

Ross Mill



Building work began in May 1907 and, on November 5th, 1908, the chimney had been completed at which time the men celebrated by letting fireworks off from the summit. A total of 37 navvies and 33 bricklayers worked on the building at any one time, with a total of 18 horses and carts being used daily to transport the two and a half million bricks used in its construction, the bricks having been manufactured by two local firms; the County Brick & Tile Company Ltd, Rakehead and the Shawforth Brick Company Ltd, the excess bricks being used to build Mersey and Ribble Street.

The mill was finally completed by December 1911, at a cost of £50,000, the first mill to have been built in Bacup for over 40 years. But it would take a further ten months for the engine to be started for the first time; this taking place on October 9th 1912 at 1.30 pm. On the 6th October 1980, one hundred and eighty employees were given ninety days redundancy notices. Just over five months later in March 1981, the decision was taken to close Ross Mill completely.

By November 20th, 1981 slates had been removed from the boiler house and office roof, and demolition of the offices, loading bay and boiler house had been completed by January 24th 1982. From January to March, machinery and flooring were sold off, and on the 27th March 1982 at 05.00 hrs the mill was set alight. Eight months later the site was still being cleared by N & R Demolition.



Copyright bacup