

MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report

HARVARD

Report Date: 1983

Associated Regional Report: Central Massachusetts

Reconnaissance Survey Town Reports, produced for MHC's Statewide Reconnaissance Survey between 1979 and 1987, introduce the historical development of each of the Commonwealth's municipalities. Each report begins with an historic overview, a description of topography, and political boundaries. For the purposes of the survey, the historic period has been subdivided into seven periods: Contact (1500–1620), Plantation (1620–1675), Colonial (1675–1775), Federal (1775–1830), Early Industrial (1830–1870), Late Industrial (1870–1915), and Early Modern (1915–1940/55). Each report concludes with survey observations that evaluate the town's existing historic properties inventory and highlight significant historic buildings, settlement patterns, and present threats to these resources. A bibliography lists key secondary resources.

Town reports are designed for use together with a series of town maps that demarcate settlement patterns, transportation corridors and industrial sites for each historic period. These maps are in the form of color-coded, polyester overlays to the USGS topographic base map for each town on file and available for consultation at MHC. For further information on the organization and preparation of town reports, readers should contact MHC.

Users should keep in mind that these reports are now two decades or more old. The information they contain, including assessments of existing knowledge, planning recommendations, understanding of local development, and bibliographic references all date to the time they were written. In some cases, information on certain topics was not completed. No attempt has been made to update this information.

Electronic text was not available for digital capture, and as a result most of the reports have been scanned as PDF files. While all have been processed with optical character recognition, there will inevitably be some character recognition errors.

The activity that is the subject of the MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior. This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20240.



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MHC RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY REPORT

DATE: 1983

COMMUNITY: Harvard

I. TOPOGRAPHY

Harvard lies on the east side of the Nashua River valley and is a continuation of the hill country to the west interrupted by the wide valley, which provides fine intervalle land along its edges. A north-south ridge, an extension of the high ground in Bolton, crosses the eastern end of the town at elevations of 400-600 feet above sea level. Along its slopes lies excellent agricultural land, well suited for pastures and orchards. Of glacial origin, the hills represent terraces and glacial till deposited along the shores of Glacial Lake Nashua, which covered the northwest corner of the town, roughly bounded on the east by the railroad tracks. A valuable slate quarry was located on Pin Hill.

The town is well watered by springs, brooks, and ponds. One large pond, Bare Hill, covers over 300 acres in the southern part of town. The central ridge of high ground divides the east flowing into the Assabet, and those on the west into the Nashua.

II. POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

Established as a town from parts of Lancaster (1654), Groton (1655) and Stow (1683) in 1732. Part included in district of Boxborough, 1783. Bounds with Littleton and Boxborough established 1906.

III. HISTORIC OVERVIEW

An agricultural and exurban town with a major military installation, located primarily in the uplands east of the Nashua River valley. Native sites possible at Bare Hill Pond and several smaller ponds. European settlements on Lancaster second division lands, ca. 1680, on sunny slopes of Wataquodock Range (Prospect Hill, Bare Hill, later Oak Hill). Dispersed Colonial and Federal period agricultural settlement, with Federal central village, and turnpike village at Still River. Shaker colony in northwest active through the 19th century. No significant 19th century industrial development. Orchard landscapes still visible throughout town, with significant concentration southeast of Oak Hill. Military controls northwest intervalle lands after 1917, with significant post-1937 construction on Fort Devens Reservation. Recent development primarily middle to high income, large lot exurban residences. Significant areas marked local conservation land.

IV. CONTACT PERIOD (1500-1620)

A. Transportation Routes

North-south follows Bowers Brook Valley and skirts to the west of Prospect, Pin and adjacent hills, following Auer-old Shirley-Prospect Hill Roads toward Lancaster. Dividing near Still River to west into the uplands, or to the south to Nashua

confluence. Joined near here by east-west route following Littleton County and Oak Hill, and earlier, north loop path of Still River Road.

