

< 10.5" High exactly between the crops >

Industrial saga on the river

Dozens of mills produced all kinds products, adding value to the iron, graphite, and timber from nearby mines or forests. But the vagaries of floods, business failures and fire challenged every enterprise at every turn.

The industries featured here represent the second- or third-generation mills built along LaChute. They spread out beside the stream, cranking out goods to fill the needs of a country gearing up to fight an exhaustive Civil War, then rebuilding and expanding westward across the continent.

1861-c.1891

Mill equipment

Source

Product

Destination

Previous use

–Two sets of Andover carding machines

–“Hand jack” self-propelled spinning mules

–Crampton looms

–Fulling bins

Courtesy of the American Textile History Museum

Local flocks of merino sheep

Fine Cassimere: a very soft twill-woven woolen cloth

Used for household furnishings, ready-made children's clothing and adult undergarments

Earlier woolen mill in operation nearly 40 years

1894. Rebuilt as E.B Richards & Sons Pulp Mill with a new dam, three grinders and two pulp machines

1864-1895

Mill equipment

Source

Product

Destination

Previous use

–Six hearth fires

–Two steam hammers working loupes into blooms on 1500-lb. and 3500-lb. anvils

–William E. Calkins, superintendent

Local deposits, later Long Pond

Six tons of bloom iron per day in 1879

Shipped by canal boat to Troy, NY, later to steel mills in Pittsburgh, PA

c.1790-1830. Likely the location of Levi and Samuel Cole forges

1873- 1968

Mill equipment

Source

Product

Destination

– Grinding stones (now lining Tower Avenue)

– Floatation vats

Lead Mountain and Rock Pond, west of Ticonderoga & mines at “Graphite” in Hague, NY

Pure graphite in several grades 500 tons of black lead per year by 1869 (see next room)

Joseph Dixon Crucible Co. Jersey City, NJ

1871-1878

Mill equipment

Source

Product

Destination

Later re-use

– Circular saws for cutting logs

– Band saws, jig, saws,

– Wood lathes for sash work

Hard and soft woods from local forests

Trim for doors & windows

Building construction

1878. Lake Champlain Manufacturing Co.

1881. Pulp mill added

1898. Atkinson & Son wood pulp cheese boxes (similar to egg cartons)

1961. Agway Feed Supply and Hardware still in operation in 2009

1879

Mill equipment

Source

Product

Destination

Later re-use

– Three run of grinding stones

– Three bolts

– One smut machine for cleaning wheat

– “Buzz” saw and planer in sawmill all powered by 56 hp of water wheels

Grain from local farms

Flour, meal and feed

Flour and meal sold from store front

Live stock feed to local farmers

1878

Mill equipment

Source

Product

Destination

Later re-use

– Boilers

– Pulp grinders

– Paper machines

– Finishing equipment

– Embossing machines

– Cutters

Wood from local forests

Book paper, carbon paper, colored paper, Bible paper (according to changing market conditions)

Liebenroth Von Auw & Co. Blank Book Factory on Lake George Avenue, national publishing houses

1969. Integrated paper mill, moved to the shore of Lake Champlain

1887

Mill equipment

Source

Product

Destination

Previous use

Later re-use

– Forges and metal lathes

– Milling machines

– Drill presses

– Other machinery for shaping metal and assembling complex machinery

Iron ore from mines in Ticonderoga and Crown Point

Machinery for refining ores, grinding paper pulp

Steam engines and ventilating engines

Local graphite and pulp mills and mining operations as far away as Colorado, Utah and Mexico

1840-1865. John Porter Foundries

Ticonderoga Pulp & Paper Co. machine shop