The Cannery

Courtesy of Penobscot Marine Museum

Farmington, as the name suggests, has long been the center of agricultural activity. Its earliest inhabitants were the Wabanaki people, who grew corn and potatoes.

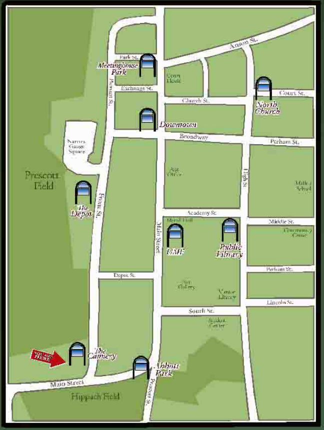
Courtesy of Richard Gould

On the heels of the Revolutionary War, men from Hallowell and the Dunstable, MA, area explored the Sandy River region. The broad floodplains along the Sandy River offered fertile soil and waterpower for mills. By the mid-1800's, Farmington was considered the most agriculturally productive area in the state.

Courtesy of Richard Gould

In 1868, the first cannery was built by the J. Winslow Jones & Co. Canning of corn, beans, squash, and apples became one of Farmington's most important industries. Twelve farmers organized a co-operative, including Percy and Anna Gould and Herbert and Nettie Mosher, and built the Franklin Farms Products Co. cannery in 1921, which operated until 1969 when a flood washed the building downstream.

Courtesy of Richard Gould

Courtesy of Farmington Historical Society

The Franklin County Agricultural Society was formed in 1840. Every September, after the crops were harvested, the Franklin County Fair highlighted exhibitions of prized produce, livestock, and the fun of horse racing, which continues to this day.