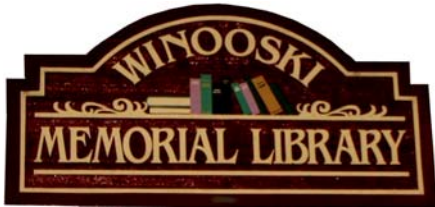


The Museum/Library Complex

at the
Champlain Mill



These three organizations, linked by common interests, shared programs and equipment, provide a unique setting. Their proximity has created a cultural center for educators, students, the community and the general public. The H ritage Winooski Mill Museum examines the industrial and cultural history of Winooski Falls during the mill era, c.1838-1954, and offers guided and self-guided school tours. The Winooski Historical Society Museum has memorabilia covering much of Winooski's history. The library has materials related to Winooski's history as well as readings of general interest. The complex is located on the second level of the Champlain Mill in Winooski, Vermont. The Champlain Mill is on the National Historic Register.

Mill Museum Hall Exhibits

Hall Exhibits featuring the Community during Winooski's mill era, serve as an entrance to the Complex, and as a transition to the Mill Museum Gallery. These exhibits depict the Yankee and immigrant workforce, community life, the transport of textiles manufactured at the mills, maps, historic photographs of the Winooski Falls mill district and a mural showing the evolution of Winooski Falls mills from their inception to closure. Student groups move easily between hall and gallery displays with their worksheets.

Mill Museum Gallery

Gallery exhibits in a room overlooking the Winooski River explain waterpower, the manufacture of wool, mill operatives, their tasks and working conditions. The room is an artifact itself with interpretive features typical of mill construction: original pillars and ceiling; extra support for a machine once on the floor above; and as part of this mill's former weave room, unfinished floor boards showing markings of loom locations.



The view across the river shows remnants of Chace Mill waterpower machinery, the donkey stable door, the bridge and historic buildings which also appear in this photo of Fannie Schmidt, c.1940. The donkey stable is a remnant of the days when donkey carts transported coal across the bridge from the railroad station to fuel the Chace steam engine during low water times. A working waterpower model reflects the Chace Mill's power system. The unique features of this room make the gallery location particularly valuable, and their preservation consistent with guidelines for buildings on the National Historic Register.

The room's configuration lends itself to a separation of topics: River & Mills, The 1927 Flood, War & Mills, Sheep, Wool & Cloth Making, Products & Markets, At Work in the Mill, Mill Women & Children, Protest, and American Woolen Company. Fixtures were designed for this room. Special installations are a sound system, a Winooski hydroelectric station connection measuring power output, UV-treated windows, and a huge photo mural behind the loom.



The Mill Museum has achieved its present state in ten years, after intensive planning, grant-writing, donations and thoughtful installations. The Museum/Library Complex adds to the integrity of the museum and preserves Winooski's history for future generations.