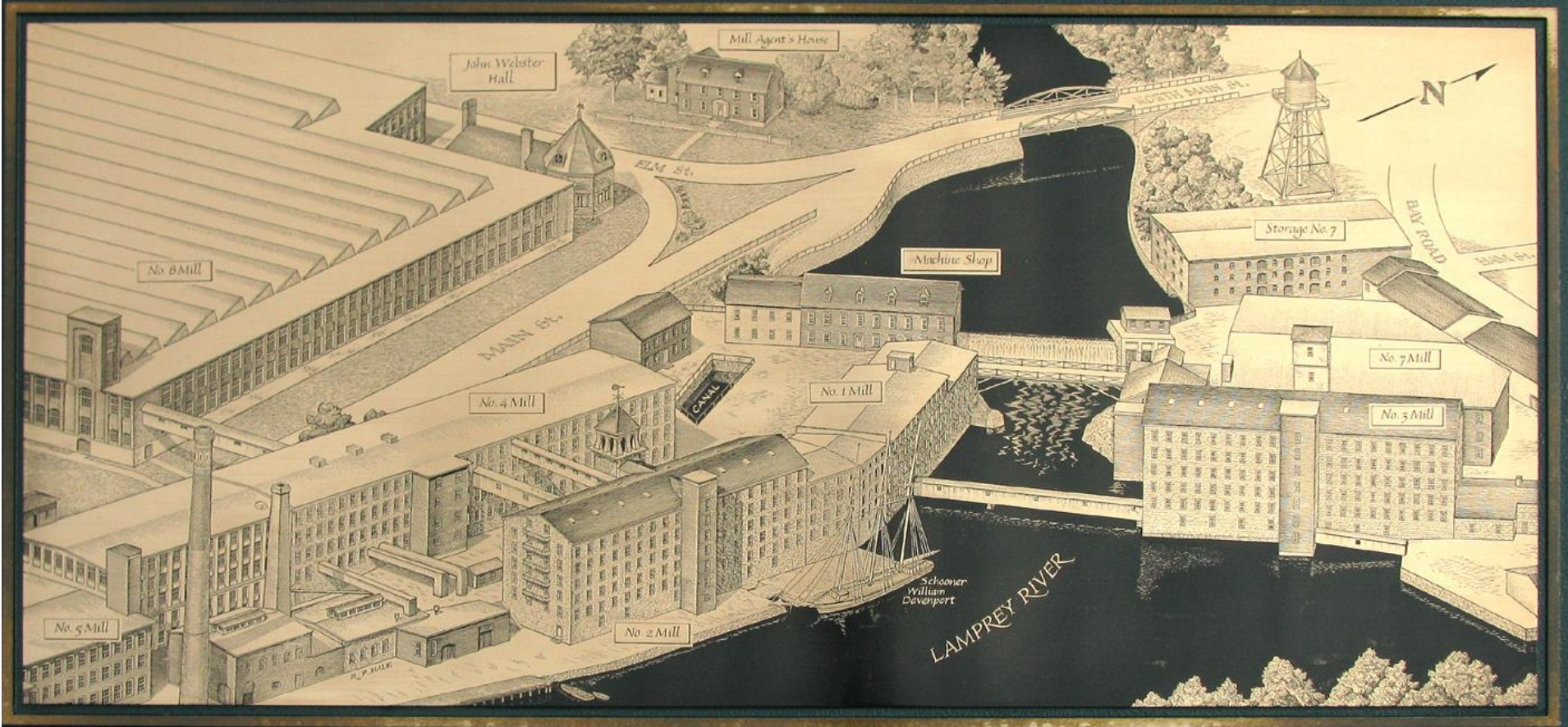


Newmarket Manufacturing Company c.1823-1934



No. 1 Mill 1824

In 1823, businessmen from Salem, Mass. Bought property along the Lamprey River to build Newmarket's first mill. They chose granite for its durability. The No.1 Mill of the Newmarket MFG. Co. was completed at a cost of \$11,197.94, and Main Street was moved from the river's edge to its current location. When the cupola burned in 1858, the mill's top two floors were torn off, and a bell tower was added to No. 2 Mill.

No. 2 Mill 1825

Using water power and more than 4,000 spindles, No. 2 Mill produced cotton textiles, turning out about 160,000 yards a week by 1869. Supplies were delivered to the mills by small packet boats and tall-masted

Schooners, including the *Helen Mar*, the *North America*, and the *Pembroke*, which freighted cotton from New Orleans to Boston for 62.5 cents per 100 pounds.

No. 3 Mill 1827

This mill was built from granite quarried on Durham Point. The machinery, installed in 1829, included 1,034 spindles.

No. 4 Mill 1869

Unlike the first three mills, which were built with granite blocks, No. 4 was constructed from smaller trap rock left behind in the quarries after building the original mills. The agent's office (now demolished) was located at the mill's north end—on the spot where you now stand.,

No. 5 Mill 1881

Originally only two stories high and constructed from brick secured from local brickyards, No. 5 Mill, like its predecessors, started with few looms weaving unbleached cotton shirting and sheeting. Eventually, these cotton goods were valued at more than \$1 million per year.

No. 6 Mill 1892

No. 6 Mill (not pictured) was added as an extension to the south end of No. 5, and like the others (except No. 7 and No. 8 mills), was powered by water.

No. 7 Mill 1901

The last example of 20th century weave shed construction, No. 7 Mill was

A three-story brick structure (now demolished) built in the No. 3 Mill yard to help increase the company's weaving capacity.

No. 8 Mill 1917

Known as "The Great Weave Shed", No. 8 Mill was once the largest single textile room in the world, covering five acres. To make way for the mill, dozens of houses were relocated to neighboring streets using winches, cables, and teams of great horses. Until it closed in 1934, the mill produced silk casket linings, fur capes, and men's hats. Although No. 8 was torn down in 1942 and was replaced by other businesses, the foundation can still be seen on Main and Elm streets.

End of an Era 1934

In 1934, after more than a century of operation, the mills fell silent. Following several years of labor unrest, the Newmarket Manufacturing Company declared abandonment of 256 buildings in lieu of paying taxes—including all the mills, the worker housing, and the 14-acre mill yard. The era of pounding looms and water-powered industrialization on the banks of the Lamprey had come to an end.

Historic Plaque Project 2020
Newmarket Main Street Corporation

Artist R.P. Hale