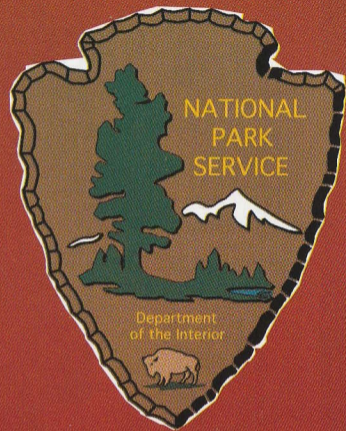


R I C H M O N D

CIVIL WAR

VISITOR CENTER

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK



A T T R E D E G A R I R O N W O R K S

Richmond, Virginia, was at the heart of the most defining event of the United States of America — the Civil War.

As the industrial center and political capital of the Confederacy, Richmond was the prize over which two mighty American armies contended in bloody battle from 1861 to 1865. Cannon boomed within earshot of the city. All residents saw their lives transformed. Wartime Richmond, swollen by government, the military, refugees, prisoners, and the wounded, lived with anxiety and hope. Land-

owners outside the city saw their farms converted into battlefields. Previously unknown placenames like Cold Harbor, Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill, and New Market Heights attained national significance for the key battles that were fought there.

The famous Tredegar Iron Works geared quickly into the industrial engine that sustained the Confederate war machine. Today the site serves as a window into the wartime transformation of Richmond.

About Your Visit

Visitor Center

Today the Tredegar Iron Works serves as the main visitor center for Richmond National Battlefield Park. The visitor center includes three floors of exhibits with unique artifacts on loan from other Civil War history institutions. A self-guided tour of the Iron Works' grounds introduces visitors to the story of Tredegar, Richmond's pivotal role in the Civil War, and the impact that this watershed event had on the city and the nation. The exhibits offer historical context for the two major military threats to Richmond: the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, and the Overland Campaign of 1864. The story of Richmond's homefront is interpreted through the use of mu-

seum exhibits and other innovative techniques. Information is available on Richmond's other Civil War attractions. Food is available on site at the Tredegar café.

Visitors are encouraged to begin their tour of Richmond's battlefields at Tredegar where they can obtain a map and/or purchase a tape tour. Eastern National operates a bookstore which offers over 500 items for sale.

For Your Safety

While every effort is made to provide for your safety, you must remain alert and cautious. Stay on designated walkways. Be alert for ticks and other biting insects. Do not climb on the ruins or over fences. Watch for steep drop-offs. First-aid assistance is available at the visitor center desk or from park staff.

Your cooperation is essential in protecting and preserving the site for your continuing enjoyment and for the enjoyment of future generations.

Accessibility

The visitor center and grounds of the Iron Works are completely accessible for visitors with disabilities.

Information

Additional information about the park and the Tredegar site can be found at www.nps.gov/rich on the Internet, or write to the Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park, 3215 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23223.

Tredegar Iron Works today, as seen from Lee Bridge. Pattern building on the left, 1861 gun foundry building with large chimney in right background. Photo by Don Pierce.



The Tredegar Story

The Tredegar Iron Works was already well known when the Civil War erupted in 1861. In the two decades before the war, Tredegar, along with other smaller iron foundries, made Richmond the center of iron manufacture in the southern United States. Cannon produced in Tredegar's foundries protected America's seacoast cities, and its locomotives and iron rails connected Richmond to points in all directions.

Named for an iron works in Wales, Tredegar began in 1837 as a small forge and rolling mill. The site was shared with other milling operations that harnessed waterpower from the James River and Kanawha Canal to run the milling equipment. Early in Tredegar's history, Virginia-born Joseph Reid Anderson purchased a portion of the plant and expanded the foundry to become one of the largest in the nation. In 1860, the iron works utilized around 800 laborers, both black and white, free and slave.

During the Civil War, Tredegar covered an area continued day and night to meet the demand for ammunition and other war-related materials. In power during the war, the foundries were able to produce cannon, including one that was mounted on a ship and provided the armor plating that protected the Confederacy, including the *C.S.S. Virginia*. On April 2, 1862, the James River were being burned by evacuating Confederates. An armed battalion of workers who blocked the entrance to the foundry buildings. The Works would play an important role in the Confederacy's retreat South after 1865.

Excerpt of map "Richmond Virginia, 1865"

by Union
Capt. Peter S. Michie



Tredegar Time Line

Mills develop at site

1800

Tredegar incorporated; Iron Works begin production of railroad items.

