



Blacksmith's Shop

This building was mostly constructed by voluntary Society members. Walls were constructed with vertical split slabs, set into grooves into lower and upper round timber plates. No nails were used in the construction of the walls. The roof was built with round timber rafters and sawn timber battens, to carry shingles, which were split on the job, being cut from messmate logs. Shingles were nailed to battens with galvanized nails.

Main equipment in blacksmith shop:

- ❖ Forge and bellows for heating iron-work.
- ❖ Anvil on which blacksmith works the heated metal.
- ❖ Wedge block for working metal to various shapes.
- ❖ Leg vice for holding and further working of metal.
- ❖ Grindstone for sharpening and tempering tub for tempering metal.

Work bench and wide assortment of wedges, tongs, dies and hammers – most tools being forged by the blacksmith.

In early times, the blacksmith shop was the place used for manufacture of all horse-drawn vehicles, wagons, drays, sulkys, coaches etc., as all these had to have iron work forged to strengthen and support their construction. It was also used for manufacture and maintenance of all farm machinery, ploughs etc. The Farrier used a blacksmith shop to fashion and shape shoes for horses.

In early mining the blacksmith shop was the fore-runner of the modern machine shop, for here such things as haulage cages, ore-trucks, kibbles or haulage buckets, bailing tanks, chairs for cages to rest on, rail points, chute doors and any other item of mining equipment was fashioned and manufactured, also many parts and equipment for the milling or crushing machinery. Using the forge and anvil, the blacksmith sharpened all mining tools - picks, gads, moils, wedges, working-out bars, hand steel for drilling and all machine steels.

In small mines the blacksmith forge was used to smelt the gold bullion, and mould into a bar, Also the forge was used to heat white metal (anti-friction metal) and brass for the pouring and moulding of bearing for various machines.

On modern mining sites the blacksmith shop is a thing of the past, being replaced by machine shops, here oxy-acetylene and electric welders, various metal and cutting shaping machines, carry out most fabrication. Cutting tools and drill steels carry tungsten carbide inserts that are sharpened by special diamond grinders.