

HYLTÉNS METAL FACTORY

When J. E. Hyltén's Metal Factory closed in 1974, the ancient industrial environment looked nearly as in the early 1900s. The factory buildings from World War I and later, and machinery that mostly pre-dates 1930, are excellent reflections of the industrial activities in Gnosjö of the time. Today, the metal factory is a living industrial museum, and was designated the Industrial Heritage Site of the Year in 2005 by the Swedish Industrial Heritage Association.

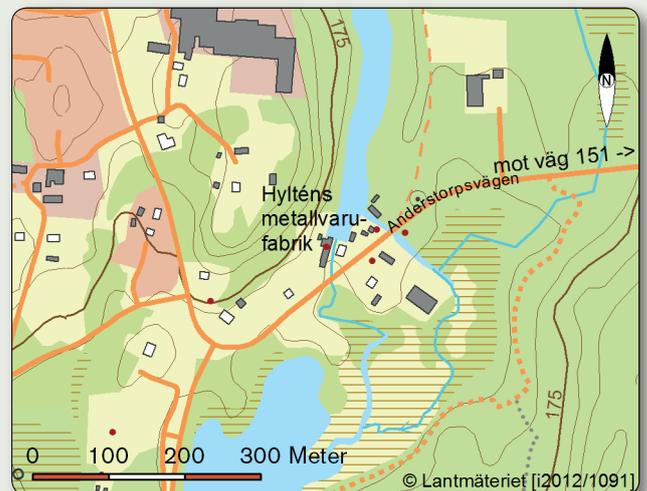
Johan Edvard Hyltén started his enterprise in a smithy on his father's farm Hyltan. He made products such as harness bows, paraffin lamps, and the so called Småland purse. At the Stockholm Exhibition 1897, the company won both silver and bronze medals for its high quality metalwork. Electricity to run the machinery was installed at an early stage. The operations also benefitted greatly from the new railway line past Gnosjö that opened in 1902.

The company gradually expanded, but after a devastating fire in 1914, a completely new plant was built at its present location by Gåröström. The new factory was designed by Johan Edvard Hyltén's son John, who had gained work experience in a drawing office in Stockholm. John's brother Paul had been to commercial school in Kristinehamn, and the two brothers became involved and later took over the running and administration of the company.

Up until World War II, Hyltén's had a significant production of boat fittings and fire-fighting equipment. At its peak, the company employed 42 people. After the war, activities slowed down and there were few new investments, except for a new extension for staff room and workshop in the 1950s. The family business thus lived through two generations; first under the management of Johan Edvard Hyltén, who was later succeeded by his two sons John and Paul. All the industrial buildings north-west of the road Anderstorp svägen are listed as buildings of great cultural historic value.



Interior from the workshop with belt-driven equipment, mainly from the 1920s. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEMS I I



HOW TO GET HERE

The industrial museum is located in the southernmost part of Gnosjö, approx. 600 m north of Gnosjö Church, along the road Anderstorp svägen.

Coordinates:

N 6356038 / E 423854
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
20' 27.10", E 13° 44' 5.59"
(WGS84)



Industrial environment around Hyltén's Metal Works at Gåröström in Gnosjö. Photo: Leif Gustavsson/L.G.foto.

JÖNKÖPINGS LÄNS
MUSEUM

036-30 18 00 ▪ www.jkpglm.se





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.

