

**CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY
FIELD FORM 1988-1989**

HIST. NAME: Iron Furnace Chimney
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1865
COMMON NAME:
ORIGINAL USE: Chimney stack for iron
furnace
ADDRESS: George Rogers Park, State Street
OWNER: City of Lake Oswego
PRESENT USE: Vacant
ARCH./BLDR.: Richard Mason
T/R/S: 2S 1E IICB
TAX LOT: 100

STYLE: N/A
RESOURCE TYPE:
Structure
THEME: Industry
ADDITION: Albert
Durnam DLC
BLOCK:
LOT: N/A
QUAD: Lake Oswego
LOT SIZE: 4.25 Acres
ZONE: R-7.5

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Square
NO. OF STORIES: N/A
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Stone
BASEMENT: N/A
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: N/A

WALL CONSTRUCTION: N/A
STRUCTURAL FRAME: N/A
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: N/A
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: N/A
DECORATIVE FEATURES: N/A

OTHER: N/A
CONDITION: Poor
EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: N/A
NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: N/A
ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: N/A

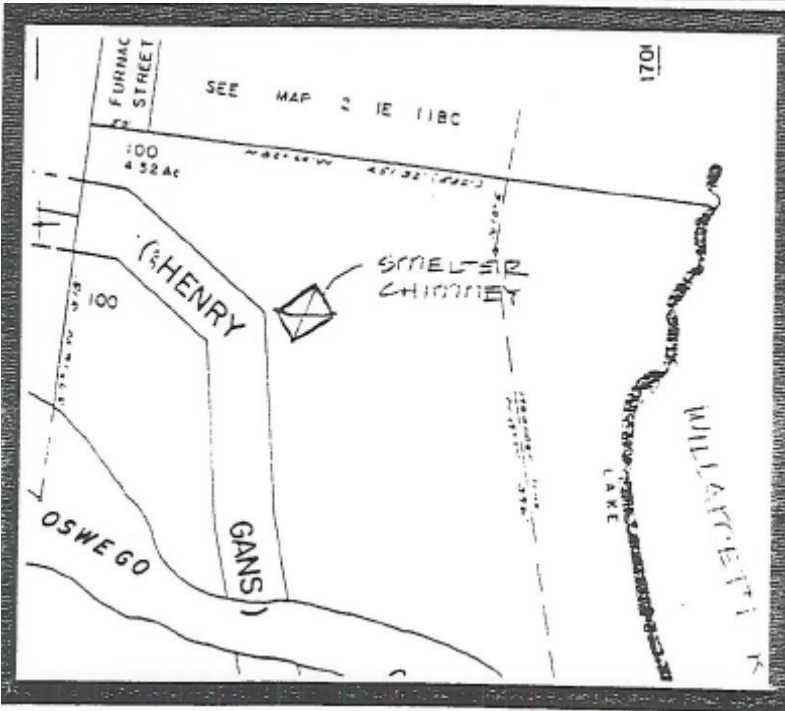
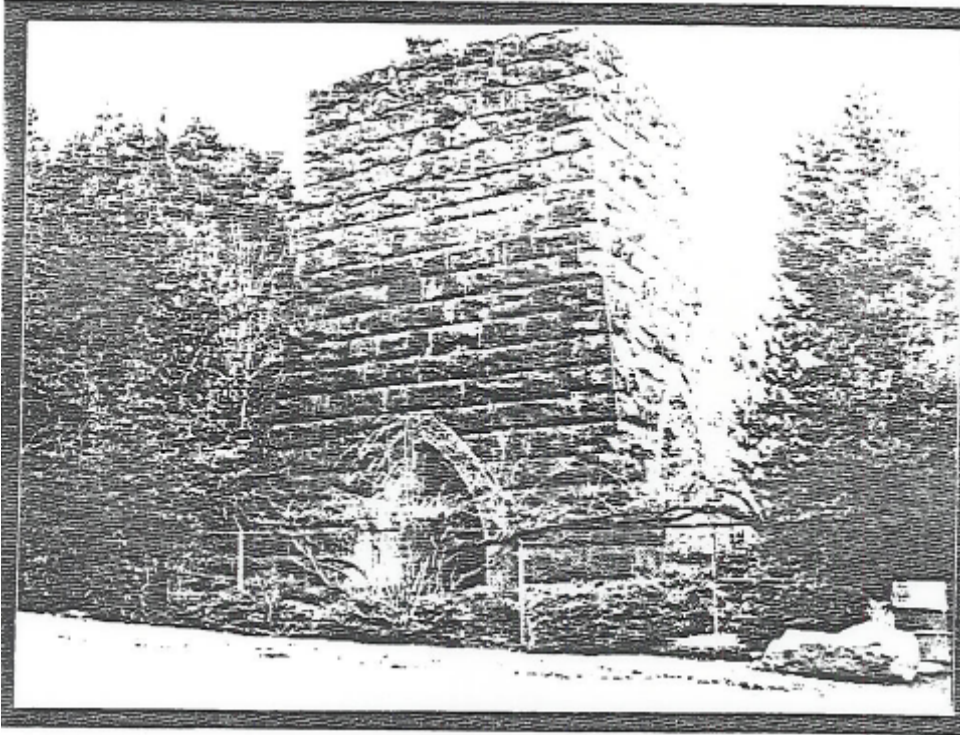
SETTING: N/A
NOTES:

RECORDER(S): Heisler/Morrison
SHPO #:

DATE: June 1989
FIELD#:

CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

ADDRESS IRON SMELTER CHIMNEY
TAX MAP LOT 2S 1E 11 CB/100
SHPO# _____ ROLL/FRA# _____



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Address: George Rogers Furnace
Historic Name: Iron Furnace

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. This chimney stack was built by Richard Mason, a British stonemason, in 1865 to serve the newly incorporated Oregon Iron Company. On August 24, 1867, the company's iron smelter produced the first pig iron west of the Rocky Mountains. Rising costs ended the initial venture in 1869.

In 1877 investors Ernest W. Crichton and L. B. Seeley tried their luck at the iron business. They made some improvements by opening up a new mine and constructing a narrow-gauge railroad for hauling the ore. Financial troubles stymied production in 1881. The Oswego Iron Company had produced 18,500 tons.

In 1882 the Oregon Iron and Steel Company was formed by Simeon Reed with some of the same investors who had incorporated the original Oregon Iron Company. After an initial financial crisis, business boomed in 1890, but it was short-lived as ships began dumping iron ore on the docks in Portland. The ore had served as ballast and could be sold at a relatively low price. The depression of 1893 hastened the final closure of the plant in 1894.

The 42-foot high chimney is the only reminder of a pioneer dream of a "Pittsburgh of the West." The chimney stack is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is highly significant for its association with the early industry in Oswego. The stack is deteriorating in condition.

Bibliography: Clackamas County Cultural Resource inventory, Department of Transportation and Development, 1984, #9, 20, 60.
Oregon's Iron Dream, by Mary Goodall, 1958.