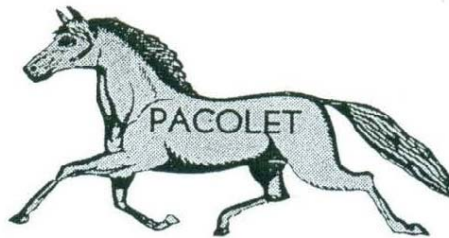




The Great Pacolet Flood

Album No. 6





This is a view of the [Flat](#) the day before the [Flood](#). The end of [Mill No. 1](#) can be seen in the background over the roof of the church. The photographer was standing about where the [Town Hall](#) is located today. This is a very different view of the [Flat](#) that existed after the [Flood](#).

This picture shows the high water of May, 1901. The house to the right is the doctor's office; left is the market. A small section of the covered bridge can be seen. Water is up to the floor. The buildings were wiped out during the flood.



PACOLET, S. C., MAY 31, 1901.—THIS WAS THE HIGH WATER OF MAY 1, 1901.

The [Flood](#) did not happen until 1903. However, the level of the [Pacolet River](#) often rose to high levels many times before and after that. The narrow river valley made high water a serious problem as seen in this picture, two years before the devastating [Flood](#). Note the “old style” houses in the back ground across the [river](#).



This is the covered bridge that was destroyed in the [Flood](#). This picture was made at a time of very high water but it is not known if it was during the [Flood of 1903](#) or during another time of high water like that shown on page 3. Mills [No. 1 and No. 2](#) are shown in the background.



"The Flood" Saturday, June 6, 1903
Pacolet Mills

This is a photo of the [Flat](#) area during the [Flood](#). There seems to be no trace left of the covered bridge shown on page 4. Like the photo on page 2, it was taken from about where the [Town Hall](#) is today.



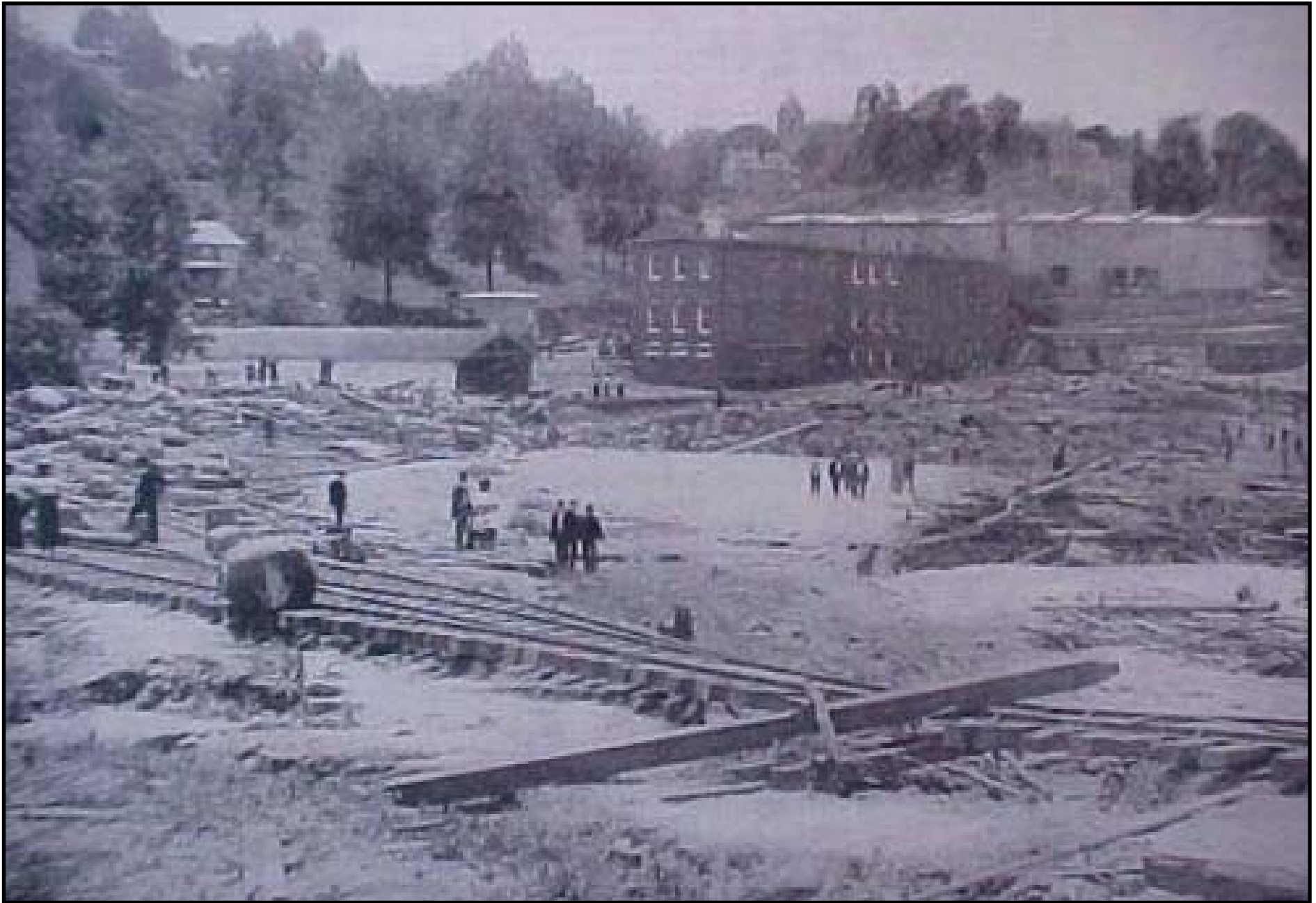
Another photo of the [Flat](#) area during the [Flood](#). Part of [Mills No. 1 and No. 2](#) are still standing. The large number of box shaped objects floating in the water are cotton bales.



