

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Vernon Furnace

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: TR 819 (Eutsey Rd.) (N/A) not for publication

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

state: PA code: PA county: Fayette code: 051 zip code: 15425

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**

<u>Historic Functions</u>	<u>Subfunctions</u>
<u>10 industry</u>	<u>10A manufacturing facility</u>
_____	_____
<u>Current functions</u>	<u>Subfunctions</u>
<u>98 vacant/not in use</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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, B, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: 160 industry  
110 engineering

Period(s) of Significance: 1795-1825

Significant Dates: 1795

Years of Alterations: 1801

Significant Person(s): Meason, Isaac

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 # \_\_\_\_\_X recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # 051.112Primary location of additional data:X State Historic Preservation Office   Other state agency   Federal agency   Local government   University   Other - Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_10. Geographical DataAcreage of property: less than 1 acre

UTM References: Connelsville

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>		<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	17	626970	4439260	C			
B				D			

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

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The Mount Vernon Furnace is located near Wooddale, on Eutsey Rd., approximately 1/2 mile off Rt. 982. The furnace is situated on a narrow terrace below a hill, which slopes gradually down to a small unnamed stream at the headwaters of Mountz Creek. The surrounding area is wooded.

The furnace is 24' square at the base, and approximately 33' high, and has two arches. It has a triangular casting arch on its southeast elevation. On an iron lintel above the tuyere arch on the southwest elevation is inscribed "MT VN 1801." Although the stack is substantially intact, the northwest elevation, opposite the casting arch has partially collapsed. While this affects its integrity, it still retains enough of its original character to make it a significant structure.

One of the most interesting aspects of the construction of this furnace is the shaped lintel stones over the furnace arches. This is an unusual feature, and this example one of the best executed among Pennsylvania iron furnaces. There are no visible associated remains or structures.

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Mount Vernon Furnace is significant under Criterion A, in the area of industry, for its association with the westward expansion of the Pennsylvania iron industry. Mount Vernon was also one of approximately 20 furnaces in Fayette County, which became the first regional iron center in western Pennsylvania. Because of the geographic isolation of the western iron furnaces there was little competition from the east, or from Europe. The cost of transportation, along with the barrier of the Allegheny Mountains, isolated the growing iron industry of Fayette County, which became one of the most important iron producing areas in western Pennsylvania. During the early days of Pittsburgh industries, most of the iron required was provided by the Juniata Valley, Fayette County, and other regional iron producers. Mount Vernon is also eligible under Criterion C for engineering as an excellent example of a stone blast furnace. The stack shows remarkable integrity, and the shaped lintel above the cast and tuyere arches demonstrate the craft of the stonemason. As David Weitzman states in Traces of the Past, "as much as the structure was a smelting furnace, it was also a monument to the ironmaster himself." Mount Vernon is also significant under Criterion B for its association with Isaac Meason, prominent ironmaster and entrepreneur of western Pennsylvania. Meason was the owner of a number of enterprises, including the first commercially successful iron furnace in the region, Union Furnace (1791). He also owned Center and Ross Furnaces, as well as the Plumsock Rolling Mill. Plumsock was the first rolling mill in the United States, beginning operation on September 15, 1817. At the time of his death in 1818, Meason owned more than twenty thousand acres of the best coal and iron land in western Pennsylvania. His Georgian home at Mount Braddock (near Uniontown) still stands, and is one of the most architecturally outstanding homes in western Pennsylvania. It has been designated a National Historic Landmark. Meason's various ironmaking and other enterprises represented a substantial industrial network in the region, of which this is the sole remaining intact structure.

The Mount Vernon Furnace, constructed in 1795, was rebuilt in 1801. Meason subsequently sold the property to David Barnes and David B. Long, who continued producing pig iron and castings at the site until the furnace was blown out in 1825. Franklin Ellis, in his History of Fayette County states that Mount Vernon

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Mount Vernon Furnace

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was a small stack, but well managed, and employed about 60 men. The furnace made kettles and other molded wares.

Ore from the furnace was mined at Ore Mine Hill, located three quarters of a mile south of the site on the west face of Chestnut Ridge.

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Abraham, Evelyn. "Isaac Meason, the First Ironmaster West of the Alleghenies." Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine. Vol. 20, no. 1, March 1937.

Bining, Arthur Cecil. "The Rise of Iron Manufacture in Western Pennsylvania." The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine. Vol. 16, no. 4, November, 1933.

Deibler, Dan G. National Historic Landmark Nomination, Isaac Meason House. 1990

Ellis, Franklin, ed. History of Fayette County Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts Company, 1882.

