



# NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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## Businesses in Defreestville

An auto dealership in Defreestville? Yes, there was one here once.

I wrote an earlier article on businesses in Wynantskill so now I'm following up with one on Defreestville which has always had fewer businesses.

In the 1800's there were the Defreest Hotel (which burned in 1945) and another hotel/store on Washington Avenue which is now a private residence.

However, if we look at Defreestville after World War II, a few more businesses appear. The car dealership was Kaiser-Frazer autos, owned by Howard Robinson and located in strip mall next to Heim's Auto. Also there were Geragoshian's Supermarket Jim Herbert's pharmacy, and Jubic's aluminum storm window business. At that time, Heim's was Marty Herbert's Texaco Service Station which opened around 1930 when Route 4 was built.

Jordan's Dairy was next to Herbert's gas station. The brick building which is now Prudential Manor Homes was Chet Jordan's house. Besides milk, you could get an ice cream cone. Across the street at the corner of Sunset Road and Route 4, there was James Ellis Unadilla Beer Garden.

The site where Cumberland Farms is now located used to be E.E. Bill's Sunoco Station. Across the road was William Platt's Original Morgan Spring Water.

Continuing north on Bloomingrove Drive were two nursing homes, Sharpe's and Fulgo's. Bud Sharpe also had "Sharpe's Grove, up the hill off Teliska, which hosted clam steams and boxing matches when the weather permitted.

On Washington Avenue Extension, at the corner of Laura Lane, was Austin's Garage owned by John and Irwin Austin. Years before it was a garage, the building served as a blacksmith shop. Across the road where Hartgen Associates is located was Justus Dings' G.L.F store (a forerunner of Agway).

On the corner of Route 4 and Bloomingrove, north of Stewart's was Fazo's grocery and Tydol gas station. You may better remember it as Futia's Pizza. At the town line with East Greenbush was Bonacker's Meat Market and Slaughter House. These gave way to the shopping center containing Home Depot. Additional businesses? Call me at 283-6384.

As you can see, there were fewer businesses in Defreestville compared to Wynantskill. All this will change when three large shopping centers begin their construction phase. Defreestville will have "caught up" with Wynantskill.