STATE OF THE PARKS

october 2004

HOPEWELL FURNACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

A Resource Assessment

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

THE HOPEWELL FURNACE ASSESSMENT

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The iron-making furnace resides in the cast house, the center of the Hopewell community. This is where stoves, kettles, machinery, and other iron products were fashioned.

In the woods of southeastern Pennsylvania, a community of men, women, and children worked to supply iron for the growing nation. They created a village called Hopewell that was built around an iron-making furnace. From 1771 to 1883, Hopewell Furnace manufactured iron goods to fill the demands of growing eastern cities like Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore. While the most profitable items were stoves, the furnace cast many other objects such as kettles, machinery, grates, and cannon shot and shells for patriot forces during the Revolutionary War.

As technology progressed, the furnace eventually became outdated. In 1883, it closed, and the furnace workers and their families left to make their livings elsewhere. They left behind their homes, work buildings, tools, and other evidence of the iron-making community that once thrived.

Today the remains of Hopewell Furnace represent an important time in America's maturation as a nation. The production of

iron in hundreds of small furnaces like Hopewell provided the key ingredient in America's industrial revolution, enabling the United States to become an economic and technological leader worldwide.

In 1935, the United States paid A. Louise Clingan Brooke, descendant of the last Hopewell ironmaster's family, nearly $87,000 for about 4,000 acres of land, including the historic Hopewell Furnace buildings and village. The federal government intended to use the site as a component of the Civilian Conservation Corps' Recreation Demonstration Area and initially had no intention of establishing a national historic site. Additional purchases brought the federally owned acreage in and around Hopewell to a total of 6,000 acres. National Park Service historians recognized the importance of the old furnace ruins and convinced the Department of the Interior that they should be preserved and reconstructed. In 1938, the Acting Secretary of the Interior designated a portion of the land acquired for the French Creek Recreation Demonstration Area as Hopewell Village National Historic Site. The National Park Service set the current site boundaries in 1946, and the name was changed to Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site in 1985.

Today Hopewell's visitors can explore the best-preserved 18th and 19th century iron-making community in North America. The impressive blast furnace and 30-foot water wheel, ironmaster's mansion, workers' quarters, a living farm, charcoal maker's hut (otherwise known as a collier's hut), and other structures illustrate the historic infrastructure typical of the charcoal-iron making process. More than 50 of Hopewell's structures are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the park's museum contains nearly 300,000 artifacts and archival items related to the site's history.

What today's visitors will not find are the noise, heat, and pollution that were ever-present in the community during the heyday of iron production. Instead, they must rely on the park's education programs and their imaginations to understand what life was like at Hopewell. Living history programs have been very popular at the park. Hopewell's costumed employees and volunteers more effectively communicate what life was like in this rural industrial community. Unfortunately, cumulative funding constraints have forced the park to severely limit its living history programs, reducing its ability to educate visitors.

THE STATE OF THE PARKS® PROGRAM

The State of the Parks program was launched in 2000 to assess the condition of cultural and natural resources in the parks and determine how well equipped the National Park Service is to protect the parks—its stewardship capacity. This report conveys the findings of a cultural resources and stewardship capacity assessment of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site.

The current overall condition of **cultural resources** at Hopewell Furnace rates a "fair" score of 71 out of 100. The scores for cultural resources are based on the results of indicator questions that reflect the Park Service's own Cultural Resource Management Guidelines, federal legislative mandates, and other Park Service policies.

Insufficient funding is the largest threat to Hopewell Furnace's cultural resources. For example, the park has no money to assess the cast house, repair its roof, or create a new historic structure report. Such budget shortfalls compromise both resource protection and visitor experience.

The park's ability to care for its

resources, also known as its **stewardship capacity**, rates a "critical" score of 33 out of 100. The rating was calculated by averaging the four component scores of stewardship capacity, weighting the funding and staffing component at 40 percent of the overall score to reflect its importance.

