

Our team can provide creative ideas for venue set-up and area resources.



Wedding photos by Kendall Layne Photography

Schedule your event in a unique historical setting. Consider the Dorn Mill Complex for your next special occasion.

The Dorn Mill Complex offers several areas for functions, including the historic Cotton Gin and Grist Mill Buildings and a lawn area that is perfect for outdoor events. Call to discuss venue options and pricing for:

- * Weddings
- * Receptions
- * Baby Showers
- * Birthday Parties
- * Family Gatherings
- * Special Services
- * Photo Settings
- * Organization Events
- * Craft Events/Shows
- * Holiday Bazaars
- * Large Project Work Space
- * General Meeting Space

For Reservations Contact:

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805-201-5150

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The Dorn Mill complex was the principal industry for the town and McCormick County for most of the first half of the twentieth century. During this period cotton and other farming endeavors propelled the economy of the region.

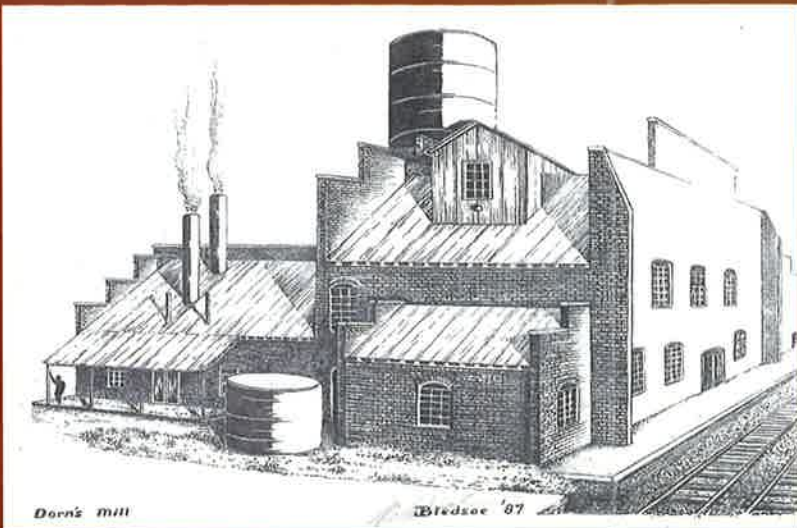
The McCormick County Historical Commission is dedicated to the preservation of history in McCormick County, SC.

Visit the McCormick County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center in Historic Downtown McCormick, SC for directions, maps and brochures to McCormick County historical places.

McCormick County Chamber of Commerce
100 S Main Street McCormick, SC

Phone: 864.852.2835

www.mccormickscchamber.org



The Dorn Mill complex includes a GRIST MILL (listed on the National Register of Historical Places), COTTON GIN and WEIGH STATION.

Unlike most mills, powered by water, the Dorn Mill Cotton Gin and Grist Mill were powered by steam engines.

Pictured is the Grist Mill housing equipment from the 1920's. You can visit all three in Historic Downtown McCormick, South Carolina.

The M.G. & J.J. Dorn, Corporation rapidly grew into a huge enterprise. It eventually included fifteen portable sawmills, sixteen cotton gins and thousands of acres of land on which hundreds of tenant farmers and sharecroppers grew cotton.

The Dorn Mill is one of the few remaining grist mills of its type in the nation. In 1980, Jennings Gary Dorn donated the complex to an association of local citizens to ensure its preservation. Today, the McCormick County Historical Commission is charged with that responsibility.



The Cotton Gin and the Grist Mill (pictured above) share a lovely grass area ideal for group gatherings.



In November a group of investors, J.E. Britt, John Andres, J.Q. Stilwell, M.L.B. Sturkey, and J.B. Harmon, purchased a tract of land from Nettie McCormick. This tract of land is known today as the Dorn Mill Complex.



On April 18th the McCormick Cotton Oil Company was chartered. The CEO was Preston Finley.

A three-story brick building was constructed adjacent to the railroad and began operating as a cottonseed oil mill. Wood-fired boilers propelled two ten-ton stationary steam engines, which provided the power to run the mill. Wood shavings, a byproduct of the lumber mill, provided the fuel for firing the steam boilers.



A cotton gin was built on the complex and operation began in the wooden building. It was powered by drive shafts from the steam engines in the oil mill. The engines in the oil mill also provided electric lighting for the entire complex.



Ownership of the complex shifted to Farmers' Gin Company, owned by M.G. Dorn, Preston Finley and J.J. Dorn.



On June 19th the Dorn brothers bought Finley out and the corporation became M.G. & J.J. Dorn, Inc.

At this point the Dorn brothers converted the cotton oil mill into a grist mill. They replaced the existing 10,000-gallon water tank with a 23,000-gallon one.



November 1st saw the cotton gin on the complex totally destroyed by fire. The following year the Dorn brothers rebuilt the building, but this time with brick.

This 50 x 60 foot building was constructed to house one of the most modern ginneries in the state. Four down-packing gins manufactured by the Lulus Ginnery Company were installed.

The complex grew to include a lumber yard, blacksmith, building supplies retailer and paint store. These services were extended to the general public.

McCormick County Historical Commission is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Charitable contributions are tax deductible. Donations can be addressed to the following:

*McCormick County Historical Commission
PO Box 425
McCormick, SC 29835*