

HISTORY ON THE GROUND:

The Meadows Historic Farms: 250 Productive Years

Fertile meadows and the Green River drew sons of Deerfield settlers to these lands in the late 1600s, then called the Green River District of Deerfield. 250 years later this prime farmland and natural resource continues to provide local inhabitants with local food and fiber products. In addition, Meadows farmers preserve some of the town's best scenic vistas & help maintain air and water quality, habitat for wildlife, in a historic landscape of farmhouses and barns. A town-designated Heritage Landscape, the Greenfield Meadows lies within one of the most valuable agricultural areas in Massachusetts. In your tour please respect private property.



Clover Nook Farm

Potter Farm

Colrain Road, south to north beginning at College Drive:

The Smead-Scott Farmstead: seen from the Colrain Street overpass, this Woodard Road farmstead was moved from the corner of Colrain Road next to the South Meadows cemetery where a heritage tree marks its location. The Federal house and large New England barn with gable-end doors is now home to the Nims Tree Farm, grower of holiday trees and greens.

The Arms-Myers Farm: merchant Ebenezer Arms built this Federal farmhouse in 1777 for his son, Moses, a Revolutionary War veteran. Successive owners include Ebenezer Thayer in 1846, and John Wilson (founder of Wilson's Department Store) 1910-37. The Myers family operated a dairy farm here for 66 years and is developing the south fields. The protected north fields are now owned by a dairy farm and used for feed corn, while the house and two new barn-style buildings house the Four Rivers Public School.

The Unaitis Family Farm at the 1839 Albert Nims farmhouse and its classic New England connected farm buildings includes one of four large Connecticut Valley style barns on the street. In addition to corn, it grows its famous sweet melons and vegetable row crops sold at the stand.

The Butynski Farm with **Greenfield's oldest barn**, raises vegetables, fruit and flowers sold at the stand. Moved by Thomas Nims from the Jeremiah Hull place across the road around 1810, the barn was probably enlarged on this site to serve the dairy farm, and still includes a haylofts and stables. Coupled with its outbuildings, this farm is a fine example of Greenfield's farms and continues to serve the community.

The Potter Farm is a prime example of an 1800s farm layout. Built by Henry Handforth in 1854, this **Century Farm** (in the same family since 1899) raises vegetables sold at its stand and includes a stylish farmhouse, connected shed, New England barn and wooden silos. Other outbuildings include a milk house. The hayfields are separated by hedgerows while across the road a large field preserves pristine Meadows vistas to the northeast.

Clover Nook Farm: The ca. 1850 Mather Farm presents a classic view of New England connected farm buildings includes a milking barn, gable front hay barn, milk house and a later tobacco barn. The farm fields of forage corn and hay with red and white buildings under a green hill makes this a most scenic part of the Meadows.

The 1813 **Menard Farm** includes one of the town's finest Federal style houses, a connected shed and cupola-topped dairy barn. The milk shed and newer hay storage barns tell the story of agricultural business evolution. Also a **Century Farm**, its fields produce top quality hay.

South of the Upper Cemetery, the **Bostrom Farm** at the 1920s gambrel barn (originally the Smith-Fairbanks Farm) produces plants, forage and milk sold from **The Patch** on Plain Road. Its cows graze the fields behind the barn.

The Graves Dairy Farm raises feed corn in the large field behind the Upper Cemetery and the 1813 Smead family farmhouse. This land was part of the former 300 acre **Smead Brothers Dairy**, a large and successful local processor and direct sale farm until the 1960s.

Old Tavern Farm opened as a tavern in the late 1730s by Samuel Hinsdale, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This outstanding farmstead preserves much of the lifestyle of Greenfield's first settlers. It now operates a Bread & Breakfast and hunting guide service.

Plain Road

The Merriam Farm at the Plain Road fork, was once part of the 50 acre Nims Farm across Plain Road. Today, the fine Greek Revival house and rare English barn compose an important historic farmstead with an adjacent cornfield.

The Patch Farm on the east side of Plain Road offers greenhouse plants. Its fields are planted in alfalfa hay for the **Bostrom Farm** cattle.

