Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hammersmith

244 Central Street (Park Headquarters)

Category:
- Site
- Structure

Ownership:
- Public
- Private
- Both

Status:
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Being Considered
- Preservation work in progress

Accessible to the Public:
- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

Present Use:
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

Agency:
National Park Service

Regional Headquarters (if applicable):
North Atlantic Region

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Essex County Registry of Deeds

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Essex County Registry of Deeds

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

RECEIVED
Saugus Iron Works, located on the south bank of the Saugus River, is a careful—though partly conjectural—reconstruction based on archeologically excavated foundations and traces of the major portions of New England's earliest most sophisticated and integrated ironworking plant. The reconstruction completed in 1954, was deemed well done but due to an extended period of practically no maintenance, the buildings and their associated machinery are in a fair to very poor condition. The following structures and sites comprise the Saugus Iron Works.

1. Ironmaster's House, Building No. 1 - Over the years, the Ironmaster's house was extensively altered by its various occupants. In 1915 the house was restored by Wallace Nutting to what he believed to have been its 17th century appearance. At the same time, however, a later addition to the house was enlarged and remodeled into a caretaker's wing. The house consists of the original four rooms and entry hall, a rear lean-to which was added in either the late 17th century or the early 18th century, and the west wing which was enlarged in 1915. The ground floor of the original section is exhibited as a historic house with period furnishings. The remainder of the house, the lean-to, and the west wing are used for storage, administrative offices, and public rest rooms. Present condition of the house is good.

Significance: 2nd Order
Recommended treatment: Preservation
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: $100,000
Photograph enclosed

2. Slag Pile, Building No. 16 - The slag pile is composed of original materials but is presumably smaller today than it should be. Weathering action and the fact that some of the material had been removed for fill has left the slag pile somewhat depleted. Despite its diminished condition, the slag pile remains one of the area's impressive attractions and prior to the reconstruction was the only surface evidence remaining from the original ironworks.

Significance: 2nd Order
Recommended treatment: Preservation
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: none
Photograph enclosed

3. Furnace, Building No. 8 - The reconstructed furnace, where iron ore was separated into cast iron and slag, consists of the stone furnace and its wooden charging bridge, a wooden casting shed, a pair of large leather bellows, and a 16' waterwheel with its shaft, and associated sluice-way and tail race. Present condition of the structure is fair.
8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☒ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Education ☐ Political
☐ Historic ☒ Industry ☐ Religion/Philosophy
☐ Agriculture ☐ Invention ☐ Science
☐ Architecture ☐ Landscape ☐ Sculpture
☐ Art ☐ Architecture ☐ Social/Humanitarian
☐ Commerce ☐ Literature ☐ Theater
☐ Communications ☐ Military ☐ Transportation
☐ Conservation ☐ Music ☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site was established to preserve the site of America's first sustained integrated iron works. An earlier ironworks at Falling Creek, Virginia, was destroyed during an Indian war before production could begin. A furnace and forge were built at Braintree, Massachusetts but the location of the furnace was poor and the operation was moved to Saugus by the ironmaster.

The Saugus Ironworks has been called the forerunner of American big business. It was an iron factory and could convert raw iron ore into finished cast and wrought iron products including rod stock for nails. The rolling and slitting mill was one of only about 15 in the world and the only one in the western hemisphere. More significant than the actual technology at the Saugus plant was that it served as a training ground for ironworkers. From Saugus they spread out to start new ironworks in New England and New Jersey.

The Saugus ironworks has also been called the first chapter in "America's book". Here were the first known instances of wage and price controls, military exemptions for specialized skills, of the assimilation of a "foreign" culture (the ironworkers) into a "settled" culture (the Puritans), and of geographical and vocational mobility.

