

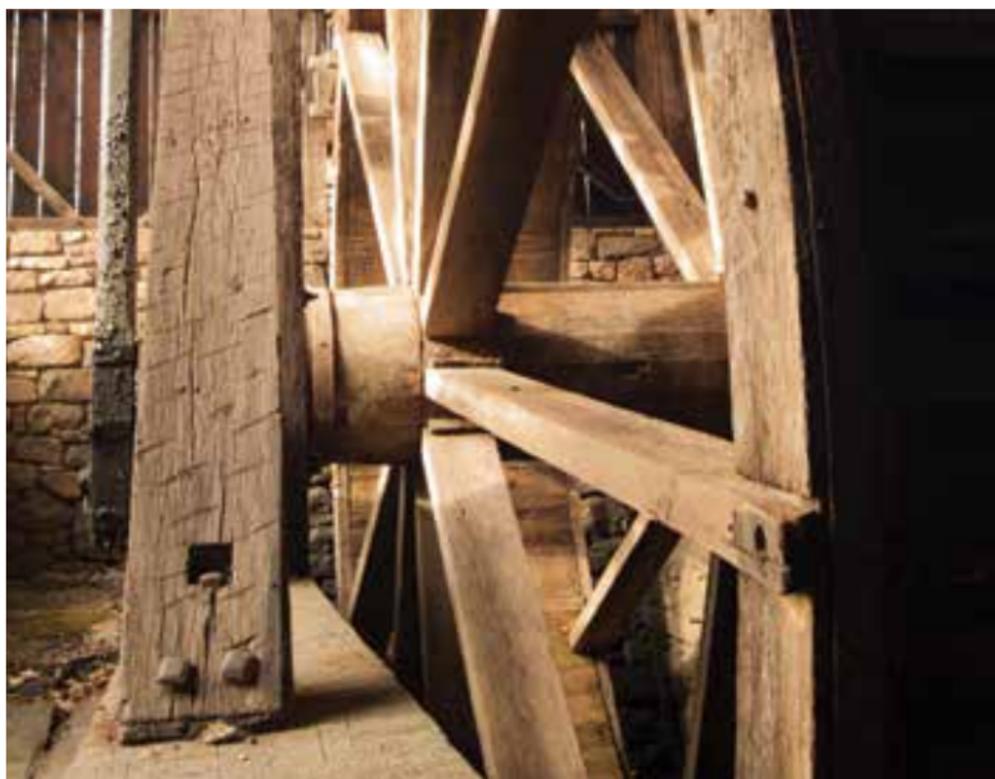
IRON & STEEL TRAIL



Welcome to Iron Country!

Etched into the natural landscape of Chester, Berks, Montgomery, and Lancaster Counties in Pennsylvania are the remains of the iron industry that literally forged our nation. For more than 300 years this region has been home to a vast number of iron and steel production sites in a small geographical area. This region has greatly influenced the American steel industry from its beginning to the present day.

Pennsylvania's iron and steel industry began in the 1700s — natural resources led to the establishment of small iron making sites. The 1800s saw technological changes, increased demand, and mass production of steel. By the 1900s, Pennsylvania was the "steel capitol of the world." The region was home to colonial America's largest iron empire, the nation's first female industrialist, and companies that supplied steel for American transportation, infrastructure and defense.



Pennsylvania Iron & Steel

For more than a century, Pennsylvania was the ironmaking center of America. The state led both the colonies and the nation in iron production, largely due to its natural resources: abundant iron ore deposits, vast forests that provided charcoal, numerous coal beds for additional fuel, limestone deposits, and rivers for water power. Sizeable and growing markets for iron also existed.