A photo of the [Flat](#) area after the [Flood](#). This photograph was taken at ground level generally from in front of where the [Girl's Club](#) was once located.



Another photo of the [Flat](#) area after the [Flood](#). The existing [cloth room](#) is located about where the group of people, the tree and house are in this picture.



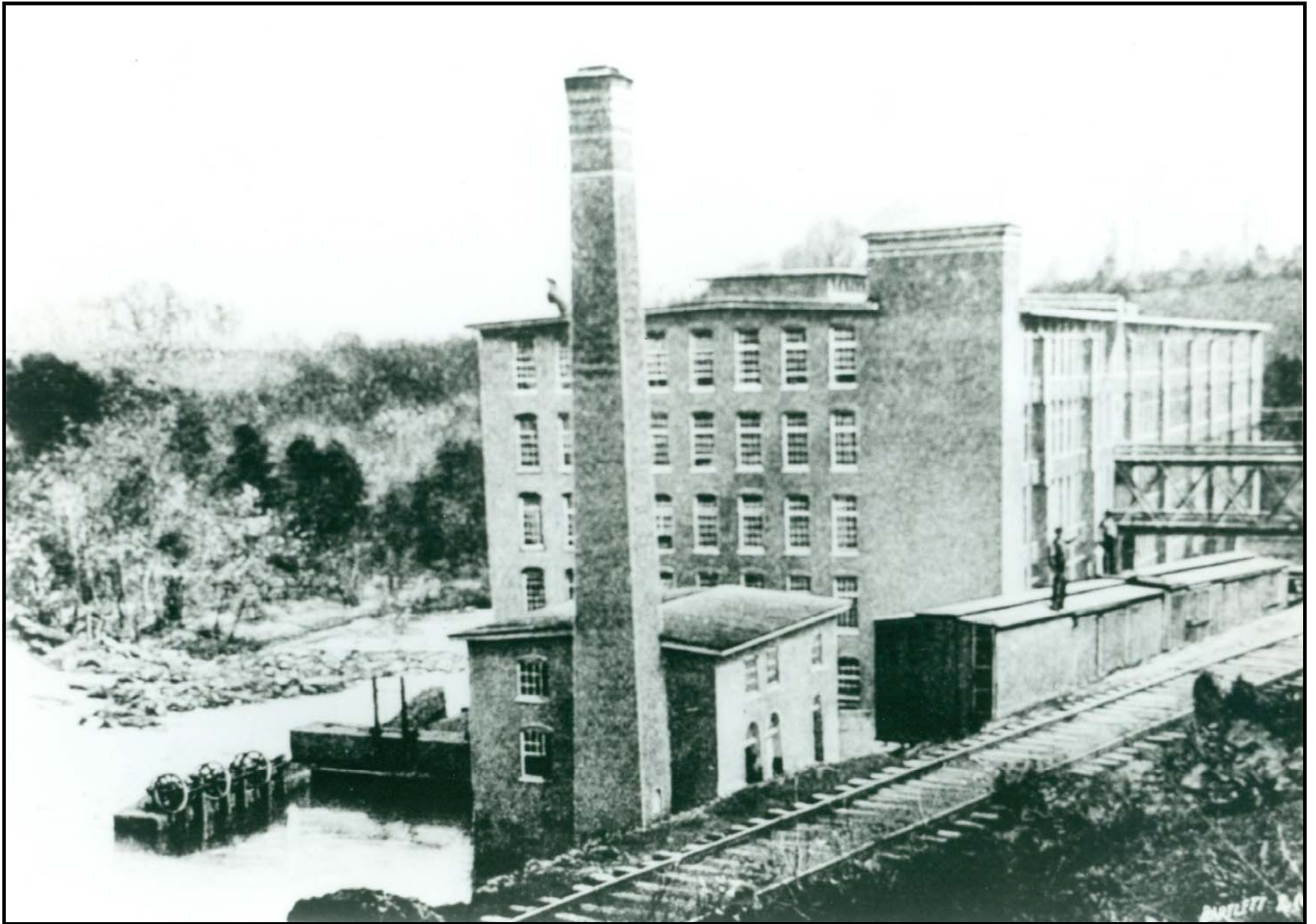
A different photo of the [Flat](#) area after the [Flood](#). This was taken from near where the [Fire Dept.](#) and [Rescue Buildings](#) are now located. The road up [Hotel Hill](#) can be seen in the upper center of the picture. Basically the same view as it looks like today can be seen on page 11.



