

## *Explore Amesbury: Mill 2*

Hello kids, families, and friends,

This activity guide is the third, in a series of five, focusing on the people and places of Amesbury, and centering on our historic Millyard. This edition features a visit to Amesbury's Mill 2. No doubt, you have passed by this huge brick building many, many times. We hope you'll learn a bit about Amesbury's **built environment** with a visit there.

*Print this guide and visit this Amesbury landmark.* Be ready to act like a historian or scientist: Observe Mill 2, analyze what you see, and solve several puzzling questions.

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## ***Explore Amesbury: Mill 2***

### **FUN FACTS**

**Where can I find it?**

*Amesbury's Upper Millyard.*

[Map](#)

**When was Mill 2 built?**

*1827*

**Why was Mill 2 built?**

*Manufacturing*



**What industries have operated here?**

*Manufacturing and owners changed as the market changed:*

- *Textiles (1827-1912)*
- *Automobile bodies (1915-1925)*
- *Car upholstery (1920's)*
- *Hardware and window channels for automakers (1938-1978)*

**What is the building used for now?**

- *Amesbury Industrial Supply, 1983- present*

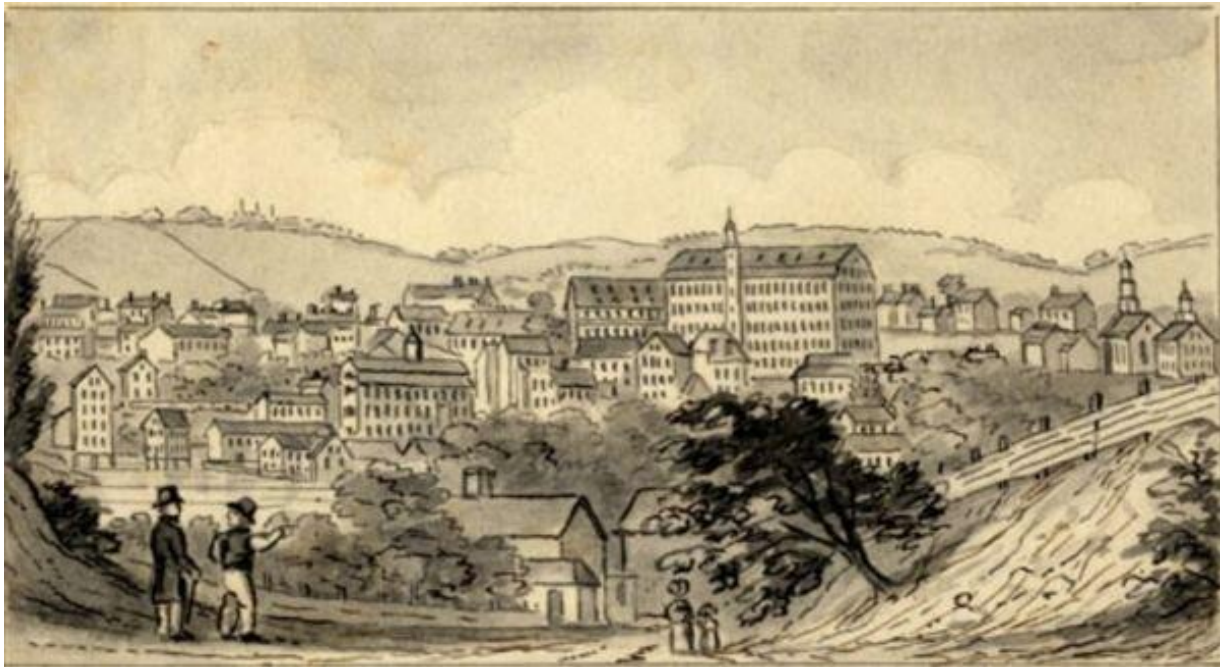
## ***Explore Amesbury: Mill 2***

### **VISIT MILL 2**

Walk into the Upper Millyard, passing the Amphitheater on your left, and stand in front of Mill 2 -- the huge red brick building on your right. This historic building has a remarkable story to tell. Take a moment to investigate clues to its past. What do you see? Notice the mill's design and size. Talk about it.

