STAFFORDSHIRE

SPAB-WAS-STAFFS-08

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS

WATERMILL SURVEY

Name and address of Mill: Greensforge Mill, Greensforge, Kingswinford (Staffs) Nr. Stourbridge (Worcs)

Date of Visit: 27th March 1965.

Location: Grid Ref: SO/861888 (Sheet 130: Kidderminster.) 1¼ miles S of Swindon, 1½ m. W. of Kingswinford. 3½ m. NW of Stourbridge town centre; almost on the Staffs. Worcs canal.

Information

River or Tributary by which fed:

River Smethstow.

GENERAL

1. Description of Mill (siting, approaches, size of building, external appearance, materials of construction, number of floors, wheels, mill pond etc.): On one side of a farmyard (Greensforge Farm) by a cinder track 100 yds. from tarmac road. A large mill — 37ft x 23ft Height 30 ft to eaves and a hip roof 4 or 5 ft high. A striking piece of architecture, if somewhat severe; large windows, and doors on all 4 floors on farmyd side. Unglazed red brick with blue bricks end on here + there. Window-sills of red sandstone such as is found locally. Iron-frame windows painted white with brown double doors. Blue-slate roof

2. Mill is still/not working. Not working.

3. Name and address of Owner: Mr. P.K. Simpkiss, Greensforge Fm. Greensforge.

4. Name and address of present/last miller or near relation:

5. Name and address of millwright:

HISTORICAL

6. Date of erection (particulars of any inscription stones or tablets): Thought to have been built about 1810-30.

7. By whom built:

8. Date mill ceased work (reason for closing): Over 40yrs.

9. If since demolished state date of demolition: All machinery removed. The waterwheel was sold for scrap-metal.
Work of demolition undertaken by:

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10. Historical Notes (details of any historical or legendary associations; major repairs or replacements, or any facts of general interest appertaining to the mill or former millers, existence of old photographs, etc.)

X 11. Sketches or plans

Greensforge Mill: Front (West) : From South-East : North side.

The watershed was on the E side. Follow brickwork between middle and right set of windows on E side down to ground level: the small black square seen here was hole in wall for wheelshaft.

WATERMILL SURVEY - Part 2.

1. Waterwheel (Facts deduced from remains of pit.)
a) Number of wheels: One
b) Located internally/externally: externally
(if more than one wheel, state how arranged - abreast/in line etc:

c) Wheels are whooly covered/partly covered/exposed: probably exposed
d) Description of wheel:
i. Undershot/breast; high or low/overshot/Pitchback/pouncet: Undershot
ii. Type: clasp arm/compass arm/bolted cast sections:

iii. Materials: (wheel, rim and arms) (at least partly) iron.
iv. Size: Diameter: 14ft. Width: 12ft 6" overall

Additional notes regarding above

e) Inscription on rim:

f) Buckets: Material (wood/iron):
Number
Shape: (straight/U-shaped/V-shaped/L-shaped):

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2. Wheelshaft

Description
a) Material: Wood/iron/steel/copper:
b) Size: Length: Diameter: Under 2ft.
c) Shape:
d) Type of pit and outer bearings: Brick lined pit curved and concrete-lined to fit curve of wheel on headrace side. Outer bearing on stone block set in pit wall, level to top.

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3. Gear Wheels

Wheel	Material	Teeth	Type (see 1.(d.ii)	Size
a. Pit				
b. Wallower				
c. Spur				
d. Stone nuts				
e. Crown				

Additional notes regarding above

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4. Upright shaft

a. Material:
b. Size and shape:
c. Bearings:

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5. Stones

a. Number: pair of peak: diameter: over/under driven
: pair of burr: diameter: over/under driven
: pair of compositions: diameter: over/under driven

b. Location of stones (which floor, if on hurst frame, how arranged, etc):

c. How governed:

d. How thrown out of gear:

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6. Stone fittings

a. Furniture or hoops (Material and shape):

b. Slippers (how controlled, etc):

c. Hoppers (size and shape)

d. Horse:

e. Particulars of bell alarm:

7. Sack Hoist (Where situated machinery):

8. Processing machines and their source of motive power.
Type of flour dresser:

9. Auxiliary power (kind, when installed, reason for it, etc):

10. Water feed (pond, stream, channel, sluices, races, fall, etc)
An area (⅓ acre approx.) of marshy ground by stream above mill may have been a millpond. At the mill the river is 10ft wide, swift-flowing and not more than a foot deep. At side of mill just upstream from wheel is a bridge under or near which was a grid (vert. metal bars in wood horiz ones. Head of water actually used only 5ft. The mill race itself is short and the whole of the water in the river could be directed down it by means of a sluice gate spanning the river at entrance to millrace.

11. Particulars of pentrough:

12. Additional information, plans, sketches, etc:

Information found by J.H. Eddington from local people.

Signature:

Date:

(Source of knowledge of Mill: e.g. owner, miller, etc.)