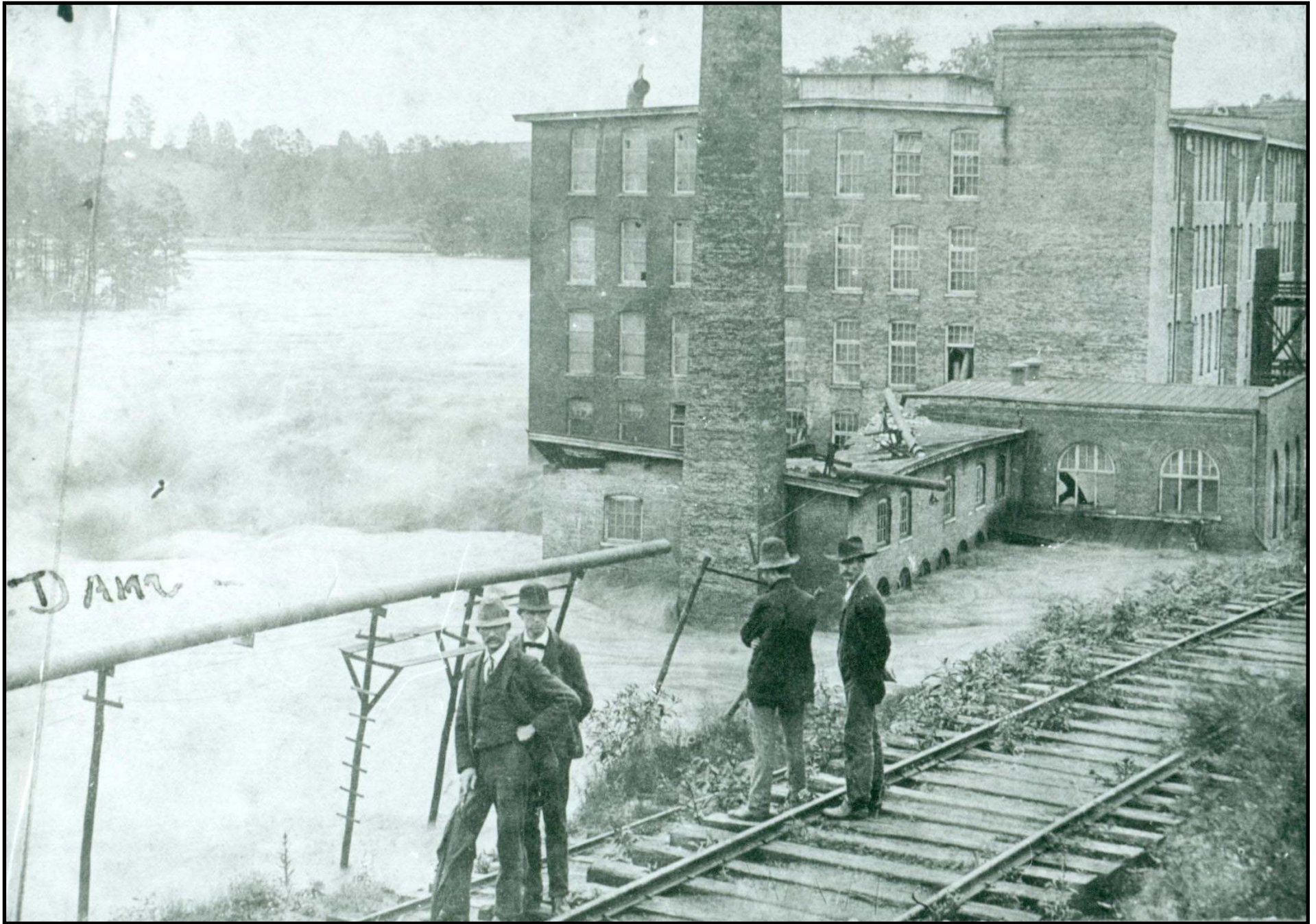
Another photo of the [Flat](#) area after the [Flood](#). This was also taken from near where the [Fire Dept.](#) and [Rescue Buildings](#) are now located. The [old school](#) and the road up [Hotel Hill](#) can be seen in the upper center of the picture. Somewhat the same view as it looks like today can be seen on page 11.



Generally, the same view as shown on pages 9 and 10 as it looks today. A tremendous amount of fill dirt was hauled into this area after the [Flood](#). (See photo on page 19). This raised the ground level several feet.



Mill No. 3 (The Old Mill) as it looked before the Flood.

