

Sugar River Grist Mill
and Saw Mill
(Sugar River Mills)
Main Street
Claremont, New Hampshire
Sullivan County

MP - 2
NH,
10 - CLAR,
8 -

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HAER
NH,
10-CLAR,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

SUGAR RIVER GRIST MILL AND SAW MILL
HAER NO. NH-3

Date: 1855 (Grist Mill) and 1856 (Saw Mill)

Location: 159 Main Street

Designed by: Unknown

Owner: Presto Grain Co., Claremont, New Hampshire

Significance: Benjamin Tyler, one of the first settlers of Claremont, established grist and saw mills on this site as early as 1775. A group of Claremont businessmen bought the property in 1854 and constructed the existing two story, Greek Revival grist mill. The grist mill measures 65' x 42'. The following year (1856), the saw mill, a two story clapboard structure measuring 76' x 32' was added. The grist mill was equipped with eight run of stone, four flouring bolts, and eight or more Tyler turbine water wheels. These were installed under the supervision of their inventor, John Tyler. In the 1880's, the grist mill at Claremont was one of the largest in the State, and throughout its history, it processed meal from corn, wheat, rye, oats and barley.

The saw mill produced a variety of building supplies including clapboards, shingles, moldings, flooring and doors. From 1881-1890 the Union Wood Turning Works occupied the second floor, and equipped its premises with Weymouth lathes which were used to manufacture small wooden products. Both mills remained in operation until 1918, when the saw mill was converted into a storage area for the grist mill. Operations there seem to have ceased during World War II when the water wheels were sold for scrap.

Researchers are referred to a 1978 HCRS study (U.S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. Rehabilitation: Claremont 1978; Planning for Adaptive Use and Energy Conservation in an Historic Mill Village. Washington, D.C., 1978.) for rehabilitation proposals.

Transmitted by: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1984.