



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-265
Negative no(s). 4907

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Neabsco Iron Works Site	Common name AKA Tayloe's Iron Works
County/Town/City Prince William County	Street address or route number vic. S.R. 610 and I-95, near Gar-Field
USGS Quad Quantico	Date or period c1730 to early 1800s
Original owner John Tayloe	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Iron mine & furnace	Source of name Neabsco, 'at the point of rock,' Indian name which refers to Freestone Point at the mouth of the creek
Present owner Dale Hylton	Source of date Published history
Present owner address c/o Hylton Enterprises	Stories N/A
13901 Jeff Davis Highway, Woodbridge, Va.	Foundation and wall const'n N/A
Present use Not in use	Roof type N/A
Acreage c258 acres	

State condition of structure and environs Site has reverted to woodlands; little structural evidence of the furnace or related buildings exists above ground.

State potential threats to structure

Note any archaeological interest Should be examined for its historical archeological significance.

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes X no

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

The collapsed and nearly obscured ruins of the Neabsco Iron Furnace are located on the south side of the Neabsco Creek in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of S.R. 610 and I-95. Access to the site of the 18th century iron works are by a sharp incline via a private road off Cardinal Drive. There may be other, earlier, roads into the site which, during the late spring and summer, is impassable because of the thick undergrowth. Stumps of probably hemlock and beech having huge diameters (c3 1/2') dot the steep slope leading to the site, and an occasional large hemlock tree may be seen, saved from cutting only by its inaccessibility. Besides the remains of the collapsed stone furnace, other signs of former industrial activities are visible, especially along the Neabsco Creek where lying about are chunks of ore-containing stone, molten glass, slag, and other byproducts of the blast furnace. Evidence of the slate quarrying operations that took place here is also visible. Lying on the ground are "ricks" of slate--slate that has been shaped, probably for shingles, and bound together for transportation. Across the creek, just opposite the location of the furnace site, several large holes in the creek bank may have been where iron ore was mined, though one informant identifies these holes as "sulphur pits." A short distance up the picturesque creek and on a relatively level ridge are the brick remains of what are thought to have been dwellings once associated with the furnace operation, probably workers' housing. A short distance down the creek from the furnace site was the location, prior to its removal in the 1960s, of the grave of Rose Peters. Prince William County historians, concerned that Interstate 95, then under construction, would come too close to this gravesite, one of the earliest burials in the county, moved the headstone, footstone and a shovel-ful of earth to the cemetery at Rippon Lodge a few miles away. At least one gristmill, and possibly others, existed on the Neabsco during the 18th and 19th centuries near the iron works.

Interior inspected?

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

Sometime after 1727, John Tayloe, of Richmond County, Virginia, encouraged by the success of John England's Accokeek furnace, an early iron ore extracting and smelting venture built for the Principio Company, purchased a large tract of land on the Neabsco, then spelled "Neabsco," Creek for the purpose of extracting iron ore. Tayloe's furnace, according to Fairfax Harrison in his Landmarks of Old Prince William, was operating by 1738, for in that year he petitioned the Council for permission to import fluxing ore, duty free, from Maryland. The ore found on the Neabsco was of inadequate quality or insufficient quantity, for Tayloe and his son John, who inherited the ironworks upon 5,000 acres in 1744, regularly imported iron from the Principio Company in order to obtain a satisfactory flux. Items manufactured by Virginia furnaces during the colonial period consisted of iron pots, fire-backs, tools, and other useful household objects. Although such industries were usually modest in size and output, they were considered important to the colony. Unfortunately, no record exists of the Neabsco Iron Works' output, but, for at least fifteen years prior to the Revolution, according to Fairfax Harrison, such businesses contributed to the economic vigor of the Occoquan area. Indeed, one historian, in writing about the Neabsco Iron Works and the Potomac River, asserts that Neabsco Iron Works' product was exported intercolonially, up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

During the Revolution, the foundry supplied equipment to the Virginia forces. Thomas Jefferson said, in his Notes on Virginia, that in 1781 "Tayloe's forge on Neabsco" was making "bar iron from pigs imported from Maryland."

Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

W.P.A., Writer's Project, Prince William, The Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941, 1961)