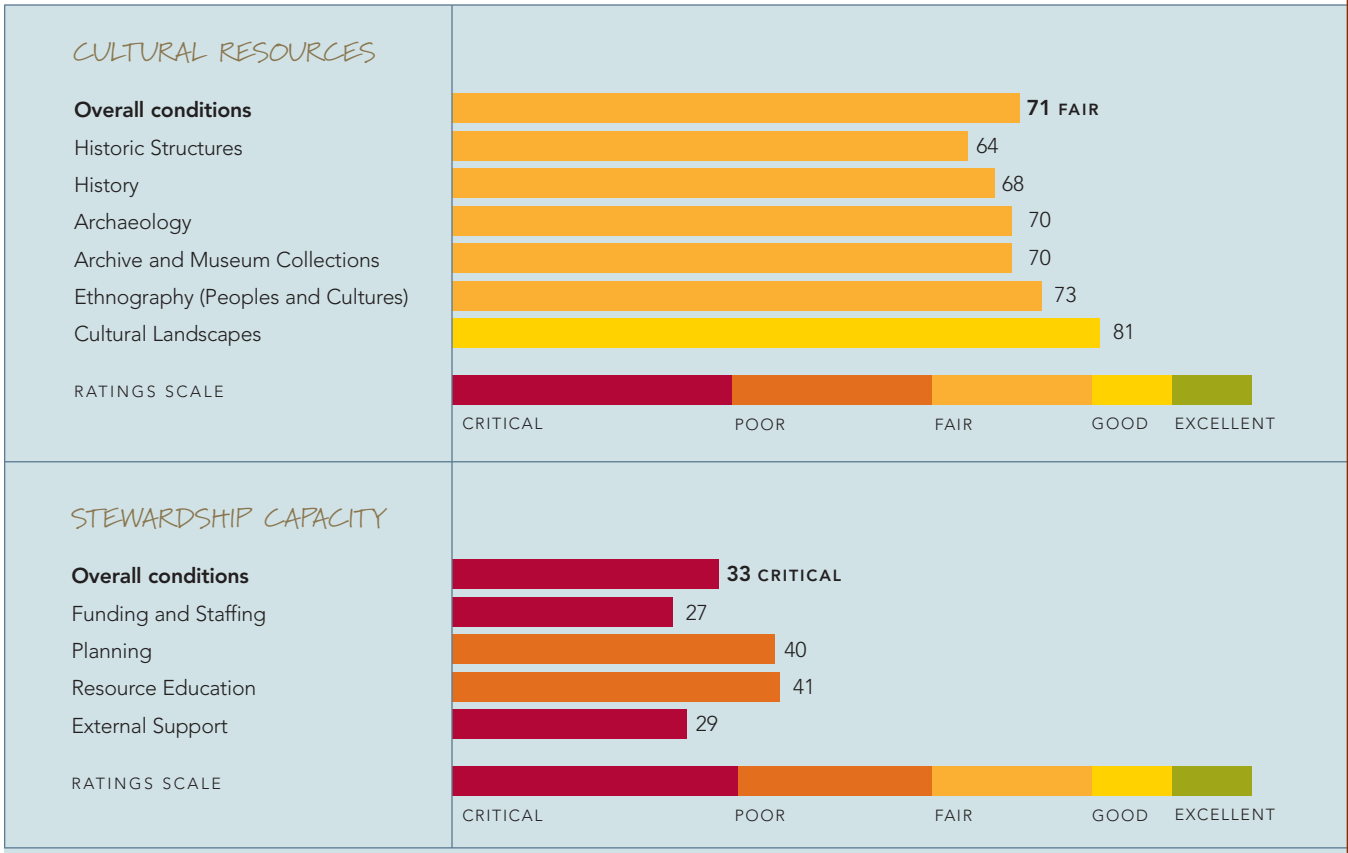
Funding and staffing shortfalls are at the heart of the park's critical stewardship capacity score. Support is needed for additional cultural resource and maintenance expertise and to increase living history programs. Funding is also needed to remedy some serious infrastructure deficiencies—historic buildings are unheated and without adequate fire suppression systems.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

HISTORIC STRUCTURES—WORKLOAD EXCEEDS CAPACITY

SCORE: FAIR, 64 OUT OF 100

During the height of iron production at Hopewell Furnace, 1820-1840, the community thrived. Many of the buildings that were used for iron production and worker housing remain today. The heart of the park is the furnace itself, a 50-foot tall stone masonry structure that dominates the landscape. Next to the furnace is a reproduction 30-foot tall wooden water wheel that provided an air blast into the furnace.



The State of the Parks assessment methodology and other State of the Park reports can be found at http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/ or contact the State of the Parks program at 970.493.2545.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Congress and the administration should increase annual operating funds and Hopewell Furnace should be given authorization to hire additional staff to:

  1) protect and repair structures and manage surrounding vegetation to maintain the integrity of the cultural landscape;

  2) conduct historical research and inventories, finish cataloging archival and museum objects, and create finding aides to enhance the park's ability to interpret Park Service history, early American technology, and Hopewell's importance in the larger national and world contexts;

  3) sustain and continuously improve the park's interpretation and education capacity vital to convey the site's historical and cultural significance to the public.

