

“We Too Are The Village”
Catoctin Furnace National Register
Historic District
Boundary Expansion Study

A Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. initiative to correct the 1972 boundaries to reflect the entire area of historic Catoctin Furnace

Thank you for meeting tonight

We contacted each of you by mail survey because the community's opinions, concerns, and memories matter.

We hope this meeting will give everyone a better understanding of the goals and benefits of the project, and the concerns and goals of the community.

Who is the team?

Elizabeth Comer, CFHS President

Edie Wallace, Historian

Paula Reed, Architectural Historian

Rob Wanner, GIS and mapping expert

Tery Harris, Archaeologist

Jacqueline Shin, Maryland Historical
Trust National Register Assistant

Jessica French, Maryland Historical Trust
National Register Administrator

Amanda Whitmore, Historic
Preservation Planner, Liveable Frederick
Planning and Design Office



The National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form

Catoctin Furnace Historic District

signed on February 11, 1972
(54 years ago today)

PH0017981 MHT F-2

Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Frederick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 11 1972

1. NAME
COMMON: Catoctin Furnace Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC: Catoctin Furnace

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: East side of U. S. Rt. 15, twelve miles northwest of Frederick
CITY OR TOWN: Catoctin Furnace
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Frederick CODE: 021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
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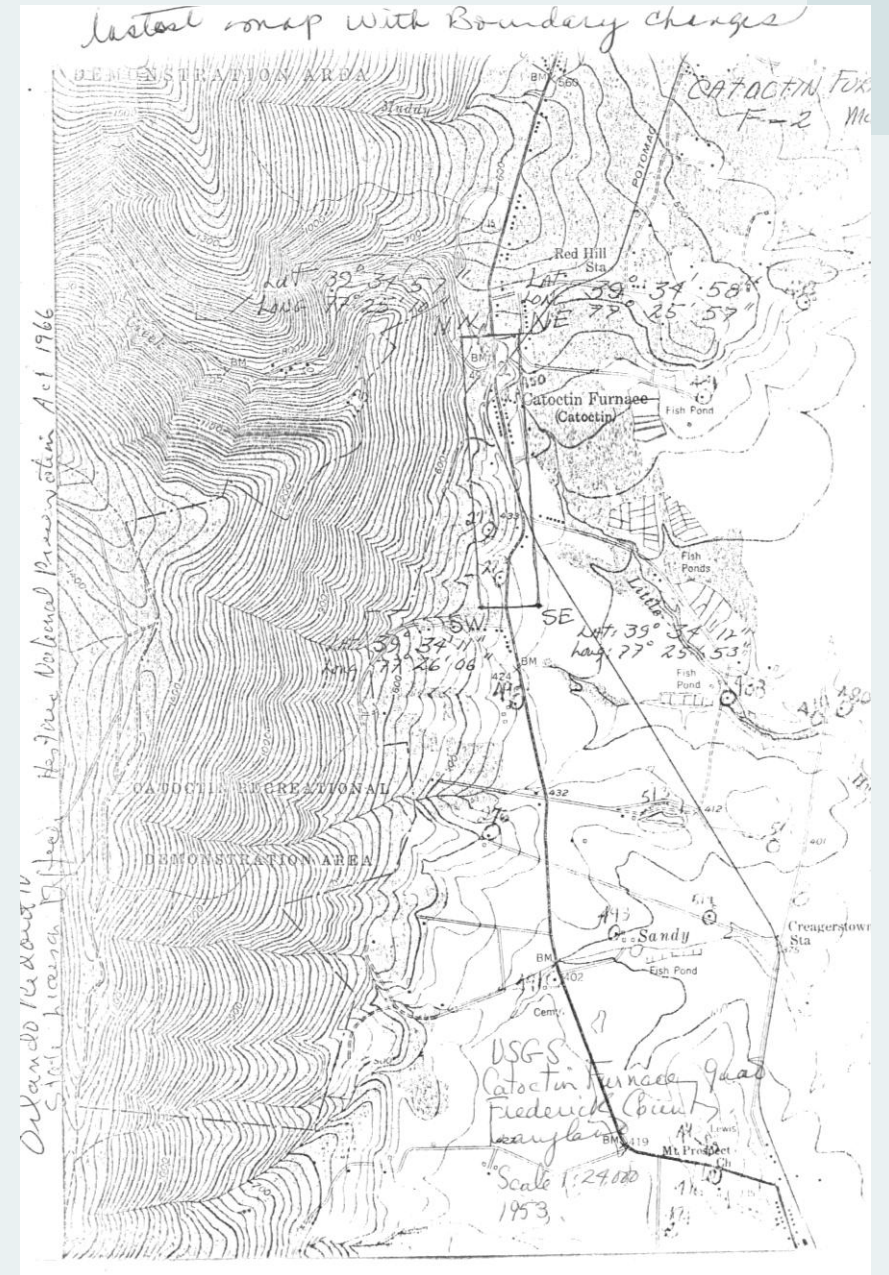
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple public and private
STREET AND NUMBER: (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records
STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus, College Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