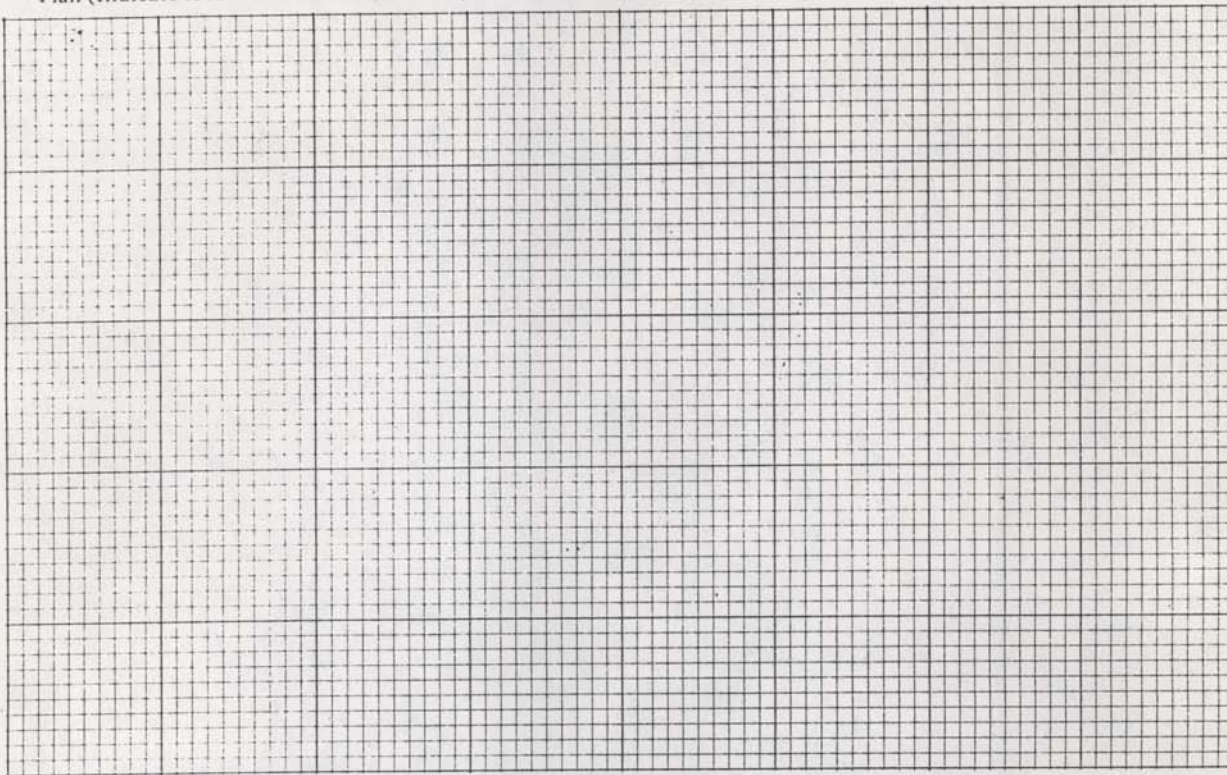
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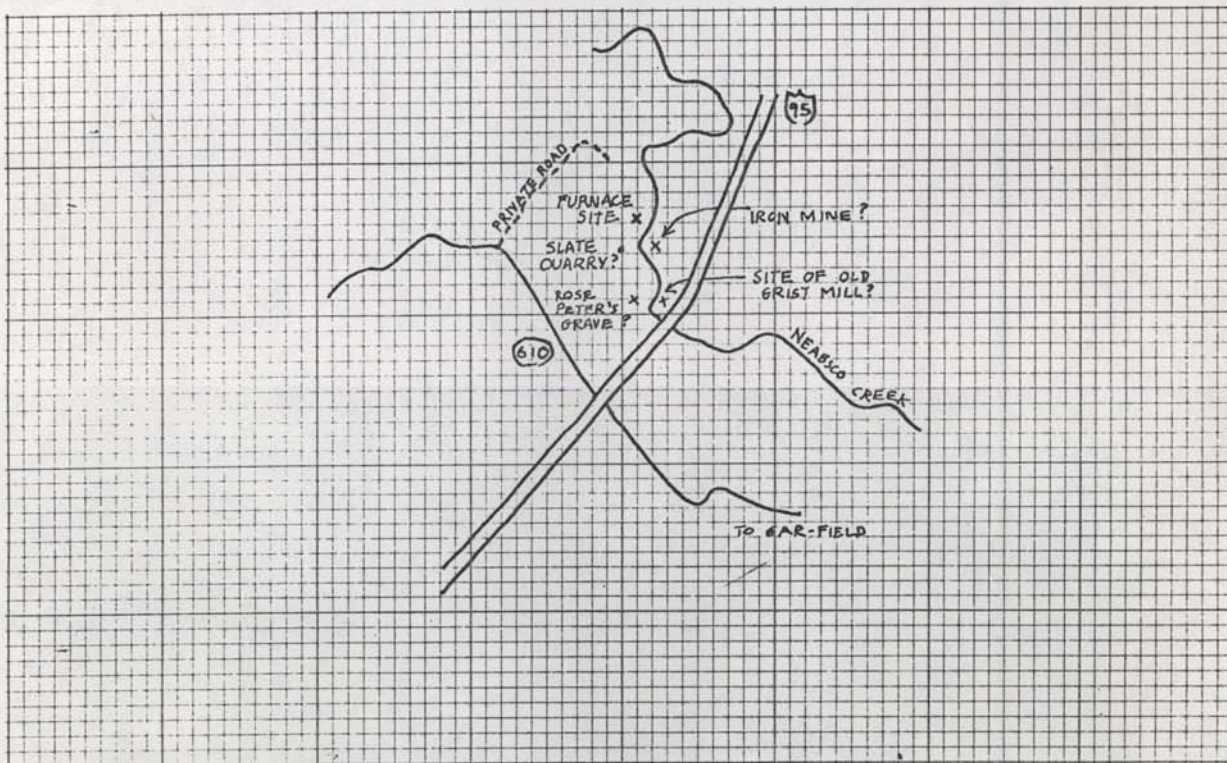
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Don Curtis, Chairman, Prince William Historical Commission;
Roger Endert, 2805 Mintwood Court, Woodbridge, Va. ; Ted Centers, Hylton Enterprises, Woodbridge, Va.

