

BACK ROADS "Undiscovered Killingly"

Explore Open Spaces,
Historic Sites and Parks
in Killingly, Connecticut

#4 Mills and Beyond

Current Mills and Ruin Sites
along the Whetstone Brook,
Scenic Bailey Hill View and
Historic Burlingame Farm

12 total miles - driving time 1 hour

Page numbers () refer to photos and history
in book "Mills along the Whetstone Brook"
by Richard Adams,
available at Historical Society \$10

Best views of mill ruins are
when no leaves on trees.

**Drive or Bike
OR
Stop and Hike**

www.KillinglyConservation.org

Why did 15 mills develop using water power
of Whetstone Brook during the Industrial
Revolution?
200 ft drop from Old Killingly Pond to Five
Mile River.

In 1830's Killingly was noted for the most
cotton mills in state of Connecticut.
Over the years mills were used for
producing cotton fabrics, woolens, tannery,
ax & hoes, plastics, nails, shoddy, soda
bottling, fancy cashmeres, cotton balls,
warehouse, wood working machinery.

HIGHLIGHTS AND DRIVING DIRECTIONS

1) Elmville Mill corner Rt. 12 & Dog Hill Rd,
Dayville section of Killingly (p25)
One of four mills still standing;
location of trolley stop.

Drive up Dog Hill Rd. go right.

2) Cat Hollow Park -- quarter-mile paved
walk past mill pond and site of Cat Hollow
Mill (p20&21); stone mill built in 1870's, was
residence of local artist, with unique
plantings. Fire destroyed mill in 2001, Now
view stone dam and foundation of water
wheels.

Killingly Worsted Mill (p23) was large three
story wood structure, standing till late
1970's. Produced fancy cashmeres. Walk
down to new bridge below scenic 35 ft
stone dam and trails across Whetstone
Brook.

Go right on Valley Road

Watch for old trolley bed parallel to
Whetstone Brook and Valley Road;
operated in early 1900's to Providence.

3) Left on Peepoad Rd. (dirt road)

(p17) Wooden mill built in 1826 as
ax and hoe shop, tannery, warehouse. Now
home of resident artist and studio, beautiful
gardens, mill pond. Unique double stone
arch bridge. National Register of Historic
Places.

Right on Rt. 101.
Award-winning Christmas display on left
Right on Pettingill Rd.

Left on Beaman Rd. -
4) Eillottville Mill and Valley Mill sites
(p15&16) --
2 dams and mill ponds remain.
Trolley followed Valley Road.

5) Whetstone Mills (p14)
As many of the wooden mills built in early
1800's, burned and rebuilt of stone in 1847;
produced woolen goods; in 1990's
converted to condos. Trolley trail followed
up behind mill pond.

6) Whitestone Mill (p12&13) stone
foundation and dams visible when leaves
are off trees.
Cistern top of hill for water/fire suppression,
but held no water when mill burned
December 1922.
Village had two large stone tenement
houses, boarding house, stores and church.

Right on Rt. 101.
Right on Bailey Hill Road.

7) Judge Young Mill (p10&11) Brook drops
70 ft, was prime location for water power;
stone mills, some 5 stories, fire destroyed

1902; stone fireplace is only remnant
visible.

Acme Mill (p8&9) most recently made
cotton products; development plan in 1999
for businesses and condos; financing
difficulties, now dilapidated; original stone
mill stands at the north end. Sample
housing behind mill where trolley trail
comes up behind.

Acme Dam/Pond is end of 560 acres of
upstream ponds and dams developed by
Chestnut Hill Water Co. in mid1800's.
See Back Roads driving tour #2 Northeast

