

Greenfield Banking Company

Founded: 1871

Location: West Main Street, Greenfield (1871–76); 10 East Main Street (1876–)

In September 1871 a group of stockholders organized the Greenfield Banking Company on the northwest corner of Main and State Streets in Greenfield. The original stockholders were Nelson Bradley, Morgan Chandler, J. Ward Walker, Stephen T. Dickerson, Henry A. Swope, and Joseph N. Binford, several of whom were local businessmen. Bradley, Chandler, and Walker were all storekeepers. Bradley ran a grocery store, and Walker operated a store in partnership with O. M. Edwards, at which Chandler was briefly a clerk. Bradley became the bank's first president. In 1852 he purchased a twenty-acre tract of land on the newly completed Bellefontaine Railroad at the site of present-day McCordsville. Bradley was a major booster of the community. He opened a store, traded livestock and produce, and bought and sold real estate; he also managed to have a post office and railway station built, becoming the town's first postmaster and railroad agent. In 1866 he moved to Greenfield and opened his grocery store.

Bradley served as Hancock County treasurer from 1863 to 1867. In 1866, during his second term, the safe in the treasurer's office was robbed, and \$5,000 of recently collected revenues were lost. This incident perhaps convinced Bradley of the necessity for a bank. The Greenfield Banking Company was the county's first bank and was capitalized at \$50,000. Walker became the bank's first cashier, although he left in 1876

to start a new gentleman's furnishing and clothing store. The same year the Greenfield Banking Company moved to 10 East Main Street.

Bradley was president of the bank for its first thirty-eight years. In 1898 Greenfield Banking Company became a state bank. The bank gained a reputation for reliability and closed its doors only once, during Franklin D. Roosevelt's bank holiday in 1933. In 1964 the Greenfield Banking Company opened its first branch at Northgate and subsequently opened branches in Cumberland and on Meridian Road. In 1965 it absorbed the First National Bank of Fortville and in 1981 formed the One Bank Holding Company. Despite the merger waves in the banking industry during the 1980s, Greenfield Banking Company remained locally owned.