

Natural Resources at Catoctin Furnace

The natural resources surrounding Catoctin Furnace provided the perfect location for the production of iron-making that made this area a successful industrial village.



Iron Ore

Natural Resources of Catoctin Furnace

Why Catoctin?

Catoctin Furnace has a rich history of operation from 1776 to 1903. For 125 years the site was a thriving iron-making community. Brothers James and Thomas Johnson had a large hand in the creation of Catoctin. They saw promise in successful ironmaking production in Frederick County. Catoctin had a rich availability of natural resources found in and around the area. These natural resources led to its success as an iron-making community. In addition to pig iron, the furnace produced a variety of tools and household items. It is important to note that due to the demanding process of making iron, the village would have looked very different than it does today. Still, much of the key natural resources that made Catoctin successful remain today.

Natural Resources in Catoctin Furnace Area

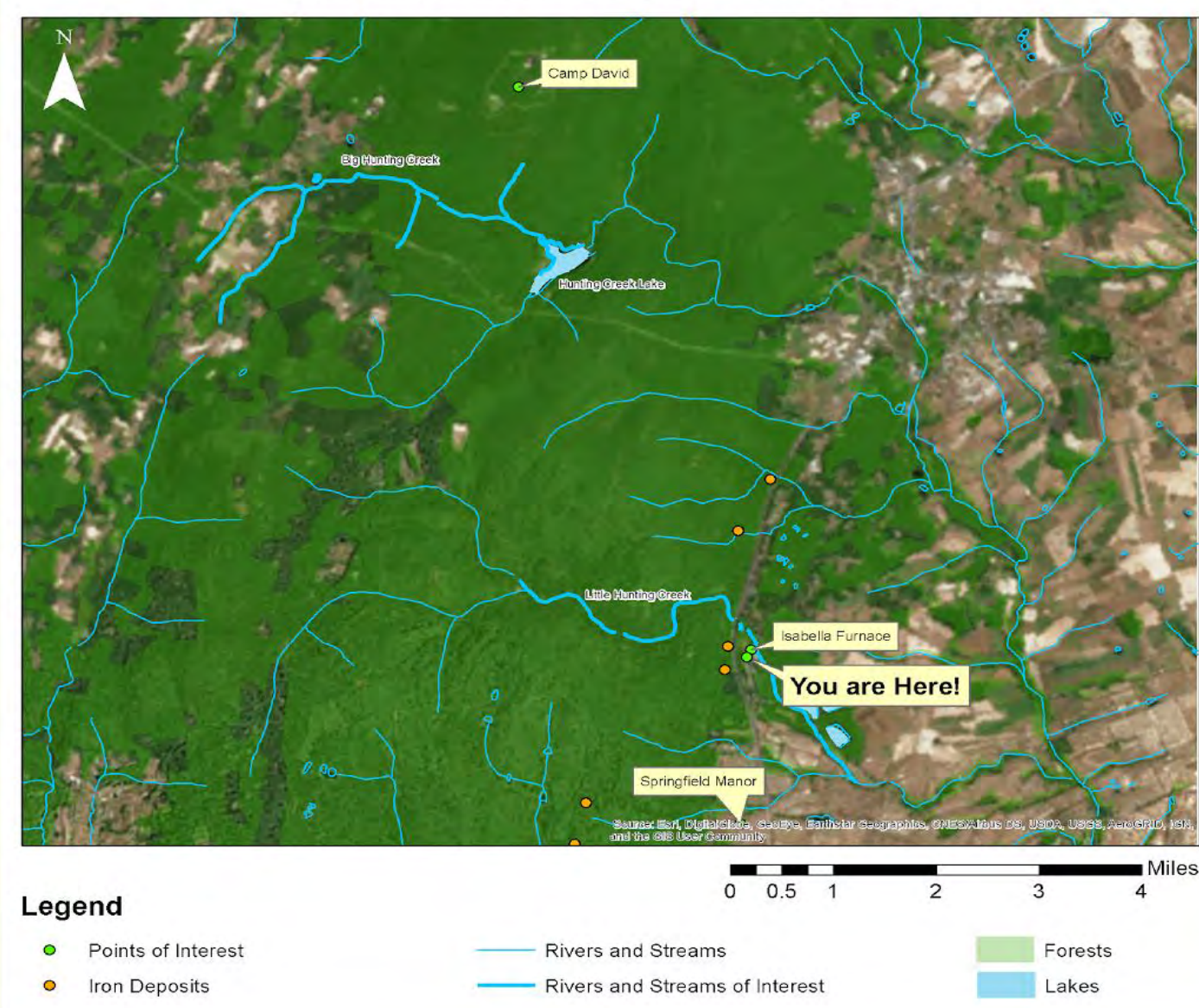


Exhibit Designed By Jennie Nadel and Elana Neher

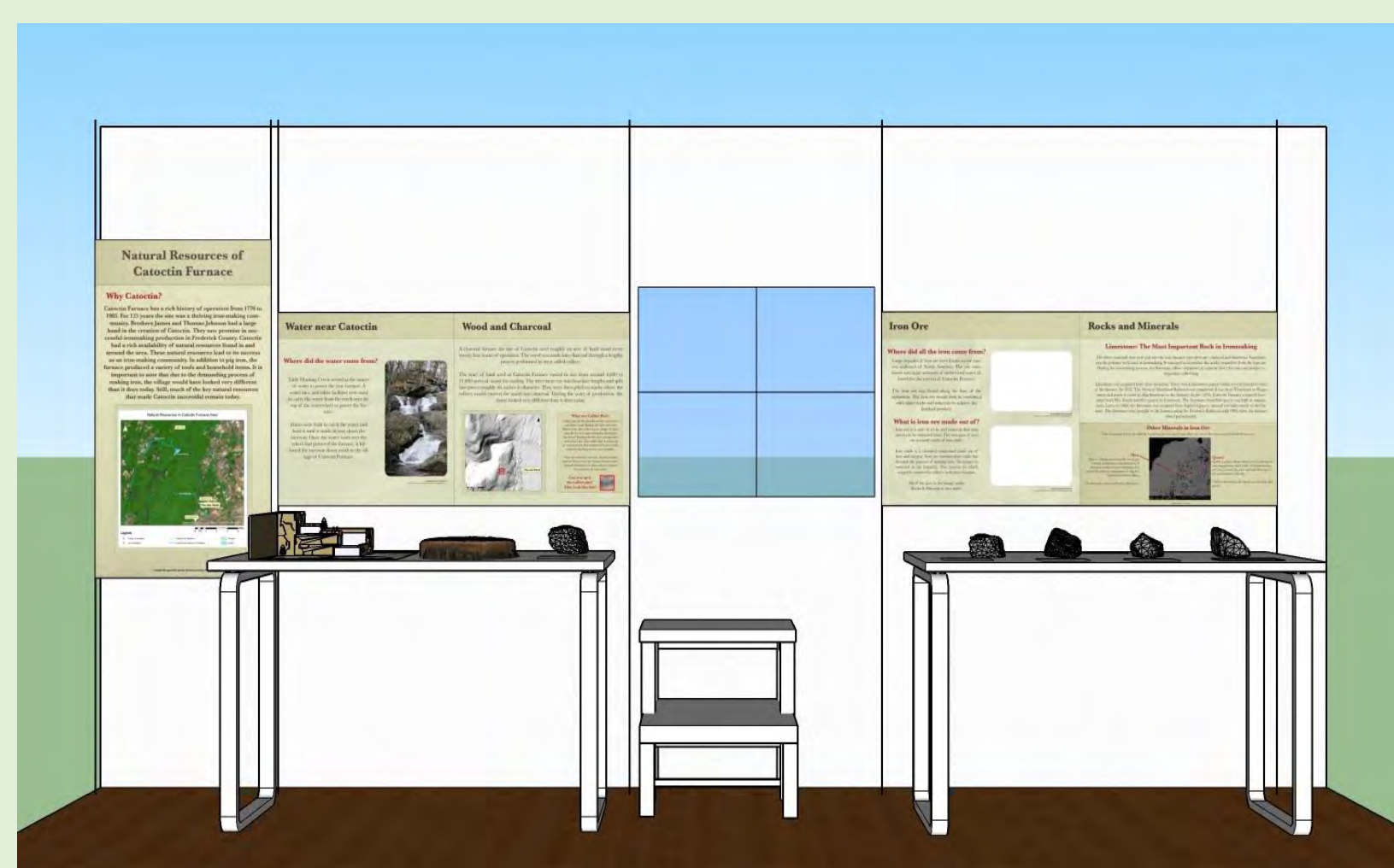
Charcoal used to make the furnace very hot so that iron could be made!

Please Touch!

