BOULTON & WATT ENGINES SUPPLIED TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE: 
A PRELIMINARY LIST

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The Archives Division of Birmingham Central Library holds a dauntingly large archive of the firm Boulton & Watt, covering the activities of the business from its inception in the 1770s until the mid 19th century. As a pioneering firm with an important influence on the course of the Industrial Revolution, the firm has been the object of much study, but the records of individual contracts have a considerable significance for local historians and industrial archaeologists dealing with the firms for whom Boulton & Watt worked, and it is hoped that such researchers may find this listing of Gloucestershire engines useful.

Many types of records from the firm survive, including letter books, order books, incoming letters and drawings for engines, from which it would ultimately be possible to draw up a tolerably complete list of all the contracts in which the firm engaged. The preliminary list of Gloucestershire contracts presented here, however, is based entirely on the surviving engineering drawings. References to other classes of documents are provided only if they are noted in the catalogue of engineering drawings, which was compiled as long ago as 1935.

Enquiries for further information about any of the engines listed below can be addressed to the City Archivist, Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ. In many cases it will be possible for the archivist to supply photocopies of the engineering drawings, should these be wanted.

Sun and Planet Type.


16 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 22½"x5'.
Agreement Box 28/37.

Canal Engines.

(4) Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Co. 1794. Portfolio 1276.
    Single action.
    11 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 23"x2'.
    2.8 n.h.p. Boat engine. Pump 20''.

    Single action.
    39 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 50"x8'.
    53.2 n.h.p. Lift 70' near Cirencester.

(6) Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Co. 1796. Portfolio 1276.
    Single action.
    7 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 28"x2'6'.
    5.2 n.h.p. Boat engine.

Side Lever (Boat) Type Engines Used on Land.

(7) Messrs Henry Wyatt & Co., Vatch Mills, near Stroud. 1823. (First engine of this type).
    1 drawing. Stroke: 2'6''.

    3 drawings. Stroke: 2'6''.
    20 h.p. Order book: WR 10. [See also (14)].

    3 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 26¼"x2'6''.

(10) Samuel Long, Charfield. 1825. Portfolio 1061.
    8 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 26¼"x2'6''.

    2 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 26¼"x2'6''.

(12) Edward Davies, Stonehouse, 1824. Portfolio 1030.
    3 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 31½"x3'.

    3 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 31½"x3'.

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Independent Engines.

(15) H. Hicks & Son, Eastington, nr Stroud. 1818. Portfolio 959. 2 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 19½"x2'6". 10 h.p. Order book: DX 9. [See also (20)].


(20) Henry Hicks & Son, Eastington, nr Stroud. Portfolio 979. 1821. 1 drawing. Stroke: 3'. 14 h.p. Order book: GM 8. [See also (15)].


1823. 3 drawings. Stroke: 3'.

Small Side Lever Independent Engines.


(Beam) Crank Type Engines.

     Dec. 1805.
     8 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 20½"x4'.
(29) Stone Pipe Co., Guyton [sic], near Portfolio 414.
     4 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 20½"x4'.
     Fromebridge, near Framilode. October 1803.
     5 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 23½"x5'.
     December 1814.
     5 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 20½"x4'.
     March 1821.
     2 drawings. Stroke: 5'.
     6 drawings. Stroke: 5'.
     near Stroud. (Later Maclean Stephens & Co.). March 1822.
     5 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 32½"x6'.
(35) H Hicks & Sons, (Hicks Bros), Churching Portfolio 474.
     dye mills, Eastington, nr Stroud. Mill by Mr Hewes, 1822.
     5 drawings. Stroke: 5'.
     3 drawings. Stroke: 6'.

The Foundry old 14 h.p. engine 1796 repaired for this contract. Ordered for Lightmore Co., transferred to this contract.

4 drawings. Cylinder diameter x stroke: 29"x5'.

3 drawings. Stroke: 6'.

(40) Clarke, Maze & Co., Great Western Cotton Works, Bristol. August 1837.
38 drawings. 2 engines each with 7' stroke.

12 drawings. 2 engines, each with 7' stroke.

(42) Hicks Bros, Eastington near Stroud. November 1826. No. 2.
4 drawings. Stroke: 5'.