B. Settlement Pattern

Area lies to the east of the more permanent camps of the Nashaway group of the Nipmucks, and exploited from these bases. Small, short-term camps adjacent to Bare Hill and Mirror/Hell Ponds, and Nashua River.

C. Subsistence Pattern

Seasonal freshwater fishing, including anadromous fish, hunting and agriculture. Area north of Bare Hill Pond known as Indian Planting Field.

V. PLANTATION PERIOD (1620 - 1675)

A. Transportation Routes

Continuation of native paths which pass by second division lands, and to early mill in north.

B. Settlement Pattern

This area was included in two adjacent colonial towns of large territorial extent: largest portion was the northeast corner of Lancaster, plus a smaller section of Groton's southern sector, with a narrow, unincorporated strip between. (The Lancaster segment part of the 10 mile by 8 mile grant by the Nashaway Sholan to outline that township in 1643.)

Only evidence of colonial settlement is the establishment of a mill on Nonacoicus Brook by John Prescott's mill within bounds of Clinton on the Nashua. Remaining area held in common by Lancaster, with some sections divided as outlying upland and meadow divisions.

VI. COLONIAL PERIOD (1675-1775)

A. Transportation Routes

Augmentation of native paths to communicate with neighboring settlements and dispersed farms: north-south routes include Bolton-Ayer Roads, Depot-Sheridan to the northwest and Shirley bridge; northeast along Old Littleton Road, southeast by the Slow Road, and east-west along West Bare Hill Road.

B. Population

Garrison assignments provide early figures: four families in 1692, 22 families by 1704, families in 1711. By 1723, ca. 39 families; at incorporation, ca. 60 families, of which 30 males sign the church covenant. When school quadrants outlined in 1738, 89 families by 1746 over 100 families. Seating of meetinghouse

provides later figures: 134 males in 1750, 155 in 1766 and 198 in 1772. Census figures place population at in 1765 and in 1776.

Significant population losses due to epidemics; 43 die in 1756, mostly children in September and October. Migration to bounty lands of Dorchester Canada (Ashburnham between 1760-1779 of 21 men, many with families. Discontinuity resulting from succession of ministers: Seccombe (1733-1757) plagued initially by scandal, 1740 a revival bringing 100 into the church, but he eventually dismissed. Followed by two short-term pastors, and a five year period without one between 1778 and 1782. Parish begins movement toward Unitarianism. A long-standing tradition of dissent within the town: Baptists first mentioned in 1742, form church of 14 men and women in 1776, and build a meetinghouse at Still River. Although Seccombe New Light preacher, a small group dissatisfied with the church and three couples meet as Separatists beginning in 1751; they later attract to their midst, in the northeast, death of their "immortal" leader in 1780. In 1799, some members released from church to join with Methodist in Boxborough.

C. Settlement Pattern

Permanent settlements begin here when Lancaster citizens settle east of Nashua on second division lands to avoid native attack first settlement focus in southwest at Still River, followed closely by Bare Hill to the east by 1704. Movement moves to the north, to the east of Bare Hill Pond and on Prospect Hill. With incorporation on 1732, Old Mill area also had been settled. Meetinghouse located near geographical center, with a 30 acre lot to accommodate pound, stocks, cemetery, and "other public uses". At this time, Lancaster area held ca 57 families, Groton ca. 18, and the former unincorporated strip, assigned as Stow Leg in ca 1720, 10 families. School squadrons outlined in 1738 reflect settlement in their names: Bare Hill, Still River, Old Mill, plus Oak Hill in the east; in 1754, settlement in the northwest requires new district, Shabaikin.

This area attempts to join with neighboring sections of Groton , Stow Leg and Lancaster to form independent town, but when district defined (1753), only Groton contributes. In the east, in 1776, proposed town with neighbors from Stow and Littleton but postponed until 1783, Boxborough.

