

Rudkin's Mill. Bagenalstown.

Discovery Series. Map 61.
Location; 70.5 – 61.8

J.M.Feeley & J.Sheehan

The Rudkin after whom the mill is named came to the area, about the year 1680. Over the following 30 years he is reputed to have built this mill and a distillery a short distance away. The present town which is one of the few planned towns in Ireland, did not appear until around 1800 (*known previously as Washington Green*). It was the creation of Walter Bagenal of Dunleckney Manor.

The present ruin consists of buildings dating from the 17th c to the early 20th c. The oldest section (17th c) faces the river bank, with the later (18th to 20th c) extensions on the downstream side. The original mill headrace and storage area upstream was incorporated into the canal in 1830. However the stretch along the osiery bank is thought to be the bank of the original headrace. The tail race below the mill still flows into the River Barrow along its original course.

The building constructed of local stone has finely cut granite quoins. The building has three storeys. Ground floor originally flagged, with the two upper timber floors resting on heavy timber beams, supported by timber columns. At ground level the columns rested on stone platforms.

No trace of the millwheel or millstone remain. However in common with many other mills of the period it was probably of 'undershod' type designed for a low head, with a horizontal axis. The building was roofed and in use by Brown & Crosswaite Milling Co in living memory. The company also built the much larger Lodge Mills further downstream in the mid 18th c.

The present mill ruin was constructed in four distinct stages.

See Fig 1 next page



Building 'A'; Late 17th c built by Rudkin himself. Also construction of a weir (to raise the water level), a millpond (water storage) and millrace would have been excavated. *Note that the area now occupied by the canal was then solid ground.*

Building 'B': Late 18th c.

In the late 18th c the building was extended over the millwheel and tailrace, water entering through the present archway.

Building 'C': Early 19th c. The mill buildings were extended on the downstream side to cater for an expansion in business.

The Barrow Navigation Canal (1830) was excavated on the town side of the mill leaving the buildings isolated on a strip of land between canal & river.

Building 'D': Early 20th c. A small building.

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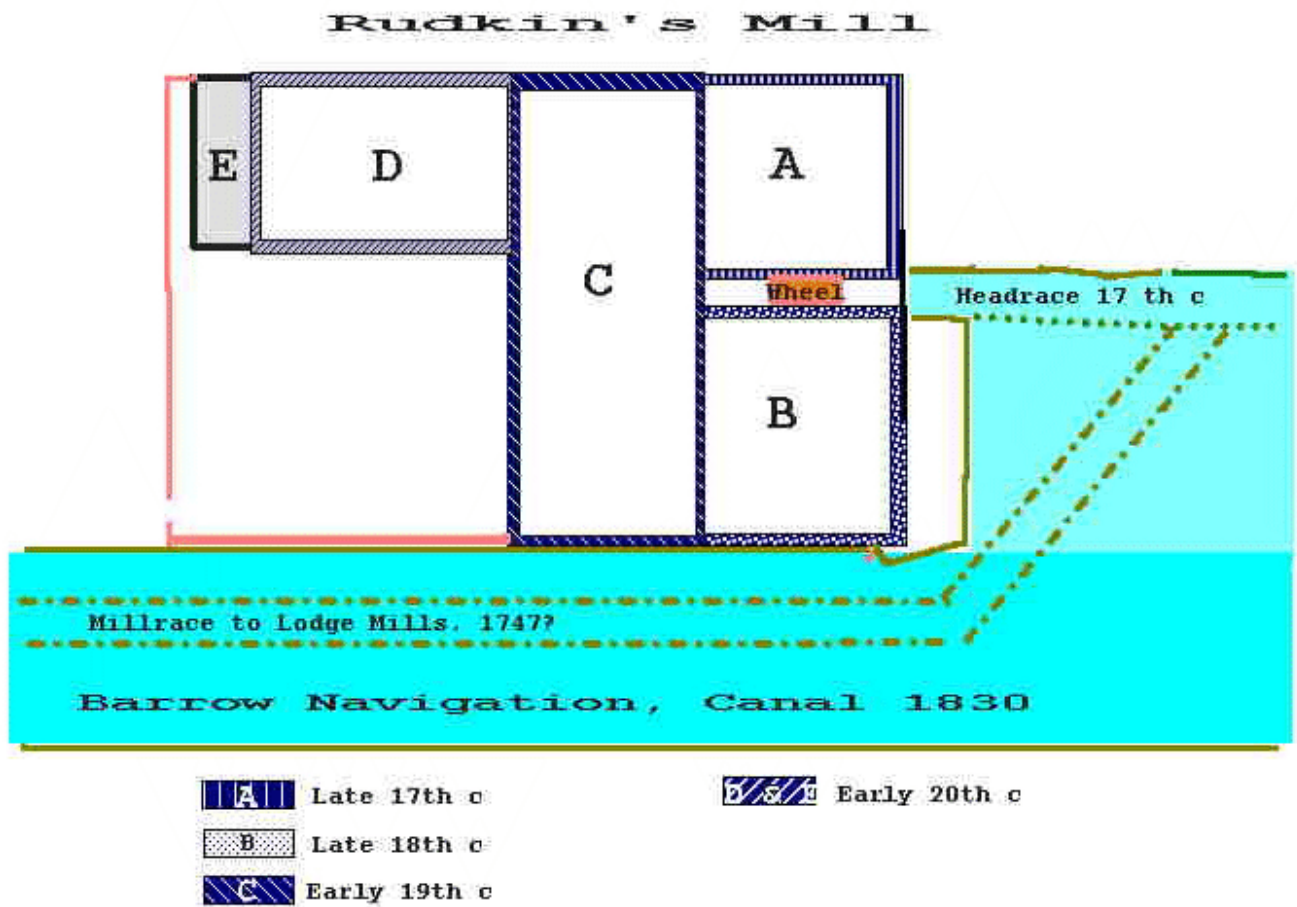
Further Reading;

Websites;

*Bagenalstown Connected Community;
Information on the Rudkin Milling business in
Norwalk, Connecticut.USA.*

[http://212.17.35.157/connected/default.asp?
com=Bagenalstown&org=&id=4&mnu=4](http://212.17.35.157/connected/default.asp?com=Bagenalstown&org=&id=4&mnu=4)

Fig 1



Archive Photograph of the Quay at Bagenalstown. Note the barge in foreground. In the distance is Rudkin's Mill roofed and in use.