

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GREEN RIVER TIMBER CRIB DAM

This dam, of the timber crib design, was originally built by Jonas Cutting around 1800 to provide water power for factories on both sides of the river immediately below the dam. The last factory, which manufactured wooden chairs, burned in 1918. In 1995 the dam and mill pond were approved for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The dam deteriorated over the years and, in 1996, received major damage from a heavy spring ice flow. After several years of permitting negotiations, a compromise was reached with the State of Vermont whereby a means of fish passage would be incorporated into the project. In 1998 the Green River Village Preservation Trust was formed and funds were raised for the reconstruction through grants and contributions from interested citizens.

In 1999 construction of the dam and fishway were undertaken with the design following the original where possible. A complete set of construction photographs is available for viewing at the Guilford Historical Society Museum.

Maintenance of the dam and mill pond is done by the Green River Village Preservation Trust. The dam and mill pond along with the adjacent covered bridge are popular with photographers, artists, history buffs and tourists. The mill pond provides a source of water for fire fighting in the western section of the town and is the only swimming facility in the Town of Guilford.

Maintenance over the years has included removal of a limited amount of sediment from the millpond at approximately five year intervals, however, in 2011, upstream erosion from Hurricane Irene deposited an unusually large amount of sediment into the millpond. This of course created a substantial increase in pressure on the dam surface. To remove this additional sediment the Trust needs financial assistance.

Adelaide W Minott, President
Green River Village Preservation Trust.