Now walk up the red brick path. Turn right, around the mill onto High Street. You'll see the front of the building and the entrance to Amesbury Industrial Supply Company. Again, describe what you see.

Now, retrace your steps back into the Millyard, and continue using this guide.



*In 1839, John Warner Barber (1798 - 1885) drew the Amesbury and Salisbury mills district. Mill 2 stands as the largest building on the landscape. (Collections of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester).*

## ***Explore Amesbury: Mill 2***

### **Think Like a Historian**

A historian is an expert or student of history. A historian researches, writes, and teaches about the history of a particular time, place, people, or event.

Lucky for us, some women and men in the Amesbury Carriage Museum enjoy learning history. They study old newspapers, maps, photographs, and books to solve some mysteries about Amesbury's past. You might be surprised to learn that these historians also study buildings around us, just like you are doing today!

Before you learn what the local historians have discovered about Mill 2, you are invited to observe, with your own eyes. Then try to make your best estimate at answering six puzzling questions. (You'll find the answers in a few pages.)

#### **1. Approximately how old is the building?**

##### **Clues:**

- Native people of the Pennacook tribe lived here when English settlers arrived 400 years ago.
- The Gateway Arch, the entrance to the Upper Millyard and its buildings, was built in the 1800's. People walked under the arch on the way to and from work.
- Flatbread opened in Amesbury in 1998.

##### **Circle one answer:**

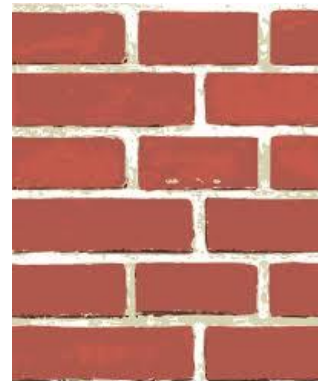
*20 years old   50 years old   200 years old   1,000 years old*

## Explore Amesbury: Mill 2

2. Estimate how many bricks were used to build Mill 2. This is a challenging mystery.

**Clues:**

- You might want to count the bricks in one section to help you estimate.
- Remember to consider the front, side, and back of the building.



**Circle one answer:**

*At least how many bricks????*

*500      1,000      100,000      1,000,000*

3. How many stories are in the building?

**Clue:**

- Count them!

**Circle one answer:**

*1            3            5            6*

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4. How many windows face the Millyard?

Clue:

- When first built, the mills needed many huge windows for lighting.
- Electricity wasn't brought to Amesbury until 1889, which was 62 years after Mill 2 opened.
- The windows you see are not the original ones. They were replaced in the 1980's by Mill 2 owner Greg Jardis.

*Circle the closest answer:*

100

300

500

1 million

*This picture from another mill building shows 10 windows*



## Explore Amesbury: Mill 2

### 5. Imagine how many people worked on building Mill 2.

#### Clues:

- Between 11 and 30 workers build a single-family home today. This includes architects, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, roofers, inspectors, etc.
- Mill 2 needed all those and more.



#### Circle one answer:

5    10    30    *Many, many more*

### 6. How long did it take to build Mill 2?

#### Clues:

- Recent U.S. Government records state that the average time to build a single-family home is 6 to 12 months.
- Mill 2 is around 20 times larger than an average home.
- Many, many people worked hard to build Mill 2, so the manufacturing could begin.

#### Circle one answer:

*2 months*    *6 months*    *12 months*    *2 years*

## ***Explore Amesbury: Mill 2***

### **Solving the Mysteries of Amesbury's History**

Old buildings like Mill 2 tell stories about Amesbury. Learning about Amesbury's past is like solving a mystery. Who came before us? What did they do? What were their lives like?

What did they build? Where did they work?



### **What do we know about Mill 2?**

Here are the facts. You might want to check these with your answers.

#### **1. How old is the building?**

Mill 2 was built in 1825. For nearly 200 years Mill 2 has stood as a towering landmark in the Amesbury millyard.

