

Nora Mill



The original mill building constructed in 1876 by John Martin (no relation to the author) is driven by a water turbine which gets its power from the dam on the Chattahoochee River.



The mill is still in operation by the third and fourth generations of the family who began operation in the early 1980's. Visitors can purchase products ground with the original 1,500 pound French Burr Stones.

Notes for the Photographer: The photos of the dam and the outside bevel gears were made from below the mill beside (and in) the river. You can access that area from the south end of the mill building down steps marked "Posted No Trespassing Keep Out". I asked the owner - which you should definitely do, also - if I could have permission to go down there and he said, "No problem. Look out for snakes." I didn't see any.

Directions: From the bridge in Helen, travel about one and one-half miles south on Georgia 17. The mill is on your left but it is easier to park on the right. If you are coming from the south the mill is about a quarter mile past the Hardman Farm and Indian Mound area.

GPS Coordinates: 34°41'23.3"N 83°42'40.7"W

Interesting Fact: The building across the street which houses an antique store was John Martin's house. The operator of the store told me that John Martin is among the missing. When, in 1902, he sold the mill to Dr. L. G. Hardman (later governor of Georgia) he disappeared. All efforts to trace his descendants have failed.