- Congress and the administration should provide funding for the park to increase library and archival storage space and workspace, provide appropriate climate control systems in village structures and all museum and archival storage space, and provide adequate fire suppression systems for all buildings.

- The Park Service should evaluate Mission 66 and Civilian Conservation Corps historic landscapes for significance, conduct the proper landscape studies, and document them if they are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

- The Park Service Northeast Regional Office should hire additional personnel trained in historic architecture, design, engineering, and other professions to provide assistance at Hopewell Furnace and other parks in the region.

- The Park Service should strengthen and cultivate partnerships to expand funding and obtain professional expertise for cultural resource stewardship, especially for critical historic structures.

- The Park Service should not defer routine maintenance and cyclic maintenance projects because of insufficient funds. Deferred maintenance results in deteriorating structures and overgrown vegetation.

(RIGHT) The furnace's wooden water wheel was recently shut down because routine preventive maintenance and repairs were not performed.

(BELOW) The Ironmaster's home was the largest and most elegant in Hopewell. Gardens bearing vegetables, herbs, and fruits surrounded the house.

The charcoal shed, ironmaster's house, blacksmith shop, store, tenant houses, and farm buildings are other key structures that help today's visitors understand the lives of the people who lived and worked at Hopewell.

The park's List of Classified Structures (LCS) contains 76 entries, and about 50 percent of the listed structures are in good condition. The rest are listed in fair or poor condition, and with current inadequate maintenance funding, further deterioration of these structures can be expected.

The park's buildings feel the daily stresses of age, weather, pests, and visitation. For example, the park lacks the funds to keep buildings painted to protect them from the moist Pennsylvania climate, which leads to deterioration of structural materials. Water that leaked down a chimney in the ironmaster's house has crept into walls and ceilings, and structures left unheated

MARCIA LESKY

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because of high energy costs are subject to mold and rot. The furnace's giant wooden wheel failed recently and was shut down because routine preventive maintenance and repairs were not performed. An annual park inspection and monitoring program helps identify preventive maintenance needs, but the necessary funds are not always available to address the identified needs.

Heat, cold, fluctuating humidity, storms, fires, and both intentional and unintentional human impacts pose threats to the park's historic structures. The park has funding requests in place to mitigate these threats, but many of these requests have gone unfunded.

In the past, more park staff lived on-site and could respond quickly to situations such as burst pipes and vandalism. A 1998 policy discouraged the use of Park Service living quarters, and consequently when the park is closed fewer staff are available to respond quickly.

In addition to structures that date back to iron production in the 18th and 19th centuries, the park contains buildings constructed during the 1950s and 1960s. They mostly date to the Park Service infrastructure development era known as Mission 66. Most need upgrades such as handrails, expanded bathrooms, and other alterations to make them more compliant with modern accessibility standards.

However, before changes are made to these buildings, park staff must complete National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance activities to determine whether any detrimental effects will result from proposed alterations near or to a "historic building." These important compliance issues delay maintenance, repair, and preservation activities.

The park does not have enough funds to provide necessary preventive maintenance

CHARCOAL PRODUCTION— A COLLIER'S WORK

Historically, some of the most important and best-paid people at Hopewell Furnace were the colliers or charcoal makers. These men produced the charcoal that fueled iron production. To make sufficient charcoal to fuel the furnace, an acre of trees per day of operation needed to be felled. These were split and cut into four-foot pieces and stacked around a wooden chimney located in the center of a 30 to 40-foot log pile constructed on a leveled spot in the forest (called a charcoal pit). Once all the wood was piled, it was covered with leaves and dirt and set on fire. The collier tended the slow-burning fire day and night until all the wood was charred-usually about ten to 14 days.

Few people remain who are skilled in this historic method of charcoal production, and Hopewell Furnace is one of the few places where this method is preserved. To keep this art alive, the park has been a leader in providing hands-on training to professionals from other historic sites and to volunteers. However, several issues have made it more difficult for the park to provide the amount of cut and stacked wood needed to demonstrate the technique to visitors. Rising salary costs, other demands on staff, and health and safety concerns prevent the staff from cutting and splitting the wood. As a result, the park can barely afford to continue the programs because of the cost of providing the amount of wood needed for the demonstrations. Just two demonstrations took place in 2004, and two are scheduled for 2005.

