

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Rockland Furnace

other name/site number: N/A

**2. Location**

street & number: T480 (N/A) not for publication

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

state: PA code: PA county: Venango code: 121 zip code: 16373

**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>3</u>	<u>—</u>	sites
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	structures
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	objects
<u>3</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 X 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 X 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>40 stone</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: 1832-1854

Significant Dates: 1832

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 References**X 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
- University
- Other - Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property: less than 1 acre

UTM References: Emlenton

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>		<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	17	605060	4465300	C			
B				D			

   see continuation sheetVerbal Boundary DescriptionX see continuation sheetBoundary JustificationX see continuation sheet**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Diane B. Reed, Historic Preservation Specialistorganization PHMC/BHP date March 6, 1991street & number P.O. Box 1026 telephone (717)787-8045city or town Harrisburg state PA zip 17108

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1Rockland Furnace

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Rockland Furnace is located in Venango County on the west bank of Shull Run, approximately one quarter mile from its confluence with the Allegheny River. The furnace is located on the heavily wooded valley floor between the creek and T480. It is situated adjacent to a cliff which runs north and south, and which was utilized as a foundation for the original charging ramp. The casting arch of the furnace faces Shull Run, and the furnace is located 100 yards below a notable but unnamed waterfall. Although the furnace is substantially intact, it shows some evidence of deterioration, particularly a noticeable bow in the northeast facade. Trees growing out of the top and sides of the stack have the potential to cause further decay. The furnace is constructed of cut stone, with arched openings on the east and south elevations. The furnace stack measures 25' square at the base, and is approximately 25' tall. The cast arch is 11' wide at the base and 10' high, while the tuyere arch is 9' wide at the base and 9' high. The west elevation against the bank is constructed with two steps. The wheel pit, and a well preserved race (which runs approximately 50' southwest from the stream to the furnace stack) are located directly northeast of the stack, and are the only other visible remains of this furnace complex.

It appears that there has been no subsequent activity at the site, and the integrity of the area immediately surrounding the furnace, race, and wheel pit is excellent.

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Rockland Furnace

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Rockland Furnace is significant under Criterion A, in the area of industry, as a representative example of the westward expansion of the Pennsylvania iron industry. At one time Venango County was a regional iron center, with twenty five iron furnaces, supplying local markets as well as the Pittsburgh rolling mills. It is also significant under Criterion C for engineering, as one of the most intact iron furnaces in Western Pennsylvania, and the best preserved in Venango County. Consisting of the furnace and a remarkably intact race and wheelpit, the nominated property retains good integrity, although there have been no specific preservation efforts made. This furnace demonstrates the distinctive characteristics of its type, and the surviving race and wheel pit add to the property's significance.

The first furnace in Venango County was established in 1824 at the mouth of Oil Creek (Crary's Furnace). Iron production in the county reached its peak in the 1840's. In 1847 there were 17 furnaces producing 12,000 tons of pig iron a year, valued at \$380,000.

Rockland Furnace was built in 1832 by Andrew McCaslin. The power for the blast came from William Craig's mill dam, which had been established in 1818 upstream from the furnace site. Little is known about McCaslin except his ultimate fate. A newspaper account relates that McCaslin and his wife drowned when the barge of pig iron they were transporting from the furnace capsized several miles downstream on the Allegheny River.

Subsequently the furnace was operated by Rockwell, Dempsey and Week, William Speer and E. W. and H.M. Davis. The Davis brothers operated the furnace until it was blown out in 1854. There has been no activity at the site since that time.

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Babcock, Charles A. Venango County Pennsylvania: Her Pioneers and People. Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1919.

Bell, Herbert C. History of Venango County Pennsylvania. Chicago: Brown, Runk & Co., 1890.

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

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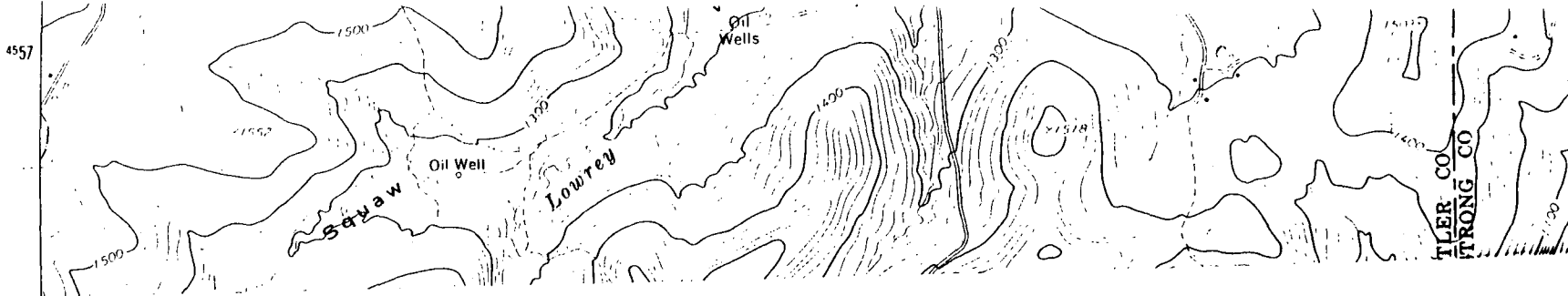
Rockland Furnace

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Verbal boundary description: The nominated property includes the furnace stack and its related race and wheel pit. Beginning at a point 100' north and 50' west of the northwest corner of the furnace stack, continuing east approximately 100' to the west bank of Shull Run, continuing south along the bank of said creek 100', then west approximately 100' to the shelf on the top of the cliff directly above the furnace, then north to the point of beginning.