Fort Necessity and Historic Shrines of the Redstone Country. Uniontown: Fort Necessity Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution., 1932.

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

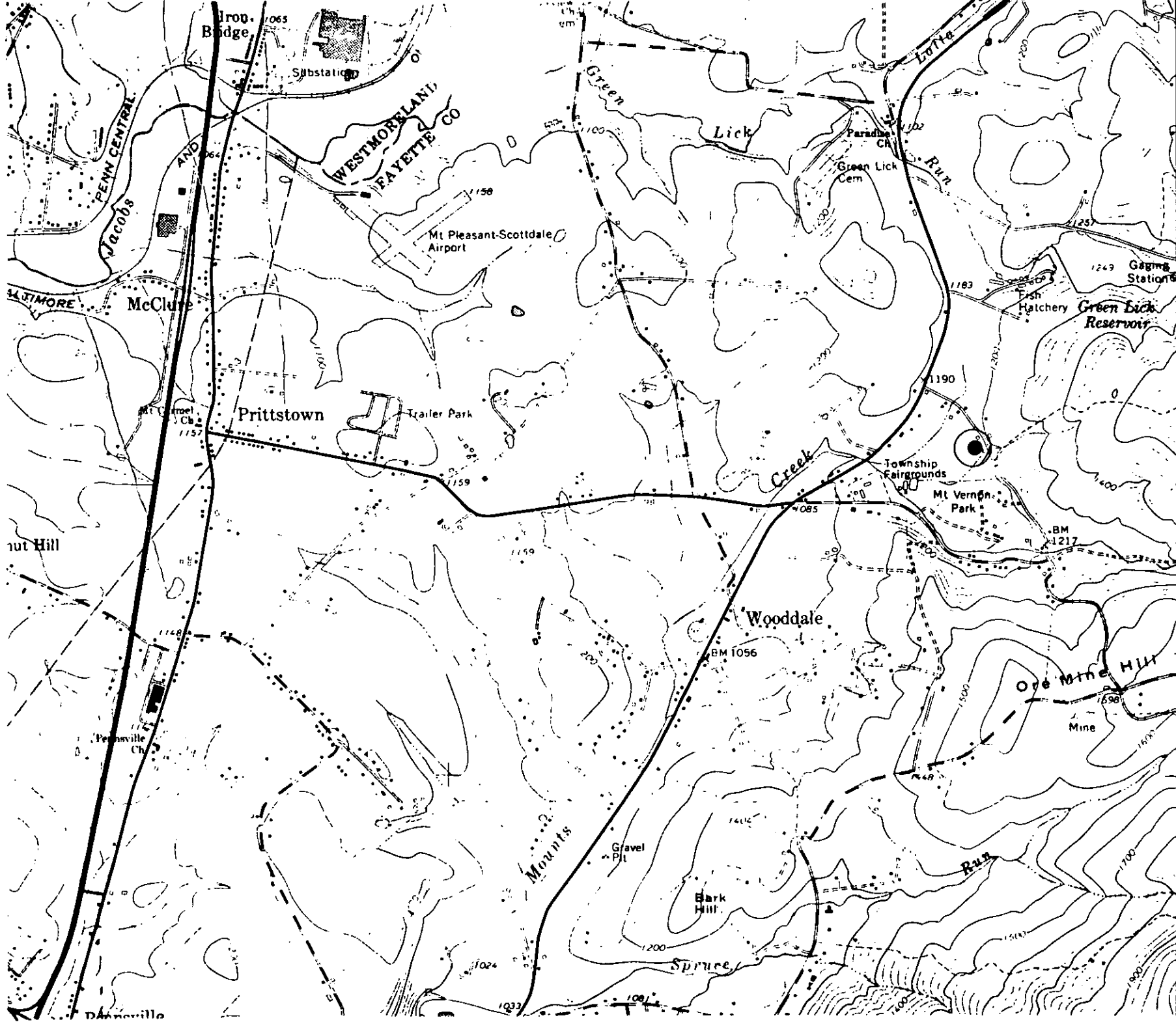


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Verbal boundary description: The property is located in the northwest corner of a larger tract recorded at the Fayette County Courthouse Book 1176, page 237. The nominated property begins on the south side of Eutsey Rd. 1800' southeast of its intersection with State Rt. 982, continuing southeast approximately 210' along the road to a point, thence southwest approximately 220' to a point, thence approximately 200' northwest to a point, thence approximately 280' northeast to the point of beginning.

Boundary justification: Although this is part of a larger tract, the only area to be included in the nomination is the area directly surrounding the furnace stack, which is the only visible remains of the iron furnace.

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