



West Point Foundry Preserve Trails



Yellow – Foundry Trail

(0.5 mile; approximately 1 hour)

The journey that begins here takes you to many of the preserve’s key sites. The trail is lightly graded.



Red Trail – More to Explore

(1.0 mile; approximately 1½ hours)

Heading upstream from the boring mill and water wheel, this trail leads to additional foundry ruins as well as related sites in Cold Spring. It follows a steeper elevation; special care should be taken around unstabilized archaeological ruins.



Blue Trail – Foundry Cove and Cold Spring

(1.2 miles; approximately ½ hour)

This level trail loops through downtown Cold Spring, passing “worker houses” and other foundry-era buildings along Main Street.

Scenic Hudson’s West Point Foundry Preserve
68 Kemble Ave. Cold Spring, NY
Accessible from Cold Spring train station

Park open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Nearby Places to Visit

These foundry-related sites, along with West Point Foundry Preserve, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Foundry Dock Park

This Scenic Hudson park, located next to the Cold Spring train station, once was the site of West Point Foundry’s busy loading dock. Finished goods were transported via rail to a pier stretching 600 feet into the river and shipped worldwide. The park contains a simulation of the rail line and is an excellent place to admire views of the Hudson Highlands and launch a kayak.

The Chapel Restoration

West Point Foundry owner Gouverneur Kemble donated land and funds for a Catholic chapel to serve employees and their families. Constructed on a promontory overlooking the Hudson—adjacent to Foundry Dock Park—the Greek Revival building was dedicated in 1834. Subsequently abandoned and restored, it hosts weddings and other events, several concert series, readings and programs for children. www.chapelofourlady.com

Putnam History Museum

Constructed around 1830, enlarged in the 1860s and renovated in 2006, the building originally was the foundry school for teenage apprentices and workers’ children. Located at 63 Chestnut St., it’s now a museum that houses art, artifacts and documents related to the West Point Foundry and surrounding area. Temporary exhibitions are on view as well as a permanent installation on the foundry that includes John Ferguson Weir’s 1866 painting, *The Gun Foundry*. www.putnamhistorymuseum.org

Main Street

Myriad foundry-era buildings remain in Cold Spring. These include “worker houses” along Kemble Avenue, constructed for the foundry’s considerable labor force, and well-preserved shops along a still-bustling Main Street that originally served this “company town.”

Rules

- Vehicles permitted only in designated parking area
- Commuter parking is prohibited
- Stay on marked trails and within posted property boundaries
- Be considerate of park visitors and adjoining property owners
- Pets must be leashed. Clean up after them
- All natural, cultural and archaeological resources are protected and may not be removed or disturbed
- Relic hunting is prohibited; possession and use of a metal detector is prohibited
- Geocaching and Letterboxing are prohibited
- Commercial transactions are prohibited
- No smoking
- No possession or consumption of alcohol
- No fires or barbecues
- No swimming
- No boat launching, docking or beaching
- No bicycling on trails

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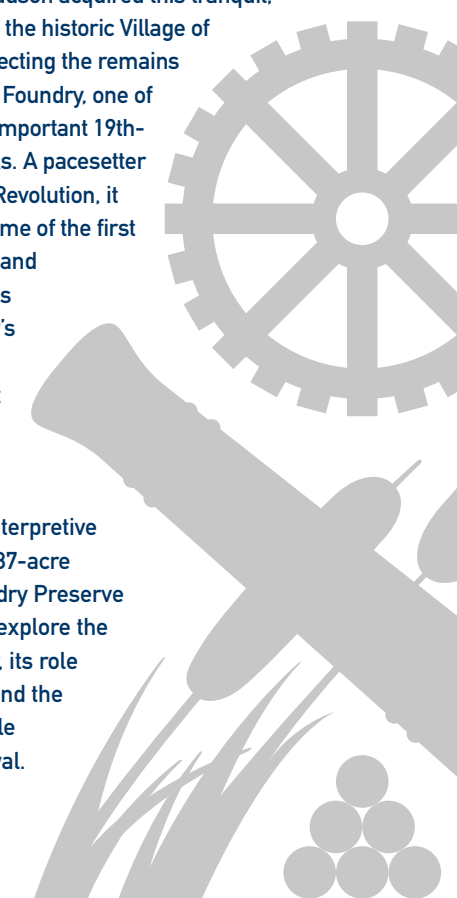
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West Point Foundry Preserve

In 1996 Scenic Hudson acquired this tranquil, wooded ravine in the historic Village of Cold Spring, protecting the remains of the West Point Foundry, one of America’s most important 19th-century ironworks. A pacesetter in the Industrial Revolution, it manufactured some of the first U.S. locomotives and steamships, pipes for New York City’s water system and cannons that helped win the Civil War.

