

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 21 1983

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Steele's Iron Works 40LS15
other names/site number Hed's Old Works, Buffalo Iron Works

2. Location

street & number [redacted] not for publication
city, town Napier vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Lewis code TN101 zip code NA

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		structures
		<u>1</u>	objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Iron Industry on the Western
Highland Rim 1790s-1920s

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.

Chung C. Beavers 2/28/88
Signature of certifying official Date

Chung C. Beavers National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Hays 2/16/88
Signature of commenting or other official Deputy State Historic Preservation Date
Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

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): _____

John J. Kroschel 5/4/88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
PROCESSING/Manufacturing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
LANDSCAPE/Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

NA

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation NA

walls NA

roof NA

other NA

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Steele's Iron Works consists of the site of a bloomery forge. A pile of porous slag, race, and dross embedded with iron are found on the site. The water race, approximately 800 feet long and up to ten feet deep, is now used as a hiking trail. The Buffalo River bisects the site. Ground cover is trees and brush. The site contains an interpretive sign on Steele's Iron Works and the Metal Ford, [REDACTED]. The presence of dross meets the registration requirements of the multiple property form.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G NA

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY - HISTORIC
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance
Circa 1822-1833

Significant Dates
NA

Cultural Affiliation
19th Century Anglo-American

Significant Person
NA

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Steele's Iron Works is significant because it has the potential to yield valuable information on the technology of forges and whether this bloomery forge attempted to keep pace with changes in the industry. An investigation of the data may reveal why this forge, one of the earlier ones in the region, was at this site and why it ceased operation.

John Jones, Davis Steele, and Thomas Steele petitioned the Lawrence County court in April 1822 to condemn 3,000 acres of timber land for use of the Buffalo Iron Works (Lawrence County Deed Book C, pp. 157-159). This land may have included [redacted] (Phelps and Willett 1953: 3). Other deed transactions in the 1820s describe the area as having a forge on the [redacted] that was known as Hed's Old Works. John Catron acquired the forge in 1828 and his nephew Felix A. Catron managed the operation until 1833. At that time F. A. Catron and George Napier purchased the iron works with the intent to improve it by constructing a blast furnace [redacted] and building a new refining forge, possibly at the location of the bloomery forge. The furnace and forge at Napier (40LS14) were the result of this agreement. It is believed that the bloomery forge shut down at this time.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Larson, L.T.

1965 Mineral Resources Survey of the Henryville Quadrangle, Tennessee.
Tennessee Division of Geology, Nashville.

Phelps, Dawson A. and John T. Willett

1953 "Iron Works on the Natchez Trace," U.S. Department of the
Interior, National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway Library,
ACC. No. 2570.

Lewis County. Deed Books.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Division of Archaeology

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A _____
 Zone Easting Northing
 C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing
 D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include visable remains of an iron works.
The land has undergone few changes, making the possibility of subsurface
remains good.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudette Stager, Historic Preservation Specialist
 organization Tennessee Historical Commission date November 1987
 street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615/742-6723
 city or town Nashville state Tennessee zip code 37219-5237