#### **2. How many bricks were used to build the building?**

According to period newspapers, there are over one million bricks in the building. Amesbury and Salisbury brickyards provided the bricks needed for this huge structure.

One brick maker, Robert Patten, left an inscription in a brick placed in the stair tower – “Robert Patten, Amesbury, 1826.” In a way this is a maker’s mark for at least some of the bricks. The Patten brickyard was off Main Street near the banks of the Powow River.



## ***Explore Amesbury: Mill 2***

### **3. How many stories are in the building?**

The building is five stories tall with a **symmetrical** floor plan and a central stair tower.

### **4. How many windows face the Millyard?**

We counted 121 windows facing the Millyard. How about you? There are close to 250 windows in the whole building. Think about this: wooden sash, trim, panes of glass, and glazing putty all were needed for each opening. So many workers had to design, produce, and install each of these parts. Wow!

### **5. How many people worked on the building?**

Many, many workers were needed. Can you imagine all the people who built this massive building: brickmakers and brick layers; lumberjacks, saw mill operators, and carpenters; window makers and installers; and many more. In addition, there were countless people doing the heavy work of transporting all the materials.

### **6. How long did it take to build Mill 2?**

Construction began in 1825 and took two years to complete. Builders redeveloped an area that had been used by other water-powered mills for 100 years before.

**How'd you do answering those six questions?**

**You were using your observation skills as well as some factual clues to help you.**



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## ***Explore Amesbury: Mill 2***

### **Who worked in Mill 2 over the years?**

Mill 2 has been a place of work for thousands of people who made **textiles** and then automobile bodies, hardware, auto accessories, and more.

Unfortunately, we don't know too much about the people who worked here. Our local historians are still searching for diaries of local workers. (Wealthy people tended to be the ones who wrote journals.) Surely after a long, demanding workweek (60-70 hours) most factory workers were too busy or too tired to write about their lives. Another reason for few diaries is that about 1 in 5 adults couldn't read and write in the 1800's.

### **What's going on now in Mill 2?**

Today Mill 2 is the home of Amesbury Industrial Supply Co., Inc., an old-style, full service hardware company. Many local families and **contractors** shop here for paint, tools, building supplies... whatever they need to get the job done.

Mill 2 is also the new home of The Industrial History Center (IHC), which will serve the community as a museum and cultural center. You and your family will be invited there for activities and events.

Greg Jardis, owner of Amesbury Industrial Supply Company, donated the space for the IHC to be built. Greg Jardis – and other generous supporters – donated a great deal of money, so that all who visit the IHC can learn about Amesbury's rich history.

## Explore Amesbury: Mill 2

### REMEMBER: AT HOME

1. **Produce:** Imagine that you were an investor 200 years ago, and you had to hire people to help build Mill 2. Create a “help wanted” poster or newspaper ad. Include the job needed, skills, pay rate, and contact information.
  - **JOB:** Pick a job that you would advertise: foreman, bricklayer, carpenter, general laborer, etc.
  - **SKILLS:** Think about the job. What skills would be needed for the job?
  - **WAGES:** Here are some daily wage facts from 1825 that you can include in your poster
    - i. Carpenter (\$.75 to \$1.25, depending on season and skills)
    - ii. Foreman (\$1 to \$1.50)
    - iii. Laborer (\$.50 to \$.99)
    - iv. Bricklayer/Mason (\$.50 to \$1.50)
  - **CONTACT:** Who should the worker contact, where, when?
  - When you create your poster or ad, take a picture and share it with a friend, family member, or Amesbury Carriage Museum.



