

Northumberland

PLACE Newcastle, Chimney Mills.

TYPE *Smock*  
Post Mill. 70' 6" in height.

AGE In 1891 it was "the only one in full operation. There used to be two windmills at Spital Tongues, and one watermill. This was old in 1783.

OWNER Newcastle United Golf Club.

MACHINERY

CONDITION The sails were removed in 1924. The cap is of copper, is 16' 6" in diameter.

REMARKS

## Chimney Mills

In the year 1782 a windmill of <sup>its</sup> unique construction was built. ~~which~~ <sup>it</sup> has managed, not without being subjected to serious damage at one time and another, to exist to the present day <sup>as</sup> the Chimney Mills Windmill. Out of all the ~~the~~ mills, of which the Rev John Hodgson, in 1812, wrote - "Corn Mills. The landscape around Newcastle is rendered exceedingly striking by the great number of various shaped windmills with which it abounds. No town of the Kingdom has, indeed, so many mills about it <sup>for</sup> <sup>the</sup> grinding of corn" - it alone ~~stands~~ has managed to survive, in anything like its original state. And even it suffered further amputation, as recently as 1924, when its five strips were sawn off. According to records there have been two windmills in the Chimney Mills area and one water-mill. When the first ~~mill~~ windmill

was built <sup>so far</sup> cannot be ascertained. But it was spoken of as being old in 1783.

In the year 1782 John Smeaton, F.R.S., the celebrated Civil Engineer, whose greatest work was the rebuilding of the famous Eddystone Lighthouse, designed and ~~built~~ a second windmill at the chimney mills. This mill, or rather the shell or tower, in other words all that is left of it, now serves to remind us how our forefathers combined beauty of form with strength. In his Journal Smeaton describes the construction of this particular mill, devoting two pages to descriptive details and two signed copper-plates, dated 1782 of sectional drawings.

The mill is of the Smock Type 70 feet 6 inches in height, from the ground level to the bell on the top of the tower cap.

The sails five in number were 34 feet 9 inches long from the centre, and 6 feet across the face of each sail.

The tail vanes, also 5 in number, for

turning the cap and sails up into the wind, were 4 feet 6 inches long from the centre and worked on an axis so constructed that the main sails would "be canted a little from the wind's eye the right way, and the long oblique spindle being divided near the middle by a handle, the mill may be turned in a calm by hand."

The Tail Trees, which carried the tail vanes and the platform, projected 6 feet from the cap.

The cap itself, which is 16 feet 6 inches in diameter, turns on 34 cast iron wheels (as roller bearings)

The main vertical driving shaft, which was made of timber, was divided into two sections, the whole being 55 feet in height and was seated to 4 pairs of stones, (viz 2 pairs of 4 feet diameter blue stones and 2 pairs of 5 feet diameter blue stones) which were situated on the ground floor.

Unfortunately for the beauty of Newcastle,  
and its sky-line silhouette viewed from  
the Town Moor or Leazes, all that is  
now left of this once mighty mill is the  
left tower, in the cap of which there  
still remain certain cast-iron cog-wheels,  
i.e., forming part of the turning and  
driving machinery. These are still to be  
seen, projecting from the cap, the  
stumps of its once mighty whips - upon  
which the sails were carried - and the  
horns, onto which they yet remain  
strapped: and projecting from the  
opposite side of the cap are a few  
rocks and worm-eyes, spars which  
once formed the tail-trees and the  
tail-vanes. It ceased working? about  
40 years ago.

R. N. Appleby Miller

F. L. A.

## Smeaton Mills.

This is now completely  
without the cap and gears.

The neighbouring mill has  
been completely demolished.