

BISHOP SUTTON MILL

by Robin Stiles

Bishop Sutton Mill was a steam driven corn mill of comparatively late date. The earliest reference to its operation I have so far discovered is to be found in - Kelly's Directory for Somerset & Gloucestershire of 1897 which lists under the heading of Bishop Sutton:-

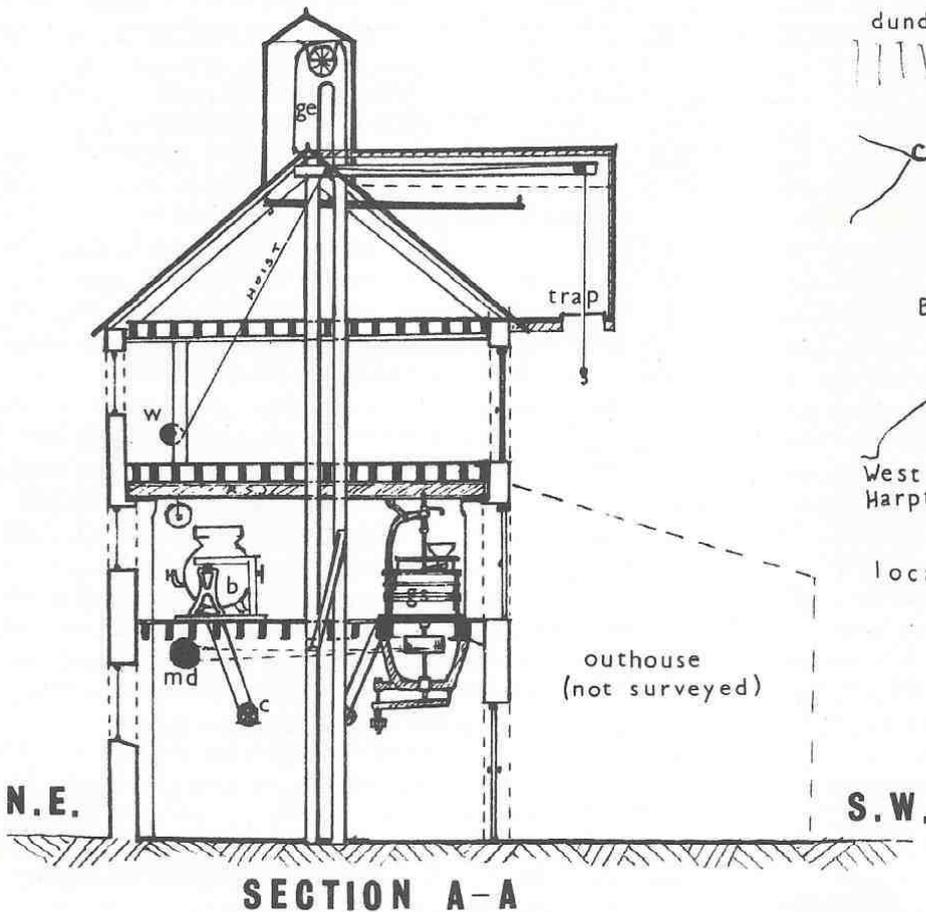
"Lovell, Jesse & Sons - Grocers & Millers (steam) & Drapers."

Whilst Lovell & Sons continue to be listed in subsequent editions of Kelly's right up to 1939 (the latest to be so far published for Somerset!) they are merely described as "Grocers". From local information, feed milling did continue on the premises up to the end of the Second World War and then the firm (now under the name 'Hately & Co. Ltd.') concentrated more and more on Wholesale Grocery until closure about 1964.

