

# Curator's Choice

## Artful Appliance

By: Monica Kitner, Conservator

Archaeological Conservators have the pleasure of 'oo'ing & 'ahhh'ing over some special objects and often find beauty in the unconventional, but this stove truly is a pleasure to look at even in its damaged, corroded state. Part of Catocotin Iron Furnace Historical Society's collection, this 10-plate style cooking stove comes from a tradition of portable stoves, adapted to be both functional and decorative. It could act as a good source of heat (see the man warming his feet in *The Village Inn*, Figure 2) and a baking appliance.



Figure 1: Stove before and after conservation treatment

When stoked below, the flames and smoke were diverted towards the back of the oven into the upper chamber where bread, meats, or pies could be baked on the heated plate. The smoke then traveled back to the front of the stove out through the smoke pipe, completing a recumbent U path.

The 'W Mayberry Catocotin' (cast along the top oven door) most likely refers to Willoughby Mayberry who, along with his brother Thomas Maybury IV, purchased the furnace from Baker Johnson in 1811. Willoughby was not in possession of the furnace for long, which somewhat narrows the time frame for the stove's manufacture date.

### References Cited

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Figure 2: John Lewis Krimmel, "The Village Tavern" (1814) from The Toledo Museum of Art

