

STATE OF VERMONT Division for Historic Preservation Montpelier, VT 05602 HISTORIC SITES & STRUCTURES SURVEY Historic District Survey Form	SURVEY NUMBER: LISTED ON THE STATE REGISTER: CRITERIA: A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER: Y
DISTRICT NAME: Winooski Falls Mill District	NEGATIVE FILE NUMBERS:
COUNTY: Chittenden	SIGNIFICANCE: Architectural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>
TOWN: Winooski	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/>
VILLAGE:	HISTORIC CONTEXTS: Textile Industry; Small Water Powered Mills; Good Example-Architectural Type; Physical Patterns of Communities; Engineering Significance
LOCATION: TYPE OF DISTRICT: Industrial District	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: <p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE The Winooski Falls Mill District is significant for its association with the City's historic role as a major textile center. The city still reflects the strong heritage of the mills' Irish and French-Canadian workers and the institutions they began. The Winooski Falls Mill District also presents an important record of industrial archeology. The District's mill complex grew almost continuously for seventy-five years and so provides a unique look at the evolution and adaptation of mill structures and their associated power systems into the rugged topography along the falls.</p> <p>Winooski's early settlers were quick to take advantage of the energy available from the two sets of falls in the Winooski River. In 1786, Ira Allen, one of the town's founders, built a dam across the river at the upper falls, and constructed sawmills at each end to produce lumber for the Quebec and British markets. Allen's mill was the first in a line of business ventures that were attracted to the river because of the power available at the site.</p> <p>In 1835, a group of Burlington businessmen organized the Burlington Mill Company and secured title to all the water privileges on the Colchester (now Winooski) side of the river in what was then known as the Village of Winooski Falls. In 1837, the Burlington Woolen Mill (#11) and its power canal were constructed below the lower falls. During its earliest years, the Burlington Woolen Company employed single girls similar to the system established earlier in Lowell, Massachusetts. Housing for the factory operatives was built around a large common which climbed the hill to the village's meeting house in a series of terraces.</p> <p>In 1846, the Winooski Mill Company was organized to manufacture cotton products, and the Winooski Mill was built on the Burlington side of the river by the upper falls. The Winooski Mill Company remained in operation until 1888, when it was reorganized as the Burlington Cotton Mill.</p> <p>On the Winooski side of the river, frequent changes in ownership of the mill complex and wool business occurred throughout the early history of the original mill. In 1860, however, one of the mill's owners discovered a new cleaning process which made wool production more profitable. In the 1860's, the effects of the "cotton famine" combined with new management under the Burlington Woolen Company to produce a period of dramatic expansion for the mills. New mills were built and replaced in a matter of years. Water systems, and new steam-power systems were continuously constructed and adapted to meet expanding production needs and the demands of the site. This rapid growth in the textile industry brought to the village large numbers of French-Canadian and Irish workers, along with their respective cultures and social institutions. In the 1880's and 1890's, the Colchester Merino Mill and Winooski Worsted Mill (#7) were built. In 1902, the American Woolen Company bought the entire Burlington Woolen Company and expanded the mills into one of the most modern woolen plants in the country. The Champlain Mill (#2) was constructed in 1912. By the 1920's, the American Woolen Company at Winooski Falls was one of the ... (see continuation page)</p>	

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the Winooski Falls Mill District are described as follows:
beginning at a Point A, the intersection of the north bank of the Winooski River with the extension in a southwesterly direction of the western boundary of the Dichter Realty property (containing the Coichester Mill, #7 on map) proceeding generally northeast along said extension and property line, and its extension in a northeasterly direction, to Point B, the intersection with the centerline of West Canal Street; thence proceeding generally southeast along said centerline to Point C, the intersection with the centerline of Mayo Street; thence proceeding generally northeast along the latter centerline to Point D, the intersection with the centerline of West Center Street; thence proceeding generally southeast along the latter centerline to Point F, the intersection with centerline of Weaver Street; thence proceeding generally southwest along the latter centerline to Point F, the intersection with the centerline ...(see continuation page)

COORDINATES:

UTM (Zone 18)

State Plane Coordinates:

E911 Identifiers:

REFERENCES:

