

Cromford Mills Complex



Mill/Warehouse Building 17

1785-90 - Listed Grade I

This large stone building of 5 storeys is believed to have functioned as a mill with powered machinery on the four upper floors. On the ground floor, there was a storage area at the end of the building nearest the gate associated with receiving and opening bales of cotton. The cotton was cleaned in a sealed working area inside the large doors towards the middle of the building. A space with an underdrawn ceiling, doorway to the road and enlarged windows would seem to have been an office or possibly the dinner house.



The apsidal end of the building contained the staircase which served the upper floors. Here again is a design solution which offered maximum production space within the mill. At the other end of the building, adjacent to the watercourse, an internally constructed lavatory column served each floor. Beside it is a hot-air heating system similar to that which survives in the second mill annex. The building was linked to the first mill above first floor level by a bridge built in brick. Only the lower section of this bridge has survived.

Building 16

1785-90 - Listed Grade I

The apsidal end which is the most prominent feature of this three storey stone-built structure housed a staircase serving the first and second floors and, through the second doorway in the apsidal end, provided entry to what is likely to have been the mill counting-house. The large windows are indicative of this function, as is the surviving fireplace and evidence of panelling. It is likely that the building was originally divided by a large arched opening in the ground floor and that the area to the east of the door would have been used for warehousing, as would the floors above.



The Bridge

Listed Grade I

A brick arched bridge links two floors of building 17 to the upper two floors of building 16. It spans the entrance to the site providing additional security above the gates. A Guardian insurance plaque is mounted on the roadside face of the arch.