1837

J. R. Anderson appointed agent for the Iron Works

1841

Works supply cannon for U.S. forts; produce 900 guns through 1860.

1845

White workers replaced by enslaved and free blacks following strike.

1847

Anderson purchases the Tredegar Iron Works.

1848

Tredegar becomes largest iron producer in South. Flour mill built on site of current visitor center.

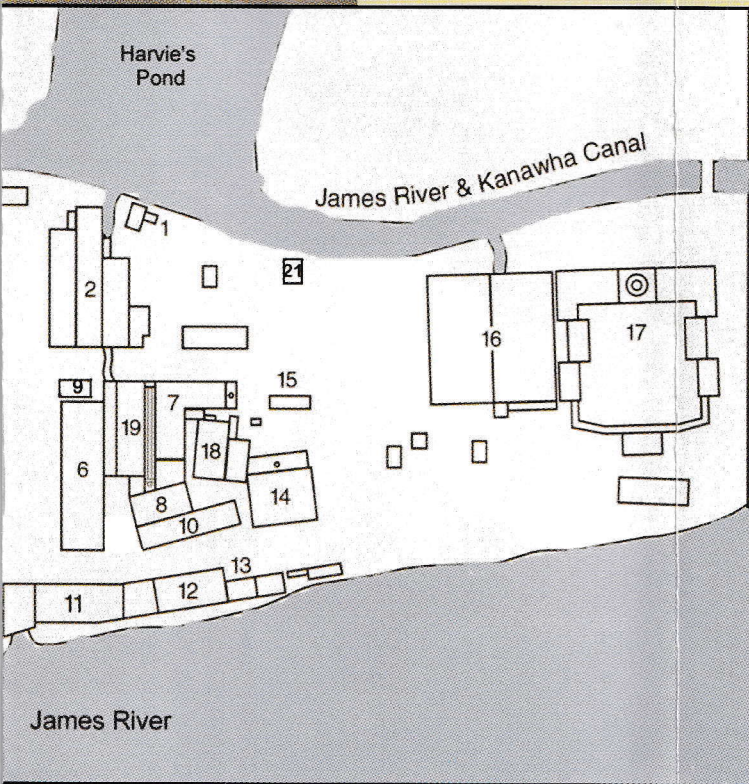
1857

Tredegar produces 1099 cannons

1861-

of nearly five acres, and operations
 nds of the Confederacy for artillery,
 Despite shortages in iron and man-
 to produce almost 1100 field and siege
 a railroad flat car, and its rolling mills
 asemates of several southern warships,
 55, when warehouses along the James
 federates, Tredegar was saved by an
 y attempt by mobs to set fire to the
 important role in rebuilding the devas-

Tredegar never cast cannon after the Civil War. Markets for railroad spikes, freight cars and car wheels, as well as horseshoes, kept the firm profitable, but it was the new development in artillery requiring huge cast iron projectiles that opened a new opportunity for the firm. Shell production contracts buoyed Tredegar's financial returns during both World Wars. After 1945, when steel became the metal of choice for railroad components, Tredegar was unable to diversify its foundry production to compete with larger firms around the globe. In 1957, the Tredegar plant was closed. The site is now owned by the Ethyl Corporation who continues to serve as a model steward of this historic property, a symbol of American ingenuity and industrial progress.



Tredegar Iron Works (c. 1863-65)

1. Spike Mill
2. Rolling Mill
- 3-5 Worker Housing
6. Locomotive Shop
7. Old Foundry
8. Boring Mill
- *9. Carpenter Shop (c. 1915)
10. Machine Shop
11. Boiler Shop
12. Blacksmith Shop
13. Brass Foundry and Office
- *14. 1861 Gun Foundry
- *15. Office
16. Armory Rolling Mill
17. Confederate States Armory
18. Carwheel Foundry
- *19. Woolen Factory, Burned 1863 (rebuilt as Tredegar Pattern building, current V.C.)
20. Warehouse and Grain Elevator
- *21. Company Store (c.1868)

*= Buildings still in existence

aval armor plating.

Armed workers stop mobs intent on burning Tredegar.

Firm becomes Tredegar Company. Black and white workers receive equal pay.

National depression causes major cutbacks in production at Tredegar.

New generation of artillery earns Tredegar lucrative shell contracts in both world wars.

Tredegar operations on the James close. Albemarle/Ethyl Corp. purchase property.

Gun foundry restored 1972, site leased to Riverfront Dev. Corp. 1997, Civil War Visitor Center opens 2000.

1865

1865

1867

1873

1903-1945

1957

1972-2000