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



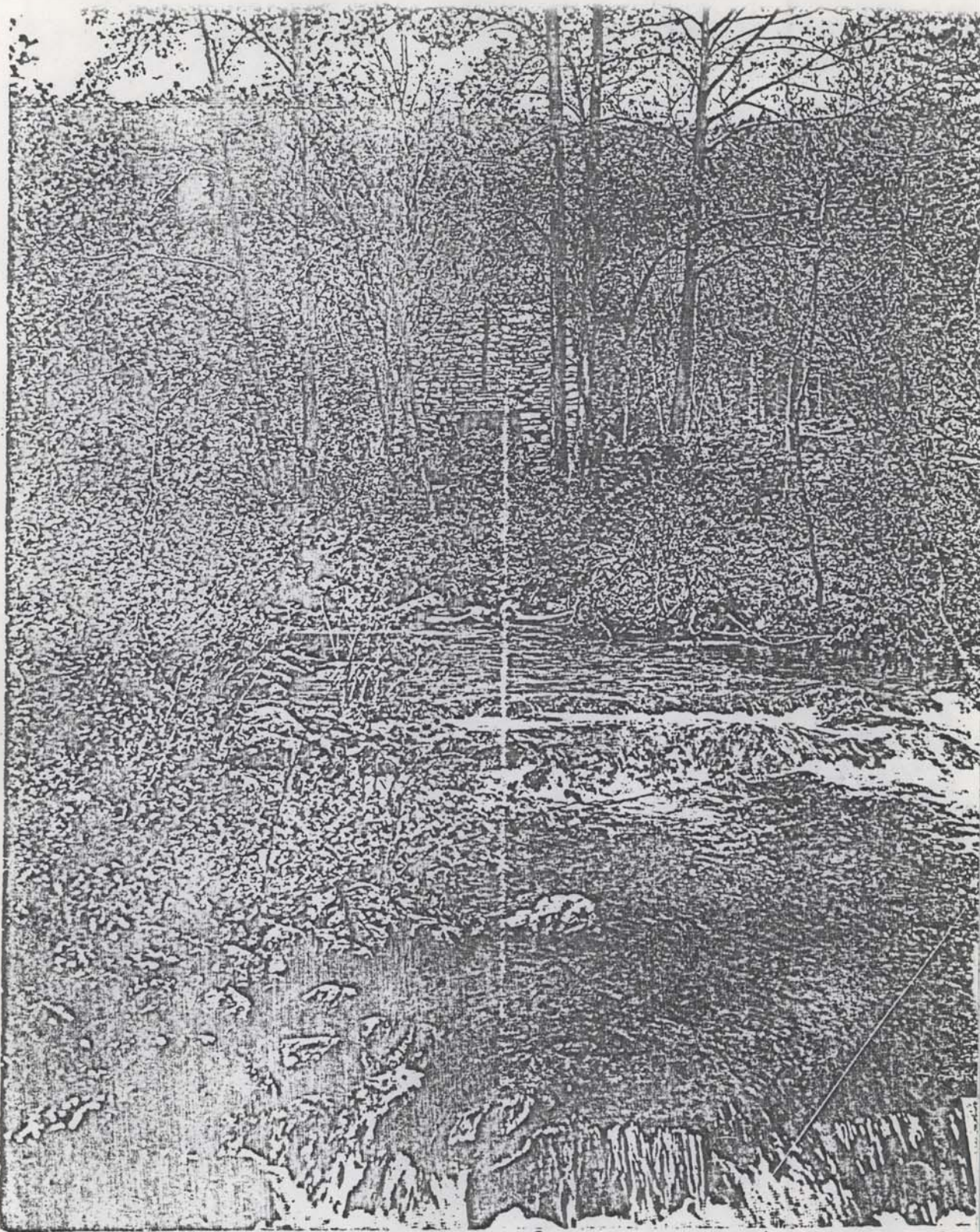
Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural
Historian - Surveyor, NWDC

Date
JAN 1980





CATHERINE FURNACE, Spotsylvania Co. 1837-1846; 1861-Chancellorsville; 1865-70.