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for wooden structures that are by nature subject to decay. Current maintenance and rehabilitation needs at Hopewell Furnace exceed $7 million. The park has treatment plans and funding requests in place, but without increased funds to complete maintenance and resource preservation projects, progress is limited. Neglect of historic structures directly affects the park's ability to portray the importance of early iron production in America's history and development.

HISTORY—ADDITIONAL STUDIES NEEDED

SCORE: FAIR, 68 OUT OF 100

Hopewell and other furnaces brought many changes to southeastern Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries. The industry brought social, economic, technological, and environmental changes to the people and the landscape. Each person had a role to play in the community's success. The surrounding environment was altered as forests were harvested to produce charcoal and cleared to foster agriculture. Documentation of the changes brought by the iron industry is found in historic resource studies that were written from 1935 to 1965, after the federal government bought the site. These studies are now part of the Hopewell Furnace archive, and copies are available at the park.

Additional studies are needed to explore parts of the site's history that have not been documented. Historic resource studies are needed for the ironmaster's garden; transportation, trade, and technology; Hopewell and the environment; Hopewell farming activities; and the relationship between Hopewell and adjacent French Creek State Park, which contains acreage that was part of the original Hopewell Furnace holdings. Some work on African-American connections to the site has been done, but further work is needed.

The furnace affected the environment by clearing trees from the forest, polluting water from slagheap runoff, altering forest animal populations, and introducing additional heat, light, and noise. Understanding these changes would provide insight into the interrelationships between human activities and the environment, and an environmental history of the region that identifies the original state of the area's ecology and resources could contribute to a broader conservation effort currently under way in southeastern Pennsylvania.

The park does not have a historian on-site, but a few historians in the Park Service regional support center are available for contract oversight work. Park staff primarily work with local scholars to pursue research topics such as an architectural study that includes Civilian Conservation Corps and Mission 66 era structures, furnace worker biographies, and an administrative history. Work is also under way to

The park maintains a living farm on-site. Additional studies are needed to help the park better understand Hopewell's farming activities.

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These are the ruins of Hopewell's anthracite furnace built in the 1850s. This furnace, which burned anthracite coal, was not successful, and the community continued to use the charcoal-burning furnace instead.

determine whether Hopewell has links to the Underground Railroad and to compile extensive biographies on individual workers. In the past, seasonal staff completed other historical research, but the park can no longer afford to use seasonal staff for research projects.

ARCHAEOLOGY—BASELINE WORK AND INVENTORY NOT YET COMPLETE

SCORE: FAIR, 70 OUT OF 100

Most archaeology completed at the park covers the historic period and includes the iron making furnace complex and its associated outbuildings: the casting house, molds and equipment, the charcoal house and cooling shed, the bridge house, slagheaps, millraces, water wheel-powered blowing machinery, and the furnace and stack. Sites also include charcoal burn scars, the remains of colliers' huts, roads, walls and ruins, privies, and other associated industrial and domestic traces. Each of these historic archaeological sites holds answers about a time past that was crucial to the industrial revolution and the development of the United States.

About 36 archaeological sites have been identified in the park, but only 25 percent of the park has been systematically surveyed. In August 2004, Park Service archaeologists completed Archaeological Overview and Assessment (ASMIS) surveys of the park. These should provide baseline information that can be used to develop management strategies. This assessment also provides a more precise count and understanding of the park's identified archaeological sites. As part of this process, information on the park's sites is added to the Park Service system-wide archaeological database.

About 40 to 50 archaeological excava-

tions have occurred in the park since the 1930s. The park has requested funding for additional historic archaeological research to locate old house sites, ruins, and farmsteads. Coupled with a thorough examination of archival records, the study of trash pits and privy contents at these sites could provide a great deal more information about the daily lives of the inhabitants of Hopewell.

The park's facilities manager attended an "Archaeology for the Manager" class to help him train the maintenance staff to protect archaeological resources when conducting routine maintenance. Despite limited available training, Hopewell's resource staff are aware of potential threats to archaeological resources.

A lack of funds for badly needed monitoring, investigation, and preservation means that archaeological artifacts and sites are at risk of decline, and the competition for these limited funds means that the care of these sites and artifacts is a lower priority than architectural repairs, such as the restoration of the water wheel.

