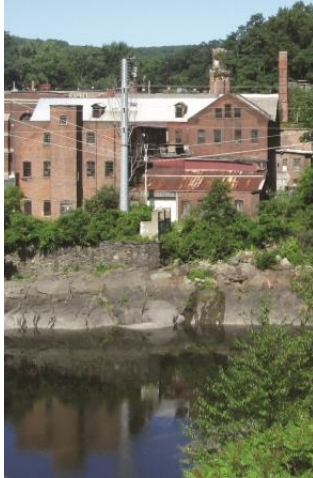


15 Moore and Thompson Paper Mill Complex

33 Bridge Street, Bellows Falls, Vermont



From the 1870s to 1920s, Bellows Falls, Vermont was one of New England's largest industrial centers, with the Moore and Thompson Paper Mill playing a vital role in its prosperity. The Moore and Thompson Paper Mill remains as one of the last surviving manufacturing complexes that encompassed the 30-acre "island" created by the Bellows Falls Canal.

In the late 1860s, paper mills transitioned from using rags to wood pulp, as timber logs were floated down the Connecticut River for mill processing into a variety of papers and cardboards. With 18 interconnected buildings, the Mill was originally powered by water turbines housed beneath several buildings and connected via a series of underground tunnels. Various accounts report the last significant log run in 1915, and by 1921, the Mill Complex closed to avert a labor strike and settlement, creating an economic hardship to the entire region.

In May 1922, founder Frank A. Moore sold his family's interest in the company to co-founder Fred L. Thompson. In December of the same year, Thompson sold the entire company's stock to Hudson Bag Company of New York, ending all founding families' interest in the Complex.

Subsequent operations as a paper mill continued up until the 1960s, as well as a short period as a furniture manufacturer until 1981. The Moore and Thompson Paper Mill was added to the National Register of Historic Place in March 1984.

Sources:

<http://www.cric.org/heritage/V06-18.htm>

<http://www.danaxtell.com/bf/bfpaperm.html>