D. Economic Base

An agricultural economy, with 72% of taxpayers engaged in farming, focusing on sheep, cattle and grains. A small number of merchants and artisans to serve them (three each); mills located on Bowers Brook at Prescott site, and to the south at Mill Road; plus a tannery, iron works, malt house and fulling mill. More egalitarian than Lancaster to the west, with a smaller percentage of landless individuals (19%) and less land owned by the wealthiest (28%). Signs of the economic difficulties of the 18th century, however, in haggling over minister's salary, over appointment to constable/tax collector post, mention of tenants in the seating of the meeting house, providing the poor with cows.

Finally, a house in the Center was allotted to the poor with in 1753 (which became a work house in 1785) though only occupied by one family, and later a widow.

E. Architecture

Residential: Garrison house recorded at Still River in southwest in 1694, owned by Henry Willard and dated 1687 (Nowse). Structure is a two-story, six-bay center chimney house with lean-to; fenestration is asymmetrical due to position of sixth bay, otherwise it would be a standard five-bay house (survival?). By 1704 a second garrison is recorded on Bare Hill, and at this time 22 families are purported to reside in the Harvard section of Lancaster. By 1711, there are four garrisons. 89 families (ca. 350 people) are recorded in Harvard in 1732, the year of the town's incorporation. The predominant house form of the period is the two-story, five-bay cottages are recorded, these appear to have been much fewer in number.

Institutional: First meetinghouse and an inn are erected in 1732. School districts (four) are organized in 1734, but no buildings are erected as the town is called before the county court in 1740 because of its insufficient educational program. In 1769, Shadrach Ireland a religious dissident, and his followers erect the "Square House" in the northeast section of town. The building is a two-story, five-bay, double chimney double-pile plan with two transverse summer beams in the front rooms. The entry is flanked by pilasters supporting a pediment. Windows are 6/9 double-hung sash. A second meetinghouse is constructed in the center in 1773, a 1 1/2 - story gable end structure with double entrance. The original meetinghouse is sold in 1776 to a group from east Harvard who used it as a meetinghouse. The same year, Baptists organize in Still River.

Commercial: From 1705 onward, there are taverns in operation; the Samuel Willard House at Still River functioned as an inn from 1728/19 - 1726. By the end of the period, a general store was located in both Still River and the town center.

Industrial: Aside from the usual saw and grist mills, a triphammer works and a fulling mill, the only industry in town was a slate quarry on Pin Hill.

VII. FEDERAL PERIOD (1775-1830)

A. Transportation Routes

Colonial highways remain in use with some important additions. Several through-routes radiate from the Center. The highway from South Lancaster (Still River Road) forks north of Still River Village. One branch (Prospect Hill Road, Old Shirley Road, Ayer Road) continues north to Groton, while the other goes east through the Center (Still River Road, Oak Hill Road, Littleton County Road) to Boxborough, Acton, and Boston. Improvements in this main east-west highway include straightening the road west of the

Center by running through a swamp (by 1790), and straightening the course east of the town over a steep hill (Woodchuck Hill Road-probably by 1810). A north-south route also passes through the Center connector the the "Great Road" in Stow (Massachusetts Avenue, Stow Road), and a northeast road to Littleton from the Center (Old Littleton Road). The Union Turnpike (1805) joins the existing road system at Still River, and increases east-west traffic, although it soon receives competition from the Lancaster-Bolton Turnpike (1806) which offers easier grades.

B. Population

Population increases (+285) over period from 1776 (1,315) to 1830 (1,600). Decline from 1790-1800 (-68) to 1776 level. Greatest growth 1810-1820 (+166). No growth 1820-1830. Baptist church built in 1776, with many members from surrounding towns. Soon develops a large congregation and a regional influence. Anne Lee and Shaker followers visit Harvard, 1781, attracted by religious excitement surrounding recently deceased New Light radical Shadrach Ireland. She establishes "head-quarters" at Ireland's "Square House" for two years, causing much local fear, excitement, and on two occasions, mob violence. Shakers establish colony and meetinghouse in Harvard, 1791. 150 members in three families by 1793; 200 members by 1795. Congregational church music controversy, 1790's. Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Universalists present in 1821. Library company and social club formed by 1793. Social library formed 1808. Some local support for Shay's Rebellion. Temperance society active 1829-1842.

