

GAMLA ÅMINNE WORKS

Around Lake Källundasjön, south-west of Värnamo, is an expansive manor landscape. The largest estates include Schedingsnäs, Källunda, Hökhult, and Gamla Åminne. The latter is different from the others since it reflects the district's iron production.

The works was established in 1825, when the Swedish Board of Mines allowed the lawman Carl Danckwardt to build a blast furnace for making pig iron. The location was well chosen: The forest-rich district could supply timber for charcoal, there was plenty of water power, and labour was available from nearby farms and crofter's holdings. Lake ore found in the Bolmen and Vidöstern lakes provided the raw material. The ore from these lakes contained 40 per cent iron, which was higher than the rock iron from Taberg.

As time went by, buildings were added to the works. The manor was erected as a large white-rendered dwelling house in the mid-19th century. To this belonged an oak park, which was surrounded by other buildings. The oldest was the blast furnace, which was fired for the first time in 1826. In the ravine down to the lake, are walls and ruins of many of the works buildings. During the heydays there was a foundry, trip hammer, blacksmith forge, carpentry shop, mechanical workshop, paint shop, sawmill, and grinding mill. Besides pig iron, production included e.g. pots, frying pans, mortar and pestles, spittoons, as well as waffle irons. Towards the end of the 19th century, the company focused more on being a supplier to engineering companies in other places.

Before the ironworks era, the estate was called Bestorp. The manor was given the name Gamla Åminne (Old Åminne) around 1900, when the ironworks closed here and moved to a new location around 10 kilometres south of Värnamo, where the new ironworks was built on the western shore of Lake Vidöstern. There were two reasons: the desire to be closer to the Skåne-Småland railway to facilitate transport, and to be closer to the lake ore in Vidöstern.

Read more about the new Åminne ironworks in Hidden Gems no 45!



In the foreground are the foundations of an octagonal barn from 1826. In the background, a glimpse of the manor house. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 76



HOW TO GET HERE

From Road 27 turn south at Kärda. Drive through the church village Kärda and continue for approx. 3.5 km. Turn right and drive for around 4 km.

Coordinates:

N 6332303 / E 433194
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
7' 44.93", E 13° 53' 47.10"
(WGS84)



In the ravine on this side of the manor house are the ruins of several buildings connected with the ironworks. Photo: Leif Gustavsson/L.G. foto.

JÖNKÖPINGS LÄNS
MUSEUM

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HIDDEN GEMS

There are so many things to discover in the countryside! Here, Jönköping County Museum presents some of the cultural environment and heritage attractions in the county.

They include well-known cultural monuments such as Habo Church and the Smålandsstenar Stone Circles, but also lesser known gems such as log-driving remains in the river Valån and Stengårdshult Church. Around the county you can find evidence of how people lived and worked in the past, everything from castles and manors to abandoned embankments and clearance cairns in forest areas.

The idea with Hidden Gems is to tempt you to make excursions in the cultural landscape – here you find our history, revealed in different ways in the physical environment. This heritage is worth experiencing and protecting. Bit by bit, we will be adding more sights under the heading Hidden Gems, both for people living in the county and visitors from further away. The more people who discover these gems, the better chance that they will be preserved for the future.

FACTS

In Jönköping County there are more than 4 000 registered ancient remains, 87 cultural environments of national interest, close to 130 listed buildings, around 150 churches, some 100 rural community centres with old settlements, a large number of industrial heritage sites, and two cultural reserves. There are also a large number of cultural environments with buildings worthy of conservation. More information about the sites can be found on the websites of the County Administrative Board, the municipalities and the local heritage societies.

GOOD TO KNOW

Access to the Hidden Gems varies. Some sites are well signposted, with easy access and proper parking facilities, etc. Others are more challenging to reach. Visitors may have to walk some distance, sometimes through scrubby forest, only to be met by a broken sign (if there ever was one) when they reach the site. All the sites, however, have an exciting and interesting history.

Please note that many of the cultural heritage buildings are privately owned and can only be viewed from the outside. Also, please respect private land. Many churches are open in the summer. During other times of the year, the churchwarden may be able to open the church for you.

