

The American Civil War Museum

500 Tredegar St, Richmond, VA 23219



The Museum began its site preparation in July 2017 and celebrated its grand opening earlier this year in May. The new, 29,000-square-foot institution brings together the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar and the Museum of the Confederacy. The \$25 million building was built into the hillside at Historic Tredegar and has enclosed the ruins of the ironworks into the glass-fronted lobby.

The new museum's mission is to provide a fuller, more diverse narrative of the Civil War that includes stories of the Union and the

Confederacy, but also how the war affected African Americans, Native Americans and immigrant communities.

Watch the Museum Building Go Up in 30 Seconds (<https://acwm.org/new-museum>)

Historic Tredegar

Named for the famous iron works at Tredegar, Wales, Tredegar Iron Works opened in 1837 and stood as Richmond's foremost business concern for more than a century. The city's location next to a waterpower source, its proximity to working coalfields, and the development of the railroad industry in the 1830's and 1840's, made Richmond the iron and coal center of the South. Iron ore was brought to the city from western Virginia via the James River and Kanawha Canal, which ran past Tredegar.



The onset of the Civil War in 1861 meant a steady workload for Tredegar. The Confederate authorities selected Richmond as the capital of the Confederacy that year, in part because of Tredegar's irreplaceable value to the fledgling nation. Shortages of both raw material and skilled labor kept the operation from functioning at full capacity during the war years; nonetheless, Tredegar produced more than 1,000 cannons for the Confederacy. It also made armor plating for use on Confederate ironclad warships, including the famous CSS *Virginia*.

The iron works continued production until 1952, when a fire destroyed the majority of its buildings. Three antebellum buildings have been salvaged and restored.

