Hazard Powder Works

Ruins on the north side of the river are not accessible by trail. Some can be observed in the fall and winter months from the south side of the river but are difficult to spot with full foliage.

Use Caution

Use extreme caution when exploring any ruins. Do not climb on them or touch them. They have sharp and rusted metal parts, and some have ledges and heavy loose rocks. As with any outdoor activity know your abilities and use your best judgment. Please leave things as you find them.

1. Upper Falls Dam



This dam was built around 1835 to supply power to mills along canals on the north and south sides of the river. This would have been the original powder works area which manufactured black powder in Hazardville.

2. Double Wheel Mill



Mixing was done in a Rolling Mill also called the Wheel Mill. These mills had two large vertical rolling mill stones or cast iron wheels placed on top of a large bed plate with a trough around it. These large wheels would turn in a circle around the bed, crushing and mixing the ingredients ogether under their great weight. These were used for larger amounts of powder (over three nundred pounds). Most rolling mills in Powder Hollow used two sets of eight-ton wheels to pulverze the mix. This particular Wheel Mill was known as the "Man Killer." exploded half a dozen times in its 77 year history and killed 10 men.





From this point on you will see ruins from the "New Works", a production area developed in 1872 to run on steam power. Along the trail up to the next stop you will find portions of the foundations for storage buildings that housed raw ingredients, a rolling mill and a steam-works building.

7. Charter Dam



The Charter Dam supplied water to canals on the north and south of the river. in 1955 flood waters eroded the south bank and creating the river's current path around the dam. At that time many of the New Works Buildings and two bridges were destroyed.



The Rolling Mill in the New Works was built specifically to run on steam power. The buildings were in close proximity to maximize the efficiency of the gears running to them from the steam engine. This mill along with three other buildings exploded in a chain reaction started by the Press Mill in 1914.

9. The Canal Gate



3. Single Wheel Mill



The Single Wheel Mill had only one set of eight ton wheels. A natural hill separated this mill from its sister the "Man Killer" to prevent a chain reaction if one of them exploded.

Hazard Ave 190

4. Bridge to the New Works



This bridge was built when the expansion of the powder yard called the "New Works" was put into service. The bridge would have connected the New Works to the Cooper Shops, the powder cake drying area called the Hot House, and the Glazing Mill on the north side of the river.

5. Glazing Mill



Scantic River State Park Enfield, Connecticut Hazardville Trail Map

Includes a historic tour of the Hazard Powder Company 1835 - 1913

N 41° 58.944' W 072° 31.906

Although the New Works was designed for steam power, it still had the ability to run on water power. Water from this canal was released by a flume gate control and flowed through a turbine that provided power when water was flowing, and steam would take over during freezing or droughts.



This turbine housing would have powered mills in the "New Works" when water power was available. In cold months or times of drought, the "New Works" would have used a steam engine. Near this turbine the Watch House would have protected workers from the elements.

11a. Press Mill

Scantic River



Scitico River Reservoir

This is the Sluice gate for the Press Mill. Here the moist "powder cake" mixture was placed in a hydraulic or screw press where heavy pressure was applied to make it denser and to remove moisture. The result made a square piece of material called "press cake."

