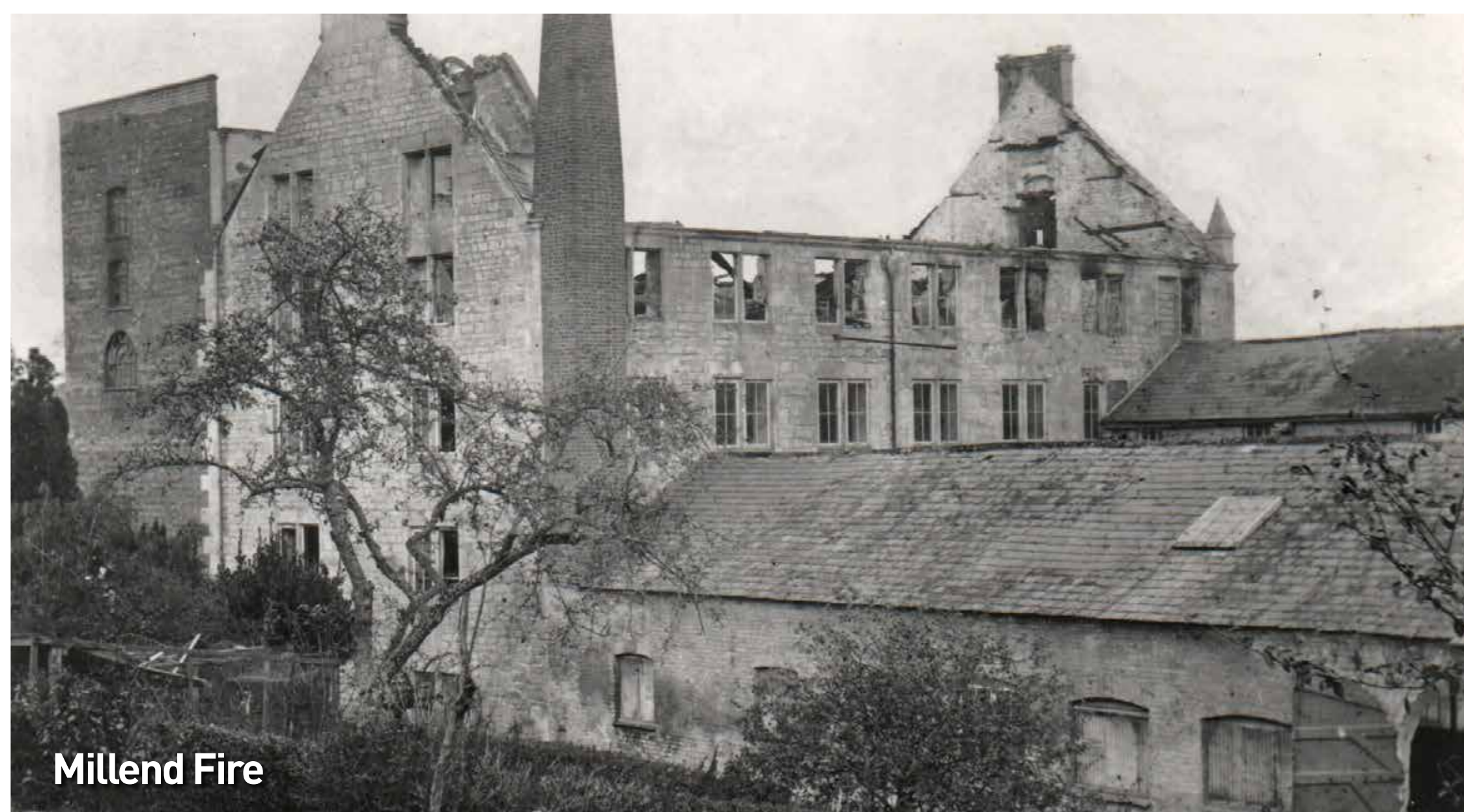


Millend Mill

Historic Photos



Millend Fire



The view from Millend to its sister mill at Churchend (c1900)



The rear of the mill (c1935)



Millend Row, once owned by James Sleeman

The mill occupies an ancient site - there has been a succession of mills on or near the present structure since before Domesday (1086).

