

Sloss Furnace Repainting

Birmingham, Alabama, was founded as a steel town in 1871, and was once even known as the “Pittsburg of the South” because of our proliferous steel industry. In fact, Birmingham is the only place in the world where iron ore, coal and limestone – the three main raw materials used in making steel – can be found in close proximity. Sloss Furnace was one of the main steel mills located in the city, and has since been turned into a park where outdoor events such as Bar-B-Que festivals, craft beer festivals and even a fall Haunted House are hosted.

The City of Birmingham wanted to rehabilitate blast furnace #2 at Sloss, which was one of the first blast furnaces used to make steel, but needed to protect this significant historical structure. The park’s board contacted Induron about assisting with the maintenance painting of one of our hometown’s iconic structures.

We’re no strangers to large-scale paint jobs, but the kicker came when the engineer in charge of the paint specs said, “We want a new paint job, but we want the blast furnace to look just like it did the day

the mill closed down in 1972.” For those of us in the industrial painting industry, this was a change. Usually, repaints were intended to make structures look shiny and new, not dull and drab. However, Induron was able to provide a solution that involved both long-term corrosion protection as well as a long lasting – yet dull drab – finish.



An interesting follow up to our success story is that the City of Birmingham released the repainting of blast furnace #1 a few years later, and the winning contractor used a competitor’s product, because it was touted to be of higher quality than our dull, drab paint. Today, 11+ years after the original project, blast furnace #2 looks “just like it did when they closed the mill in 1972.” The other furnace, with a technically “superior” product that is three years newer, is streaked and in need of

painting!

Products: Induron Z-Rep 52 Zinc Rich Epoxy & 2 finish Coats of Aquanaut Acrylic
Engineer: LBDY
Contractor: Daca Painting