



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



## 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](http://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.

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