

Bond's Mill Timeline

Bond's Mill was probably one of the earlier cloth mills of the Stroud district. It was probably established before 1496, during the expansion of the rural cloth industry in Gloucestershire, and for a time it was the main base of the cloth business of the Fowler family of Stonehouse.

1496 a New Mill was built on the River Frome at the edge of the Stonehouse manor lands (in an area close to where Bond's Mill now stands).

1542-1546 manorial records mention a fulling mill and a corn mill called New Mill which may be on the site of Bond's Mill. The mill was leased to Richard Fowler whose son William Fowler became owner of the Manor in 1558

1567 William Fowler owned New Mill

The Fowler family owned the mill until c1700. It was rented to various tenants including John Bond in 1714. This appears to be when it became known as Bond's Mill.

It passed out of the Manor lands when it was sold by the Ball family to Daniel Webb and John Peach in 1724.

From this time on it passed to various owners and tenants running as a cloth mill (fulling mill)

The Hooper family of Eastington were the last people to run the mill as a cloth mill. It was the last of the five that they once ran in and around Eastington and Stonehouse. William J Miller Smith was manager until the mill closed in 1934/5. He lived in the Red Lodge – the house that was at the main road end of the drive leading to Bond's mill. There was a steam engine and they also used the old water wheel.

c1935 the cloth mill closed. The old water wheel was taken out which caused the river bed to erode the ground under the mill

1938 Sperry Gyroscope shadow factory took over the building. They shored up the building with concrete.

1960s Sperry's closed. Taken over by Grundy and partners

Later 20th century a variety of small businesses

21st century Bond's Mill Estate