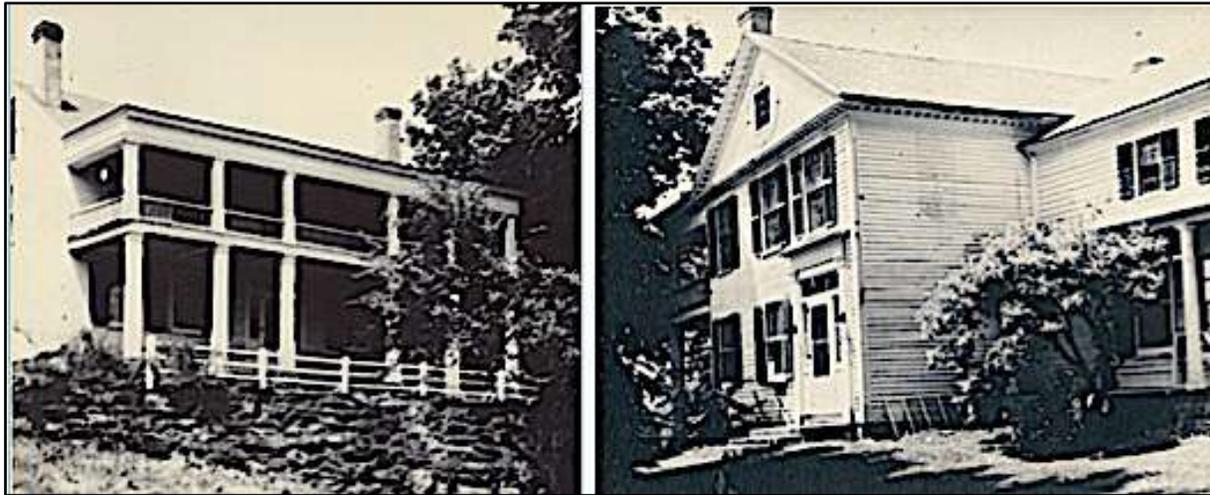


Lost Homes of Coventry Village- The map below is 1934 Aerial Photo of the Village



1. Manning House on Manning Hill (Main Street)- A very old house originating from before 1800, owned by Benejah Strong, brother to Elizabeth Strong Hale. Owned by the Manning family for about 100 years until 1910. The older section, a colonial saltbox, dates from the 1760's and the main house with a two-story balcony dates from the 1860's. The mansion was consumed by fire April 23, 1966 and was owned at the time by Mrs. Ruth Beebe who was away on vacation.



2. Two houses in front of the Flea Market on Lake Street- Both were substantial colonials from the early 1800's built by and used by the mill owners on Lake Street for their workers in the 1800's. One picture shows a 1965 aerial photo of the two buildings (to the left of Lake Street) and the other is a picture taken from the trolley terminus looking toward Lake Street showing one of the houses in the background. Both buildings torn down in the 1970's.



3. House where Patriots Park's front parking lot is today. This fairly large two-story colonial with ten rooms was built about 1838 by Cyril Parker. It was a Methodist Meeting house until the Methodist Church was built in 1867. It was then used by the Catholic Church until their building was built in 1878. It was then converted to residences and used by several families until 1923 when it was sold to Clyde Overholtz, a variety artist and dance teacher from vaudeville.

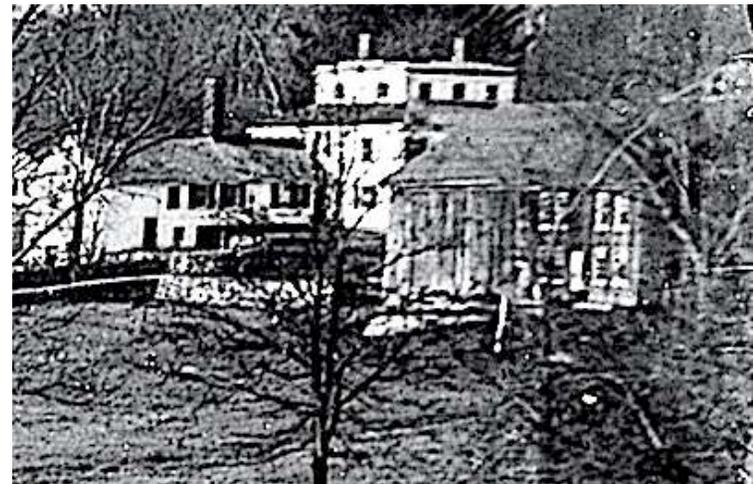
Overholtz converted the building to an Inn called the Blue Lantern Inn and advertised heavily in the Hartford Courant from 1926 to about 1938. Rates were \$4.00 per day. He retained ownership of the place though he moved to his hometown of Lima Ohio about 1938 and the inn was run by a proprietor named Jules Alberti who was a radio promoter of variety artists. He changed the name to the Sunset Inn.

