

Watt's Mill



Watt's Mill is now generally known as Mark of the Potter. In the early 19th century, there was a string of mills (Hill's Mills, no less) built in this area of the Soquee where the river drops in elevation. One of them was close to this site. Robert and Alan Watts built the current structure in 1931 and milling operations continued until high water damaged it in the mid 1960's. In 1967 John and Glen LaRowe converted the building to its present use. It has been operated as a pottery and pottery shop to this day. Be sure to note the various pieces of mill equipment still in and around the display areas.



Notes for the photographer: To get the above photo (or similar) you will have to climb down into the river - and wade across it - about 100 yards downstream from the mill. I was able to do it at a time when the water flow was less than knee high. Frankly, I wouldn't try it if the water was higher. One slip and you have a wet camera.

Directions: From Clarkesville, start off north in the direction of Historic 441 North. Just as you are leaving town make a left onto Hwy 197. Yahoo! Travel has just named this stretch of roadway to its list of "The Most Scenic Drives in All 50 States." Watts Mill is ten miles ahead on the right. GPS Coordinates: 34°43'45.6"N 83°35'20.2"W

Interesting fact: Some of the workings of the mill and a little waterfall are below the first floor -- ask for access (but watch your head).