

Berkshire and Becket Silk Mill Ruins

Main Street, Route 8, south of Ballou Memorial Park

42° 19'47.03"N 73° 05'00.83"W elevation 1236 feet

About 1885 Becket's first silk mill for manufacturing pure silk thread was established along the railroad tracks in the area that is now the [North Becket Village Park](#), by Samuel K. Smith.

By 1890, Smith had disposed of his first mill, and built a new brick mill astride Yokum Brook, just south of Becket Village ([North Becket Historic District](#)). The thriving Berkshire and Becket Silk Company employed over 80 people, many of them women who commuted on the train from Pittsfield. This quality thread was used for sewing, embroidering and crocheting. The company stayed in the Smith family until about 1924 when it was acquired by Collingbourne Mills, Inc. of Illinois. By 1926, production had doubled to 60,000 spools a day, by a work force of 100 people; and the company had increased the number of buildings.



The Berkshire and Becket Silk Company plant was destroyed by the 1927 Flood. The heavy equipment was washed away, there was no insurance and one week later the remaining warehouse was destroyed by fire. Today only the foundation ruins remain of the once booming industrial center of Becket. The ruins can be seen on the east side of Route 8, just south of [Ballou Memorial Park](#).



The Berkshire and Becket Silk Mill after the 1927 Flood



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For further information email the Becket Historical Commission:

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