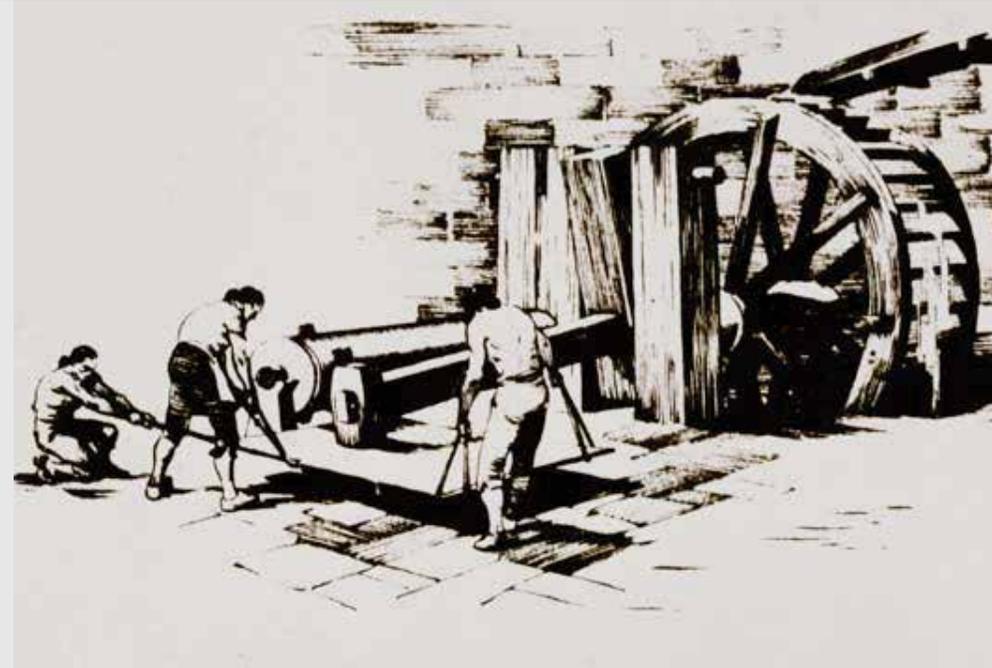
Pennsylvania's iron and steel history began in 1716 and for the next century, the state's iron industry experienced a time of rapid expansion and a rising demand for iron products. The industry grew until the American colonies became one of the world's largest iron producers.

By the 1800s, the iron industry was a major part of the Pennsylvania economy. The nineteenth century witnessed crucial

technological changes, which transformed the industry, and would lead to the United States becoming one of the world's top steel producers.

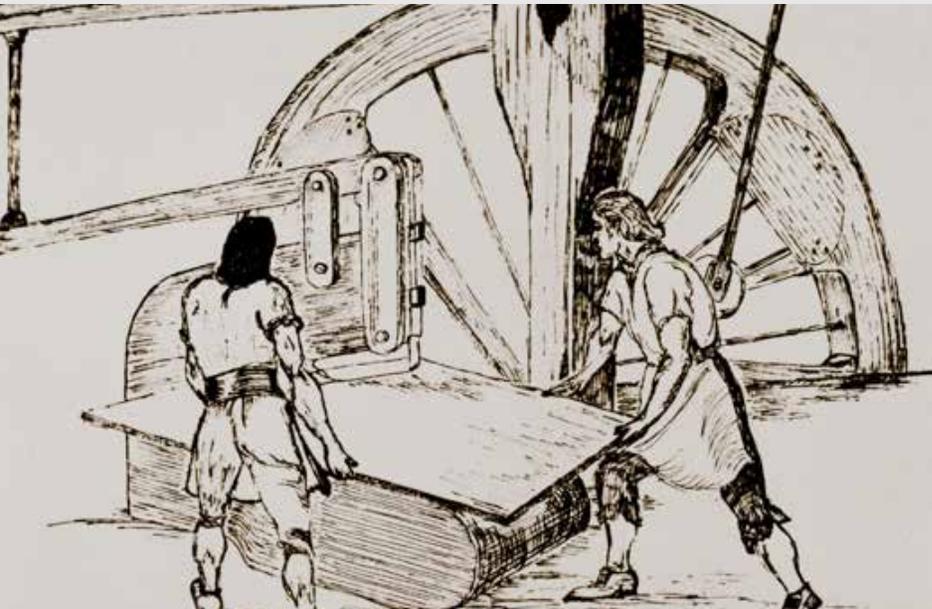
Coal and coke replaced charcoal as a source of fuel, which made iron making a more efficient process and increased both production and quality. The introduction of railroads improved transportation of natural resources and iron goods. These and other technological changes affected the size of iron works, types of ownership, labor-management relations, and led to the creation of new products.

