

COWPENS IRON FURNACE  
1000 Ft. east of County Road 34  
and Cherokee Creek Bridge  
Gaffney  
Cherokee County  
South Carolina

HAER No. SC-18

HAER  
SC  
11- GAFF,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL DATA

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

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
South Carolina	Cherokee	Gaffney

HISTORIC NAME	HAER NO.
Cowpens Furnace	SC-18

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES  
Cowpens Furnace Site (38CK73)

COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL AREAS) 2 miles northwest of Gaffney on the south bank of Cherokee Creek. Take SC Hwy 11 west from I-85 to State Road 34. Follow this north to where it crosses Cherokee Creek. Site on right.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BUILDER, OR FABRICATOR  
c. 1807 (NR nomination)

SIGNIFICANCE (TECHNOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE) One of the best preserved early nineteenth century ironworks sites in South Carolina. It is the only remaining site that can be associated with the South Carolina Manufacturing Company, a major iron manufacturing company that operated in South Carolina.\*

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)  
Stone

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)  
Ruins

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT)

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES

It was purchased and rebuilt by the S.C. Manufacturing Company around 1834.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The furnace is partially collapsed, but portions still stand over twenty feet high. The site contains a well-preserved furnace.  
Abandoned.

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Original road beds leading into the site are partially intact. Of particular note is a well-preserved flat loading area on the hill above the furnace.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS, ETC.)

Listed in National Register 5/8/87

COMPILER, AFFILIATION	DATE
Nancy Pittenger, E. Thomas Sims SCDAH	4/5/88

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\* Almost all the farm tools in the South Carolina uncountry were forged from locally produced pig iron when the ironworks industry was in its heyday.