

# The Jurbise Watermill

The first mention of the existence of the Jurbise watermill dates back to 1275. It was an ordinary mill belonging to the Seigneur of Lens. Its driving force was the water held in a large reservoir drawn from a stream, the Ruisseau de Jurbise.



*The Ferraris map (1774)  
The pond with the mill's  
channel, which was fitted with  
two wheels.  
On the left bank, a diversion  
channel (overflow).*

After being sold off as a national asset under the French regime, it had several owners, including Adolphe Criquelion (Mayor of Jurbise) and Charles Michelet (director of the tile factory).

In around 1860, the reservoir was abandoned and a steam engine was installed to supplement the hydraulic power.

From the outset, the various owners have entrusted its operation to families of professional millers: the Thésins, the Thurus, the Dekokers and the Respeleux.

In 1916, Franz Lespagnol bought the mill, becoming the first owner to actually operate the mill himself. During water shortages, he used a diesel engine to power it.

In 1944, he sold it to Marius Delvallée.

In 1950, the mill was dismantled and its machinery was transferred to the mill in Lens. The building was then converted into a house, which was bought by Maurice Sasse.

It was subject to a compulsory purchase order in 1993 and demolished to make way for a wastewater channel leading to the Jurbise water treatment plant.

