

MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report

NORTHAMPTON

Report Date: 1982

Associated Regional Report: Connecticut Valley

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.

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MHC RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY REPORT

DATE: July 1982

COMMUNITY: Northampton

I. TOPOGRAPHY

Northampton is situated within one of the broadest expanses of the Connecticut River Valley. The easternmost portion of town consists of a fertile river floodplain considered to be some of the most productive cropland in New England. Stretching west of the floodplain is a complex of moderate to rugged uplands. They increase in elevation ranging from 300' in eastern Northampton to 800' near the Northampton/Westhampton border. Prominent points include Roberts Hill (582'), Sawmill Hills (634') and Mineral Hills (800'). These uplands are broken by several intervalles, most prominent being the Mill River intervalle which extends from the town's northern border southeast to the river floodplain. Pockets of marshland are scattered throughout Northampton. The Connecticut River demarcates the town's eastern boundary. This river is fed by a number of tributaries, the largest of which is the earlier mentioned Mill River. Construction of a diversion ditch in the 20th century altered the course of the river so it presently drains into the Connecticut River at two points in the Ox Bow. The Ox Bow was created in 1840 when the Connecticut broke through the peninsula connecting the Hockanum Meadows to southeastern Northampton. The only bodies of freshwater are several small mill ponds. Local soils vary considerably. The eastern floodplain and intervalles consist primarily of silty loam. Some lowlands contain clayey or sandy soils. The uplands are characterized by stony loam.

II. POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

Originally granted as Nonotuck Plantation in 1653 on east side of Connecticut River above the falls (South Hadley). Permanent settlement established as Northampton during 1654-1655 extending south to Springfield (Holyoke) and Westfield (including present area of Southampton, Westhampton and Easthampton). Northern boundary established with Hatfield in 1670 (including present Williamsburg line). Southampton formed as district in 1753 and Westhampton in 1778 defining western boundary. Southern boundary established in 1785 with Easthampton and defined in 1809. Hadley Ox Bow annexed to Holyoke in 1909. Northampton incorporated as a city in 1883.

III. HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Important civic, educational and industrial center at the junction of regional routes from Springfield and Pittsfield to northern and western New England. Located on the west bank of Connecticut River at the edge of the Berkshire uplands with Contact period fortified villages reported above river meadows at Nonotuck on Fort

Plain and Fort Hill and suspected native sites along Mill River valley. Early area of English settlement from Hartford with Northampton plantation established by mid-17th century at Mill River fordway (Old South St.) above fertile meadowland of Connecticut floodplain. Surviving elements of original town plan include homelot grid along axis of Main-Bridge Streets, the location of Court House Square and Bridge Street burying ground. Two Plantation period houses apparently remain within town site, both suspected frames within later rebuilding. Settlement attacked during King Philip's War with pallisaded defenses recorded for late 17th century.

Gradual expansion of town settlement along Mill River during Colonial period with some well preserved high style houses along Elm and South Streets and remnant cottages on Market Street axis. Agriculture expanded as primary activity along Connecticut River meadows with rechanneling of Mill River during early 18th century. Upland areas developed by mid-18th century with preserved landscape along Audubon Road (Leeds) and at West Farms with early 19th century church.

Significant expansion during Federal period with development of regional transportation links and local manufacturing along Mill River. Some period brick houses remain around Northampton Center, including Hawley Street mansions and notable roundhouse on Conz Street. Belated canal construction from Westfield survives in remnant fragments along Route 10 axis. Continued expansion of commercial and industrial activity through mid 19th century with regional railroad connections defining bounds of Northampton town center and Mill River corridor. Main Street emerged as primary commercial district with complete set of brick business blocks of pre-Civil War date and notable Gothic town hall. Status residential district developed on Pomeroy Terrace above Bridge Street meadowland with several early Romantic houses by local architect William Pratt. Companion suburban district expanded along Elm Street to Roud Hill with well preserved Victorian houses of elaborate style. Institutional fringe activities of Early Industrial period include important surviving examples of county jail (Market Street), mental hospital (Rocky Hill), deaf school (Round Hill), camp meeting ground (Laural Park), fair grounds (Ferry Road), rare brick gasometer (South Street) and notable Connecticut River railroad truss bridge.

Industrial development of Mill River valley established factory villages at Leeds, Florence silk mills - including historic abolitionists sites, and most notably at Bay State paper mills with period housing and factories of mid-19th century. Mill River factories rebuilt at Leeds as landmark set after 1874 flood with expansion of Florence silk mills including local business district on Locust Street with related suburban housing and notable Victorian library. Northampton business district also expanded in late 19th century with stylish commercial blocks (Main-Pleasant Streets), warehouses and period factories (Market Street), and monumental civic buildings including landmark Richardsonian courthouse, library, railroad station and well preserved Neo-Classical concert hall.

Establishment of Smith College maintained affluent district along Elm Street with large period houses of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival design. Original college buildings include important early Romanesque administration building of architect design, related dormitories and surrounding iron fence with gateways. Expansion of campus continued through early 20th century with monumental Georgian Revival dormitory complexes and adjacent brick apartments along Elm Street status district. Extensive residential development along suburban streetcar lines of Prospect, South and Burt Streets with notable early Bungalows along Bridge Street. Expansion of Early Modern period limited with gradual suburban infilling between Florence and Northampton along Route 9 axis defined by hospital complexes. Some notable period buildings include Art Deco bank, high school, auto garages, airport and several surviving early diners with landmark Coolidge Bridge across Connecticut River.

