

CATOCTIN FURNACE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
2022: The Year of Success and Recovering Identity

In 2022, events were again able to be held in person, and the Museum of the Ironworker was open to visitors all year! Lots of exciting projects took place and lots of progress was made, all with the assistance of our amazing volunteers and generous funders! One highlight of the year was the **Recovering Identity** project. The amazing team of AARCH, Frederick County Government, and CFHS identified historic African American structures in northern Frederick County and produced 14 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms. One example is a barn at St. Joseph's Academy in Emmitsburg associated with farm manager Henry Augustine Briscoe. In phase 2, the goal is to identify at least 10 more African American structures in northern Frederick County associated with the African American population.

VISITORSHIP

Approximately 62,781 visitors came to Catoctin Furnace in 2022, visiting the ruins, walking the African American Cemetery Interpretive Trail, and visiting the village. Approximately 2,391 visitors have toured the Museum of the Ironworker in 2022.

EVENTS

Maryland Iron Festival (In-Person!) - This was a VERY successful event with approximately 5,000 people coming out in the hot, hot weather! There were many highlights, but surely the iron pour was one! We very much look forward to the 2023 event which will be even bigger and better! Make sure you have it on your calendar – May 20 & 21, 2023!

Fourth at the Furnace- this was intern Dominic Curcio's fantastic idea and drew 68 new visitors! The visitors made dolls and ornaments, making the 4th weekend a great success! Thanks, Dominic, for instituting yet another tradition in Catoctin Furnace!!!

Fallfest - Friday, October 7, and Saturday, October 8. Continuing a village tradition, apple butter was made and blacksmithing demonstrated.

Spirits of the Furnace - Saturday, October 15. The 22nd annual event brought 100 people (visitors, actors, volunteers) together and everyone enjoyed the event. It sold out days in advance. We are planning better lighting, more tours, microphones, and other improvements for 2023. Thank you to all who helped!

Traditional Village Christmas - Saturday, December 3. The 12th annual event will feature amazing wreath decorating, beautiful handmade holiday gifts, and a visit from Belsnickel!

GRANT SUCCESSES!

Only the third owner – Saving a worker house in historic Catoctin Furnace: France-Merrick Foundation, \$50,000. This grant is being utilized to correct water infiltration and other structural issues in the historic Carty-Miller House, including a permanent solution to eliminate standing water in the basement.

FY 23 TRIPP-- advertising \$5,955- this grant pays 66% of all out of county advertising from July 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023.

FY 23 TRIPP-- additions to and reprinting of the Iron Road brochure \$4,209 – the initial Iron Road brochure was so popular that it is out of print! This grant will pay for a redesign and reprint, adding sites to the brochure and updating information for the featured sites. Thank you to the Tourism Council of Frederick County for this amazing support!

MHAA FY2023 and Ausherman Family Foundation: Restoring the Miller House: a ca. 1820 Home for the Furnace Fellows – each \$100,000. These grants allowed CFHS to acquire the Carty-Miller House and begin fulfillment of our dream for a Furnace Fellows program training emerging professionals in Catoclin Furnace!

FY23 TRIPP Grant for a Maryland Iron Festival Video Commercial \$3,990 – this 30 second video highlights the Maryland Iron Festival for advertising and promotion of the event.

\$314,000 NPS Semi-quincentennial Grant – Stabilizing the Ironmaster’s Mansion

- After stabilizing the walls, we will interpret the structure as contested space in which enslaved and master moved, living vastly different lives. Visitors will be able to safely move through the space, reconnecting the ruins with the larger furnace and heritage landscape.

\$291,000 NPS Semi-quincentennial Grant – Environmental Control Infrastructure: Museum of the Ironworker

- This grant will design and install a museum quality temperature and humidity control system within the Museum and solve ongoing water infiltration and humidity issues.

\$48,686.55 Frederick County ANCHR-

- This post Covid-19 relief money is being utilized to support operating expenditures and expand programming of the historical society, allowing the museum to be open year around.

IMLS National Leadership grant subaward through International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), \$30,000-

- CFHS, Inc. is one of ten historic sites/museums across the country chosen for this 3 year (10k per year) subaward grant to create new partnerships and programs with a sister site in the area. The sister site will also receive funding.

SHINE (Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity) General Operating Support Grant – Maryland Humanities.

- This \$10,000 grant can be used to pay basic operating costs.

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Mini Grant – Virtually Reconstructing the Historic Ironmaster’s Mansion

- This \$5,000 grant will pay for the development of a virtual reality interpretive element at the Ironmaster’s Mansion.

