

Community Life



The first company houses built were up Campbell Brook, the second group of houses was built in the early 1920's, a total of forty-six houses were built to house the factory workers. The original factory houses were provided rent free. Workers were also provided with free wallpaper, paint and firewood. The company store was built in 1912 and it housed a Post Office, telegraph office, and train station. A freight house was built on the rear of the store. A Johnston and Rhodes stone dock was located near the railroad spur. An apartment for John L. Stuart was built above the store in 1912. John and his grown sons, Merritt and Leonard moved to the store apartment just as the mill town was being built.



The School District No. 2 building was built in 1916.

In 1939 the Downsville School District centralized and Corbett voted to join the consolidation and the grade school closed in 1940. The building continues to be used as a community and social center.

The Corbett and Stuart Corporation descendants maintained ownership of the property after the factory closed and the residents continued to rent their homes.

In 1978 The Oneonta Daily Star reported, "When Bula Stuart decided to sell Corbett, in part because she couldn't afford to install the required water and sewer systems, state health laws prevented her from breaking up the property and selling it in parcels. The community was saved from extinction when the Institute of Man and Science, a non-profit organization that operated on the principle that with self-help and revitalization a town can thrive, purchased the entire 159 acre parcel for \$125,000."

The Institute arranged financing so each tenant could purchase their homes. The Corbett Compact was signed in 1977 and New York State also granted it not-for-profit corporation to govern the operation and maintenance of the community owned land which includes the former school, the acid factory chimney park and a sixty-three acre watershed.



1926 Corbett School Group