

REPORT  
on  
LUMBER MUSEUM SITES  
IN THE BANGOR AREA  
with  
special reference to  
Town of Bradley

Wayne M. O'Leary  
Research Associate  
Maine State Museum

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE TOWN OF BRADLEY

(Compiled from the History of Penobscot County, Maine, anon., 1882)

The town of Bradley was founded in 1817 as "Plantation No. 4", and comprised land originally owned by the Penobscot Indians. The name Bradley was derived from Bradley Blackman, a leading citizen and later town treasurer, when the settlement was named in 1825. The Blackmans had been in Penobscot County since the 1790's, originally coming from Massachusetts. The town was incorporated in 1835, having at that time about 300 settlers.

The first sawmill within the town limits was built in the early 1800's, but soon burned down. It was known as Buck Mills, and was located a few miles up the Great Works Stream. Lumbering in a real sense, however, did not commence until the early 1820's. Two mills were built on or near Great Works Stream in the 1820-25 period. The first sawmill on Nichols' (now Blackman) Stream was constructed around 1825. Its location is not certain, but it is known that the mill satisfied the needs of the area settlers and also did some exporting.

Settlement in Bradley was almost exclusively along the main highway (now Route 178) with the majority of people living at the village near the mouth of Great Works Stream. However, settlement stretched all along the river road from Eddington to Milford. The population of Bradley grew steadily until it reached a peak of 867 in 1870. It then declined steadily, reaching a low of 632 in 1910, and then rose again. Today (census of 1960) 951 people live in Bradley. The greatest period of growth for the community was during the decade of 1840-50 when the population doubled from 395 to 796.

Bradley has undergone three periods of economic prosperity, all based on the lumbering industry. Those periods were: 1830-37, 1840-57, and 1865-73. The "good" and "bad" years of the town's economy coincide almost exactly with fluctuations in the fortunes of lumbering in the Penobscot region generally.

The local historian of the town writes that "By the year 1850 the Bradley mills were in outward appearance nearly the same as they are now (1882), and the internal arrangement did not present a very great difference". Lumbering on both the Great Works and Nichols' Streams peaked in the 1850's. Until 1870, all sawmills in Bradley operated by water power. In that year, the first steam mill was built at the mouth of Great Works Stream. By the early 1880's, lumbering had ended on Nichols' (Blackman) Stream, but still continued on Great Works.

SITE I

Lumbering declined at Bradley in the 1880's because of the town's lack of connection with a railroad, which was by then becoming the chief means of shipping lumber. The nearest rail service was the European & North American Railroad across the Penobscot at Orono, which was fairly accessible to the Great Works mills but not to those on Nichols' Stream. Therefore, the Nichols' Stream mills, which in the early years had rafted lumber down river to Bangor for shipment aboard vessels, ceased to be important. The lower Blackman Mills flourished as late as the pre-Civil War period, being the center of a small village complex, but then declined.

SITE II

In the early period, the Bradley area was covered with pine and lumbering was encouraged. It was the town's only industry. Agriculture never flourished because of poor land. At the peak of Bradley lumbering, in the late 1850's, there were in the village 14 single-board sawmills, 3 gang sawmills, 4 clapboard mills, 3 lath mills and 3 shingle mills. By 1868, there were a total of 18 "water powers" in the township, some servicing more than one mill, but several not in use at all. By 1882, there were 21 "water powers" in Bradley. Of these, 11 were on Great Works Stream, 7 on Nichols' or Blackman Stream and three along the Penobscot. Only six were being used actively for sawing or milling by this date, however. One of these was a "shingle and stave-mill" complex 1½ miles up the Nichols' Stream, the only active mill then still operating on that stream.

(Note 1): Nichols' Stream, the second most important lumber tributary in Bradley, became known as Blackman Stream in the post-Civil War era, after the family which owned most of the mill sites on its banks. The exact date of name change cannot be determined. The stream was "Nichols'" in 1859. In 1868 and 1875 it was referred to by both names. By 1882, the name "Blackman's Stream" was accepted.

## BRADLEY LUMBER MUSEUM SITE DATA

SITE I  
In 1868, according to the State Hydrographic Survey, there were seven "water powers" on Nichols' or Blackman Stream. The first, and largest, was located 55 yards upstream from the Penobscot River. It operated 10½ months out of the year, and manufactured 500,000 feet of long lumber, one million shingles and 500,000 laths each year. It was a complex of three structures: a single saw sawmill, a shingle mill and a lath mill. It was owned by the Blackman Brothers who owned all but two of the water power sites on the stream. Stock was taken out of the Penobscot after coming down the river, brought into the mills and processed, and then transported to Bangor by either wagon or via the river in the form of rafts. This mill site was said to have been perfectly safe from freshets or ice. It was "considered by lumbermen one of the best powers on the river". The height of the water fall at this site was 28'6" and it stretched horizontally 25 rods (about 137 yards). It had an 11 foot head.