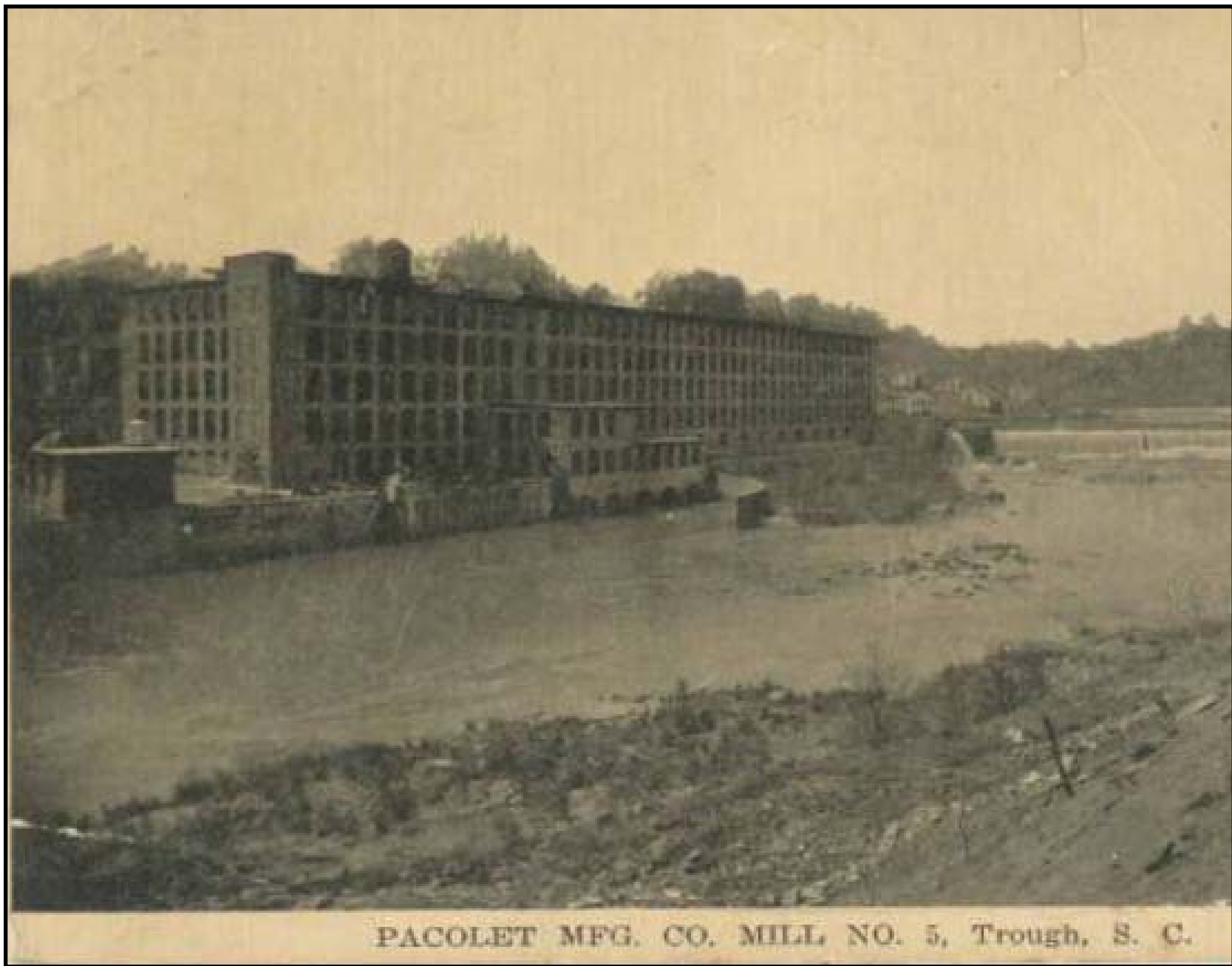


The [Old Mill \(No. 3\)](#) as it looked at the beginning of the [Flood](#). The rising water has already covered the dam and submerged some of the lower floor.



