

HISTORICAL ESSAY

There are many different historical landmarks in Rupert, Vermont. Harmon's Mint is one of them. Harmon's Mint was built by a man named Rueben Harmon. Rueben built the mint the day after he got the right to mint copper coins in the state of Vermont on June 15, 1785. Reuben ended up only minting for three years.

Harmon's Mint was located in the North-East corner of Rupert on the right side of the main road next to a little stream called Millbrook that flows to the Pawlet River. The mint itself is made of rough materials. For example it is 16 feet by 18 feet and the wooden boards are not planed or painted.

There weren't that many problems for Harmon over the years for Harmon but

there were some. For example in October 27, 1785 it was noticed that Vermont's copper coins were substantially heavier than other coins. Rueben Harmon had to change the way he made his coins. But an even bigger problem was that at one time there were just as many counterfeit pennies in the cricket as there were Harmon's real product.

As you can see even a 285 year old mint can be very important to the community. Today the mint is gone and there is just a trail to wear the mint used to be. Even though the mint is gone there are still the copper coins that he made. The coins are now very highly priced collector's items.

