

INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet was designed to make it easier to find out a little about Upton's historical background without having to do any research.

This pamphlet allows you to do your own walking tour so that you can see the history and not just read it. In this pamphlet you can see many of the good things that William Knowlton and his family have done for the Upton Community.

An Eagle Scout Project by
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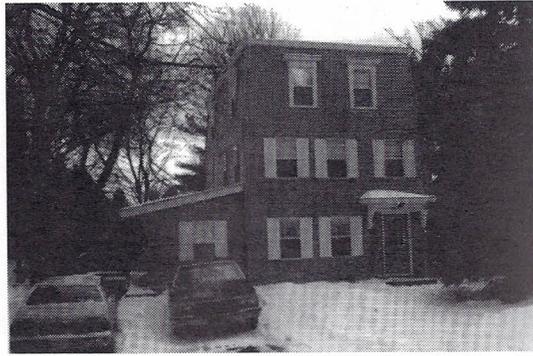
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Facts and a Walking Tour of the Knowlton Buildings of West Upton, Massachusetts



Knowlton Hat Factory

The Knowlton Hat factory was at one time the largest manufacturer of straw hats in the world. It was originally owned by William Knowlton and Sons. Knowlton began very poor, however he was so bright that eventually his business escalated and moved into this large brick factory. Knowlton treated all of his employees fairly and the working conditions were good and people did not seem to mind working for him. The Knowlton Hat Factory was also owned later by Kartiganer and Merrimac but it did not do as well as when Knowlton owned it. The large building still stands as Milhaus apartments.



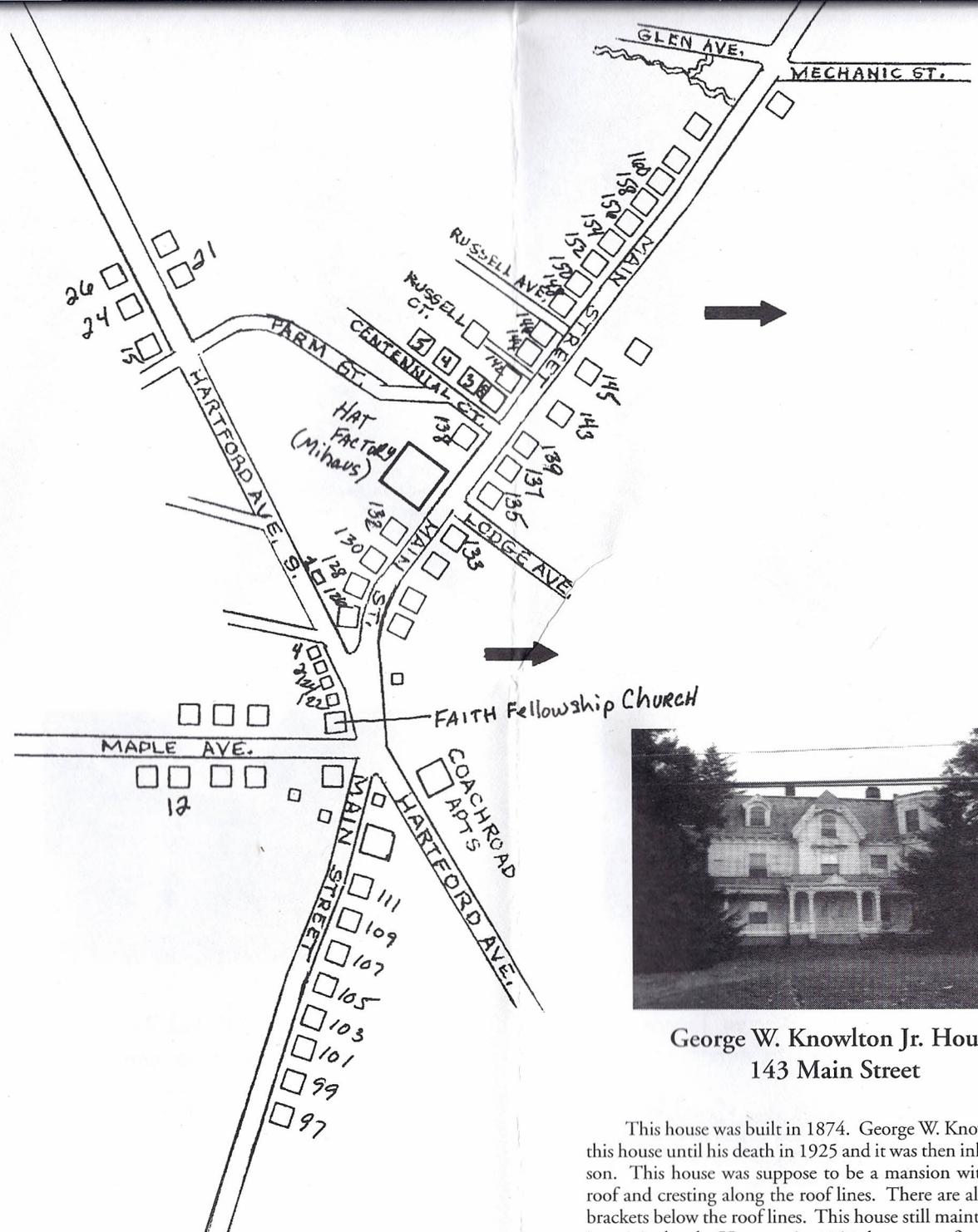
Eli W. Batchelor
122 Main Street

The house was built in 1889 by the Knowltons and was given to Eli Batchelor who was the husband of William Knowlton's only daughter. It was originally a single family dwelling and is in the Victorian Second Empire Style. It is made of shingles and is 12 feet back from the road. It has .23 of an acre and the church is very close on its eastern side.



William Knowlton (Sewell Bowker House)
138 Main Street A & B

This house was built in 1849 on a quarter of an acre. It has a clapboard exterior and is the Greek Revival style. William Knowlton owned this dwelling and used it to house his managers at the factory. One of them was William Teachout. William's brother Clifford was a frequent summer guest at this home.



George W. Knowlton Jr. House
143 Main Street

This house was built in 1874. George W. Knowlton owned this house until his death in 1925 and it was then inherited by his son. This house was suppose to be a mansion with a mansard roof and cresting along the roof lines. There are also decorative brackets below the roof lines. This house still maintains much of its original style. However in 1957 there was a fire in the tower and it was never replaced.