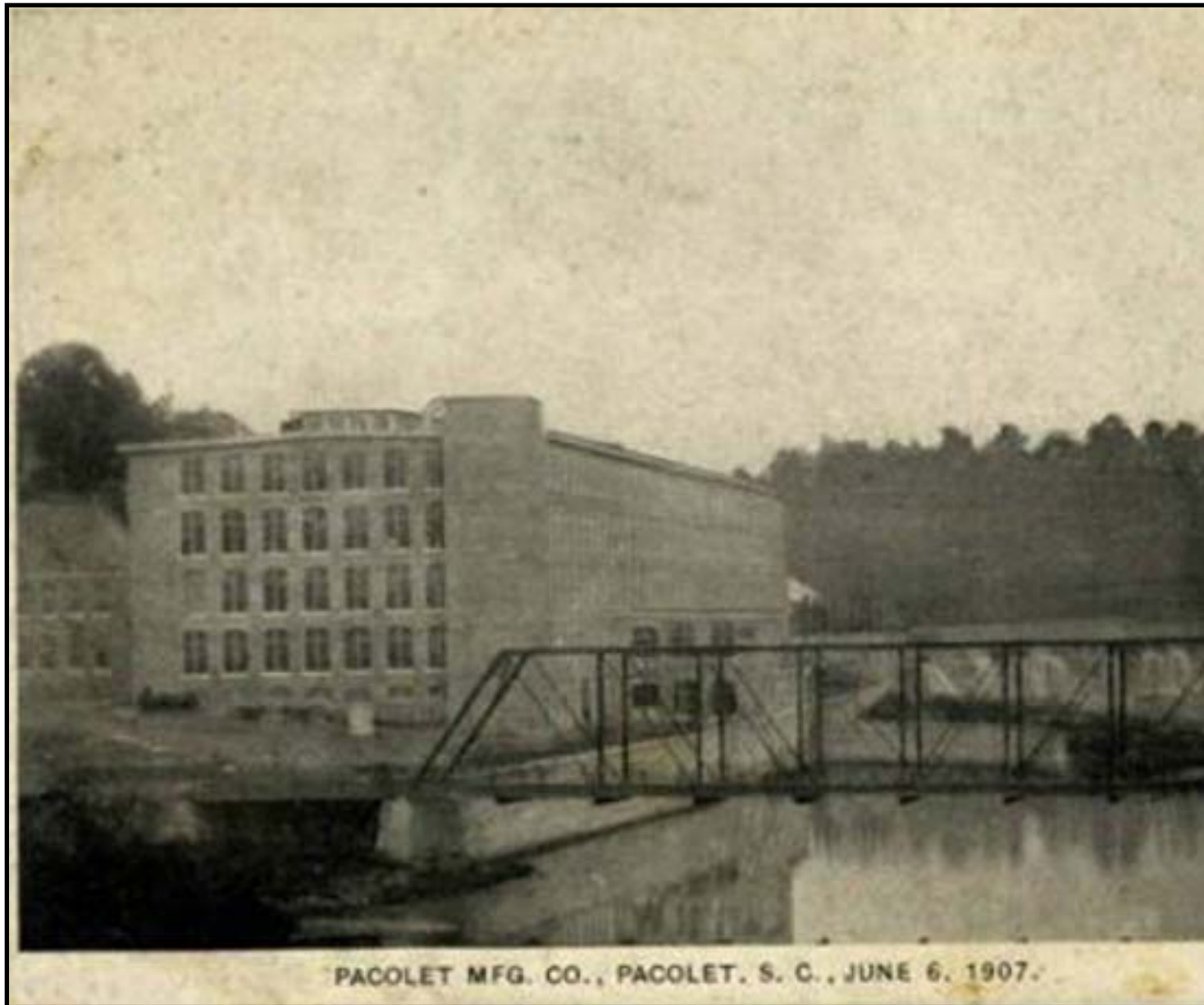
PACOLET MFG. CO., JUNE 7, 1903.

The [Old Mill \(No. 3\)](#) after the [Flood](#). The building has been severely damaged and the entire corner of the [mill](#) has been carried away

