

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Stokes
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Moratock Iron Furnace (Moody's Tunnel Iron Works, Moratock Mining and
AND/OR HISTORIC: Manufacturing Company)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East side of S.R. 1674, 0.3 mi. east of intersection with N.C. 89

CITY OR TOWN:
Danbury vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth
The Hon. Wilmer D. Mizell

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Stokes	CODE 169
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Stokes County Commissioners

STREET AND NUMBER:
Stokes County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Danbury	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Stokes County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Danbury	STATE North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Moratock Iron Furnace is an imposing industrial structure which represents the only visible remains of the Moratock furnace and forge complex. Built of rough-quarried rectangular granite stones, unmortared on the exterior, the furnace is in the form of a trapezoidal cube, measuring roughly 28 feet square at the base, 28 feet high, and 26 feet square at the top, allowing for the typical "choked" interior flue. The "bosh" or conical throat of the furnace is lined with an inner wall, constructed of layers of fire brick set between a supporting framework of iron bars. Three sides of the furnace are pierced by arched, vaulted openings which allow access to the bosh. Each round arch is faced with trapezoidal stones. Each vault is lined with granite blocks like those of the exterior wall surface, and has a dirt floor. At the base of the inner wall of each vault is the small opening to the bosh, framed by two wedge-shaped stones. The largest vault, in the east elevation facing the river, was most likely the main casting floor. It contains a trough at the base for the molten iron. The vaults flanking this vault, in the north and south sides, are about two-thirds the size of the main vault. Air was supplied to the fire in the furnace by bellows through the openings at the rear of these smaller vaults. Large forged iron eyes remain in three elevations, indicating the attachment of shed dependencies or the use of hoisting machinery.

Moratock was a smelting furnace of the forced-blast variety, fed with a combination of charcoal, brown hematite, and limestone. The ore was mined from a site several miles up river from the furnace, where mine shafts are still visible, and probably floated to the furnace on flat barges. The power for operating the bellows at the north and south vaults was supplied by an overshot waterwheel which was fed from the northwest bend of the river by a system consisting of a dam, tunnel, and flume. The terrain is uniquely suited for this operation, for the furnace is located in a bend in the Dan River, and the elevation drops continuously as the river flows east to the furnace. Water was channeled through the flume from the river to the west across the bend. Ground depressions indicate the flume location. All that remains of the forge is a depression in the ground several hundred yards north of the furnace, and the head of a beam-type water-operated forge hammer in the possession of a local resident.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Moratock Iron Furnace is one of the best preserved of the small number of eighteenth and nineteenth century iron smelting furnaces known to exist in North Carolina. The large, architecturally significant granite furnace, believed to have been built in 1843 as Moody's Tunnel Iron Works, is an excellent example of the stonemason's skill and one of the few structures remaining from the antebellum iron industry in North Carolina. The scenic bend of the Dan River below Danbury, the county seat of Stokes County, in which the furnace and forge remains are located, is being developed as a historical park.

Stokes County was one of a number of Piedmont North Carolina counties which contained rich deposits of iron ore, and numerous small iron works, or bloomeries, were established in this area in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These iron works generally consisted of a furnace to refine the ore and a forge, or hammer factory, to produce usable bar iron from the rough pig iron. Within the state, the iron masters of Lincoln County led iron production during this period, but by the early nineteenth century, five such ironworks had been founded in Stokes County: Martin's forge, Perkin's forge, Moore's Iron Works, Keyser's bloomery, and Hill's bloomery. Lack of an adequate transportation network and of sophisticated machinery, however, restricted the products of the North Carolina iron works to local markets, and the state's iron industry was eclipsed by those of Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee during the 1820s and 1830s.

The 1850 United States Census lists five bloomeries in Stokes County, two of these owned by Nathaniel Moody. The larger of Moody's bloomeries produced annually 100 tons of bar iron worth \$9,000; the smaller, 50 tons of bar iron worth \$4,500. One of these bloomeries is the "Tunnel Bloomery Forge," also known as "Moody's Tunnel Iron Works," which Moody and his partner John Pepper built in 1843. (The present furnace is believed to be the furnace constructed by Moody and Pepper, although it is possibly a replacement of their 1843 furnace dating from the management of one of the two later companies which owned the iron works before the Civil War.) The 107-acre site of the bloomery, on the north bank of the Dan River below Danbury, had been purchased by the two industrialists in 1840 from Alexander Hampton for \$300. It is probable that the iron ore which supplied the furnace was obtained from the "well-known ore bank called the Rogers ore bank" which is mentioned as part of the lands which Moody

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mortgaged in 1842. Also mentioned in this mortgage deed is the "well-known forge that the said Johnson Clements sold to the said Nath. Moody," indicating an earlier iron works possibly on the site of Moody's Tunnel Iron Works. In 1854 the iron works was purchased for \$3,000 by Reuben Golding, a wealthy Stokes County citizen, who formed the Stokes Iron Mining Company. The 1860 United States Census indicates that Golding was operating both the forge, valued at \$5,000, and a "smith shop," valued at \$1,000.