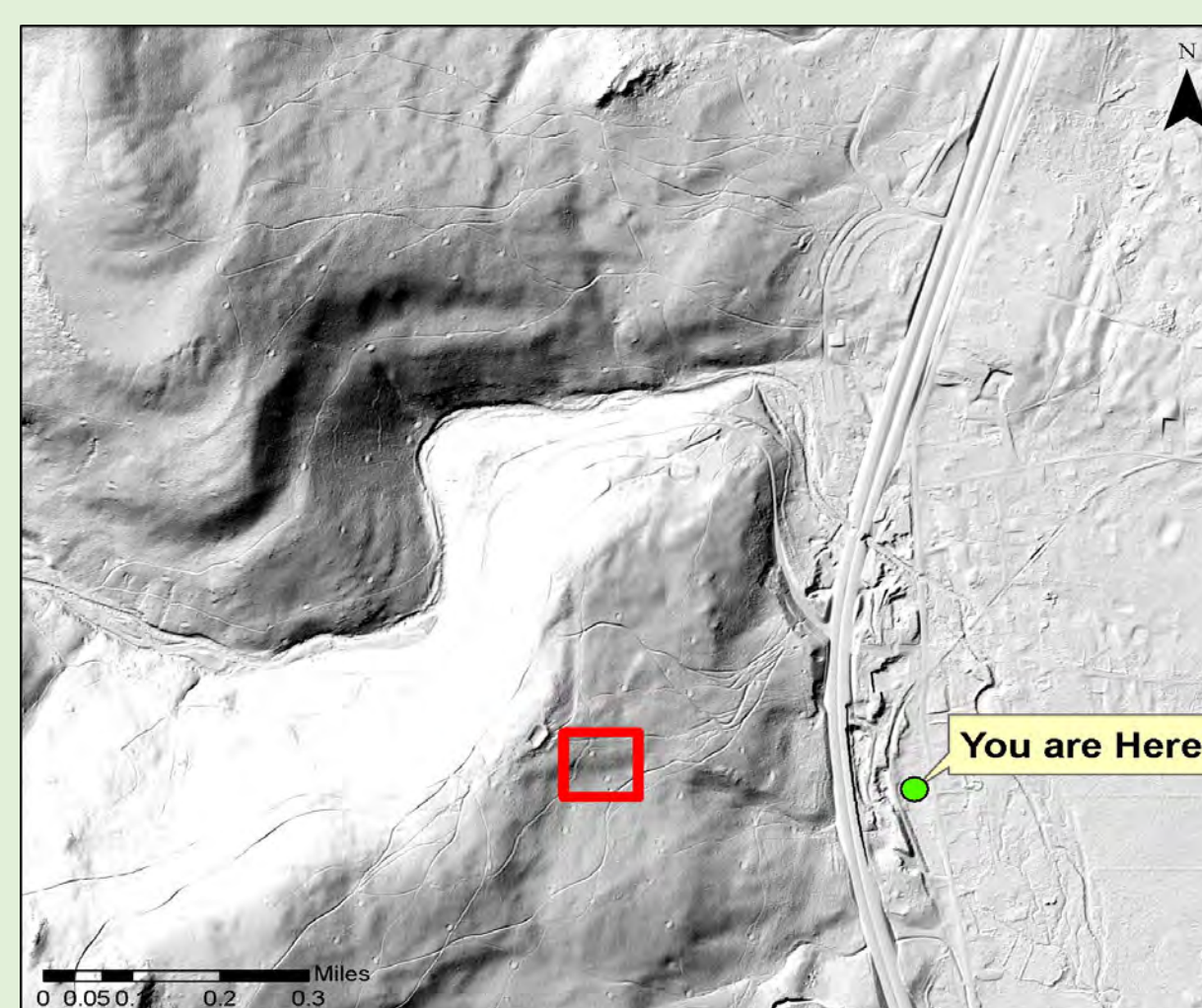


The workers at the furnace used chestnut wood like this. The colliers turned this wood into charcoal.

Please Touch!



The main goal of this exhibit is to provide important background information about Catoctin's landscape. It answers the question: "why Catoctin?" After visiting our exhibit, the visitor should have a better understanding of the resources found in Catoctin throughout the historic period and what they look and feel like. These resources were key in making the production of iron possible. Another goal of our exhibit is to serve as an introduction to the other exhibits by giving a general sense of size and location to help place the rest of the exhibits in context within the Museum of the Ironworker.



Colliers pits located using Lidar (Light Detecting and Ranging)

Touch any of the rocks and minerals on this table!
Please Touch!



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JHU, Museums and Society