

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Paradise Furnace

other name/site number: part of Trough Creek State Park  
Mary Anne Furnace

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 5 mi. SE of Entriken, 1.5 mi. N of State Route 994

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Todd Township

vicinity: N/A

state: PA county: Huntingdon code: 061

zip code: 16685

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Public - State

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
3	_____	Total
	<u>0</u>	

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Industrial Resources of  
Huntingdon County

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.

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.

Signature of commenting or other 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: Industry/Processing/Extract Sub: Manufacturing Facility

Current : Recreation and Culture Sub: Museum Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Georgian

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation	stone	roof	asphalt
walls	stone	other	_____
	log		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.   X   See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Industry

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1798-1867      -

Significant Dates     : N/A      \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Alterations: \_\_\_\_\_

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 References

X See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- X recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # PA 061.035

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- X Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Trough Creek State Park

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 3

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	17	744090	4466000	B	17	744360	4466085
C	17	744365	4466045	D	17	744110	4465955

   See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Deborah L. Suciu - Historic Preservation Specialist

Organization: PHMC - BHP

Date: August 1989

Street & Number: Box 1026 State Museum

Telephone: (717) 783-5796

City or Town: Harrisburg

State: PA ZIP: 17108-1026

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   7  

Paradise Furnace Page #2

=====

DESCRIPTION OF APPEARANCE:

Paradise Furnace is located in Trough Creek State Park, along the Raystown Lake Recreation Area in the south/central part of the county. The buildings and structure in the historic district which survive from the period of iron production at Paradise Furnace (Mary Ann Furnace) includes the furnace stack, an ironmaster's mansion and one log worker's house, now a museum.

This site was used as an iron production facility from the late 1700's through the 1860's. It was not operated consistently but rather went in and out of blast as the economic situation varied. Besides the buildings and structures indentified within the boundaries, there is a lack of documentation regarding the historic appearance of the rest of the iron production facility. However, the topography of the land to the east of the furnace stack exhibits evidence of at least two pathways radiating from the east wall of the stack in a southerly direction their respective termini have not been identified.

The furnace stack dates from the 1830s. This coursed rubble stone furnace stack with rubble-filled walls is 28 feet square and 15-20 feet high. The coursed stone face of the furnace, left of the casting arch, is gone, exposing the interior walls and the lining of the bosh. Two stone piers of the charging bridge survive extending parallel to the east side of the stack. Twelve year old photos of the site show the stack in the same state of deterioration.

The ironmaster's mansion is a Georgian plan building that was constructed in the 1830s. It is a 50 x 35-foot, two and a half story, five symmetrical bay stone house which was stuccoed and incised to make it appear to be brick. The L-shaped structure has six-over-six windows, a gable roof with asphalt shingles and end interior brick chimneys, and new hipped roof porches on the west (front) and south. The interior has been extensively remodeled after its acquisition by the state (c. 1930's). It is presently empty.

A two-story 25 x 20-foot hewn log house, with inverted v-notch corners dates to the late 1700's. It was used by the CCC camps in the 1930's then employed as a leased camp building in the 1940's and 50's. At an unspecified date soon after the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   7  

Paradise Furnace Page #3

=====  
fifties the building was used as a museum, it was converted to a  
park visitors center/museum in 1982. It is the only survival of  
worker housing at this furnace site. It has two gable end  
chimneys one stone and one concrete block, a porch was added to  
the east side at an unknown date. A 1910 photograph of this  
house (or one like it), when it was still a dwelling, shows two  
side-by-side front doors which no longer remain although the  
western side shows evidence of a closed door.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8  

Paradise Furnace Page #2

---

SIGNIFICANCE:

Paradise Furnace Historic District is being nominated under Criterion A because of its importance in the area of industry in Huntingdon County. It was the first site in the county where coke, made from Broad Top coal, was used to fuel the furnace (Swank, p. 367-68). It is also one of the few remaining examples of a once extensive industry. The remaining contributing buildings and structure are good representatives of the iron plantation subtype of resources associated with iron production in the county.