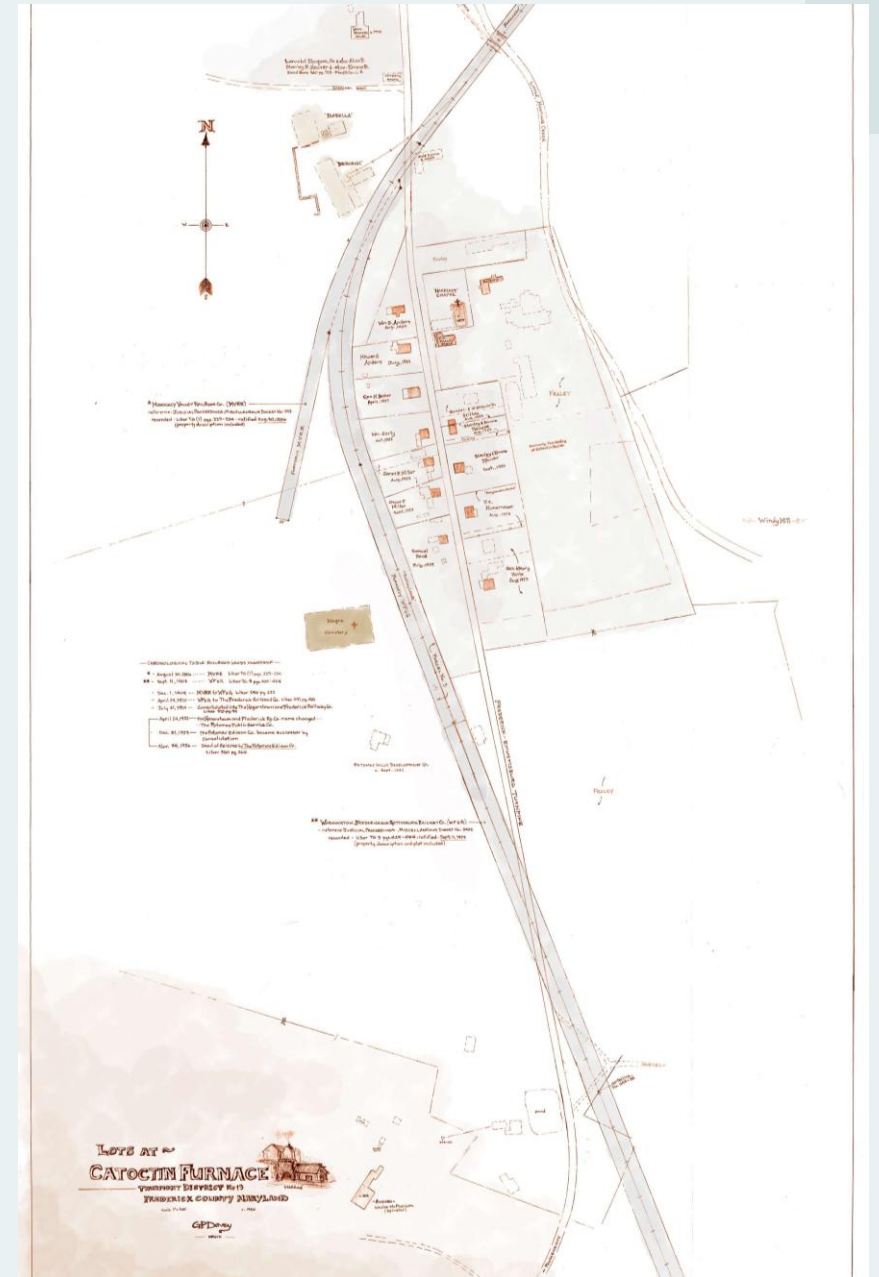
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust
STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Frederick
ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 11 1972

