



# NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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## THE TROY AND SAND LAKE TURNPIKE

Continuing our survey of North Greenbush roads, we shall examine the history of the Troy and Sand Lake Turnpike, or as we know it today- Main Avenue in Wynantskill.

Beginning at the town line with Brunswick and heading east past today's Hannaford supermarket, was an area simply called "the flats " because it was only farmland. It remained this way until the 1920's when housing development occurred.

A Midwest company called N.P. Dodge Inc. bought farmland on both side. Newspaper ads named the housing developments Fairfax and Bellemead which are now street names in Wynantskill.

At the corner of Main and Douglas stands the Town Hall, Court and Library are today. It was formerly the Wynantskill School which was built in 1950 after a fire destroyed an early school.

Just past Bellemead Street on the north side is Hannan's Waste Disposal. The building is possibly the oldest building on Main Avenue dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Thomas Twiss, a West Point

graduate and Indian Agent for the Army lived there in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The earliest business center was at the corner of Main and West Sand Lake Road. G.J. Auto occupies the land where Ketchum's (later Puffer's Store) was. The store, dating from 1863 sold farm supplies and housed the post office.

Across the street next to Jack & Jill's Preschool was a business which old timers remember as Houser's Store (where you could purchase almost anything).

Heading east, we come to Church Street. The red brick building on the corner is now an EMS station but formerly housed the Wynantskill Fire Department (before being built in 1939, an Odd Fellows Hall and a hotel occupied the space).

On the opposite corner is the First Reformed Church dating back to 1794.

Going east is Milhizer Avenue, the site of a successful ice sales business in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Just before Evergreen Lane, a historical marker notates the farm of Henry Kenney who came to town just before 1800. Besides being a successful farmer, he operated a tavern in town.