Further up the stream, about 138 yards, was the second water power site. As of 1868, a dam, the same size as the one at the mouth of the stream, existed. There was a grist mill planned at the time, but not yet built. Owners of the site - unknown.

SITE II  
The remaining five water powers on the stream ranged upstream as far as 1½ miles from the Penobscot. Their precise locations are not given in the report, but one was the Blackman Mill site which still exists about 1½ miles inland where the road crosses. This was the only one of the upstream power sites which was in operation in 1868. It is described as having a 9 foot head and fall activating two shingle mills. Each mill had a pond for lumber storage and they operated 10½ months out of theyear. The Blackmans manufactured two million shingles, 60,000 feet of spool lumber, 53,000 pairs of heading, 50,000 staves and 40,000 broom handles per year at this site.

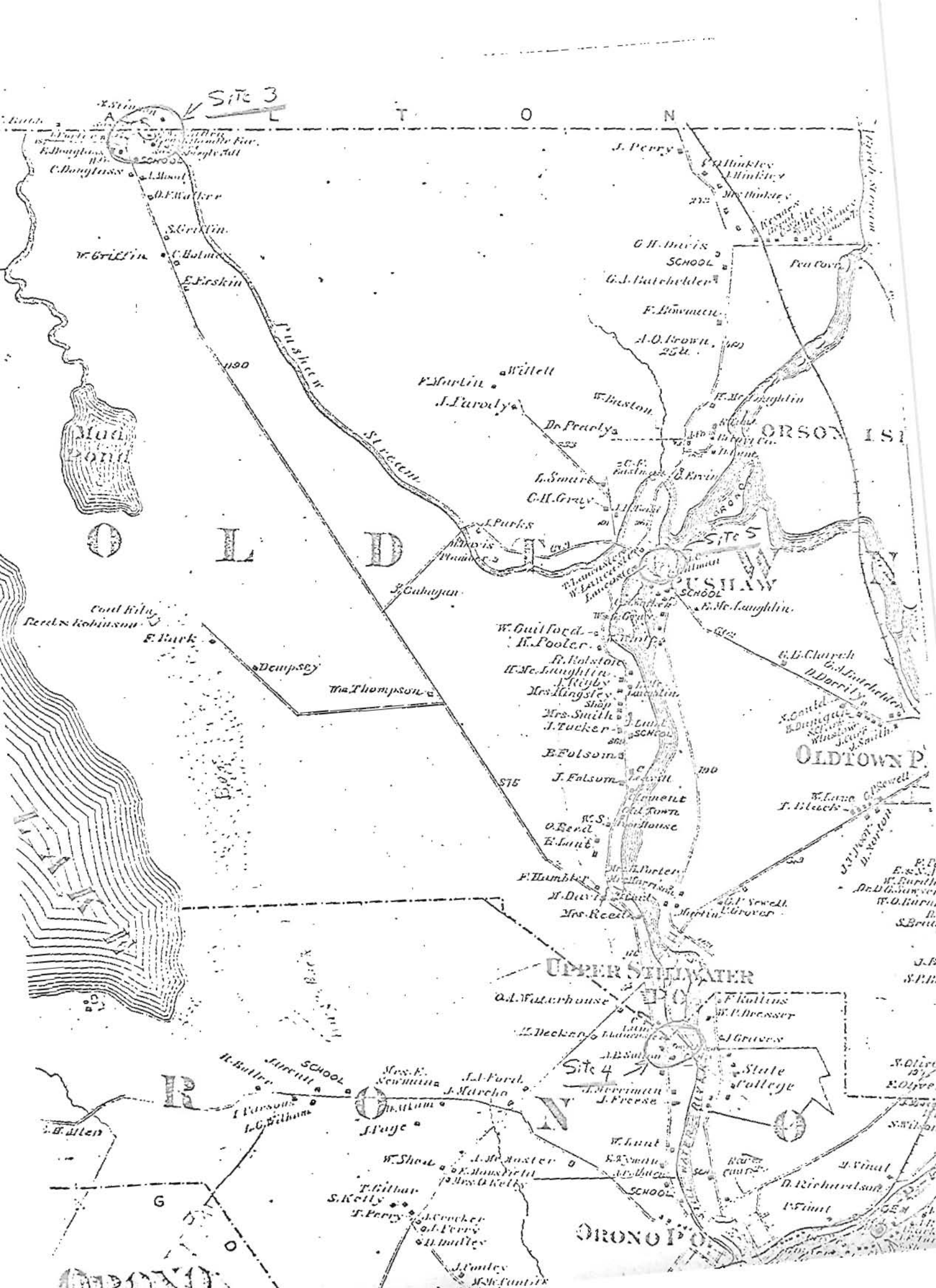
The remaining dams which are not discussed in detail had falls of 9 to 12 feet each. There were four of them and all but one or two were owned by the Blackman Brothers.