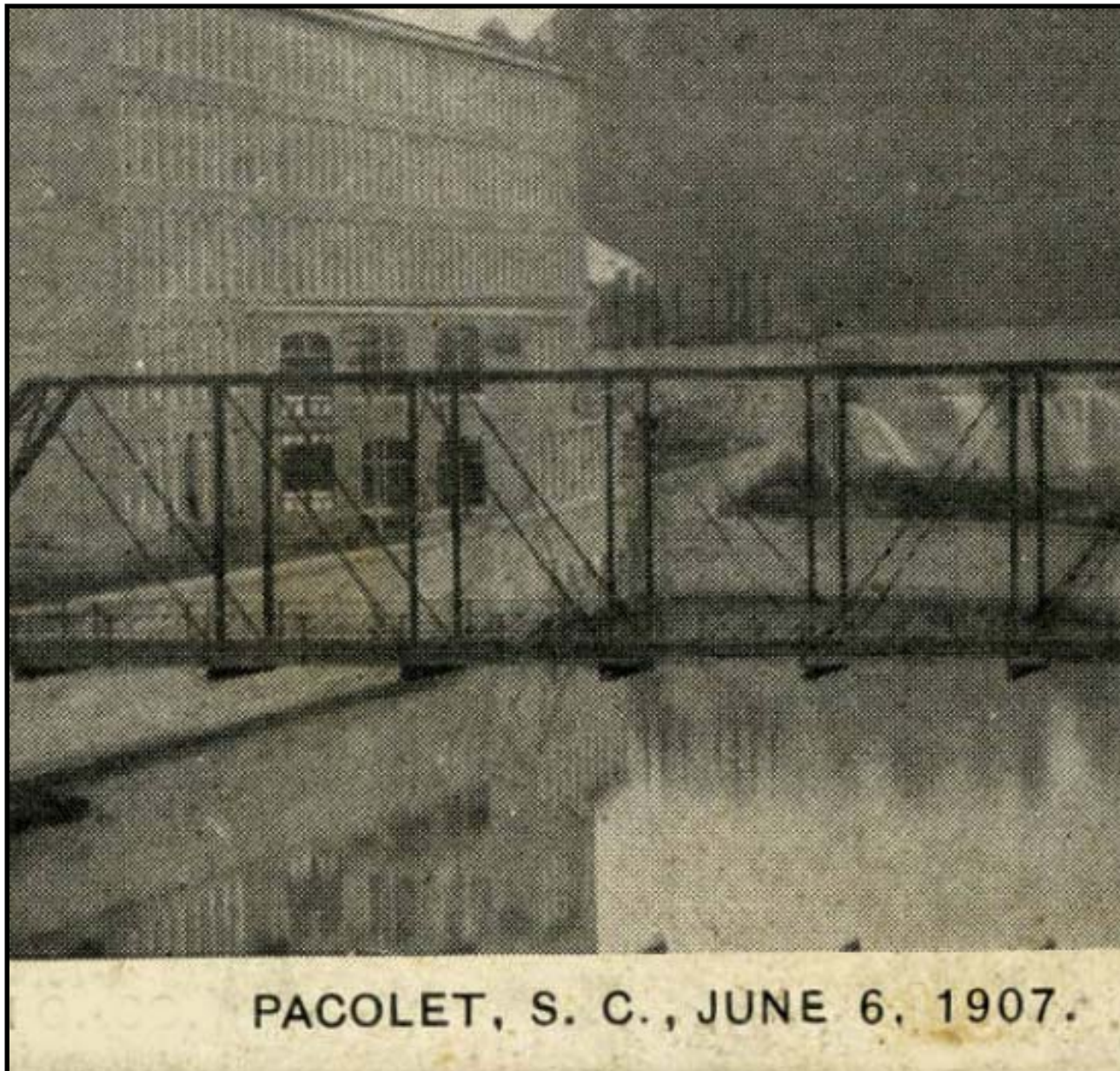


PACOLET MFG. CO. MILL, NO. 5, Trough, S. C.

The [New Mill \(No. 5\)](#) was built on the site of [Mills No. 1 and 2](#). It opened in 1907. Additional photos of the [Mill](#) are shown in [Album 3](#).



Another view of the [New Mill \(No. 5\)](#) when it opened in 1907. This also shows part of the iron bridge built to replace the covered bridge. Even though it looks similar, this is not the same bridge some of us remember from the 1940's and 50's. A photo of this bridge being built is shown on page 2 of [Album 3](#). This bridge was destroyed by the high water of 1908. It was temporarily replaced by the swinging bridge shown on page 18.



A close up of part of the [New Mill \(No. 5\)](#) and the new iron bridge . Additional photos of the [Mill](#) and this bridge being built are shown in [Album 3](#) .