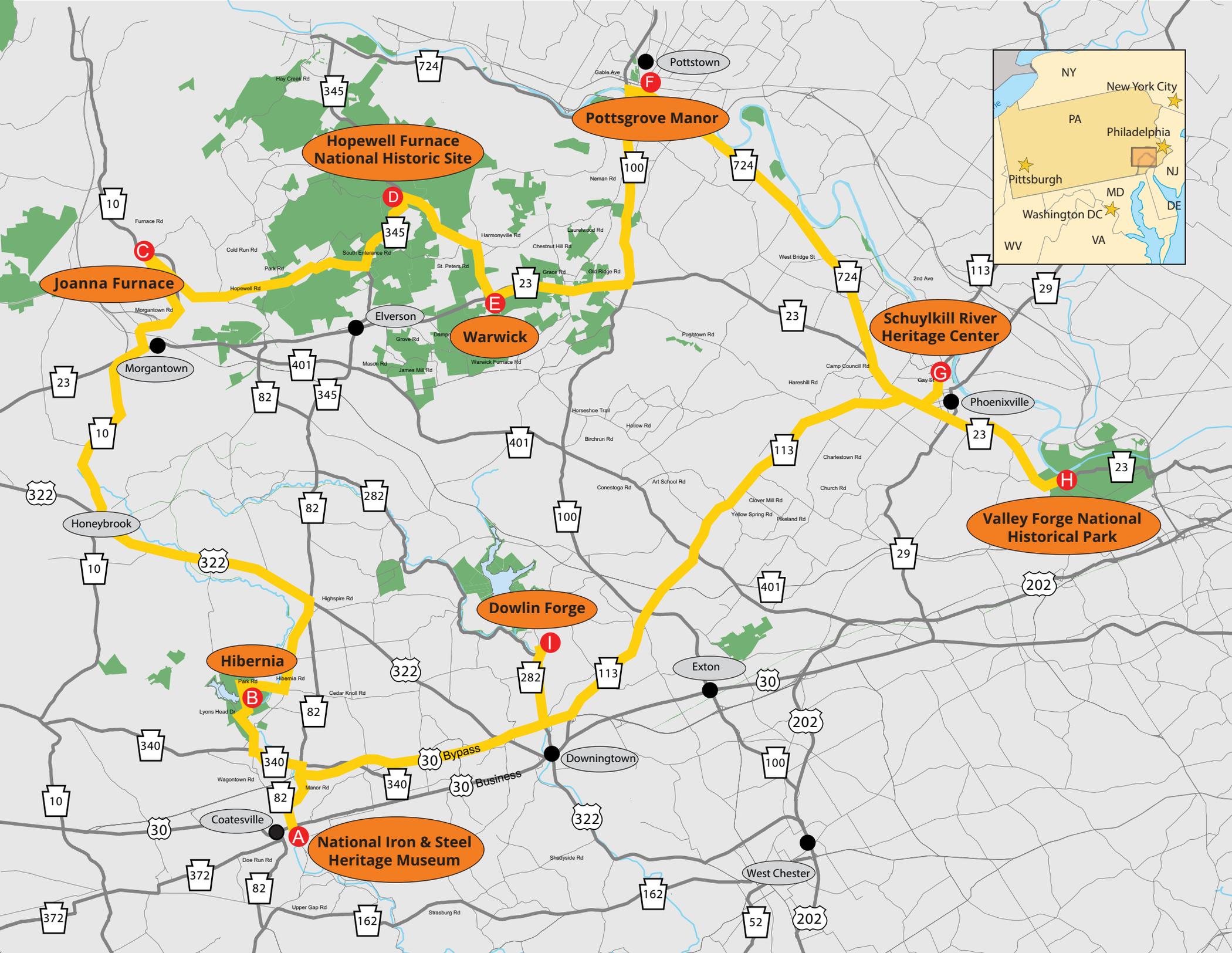
In the 1870s, steel was massed-produced in Pennsylvania. Bessemer converters and open hearth furnaces transformed the steel industry into a profitable endeavor. The new steel industry created a modern industrial society and led many to consider Pennsylvania as the "steel capitol of the world," a title the state would hold for almost a century.



Steel remained a very profitable industry in Pennsylvania until the 1960s. Growth of foreign steel and out-of-date sites in Pennsylvania led to a fifty percent reduction in the steel workforce in the 1980s. Rough times continued into the early 2000s. That has changed in the last few years, however, as the steel industry today employs thousands of people and adds billions of dollars to Pennsylvania's economy.

For more than two centuries, Pennsylvania led America's and the world's iron and steel industries. Today, Pennsylvanian steel companies continue to have a positive impact on the state, national, and world economies and steel industries.





**Hopewell Furnace
National Historic Site**

Pottsgrove Manor

Joanna Furnace

**Schuylkill River
Heritage Center**

Warwick

**Valley Forge National
Historical Park**

Dowlin Forge

Hibernia

**National Iron & Steel
Heritage Museum**



A National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum

Mon-Sat 10AM-4PM \$7 Admission
Guided Tours Available, \$15 Per Person
50 South 1st Avenue
Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-9282
www.steelmuseum.org



Coatesville is central to the Pennsylvania iron and steel story. It was here in 1810, that Isaac Pennock established the Brandywine Iron Works & Nail Factory. In 1825, his daughter, Rebecca Lukens, began managing the iron business and later became America's first female industrialist. The business evolved into Lukens Steel Company and the steel site operates today under the ownership of ArcelorMittal.

B Hibernia County Park

8AM-Sunset Daily
Free Admission
1 Park Rd
Coatesville, PA 19320
610-383-3812
www.chesco.org/ccparks



A 19th century iron plantation with over 900 acres, Hibernia features historic ruins along with the iron master's mansion, redesigned in the early 20th century to emulate a English country house.

