

Timeline of Graniteville Mills

1798: Timothy and Isaiah Prescott operated a saw and grist mill upstream of the current Abbot section of the mill.

1831: Deacon John Prescott, a descendant, owned the mill.

1835: Prescott sold the mill to Thomas Richardson.

ca. 1940: Richardson sold the mill to machinist Asahel Davis.

1854: Davis sold the mill to Francis Calvert and Charles G. Sargent, who converted the saw and grist mill into a mill that manufactured woolen machinery. These machines would clean, dry, and wash wool.

1855: Sargent entered a partnership with John W. P. Abbot and his son John W. Abbot, and together they established the Abbot Worsted Company. Abbot would use the machines in Sargent and Calvert's mill to manufacture worsted yarns.

1857: Sargent left the Abbot Worsted Company, selling his interest in the firm to Allan Cameron. Sargent and Calvert continued sharing their mill with Abbot.

December 1858: Sargent and Calvert's mill burned to the ground. Their company temporarily moved to Lowell, while Abbot temporarily moved to Norwich, Conn.

1859: Sargent and Calvert completed the construction of a new stone mill at a short distance below the site of the burned mill (at the corner of Broadway and North Main Streets). They again leased half of the mill to the Abbot Worsted Company. Later in the year, to accommodate increased volume of production, the mill was expanded with an addition that doubled the original space.

1862: Sargent bought Calvert's interest in the machinery firm. He then sold a part interest in the firm to his son Frederick, and renamed the firm C. G. Sargent and Son.

1877: The Sargent Company built a new mill on Broadway Street (which it used as a machine shop) and moved there in 1878, leaving the Abbot Worsted Company as the sole occupant of the original mill.

1928: The Abbot Company moved most of its operations to Forge Village.

The 1950s: The Abbot Company moved its entire operation to Forge Village.

The 1970s: The Sargent Company left their mill and moved all operations into the machine shop at 31 Bridge Street. The company remained in business until it went bankrupt in 1990.

1997: Chris Franklin bought the Sargent mill (the one on Broadway Street).

Now: The Sargent mill is home to many businesses, while the Abbot mill (the one on North Main Street) is left vacant due to safety concerns.

Sources:

- <https://www.westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1622/Graniteville-Historic-District-PDF?bidId=>
- Hodgman's *History of Westford*.
- Biography of C. G. Sargent by his son Frederick Sargent.

- Abbot Employee Handbook.
- Lowell Sun 9/23/2000.
- Westford Eagle 9/29/2005.