The 1972 boundary drew a rectangle along Route 806 from the Ironmaster's Mansion to the north to Auburn on the south encompassing 119.6 acres



Dave Smith produced this map of the 119.6 acre National Register Historic District showing 15 buildings as well as the ruins and cemetery



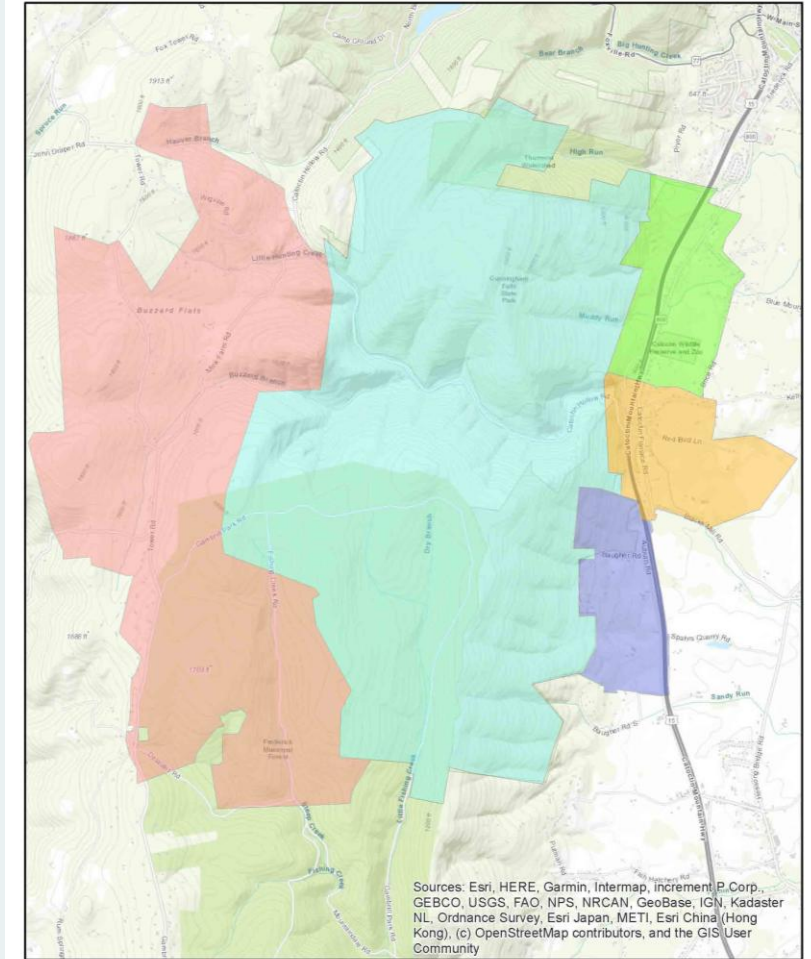
The Catoctin Furnace National Register Historic District

On February 11, 1972, the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places ratified the nomination of the Catoctin Furnace Historic District to the National Register. The district included the ruins of the Ironmaster's Mansion, the Isabella Furnace, workers homes along Route 806 in the village, and Auburn. Designated as F-2 (later changed to F-6-45), it was the first NR historic district recognized in Frederick County.