C. Settlement Pattern

Three distinct nuclear settlements develop during the period. In the Center, concentration of residences around the common begins after 1784, with most building to the east and south by 1830. Meetinghouse steeple added 1806. Orthodox church built 1828 on south side of common. Town Hall built 1828. A secondary turnpike village merges at Still River. Baptist meetinghouse locates there, 1773, but most growth occurs after completion of Union Turnpike junction, 1805. A third cluster develops at Shaker Village in northeast, after 1791, with residences, meetinghouse, offices, school, ten shops, seven barns, tannery, gristmill, and sawmill by 1828. Outside of these villages, dispersed farmstead development continues. Methodist church built in southeast near Boxborough border, 1823.

D. Economic Base

The primary activity of most of Harvard's residents through the end of the 18th century was agriculture. A cluster of small manufacturing establishments were introduced in Harvard Center in the 1770s and 1780s however, including a triphammer and forge, clothier's works, gristmill and sawmill. In 1829 a paper mill was added to these mills on Bowers Brook. By 1830, five gristmills, three sawmills, one clothier, one triphammer, one papermill and a number of small shops of harnessmakers, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, and a tanner were working in Harvard.

A Shaker community was established during the 1780s in the northeast end of town. The four subvillages or families operated a gristmill, sawmill, herb house and tannery. Their main business was farming and horticulture. They raised herbs, broom corn, and seeds and sold medicinal extracts, brooms, sieves, canned fruit, herbs and seeds.

E. Architecture

Residential: While the center chimney form undoubtedly carried over from the Colonial period, the Federal period is definitely characterized by two-story, five-bay double chimney and end wall chimneys: a frame two-story, five-bay brick end wall dwelling, a brick, two-story, five-bay, single-pile with end chimneys, and a double-pile brick house with end chimneys.. Rearwall chimneys, always on single-pile houses, appear in much fewer numbers. A few isolated examples of 1 3/4 - story houses with the second story windows tucked up under the eaves of the principle facade.

Institutional: Most significant development in the early portion of the period is the founding of a Shaker community in northeast on site of Shadrach Ireland's religious enclave, incorporating "Square House" into the community. A 2 1/2 - story, five-bay gable end dormitory (ca. 1790?) at the south village, and a one-story, three-bay, center chimney cottage (ca. 1800), a two-story, seven-bay meetinghouse (1791), and a much altered (1860s) two-story, five-bay building of ca. 1795 at the center village remain.

In 1784, a school district was established for the town center, and by 1790, eight school districts were established with provisions for new school buildings. Universalist society organized in 1798, and Methodist meetings held the following year. Brick powder house built in town center in 1812. In 1821, following the town's refusal to support a minister the Evangelical Congregationalists built a new meetinghouse (two-story, gable-end, Greek Revival) while the Unitarians retain the second (1773) meetinghouse. Also in 1821, a two-story, gable end schoolhouse is constructed in the Center. In 1828, after the failure of an 1807 proposal for the same purpose, a town house is constructed, thereby separating church and civic affairs.

Commercial: No significant commercial development apparent. Wetherbee Tavern (ca. 1800), and possibly earlier) in the Center was a two-story, seven-bay, hipped roof structure with quoins. The symmetrical facade appears as two units although built at the same time: a two-story, five-bay, center chimney form, with an additional two bays spaced away from the five-bay grouping; the smaller chimney would appear as an end chimney to both of these units. The asymmetrical fenestration may reflect a pattern for expansion (at least for outward appearances), i.e. a standard house form extended two bays to accommodate more people.

Industrial: No significant industrial development for period aside from an iron bloomery recorded as operating intermittently during the last quarter of the 18th century.

VIII. EARLY INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1830-1870)

A. Transportation Routes

Federal period highways remain in use. In 1846, Worcester-Nashua Railroad begins north-south service through the Nashua River Valley, with stations at Still River and Harvard (northwest of Center).