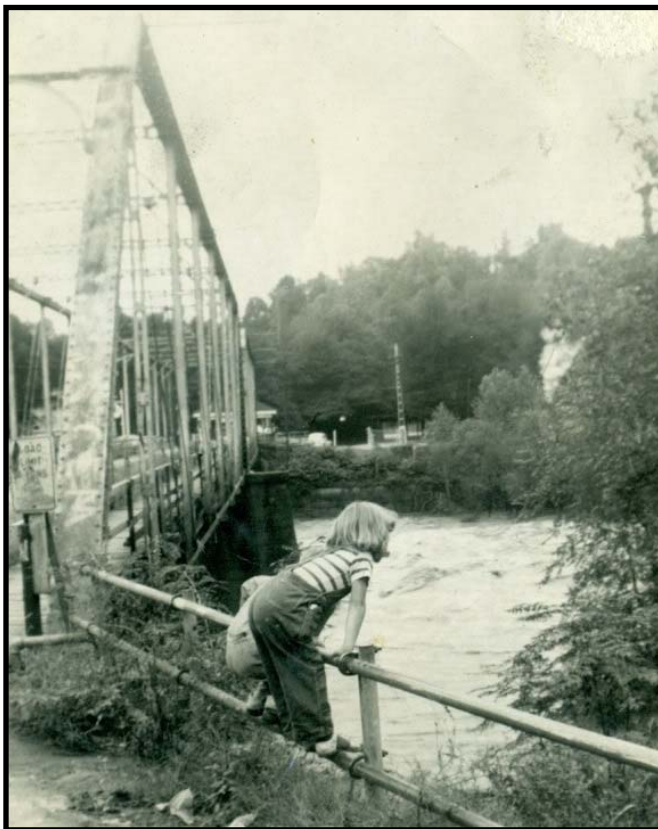
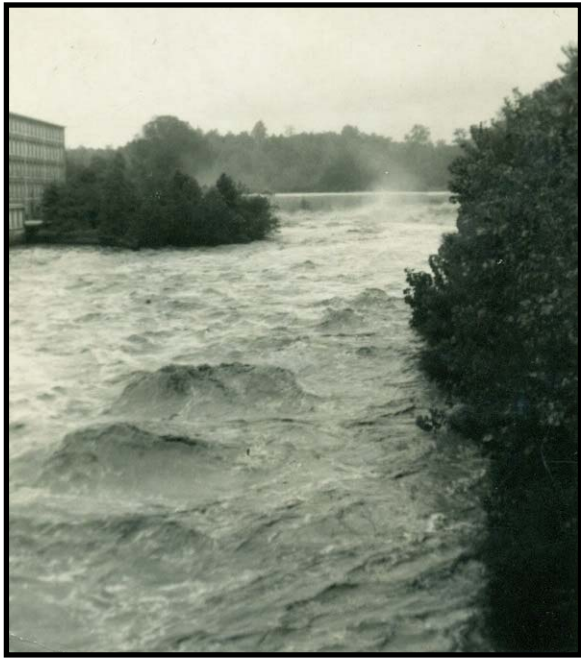
The iron bridge built at the same time as the new [Mill \(No.5\)](#) in 1907 was washed away during the high water of 1908. This temporary swinging foot bridge was built so that workers on the north side of the river could go to work. The swinging bridge seems to be built in about the location where the covered bridge had been before the [Flood](#).



This picture is somewhat of a mystery. The [bridge](#) parts on the right are the remains of the [iron bridge](#) built for the [New Mill \(No. 5\)](#). It was washed away only year later in the high water of 1908. The big concrete pier on the left was built to support the [iron bridge](#) that was used until 1953. [The Pacolet horse](#) now sits on this pier. A temporary swinging bridge was built to use until the other bridge was completed but it is not seen in this picture (page 18). Note also the tremendous amount of fill dirt being used to fill in the low spot where the [Filling Station](#) was later located.



This [bridge](#) was built in 1908 and used until 1953. The [Pacolet horse](#) now stands on the pier that remains from the bridge. Note the [“old style” houses](#) in the background. Real horses were still being used to do work around the outside of the [mill](#), note the one standing in the distance, to the left of the bridge pier.



There were periods of very high water before and after the [Flood](#). These photos were taken during the late 1940's or early 1950's.

Upper left - looking upriver at the [New Mill](#) and the dam from the [old bridge](#).

Upper right - looking down river at the [Methodist Church](#) and [iron bridge](#).

Lower left - children on the north end of the [bridge](#) watching the high water.

Lower right - looking toward the [company pasture](#) with water pouring over the dam.

(Photos courtesy of Dorothy Paige Howell)



In 2011, this monument to the [Flood](#) victims was established in Converse along side the [Pacolet River](#). The steel tower marks the depth of the river at this location during the [Flood](#). Read the full details at [Pacolet Flood Monument](#).