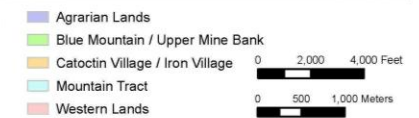
The District is currently defined as a 119.6 acre area including 15 contributing resources and 6 non-contributing resources, with a period of significance spanning 1774 to 1904. The first date reflects the district's initial iron production while the later date acknowledges the approximate final year of operation at the furnace.

At its height, the greater
furnacelands
encompassed 11,350 acres
including both mountain
land and agricultural land
as well as the mansions:

Auburn
Springfields
Hay Land
Vallonne
Catoctin Manor
(Ironmaster's Mansion)



**Furnacelands and Area Divisions
on Modern Topographic Map
(ESRI)**



The Catoctin Furnace National Register of Historic Places District Expansion

This proposed boundary expansion will right a 54-year-old mistake that excluded the greater furnacelands upon which the furnace operation depended.

This proposed boundary expansion will recognize and honor the lands and peoples whose homes, farms, woods, and labors powered the furnace from the time of the American Revolution until the 20th century. The proposed district is significant as an early industrial complex that supported and maintained the iron furnace and related industries.

The district building stock embodies distinctive characteristics of types, periods, and construction methods, spanning 250 years. In addition, the survey district reflects rural development, agricultural progress, WPA and CCC redevelopment, and immigrant history and culture in northern Frederick County.

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register is a program of the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and is administered at the state level in Maryland by the Maryland Historical Trust.

Listing on the National Register honors the property by recognizing its importance to its community, state, or to the Nation, and confers a measure of protection from harm by federal or state activities.

The National Register currently comprises over 1600 listings in Maryland, including some 200 historic districts.

Listed properties span a wide variety of types and periods ranging from prehistoric archaeological sites to buildings of the recent past. Properties include rural landscapes, urban and suburban neighborhoods, bridges, sailing vessels, and more.

How a National Register Historic District works

Like an individual National Register property, a nominated historic district is evaluated and recognized for its collective historic integrity and local, regional, or national historic significance. Individual structures and elements within the district are categorized as contributing or non-contributing when the district is nominated.

- Any one property does not have to meet all the points of significance noted for the district as a whole in order to be considered contributing. The property must date to within the district's period of significance (1774-1951), reflecting one or more elements of the district's historic significance and contributes to the overall character of the district.
- Properties within the district are not considered individually eligible for the National Register by reason of being within the historic district.