Samuel Downing built the first iron forge at Hibernia on the West Branch of the Brandywine to convert pig iron into bar iron. The property passed through several ownerships from 1808 until 1821, when Charles Brooke purchased the works and became its most prosperous ironmaster.

C Joanna Furnace

9AM-3PM Daily
\$4 Adults, \$2 Students
1250 Furnace Road
Geigertown, PA, 19523
610-286-0388
www.haycreek.org



Nestled in an area rich with iron ore, abundant woodland for charcoal, limestone, and waterways to provide power, lies Joanna Furnace -- a historic remnant of Berks County's thriving early iron industry. Unlike today's corporations with their large buildings and complex hierarchies, the 19th century iron industry at Joanna Furnace was the product of rugged individualism. From the semi-wilderness of Robeson Township, in 1791, Joanna Furnace was started by Samuel Potts, Thomas Rutter III, Thomas May and Thomas Bull. The furnace was named in honor of Pott's wife Joanna Holland Potts.

D Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

9AM-5PM Daily, Buildings Wed-Sun
No Entrance Fee
2 Mark Bird Lane
Elverson, PA 19520
610-592-8773
www.nps.gov/hofu



Hopewell Furnace showcases an early American industrial landscape from natural resource extraction to enlightened conservation. Operating from 1771-1883, Hopewell and other "iron plantations" laid the foundation for the transformation of the United States into an industrial giant. The park's 848 acres and historic structures illustrate the business, technology and lifestyle of our growing nation.

E Warwick County Park & Iron Tour

8AM-Sunset Daily
Free Admission
382 County Park Road
Pottstown, PA 19465
610-469-1916
www.chesco.crglccparks



In the 18th and 19th centuries, Warwick's woodlands provided much of the raw timber used to make charcoal for the region's iron furnaces and forges. Remains of the iron industry can still be seen at various charcoal hearths along old cart paths and trails. The 538 acres of the park include mature deciduous forest, warm season grass meadows, French Creek (an Exceptional Value stream), and hiking trails.

F Pottsgrove Manor

Tue-Sat 10AM-4PM, Sun 1-4PM
\$2 Suggested Donation
Guided Tours Available
100 West King Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
610-326-4014
www.historicsites.montcopa.org/historicsites



Pottsgrove Manor exemplifies the restrained elegance of early Georgian architecture popular with wealthy English gentry during the mid-18th century. Built in 1752 for John Potts, ironmaster and founder of Pottstown, the mansion was situated on a nearly 1,000 acre plantation, which by 1762 included the town of "Pottsgrove." A forge for refining pig iron was also located on the original property.

G Schuylkill River Heritage Center

Fri-Sun 11AM-3PM
1st Friday's 5:30-7:30PM
Free Admission
2 North Main Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-935-2181
www.phoenixvillefoundry.org



The 140-year-old building housing the Schuylkill River Heritage Center, which sits on the site of the former Phoenix Iron and Steel Company, is a unique, interpretive way to experience the pictures and pieces of the past to give a better understanding of Phoenixville's Iron and Steel legacy and its place in the Schuylkill River's history.

H Valley Forge National Historical Park

Grounds 7AM-Dark
Visitor Center 9AM-5PM
No Entrance Fee
1400 North Outer Line Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610-783-1077
www.nps.gov/vafo



Valley Forge was the site of the 1777-78 winter encampment of the Continental Army. The park commemorates the sacrifices and perseverance of the Revolutionary War generation.

Valley Forge has a connection to the American iron and steel industry as the name may suggest. Located in the stables next to the historic Washington's Headquarters are artifacts and an exhibit about the forges located along Valley Creek.

I Dowlin (Mary Ann) Forge

Shelmire Road
Near its intersection with
Welsh Ayres Way
Downingtown, PA
www.livingplaces.com
(search: Dowlin)



Founded as Mary Ann Forge along the Brandywine Creek in Uwchlan Township, the site became Dowlin Forge when John Dowlin purchased the land in 1801. The forge prospered through the 19th century and a small industrial area grew up around it. Today visitors can follow the industrial history of the site on trails bordering Shamona Creek.

THE NATIONAL
IRON & STEEL
HERITAGE MUSEUM

50 South 1st Avenue
Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-9282

www.steelmuseum.org

Email: admin@steelmuseum.org



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Our Mission

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum is a not-for-profit educational institution whose mission is to promote an understanding of the iron and steel history of Coatesville, Chester County, Southeastern Pennsylvania and the region to audiences of all ages and interests by collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting iron and steel's history and its relationship to the region and nation beyond.

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum is a project of the Graystone Society, a 501(c)3 public charity registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.