

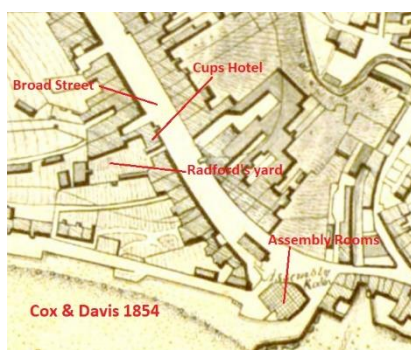
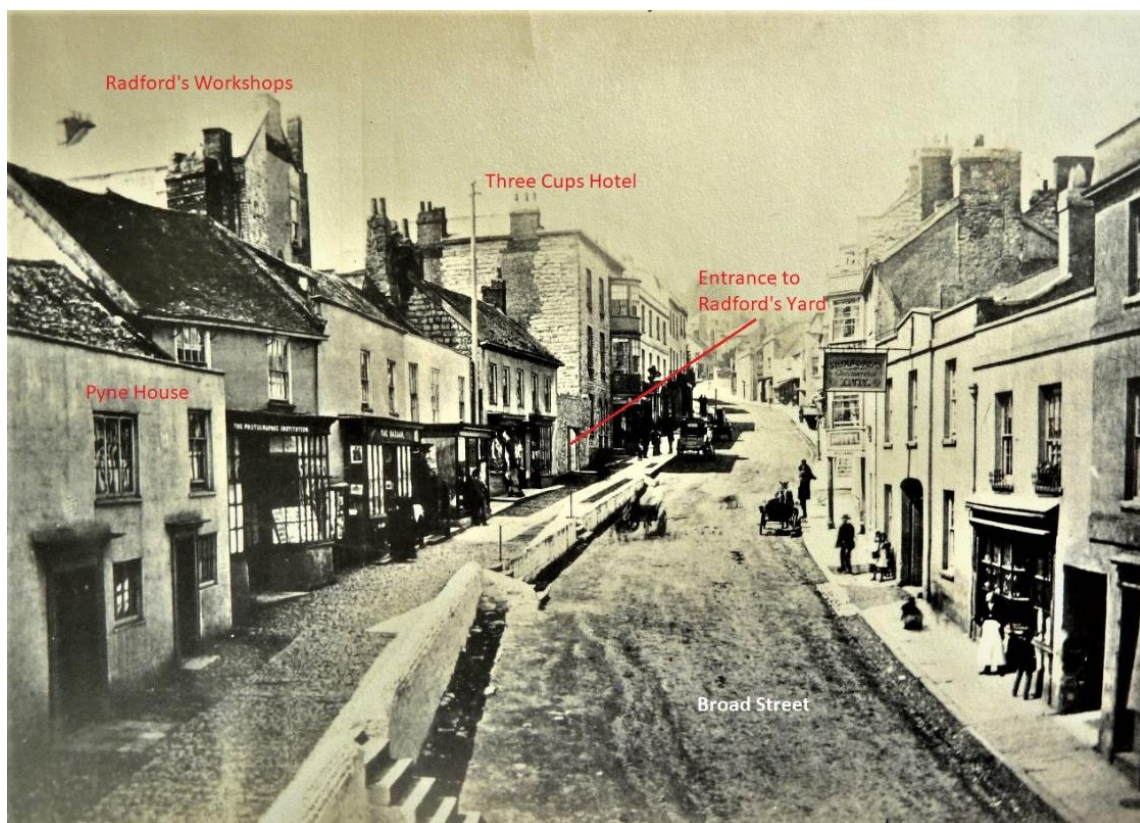
Fire at Radford's Workshops Broad Street, Lyme Regis 1875

<https://www.lymeregismuseumresearchteam.co.uk>

Graham Davies & Richard Wells, April 2020

This short paper is based on a newspaper report discovered during research into the history of the Radford family in Lyme Regis.

“Destructive Fire – On Saturday morning the cabinet workshops, together with the upholstery and ware rooms [in Broad Street] belonging to Mr R Radford were totally destroyed. The fire was discovered about a quarter before seven by a man in the adjoining yard of the Cups Hotel, an alarm was raised and soon there was plenty of help. The fire had gained such a firm hold upon the inflammable materials that very little was rescued from its ravages. Mr Radford and his men were quickly on the spot and efforts were made to spare some of the tools belonging to the men but it was too late for the fire had burnt out the interior and shortly afterwards the roof fell in. The building was of stone 70 feet long, 20 feet wide and three storeys high. The basement was used for storing wood and the first floor for furniture, the workshops being on the top. It is not known how the fire originated. Mr Radford is insured in the Atlas Office but the loss and inconvenience will be considerable. The loss to the workmen is a serious matter, their tools which are expensive were entirely destroyed.” (Dorset County Chronicle, March 4, 1875)



Broad Street before 1875

The authors believe they have discovered the location of Radford's yard and the building housing the cabinet workshops &c. Their findings are presented in the annotated plan and photograph.