

Samuel Russell established the house of Russell and Company in Canton. He spent many years in China as representative of Cannington & Haffens and after completion of his contract with this firm as senior partner and manager of his own firm.

The old family residence on High Street was built in 1829-30 while he was still in China. The land was purchased from the Hamlin family and adjoined the old homestead at High and Court Sts.

In 1834 he established the Russell Mfg Co. for the purpose of manufacturing tape and cotton webbing and was its President for seventeen years.

Prior to 1882 the estate included a large piece of land East of Pearl Street. The stable, cow barn and pigpen occupied the site of the Cornell house, 90 Pearl St., and ^{the land} ran from Washington St to the Cyprian house opposite our house, #73. ^{Pearl St} Mrs Ray, grandmother of Mrs Bessie Camp, lived in that house (she was a tartu and we youngsters were afraid of our lives of her). All this land extended easterly to a line about midway between Pearl and Broad Sts. It was all vegetable garden, and all the garden to the West of Pearl Street was flower garden and lawns.

The Joseph Merriam garage is part of the old stable.

The wooden summer house* near the driveway used to stand under the evergreens at the West end of the long path which runs East and West from Pearl Street nearly to High Street. Tradition says it was used for afternoon tea and garden party refreshments. During the Civil War it was used as an armory for a boys company, the Russell Guards, of which Grandfather, Samuel, was captain.

The North wing of the old house was built about 1860 for S. Hadsoworth Russell. He and his family occupied it for several years and then moved into the main house, the wing thus became just a part of the whole establishment.