Today, exciting interpretive elements in the 87-acre West Point Foundry Preserve allow visitors to explore the foundry’s history, its role in the Civil War and the land’s remarkable ecological renewal.





Courtesy Putnam History Museum

WEST POINT FOUNDRY Leading the Nation

Products manufactured at West Point Foundry facilitated America's emergence as an industrial superpower. They also played an important role in reuniting the United States.

Foundry Superintendent Robert Parrott developed the Parrott gun in 1860. The weapon of choice for the Union Army and Navy during the Civil War, the cannons' long range and accuracy gave the North a decisive advantage. On the preserve's trails, which pass remains of the foundry's many buildings, visitors can follow the step-by-step process of creating this gun credited with winning the war.

The Hudson Valley offered an abundance of materials critical for producing iron, especially iron ore and trees, to make charcoal for heating a **blast furnace**. Under temperatures around 1,500°F, the iron liquefied, separating from the rocks' other components, and was channeled into molds, called pigs. The blast furnace at West Point Foundry shut down in 1844. Iron to make Parrott guns came from furnaces in Orange County.

Skilled laborers in the foundry's **pattern shop** crafted exacting wooden replicas (or patterns) of the Parrott guns, which ranged in size from 10 to 300 pounds (according to the weight of projectile they shot). In the nearby **casting shop**, these patterns were pressed into wet sand and carefully removed. Molten iron from reheated pigs was poured into the resulting impression.

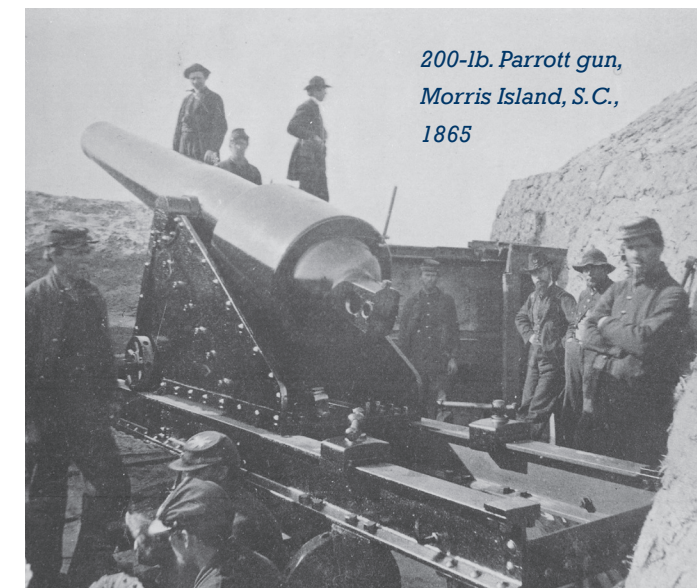


Once the metal cooled, the cannons were separated from the sand mold and delivered to the **boring mill**. Here the 36-foot-diameter water wheel powered drills for boring the guns' interior. Parrott guns featured a rifled bore—spiraling grooves that caused projectiles to spin when fired, enhancing their accuracy.

At the **blacksmith shop** workers attached the Parrott guns' second distinctive feature—a band of wrought iron slipped over the breech (the point furthest from the muzzle) that tightened as it cooled. This reinforced the cannons, preventing them from breaking apart when fired, and allowed for larger powder charges that increased the guns' range. A 30-pound Parrott gun could shoot a projectile nearly four miles.

Finished Parrott guns were taken to the **gun platform** and test-fired at targets painted on Crow's Nest Mountain, across the Hudson River. President Abraham Lincoln visited the foundry in 1862 to witness a demonstration. By the Civil War's end, West Point Foundry had manufactured more than 2,500 cannons and 3 million projectiles.

Experience the sights and sounds of a 19th-century ironworks: Take a unique audiovisual tour of West Point Foundry Preserve by visiting www.scenic Hudson.org/foundrytour using any web-enabled mobile device. For optimal enjoyment, headphones are recommended.



200-lb. Parrott gun,
Morris Island, S.C.,
1865