



Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.

12610 Catoctin Furnace Road
Thurmont, Maryland 21788

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Furnace Fellowship

Live, work, and conduct research in historic Catoctin Furnace, Maryland

The Furnace Fellowship is a one-year, 40 hour per week, residential research and professional development program at historic Catoctin Furnace in western Maryland offered by the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. (CFHS). Each year two new Fellows are invited to join the site and participate in the research and interpretation of the industry and workers of this important early iron industry site listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Through a combination of research, seminars, visitor interaction, and hands-on projects, Furnace Fellows conduct significant primary research and gain professional museum management experience. Qualified candidates will be recent graduates holding either an undergraduate or graduate degree. Applicants are encouraged to visit www.catoctinfurnace.org and review the research projects underway to address within their application how their research and professional goals align with the museum and its partners.

Through a combination of research (archaeology, documentary, DNA, genealogy, geology, heritage studies, etc.), interpretation, and hands-on projects, Furnace Fellows conduct significant research and gain professional museum experience. Selected candidates are provided with the opportunity to:

- Conduct in-depth research that leads to a major project and /or paper based on their work
- Work closely with scholars, museum professionals, community organizations, affinity groups, and volunteers
- Lead tours of the historic site, buildings, and landscape, and have full engagement in interpretive programming
- Work closely with the museum director, and other CFHS staff on projects that may include collection care and research, exhibition planning, educational programming, and special events.
- Participate in various events and site-wide staff meetings to learn about the structural, strategic, and creative decisions involved in the day-to-day operations of an historic site and museum.

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Where History Changes Lives



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- Attend monthly field trips and site visits to museums and cultural venues; benefit from professional development opportunities including resume review and next step planning based on individual career goals.
- Attend at least one professional conference and present a professional or scholarly paper. Examples are the Small Museum Conference, Society for Historical Archaeology, Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference, or a conference aligned to individual research.

Fellows are required to live on-site in a newly restored, 2-bedroom 1820 iron worker house in the heart of the historic village and receive a \$500 stipend each month. The Fellows House is fully furnished and has a large living room, 2 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom, w/d, and all kitchen appliances and cookware, etc. There is excellent Wi-Fi, a deck off the kitchen, and two parking spaces. CFHS pays for all utilities and maintains the dwelling. Fellows are expected to keep the home clean and undertake routine maintenance such as changing HVAC filters (supplied), etc. and notify the CFHS buildings manager of any repairs needed. No smoking is allowed anywhere on the premises including in the Fellows House, the yard, and the museum buildings. No pets are allowed.

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. studies, commemorates, preserves, and shares the unique and rich history of this late 18th through 19th-century industrial village through the preservation of architecture, art and artistry, cultural traditions, cultural landscape, lifeways, and foodways of the diverse workers, inspiring us to engage broad audiences through programs and exhibitions that are relevant today. A commitment to researching and interpreting the dark heritage of the enslaved at Catoctin is a primary focus, as is knowledge transfer as reparative action. Further, improvement of the lives of village residents through economic and social benefits emanating from the historic site and through visitation to events is a goal of the society. This, in turn, will make the historic village an attractive place to live, work and care about. Finally, it is our intent that annual events such as Traditional Village Christmas, The Maryland Iron Festival, Spirits of the Furnace, Juneteenth Commemoration, Fallfest, Fourth at the Furnace, and Theater in the Furnace enrich the lives of those who visit and participate. The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.'s mission is to stimulate jobs, tax revenue, and visitor spending while conducting cutting edge research, enriching lives, and reminding all of the workers who built this nation.

Founded in 1972, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. operates the Museum of the Ironworker for the Maryland Park Service as part of Cunningham Falls State Park; the F.W. Fraley General Merchandise Store; and the Catoctin Furnace blacksmith shop. The historical society owns 4 historic structures within the village: the 1820 Forgemaster's House which is a "Stay Back in Time" overnight rental, the Log Collier's House which is both a house museum and an archaeology laboratory, the Furnace Fellows House, and the Carty-Miller House (under restoration). CFHS also oversees two interpretive trails: The African American Cemetery Interpretive Trail and the Iron Trail, as well as a historic kitchen and pollinator garden. The grounds are open dawn to dusk. The historic structures are

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open Memorial Day to Labor Day from Thursday - Sunday, 10-4. Open hours for the remainder of the year are Saturday and Sunday, 10-4. There is a staff of 3 (2 Furnace Fellows and 1 Maryland Civic Corps member) which allows some flexibility in schedule however, the applicant should be prepared to work on Saturday and Sunday with "weekend" days on Monday and Tuesday. Off-hour caretaker type duties may occasionally occur such as an unexpected alarm, leak, or other emergency. These are unexpected but if necessary, time on site will be swapped for these hours.

Current staff includes a Furnace Fellow position that began on June 1, 2026 and will end on May 31, 2027. The current Maryland Civic Corp member has been promoted to a senior position and renewed for a second year until June 2027.

Applicants should submit a current CV/Resume with 3 references and a one-page prospectus exploring their desired research or museum management and interpretation interest that aligns with Catoctin Furnace to ecomer@catoctinfurnace.org. The prospectus should address how their research can be accomplished during the 12-month Furnace Fellow appointment.

The current fellowship opening will begin as soon as possible after September 1, 2026 and end August 31, 2027. The application deadline is rolling but applicants are encouraged to apply asap. Zoom interviews will begin as soon as applications are received and reviewed.

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