\* \* \*

## PROPOSED ORONO - OLD TOWN LUMBER MUSEUM SITES

SITE III  
Water power site number 3 exists at Pushaw Falls, 16 miles from Bangor. In the 1868 period it consisted of three separate businesses: one gang sawmill and one shingle mill owned by Richard S. Porter; one brush handle factory owned by O. W. Whitten; and two shingle mills owned by C. Douglas. There are no details as to volume of business. These mills were located directly on the Old Town-Alton line.

SITE IV  
Site 4 is at Upper Stillwater, ten miles from Bangor. Two entrepreneurs were involved. A. B. Sutton owned two gang sawmills, two single sawmills, one lath mill, one clapboard sawmill and two shingle sawmills. His enterprises operated 10½ months out of the year. In the same area, Smith & Pearson of Bangor operated two gang sawmills, four single sawmills, two lath sawmills, one clapboard mill and two shingle mills. These mills ran five months of the year.



Site 3

Site 5

Site 4

Macdonald Pond

Stillwater River

UPPER STILLWATER

ORSO ISL

OLDTOWN P.

ORONO P.

A  
B  
C  
D  
E  
F  
G

T  
O  
N

H  
I  
J

K  
L  
M

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12

13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100

101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200

201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
295  
296  
297  
298  
299  
300

301  
302  
303  
304  
305  
306  
307  
308  
309  
310  
311  
312  
313  
314  
315  
316  
317  
318  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
360  
361  
362  
363  
364  
365  
366  
367  
368  
369  
370  
371  
372  
373  
374  
375  
376  
377  
378  
379  
380  
381  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400

W. GRIFFIN  
C. Doughtlass  
A. Shout  
D.F. Walker  
S. Griffin  
C. Balme  
E. Erskin

J. Perry  
G.H. Davis SCHOOL  
G.A. Batchelder  
F. Downer  
A.O. Brown 254

W. Willett  
J. Faroly  
Dr. Prady  
L. Smart  
C.H. Gray  
J. Parks  
J. Cahagan

W. Guilford  
H. Pooler  
S. Holston  
H. McLaughlin  
Mrs. Angley  
Mrs. Smith  
J. Tucker  
B. Folsom  
J. Folsom  
O. Bend  
E. Lund

ORSON ISL  
SCHOOL  
E. McLaughlin  
G.B. Church  
G.A. Batchelder  
D. Dorsey  
W. Luce  
C. Powell  
T. Bleach

UPPER STILLWATER  
A. F. Waterhouse  
E. Decker  
A.B. Sullivan  
J. Freeman  
J. Preese  
F. Collins  
W. Dresser  
J. Graves  
State College

Mrs. E. Sewana  
J.A. Furd  
J. Marcha  
J. Page  
W. Shaw  
A. St. Aster  
E. Mansfield  
Mrs. O. Kelly  
T. Gilbar  
S. Kelly  
T. Perry  
J. Crocker  
A. Perry  
S. Madley  
J. Conley  
M. Conley

W. Hunt  
S. Yarn  
W. B. Hunt  
SCHOOL  
D. Richardson  
J. Vinal  
W. Vinal



Mud Pond

ORSON ISL

USULA SCHOOL

OLDTOWN P.

UPPER STILLWATER

ORONO P.

