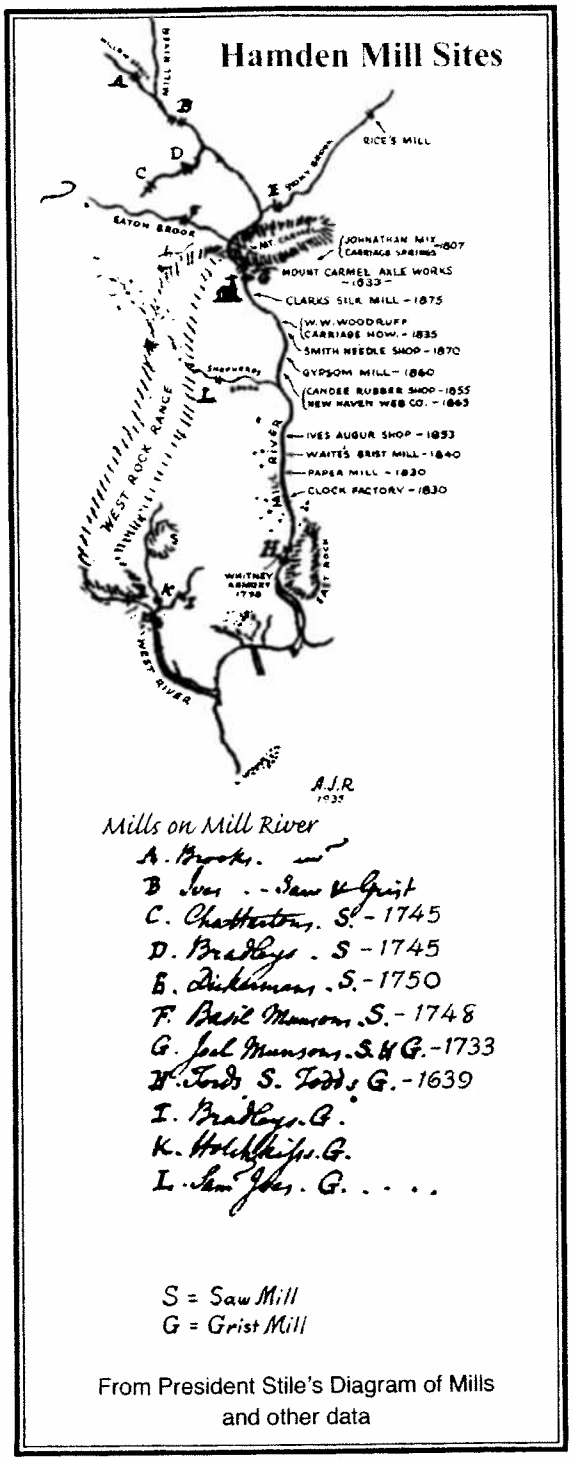


From President Stile's Diagram of Mills and other data

TOWN OF HAMDEN

Hamden Historic Properties Commission

The Jepp Brook archeological preserve, located near the corner of River Road and Still Hill Road in the Mt. Carmel section of Hamden, contains visible remains of an industrial mill site. The protected watershed area is owned by the Town of Hamden and is listed on the State Register of Historic Places.

The identification and designation of this site was completed through a partnership of the Hamden Historic Properties Commission, The CT Commission Culture and Tourism, and the CT Trust for Historic Preservation with support from the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, the Hamden Historical Society, Inc. and the Town of Hamden.

This publication was partially funded by a grant from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation.

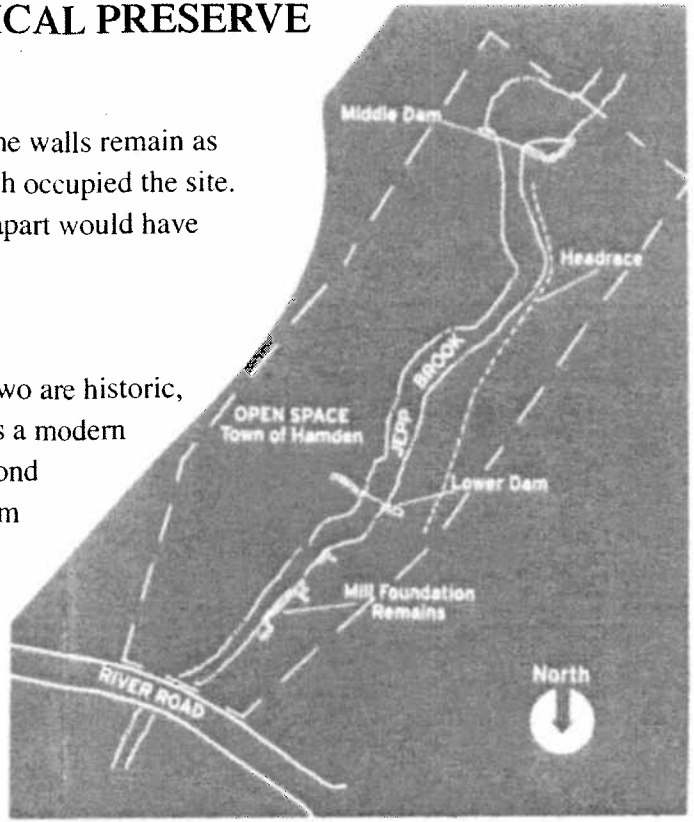
Designed and printed by
ROLLINS PRINTING, HAMDEN, CT

TOWN OF HAMDEN CONNECTICUT

JEPP BROOK EARLY MILLSITE

RIVER ROAD
MOUNT CARMEL

JEPP BROOK ARCHEOLOGICAL PRESERVE



Foundation

On the West Side of Jepp Brook, rubble-stone walls remain as testimony to the various mill buildings which occupied the site. One set of parallel stone walls about 6 feet apart would have served as a wheel pit for the water wheel.

Dams

Three dams cross Jepp Brook on this site. Two are historic, and one, the upper most dam (not shown) is a modern structure which imponds the present Jepp Pond which is on private property. The middle dam of rubble and stone construction is about 86 feet across and although breached, is does restrain a small pond. The lower dam's remnants, earth-and-rubble and fieldstone, have been breached and the brook flows unimpeded.

Headrace

A 6 foot wide channel, extends from the modern dam, which is 35 feet above the mill ruins, to the west end of the lower dam. Presumably, a flume carried water from the headrace to the water wheel.

~ History of the Site ~

The Jepp Brook Industrial Site is an example of the early use of waterpower for industrial enterprises. This site, dating to the end of the 18th century, was used for grist milling, pressing cider, sawing wood, and preparing grain for the distilling of whiskey, or "country gin." Activity ceased by the late 19th century.

This mill site was apparently leased in 1808 from the Bradley family by Job Lucianus Munson, a farmer, tavern-keeper and mill operator, and three New Haven merchants doing business as Shipman, Dennison & Co. The lease covered water rights and a "distillery, barn and malt house" adjoining a mill. Job L. Munson Jr. received a partial interest in the property from his father's estate in 1829 and later bought out the New Haven merchants. Justus Warner aquired the property from Munson Jr. in 1845, which then included a dwelling house, barn, gristmill, sawmill and cider mill. Alonzo Warner and other heirs of Justus Warner sold the property in 1864 to Sterling Bradley (whose house still stands on the southeast corner of River Road and Whitney Avenue). Bradley owned a 200-acre farm, raised cattle, and was keeper of the tollgate on the Cheshire Turnpike, now Whitney Avenue.