

# HISTORIC HOPE STREET

## a guide to buildings

Hope Street today holds many of the buildings associated with Greenfield's industrial heritage: the places and people who made the town important. The 1852 map of Greenfield shows its location, paralleling the lines of the Vermont & Massachusetts and Connecticut River railroads. This and later maps show the "steam mill" or "planing mill" now known as Wells Tool Company, houses along much of the east side and a cluster on the west side near Prospect Street. Absent today is the Prospect Hill School for Girls and its extensive grounds which occupied the corner of Hope and Prospect (then Depot) Streets from 1869 to 1907 as the antecedent to Stoneleigh-Burnham School.

By 1858 approximately half the buildings on the west side of the street were in place and in 1871 most of today's street was built, its homes occupied by workers for the railroad and mills. In the 1890s two brick mills were erected within the residential area, attracted by its rail access.



*Map of the Village of Greenfield by Presdee & Edwards 1852*

Although Hope Street's housing is in individual buildings ranging from small Greek Revival cottages of the 1840s and 50s to large 20<sup>th</sup> century styles, there is one brick residential building of the 1880s across from the B.B. Noyes Foundry. The character of the street owes much to houses in a dense but irregular rhythm, many quite close to the street. Today they contribute to the richness of Greenfield's historic homes and neighborhoods.

This guide focuses on the 1910 Armory, the 1891 Cutler, Lyons & Field Shoe Factory, St Paul's Lutheran Church of 1883, the 1890s B.B. Noyes Foundry, a gallery of house types including an 1870s Queen Anne house at 123 Hope Street and the 1910 Toiletine building.



The Armory, built to resemble a fortification or castle, was constructed in 1910 by the state for the Volunteer Militia (National Guard) possibly prompted by the Spanish-American War of 1898. Governor Draper attended the dedication along with 1100 citizens. It has been used for civic functions, political events and in 1936 as an emergency shelter for homeless flood victims.

Cutler, Lyons & Field Shoe Factory represents a unique part of Greenfield's industrial development. In 1883 Nahum S. Cutler, operator of a small shoe



shop in Bernardston, in a partnership with Albert S. Lyons and D.C. G. Field expanded to a location near the rail line and to a larger labor pool. Built for this purpose, the factory employed 150 people, including 60 women when it opened. At the height of the national depression of 1903, the factory failed leaving 225 employees jobless. A. J. Smart and F. W. Webb were later users.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church is in the wood Gothic style with leaded Tiffany glass windows. A congregation of German families began meeting as early as 1853, but it was not until 1878 that the German Evangelical Church was organized and a constitution adopted. Services in both German and English were first held in this building in 1883. In 1931 the congregation became St. Paul's Lutheran Church, celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> year in 2003.

The B. B. Noyes Foundry: The brick sections of this complex were built in 1883 by B.B. Noyes to house his growing foundry business supplying hardware and parts for expanding carriage and tap & die firms. Noyes also rented space to up and coming businesses of former Wiley & Russell Company workers. One of those was John J. Grant who patented the "Lighting" threading die, the breakthrough that ultimately led to GTD Greenfield as the world's leader. The inventive Wells Brothers devised the improved "Little Grant" die in Noyes' basement and eventually expanded their tool-making activity to fill 9,000 square feet there. After the 1912 merger, F. O. Wells became the first president of Greenfield Tap & Die. Since the 1940s the complex has carried the Wells Brothers Tool Co. name. In the 1870s the presumed older frame section was a sash & blind shop and, in the 1850s a steam and planing mill.



Number 123 is one of the best preserved houses on the street, showing features lost by others. It has careful detailing at the windows and doors and the gable end walls are outlined by a horizontal trim board and sided with fishscale, and inverted fishscale, shingles. The windows are tall and slender,



sometimes doubled, and have entablatured head trim. Until 1896, the Greenfield/Deerfield town line passed through this property.

The Toiletine building is unique in Greenfield, built in the half-timbered Tudor Revival style with stucco exterior. *Toiletine* is an alcohol-based, liniment-like remedy produced in this building from 1911 to 1971. Founded by B. F. Minor in 1890 at Hoosick Falls NY, it was moved to Montague City in 1908. The business intentionally remained a two-person operation and as such was highly successful.



The brick apartment building at #111 includes rear utility buildings



and may have been built by Franklin Fessenden on the two parcels with "dwelling house" he acquired from Solon Wiley in 1880. In 1893 he resold the property for the large sum of \$2700 to Kate Wiley, Solon's wife, of Omaha. The cornice has decorative brick courses, there are large doubled windows, arch-top twin front entrances and the second and third floor tall "loading" doors. The inclusion of large windows to provide maximum interior light were introduced by mills of the Industrial Revolution. This building resembles mid-1800 factory buildings like the Pierce Lumber Co. planing mill on Olive Street.

### Individual Houses

Hope Street's historic houses appear in the styles found elsewhere in Greenfield. Most were built in the 1840s and 50s when lumber was shipped by rail, and the Pierce Carpentry Shop and lumber yard (later the Franklin County Lumber Co.) rose on Olive Street. The examples in this guide are among the best preserved on the street and will help those interested to "read" the form and details of many others on the street.