



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

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HARRY-THE-TORCH AGAIN?

The magnificent Great Falls (cotton) Mill, 1870, Rockingham, NC, which had been proposed for restoration as a southern textile museum, was totally destroyed by fire in October. Ironically, the owners of the mill, which was on the Natl Register, had just committed it for the purpose. Vacant industrial buildings, for which an imaginative adaptive use had just been disclosed, have in the past few years been burning down with a disconcerting frequency. (Recall the ill-fated Fairbanks Truss noted in the SIAN 1:3).



GREAT FALLS FALLS. North Carolina Office of Archives & History photographs by Kenneth J Wallner (L) and Al Honeycutt (R).

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But even without Harry. An apparent accident with naphtha, in this case, caused an explosion and fire that in mid-Dec. levelled the Libby woolen and blanket mill on the banks of the Androscoggin in Lewiston, ME. The brick mill, c1840-70, was an attractive complex. Its loss reduces to a pitiful handful Lewiston's once numerous fine mills.

PATERSON

The wide-ranging interrelated schemes for archeology, preservation and adaptive use of the remarkable industrial survivals in Paterson, NJ, (SIAN 1:5) progress, progress now being reported periodically in *Paterson*, an illus newsletter of the Great Falls Development Corp. Vol 1 No 1, Nov 1972, has appeared, describing in general the status of its many activities. It contains an article on the meaning to the project of designation as a Natl Register Historic District by Edward S Rutsch (SIA Bd), archeological consultant to GFDC, and one on the best of the city's early industrial buildings, the Rogers Locomotive Works erecting shop, 1871, by Sally Gibson (SIA). (see also Tice, *Publs*)

FICCIM ELABORATED

The First International Congress on the Conservation of Industrial Monuments, Ironbridge, England, 29 May - 5 June (basic information, SIAN 1:3, qv) is taking final form. Seven working sessions will deal with various aspects of IA conservation: Philosophy & Legislation; Practical Techniques in the

Care of Areas, Structures & Machinery; and The Organization & Management of Conservation Projects & Open Air Museums. Also sites visits in England & N Wales. Total cost incl fee, board & lodging, trips and 2 copies of the ensuing *Transactions*: c\$140. Continental and N American delegates are expected. Kit with Booking Form; Program; rules for Papers submission: the Editor. *You must act now if interested—bookings close shortly.*

PRESERVATION DILEMMA

What is probably the oldest steam-powered iron-furnace blowing engine in the US and one of few remaining of any age miraculously has survived the years and the wartime scrap drives, complete with its pair of simple underfired boilers,



at the **Carrick Furnace**, Metal, Franklin Co, PA. The furnace, always charcoal and cold blast, went into operation, 1828; ceased, 1884. The engine, replacing an unknown [but presumably also steam] blowing engine [no water power at site], was built by Weimer Bros, Lebanon, PA, 1879. As is, the engine/boilers are on a state route, fully visible, and so exposed to vandalism. If removed (say) by the state Historical & Museum Commn to another furnace or a museum, they are wrenched from their native site with loss of historical integrity. Left as is but protected with appropriate structures and staff would require funds and personnel the state can't furnish. SIA Treasurer, Vance Packard, is receptive to comments.

Enquiry—Blast engines. Drawings, illustns, specifications, of horizontal iron-furnace blast (blowing) machinery, c1850, solicited by Vance Packard (SIA), Wm Penn Memorial Museum, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

The Historic American Engineering Record

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT. Investigate the works of America's Great Engineers and Industrial Entrepreneurs: Canals, Railways, Bridges, Textile Mills, Mines, Machines & Factories to be recorded & documented throughout the US. June—August. HAER needs:

Project Supervisors—\$1100-1820 per month

Historians—\$750-1820

Student Architects, Engineers, Historians—\$545-745

REMINDER. The Society's Annual Conference, meeting in the acoustically famed Troy Music Hall, will be held in Troy-on-Hudson, NY, 5 & 6 May: papers of interest and tours of the area's rich IA.