ARCHIVE AND MUSEUM COLLECTION—ADDITIONAL SPACE, CLIMATE CONTROL SYSTEMS, AND FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS NEEDED

SCORE: FAIR, 70 OUT OF 100

Hopewell Furnace's museum and archival collections include historic furnishings such as chairs, cradles, tables, and kitchen and household objects that date from 1771-1889. The collection also includes archaeological artifacts, such as an extensive pottery shard collection. The museum storage building houses objects that are not on public display, such as natural history specimens, industrial equipment, and iron prod-

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At the office and store, Hopewell villagers could buy a variety of goods. Park visitors can see some of the types of items that were for sale.

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THE PARK'S MUSEUM COLLECTION CONTAINS THOUSANDS OF ITEMS DATING FROM 1771-1889, INCLUDING IRON PRODUCTS THAT WERE MANUFACTURED AT THE FURNACE.

ucts manufactured at Hopewell. The archive includes historic structure reports, maps, field notes, photographs, and business records including ledgers, daybooks, and furnace books. The park also has a genealogical database with information on more than 4,000 individuals who are mentioned in the furnace operation ledgers from 1780-1883. These data are cross-referenced with census and tax data.

According to the most recent collection management report, Hopewell's archive has more than 185,000 items with a 64 percent backlog of uncataloged items. The park needs a staff member with archival training to professionally organize records and create finding aids for staff and researchers. The entire Hopewell Furnace collection, including museum objects and the archive, totals more than 290,000 items, and about 42 percent are not cataloged. The park is currently meeting 69 percent of museum and collection preservation standards.

Besides a shortage in expertise, Hopewell Furnace does not have enough museum and archive storage space. There is not enough space to store library books and archival items, and some books and boxes are stored on the floor. Researchers can access the collections, but they do not have enough space to work. In addition, buildings where library books and items from the archive and museum collection are stored do not have appropriate climate control or fire suppression systems. High humidity is causing some leather and metal artifacts to deteriorate.

Open access in the form of self-guided tours to some exhibits, as well as deferred maintenance on some structures, also put the collections at risk. Staff are aware of threats and have done everything they can with the resources available to prevent damage, prepare for disasters, and address maintenance and repairs.

ETHNOGRAPHY (PEOPLES AND CULTURES)—MANY STUDIES ALREADY CONDUCTED

SCORE: FAIR, 73 OUT OF 100

The identified ethnographic groups at Hopewell Furnace are the African- American and European-American descendants of people who once lived and worked at Hopewell. The resources associated with these groups include collier hut remains, religious sites, burial grounds, and other resources that pertain to people's interactions with their community and surroundings. The ethnographic resources identified at Hopewell include the village itself, Bethesda Baptist Church and cemetery, charcoal-making hearths, and a robust collection of oral and life histories and genealogical information for more than 4,000 individuals. Adjacent to Hopewell Furnace are two sites, Mt. Frisby Church and cemetery and the Six Penny Creek ruins, which have African-American associations.

A fair amount of good work has been done to care for ethnographic resources at Hopewell Furnace. In 2002, the Park Service Boston Support Office wrote an Ethnographic Resource Inventory Report that built upon a previous report listing potential ethnographic resources, their contacts, and suggestions for further research. In addition, the park and the Park Service regional office are finishing a proposal for an Ethnographic Overview and Assessment that has been funded for fiscal year 2005. Many traditional use studies have been done covering topics such as hunting, charcoal making, farming, the church and cemetery, herb gathering, gardening, and Hopewell's orchard.

The park works to protect traditional practices associated with the site such as charcoal making and farming. The park

Hopewell villagers grew a variety of foods, including apples. The park maintains an orchard of historic apple varieties that is used to teach horticultural and historical information to visitors.

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maintains an orchard of historic apple varieties that is used to share horticultural as well as historical information with park visitors, and is working with the Park Service's Olmstead Landscape Center to complete landscape studies. Other historical gardening and farming practices are not interpreted. This is an area where more funding to support living history programs, like those offered ten to 20 years ago, would enhance interpretation at the site.