Iron interests were first developed in this section of the county about 1798 by George Knoblaugh of Frederick, Maryland, who established a bloomery near the mouth of Trough Creek. It survived only six years, and nothing is known of its production or the cause of its eventual suspension. In 1830, Reuben Trexler, of Berks County, erected an iron furnace on Trough Creek, which operated only two years.

The enterprise was revived between 1835 and 1840 as the Savage Iron Works, and a forge was added. This period saw the arrival of William Firmstone from Shropshire, England, who applied his knowledge of coke in iron manufacture to experiments with coal from a local mine. Under his direction, this furnace became the first in the county to operate with coal for fuel, although not for very long. Firmstone continued and eventually concluded his successful iron career in Easton.

In 1841 Trexler was again in possession of the furnace, with Savage retaining the forge. P.P. Dewees, later an important figure at Rockhill Furnace #2 (HAER PA 061.051), became manager of Trexler's furnace in 1843, and the name was changed from Mary Ann to Paradise Furnace. Dewees departed in 1847; the forge ceased operation in 1850, and the furnace in 1852. The business was revived from 1862-67 by Horatio Trexler & Co., which again called on Dewees to act as manager. The operation folded permanently in 1867.

About 1915, the former iron plantation lands were acquired by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as State forest lands. In the 1930s, the area was developed as Trough Creek State Park by a resident force of CCC workers. It was at this time that the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8  

Paradise Furnace Page #3

=====  
greatest changes took place to the site. The park is now  
surrounded by the Army CORPS of Engineers, Raystown Lake project  
area.

While the extant northern plantations, for the most part,  
enjoyed steady success and continuing operations, southern iron  
operations generally did not. This resource represents a site  
with which the potential to manufacture iron was recognized at an  
early date, and was exploited erratically for almost a century.  
The Georgian style mansion has fewer of the details that the  
extant ironmaster mansions in the northern portion of the county  
display.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   9  

Paradise Furnace Page #2

=====

SOURCES:

Africa, J. Simpson. History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883), pp. 259, 336.

Crowell, Byron. Park Superintendent at Lyman Run, past Park Superintendent at Paradise Furnace 1981-1986, interview 9/8/89.

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service(unpublished, 1988).

Huntingdon County Records. Tax Assessments, Union and Tod Townships, 1796-1876.

Rainey, Lee, and Kyper, Frank. East Broad Top (San Marino: Golden West Books, 1982), p. 18.

Shedd, Nancy S. HAER consultant 1988, President-Huntingdon County Historical Society, interviews 1988-1989.

U.S. Census. Products of Industry, 1850.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   10  

Paradise Furnace Page #2

---

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at a point on the north side of the park road, 25 feet southwest from the southwest corner of the museum and heading northwest for approximately 100 feet then making a 45 degree angle to head northeast for about 900 feet. At that point the boundary turns southeast for approximately 100 feet where it turns again heading southwest for about 350 feet. From that point the boundary turns northwest for 25 feet then turns southwest for about 400 feet and again turns south for 25 feet to the north side of the park road where the boundary turns southwest, following the north side of the park road to the point of origin, about 150 feet.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary includes the identified resources associated with the operation of the iron plantation. The southernmost edge of the boundary juts north to exclude the park structures that date after the period of iron production. The historic cemetery that is associated with the iron operation is located more than 4000 feet from the district as outlined and was therefore excluded. It has been subject to minor surface disturbance and the movement of gravestones during cleaning and maintenance of the grounds. The northernmost boundary of the district did not follow the creek that runs west because of disturbance that may have changed the creek bed.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Paradise Furnace

Section number 11 Page 1

---

This nomination contains material taken directly from the unpublished report prepared in 1988 for the Historic American Engineering Record (see Bibliographical References).