Overholtz sold the inn in 1941 to Edward and Helen Kiefer who lived in the house and rented 6-8 furnished cottages on the property adjacent to the lake. Adjacent to this site (to the north) was the Salvation Army's children's camp from 1929 to 1979. The Kiefer's sold to the Hills in 1954 who sold to the Salvation Army in 1959 and by 1979 the Town of Coventry had purchased all the land that is now Patriots Park. The house was torn down in the late 1970's for a reason that is unknown.

The picture was taken about 1915 from the town green looking north to Lake Street.



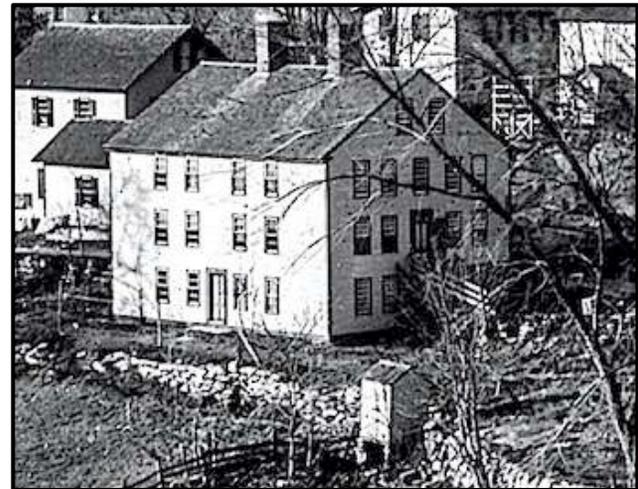
4. Old barn south of the corner of Main Street and Stonehouse Road Where the old Antiques (Dip 'n' Strip) building is today. Probably an old barn with apartments built by the mill owners in the early 1800's. The picture was taken ca1910 from behind today's Bidwell Tavern. The barn is in the right-center. The Boynton house (Welles Agency) is in the background.



5. Two houses on the Main Street curve. Both houses were built in the 1870's. The house to the right was John Carman's who was a store owner selling general merchandise in the late 1800's. Following the repeal, it was Coventry's first modern tavern. They were both torn down by the State of Connecticut for the curve realignment project completed in 2017. The first picture is an aerial view from 2009. The second picture was taken about 1920.

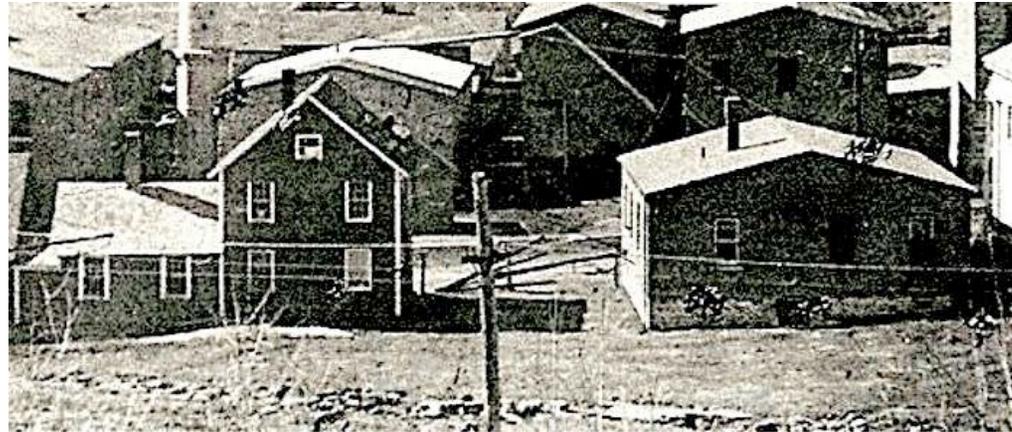


6. Old tenement back lot Main Street across the intersection with Monument Hill Road. One of two large tenement houses built by mill owners Dykes and Sabin about 1833. They owned a cotton mill where the Tracy-Shoddy mill building is today. The houses faced southeast with Main Street being to the right in the picture. One house was torn down ca1900 and the other ca1930.



