

(X) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Early Ironworks of Northwestern South Carolina

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Thicketty Mountain Ore Pits (38CK74)

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Thicketty Mountain Ore Banks

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: none



CLASSIFICATION: site

OWNER:

DESCRIPTION

The iron ore pits or surface mines at Thicketty Mountain cover several depressions about two to three meters deep and about five to ten meters across. These depressions are the remnants of pit mines that have had some natural backfill since the 1850's when they were last operational. The mines being nominated are preserved because of forest growth and lack of landscape modifying activities such as farming; other nearby mines in non-forested areas have been totally backfilled by agricultural activity.(1)

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Archeology-Historic Industry

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: N

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The ore pits located adjacent to Thicketty Mountain are some of the best observed examples of open pit mining operations in the area. These ore pits are also the best preserved examples that can be associated with the South Carolina Manufacturing Company, a major iron manufacturing company that operated in Spartanburg County between c.1825 and c. 1850. They are important as a well-defined and concentrated set which could be both easily preserved as well as systematically studied. Their principal research potential lies in the information they could produce about mining techniques and patterns of ore preference and selection.(2) For example, data regarding ore pit dimensions may be used to estimate amount of ore recovered from each pit and form the site as a whole. Time/labor estimates for the excavation of ore pits might also be obtainable. The integrity of these ore pits is sound due to the lack of impact by landscape altering activities in the wooded area of the site. Therefore, the potential for encountering preserved subsurface archeological deposits, especially in the pits themselves, is quite good.

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OTHER INFORMATION:

FOOTNOTES

(1) Terry A. Ferguson and Tom Cowan, "The Early Ironworks of Northwest South Carolina" (unpublished, report of investigations conducted from 1985-86 under grant no. 45859103 administered by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the United States Department of the the Interior), on file at SCDAH, pp. 71-73.

(2) Ibid.; Oscar M. Lieber, "Geognostic Map of the Itacolumite, Iron, and Limestone Region of Union, Spartanburg, and York District, South Carolina," Reports on the Mineralogical, Geological, and Agricultural Survey of South Carolina, 4 vols. (Columbia: R. W. Gibbes, 1856-1860), vol. 2, Plate 7