

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Alliance Furnace

other name/site number: Jacob's Creek Furnace/Alliance Iron Wks.

2. Location

street & number: off T 568 at Jacob's Cr. (N/A) not for publication

city, town: Perry Township (N/A) vicinity

state: PA code:  county: Fayette code: 051 zip code: 15473

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public - State

Category of Property: site

Number of Resources within Property:

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



7. Description

Architectural Classification

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

other: 99 iron furnace

Materials

foundation N/A roof N/A  
walls 40 stone other N/A

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, D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: 160 industry  
archaeology-historic-non-aboriginal

Period(s) of Significance: 1789-1792

Significant Dates: 1789

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 # 051.054

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other - Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property: 4 acres

UTM References: Dawson

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>		<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	17	609300	4440820	C			
B				D			

\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary DescriptionX see continuation sheetBoundary JustificationX see continuation sheet11. Form Prepared Byname/title Diane B. Reed, Hist. Preserv. Spec./Chris Davisorganization PHMC-BHP/HAER date April 1, 1991street & number P.O. Box 1026 telephone (717)787-8045city or town Harrisburg state PA zip 17108

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Alliance Furnace is located in Lower Tyrone Township, Fayette County, north of Layton, on State Game Lands #296. The furnace stack ruin is located in a heavily wooded area at the end of a section of abandoned township road #568, roughly one mile from the intersection of the paved section of T 568 with SR 1002. The furnace stack is located approximately 100 feet from Jacob's Creek, approximately 2.5 miles southeast of its confluence with the Youghiogheny River. The charcoal house remains are located below the crest of the hill approximately 200' southeast of the furnace.

Because of its remote location, the ruins of the complex have not been disturbed by vandalism or later development. Thus the integrity of the site is largely undisturbed, and has excellent archaeological potential. The furnace stack remains are located in the flood plain at the foot of the hill that rises on the south side of Jacob's Creek. The imprint of the furnace stack, which measured approximately 25' square, is clearly visible, and one corner of the stack is extant. The stone-lined bosh is visible from the top of the ruins. The furnace remains are approximately 15' in height. The charcoal house, which is located southeast of the furnace on the side of the hill, measures 40'x25'x20' and its walls are approximately 15' high. The south wall of the charcoal house was provided by the side of the hill, and as such was not a constructed wall. Traces of the stone lined raceway and wheel pit are also visible southeast of the furnace stack. Both are partially filled in with soil, but the walls of each are readily discernable.

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The Alliance Furnace is significant under Criterion A, in the area of industry, as one of the earliest iron furnaces west of the Allegheny Mountains, a significant step in the westward expansion of the Pennsylvania iron industry. It is also significant as one of the first of the Fayette County iron furnaces. Along with the Juniata Valley iron industry, Fayette County became one of the primary suppliers of iron to Pittsburgh and the western markets. Because of the barrier of the mountains, Fayette County iron production was a key element in the economic and industrial development of western Pennsylvania. Under Criterion D, the Alliance Furnace has tremendous importance due to the integrity of the site. Because there was no subsequent development on the site after the abandonment of the iron works, it has meaningful potential in yielding information important to the iron industry in western Pennsylvania. This data might include the size and configuration of the buildings, as well as the products made by the furnace. Archaeological investigation also might reveal the quality of iron produced at the site. The identifiable wheel pit, race, furnace ruins, and charcoal house make this one of the most important iron sites in the region.

It has generally been thought that Alliance Furnace was the first iron furnace operating west of the Allegheny Mountains. Although it may be that Union or Little Falls furnaces went into blast before Alliance, it is certainly one of the earliest, and shows the most integrity, particularly with regard to later development on the site. It was built in 1789 by the partnership of William Turnbull, John Holker, and Peter Marmie. Best estimates are that it went into blast in 1792.

William Turnbull had been a purchasing agent and commissary for Pennsylvania troops during the Revolutionary War. Holker came to this country as Consul General of France and Agent General for the French Navy under Count D'Estaing during the Revolutionary War, remaining in the United States to go into business. Peter Marmie came in 1778 from Rouen, France, where he had worked with Holker. He had also served as private secretary to the Marquis de Lafayette. Marmie managed the business while Turnbull spent most of his time in Philadelphia and Holker in Berrysville, Virginia.

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Early records indicate that the products of the furnace included cannon, shot, shells, and howitzers, including those used by Mad Anthony Wayne in his campaign against the Indians. However, by 1793 the partners were experiencing severe financial difficulties, not the least of which was their inability to collect a large debt owed by the government of France for war materiel furnished to the Royal Marines.

In 1797 Turnbull retired, conveying to John Holker his share of the property. Holker and Marmie continued the operations. The furnace was variously known as Jacob's Creek Furnace, Alliance Furnace, Alliance Iron Works, Turnbull's Iron Works, and Col. Holker's Iron Works. After its closing in 1802, the site was abandoned.

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Bining, Arthur. Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the Eighteenth Century. Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1973.

Ellis, Franklin. History of Fayette County. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1882.

Holker, John. Papers. ms. Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh.

Sharp, Myron B. and William H. Thomas. A Guide to the Old Stone Blast Furnaces in Western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh: Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1966.



