

Museum plan for mill

ENGLISH Heritage is putting £324,000 into a scheme to turn an historic Gloucestershire woollen mill into a working museum.

The grant – one of the national organisation's most important projects – will help transform Stanley Mill, at King's Stanley, into a museum recreating the life and work of 19th century textile workers.

But the scheme would also turn parts of the Grade I listed building into offices, light industrial units and warehouse space.

The building, famous for its cast iron construction, has been disused since production stopped in 1989.

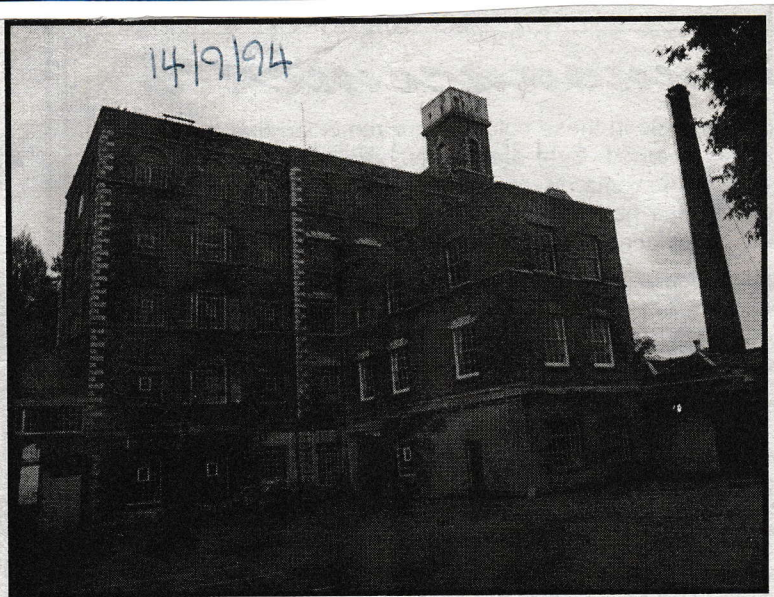
A trust could be set up by owner Peter Griffiths, to preserve the structure, thought to be a fine example of its kind.

The five-storey brick mill was built in 1813 with a cast iron internal structure. Five waterwheels generated power for the textile machinery.

Now that machinery could work again under the museum plan.

A spokesman for English Heritage, which has already paid out £33,750 for emergency repairs to save the structure, said today: "It is intended to recreate production of woollen textiles together with the life-style of the people who lived and worked in the mill complex in the early 1800s.

"English Heritage is giving £324,000 towards the essential repair of the mill and is involved in discussions about its future use with the owner and Stroud District Council. The grant represents 80 per cent of the cost of repairs."



■ New lease of life in store for Stanley Mill.