



THE TILLINGHAST MILL

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The Tillinghast Mill was built between 1812-1814. It was also called the Frenchtown Factory and the Mount Hope Manufactory. It was the first cotton mill in East Greenwich.

The Tillinghast Mill was built by Dr. Elder Thomas Tillinghast, but it was established by Deacon Pardon Tillinghast in 1814. It was located across the street from Frenchtown School in Frenchtown Park. This is the center of East Greenwich.

The mill was powered by a 28 foot wooden water wheel. In 1871 it was replaced with iron. Later, that was

replaced with a brass turbine. The mill was powered by the Hunt's River. It manufactured cotton, cloth, carpet, thread, and twine.

The Tillinghast Mill was four stories high. The top two floors were built of wood and the bottom two were made of stone.

Although Dr. Tillinghast built the mill, Allen and Joseph Tillinghast ran the mill. The factory became Moone's Mill in the 1870's because it was sold to Benjamin Moone. In February, 1886, a huge flood knocked over the Tillinghast Mill. In the 1900's, Mr. Moone's wife sold the broken mill to John Barber. In 1907 the mill was sold to Henry McMahon, who later sold it to Thomas Holden and Joseph Card.

Dr. Tillinghast (the builder), was born in Rhode Island on August 21, 1742 and died on August 26, 1821 at the age of 79. He built the mill at age 70. The mill was operating from 1814 to 1870...that's 56 years!

Even though most of the mill was washed away from the flood, the foundations of the mill and workers' houses are still standing today. Maybe you and your family can go and see it for yourself!