

Glaciers shaped the New Jersey–New York Highlands region, home to Native American peoples for thousands of years. Naturally occurring deposits of magnetite iron ore and unique waterpower potential drew the first European colonists to the upper Wanaque River valley in the late 1600s. The ironworks and worker's village at Long Pond were established in 1765 under Peter Hasenclever, manager of the London-based American Company. Hasenclever lived at Ringwood Manor, home to Long Pond's ironmasters for the next 120 years

Robert Erskine became ironmaster in 1771 and directed the ironworks during the American Revolution (1775–1783). Long Pond made iron products for the Continental Army and Erskine became surveyor-general and chief mapmaker to General George Washington.

The Ryerson family purchased Long Pond in 1807. In 1853 they sold Long Pond to the firm of Cooper & Hewitt, who built new furnaces and renovated the village during the Civil War.

The Long Pond furnaces went out of blast in 1882. New sources of iron ore became available in the upper Midwest and the industry moved there. The village, now named Hewitt, continued on. The residents became employed in other industries, such as mining, lumbering and ice harvesting. In the 1950s the Long Pond property was donated to the State of New Jersey. It is now a National Historic Landmark District.