The industrial needs of the Confederacy during the Civil War caused a renewed interest in the iron works of North Carolina, and in 1862 Golding and a number of other men, including two from Richmond, Virginia, incorporated the Moratock Mining and Manufacturing Company. This company was short-lived, and by 1871, apparently not having survived the war, the iron works was mortgaged to pay off the company's debts. In 1875 the mortgage was foreclosed and the property sold at public auction. The highest bidder was Colonel Jonathan M. Heck of Raleigh, who had been a partner in the North State Iron Works and a bayonet manufacturing company during the Civil War. Heck reactivated the Moratock Company, probably primarily for the purpose of mining the ore, and the operation continued until his death in 1894. In the same year his widow sold the property to J. Spot Taylor of Stokes County, though reserving the "rights to all the minerals in the land and ingress and egress for working, digging, mining and carrying away the same." The furnace and site remained in the possession of the Taylor family until 1973, when it was deeded to Stokes County for use as a county park.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Ruth Little Stokes, survey specialist.
 Cappon, Lester J. "Iron Making--A Forgotten Industry of North Carolina," North Carolina Historical Review, IX, No. 4 (October, 1932).
 Lesley, J. P. The Iron Manufacturer's Guide. 1856.
 Heck, J. M., papers. Private Collections, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.
Public Laws of North Carolina, Sessions 1854-1855.
 Stokes County Records, Stokes County Courthouse, Danbury, North Carolina
 (Subgroups: Deeds, Census Records).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		36° 24' 26"	80° 12' 00"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit
 ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 23 April 1974
 STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Thornton W. Mitchell
 Title Acting Director, Division of Archives and History
 Date 23 April 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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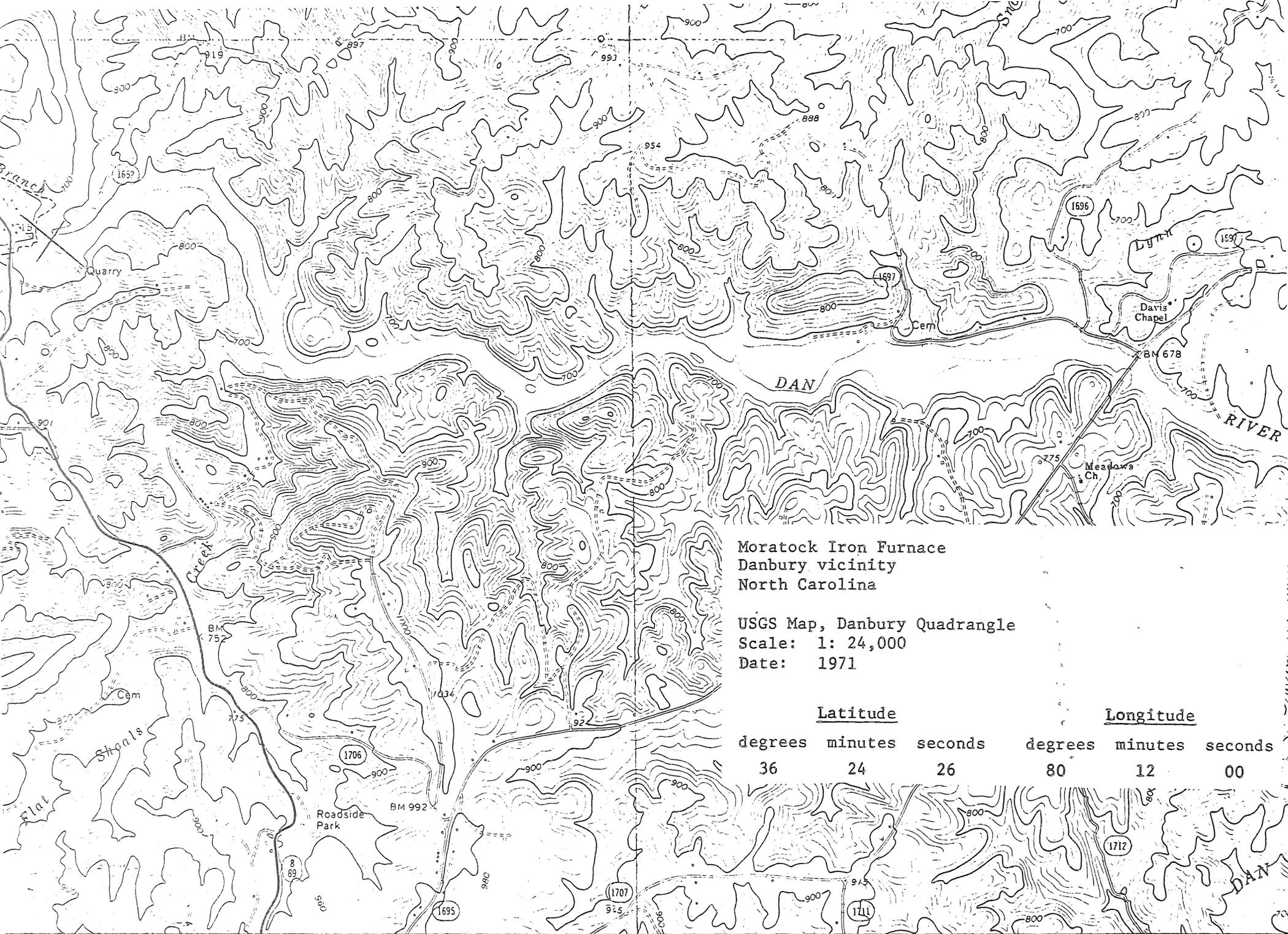
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Stokes County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Census Records).



Moratock Iron Furnace
 Danbury vicinity
 North Carolina

USGS Map, Danbury Quadrangle
 Scale: 1: 24,000
 Date: 1971

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36	24	26	80	12	00

