

Cumberland Mills Sold

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CUMBERLAND MILLS SOLD

MAY MAKE A POWER HOUSE FOR THE STREET RAILWAY

The Purchase Was Made by Max B. Richardson -- What That Gentleman Has to Say on the Subject -- Will Take Possession of the Property on January 1st.

One of the most important transactions in real estate recorded in Oswego for some time was made yesterday when the large Cumberland flour mills on the Varick canal at the foot of West Erie street were sold by their owner, Michael J. Cummings, to Max B. Richardson.

When the report became current that Mr. Richardson had purchased the mills, it was commonly supposed that they would in part at least be used for a power house for the Street Railway Company and that Mr. Richardson wanted them and the magnificent water power attachment for that purpose. Mr. Richardson made the announcement of the purchase himself this morning but he said little as to what he intends to do with the property. He said: "I have purchased the mills and the water rights from Mr. Cummings, for myself and not for the Street Railway Company. I will say, though, that I saw in the site of the mill a first-class place for an electric powerhouse and I bought it with the idea that if ever the Street Railway Company desires to have a power-house of its own, it will have an available place to put it, with unlimited water power, which is not liable to be shut off every week. That was my idea, as I say, but the property was not purchased for or at the instance of the street railway company. The mills are of brick and have an

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ing will have to be altered considerably to be used for any other purpose than a flour mill, although I think that a portion might be made into a power-house."

The deed given by Mr. Cummings was filed in the County Clerk's office yesterday. When Deputy Clerk Nelson was asked to produce it for inspection this morning he refused, saying that the document was not public. It is understood that the property was purchased at from twelve to fourteen thousand dollars.

Mr. Cummings stated to-day that notwithstanding the sale of the mill property the firm of O. H. Hastings & Company would continue in business.

DID YOU KNOW...

- **18.65 million bushels of grain were traded in Oswego during 1856?**
- **In 1870, there were 20 mills along the Oswego River?**
- **Oswego competed with three other major cities as one of the most important flour mill centers in the United States?**

(source: portoswego.com)

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Questions for further research and discussion....

1. What is a flour mill? What did one look like in the 1800's?
Compare a flour mill from the 1800's to today's flour mills.
2. Why was the Oswego River an excellent spot to place a flour mill?
3. Research other flour mills that were in the Oswego area during the 1800's. Which lasted the longest? Which employed the most people?
4. Why were people so interested in Mr. Richardson's purchase of this mill?
5. What is currently at some of the locations of past flour mills?
6. What other mills existed on the Oswego River during the 1800's?