

The mills and sawmill

In 1837 a group from Sarreyer decided to adjust the mill's water wheel to a vertical position; an opportunity to create an ingenious mechanical system which would be powered by hydraulic force and gravity. A single bucket wheel powered the sawmill, two flour mills and the apple crusher: a unique three-way system in the Valais.

In the 1950s the residents of Sarreyer no longer used the mills and the sawmill. Better transport links (railways and roads) guaranteed the supply of consumer goods to the villages. It became simpler and cheaper to buy bread from the baker than to make it themselves. Efficiency and the need to adapt to these changes prompted the people of Sarreyer to build the hydraulic power station - and then abandon it.

One hundred and fifty years after its construction, the building was restored.

Since 1987 this building has been classified as a historic monument.

"Based on a drawing of the cross-section as viewed from the north, ARCHEOTECH, Pully".