town: Colebrook Twp. (Farrandsville) (N/A) vicinity

state: PA code: PA county: Clinton code: 035 zip code: 17734

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: structure

Number of Resources within Property:

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	buildings
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	structures
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	TOTAL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the
National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Iron and Steel
Resources in Pennsylvania 1716-1945

4. 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. See continuation sheet.

Brent D. Glass

7/3/91

Signature of certifying official

Date

Brent D. Glass Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
10 industry

Subfunctions
10A manufacturing facility

Current functions
98 vacant/not in use

Subfunctions

7. Description

Architectural Classification

other: 99 iron furnace

Materials

foundation	<u>N/A</u>	roof	<u>N/A</u>
walls	<u>42 sandstone</u>	other	<u>N/A</u>

Describe present and historic appearance:

X see continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

_ Nationally X Statewide _ Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: 160 industry
110 engineering

Period(s) of Significance: 1836-1838

Significant Dates: 1836

Years of Alterations: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical ReferencesX See continuation sheetPrevious 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:X State Historic Preservation Office Other state agency Federal agency Local government UniversityX Other - Specify Repository: Clinton County H.S., Lock Haven10. Geographical DataAcreage of property: .10 acre

UTM References: Farrandsville

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>		<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	18	289080	4561000	C			
B				D			

 see continuation sheetVerbal Boundary DescriptionX see continuation sheetBoundary JustificationX see continuation sheet11. Form Prepared Byname/title Diane B. Reed, Historic Preservation Specialistorganization PHMC/BHPdate March 15, 1991street & number P.O. Box 1026telephone (717)787-8045city or town Harrisburgstate PA zip 17108

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Farrandsville Iron Furnace

The village of Farrandsville is located six miles west of Lock Haven on the northern shore of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

The iron furnace is located approximately one quarter mile from the Susquehanna River, 400' north of Lick Run. It is 43 feet square at its base, and the existing masonry is 54 feet high. The distance across the casting and tuyere arches is 18 feet, 6 inches. The furnace bosh is about 16 feet in diameter. The furnace is constructed from finely cut sandstone. The masonry is close fitted, with extremely narrow masonry joints. The bosh is lined with refractory brick.

The furnace is located between LR 18011 to its east and a ridge to its west from which the charging ramp originally extended. The furnace is located between a frame residential building to its south and a vacant frame building to its north. Neither were associated with the furnace.

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Farrandsville Iron Furnace, is nominated under Criterion A, in the area of industry, as a rare survivor of an early attempt at significant innovation in the Pennsylvania iron industry. The furnace represents one of the first attempts in America to adopt coke as blast furnace fuel, in combination with one of the first applications of hot blast technology. The first attempt had occurred at Oxford, New Jersey in 1835. Farrandsville also meets Criterion C for engineering, demonstrating some of the most outstanding masonry work found in iron furnace construction. The furnace retains its historic design, workmanship and materials. Further, the Farrandsville Iron Furnace is distinguished as one of the largest iron furnaces in the country.

Financed by a group of Boston capitalists, construction of the Farrandsville Iron Furnace began in the winter of 1836 probably supervised and designed by Edward Thomas, an immigrant from Wales. Utilizing stone quarried on the mountain directly behind the site, the master English stonemason John P. Salmon completed the 54 foot high blast furnace in 1837.

Farrandsville was one of the earliest furnaces in America to utilize the "hot blast" method of making iron. James Ralston was one of the first to use the new hot blast technology in Scotland, and Thomas enticed Ralston to come to America. Arriving in the Spring of 1837 with hot blast pipes imported from Scotland, Ralston supervised the installation of the machinery and pipes at Farrandsville.

Farrandsville also represents one of the earliest American attempts to use coke as fuel. The furnace was fueled by coke made from bituminous coal mined at nearby Minersville and was transported to the furnace by inclined plane. At the time of its completion, Farrandsville was one of the largest blast furnaces in America, with a prodigious capacity of 50 tons per week. The only furnace exceeding it in size was the Lonaconing Furnace in Western Maryland, which was also fueled by coke.

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However, the supply of iron ore proved to be a fatal problem for the furnace, with the closest supply over one hundred miles distant. Despite the presence of the West Branch Canal, which had arrived in Farrandsville in 1834, the cost of transporting the ore from Columbia via the canal, and flux (shipped from the Nittany Valley), coupled with the decreased demand for iron following the 1837 Panic, forced the furnace to close in 1838. There is no substantiated record of its ever being placed back in blast.

Farrandsville's ultimate failure points to the difficulties faced in assembling the materials to make iron in a relatively isolated location, dependent on transportation of raw materials. Ultimately, this led to the predominance of western Pennsylvania, particularly the Pittsburgh area as the center for coke fueled blast furnaces because of its more favorable access to raw materials, particularly bituminous coal.

The end of iron production did not mean the end of industrial activity in Farrandsville, and subsequent businesses included a refractory brick enterprise, a cigar company, and several saw and planing mills. In 1902, the brickworks, which included the furnace property, was sold to the Harbison-Walker Refractories Company of Pittsburgh, which operated it until 1925. In 1951 the Farrandsville Iron Furnace was deeded to the Clinton County Historical Society by Harbison-Walker.

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Farrandsville Iron Furnace

MacCloskey, James E. Jr. A History of Harbison-Walker Refractories Inc. Pittsburgh: privately printed, 1952.

