

# THE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY SITE

You are standing in the landscape where Nova Scotia's coal industry was born. This map indicates approximate locations of key buildings and activities that were associated with our pioneering coal mines, and shows their relationship to the Museum of Industry site.

In 1827 England's General Mining Association imported colliery specialists and 200 tons of equipment to open the province's first deep coal mine here at Albion Mines. Not far from the rear of the Museum building, the Storr pits were sunk 250 feet to the rich Foord coal seam. When the mine was destroyed by explosion in 1839 the Bye pits were sunk 200 yards to their west. Several of the operations associated with this early industrial activity were located on what is now the Museum site.

As technology improved, development progressed across today's Museum grounds. The Foord seam pitches to the north, so successive shafts had to go down farther to reach coal. The Bye pits at 480 feet were the deepest until new, powerful machinery enabled the Foord mine to be sunk to 1000 feet in 1866. Embodying the epitome of engineering for its time, the Foord was designed to yield 1000 long tons (2240 pounds/ton) of coal a day. By comparison, total production in the preceding year from all three of the GMA's operations at Albion Mines was 203,325 tons.

All mines associated with our site produced steadily but eventually ended in explosion.

## Landmark Key

- 1 GMA office
- 2 GMA store
- 3 Storr Pits (8)
- 4 Bye Pits (7)
- 5 Stables
- 6 Lumber yard
- 7 Coke ovens
- 8 Lime Shed
- 9 Foundry
- 10 Blast Furnace
- 11 Sawmill
- 12 Office
- 13 Blacksmith's shop
- 14 Locomotive Shed
- 15 Pumphouse (original location)
- 16 Hoisting Engine House
- 17 Hoisting Shaft (Foord Pit)
- 18 Pumping Shaft
- 19 Boiler House
- 20 Museum of Industry
- 21 Pumphouse
- 22 Railway Station
- 23 Pit Heads
- 24 Housing
- 25 You are here



Pleasant Row was home to Foord miners.

Pleasant Row

Foord Pit

Foundry Yard

North Foord Street

Albion Rail Road

NS Railway/ICR

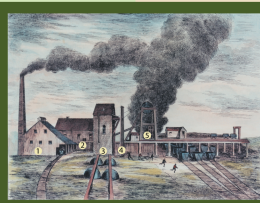
Bridge Avenue



Evidence of the activity associated with coal mining was found during excavation for construction of the Museum of Industry. An archaeological dig in 1967 unearthed foundations of the GMA foundry (1827) where workers once smelted local iron, built Nova Scotia's earliest steam engines, and forged our country's first iron rails. Also discovered was the stone locomotive shed (1839), which served the 6-mile Albion Rail Road, Atlantic Canada's first industrial and passenger line.



The locomotive shed served the 6-mile Albion Rail Road, Atlantic Canada's first industrial and passenger line.



## The Foord Surface Plant

- 1 Boiler House: Ten large boilers provided steam for the pumping and winding engines.
- 2 Hoisting Engine House: A double horizontal engine, the most powerful in the province, lifted double-decked cages. Each cage held four 1200-pound coal boxes.
- 3 Pumping Engine House: This stone building protected the Cornish pump and the mighty engine that drove it.
- 4 Pumping Shaft
- 5 Hoisting Shaft

Another notable feature of the Foord was its Guibal fan. A 600-foot fan pit (not visible) accommodated this first mine fan in the province. Previously, ventilation was by underground furnace.



The Museum has a rich archaeological resource to explore and share with visitors.