## Explore Amesbury: Mill 2

2. Identify: Review some of the key words related to Mill 2.

### WORD SEARCH: Mill 2, Amesbury

C	U	L	T	U	R	A	L	C	E	N	T	E	R
M	I	L	L	Y	A	R	D	N	A	D	R	S	I
M	A	N	U	F	A	C	T	U	R	I	N	G	N
O	C	I	T	R	O	S	S	L	D	R	C	N	O
T	O	S	R	H	I	S	T	O	R	I	A	N	I
M	N	W	M	O	Y	K	T	K	A	B	M	R	T
E	T	O	A	A	R	R	E	A	Y	U	M	I	A
S	R	D	A	M	E	S	X	R	K	I	I	Y	V
B	A	N	M	E	T	L	T	S	C	L	S	K	R
R	C	I	U	N	S	C	I	H	I	D	M	L	E
I	T	W	S	U	Y	B	L	R	R	E	M	X	S
C	O	I	E	W	M	I	E	R	B	R	I	I	B
K	R	M	U	O	U	M	S	Y	O	S	L	I	O
S	S	Y	M	M	E	T	R	I	C	A	L	R	L

MANUFACTURING  
MILLYARD  
MUSEUM  
WINDOWS  
OBSERVATION  
HISTORIAN  
BRICKYARD  
CONTRACTORS  
SYMMETRICAL  
TEXTILES  
BRICKS  
MYSTERY  
MILL  
CULTURAL CENTER  
BUILDERS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1754220/>

## Explore Amesbury: Mill 2

### DESIGN TIME

As a follow-up to your visit of Mill 2, here are two design activities that you can do at home.

Enjoy!

#### Draw:

Create a city view: real or imagined. All you need is 12x18 paper, markers or oil pastels, a pencil, a black sharpie, water, and a paintbrush... and your imagination.

Check out *In the Art Room: Rizzi Meets Van Gogh Cities at Cassie Stephens [blogspot](#)* for complete directions.



## ***Explore Amesbury: Mill 2***

### **Build:**

As a follow up to your analysis of how Mill 2 was built, try some of these **building** challenges from *Frugal Fun for Boys and Girls*.

Once you've engineered your building, you can check on the Frugal Fun [website](#) for what other kids did. But, don't peek until you've made your own buildings.

1. **Gather these materials:** Colored jumbo craft sticks, 1 inch wooden cubes, and 3 oz. plastic cups.

2. **Challenge yourself**

#1: Build a structure with one cube as the base. Yes, just one cube!

#2: Using any size base, build the tallest possible structure.

#3: Feats of Balance. Make something stick out in an impressive way!

#4: What can you build with just one cup as the base?

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3. **Rather than purchasing new materials,** you can try the same challenges with blocks, Legos, cups, and other materials you already have at home. Enjoy!

## ***Explore Amesbury: Mill 2***

### **GLOSSARY**

**Bricks:** building or paving material made from clay molded into blocks and baked

**Brickyard:** a place where bricks are manufactured or sold

**Built environment:** the human-made space in which people live, work, and recreate on a day-to-day basis

**Contractor:** a person who contracts to perform work or provide supplies at a certain price or within a certain time

**Culture:** the language, customs, ideas, and art of a particular group of people

**Historian:** a student or writer of history (important events and their causes)

**Manufacture:** to make from raw materials by hand or by machinery

**Mill:** a building or set of buildings equipped for manufacturing, or a place where raw grains are crushed and ground to make flour

**Museum:** a building in which objects of lasting interest or value are displayed

**Mystery:** a puzzle to solve with difficulty or cleverness

**Observation:** an act of gathering information (as for scientific studies) by noting facts

**Symmetrical:** close agreement in size, shape, and relative position of parts on opposite sides of a dividing line or plane or around a central point

**Textiles:** a woven or knit cloth

## ***Explore Amesbury: Mill 2***

### **SOURCES**

We excerpted key facts from this source:

- *A Mill 2 Scrapbook*: AmesburyCarriageMuseum.org

A number of online resources were also consulted for this booklet, including:

- Average size of American home: <https://www.nytimes.com>
- Home Builders: <https://www.thehouseplanshop.com/>
- Literacy in 19th century: <https://nces.ed.gov/>
- Tradesmen that built America: <https://www.tws.edu/>
- Vocabulary: [wordcentral.com](http://wordcentral.com) and [kids.wordsmyth.net](http://kids.wordsmyth.net)
- Wages in 1825: from Wages, MA Bureau of Labor Statistics at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89071501472&view=1up&seq=82>
- Working Conditions in American Factories: [encyclopedia.com](http://encyclopedia.com)