

2. John Paganoni's Doyle Sand & Gravel



Here is a shot of the Doyle Sand & Gravel Company off the Central Vermont Palmertown Branch in Montville, Connecticut. This is a very compressed scene, of course, but I think I captured the important memories I have of the place. For a kid (and still am) fascinated by clamshell bucket cranes, tracked vehicles and chain drive dump trucks, this was the place to spend a lot of time watching and listening to the great sounds of yesteryear. This place had everything I could imagine of interest to me back then -- even to the siding that was serviced by Central Vermont steam engines until 1957. Then, diesels came along and things just weren't the same any more. Sadly, this facility is totally gone and I am glad my wife Nancy and I took photos of the remaining ruins before they were gone so I could model the place fairly accurately.

The big structure was for making concrete, thus the cement hopper on the siding. In the 1950's, Doyle's was also the major supplier of concrete and cinder blocks for the construction trades. The mobile Doyle clamshell crane could often be seen throughout town, digging wells or foundations back then. *John Paganoni, MMR*