Boundary justification: The nominated property includes only the furnace, its related structures, and immediate environs. There are no related sites or structures outside the boundary which are known to be significant to the furnace.

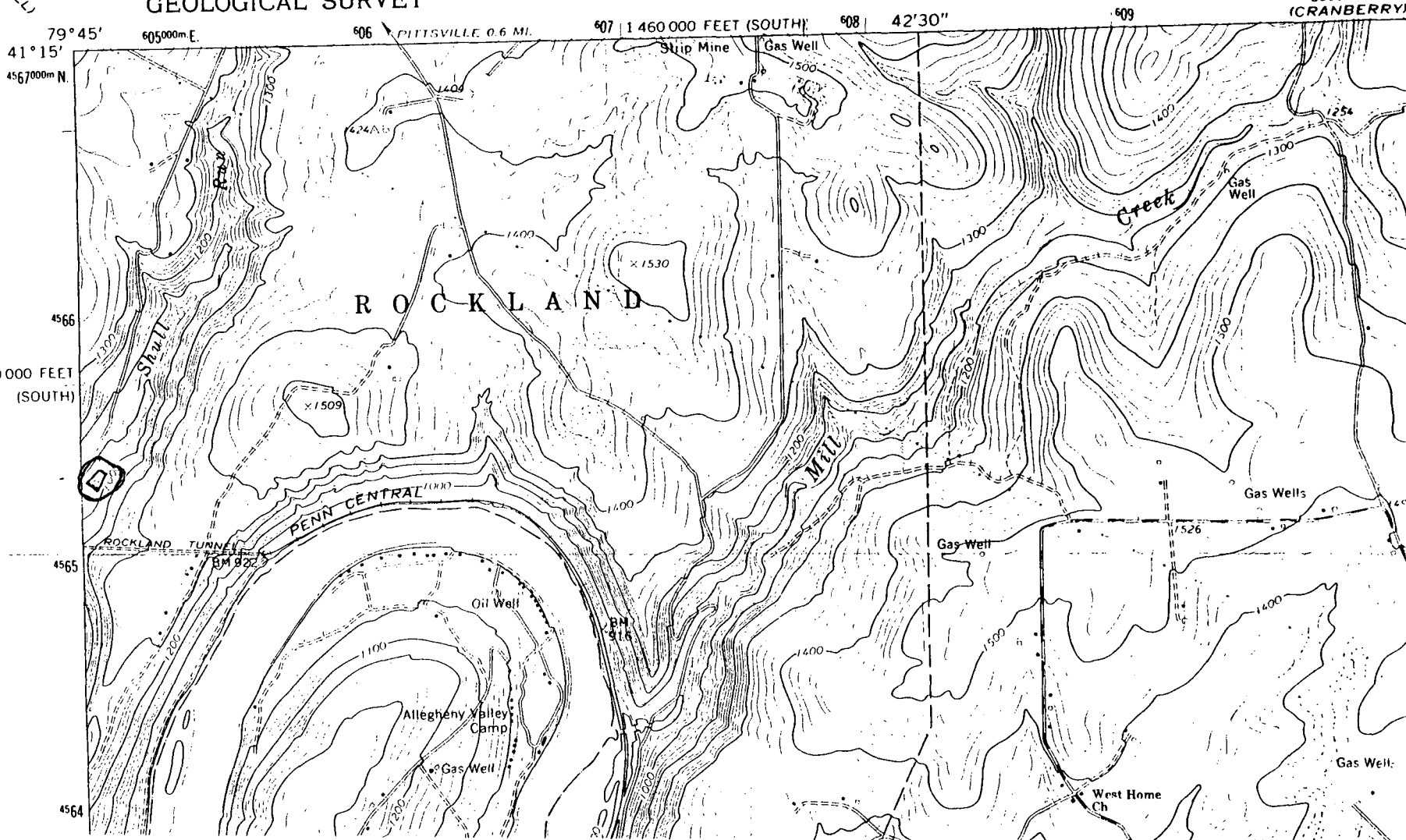




UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5066 IV SE  
(KENNERDELL)

5066 I SW  
(CRANBERRY)



ROCKLAND FURNACE  
VENANGO COUNTY  
EMULSION  
ZONE 17  
E 605060  
J 4465300