

SPRINGFIELD FURNACE
On Piney Creek near Twp Road 392
Williamsburg Vicinity
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-317

HAER
PA
7-WILL.V,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
SPRINGFIELD FURNACE

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Location: On Piney Creek, 30' from Twp Road
392, Williamsburg (vic.), Blair
County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankstown, Pennsylvania

UTM: 17 E.731300 N.4477880

Date of Construction: 1815, 1855

Builder: Daniel Royer

Present Owner: unknown

Present Use: abandoned

Significance: Built by Daniel Royer in 1815; Royer
and his brother John were among
central Pennsylvania's most
prominent ironmasters during the
ante-bellum years. Springfield
Furnace was one of the county's
longest-active charcoal iron
furnaces. It went out of blast in
the 1880s.

Historian: Nancy Shedd, 1987

Project Information:

The results of the study of Cambria County were published in 1990: Fitzsimons, Gray, editor, Blair County and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, D.C.: America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP) and HABS/HAER, National Park Service). The contents of the publication were transmitted to the Library of Congress as individual reports. Research notes, field photos and copies of historic photos collected during the project were transmitted to the AIHP Collection, Special Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

HISTORY

In 1815, seven years after they erected Cove Forge on the Juniata River, John Royer and his brother Daniel constructed the Springfield Furnace five miles south of Williamsburg on Piney Creek. Pig iron produced at Springfield Furnace was fabricated into blooms at Cove Forge. By 1855 Springfield had been converted to a hot-blast furnace measuring 30' in height with an 8-1\2' bosh. Ore from the Springfield Mine and limestone from a local quarry were used at this furnace. The furnace had an output capacity of 35 tons per week. The Royer family retained ownership of the furnace until it was blown out ca. 1880. Springfield was one of the last charcoal iron furnaces to remain in blast in Blair County.

The remains of the tub bellows and the axle of the water wheel used to drive the bellows were still extant in the 1930s. Since that time, a portion of the front wall of the furnace has collapsed, and only a portion of the water wheel axle is in evidence. However, three of the furnace walls are in good condition, and the area around the furnace has been left undisturbed.

Sources

J.P. Lesley, The Iron Manufacturer's Guide to the Furnaces, Forges and Rolling Mills of the United States, New York: John Wiley, 1859.

Myron B. Sharp and William H. Thomas, A Guide to the Old Stone Blast Furnaces in Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh: The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1966.

George A. Wolf (ed), Blair County's First Hundred Years, 1846-1946, second edition, Altoona: The Mirror Press, 1945.

ADDENDUM TO:
SPRINGFIELD FURNACE
On Piney Creek near Township Route 392
Williamsburg vicinity
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HAER PA-317
HAER PA,7-WILL.V,3-

COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
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