Restored iron works forges Saugus history

By Ellen Almena

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SUGAR - It has only 23 years, but the iron works established on the banks of the Saugus River in 1846 would probably be considered one of the great industries of the 19th century. The Saugus iron works contributed to the hundreds of factories and foundries that powered the Industrial Revolution.

The Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, located on the banks of the Saugus River, recently received a major facelift as the result of a $19 million renovation and expansion. The site includes the restored buildings on the same riverbank as the town's original industrial complex.

To the residents of Saugus, the restoration represents a unique opportunity to celebrate the town's history.

Students at the site that dates back to the early 19th century, have been involved in the renovation of the Saugus Iron Works.

The Saugus Iron Works attracted people from around the world who wanted to work in the foundry. The town was famous for its iron-making and iron-working industries. The town's founders built the iron works in 1846 and operated the site until 1969. The site was designated a National Historic Site in 1968.

The site includes the restored buildings on the same riverbank as the town's original industrial complex. The restored buildings are open to the public and visitors can take guided tours of the site.

The Saugus Iron Works is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/saig or call 781-445-2164.