American Woolen Company, American Woolen Company Mills, Boston 1921, Burlington Free Press, 1849-1952.
Carlisle, Lillian Baker, Look Around Winooski, George Little Press, Burlington, 1972.
Rann, W. S., History of Chittenden County, Vermont, D. Mason Company, Syracuse, 1886

RECORDED BY: Hugh A. Boyd, Roger Brevoort	ORGANIZATION: Winooski Community Development	DATE RECORDED: May 9, 1978
		LAST UPDATED: April 2, 2009

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The Winooski Falls Mill District is significant for its association with the City's historic role as a major textile center. The city still reflects the strong heritage of the mills' Irish and French-Canadian workers and the institutions they began. The Winooski Falls Mill District also presents an important record of industrial archeology. The District's mill complex grew almost continuously for seventy-five years and so provides a unique look at the evolution and adaptation of mill structures and their associated power systems into the rugged topography along the falls.

Winooski's early settlers were quick to take advantage of the energy available from the two sets of falls in the Winooski River. In 1786, Ira Allen, one of the town's founders, built a dam across the river at the upper falls, and constructed sawmills at each end to produce lumber for the Quebec and British markets. Allen's mill was the first in a line of business ventures that were attracted to the river because of the power available at the site.

In 1835, a group of Burlington businessmen organized the Burlington Mill Company and secured title to all the water privileges on the Colchester (now Winooski) side of the river in what was then known as the Village of Winooski Falls. In 1837, the Burlington Woolen Mill (#11) and its power canal were constructed below the lower falls. During its earliest years, the Burlington Woolen Company employed single girls similar to the system established earlier in Lowell, Massachusetts. Housing for the factory operatives was built around a large common which climbed the hill to the village's meeting house in a series of terraces.

In 1846, the Winooski Mill Company was organized to manufacture cotton products, and the Winooski Mill was built on the Burlington side of the river by the upper falls. The Winooski Mill Company remained in operation until 1888, when it was reorganized as the Burlington Cotton Mill.

On the Winooski side of the river, frequent changes in ownership of the mill complex and wool business occurred throughout the early history of the original mill. In 1860, however, one of the mill's owners discovered a new cleaning process which made wool production more profitable. In the 1860's, the effects of the "cotton famine" combined with new management under the Burlington Woolen Company to produce a period of dramatic expansion for the mills. New mills were built and replaced in a matter of years. Water systems, and new steam-power systems were continuously constructed and adapted to meet expanding production needs and the demands of the site. This rapid growth in the textile industry brought to the village large numbers of French-Canadian and Irish workers, along with their respective cultures and social institutions. In the 1880's and 1890's, the Colchester Merino Mill and Winooski Worsted Mill (#7) were built. In 1902, the American Woolen Company bought the entire Burlington Woolen Company and expanded the mills into one of the most modern woolen plants in the country. The Champlain Mill (#2) was constructed in 1912. By the 1920's, the American Woolen Company at Winooski Falls was one of the state's largest employers, and provided both economic and social focus for the village.

In 1922, the village split off from the Town of Colchester, incorporating itself as the City of Winooski. Just five years later, disaster struck the city and the mills when a major flood of the Winooski River destroyed the two dams and damaged the mills extensively. The city never fully recovered. The American Woolen Company closed down its Winooski operations in 1954, leaving behind the mills, wheelhouses, and canals as a testament to Winooski's textile dominance.

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District Name: Winooski Falls Mill District

Type	Town	County	Village	No.	Street/ Road	Common Name	Pres. Formal Name	Orig. Formal Name	Survey #	Rec #
Building	Winooski	Chittenden		1	Main Street	Champlain Mill	Champlain Mill	Champlain Mill		1323
Building	Winooski	Chittenden		12	West Canal Street	High Point Realty	High Point Realty			1346
Building	Winooski	Chittenden		30	West Canal Street	Moose Lodge	Moose Lodge	The Mill Office		1349
Building	Winooski	Chittenden		94	West Canal Street	Body le Bronze, Global Garage Sale		part of Burlington Woolen Mill Co. (M)		1357
Building	Winooski	Chittenden		110	West Canal Street	old Carbonizing Plant	American Woolen Co. Carbonizing Plant	American Woolen Co. Carbonizing Plant		1362