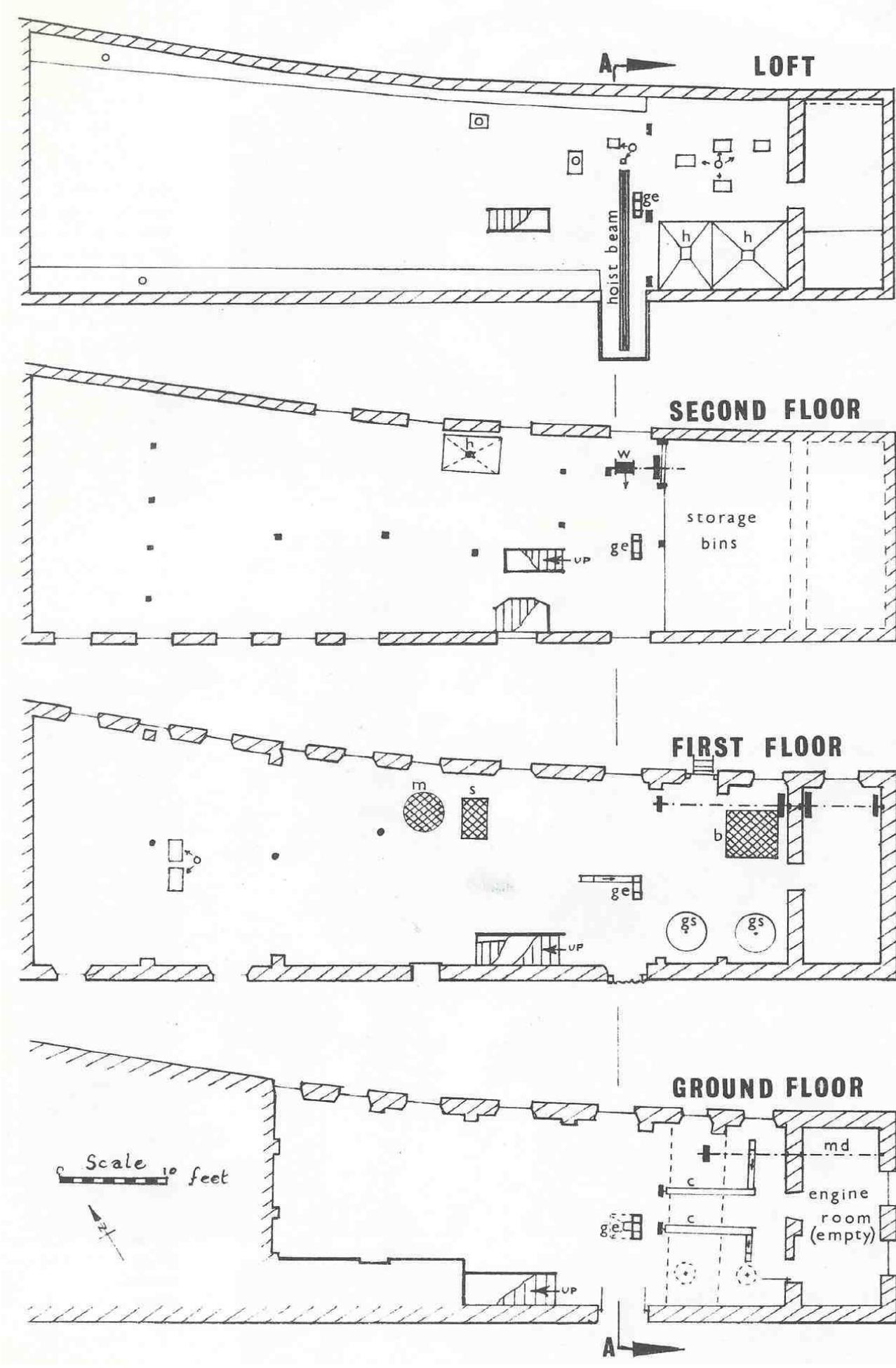
A BIAS member, Mr. Parsons, drew the attention of the Society to impending demolition of at least part of the premises and the removal of the remaining machinery. Accordingly some nine BIAS members carried out an 'emergency' survey on a wet Saturday

in February 1970. The motive power had unfortunately been removed many years ago and the only traces left were some boiler mounting brickwork of no real significance. It was quite clear from the siting of the premises that water power could not have been used, nor was this a case of reusing an earlier mill site. The remaining machinery comprised two pairs of horizontal grind-stones (of concrete composition) a sieving machine with square reciprocating trays (marked "W.S. Barron & Sons Ltd. Gloucester, ENG.") and two unmarked machines that appeared to be respectively a blending or cleaning machine, and a drum fodder milling machine. The most interesting remains were however the system of various elevators and conveyors, all driven by belts and shafting.

Since the survey was carried out the machinery has been removed and the mill building extensively altered and refurbished for use as a store for builders' materials. In particular the sack hoist tower has been removed, as has the dwelling-house that used to join the north end of the Mill and which appeared to be of later date (about 1910?).



- KEY
- b blending machine
 - c worm conveyor
 - ge grain elevator
 - gs grinding stones
 - h hopper
 - m milling machine
 - md main drive shaft
 - o openings to floor below
 - s sieving machine





BISHOP SUTTON MILL The building shown as recently undergoing reconstruction. (Photo: Robin Stiles)