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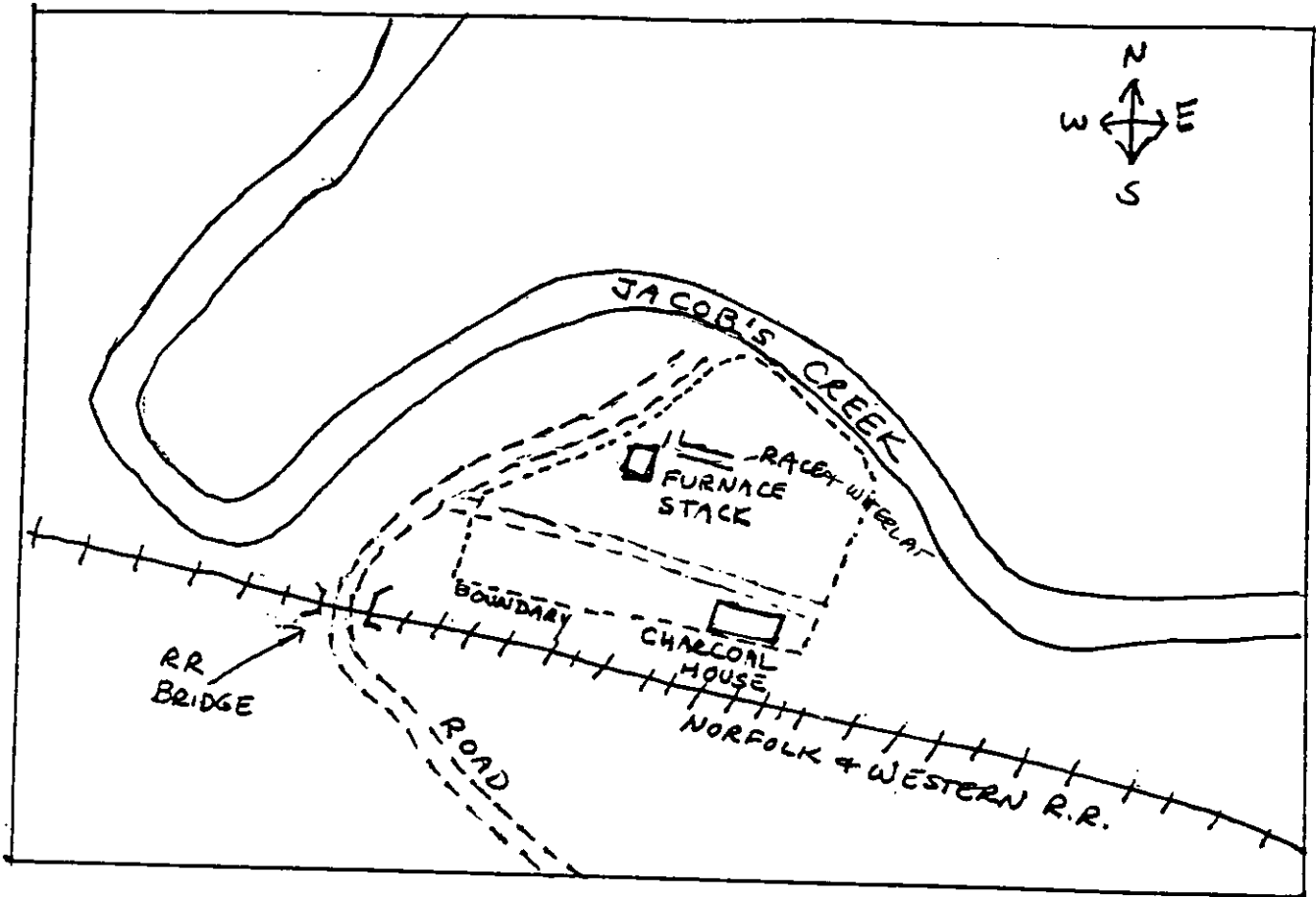
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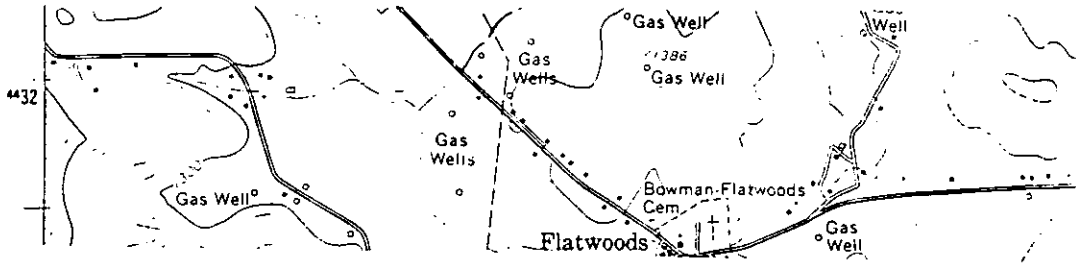
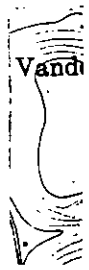
Verbal boundary description: Beginning from point D, at the edge of T 568, 1000' northeast from where the bridge of the Norfolk and Western Railroad crosses said dirt road, thence approximately 420' northeast to point A at the south edge of Jacob's Creek, thence approximately 450' southeast along Jacob's Creek to point B, thence approximately 200' southwest up the hill to the summit (point C), thence approximately 600' northwest to the point of beginning.

Boundary justification: Although part of a larger tract, State Game Lands 296, the nominated property incorporates only those remains of the Alliance Iron Works which have been identified as being associated with the furnace.



ALLIANCE FURNACE

off SR 1002, on Jacob's Creek  
(east of Tunnel Hill)  
Perry Township  
Fayette County, PA



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5066 1/2 NE  
(DONORA)

79° 45'  
40° 07' 30"

607000m. E.

608

609

442000m. N.

ALLIANCE  
FURNACE  
FRYBURN COUNTY  
DAWSON  
ZONE 17  
E 609300  
N 4440830

