



History of Champion Paper Mill

The Champion Coated Paper Company began production in 1894, with nine employees under the direction of Peter G. Thomson (1851-1931), a Cincinnati businessman, previously a bookseller and publisher of children's books. In 1891 he purchased 187 acres west of the Great Miami River to develop into subdivisions. When a recession contributed to a housing slump, Thomson used some of the land along North B Street to build the plant, which coated paper produced by other paper mills in Hamilton.

By 1900, Thomson had doubled the capacity of the original plant five times. In 1901 the coating mill was destroyed by fire, however Thomson rebuilt the original mill and used the opportunity to expand into a new mill to increase production and explore newer technology. These buildings are known as Mill 1.

Champion continued its goal of growth and expansion by constructing Mill 2 in 1907, designed to produce its own uncoated paper for the first time. In 1908 the Champion Fibre Company was founded in Canton, NC which provided the Hamilton mill with its own pulp. This land would later go on to create 90,000 acres of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park.

In 1910 the mills, comprising 27 acres of floor space, were regarded as the largest in the world devoted to the manufacture of coated paper.

The Great Flood of 1913 destroyed both the coating mill and the paper-making mill, but were quickly rebuilt and production resumed within 3 months.

Through the 1920's, more buildings were added, including office space for an advertising department (1924), research and development building (1926) and the 'White House' Executive office building (1925).

Because Champion Mill had previously secured the US Government contract for all paper supply, they experienced a burst of energy and demands to support the war effort during World War II.

Beginning in the 1960s a number of restructurings and mergers ultimately lead to Champion being purchased by International Paper in 2001 and finally shuttering in 2011.

In 2015, work began on restoring the mill for Spooky Nook Champion Mill

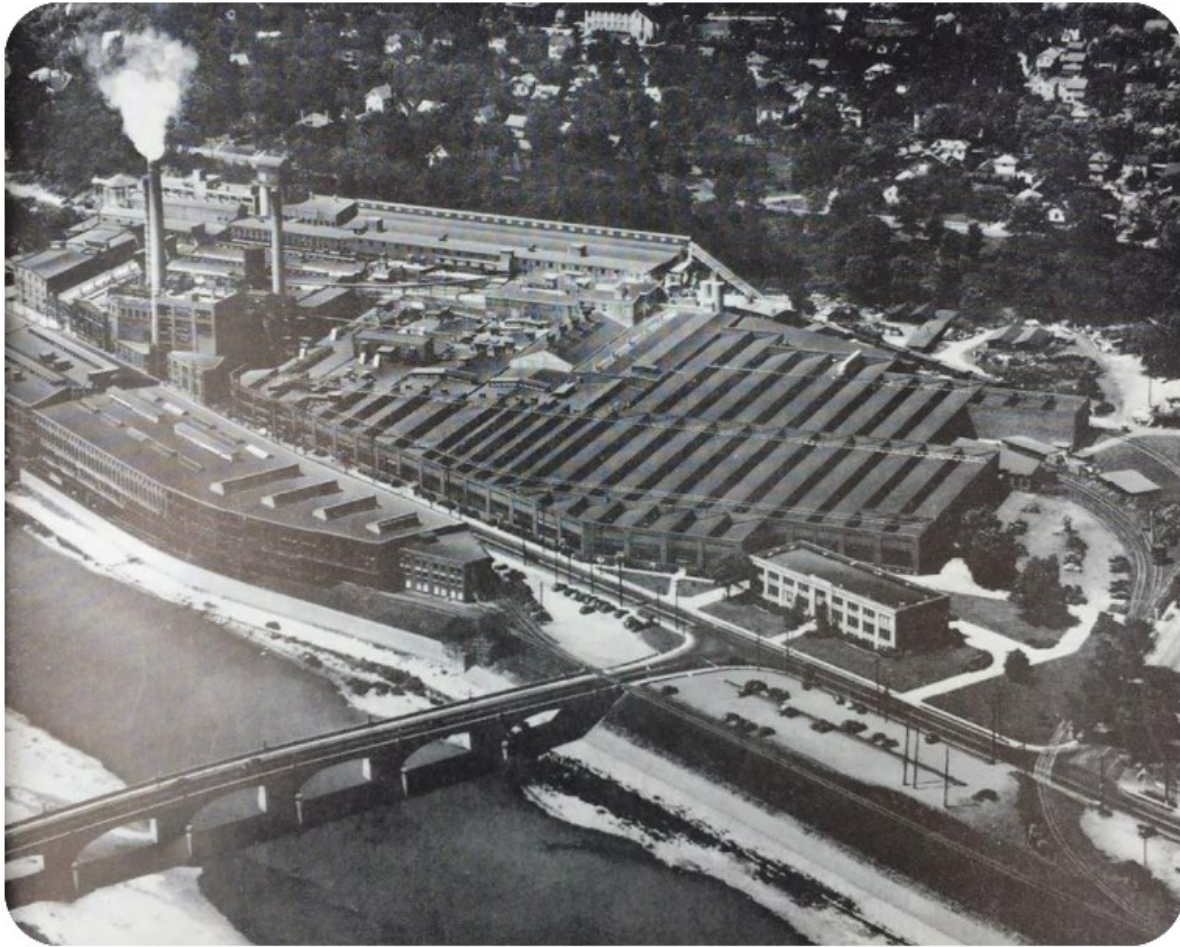


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