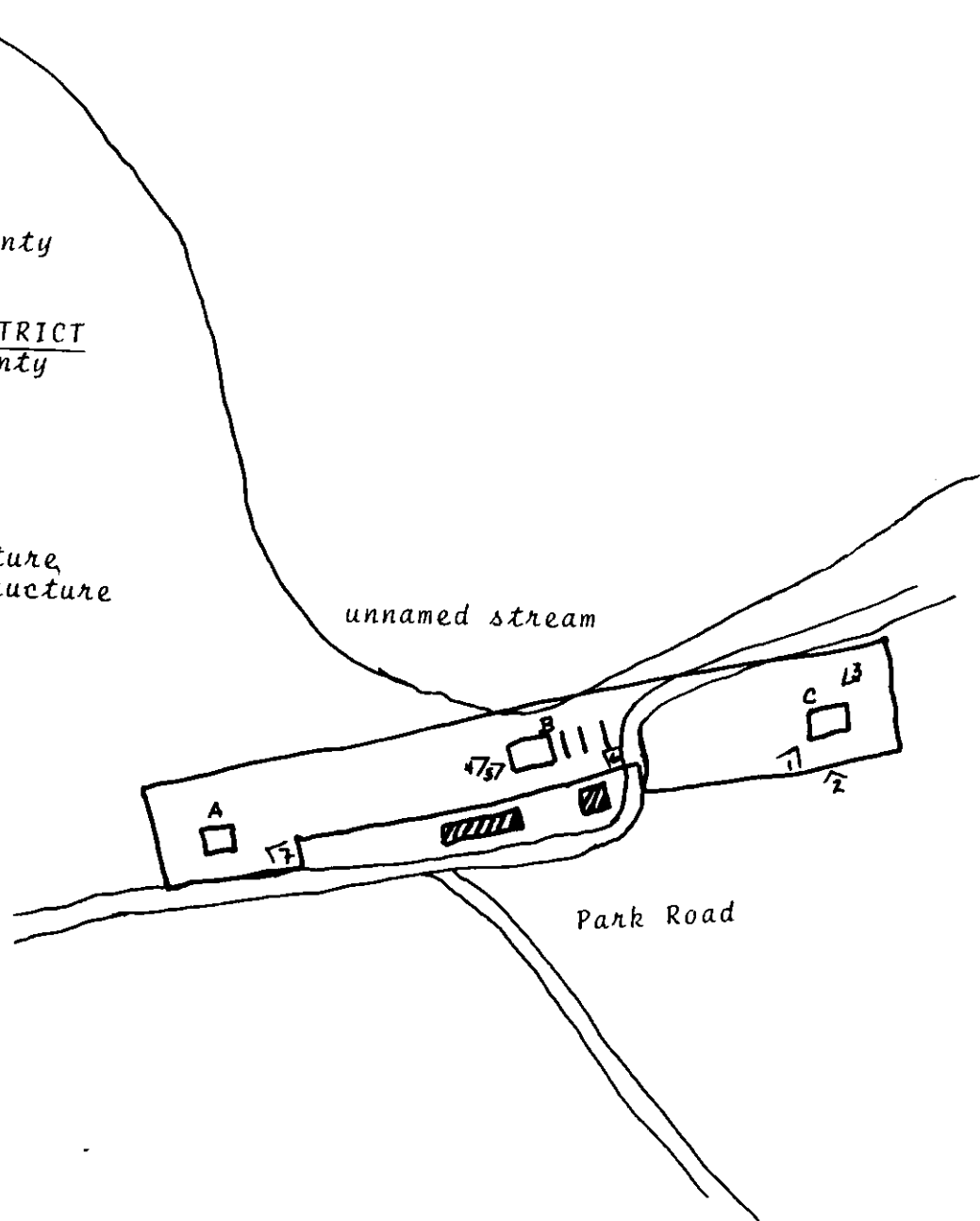
The author of that report, Nancy Shedd, is a major contributor to the text of this nomination although not the preparer.

