

= De Akkermolen =

De Akkermolen (Dutch pronunciation : [d? ??k?r?mo?l?n] ; English : The Field Mill) is a 17th @-@ century windmill in Zundert , Netherlands . Built around 1605 to replace an earlier windmill , it was used as a gristmill until it was severely damaged in 1950 . The mill was bought by the local government and restored in 1961 , and it was listed as a national heritage site in 1974 .

= = History = =

An earlier windmill had existed on the same location and was mentioned in 1557 as " the mill in the Sundertsch Field " (de molen in de Sundertsche Akker) , and this earlier windmill was in its turn a replacement of a nearby watermill , De Poelmolen , which was mentioned in 1438 . The earlier windmill was destroyed in 1584 by Spanish troops and the building of a new mill took several years . The new windmill was first mentioned in 1605 .

The mill was owned by the margrave of Bergen op Zoom and was a banmolen (nl) , meaning peasants in the locality were obligated to use this mill to grind their wheat . In 1794 it became property of William V , Prince of Orange and baron of Breda . Banmolens were taken out of common law during the French revolution , meaning that people could choose where they wanted to grind their wheat , and in 1830 the mill became private property . The mill was in constant use as a gristmill until the wooden windshaft broke in 1950 , which caused the sails to crash into the ground , making the future of the mill uncertain . The mill was bought in 1959 by the municipal government of Zundert and restored in 1961 . It ceased to be an active gristmill , but was in functioning order . The mill needed another restoration in 1991 when it was taken apart and rebuilt .

= = Description = =

De Akkermolen was built as an open trestle post mill , meaning that the whole body of the mill that houses the machinery is mounted on an uncovered single vertical post or trestle , around which it can be rotated to bring the sails into the wind . The mill is made out of painted wood , the body is partially covered in tar and it has a roof of bituminous waterproofing . The mill has four common sails of 23 @.@ 00 metres (75 ft 6 in) span , that drive a wheel of 71 cogs , driving the lantern pinion stone nut , which has 15 staves . The stone nut drives a pair of Cullen millstones from Mayen (" Cullen " for " Cologne " , where such millstones were marketed from) , 17 hands in diameter or 1 @.@ 50 metres (4 ft 11 in) .

Inside the mill inscriptions can be found by the miller and his assistants from 1804 .

The mill was listed as a national heritage site (nr 41113) on 11 July 1974 . It is open to the public on the first Saturday of the month or by appointment .