Sloss Furnaces
National Historic Landmark

Birmingham, AL

slossfurnaces.com

Or, What I did

on my Summer Vacation


SLOSS

Sloss Furnaces

Birmingham, AL

- Ready supply of 4 x coal (coke), 2 x iron ore and 1 x limestone
- Nearby confluence of railroads developed post Civil War
- Operations began in 1882
- Produced pig iron for 90 years
  - Initially $11/ton vs. $18/ton in North
- Ceased operations in 1971
  - Obsolete equipment, labor intensive, pollution concerns
- Designated National Historic Landmark in 1981
- Open daily for free tours
  - Weekly iron pour
- Multiple metal arts programs offered
- Audio tour 205-510-7031

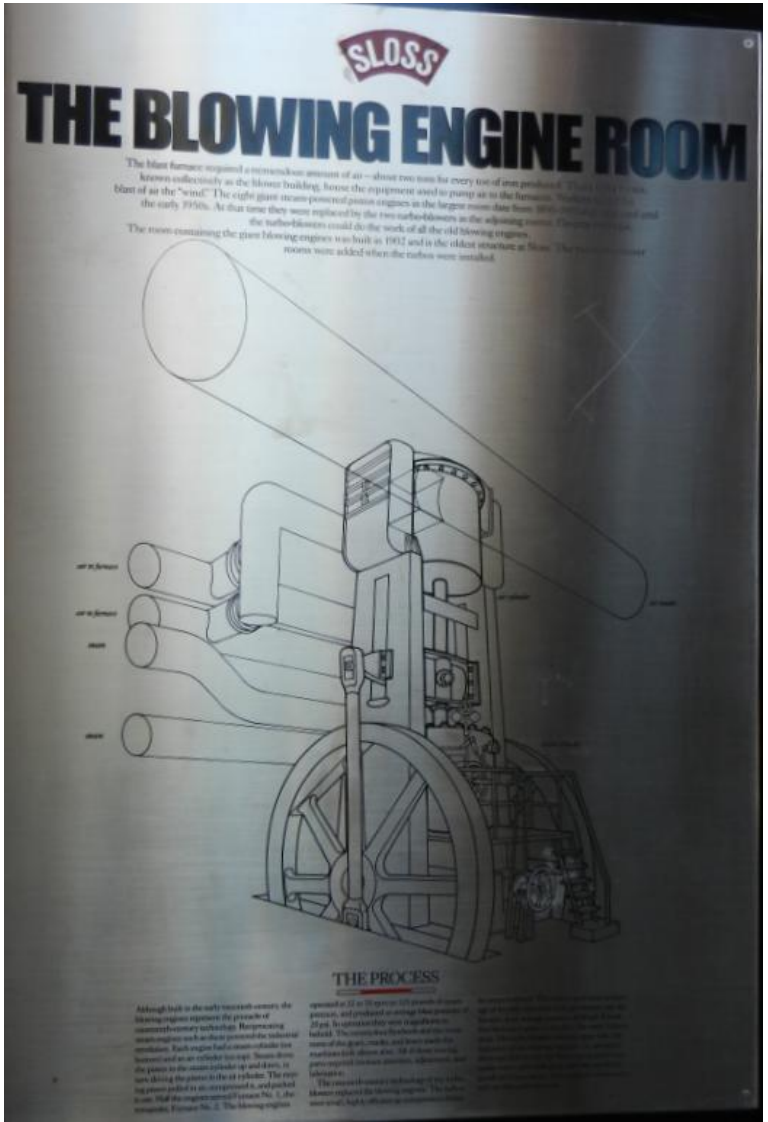
Iron Making

- Centers around blast furnace
- Fuel (coke), iron ore, and flux (limestone) supplied to top of furnace
- Air blown into bottom of furnace
- Product from bottom is iron plus slag
- Continuous operation - two days to heat or cool furnace

Blast Furnace

Material unloaded from rail to electric scale car

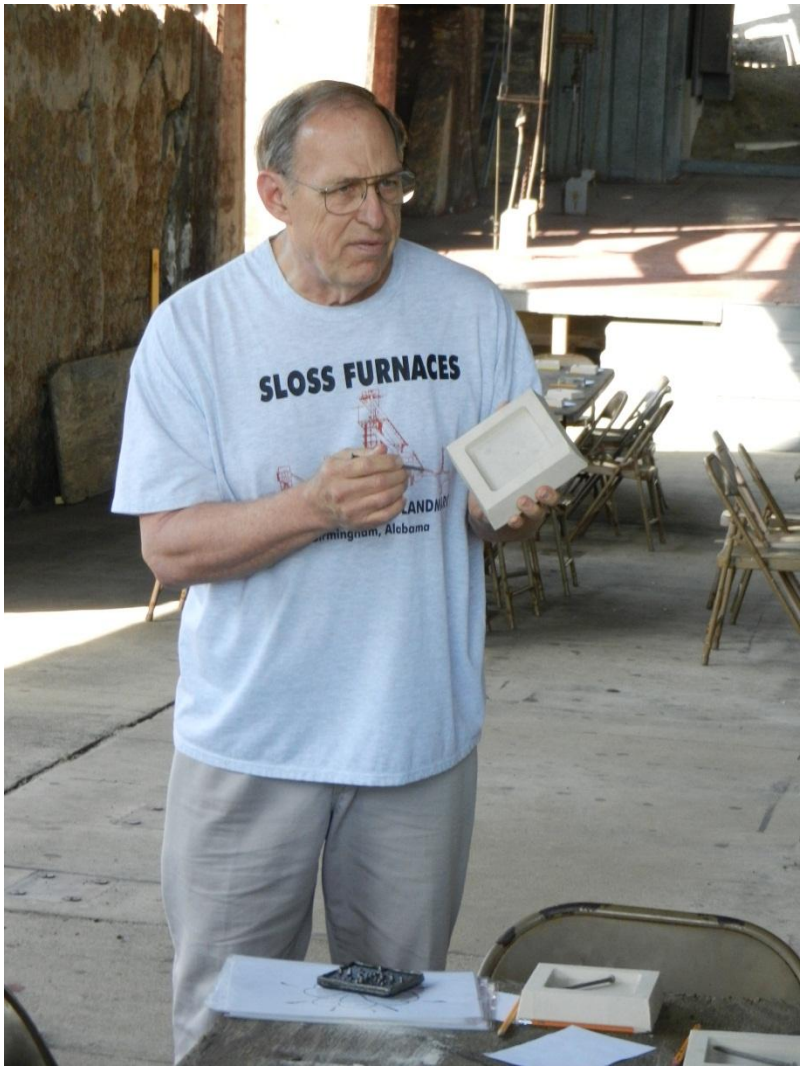
The Blowing Engine



Burning Waste CO2 for Steam

Iron Pour

Sand and Resin Mold



Adding Coke to 75 lb Furnace

Iron is from Brake Drums!

Pour from 75 lb Furnace

Movie

20120416 vacation 002.MOV