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Gray's Mill: Email to Ted Hazen, June 7, 2001

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Date: Thu, 7 Jun 2001 21:38:44 -0400
To: trhazen@hotmail.com
From: "Anne W. Baker" <awb02@sprynet.com>
Subject:
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Ted Hazen,

First I want to thank you for posting your amazing site about mills. I can't believe the amount of important mill information you have offered to the public. It is exciting, informative and endless.

I am a relatively new person to mills. I have worked all my life with 17th Century New England house and only one 18th century Rhode Island mill in in 1980. Basically it was all intact so it didn't present too many problems. Now I have been hired by a non profit group to help them decide what to do with the remains of a derelict 1880 grist and saw mill. The mill site goes back to the late 1600's. The committee would like to build a working reproduction of its turbine years which I am against as it would destroy all the artifacts that still exist and belong to its history. I would prefer an interpretive/educational center that could explain the history of small village mills in southern New England, while leaving the derelict as a place to study the changes brought about by the industrial revolution .

Now having said all of that what I am really asking is where I can find out how to date some details associated with the mill.:

1. The existing tailrace is made with granite cut from a quarry. The stones were split with a star drill . Do you know where I can find out when star drills were first used and what was used before that?

2. The husk frame is a hewn, post and beam structure. However the augar bit that cut the mortises has a pilot screw. Where can I find out the date of augar bits with a pilot screw, or what came before star drills. Mercer is good, but doesn't answer this question.

3. The husk frame has gone through many changes. It as if reading the diaries from the all miller's who had worked there.

Some of the husk frame has been replaced with timbers that have up and down saw marks and some with circular saw marks. Where can I find out an average cut off date for up-and-down saws or when did the circular saw get introduced.

There must be a book out there that talks about all this stuff. So far, despite hours of looking I have had no luck.

Please let me know if there is a fee to answer these questions as I would be happy to comply.

Thanks.

Anne.

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