Further studies that have not been funded are: 1) significant research into possible Underground Railroad connections and African-American ties to Hopewell; 2) assessment of oral histories for information that could be used in the Park Service's ethnographic resource inventory to indicate ongoing cultural ties; and 3) linking the genealogical database through the park's web site for easier access. Oral histories of all current and former park employees should be collected to prevent the loss of park history when long-term employees retire. In addition, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) records should be consulted and additional individuals contacted for their recollections of the time they spent working in the area.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES—SIGNIFICANCE OF LANDSCAPES MUST BE EVALUATED

SCORE: GOOD, 81 OUT OF 100

The natural and cultural resources of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site are closely linked. A significant feature of early charcoal furnaces was their rural setting and dependence on locally available natural resources. Iron ore, waterpower for the furnace air blast, extensive forests for charcoal production, and suitable farmland to support the human and domestic animal populations were necessary components of successful iron plantations.

The park has one formally identified cultural landscape—the historic furnace and associated village. The significance of additional landscapes needs to be evaluated.

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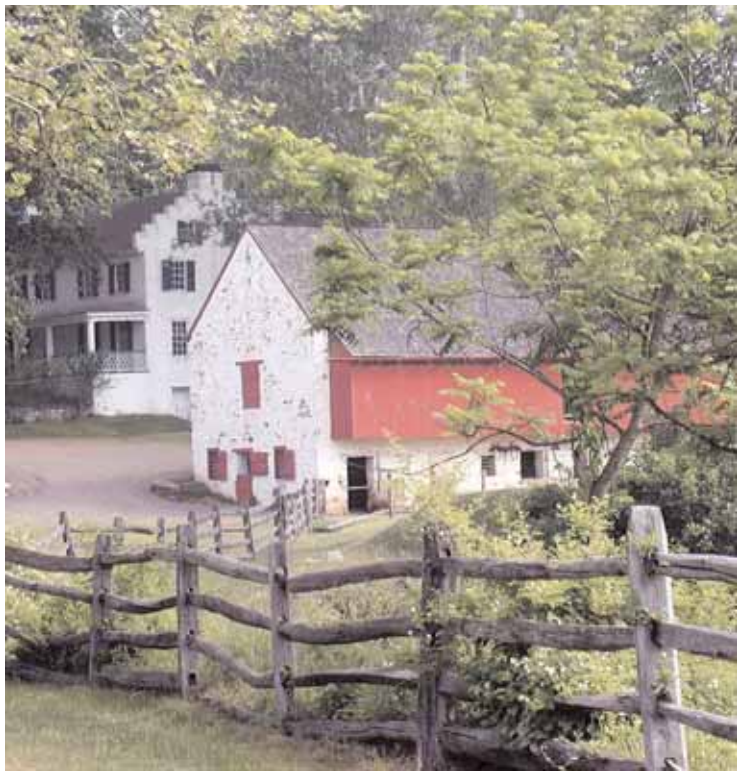

THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE THAT INCLUDES THE FURNACE AND VILLAGE IS IN FAIR CONDITION. THREATS INCLUDE VANDALISM AND DETERIORATION RESULTING FROM DEFERRED MAINTENANCE.

The Park Service has formally identified one cultural landscape at Hopewell—the historic furnace and associated village. The landscape of the village is identified as a vernacular and early industrial landscape with African-American and European-American connections, and it is reported to be in fair condition.

The park also contains a CCC era landscape and a collection of Mission 66 buildings that might qualify as historic landscapes. Funding is needed to evaluate their significance.

A Cultural Landscape Report was written for Hopewell Furnace in 1997. The 848 acres contained within Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site are only 20 percent of the original Hopewell property, but the area still represents five periods of significance: settlement and development (1770-1800), growth and prosperity (1800-1845), decline (1846-1883), shutdown and survival (1883-1935), and the CCC era (1935-1938).

Though overall landscape conditions are fair, threats to the landscapes include both environmental and direct human dangers: decay, mold, water, air pollution, humidity, deterioration of structures as a result of deferred maintenance, deterioration as a result of use and visitation, vandalism, and overpopulation of deer. Re-growth of the surrounding forest has changed the landscape, and the village does not look as it did when the furnace was in operation. Many of the ancient sycamore trees in the village have reached the end of their life spans, and new ones need to be planted. In a laudable effort to help restore the historic landscape, park personnel are working with an arboretum to regenerate historic plants through cuttings.

Resource managers are well aware of threats from air and water pollution, encroaching settlement, vandalism, and deer overpopulation. But perhaps the greatest threat to the park's integrity comes from changes to the historic landscape that are a result of deferred maintenance. Structures deteriorate when maintenance activities must be postponed because of insufficient funds, and the appearance of the historic landscape changes as vegetation begins to overgrow parts of the site. Some specifications for treatment of cultural landscapes have been developed, but the park does not have the resources to fully implement the recommendations.

STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY

FUNDING AND STAFFING—PARK FACES SMALLER STAFF, REDUCED PROGRAMS, AND MOUNTING MAINTENANCE

SCORE: CRITICAL, 27 OUT OF 100

The most significant factor affecting a park's ability to protect its resources is the funding it receives from Congress and other sources. In 2003, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site had an operational budget of $1,026,300. The last time the park received an operational budget increase was in 1998.

Since then fixed costs for utilities, communications, and services as well as mandated staff salary increases have outstripped this increase. To stabilize and protect its cultural and natural resources, conduct improved law enforcement, enhance interpretation and visitor services, and meet basic standards for park operation, the park has requested an increase of approximately $2.7 million to its annual operating budget.

In addition, the park has more than $7.5 million in unfunded, one-time needs for 218 projects. The highest priority unfunded projects involve stabilization and preservation of historic structures, nearly half of which are in fair or poor condition. All of these structures will continue to deteriorate because of deferred maintenance, increasing the eventual cost for rehabilitation. Additional funding would reduce the backlog of maintenance and resource protection projects, including the repair of leaky rotting roofs, failing rain gutters, failing walls, and peeling (often lead-based) paint. Besides the historic loss, these conditions compromise the safety of visitors and staff.

Infrastructure including electrical power, water, sewer, and communication systems is outdated, patched together, and prone to

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This tenant house suffered damage when a tree limb fell on it. Unexpected emergency repairs further strain the park's tight budget.

PLANNING—NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN UNDER WAY

SCORE: POOR, 40 OUT OF 100

All units of the National Park System are supposed to be guided by a General Management Plan (GMP), which is the master plan that clearly describes desired resource conditions, visitor experiences to be achieved, and the kinds of management and development that are appropriate to achieve those conditions.

Even though Hopewell Furnace has been in existence since 1938, a GMP has never been developed. Fortunately, the park recognized the value of such a document, secured funding, and began its development. The plan is due to be released in 2006, which will be a very helpful aid in resource management. In the meantime, the park's only other broad planning guides, its Statement for Management, its Resource Management Plan (RMP), and others are old and partially outdated. The National Park Service has decided to discontinue RMPs, but has not announced what will take their place. Thus this park, like all parks, is awaiting completion of the Natural Resources Initiative to enable natural resource monitoring and updated planning.

Meanwhile, the park has developed some plans to address specific issues. It has a new Fire Management Plan (2003-2004) and a current Collection Management Plan (1998). And its Interpretive Plan, while completed in 1993, is still largely relevant. To its credit, the park has begun developing key plans dealing with archaeology and ethnography. And while funding remains elusive, it also has identified the need for a Pest Management Plan for museum exhibits and storage and a Museum Housekeeping Plan.

failure. Crisis management has become routine; proactive preventive maintenance is impossible given the current budget. Emergency repairs and temporary solutions will create more emergencies and deepen the crisis.

The park has 17 full-time employees. Of this number, the park has only one cultural resources manager. The single cultural resources manager cannot provide the routine cleaning, inventory, and care of the park's cultural resources. At least two more full-time specialists are needed, with reasonable supplies and support, at an annual cost of about $240,000.

Years of declining budgets have also left Hopewell with only one part-time and three full-time maintenance workers. Seasonal help is not available for maintenance tasks, although park volunteers have contributed greatly toward accomplishing routine daily tasks in recent years. To make this problem worse, most of the park's limited stock of hand tools and power equipment is decades old. An additional $472,000 annually is needed to hire three full-time maintenance staff and purchase the tools, supplies, and materials needed annually for restoration and sustained preservation of the park's irreplaceable structures.

There is a lack of essential monitoring of the park's natural resources, non-native species have a toehold in the park, the plant inventory is deficient, and too many deer are over-browsing important native vegetation. This situation is affecting the park's ability to maintain its cultural landscape. Annual funding of about $150,000 is needed to monitor and mitigate threats to the park natural resources, conduct inventories, and manage these resources in concert with surrounding French Creek State Park and the Hopewell Big Woods.

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Living history programs teach visitors about Hopewell, its people, and the importance of iron in America's history. Lack of funds and staff reductions have forced the park to cut back these programs.

RESOURCE EDUCATION—FUNDING CONSTRAINTS COMPROMISE VISITOR UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

SCORE: POOR, 41 OUT OF 100

Public support for the park and preservation of its cultural resources is greatly enhanced when the public understands the importance of these resources. The park staff plays a crucial role in communicating these values to the public. Thus resource education is an important indirect tool to help preserve park resources.

