

Lock Ridge Furnace Museum



PROJECT

Lock Ridge Furnace Museum
Alburtis, Pennsylvania

CLIENT

The County of Lehigh

DATES

2008 Conditions Assessment

DESCRIPTION

The Lock Ridge Furnace was constructed in 1868 during the peak of the anthracite iron industry, and was operated by the Thomas Iron Co. At its height, the Thomas Iron Co. operated ten furnaces in and around this site. The remnant is what remains of Furnace No. 7 and its immediately adjoining sheds and feeder mills. Operations ended in 1921 and the property passed through several hands until it finally settled with the Commissioners of Lehigh County. The site was converted to a park and museum in the early 1970s. The Lock Ridge complex is one of only two remaining furnaces of the many that were in operation in central and eastern Pennsylvania in 1876.

CHALLENGE

The Lock Ridge Furnace has suffered significant damage and continues to be threatened by rain water infiltrating the masonry. S. Harris Ltd. was retained to perform an investigation of the site in order to identify deficiencies; recommend repairs; and prepare a conditions assessment and preservation plan for the site.

SERVICES

Conditions Assessment

Surveyed and assessed the existing condition of the furnace with specific attention paid to the issue of water infiltration.

Prepared a comprehensive preservation plan for the site.

Provided repair recommendations for the site, including recommending the construction of a shield to intercept the infiltrating rain water before it reaches the surface of Furnace No.7.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Lock Ridge Furnace is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

