

# Yule Development

---

## ABBOT MILL

- **Historic Preservation:**

The Abbot Mill is the most prominent historic structure in the Forge Village Historic District. Because the District is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Mill has certain protections, and is eligible for federal tax credits.

Renovations are planned to be carried out in accordance with the regulations and standards of the National Park Service. The Westford Historic Commission and the Massachusetts Historic Commission will also review and approve the renovation plans.



These standards require that the exteriors of the buildings be renovated to be historically accurate. New windows will be constructed to be in the shape and configuration of the original windows. Portions of the brick will be cleaned (not sand-blasted), mortar will be pointed. Roof and cornices will be repaired. It will probably prove necessary to remove most of the vines from the exterior, in order to properly repair the brick and mortar.

In addition, renovations inside the buildings will respect the existing structure of the buildings. Existing skylights will be re-opened and integrated into the spaces. Structural elements, such as beams, columns, and planks will be exposed to the extent possible. Ceiling heights will be maintained. However, it will not be possible to retain exposed brick on the exterior walls because of building code requirements with regard to energy conservation and heat loss issues.

Yule Development Company hopes to work with neighbors and the Westford Historic Commission to produce an exhibit and / or documentary on the Abbot Mill and its workers. Potential subjects to be covered will be the Abbot Mill's place in the history of Forge Village, its contribution to the industrial development of New England, and the unique social development of the community, with its three distinct immigrant groups who worked in the Mill.