MISCELLANEOUS HIGHLIGHTS!

2022 Maryland Preservation award to Catoclin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. - Project Excellence: Preservation Partnerships. We were thrilled to receive this award from Elizabeth Hughes, Maryland Historical Trust Director/State Historic Preservation Officer.

Theresa Donnelly – Election as MMA (Maryland Museums Association) board member. Congratulations!

Smithsonian Institution – Mission Critical Film –*Enslaved by Iron*: Filming was completed in 2022 and the film should be released in 2023.

More Filming and Photography (and Podcasts) – Catoclin Furnace was visited numerous times by professional videographers and photographers for inclusion in:

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland – Truth and Reconciliation video entitled “The Trail of Souls: A Journey Through Truth and Reconciliation:

Visit Frederick – new video for visitor’s center

HCWHA – video highlighting the unwavering support of HCWHA and the impact of their grants for CFHS projects
Maryland Tourism – photographs for web and print media
Aaron Rice of the Virtual Collaboration Lab – Immersive 3D Virtual Reality Tour
Journey Through Hallowed Ground – podcast

Construction of the Catoctin Furnace Blacksmith Shop- The blacksmith shop is of heavy timber frame construction with a standing seam metal roof. It will open in early 2023.

Exterior restoration of the F.W. Fraley Store – As 2022 comes to an end, all necessary paperwork and permits have been secured and the restoration is beginning!

Harriet Tubman program on September 17 at Harriet Chapel by DNR Ranger Angela Crenshaw-There were 41 attendees at this great program!

Carty-Miller House and Collier’s Log House HPC- Both structures were added to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places and recognized as significant structures.

Master Docent 2022 included a presentation about the Recovering Identity project – Elizabeth Comer and others gave marvelous talks on February 26th. Master Docent is always a huge success and the program this year was amazing.

Crossing Over concert (55 guests) • Partnering with Harriet Chapel, CFHS hosted this concert and art exhibit that paid homage to those once enslaved at Catoctin Furnace:
https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/arts_and_entertainment/paintermusicians-pay-homage-to-those-once-enslaved-at-catoctinfurnace/article_96ab7cce-bfc7-5146-b1fe-accd8ae8eb79.html

Social Media: A huge thanks to Anne Comer for upping our presence on these platforms in 2022: Instagram (434 followers), Facebook (2,281 followers), Twitter (119 followers,) and YouTube (264 subscribers). Remember to follow/subscribe, like, and share our posts!

Lesson Plans: Intern **Dana Gordon** developed a lesson plan focusing on industrial enslavement and knowledge transfer from Africa. Members of the Green-walled Garden Club produced a lesson plan focused on the kitchen garden and pollinator garden, exploring gardens and insects, including herbs and butterflies.

Interns: Five amazing interns/emerging professionals from universities across the United States worked with CFHS mentors this year: **Abigail Hucks, Dominic Curcio, Brigid Page, Dana Gordon, and John Wilhide.**

A few of the new acquisitions for the museum: 10 lb. cannonball, historic letters from the Hatcher family, rocking chairs, railroad spikes, Peregrine Fitzhugh stove, 2 James Johnson jamb stove plates.

Special Tours for visitors:

In addition to individual visitors, we welcomed several group tours and special guests, including the following:

Baltimore Museum of Industry tour – Saturday, April 30 – We hosted 2 groups of BMI members for a walking tour and museum visit. The groups were also given a tour of Harriet Chapel.

UMBC Tour – Monday, June 13 – Six students and professors toured the site.

Homewood Group Tour – June 25 – this group of 19 guests walked the cemetery trail, visited the museum, and toured the church.

Thurmont Middle School eighth grade student tour- 200 students, teachers, and chaperones were presented with seven lessons spanning archaeology, freedom seekers, Harriet Tubman, DNA research, historic preservation, the African American cemetery, forensic facial reconstructions, and the iron industry. It was a delight to host the entire TMS eighth grade, and this is intended to be an annual event!

Visit with DNR rangers Shea Niemann and Erik Ledbetter, Seneca Creek and Patuxent State Parks – These DNR personnel visited Catoctin Furnace to gather ideas for their new parks.

Jim Robbins brought a group of 11 restoration artisans to the Museum of the Ironworker for a tour.

Outdoor Afro tour

Jack and Jill of Western Maryland tour

Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) conference tour - 21 guests

Elite Bus Tour Susquehanna Golden Age Group – 33 guests