

Note on Titley's Mill, Uttoxeter, Staffs. (Was also known as "Uttoxeter Mill")

Grid Ref SK 0864 3479

On R. Tean, tributary of R. Dove, which runs into R. Trent

1. I visited the mill on 28th October 1966 and filled in an SPAB survey questionnaire form, which however I never sent in to SPAB. This was a big mill and was relatively unusual in Staffordshire for having a lucam. I did not see the interior of this mill, but I was given to believe it had been gutted of machinery. I am not clear what it was being used for at the time, possibly just storage.
2. The rather sparse and badly written information on the SPAB form is as follows:
Mill of red brick (not the glazed sort). 3 floors. Lucam on front, top floor. Widely spaced dentils below corbel layer of bricks [at eaves]. Tiled roof. Mill not working.
Waterwheel – apparently had been just one, exterior, I estimated from the pit that it had been 8ft wide and 16ft diameter. Later there had been a water turbine (also gone). [The two holes in the wall of the mill in my picture of the wheelpit suggest that the bottom one had been the hole for the wheel shaft, and the upper one the hole where later a horizontal shaft from a turbine might have passed (e.g, driven from a crown wheel on the vertical shaft of a turbine as at Stramshall Mill). I evidently estimated the dm of the waterwheel by counting a line of bricks laid edgeways in the pit wall.]
3. The mill was apparently also known as "Uttoxeter Mill" and some or all of the items in the online catalogue of Staffs Record Office under "Uttoxeter Mill" almost certainly relate to this mill
4. On the internet are details of Uttoxeter men killed in WW1, amongst them Walter Louis Titley, who is described as the son of Walter and Ellen Titley "who owned the mill on the Rocester road"
5. Charles Howell (1926-1993) of Worston Mill lent me a list he had made of watermills in Staffordshire, and I copied it down in 1965. Under "Titleys Mill" it says "Last worked by us [i.e. Howell family] 1954. Armfield turbine using the old wheelgears & stones".
6. There is a note on my SPAB form for Stramshall Mill (nearby) "Titleys Mill: 2pp stones", which would seem to indicate that Mr W Reeves at

Stramshall Mill told me that Titleys Mill had two pairs of stones: doesn't seem a lot for such a big mill building!

7. An auction advert in (apparently) the Staffordshire Advertiser on 5th February 1825 gives interesting details of the mill including "The mill contains two pair of French stones, two pair of grey stones and shelling mill, with a flour dressing machine five feet six inches, worked by a waterwheel sixteen feet high and seven feet wide...."

John Bedington, 2018

My photos relevant to this mill:-

B/W photos: Taken 28th October 1966 – ST43a, front of mill, looking NW; ST43b, side of mill, looking NNE; ST43c, back and side of mill, looking NE; ST43d, back and side of mill, looking SE; ST43e, front and side of mill, looking SW ; ST43f, floodgates at rear of mill; ST43g, wheelpit, south side of mill.

Colour slides: Taken 28th Oct 1966 – STd1, Mill from road; STd2, Mill from back