

FURNACE
ACTUAL IRON SMELTING IS WAY OUT IN COST, PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

Money will do anything. But to ACTUALLY produce iron at Hopewell is WAY OUT.

While a ray of light may someday make iron-pouring a reality in the cast house, the ACTUAL SMELTING OF IRON would be costly:

1-720 bushels of charcoal a day for a three day tempering of the lining, presently fire brick, 2160 bushels, is a lot of costly charcoal. Then iron might be produced. To run a month (DAY AND NIGHT, furnace could be banked) would require 194,21,600 bushels. An eight hour "turn 7,200!!" for a month!

2 The actual production of cold-blast charcoal iron would have to be RELEARNED by an EXPERIENCED furnace man of today. There would be much time and cost in his LEARNING as well as wear on the furnace lining.

3 The present firebrick lining of 1880 would BREAK AWAY from the concrete reinforcement filling MOST of the INSULATING-EXPANSION SPACE. Or the lining would have to be removed, the CONCRETE REMOVED. The space filled with sand and broken brick. Then the firebrick lining would have to be reinstalled. This would also cost TIME AND MONEY.

MASTER PLAN participant Supt J.C.W. Riddle knew well of the possibility of pouring a PLASTIC, but seemingly, he DID NOT MENTION IT to his cohorts. At low costs, a plastic can be poured, broken ("shaken out") of its flask and given to a school group. A pattern of suitable size already exists with the words "Hopewell Furnace" on it. WHY NOT TRY PLASTIC POURING?? Until a melting light RAY ARRIVES? NO help to date from Museum Branch, who pour plastic with regularity.