



The Tredegar Iron Works

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

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

The National Park Service Civil War Visitor Center

Today the historic Pattern Building at 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 site introduces visitors to the story of Tredegar, Richmond's pivotal

exhibits and other innovative techniques. Information is available on Richmond's other Civil War attractions.

Visitors are encouraged to begin their tour of Richmond's battlefields at Tredegar where they can obtain a map, purchase a CD tour and get information on downloading the park's podcasts.

The American Civil War Center

Located adjacent to the Richmond National Battlefield Park Visitor Center is the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar--the nation's first museum to explore the war's causes, course and legacies from Union, Confederate and African American perspectives. Tredegar's restored 1861 Gun Foundry is home to the Center's

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 museum

Eastern National operates a bookstore which offers over 500 items for sale. The Civil War Visitor Center is open 9 am to 5 pm daily. Admission is free.

Additional information on Richmond National Battlefield Park can be found at www.nps.gov/rich or by calling park headquarters at (804) 226-1981.

flagship exhibit, "In the Cause of Liberty," which features four films and a changing artifact display. The Center also offers educational programs, tours, and lectures throughout the year. The Center is open 9 am to 5 pm daily. For admission rates and program information visit www.tredegar.org or call (804) 780-1865.



The Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works

The Tredegar Story

Introduction: Seeds of Southern Industry

In 1861 the Southern Confederacy had high hopes for victory but limited industrial capacity. The new nation did have the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond to provide the basic industry needed to start the Confederate war effort. Founded in 1837, Virginia-born Joseph Reid Anderson bought the works in 1848. Determined to develop Southern industry, Anderson expanded Tredegar into one of the largest iron works in the country. By the eve of the Civil War, Tredegar stood ready to provide the South with the means to produce the materials of war. As you follow this guide through the grounds please take the time to read the wayside exhibits available along the way.

Stop 1—The Power of Water

Starting from the entrance of the Visitor Center, follow the brown gravel path to the fence at the back of the property. You will be standing by a wayside exhibit entitled "Rutherford's Mill."

Power supplied by the James River and Kanawha Canal made industrial development possible at the Tredegar site. The mill race to your left brought water from the canal, which ran behind the brick wall, to power milling operations on this site. The Iron Works started here with the Spike Mill and Rolling Mill, both established in 1837 when the Tredegar Company was incorporated. The Spike Mill stood beside the mill race along the brick wall. The Rolling Mill stood to the left along both sides of the mill race and extended down to the Carpenter Shop. Both produced primarily railroad items such as spikes and rails.

Stop 2—Labor of Many Hands

Follow the path to your left. You may either take the stairs or follow the path around to the top of the hill to the building frame near the back wall.

Anderson could not have developed his business without the many workers who labored at Tredegar. By 1861, the Iron Works employed approximately 800 skilled and unskilled laborers, both black and white, free and slave. The reconstructed frame in front of you represents the type of housing Tredegar provided for its workers. The convenient on-site structures also gave the company some control over its workforce.

Before proceeding to the next stop take a moment to look at the canal bed.

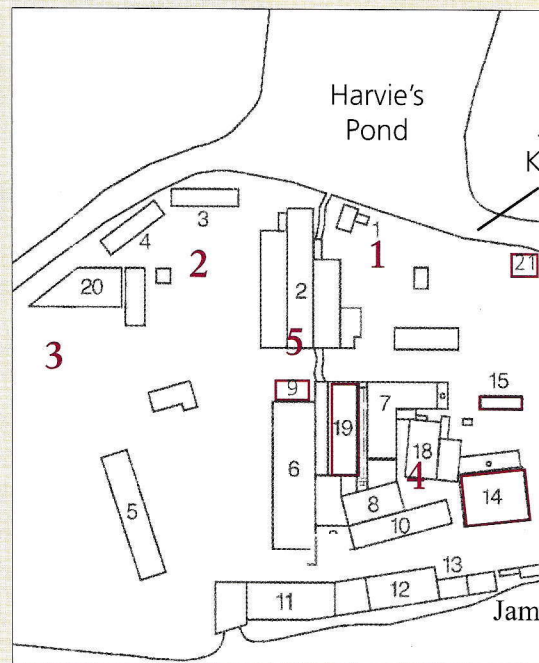
Stop 3—Sharing Power

From the workers' housing unit, continue on the path to the mill race.

