

Timeline of Brookside Mill

1725: William Chandler built a water fulling mill and grist mill near the current site of the Brookside Mill.

1857: Members of the Adams family, millers of corn and lumber, succeeded Chandler in operating the mill. Shortly after, they sold the mill to Theodore H. Hamblett, who ran it with his relative W. C. Hamblett.

1862: Hamblett sold the mill to George R. Moore. George and his brother Seth Moore switched the products of the mill from flour and lumber to wooden yarn. They also erected the stone building comprising the oldest existing part of the mill.

1875: Tax evaluations indicated that Seth Moore owned at Brookside two water-powered mills with auxiliary steam engines, a blacksmith shop, and three houses.

1885: George C. Moore succeeded his father (George R. Moore) and uncle (Seth Moore) in owning the mills. Moore used the mills to manufacture worsted yarns.

Between 1890 and 1894: A major reconstruction of the mill took place. An insurance survey from that year shows the mill closer to its current configuration.

1891: Brookside Mill employed 125 hands and manufactured 600,000 pounds of yarn a year.

1894: Moore replaced the wood-framed mill buildings, as well as two frame store houses and waste house, with the existing brick construction.

1895: Moore built 6 single-family workers' cottages on Brookside Road.

1911: Moore sold the Brookside Mill to the Bigelow Carpet Company, who operated it with few changes.

1919: The Abbot Worsted Company acquired ownership of the Brookside Mill. It operated the mill for the next two decades but did not expand it further.

1945: Weakened by the Great Depression and struggling to compete with companies in the Southern states, which enjoyed cheaper, non-unionized labor, Abbot Worsted ceased its operation of the Brookside Mill but retained ownership of the many employee houses.

1956: Abbot Worsted sold all of its employee houses along with the rest of its holdings in Massachusetts.

1956: Royal Shawcross bought the mill and used its buildings for industrial food storage and fruit processing.

1960s: The mill was sold to Commodore Foods Corporation, who carried on the food processing business and constructed a cinderblock addition to the mill in the 70s.

1980s: Commodore Foods sold the mill, which subsequently fell into the ownership of Stony Brook Realty Corporation/John Grant and later, DSJG Realty Trust.

1999: The mill was taken by the town for unpaid taxes.

2001: The town officially sold the mill to local developer Gerry Boucher, who promised to convert the mill into condos.

2004: The conversion was completed, and Brookside Mill remains a set of condos to this day.

Sources

- <https://www.westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1619/Brookside-Historic-District-PDF?bidId=>
- Westford Eagle; Thursday, April 5, 2001.
- Westford Eagle; Thursday, March 1, 2001.
- Lowell Sun; Thursday, May 24, 2001.