During the Middle Ages, the region's ample water power began to attract the woollen cloth industry to the Stroud valleys. Like many others, Millend Mill switched from corn milling to cloth manufacture.

In 1806, Millend was bought by Henry Hicks, a wealthy landowner and Lord of the Manor of Eastington. He completely rebuilt the mill, completing it in 1818.

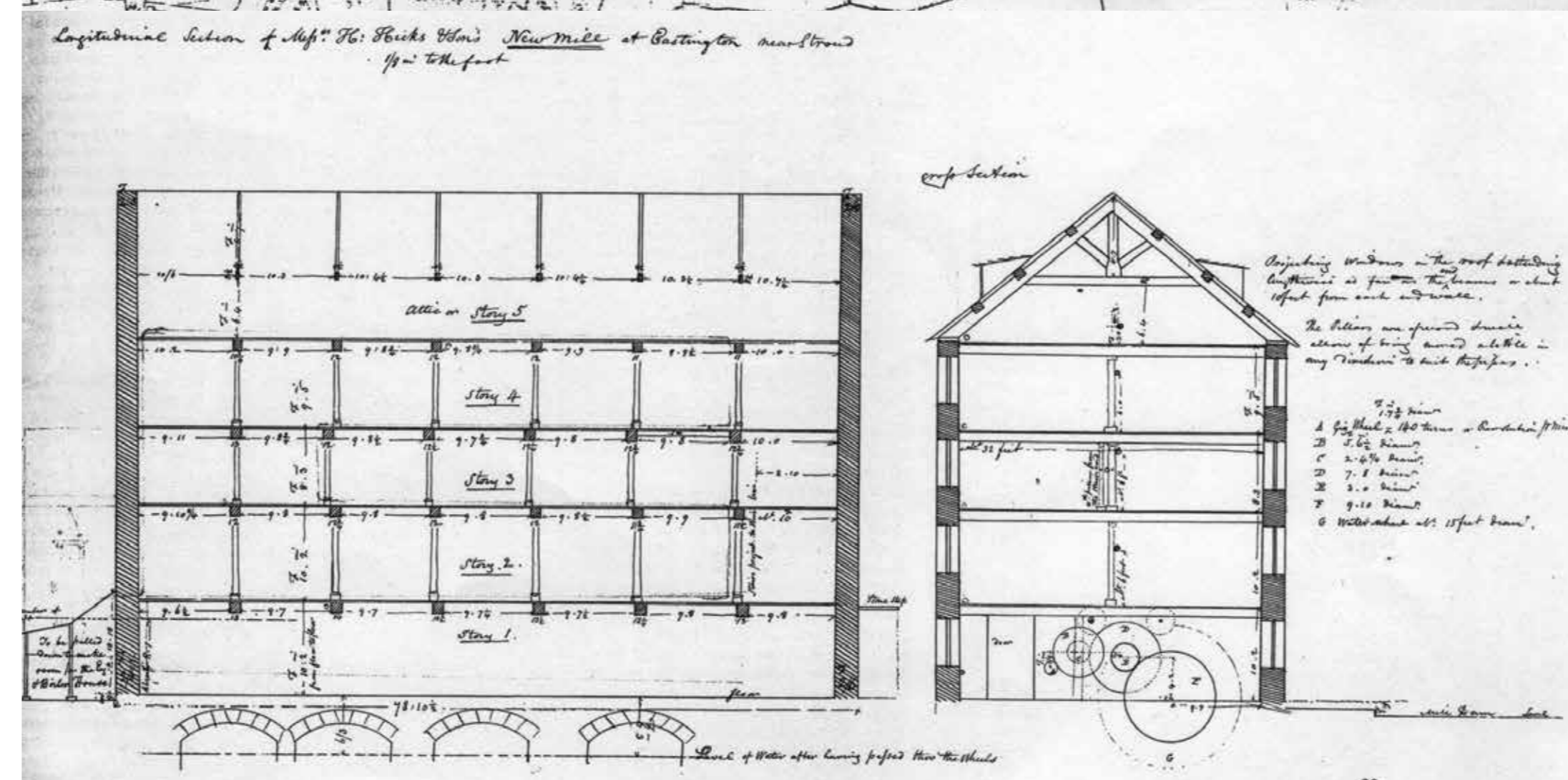
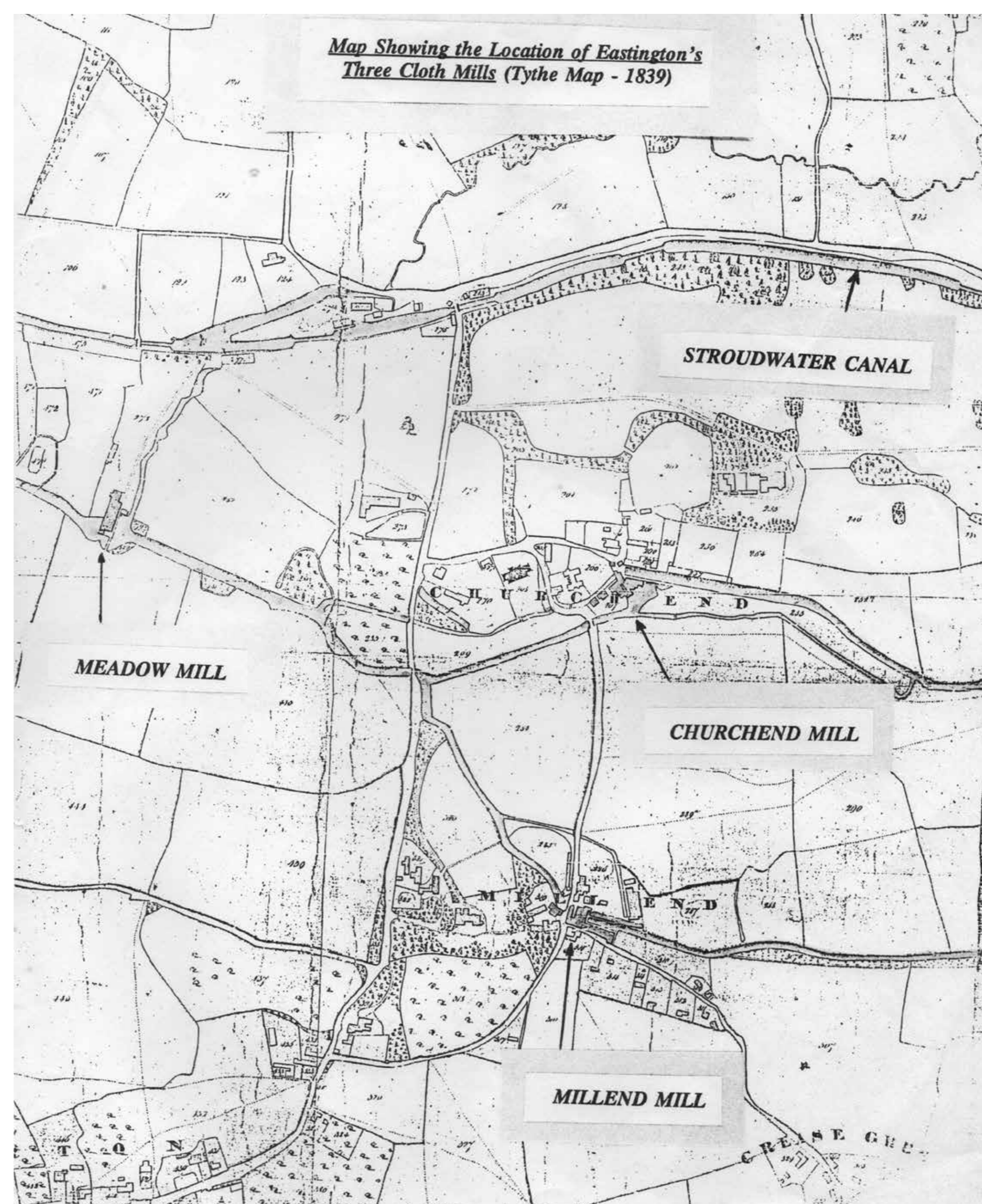
Cloth manufacture became increasingly mechanised, so more power was needed. Initially, this was provided by three large water wheels driven by an arm of the River Frome. However, power requirements continued to increase and in 1821, a steam engine was installed, one of the first in the area.