B. Population

Population decreases (-259) over the period, 1830 (1,600) to 1860 (1,341). Slight increase, 1840-1850, to period peak (1,630). Foreign-born 8% of population in 1865. Universalist society formed in 1830, church built 1843, society disbanded 1866. Unitarian church torn down, 1840, and smaller building is constructed. Still River Academy formed ca. 1839. Fruitlands, short-lived transcendentalist Utopian colony formed, 1843. Odd Fellows' lodge formed, 1845. Farmers and Mechanics Association formed 1850. Public library established 1857.

C. Settlement Pattern

Minor residential growth in center village. Unitarian church replaced by smaller structure 1840. Methodist (1842) and Universalist (1843) churches have bridge existences in Center. Second Baptist church built in Still River, 1832. Continued Shaker Village growth, with mills, and workshops constructed during the period.

D. Economic Base

Manufacturing in Harvard continued on a relatively small scale. Papermaking had increased to three mills by 1837, but totally disappeared by 1857. It peaked in the late 1830s with the production of 155 tons of paper made by 11 employees in the three mills. Boot and shoemaking increased into the 1850s when more than 30 people made 18,000 pairs, but by 1875 it had declined to one small shop. Palm-leaf hat making also had a brief period of popularity in the 1830s and 1840s before ceasing.

A machine shop replaced the clothiers on Bowers Brook in 1855. At first, farm hand tools were made, but in 1864 the manufacture of horse power machinery, horse rakes, and sawing apparatus was undertaken. Wrapping paper and pencil manufacturing was carried on in one of the Bowers Brook mills in 1831 and leather board manufacture replaced these in 1860 and 1868 when the Harvard manufacturing Company was established.

Quarrying of slate and preparation of marble had begun by 1837 and by 1855 employed 15 men in the quarrying and working of \$17,000 worth of stone. A large brickyard was opened in 1852 along the east bank of the Nashua River by J.C. Richmond and employed 25 men.

Forest industries and woodworking grew increasingly important with charcoal production, lumbering, and the cutting of firewood. By 1865, two sawmills prepared 760,000 feet of boards, 60,000

shingles and 70,000 stoves for market. Also, 3,930 cords of firewood and 1,600 bushels of charcoal were made to supply the local machine shop, blacksmiths, and nearby industrial centers.

Agriculture continued to be the major industry of the town. By 1875, manufactures were valued at only \$37,900, while agricultural goods yielded \$223,892. An important crop during the 1840s and 1850s was hops, reaching 41,000 lbs. in 1845. The fine farmland yielded excellent crops of hay, grains, and vegetables, and the hillsides were particularly well suited to apple and pear orchards. By 1865, 28,000 apple trees and 2,300 pear trees were cultivated for their fruit. Dairying and cattle and swine raising accounted for approximately 25% of the total value of agricultural goods, as 172,000 gallons of milk and more than 170,000 lbs. of beef, pork, and veal were marketed in 1865.

E. Architectural

Residential: The most common house form is unquestionably the gable end, three-bay, side passage plan. Examples of such one-story and two-story dwellings with Greek Revival details (corner pilasters, door surrounds, and cornice treatments) and Italianate features (brackets, hood molds, and canopies) dot the landscape from ca. 1840 through the end of the period.

A second popular house form is the two-story five-bay gable end, center entry dwelling. These appear to date from 1820-1830 and when stylistic elements are present they inevitably take the form of Greek Revival details. One single-story example with brick end walls survives near Still River. A small number of two-story, five bay double chimney house forms are recorded. Numerous substantial barns survive, some attached (including several in the Center) and some free-standing, three-bay gable end fenestration consisting of one large central bay for wagons and animals with Greek transom flanked by two doors, all of which have parallel Greek Revival pilasters.