Telling the story of Hopewell Furnace and its cultural resources has always been one of the top priorities at the park. This story is told through exhibits at the visitor center, an audio-visual program, living history demonstrations, junior ranger programs, and special events. These presentations explain the important role of iron in America's history, especially during the heyday of Hopewell Furnace from 1820-1840, and what life was like on an iron plantation during that time. In all, the park's three full-time interpretive rangers and seven part-time seasonal interpreters made more than 156,000 contacts with the public in 2003.

At one time, Hopewell set the standard in the Park Service for historical interpretation through its active living history programs. The park used to have 25 costumed seasonal employees who taught visitors about the furnace and the village's historic and cultural resources. As a result of tightening budgets, there were only six part-time seasonal interpreters at the park in 2004. It is uncertain if there will be any seasonal interpreters in 2005.

Lack of funds and resulting reductions in park staff also have caused the park to cut back the number of programs and

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Support or become a member of the Friends of Hopewell Furnace (www.nps.gov/hofu/friendspg.htm), NPCA (www.npca.org/support_npca), and other regional organizations.
- **Volunteer in the Parks.** Many parks are looking for dedicated people who can lend a helping hand. To learn about opportunities at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 610-582-8773.
- **Become an NPCA activist.** When you join our activist network, you will receive *Park Lines*, a biweekly electronic newsletter with the latest park news and ways you can help. Join by visiting www.npca.org/takeaction.

guided tours given to school groups over the past five years, despite charging a fee for these programs. The days of the week the programs are offered and the number offerings per day have been cut back dramatically over the past decade. This has been necessary to ensure that permanent staff can sustain the daily operation of the park and provide hands-on care to the cultural resources. A limited number of staff means that care of cultural resources may be suspended while staff give tours or cover daily operations. Also, greater procedural requirements from national operations drain the time of an already small staff.

Park visitation went from 65,437 in 2001 to 55,280 in 2003. In the 1980s, when the park was able to provide more living history programming, visitation was much higher. Decreased living history programs may be a major factor in decreased visitation. If diminished public support results from lack of public understanding, the park's cultural resources will suffer.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT—PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE WELCOME SUPPORT

SCORE: CRITICAL, 29 OUT OF 100

A park is best able to provide resource protection when it receives strong external support from volunteers, park support groups, Congress, and partners. It is often difficult to forge deep external support for a small park, and Hopewell is no exception. However, the park recognizes the importance of these relationships and in 2003 recruited 288 volunteers who contributed more than 6,300 hours of service to the park. These hours have increased over the past five years.

The park has not been able to develop any partnerships that significantly advance resource protection. Nor has the park's "Friends" group been able to be an advocate for park needs for the past five years. However, about 30 people recently met to revitalize the "Friends of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site." Congressional support for the park has not been evident in tangible ways, and there is little evidence of close cooperation with the park by local communities over recent years.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (MT-Alberta)

Please visit www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/ to view these reports and to learn more about the State of the Parks® Program.

For more infor-mation about the State of the Parks® Program and this and other program reports, contact:

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State of the Parks® Program

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STATE OF THE PARKS®

On average, less than 10 percent of the National Parks Service's annual budget is earmarked for management of cultural resources and just 20 percent is targeted for natural resources. In most years, only about 7 percent of permanent park employees work in jobs directly related to preservation of park resources.

The National Parks Conservation Association initiated the State of the Parks® Program in 2000 to assess the condition of cultural and natural resources in national parks, forecast future conditions of those resources, and determine how well equipped the National Park Service is to protect the parks. The goal is to provide information that will help policy-makers and the National Park Service improve conditions in national parks and ensure a lasting natural, historical, and cultural legacy for future generations.

State of the Parks® cultural resource assessment methodology is based on National Park Service cultural resource management guideline standards. For more information, contact National Parks Conservation Association, State of the Parks® Program, P.O. Box 737, Fort Collins, CO 80522. Phone: 970-493-2545; Fax: 970-493-9164; E-mail: stateoftheparks@npca.org.

Since 1919, the nonpartisan National Parks Conservation Association has been the leading voice of the American people in the fight to safeguard our National Park System. NPCA, its members, and partners work together to protect the park system and preserve our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage for generations to come.

* Nearly 300,000 members
* 8 regional offices
* 35,000 activists

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