



The Sawmill

1940s and 1950s

Lumbering was America's first industry, with the first sawmill established in Jamestown, VA, in 1625. This industry played a crucial role in the country's early development. The mill showcased here was powered by a 300 HP electric motor. While circular saws were commonly used, larger mills often preferred bandsaws due to their efficiency and precision.

On the left, you can see how tree harvesting was done using trucks. On the right, the lumber is stacked and dried in a mill yard. Notice the different cuts that come from a single log, demonstrating the versatility of lumber.

A model of the Dierks mill is also on display. The Dierks family was influential in the lumber industry, and their mills were known for their advanced techniques and contributions to forestry.