

Pordenone, Cartiera (Paper Mill) San Valentino

The paper mill was built between 1614 and 1630, following the transformation of an ancient saw mill owned by the Mantica family. In the land adjacent to the building, before 1650, a depth of about three meters was created and a basin, fed by resurgence waters, with water intakes for supplying water wheels and devices for emptying.

In June 1770 the building, with all its annexed properties, was sold to Valentino Galvani. The paper mill was active until 1860, the year in which production ceased due to a now obsolete manufacturing process. In 1883 the building was converted to a flour mill, with a *Francis* turbine instead of paddle wheels and cylinder machines. In 1901 the Galvani family, modern industrialists and in step with the times, installed an electric generator inside. The complex was then rented to the company "Valentino Guarnieri and Giobatta Lucio Poletti" and - after considerable modifications - an ice factory and refrigerator warehouses were created inside. In 1903 a new factory with electric motors, cold rooms, an ice plant and another for threshing for wheat is in operation nearby. At the end of the Twenties the activity ceased and shortly afterwards the "Società Elettrica Pordenonese" purchased the San Valentino power plant from the Galvani family. Energy production continued until 1962 and from then on the building, the lake and the surrounding park were abandoned.

Between 1996 and 1997 the building, after having become part of the municipal properties together with the garden and the lake, was subject to a restoration intervention. During these works the ancient eighteenth-century structures and other more ancient parts emerged on the ground floor. These precious elements were preserved during the restoration and can be visited today.

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