To make full use of the available energy provided by the canal, Tredegar harnessed the waterpower to run their milling equipment and Grain Elevator, built in 1854.

Stop 4—The Forge of War

Follow the path down the hill to take the stairs or elevator to the mill race building to stand in the courtyard.



Tredegar Time Line

Mills develop at site.

Tredegar incorporated; Iron Works begin production of railroad items.

J. R. Anderson appointed agent for the Iron Works.

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

White workers replaced by enslaved and free blacks following strike.

Anderson purchases the Tredegar Iron Works.

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

Tredegar produced...

1800

1837

1841

1845

1847

1848

1857

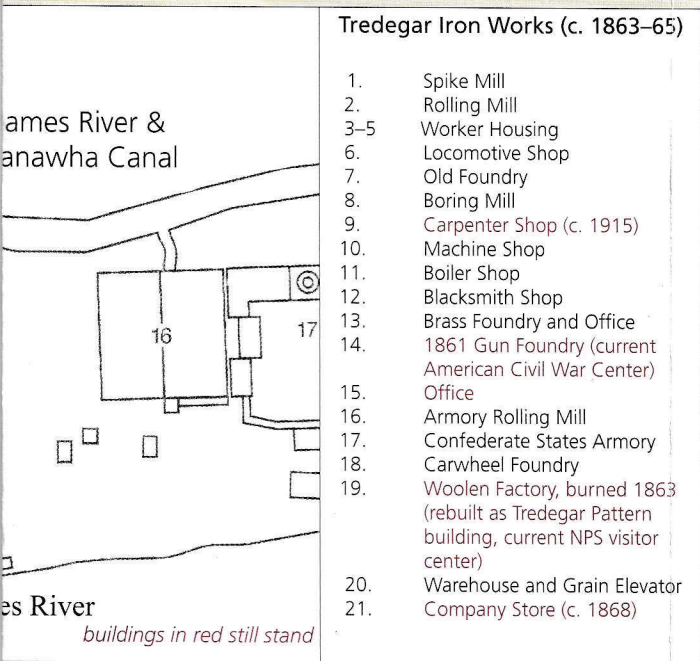
1861

walk to the top of the platform to your right for a view of the old

h as it follows the brick wall to the edge of the hill.

y the canal, the site was shared with other milling operations that
 ipment. You are standing near the site of the Crenshaw Warehouse

levator to the lower level. Walk around the front of the visitor center



As you stand in the courtyard facing the building that is now the visitor center you are in the heart of the industrial complex that fueled the Confederate war effort. The visitor center building was the Crenshaw Woolen Mill, which burned in 1863. Next to it stood the Old Gun Foundry. To the right is the reconstructed 1861 Gun Foundry and current location of the American Civil War Center museum. During the Civil War, Tredegar covered an area of nearly five acres, and operations continued day and night to meet the demands of the Confederacy for artillery, ammunition and other war-related materials. Despite shortages in iron and manpower during the war, Tredegar produced almost 1100 field and siege cannon, as well as the armor plating for several southern warships, including the C.S.S. *Virginia*.

Stop 5—Rebirth

Take the stairs or elevator to the Lincoln Statue near the entrance to the NPS Visitor Center.

The statue of Abraham Lincoln, dedicated in 2003, depicts the president who displayed unshakeable determination to preserve the Union. A reunited country ensured that America's unsurpassed industrial capacity would propel the nation to international prominence following the Civil War. Tredegar escaped destruction to play an important role in rebuilding the devastated South after 1865. Tredegar never cast cannon after the war. Markets for railroad products and contracts for cast iron artillery projectiles kept the firm profitable through both world wars. The Tredegar plant closed in 1957 when it was unable to diversify its foundry production to meet the new demand for steel railroad components. The site is now owned by New Market Corporation, which continues to serve as a model steward of this historic landmark, a symbol of American ingenuity and industrial progress.

...ces naval
 ...or plating and 1099
 cannon.

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