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SAXONY MILL SITE	HOCKANUM MILL	SPRINGVILLE MILL	FLORENCE MILL	GENE PITNEY TRIBUTE	AMERICAN MILL SITE	FITCH, BELDING SILK, & DART'S STONE MILLS

Excerpts from the Rockville Heritage Trail markers and signs.

1 - Saxony Mill Historic site This site is one of the earliest mill sites on the Hockanum River. It was first occupied by a gristmill in the 1700s and later by a wool carding mill in 1822. In 1836 Saxony Mill was constructed on

the site to manufacture satinet. Mill ownership changed several times through the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was last owned by Plastifoam Corporation. The mill burned to the ground in a spectacular fire in July 1994. The site is now owned by the Town of Vernon.

2 - The Hockanum Mill The Hockanum Mill was first constructed in 1814 on a two-acre site here on the Hockanum River. It is the only remaining wood-framed mill structure in Rockville. Called the Bingham & Nash Mill, it was one of the earliest Rockville mills to produce satinet, a type of cloth made with cotton warp and woolen filling.

3 - Springville Mill The Springville Mill was originally the site of the 1821 Grant & McKinney Mill, a small two-story wood-framed building that manufactured satinet. In 1886, George Maxwell and George Sykes purchased the Springville Manufacturing Company and built a large brick building that created new life for the mill. They converted the mill to the manufacture of fine worsted wool. The new four-story brick mill was considered a model manufacturing plant for its time, with large windows for better ventilation, gas and electric lighting, elevators, automatic sprinklers in every room, and iron fire escapes reaching from the roof to the ground. The Springville Manufacturing Company merged with three other mill companies to form the Hockanum Company Mills holding company. The four mills employed 3400 workers and produced 1,500,000 yards of cloth annually. The Hockanum and Springville mills had the honor of producing the fabric for the inauguration suits of Presidents William McKinley, Benjamin Harrison and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The mill ceased woolen manufacturing in 1951. Although the 1886 structure has been converted to apartments, its historic architecture has been preserved.

4 - Florence Mill The original mill on this site was constructed in 1831. The framing from the old Vernon meetinghouse was used for part of the building. The mill profited significantly from the Civil War. When the war ended,... Cyrus White and Lewis Corbin then took over the building to make envelopes, a new product for this time. The successful company employed over 100 people and produced approximately one million envelopes a day, six days a week. In 1898, the company consolidated with other envelope companies to form the U.S. Envelope Company. By 1954 the plant was producing 3 million envelopes a day and employed 225 people. In the 1970s, the building was then converted to apartments, giving new life to this beautifully built 1864 mill structure. The dedication of the conversion was held in 1978, and was attended by Governor Ella Grasso.

5 - Gene Francis Pitney - The "Rockville Rocket" Gene Pitney was born in Hartford on February 17, 1940 and was raised here in Rockville. Nicknamed the "Rockville Rocket", his dramatic tenor voice was considered to be one of the most remarkable voices of the sixties era. He enjoyed worldwide success following hit songs like "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance", "Only Love Can Break A Heart", "24 Hours from Tulsa", "I'm Gonna Be Strong", and "Town Without Pity". Gene Pitney was a hometown hero who made his lasting mark here and all over the world.

6 - American Mill The American Mill was originally the site of a saw and grist mill owned by Rufus West and Horace Vinton. In 1846, Phineas Talcott purchased the site, and in 1847 he and Nelson Kingsbury organized the American Mills Company and constructed a new mill. By this time the success of the Rockville textile factories was recognized and the American Mill Company was one of the first to draw investors outside of the local area. The new mill was an imposing six-story structure, 200 feet by 45 feet. The first two stories were stone, and the upper three stories and attic were wood-framed with Greek Revival details and a handsome bell tower. In 1958 Ano-coil began a manufacturing operation unrelated to textiles in the two-story brick structure located at the rear of the American Mill site. In 1960, a dramatic fire consumed the wooden mill building. Ano-coil continues to operate on the site.

7 - Fitch Mill, Belding Silk Mills & Dart's Stone Mill In the late 1700s, the terrain at this corner was a wilderness, with ancient hemlocks growing on steep ledges overhanging the river. The Hockanum River tumbled out of Snipsic Lake, and down a series of waterfalls that dropped a total of 254 feet as it passed through the village of Rockville. The three mills here were built at the steepest waterfall, a drop of 44 feet. Dart's Stone Mill, built in 1868, is an imposing structure that stands five stories high, with two 3-story wings, and looms over the village below. An enormous waterwheel 55 feet in diameter powered all three sections. It was said to be the largest in the country at the time, and provided 150 horsepower. Today it is owned by Amerbelle. One of Rockville's most picturesque sights and has been a popular subject for artists and photographers!



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