Institutional: From 1846-1883, new school buildings are erected throughout the town; in 1864 the town assumes control of the schools. The Universalist church is razed in 1866, and in 1868 a second almshouse is built. The Shaker settlement in northeast Harvard continues to thrive during the period. Still surviving today are the 1840 2 1/2-story five-bay, gable end, central entry administration building, an 1847 two-story, four-bay center chimney brick house with granite lintels, and an 1850s board and batten barn.

Commercial: Little commercial development apparent. Worcester and Nashua Railroad built through the western portion of town in 1848 with two stations: One at Still River and one west of the town center. The Rural Home hotel is advertised in the mid-century. The three-story, five-bay brick Shaker building (90' x 50') was apparently run by the Shakers as a summer resort (building no longer extant?). In 1851, a general store is built in the Center to replace an earlier structure that burned.

Industrial: No major industry recorded for the period. Three paper mills operating in 1837. Town is definitely agricultural.

IX. LATE INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1870-1915)

A. Transportation Routes

The early 19th century road and rail network remains in use. In 1905, construction of western highway from Roxbury (Massachusetts Avenue) is terminated at Harvard Center.)

B. Population

Population continues to decline from 1870 (1,341) to 1885 (1,184), then stabilizes, fluctuating around 1,100 to 1915. Seventy-nine Irish, 22 Canadians, 12 English, 5 Swedes, in 1875. Eighty-eight Irish, 9 French Canadians, 9 Nova Scotians, 8 Germans, 8 English, 7 Scots, in 1885. Fifty Irish, 38 Nova Scotians, 24 Italians, 23 English, 23 French Canadians, small numbers of other groups present, in 1905. Harvard Grange formed, 1873. Bromfield School established in 1877. Library built in 1887.

C. Settlement Pattern

Several civic structures built in central village, including new town hall (1872) and Bromfield School (1877). Evangelical Church renovated in 1882. Library built in 1887, center school; 1905. General store, 1896. Recreational development on Bare Hill late by 1890s with Lancaster Outing Club cottages on northwest shore.

D. Economic Base

Harvard was one of the few rural towns in northeastern Worcester County to experience and increase in the value of goods manufactured during the early part of the period. Between 1875 and 1885, an increase of 116% occurred, largely the result of the introduction of a second horse power machinery shop and a shoddy and wool knitting mill in 1881, a second brickyard in the 1870s, and a cutlery manufactory in 1884. though small in scale, most survived to the turn of the century before closing. By 1905, only seven establishments remained, producing goods valued at \$39,000, only slightly higher than the 1875 level.

Harvard's agriculture maintained its growth through the period, with the value of its more than 200 farms' products increased to \$286,000 in 1905. That year, more than 2.5 million gallons of milk were produced, a seven fold increase over the 1875 figure. By 1905, Harvard led the state in the number of pear trees cultivated and the quantity of cider apples harvested, and third in the state in the number of pear trees. Poultry and eggs also gained in importance during the latter decades of the period, as did grape-growing. As early as 1885, 32,000 dozen eggs were sold and 127,879 lbs. of grapes were harvested.

E. Architecture

Residential: Very little late 19th century or early 20th century development. Small numbers of two-story asymmetrical Queen Anne dwellings in the Center. The Pergolas, home of Clara Endicott Sears, founder of the Fruitlands Museum, on Prospect Hill, was a substantial two-story Colonial Revival house (demolished). A few isolated 20th century Colonial Revival buildings and one four-square house remain.

Institutional: The second town hall, a two-story, three-bay, center entry Italianate structure, is built in 1872. In 1875, a new frame Victorian Gothic Unitarian church is erected. The two-story Bromfield School by Peabody and Stearns is built in 1879 following the abolition of the old district school system. The Congregational church underwent extensive interior renovation under the direction of Clinton architect, Joshua Thissell, in 1882. William Channing Whitney, a Harvard native, designed the 1886 1 1/2 story Romanesque brick library (on the site of the old Wetherbee Tavern, which burned down in 1880). A new center school was constructed in 1904. In 1914, Clara Endicott Sears opened the Fruitlands Museum which at the point consisted of the two-story, five-bay center chimney house occupied by Bronson Alcott and his fellow Transcendentalists during their short-lived experiment in communal living and a Shaker building moved from the Shaker settlement in northeast Harvard.

