

Blish family home on Laurel Street, built in 1902

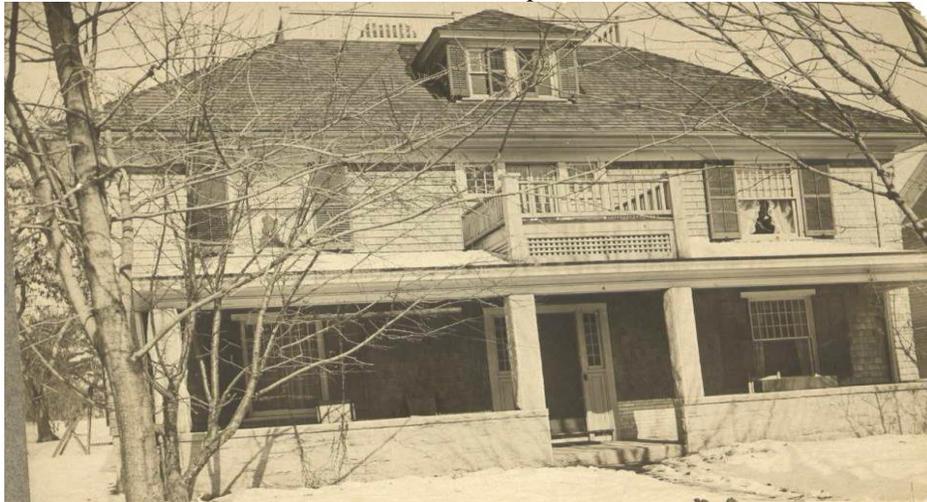
Photos lent for scanning in 2009 by Fred T. Blish, III (1933-2010)

1939 photo from corner of Laurel and Church Streets, 1939



C. 1902 photo of 9 Laurel St., designed by Edna Hollister Blish, Fred Blish's grandmother.

Note: Widow's walk and second-floor porch, removed before 1939



Obituary: Fred T. Blish III died at his home on Monday, Oct. 25, 2010. He was the son of prominent Manchester businessman, Fred T. Blish, Jr. and Alice Crawford Blish. Fred was married to Mary E. Blish for 53 years, who was his companion and the most important person in his life. Together they had two children, David Hollister Blish, who predeceased his father, and Margaret Elizabeth Bloom. Grandchildren include Emily Bloom, Zachary Bloom, and Sarah Blish. He leaves a cousin, Richard Hassett, and his wife, Jean, of Henrietta, N.Y. Fred also leaves a host of friends from many walks of life. May he be remembered for his love of life, enthusiasm, gentleness, and humor. He was predeceased by his cousins, Fred Turkington, Jack Turkington, and Rosalind Quish. He lived his entire life in Manchester, except for a short period when he attended Tufts University (bachelor of arts), Indiana University (master of arts) and the time he spent in the Army Reserve. As a young man he worked in the Manchester Plumbing & Supply Co. for his father, and as a teacher at East Hartford High School. He then spent 34½ years working in human resources in various divisions of United Technologies Corp., ending his career as the director of human resources at the United Technologies Research Center. Fred was active in both civic and professional organizations. He served as an incorporator for the Manchester Memorial Hospital and was on the first Manchester Arts Commission. He was a lifetime member of the Manchester Historical Society. He also served as a member of the American Management Association Human Resources Council. His passion was the theater. As a young man he spent two summers working as an actor and set designer at the Somers Playhouse. He was a founding member of the Little Theatre of Manchester Inc. and served on its board of directors in a variety of capacities over the years. He appeared in 46 plays and musicals, directed 45 productions and designed scenery for more than 100 shows.



Fred was the recipient of the first Lifetime Achievement Award from LTM. Fred and his wife, Mary, were two of the key players in the restoration of Cheney Hall, a national historic building at the gateway to the Cheney Brothers Historic District. In his retirement, he began to write. He published four novels and wrote an extensive history of the Little Theatre of Manchester.Contributions may be made in his name to the endowment fund of the Little Theatre of Manchester, Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040.