The Ironmaster's house is an outstanding example of 17th century English architecture. It is the oldest non-Indian house in the National Park System.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

E.N. Hartley, IRONWORKS ON THE SAUGUS, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES</th>
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<tr>
<td>CORNER</td>
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<td>LONGITUDE</td>
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</table>
| NW | 42° 28' 10" | 71° 00' 37"
| NE | 42° 28' 10" | 71° 00' 26"
| SE | 42° 27' 54" | 71° 00' 26"
| SW | 42° 27' 54" | 71° 00' 37"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8.5 acres

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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</table>

STATE: Massachusetts 01907 025

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William Gray, park Manager; updated 2/75 NAHO
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
STREET AND NUMBER: 244 Central Street
CITY OR TOWN: Saugus

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☑ National ☐ State ☐ Local

Federal Representative Signature Date

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
7. (continued) Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site

3. Furnace, Building No. 8 (continued)

Significance: 2nd Order
Recommended treatment: Preservation
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: $100,000
Photograph enclosed

4. Forge, Building No. 9 - In the forge, brittle cast iron was re-worked into malleable wrought iron. This reconstructed building has two refining fires (finery) and one heating fire (chafery), three sets of bellows, a 500 pound water powered hammer, four waterwheels and their associated sluiceways and tailraces.

Significance: 2nd Order
Recommended treatment: Preservation
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: $100,000
Photograph enclosed

5. Rolling and Slitting Mill, Building No. 10 - (Reconstructed) Wrought iron was rolled into long flat bars and slit into rods in the rolling and slitting mill. The rods were the basic product for making hand-made nails, a valuable commodity for colonial Massachusetts Bay. The building has two 17' waterwheels and their associated sluiceways and tailraces, an internal gear system for operating one of the rollers, and a wood fired oven for heating up the iron prior to rolling and slitting.

Significance: 2nd Order
Recommended Treatment: Preservation
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: $100,000
Photograph enclosed

The machinery in all the above reconstructed buildings did operate, recreating in large part the noise, dirt, and feel of working in a 17th century iron plant. Due to the current deterioration of the wood, most of the equipment is now unsafe to run.

6. The Fourth Ironworks Building to be reconstructed was the warehouse or ironhouse, Building No. 11. This small wooden structure was used to store products awaiting shipment to markets.

Significance: 2nd Order
Recommended Treatment: Preservation
Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: $1,000
Photograph enclosed
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON: Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site

AND/OR HISTORIC: Hammersmith

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 246 Central Street

CITY OR TOWN: Saugus

STATE: Massachusetts

CODE COUNTY: 25 Essex

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: W. Glen Gray

DATE OF PHOTO: June 7, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Saugus Iron Works - 75 - 4

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

General View of Warehouse

RECEIVED
DEC 30 1975
NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 921-737
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

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<td>CITY OR TOWN:</td>
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<td>W. Glen Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE OF PHOTO:</td>
<td>June 7, 1975</td>
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<td>NEGATIVE FILED AT:</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
<td>View of Slag Pile in background</td>
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**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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</table>
1. NAME
   COMMON: Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Hammersmith

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 244 Central Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Saugus
   STATE: Massachusetts
   CODE: 25
   COUNTY: Essex
   CODE: 009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: W. Glen Gray
   DATE OF PHOTO: June 7, 1975
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Saugus Iron Works - 75 - 4

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   General View of Ironmaster House
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON: Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
AND/OR HISTORIC: Hammersmith

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 244 Central Street
CITY OR TOWN: Saugus
STATE: Massachusetts

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: W. Glen Gray
DATE OF PHOTO: June 7, 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

General View of the Forge building
1. NAME
COMMON: Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
AND/OR HISTORIC: Hammersmith

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 24th Central Street
CITY OR TOWN: Saugus
STATE: Massachusetts
CODE 25 COUNTY: Essex CODE 009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: W. Glen Gray
DATE OF PHOTO: June 7, 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Saugus Iron Works - 75 - 4

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
General View of Rolling and Slitting building
### Property Photograph Form

**Common:** Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site

**AND/OR Historic:** Hammersmith

**Street and Number:** 244 Central Street

**City or Town:** Saugus

**State:** Massachusetts  
**Code:** 25  
**County:** Essex  
**Code:** 009

**Photo Reference**

- **Photo Credit:** W. Glen Gray
- **Date of Photo:** June 7, 1975
- **Negative Filed At:** Saugus Iron Works - 75 - 4

**Identification**

- **Describe View, Direction, ETC.:** Furnace building