Commercial: The only apparent commercial development during the period was the construction of the three-story general store in the center.

Industrial: Growth centered around Still River and consisted of New England Brick Company, Union Brick Company, Union Paving Company, and Haskell's Vinegar Works. Dairying was major industry of the period.

X. EARLY MODERN PERIOD (1915-1940)

A. Transportation Routes

By the mid 1920s, local roads are improved as automobile highways, with the earliest routes Massachusetts Avenue (Route 111) east to Concord and Boston, and the road from Clinton to Ayer through the Center (Route 110). Fort Devens road network laid out and railroad freightyard built, late 1930s.

C. Population

Population fluctuates, apparently according to troop concentrations at Camp/Fort Devens. Non-military population appears to be stable at just below 1,000, but Camp/Fort Devens activity raises figures to peaks of 2,546 in 1920 and 1,790 in 1940. Last Shakers leave, 1918. St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church formed, 1926. Fiske Warren, disciple of the single tax doctrine of Henry George, attempts to establish system in Harvard, and by 1930s has 818 acres leased locally.

C. Settlement Pattern

In northwest corner, 5,000 acres north of Still River west of railroad bought for Camp Devens, one of 16 cantonments established by the War Department for training and housing draftees. Camp inactive after war, but in 1937, declared a permanent installation - Fort Devens. Indian museum opened 1929 (Fruitlands Museum), teahouse in 1935. St. Teresa Catholic Church opened west of center in 1926. Agassiz Station, Harvard University Astronomical Observatory, Oak Hill, opened in 1932. Continued cottage development on west side of Bare Hill Pond. Major facility construction at Fort Devens by late 1930's, including barracks and administration buildings.

D. Economic Base

Harvard came to be increasingly known as one of the two or three best apple towns in the state during this period. Dairying and hay growing remained the most valuable agricultural activities, however.

Manufacturing continued to play a minor role in Harvard's economy, reduced even further by the cessation of manufacturing by the Shakers and many of the remaining shops. Several thousand acres in the north-west corner of town were used during World War I as training camp and cantonment for American soldiers. After the war, the U.S. Government began purchasing large tracts of land and in 1936 the camp was designated Fort Devens. Although it displaced a number of farms, the fort provided opportunities for employment and new markets for Harvard's farmers, merchants, and service establishments.

In 1909, a unique experiment in land occupancy was begun in the southern portion of town. Following the principles of Henry George, a 19th century socialist and land reformer, a single tax enclave called Tahanto was established on the shores of Bare Hill Pond, growing to 682 acres by 1925. Land purchased by the community was placed in a land rent paid to the trustees, who paid a single tax to the town, which included local, county, and state taxes. Any rent money left after taxes were paid was redistributed and used to defray each individual's income taxes. The organizer, Fiske William, was joined in the venture by a number of influential members of the academic and intellectual community. Most maintained only summer residences, but several occupied their houses year-round and engaged in farming, lumbering and box manufacture.

E. Architecture

Residential: No significant growth (outside of Fort Devens); some scattered development late in the period.

Institutional: Shaker community closes in 1918, and shortly thereafter the buildings are purchased by Fiske Warren as the site of one of two "single tax enclaves;" the second enclave was located on the southern and eastern shores of Bare Hill Pond.

These communities peaked during the 1920s and small period cottages dot the edge of the lake. The Fruitlands Museum continued to expand with the addition of an Indian Museum in 1929 and various auxillary structures during the latter portion of the period. In 1921, the town constructed a new building for its fire department. St. Theresa's Roman Catholic church was built in the center in 1925. In 1940, the congregational church burned and was rebuilt the following year. The Unitarian church burned in the 1960s and was also rebuilt.

Commercial: Commercial dairying peaked during this period. No other commercial development.

Industrial: The town's only industrial activity remained the commercial dairying developed in the early years of the 20th century.