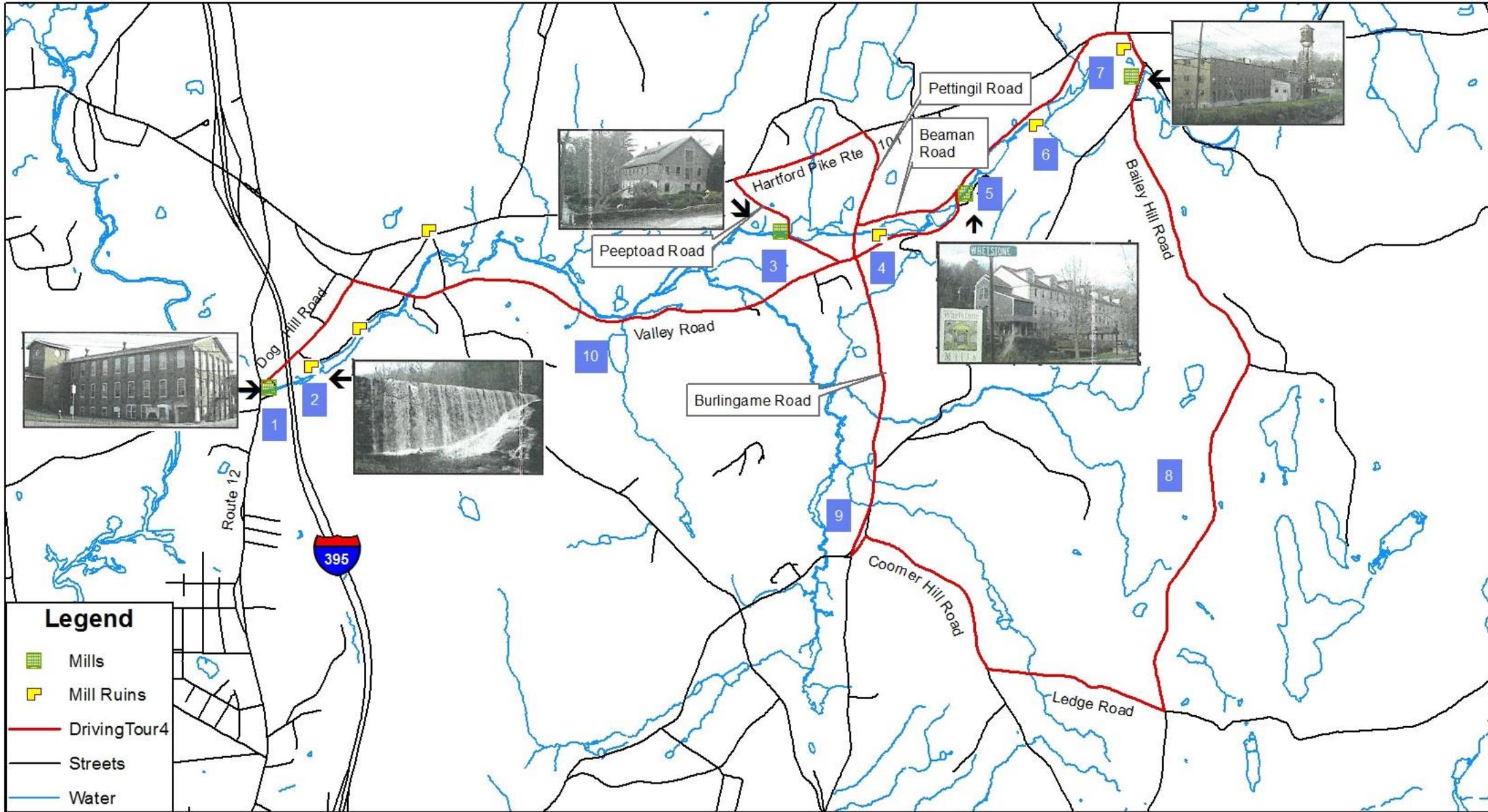
Left at fork up Bailey Hill Road.
8) Scenic view over pond, horizon over ten
miles away.
Right on Ledge Rd.
(on corner was one of about seven village
schoolhouses used till 1950's)
Right on Coomer Hill Rd

9) Right on Burlingame Rd
View Mashentuck mountain, fields, house &
barn. house built in 1797; family
farm since 1818,. Currently Christmas trees
and sheep. Efforts underway to preserve
230 acres of agricultural and forest land
and restore barn.

Left on Valley Road
10) Hygeia Swimming Area on left;
dam built in 1892 where ice was cut before
refrigerators.

Left on Dog Hill to start.

3/18



Driving Tours of Killingly (4) - "Mills and Beyond"

