



THIS PLACE MATTERED. South Carolina Historic Preservation Month ♦ MAY 2009



Grendel Mills opened in Greenwood, SC in 1897. The landscape photograph above shows the rebuilding of the mill sometime in 1923 after a boiler room explosion. The photo shows men, one woman, a horse and, if you look closely, a tiny shy child posing for their photograph against a rising new wall. Many of these men were probably one generation out of slavery.

The *Index-Journal* carried the story of the explosion for several days in May 1923 before the graver news of the Cleveland School fire in Kershaw County captured their headline.

The most prominent building in the photo is the mill office building. It stands empty now, but its silhouetted bay window is still easily recognizable.

Operations continued until 1946 when the Courtenay Manufacturing Company merged with Anderson Cotton Mills, Panola Mills, and Grendel Mills to form a corporation called Abney Mills.

