The exhibition “From Ore to Iron” is another component of the museum located in the former sawmill. It initially shows where the key commodity, iron ore, was to be found and how it was recovered.

A simulated mine tunnel leads to the area dealing with iron smelting. Models of a charcoal stack and a smelting furnace illustrate how from the Celts to the Middle Ages malleable iron was won from iron ore. In an area devoted to ironworking there are a number of iron exhibits ranging from items of combat such as chain mail, armor or sword to everyday objects. Additionally there are various special exhibitions in the former stables.
The former Schäff forge lies 30 kilometers south of Nuremberg, close to the village of Eckersmühlen. This gem of industrial history situated on the river Roth is now a lively museum, where the art of the blacksmith and the use of the red-hot iron is impressively demonstrated. For over five generations the Eisenhammer was owned by the family Schäff, a widely ramified blacksmith dynasty.

In 1775 Johann Michael Schäff I. took over the, at that time, indebted property. Unlike his predecessors, he was operator and owner in one person. Over several generations the forge Masters and entrepreneurs Schäff came to great prosperity at the Eisenhammer. The period of affluence came to an end as competition from mass produced goods of the factories grew. Added to this changes in the pattern of demand led to the cessation of operations in 1974. Thanks to Fritz Schäff V the forge remained operational until 1985 when it was converted into the industrial museum where today regular blacksmith presentations take place.

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Water power operates the massive power hammers. A turbine sets the main shaft moving. The power is transferred by leather transmission belts to the individual hammers. Visitors can view the production of these transmission belts, another long forgotten craft, in a separate room.

Extensions and the removal of timber framing in the 1910’s, robbed the former manor house of its baroque splendor.
Following the final closure of the Eisenhammer, Fritz Schäff V retired and devoted himself exclusively to research of his family and local history.

In this part of the museum the living environment of this last of the Schäff Dynasty is displayed in a visible and palpable way.