Maynard, D.S. Historical View of Clinton County. Lock Haven: Enterprise Printing, 1875.

Rupp, I. Daniel. History and Topography of Northumberland, Huntingdon...Clinton Counties, Pa. Lancaster: 1847

Thomas, Edward. Letters, 1/11/1836-3/7/1836 (transcripts)
Clinton County Historical Society, Lock Haven PA.

Walling, H.F. "Map of Clinton County." New York: Way Paller & Co. 1862.

Winters, Richard E. "Farrandsville - The Early Industrial Giant of Clinton County." ms., Clinton County Historical Society, n.d.

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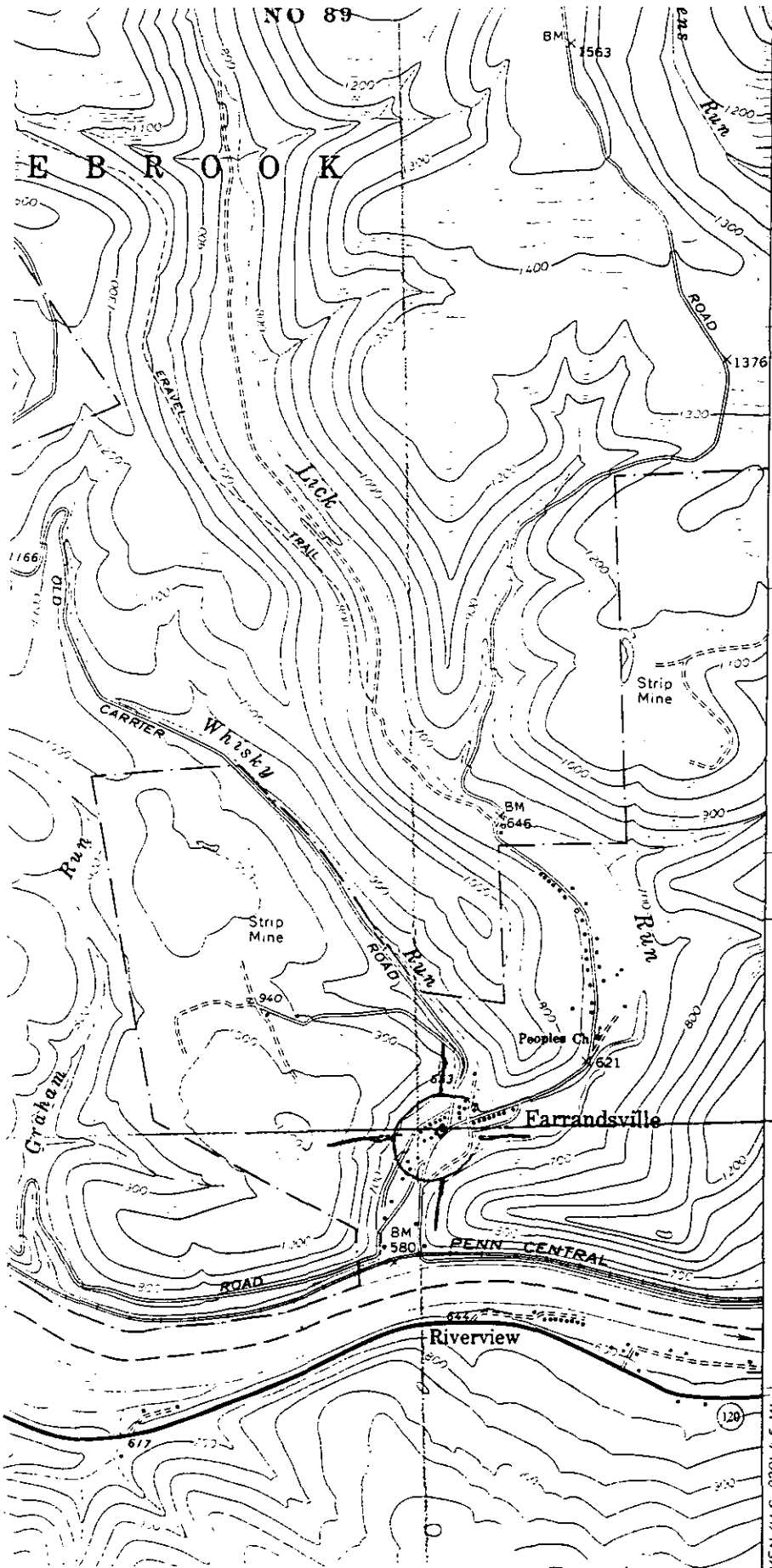
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Verbal boundary description: The boundary of the nominated property is described in the deed transfer from Harbison-Walker Refractories Co. to the Clinton County Historical Society, October 9, 1951, recorded in Book 173, page 676 at the Clinton County Courthouse, Lock Haven, PA.

Boundary justification: The boundary includes only land belonging to the Clinton County Historical Society, which owns the small parcel surrounding the furnace. Since there are few identifiable remains of the complex, and those that are extant have been compromised by later development, only the small tract of land around the furnace has been included.



12°30'
4565
4564
4563
4562
4561
10'
VEN (U S 220) 4.5 MI.

FARRANOS MINE IRON
FURNACE
CLINTON CO. PA.
FARRANOS
ZONE 18
E 299080
N 4561000
Farranos
Road