Total acreage: 8038.1 acres

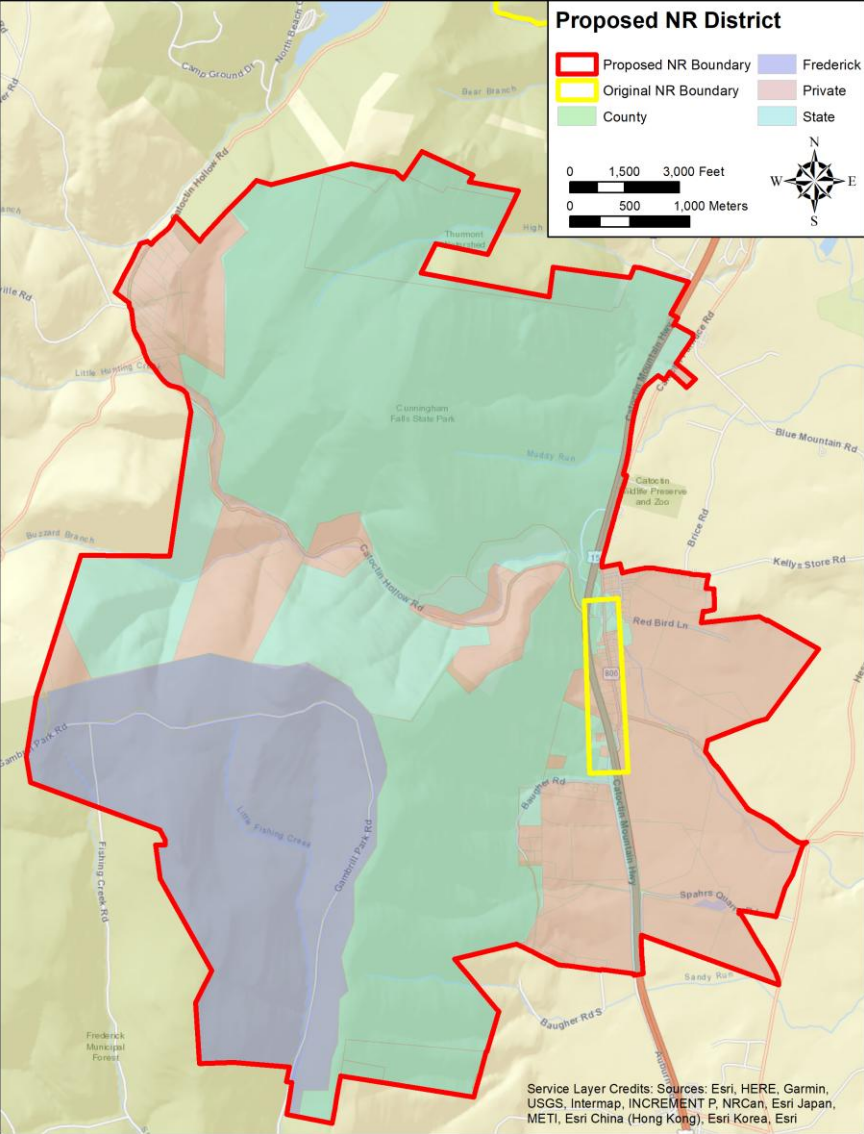
Private: 1907.7 acres

State: 4,528.7 acres

County: 43.0 acres

Frederick City: 1,558.7 acres

Note - These are totals within the proposed boundary - if a parcel overlaps but is not contained completely, these numbers only capture that portion of the parcel within the proposed boundary.



F.W. Fraley General Merchandise Store

Restoration made
possible in part by
listing on the
National Register of
Historic Places in
1972



Benefits and Protections

Listing on the National Register honors the property by recognizing its importance to its community, state, or to the Nation, and confers a measure of protection from harm by federal or state activities.

- Listing on the National Register is the effective threshold for eligibility for a variety of programs designed to assist in the preservation of significant properties, including federal and state tax credits for certain types of rehabilitation work.
- Other financial incentives for preservation include state and federal grants and loans to organizations.
- Frederick County offers a local listing for eligible historic properties. It provides the opportunity to apply for grants that may be used to restore or rehabilitate listed properties including those owned by individuals. Tax credits may be combined with the federal and state preservation tax credits.
- Frederick County offers a tax credit for locally listed properties.
- Donations of preservation easements on Register-listed properties may qualify for charitable tax deductions.

Eligible owners of historic properties in rural Frederick County may apply for grants up to \$50,000 for preservation and restoration efforts.

Rural historic preservation grants process set to open

By MARWA BARAKAT
mbarakat@newspost.com

8-20-25

Eligible owners of historic properties in Frederick County will soon be able to apply to receive up to \$50,000 for preservation and restoration efforts.

The county's Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program will accept applications from Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, according to a county press release on Tuesday.

Amanda Whitmore, a county historic preservation planner, said this program is significant because it can be expensive to maintain historic properties due to the cost of materials.

"It really helps make sure property owners are able to afford those repairs, as well as keeping that historical architectural significance for the property," Whitmore said.

Eligible properties must be in unincorporated areas of the county. They must also be on the county's Register of Historic Places or in a county-designated Historic District, according to the release.

Applicants can request up to \$50,000 for a one-time grant for exterior work to stabilize or restore a historic building.