ORONO

BRADLEY

G.H. Davis SCHOOL  
G.S. Butcher  
F. Lowmell  
A.O. Brown 254

Willet  
P. Martin  
J. Lacroly

Dr. Peabody  
L. Smart  
C.H. Gray

W. Guilford  
H. Fuller  
R. Kolston  
H. McLaughlin  
R. Rigby  
Mrs. Kingsley  
Mrs. Smith  
J. Tucker

B. Folsom  
J. Folsom

F. Hunter  
M. Davis  
Mrs. Reed

D.A. Waterhouse  
H. Decker

Site 4  
A.B. Sullivan  
J. Scrimm  
J. Preese

F. Collins  
W.P. Dresser  
J. Graves  
State College

W. Hunt  
E. Syme  
SCHOOL

W. Shaw  
T. Gibbar  
S. Kelly  
J. Perry  
C. Crocker  
A. Perry  
S. Hodges

A. M. Hunter  
F. Sims Field  
Mrs. O. Kelly  
J. Hunt  
S. W. Hunt  
A. Perkins  
H. Se. Cantill  
S. Hunt

J. Vincent  
J. Haggerty  
P. Shine  
SCHOOL

J. Watson  
C.W. Mayo  
S. Hunt  
S. Hunt

SCHOOL #2  
J. Spencer  
J. Collins  
W. Collins  
S. Spenser

J. Howell  
S. Spenser  
J. Spenser

Site 2

1/4 inch

## LUMBER MUSEUM SITES ON THE SEGUNKEDUNK AND KENDUSKEAG STREAMS

Brewer Sites: In 1868, there were seven "water powers" on Segunkedunk (or "Mill") Stream in Brewer. They stretched over a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mile stretch of the stream heading up river from the Penobscot. The heights of the falls, going upstream were 30', 14', 4', 12', 10', 11' and 12'. The sawmills on the stream were operated eight months out of the year. As of 1868, there were one gang sawmill, two single sawmills and one shingle sawmill, all at tidewater in the lower stream. The owner was D. Sargent. In 1875, there were two Sargent sawmills. The first site was located 250 yards upstream from the Penobscot. The other, a shingle mill, was about 425 yards upstream. In 1868, the Segunkedunk mills cut four million feet of lumber per year. The stream could handle vessels up to about 300 yards inland from the main river. Vessels loaded at wharves near the mills. By 1882, there were only two planing and molding mills at this site.

SITE I

Kenduskeag Sites: There are six significant lumber mill sites on the Kenduskeag Stream. Four are on the lower stream in Bangor and two on the upper stream in the town of Kenduskeag, itself.

The lower sites are all within three miles of the Penobscot. Two are in the city proper and two are on the outskirts in a more residential area. These four lower falls drop 10'-15' each.

The first site is Drummond's Mills, located  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile upstream at Drummond Street. The first mill on this site was built in 1801 by W. Hammond, and was one of the first sawmills in Bangor. In time, Hammond was succeeded at the site by Pearn and Drummond, Captain Jacob Drummond, Morse and Oliver and, in 1856, Morse & Company. Morse & Company operated the mill until at least 1888 and probably longer. Morse & Company was a business combination of five Bangor merchants. In 1888, they owned ten acres of ground, including the next mill site upriver, McQuestion's Mills, which was  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile further upriver, or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the Penobscot. This is the site of the first sawmill built on the Kenduskeag in the late 1770's or early 1880's. It was constructed by Joseph Potter who came to Bangor in 1877 and died there in 1788. When Morse & Company acquired the McQuestion's Mills site is uncertain, although they owned both mill sites in 1868. The company owned 20 buildings and employed 100 men in 1888. At Drummond's Mills they manufactured lumber (esp. frames), plaster, grain, wool carding and corn meal. At McQuestion's Mills they produced lumber and rock salt. McQuestion's Mill was located at Mill Lane.

SITE II

SITE III

SITE IV

The third lower Kenduskeag site was at Bruce's Mills, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile above McQuestion's and a little over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the mouth of the stream. It was located at the corner of Valley Avenue and Bruce Road. In the 1860's, 70's and 80's, the mills were owned by Stetson and Company of Bangor (E. & I.K. Stetson), and produced lumber, mostly pine. Bruce Mills was able to produce 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 feet of lumber annually in the late 1860's.

SITE V

The fourth mill site on the lower stream is Hatch's Mills, located one mile above Bruce's Mills and about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles from the Penobscot. The mills at this location were owned by the firm of Morrill & Sons in 1868 and 1875 and were used solely for sawing lumber. The location is just below Bulls Eye Bridge.

There are water powers at Four and Six Mile Falls on the stream, but Four Mile did not have a dam, and neither were mill sites in the immediate post-Civil War era.

SITE VI

Of the two upper Kenduskeag lumber mill sites, one, the "Kenduskeag Village Power", is in the center of the town of Kenduskeag. It consists of two mills, Garland's on the east side of the stream, and Hodsdon's on the west bank directly opposite. As of 1868, Garland's Mills was producing 1,500,000 board feet of lumber, four million shingles and 40,000 bushels of grain annually. Hodsdon's Mills was producing one million shingles, 300,000 staves, 100,000 heading boards and 12,000 pounds of carded wool each year. Hodsdon's consisted of one structure and Garland's was composed of a sawmill, shingle mill and grist mill. These mills operated year around in the late 1860's. Their lumber was taken to Bangor ten miles away for marketing. The falls at this site was 11 feet high, and the dam width was 200 feet.

SITE VII

The other significant upper Kenduskeag site is at the village of Higginsville, nearly in the center of town. The site is Higgins' Mill. Its production annually was 700,000 board feet of lumber and 1,500,000 shingles. Higgins' Mill was  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles above the Kenduskeag Village mills.