7. House across from the old firehouse (Tim Ackert's building)

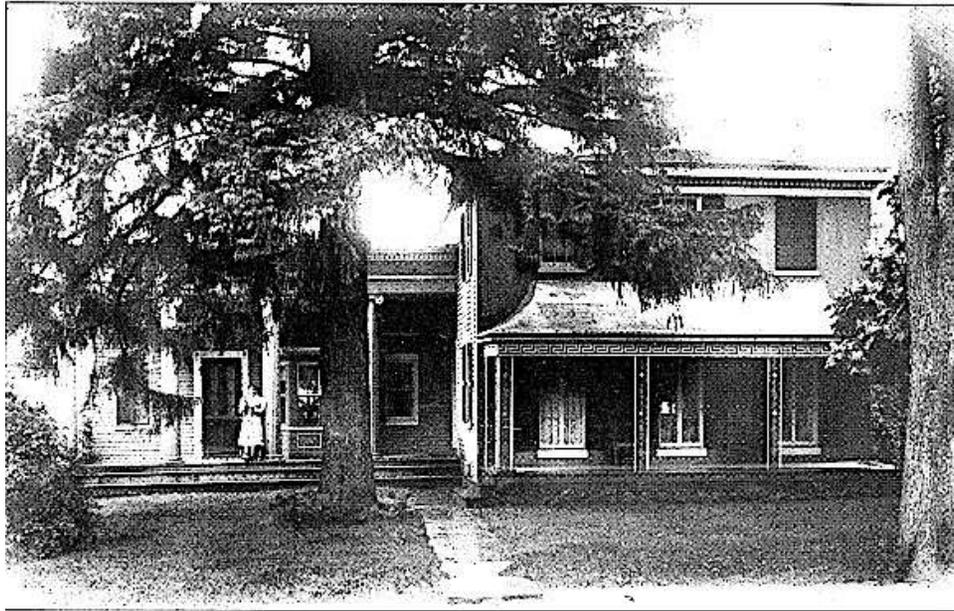
The photo on the left is from 1962 taken on Main Street looking northwest. The photo on the right was taken from behind the building ca1910. In the left photo is today's Bidwell Tavern. The building was built ca1850 and was the home and blacksmith's shop of Henry Parker. Frank Parker ran a tavern here for a short time after "repeal". The building was torn down in the early 1960's.



8. Two buildings where the Congregational Church parking lot is today. The house adjacent to the church was called the Smith Property. It was a large house re-built there after an 1885 fire. The church purchased the property in 1984 and moved the house to the rear of the church and it served as rental apartments and offices. The smaller building, two away from the church was the Burnham/Champlin store that was built in 1881. It served as a barber shop, pool hall and sold ice cream and candy and had two old gasoline pumps in the 1940's. The church purchased the site in 1972 and tore it down for a parking lot.



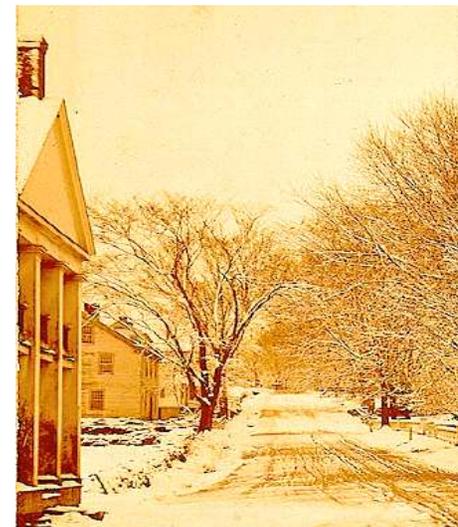
9. The old Washburn mansion, now the municipal parking lot on Main Street. A large and beautiful Italianate mansion built by a mill owner in the 1840's. The Washburn family owned the house from 1854 to 1958. Very neglected and burned by the Coventry VFD at the request of the owner in 1976.



10. The old Clark house that was located where the Library is today. The house was built ca1850 by Thomas Clark and remained in his family until it was demolished. At that time it was in disrepair and used for apartments.



11. Old houses where the Laundromat parking lot is located. Likely built in the later 1800's by the mill owner (Horace Kimball) of the Washington Mill that was located northwest of Bradbury Lane. Both buildings show on the 1934 aerial, one of them is shown in 1951 and none in 1965. Owners prior to WWII were Heft/Hewitt.



12. The Chas. Coombs house on School Street. Charles Coombs was a well-known photographer that took photos on glass negatives from about 1890 to 1920. Many negatives remain today. He built a substantial house on School Street (rear lot of #63) about 1895. After his death in 1938, the house fell into disrepair and was torn down ca1970.

13. This old house on Stonehouse Road was built in 1852 by Horace Bullock and was a residence for many families until 2014 when it was in poor condition and taken down after being subjected to tax liens.



14. There was an old colonial located on South Street. It was on the north side about 300 feet west of the intersection with Cross Street. It was built on ~45 acres of land by George Tracy ca1850. The site stretched all the way to the lake and included much of today's Waterfront Manor. Henry Farnum Dimock acquired the site in 1902 as part of his huge estate of over 500 acres in the area. His daughter's estate sold it in 1936 and the house was torn down to make way for dozens of small lake lots. The house was reported to have 10 rooms. The picture seen here was taken from the Northeast corner of the intersection of Cross Street and South Street and shows the old schoolhouse (which still exists today). The old colonial is in the center background.



15. At #1645 South Street where the Volunteer Fire Department substation is today stood a colonial style house built by Dr. Nathan Howard who married Joanna Hale, sister of Nathan Hale. The house remained in the Howard family for over 100 years. And in 1927 was sold to Katie Newcomb, mother of Hank Keene (Henry Newcomb). There was a severe fire there in 1848 while the Keene's were visiting neighbors. The house was not rebuilt and was later acquired by the Town of Coventry.

16. #124 Lake Street- Town owned residence known as the “Keeper’s House”. The house was torn down June 2019 due to its condition. Built ca1869 by Austin Dunham, then to Norman Dunham, a blacksmith. Used by the manager of the Salvation Army Children’s Camp in the 1930’s through 1950’s.

