

A History of the Conference

The Conference on New England Industrial Archeology has been an annual event since the winter of 1988. The conference is jointly sponsored by the Northern and Southern New England Chapters of the Society for Industrial Archeology (SIA). The Society promotes the study of material culture of our industrial past and encourages field investigation, research, and exchange of information on all aspects of our industrial heritage.

The New England chapters of the SIA are active throughout the year. Each undertakes tours and site visits as well as special recording, investigation, and stabilization projects. A newsletter for the New England Chapters is published twice a year.

If you are not already a member, we encourage you to join both a regional chapter and the national organization of the SIA.

A Related Exhibition

Opening in conjunction with the IA Conference is "Terrain: Remnants of Nineteenth Century Industry," an exhibit of works by Forrest Holzapfel. This exhibition of large format black and white photographic prints of masonry industrial ruins will be available for viewing in the Second Floor Gallery of the Wilkinson Mill.

Directions

From Worcester Area/Points Northwest:
Route 146 South to Mineral Spring Avenue Exit (Rte. 15). Follow Mineral Spring Avenue straight for 2 or 3 miles, passing a Sunoco station and cemetery on the left. Go straight through the lights by the cemetery. Mineral Spring joins Church Street. Continue straight on Church Street through all the lights and stop signs. Church Street ends at Park Place. Turn right on Park Place, then immediately go left onto the downtown circulator. Bear right in front of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council building, and turn left at the light onto Roosevelt Avenue. The museum is the first driveway on the right.

From I-95 Southbound:
Take Exit 29 (Downtown Pawtucket). Go straight through the first stop sign. Take a right at the second stop sign onto Broadway. Go to the traffic light, take a right turn onto Exchange Street (at Tom Tux and DeAngelo). Take a left turn at the next traffic light onto Roosevelt Avenue (City Hall/Fire Station will be on your left). The museum is the next driveway on your left.

From I-95 Northbound:
Take Exit 28 (School Street). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp. Go straight through the light and down the hill, bear right across the river and turn right immediately on Roosevelt Avenue. Take the first right into the driveway for Slater Mill.

From Cape Area, Fall River, etc.:
Take 195 West to I-95 North and follow the directions above.

*The Twelfth Annual
Conference on New England*

Industrial Archeology

Saturday
February 6, 1999

Slater Mill Historic Site

Pawtucket, Rhode Island

**Sponsored by
the New England Chapters of the
Society for Industrial Archeology
and
Slater Mill Historic Site**

Slater Mill Historic Site

This year the Southern New England Chapter of the SIA is happy to host the Annual New England IA Conference at the Slater Mill Historic Site. The Old Slater Mill was built in 1793 and is the oldest cotton factory in America. It was the first American spinning mill to use the water-powered Arkwright system. The building has had an illustrious history, housing several significant manufacturers. Since 1955 it has been used as a museum and currently houses exhibits of working textile machinery.

Also on site is the stone Wilkinson Mill. It was built in 1810-11 and was later the first steam powered textile mill in the state. The mill housed both significant machining and textile operations. The mill has been restored to include an operating 19th-century machine shop powered by a reconstructed water wheel.

The site also includes the Sylvanus Brown House (1793) which was the home of a skilled millwright and patternmaker who worked for Samuel Slater. It is now furnished according to an 1824 probate inventory and used for spinning and weaving demonstrations.

After morning paper sessions we will tour the buildings and structures of the Slater Mill Historic Site. We will also see the nearby Bridge Mill Power Plant (1893-4), a hydroelectric plant with intact turbines and governors.

Program

- 8:15 **Registration**
- 8:50 **Welcoming Comments**
Matthew Kierstead, President SNEC-SIA
Gregory Galer, Vice President SNEC-SIA
- 9:00 **“The Wonasquatucket River Company and the Origins of Industrial Water Supply”**
Richard Greenwood
- 9:25 **“Richmond Paper Company (1882-1887) – Sulfite Pulping on the Seekonk River”**
Edward “Ned” Connors
- 9:50 **“Old Concrete Bridges: Are They Really Historic?”**
Barry Simpson
- 10:15 **Break**
- 10:35 **“The Southern New England Railroad and New England’s Last Great Railroad War”**
Larry Lowenthal
- 11:00 **“Furnace for Research in Eighteenth-Century Wrought-Iron Smelting”**
James H. Johnson
- 11:25 **“The Coast Artillery’s Fire Control and Battery Commander Stations, 1897-1912”**
Nelson H. Lawry
- 11:50 **Work in Progress Report and Display of an Emergency Recording Project at The Tobey Mill Lime Processing Plant in West Stockbridge, Mass.**
Sandy Noyes & William F. Edwards
- 12:00 **Discussion & Questions**
- 12:30 **Lunch**
- 2:00 **Tours Begin**
(sharp) Slater Mill Historic Site
Bridge Mill Power Plant
Forrest Holzapfel Exhibit

Registration and Fee

Advanced registration for the conference is not required. All conference participants must register at Slater Mill on the day of the conference. A fee of \$7 per person covers conference mailings and materials, break refreshments, and the conference facility rental fee.

Lunch

Lunch will be on your own at nearby, local restaurants. More detailed information on lunch options will be provided at registration.

Lodging

A block of rooms has been held at the Comfort Inn, 2 George Street, Pawtucket (immediately adjacent to Route I-95). A special conference rate of \$60 per night will be available for all reservations made before **January 29**. Call (401) 723-6700 for reservations; please refer to the Society for Industrial Archeology. Cancellations must be made two days prior to scheduled arrival to avoid a charge. Other hotels in the vicinity are the Days Inn in South Attleboro, MA: (508) 761-4825 and the Super 8 in North Attleboro, MA: (508) 643-2900.

If you have any questions regarding the conference contact:

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