By the 1830s, Millend was being run by Charles Hooper. To meet the growing competition and difficult trading condition, he combined operations at Millend with four other local cloth mills. But by 1869, cloth making at Millend had come to end.

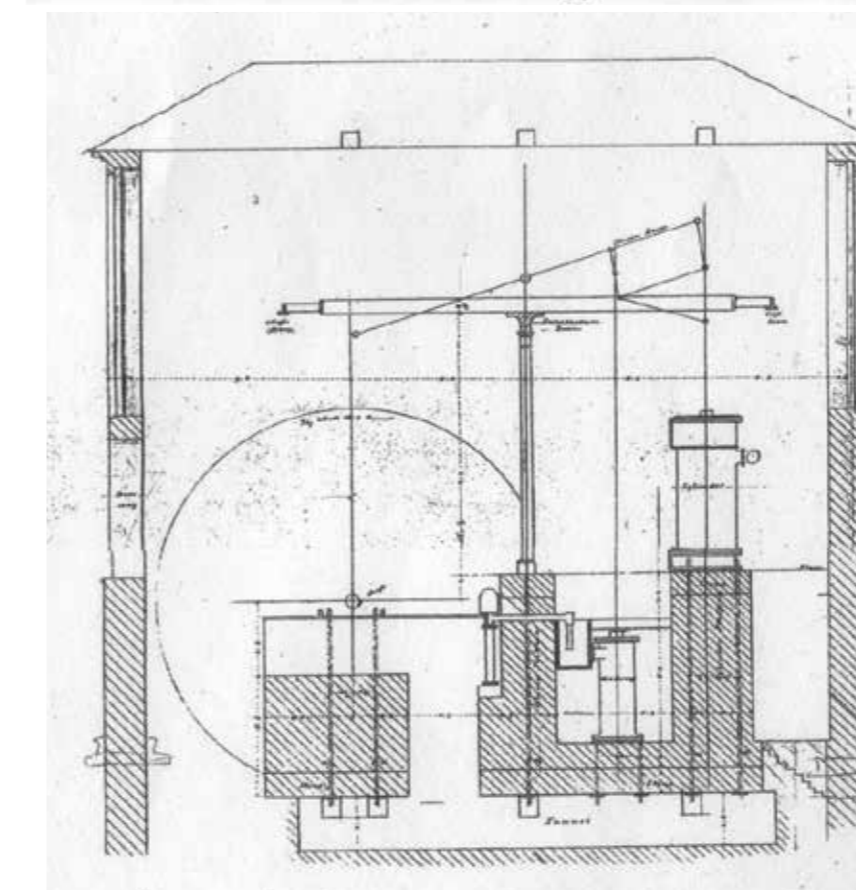
In the 1870s, the mill was converted for flour milling and saw milling.

In 1908, Millend saw another change of use, being converted to a maltings. In 1922, a serious fire

Mill location and Floor Plan



The new wheel



The Boulton & Watt steam engine, added to the mill by Henry Hicks around 1821

gutted much of the mill. It was rebuilt but malting ended in the 1930s.

In the following years, Millend had a succession of uses that included corn milling and grain drying. Finally, in the 1960s, it was taken over by an antiques exporting company. By the 1980s, the mill was effectively abandoned by its owners and began to decay badly.

In 2008, Robs Lamplough bought the derelict mill. This signalled the start of an extensive programme of restoration and rebuilding that saw it converted from industrial to residential use, the only realistic option. Throughout this process, the mill's shape and form was carefully retained and restored. Work included the reinstatement of a working elm water wheel capable of generating several kilowatts of power. In addition, the remainder of the overgrown site was cleared and new cottages built in this now tranquil location. And so began a new chapter in Millend Mill's long and interesting life.

The architect responsible for the Millend project was Didier Ryan of Undercurrent Architects, specialists in regeneration projects. Construction work was undertaken by local builder Bob Brewer of Bob Brewer Ltd. In total, more than £2 million was invested in the mill's regeneration.

Further information on the mill's history can be found on the website of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology (GSIA) at: www.gsia.org.uk/

Demolition and Rebuilding