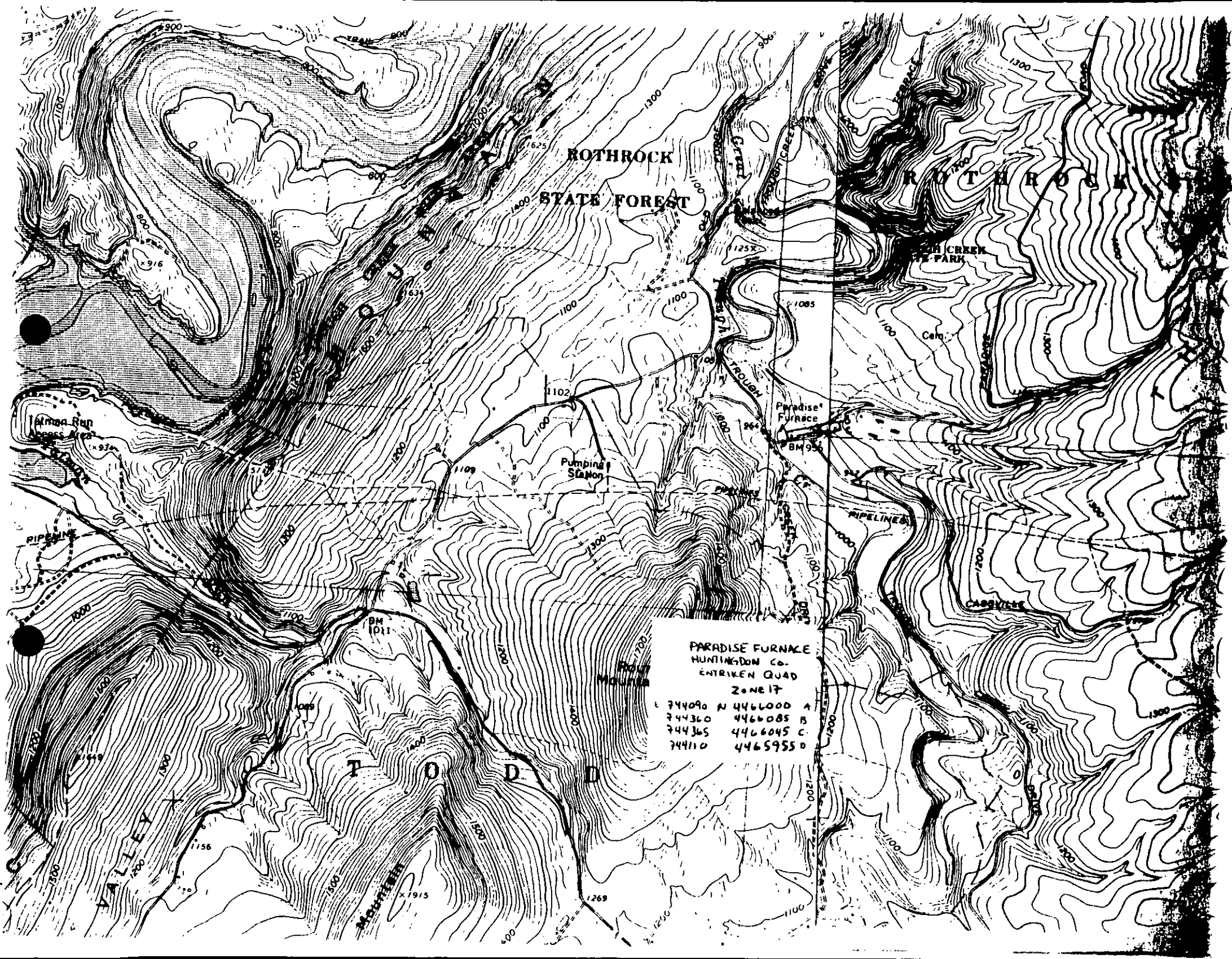
PARADISE FURNACE  
Todd Township, Huntingdon County

PARADISE FURNACE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Todd Township, Huntingdon County  
(not to scale)

- A - workers' house/museum
- B - stack and stone piers
- C - mansion house

- contributing building/structure
- ▨ noncontributing building/structure
- ↙ photo angle





ROTHROCK  
STATE FOREST

ROTHROCK  
HIGH CREEK  
STATE PARK

Paradise  
Furnace

Pumping  
Station

PIPELINES

PARADISE FURNACE  
HUNTINGDON CO.  
ENTRIKEN QUAD  
ZONE 17

744090	N	4466000	A
744360		4466085	B
744365		4466045	C
744110		4465955	

T O D D

VALLEY

ROTHROCK  
MOUNTAINS

ROTHROCK  
MOUNTAINS