The grants cannot go toward landscaping, new construction or work that is in progress or complete.

Whitmore said the county prioritizes urgent projects.

Funding for the program comes from fees collected through the recordation tax, according to Whitmore.

Applicants are required to attend one of the county's five upcoming workshops, which are meant to guide applicants through the process.

The workshops will be held on:

- Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m., virtual
- Sept. 3 at noon, Walkersville Branch Library

- Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m., virtual

- Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m., C. Burr Artz Public Library in the Trust Conference Room

- Oct. 8 at noon, virtual

Applications are first reviewed by the county's historical preservation planners for completeness, Whitmore said. Members of the historic preservation committee review them next and rank them based on a scoring rubric.

The rankings are sent to the county executive who makes the final decision, according to Whitmore.

Grants will be awarded in the spring.

In March, six rural properties, including agricultural outbuildings and a former female seminary, received funds through this program for roof repairs, window restorations and more, The Frederick News-Post previously reported.

Listing on the National Register does not place restrictions on the private property owner unless a project requires state or federal oversight.



Frederick County has a demolition review process for all properties. The code does not prohibit the demolition of properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

Grants, tax credits, other optional benefits:



Acceptance of state or federal grants, tax credits, or historic preservation easements generally will place restrictions on subsequent modifications to private property.

Frederick County has a County Register of Historic Properties that opens the door to grant monies for appropriate renovation and restoration activities. Acceptance of grant monies does require a layer of protection for the property. This is totally optional to all homeowners.

What happens from here

If the majority of owners within the proposed boundary expansion area agree to the boundary expansion, CFHS will prepare a formal National Register District Expansion and submit it for consideration. This process begins at the state level and finishes with consideration by the Keeper of the National Register at the federal level and will likely take several years.



The process

- The study staff has carefully considered the proposed boundary based on historical research.
- Study staff has completed a physical survey of properties and landscapes within the proposed expanded historic district boundaries, taking photographs and recording histories of individual properties.
- The study staff will continue to document the history of the greater furnacelands and examine its contribution to county and regional development in order to identify how the community reflects important processes and movements in American history.
- The study will continue to seek community involvement in identifying important properties, people, and events in Catoctin Furnace's greater furnaceland's history which should be documented in the National Register Boundary Expansion submission.

We want to hear from you

Your opinion matters. The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. wants to know if there is majority support for the National Register boundary expansion.

If you have not returned the short questionnaire mailed to you, please take a few moments to mark the return sheet and provide it to us or mail it to us later.

If you did not receive a questionnaire, please take one tonight before you leave and return it when you are able.

We ask that you reply by the end of February if possible.

If you can, please let us know the community history you feel is important to know about historic Catoctin Furnace. For example, a historic house or historical figure which may not be as well known, or even an important structure no longer standing but which played a key roll in the history of your community. If you didn't note it in your initial response, Ms. Harris (tharris@eacarchaeology.com) would be delighted to receive an email with your input.

Your decision



Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.

12610 Catoctin Furnace Road
Thurmont, Maryland 21788

RESPONSE FORM

Property Address _____

How do you as a property owner view expansion of the Catoctin Furnace National Register of Historic Places District?

- I am in favor of expanding the Catoctin Furnace Historic District
- I have no opinion about expanding the Catoctin Furnace Historic District
- I am against expanding the Catoctin Furnace Historic District

What do you see as the primary positive aspect to or concern about expanding the Catoctin Furnace Historic District?

Is there a specific building, site, or aspect of community history you feel is important to include in the historic district expansion during the research process?

- Please call or email me to discuss this.

Contact me at _____

Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.

240-288-7396

www.catoctinfurnace.org

Where History Changes Lives

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Paula Reed paula@paulasreed.com

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Jessica French jessica.French@maryland.gov

Frederick County contact:

Amanda Whitmore awhitmore@frederickcountymd.gov

Discussion Questions

It's your community and your decision!

Thank you!