



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

Volume Six Number 6

November 1977

CONFLAGRATORY LOSSES



† FLOOD—FIRE—FINIS. Daniels Mill, September 1977 †

Howard County Times photograph by Keith Weller.

The destruction of American industrial sites by fire continues, the fateful constituents seeming most frequently to be an abandoned, unwatched textile mill, and arsonous vandals. The most tragic of recent incidents —

HOLOCAUST AT DANIELS

With the near total destruction by a fire of unknown (but "suspicious") origin on 17 Sept., the Free State lost a 19thC cotton mill regarded as architecturally one of the most elegant in the U.S.

The Daniels Mill was erected in 1841 at a falls of the Patapsco in

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. . . AND IN RHODE ISLAND

Where there is the greatest number of abandoned mills, there, inevitably, will be the greatest number of these unfortunate events. Two of the finest mills in R.I. also suffered total or heavy loss this fall, reported by Slater Mill Historic Site's *The Flyer*.

The Forestdale Mill, in Forestdale Village, N. Smithfield, was built as a cotton mill in 1860, had for some time been an underwear knittery (Stamina brand), and last was in use as a yarn mill. It had been abandoned for a short time and, ironically, soon was to have been converted into apartments. The whole incident is thus heavily

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Alberton Mill, c1870, and as the Daniels Mill, 1968, the housing partially demolished (lower left).



Natl. Museum of History & Technology photographs.

Room 5020

Published by the Society for Industrial Archeology
National Museum of History & Technology

Editor: Robert M. Vogel
Smithsonian Institution Washington, DC 20560