Present development most evident along Route 5 North and I-91 at Hampshire Heights with intense commercial activity. Suburban residential expansion now extends along Route 66 to West Farms and north along Route 9 to Williamsburg. Significant redevelopment of Northampton business district has occurred, maintaining historic streetscape, although immediate fringe fabric is threatened by parking expansion on Market-Hawley and Old South Streets. Historic residential districts along Elm Street have undergone renovation around Smith campus with rehabilitation of Pomeroy Terrace now apparent. Most serious threats appear along Bridge Street (Route 9) and South Street (Route 10) with highway strip activity, while Connecticut River meadowland is maintained as primary agriculture protecting historic railroad and highway bridges to Hadley.

IV. CONTACT PERIOD (1500-1620)

A. Transportation Routes:

Important regional focus of routeways along west bank of Connecticut River with access to western uplands and Housatonic Valley. Primary north-south trail along river terrace apparently followed from Capawonk (Hatfield) to Nonotuck (Northampton) along Hatfield Road (Route 5) to loop around meadowland from Bridge Road (Hampshire Heights) as Bates-Market Streets to Mill River fordway documented as Old South Street from Main-Bridge Streets axis (Trumbull, 1898, I, p461). From fordway primary trail continued as South Street on Fort Hill probably following Grove-Rocky Hill-Wilson Roads west to southern connector at Florence Street. An alternate branch apparently followed from Mill River fordway at West Street and south as Chapel Street to Rocky Hill Road (*Ibid*, p.16). A possible route across the Connecticut River meadows from Fort Hill can be traced as Pynchon Meadow Road to Mount Tom and Holyoke Falls. Primary east-west route along Mill River valley apparently followed from Main Street as Elm-No. Elm Street to Bridge Road and North Street (Route 9) looping above Leeds Hill as fragment of Leonard Street to Haydenville Road (Williamsburg). A secondary western trail is reported to have branched from Child Park at

Elm Street along axis of Nonotuck Street to Pine Street fordway at Florence (Sheffield, 1895, p.49), continuing over Saw Mill Mountain as Spring-Chesterfield Road and Roberts Meadow. An alternate branch is suspected to West Farm as Ryn Street, possibly following Turkey Hill Road around Mineral Hills. Other highland routes to western interior are conjectured for Park Hill Road (intact as original trail to Clear Falls Pond) and Audubon Road along Clark Brook. Trail branches to Connecticut River meadows apparently followed Bridge Street and Hockanum Road to fishing sites.

B. Settlement Patterns:

There was one reported Contact period site situated on Shephard's Island. Two Woodland period sites were located on the fertile floodplain immediately west of the Connecticut River in the vicinity of Manhan Meadows and east of Route 91, respectively. Given the floodplain's excellent horticultural potential and access to the Connecticut and Mill rivers, this area probably was the primary location of native period settlement. Heavy native settlement probably extended as far west as Round Hill. Additional areas of likely native occupation include the Clark Brook and Mill River intervalles situated in the vicinity of Roberts Meadow and Spring and North Main Streets, respectively. Small short term native hunting camps were probably established in the marsh's lowlands and uplands west and north of the area's suspected native settlement node. Likely locations include several unidentified native sites northwest and southwest of Pine Grove and south of Laural Park, respectively.

C. Subsistence Base:

The prevalence of large tracts of fertile agricultural land in Northampton suggests this area was the site of extensive native horticulture. The Connecticut and Mill rivers would have provided native residents with large quantities of fish. Native hunting was probably undertaken in the lowland marshes and uplands of Northampton.

D. Observations:

Northampton was situated in the heavily settled Connecticut River Valley, the primary focal point of native settlement during the Contact period. Northampton and Hadley were the site of Nonotuck, a regionally important native settlement center. The Nonotucks are believed to have had loose political ties with the Pocumtucks, the dominant native group in the western third of Massachusetts in the 17th century. The Northampton area has an excellent likelihood of extant period archaeological sites. Particularly sensitive is the Connecticut River floodplain (east of Round Hill). Special attention should be paid to the continuously eroding western bank of the Connecticut River and the banks of the Mill River. Despite moderate to heavy development on Fort Hill, the Smith College campus

and Round Hill, occasional vestiges of the native settlement node may survive at these locations. Additional areas of archaeological sensitivity include the Clark Brook and Mill River intervalles in northern Northampton.

V. PLANTATION PERIOD (1620-1675)

A. Transportation Routes:

Establishment of Northampton plantation at Nonotuck (1654) defined home lot street grid along axis of Main-Bridge Streets at Pleasant-King and Hawley-Market Streets. Ferry service across Connecticut River to east side (Hadley) established at Hockanum meadow (1658) and to Hadley Street (1661). Fordway over Mill River at South Street improved with cart bridge (1673) with alternate fording place at West Street (Trumbull, 1898, I, p. 189; Cestre, 1963, Fig. 8). Local highway system gradually extended from meetinghouse center on Main Street axis with Prospect Street (1663) at Round Hill and improvement of South, Elm and Bridge Streets from native trails as regional highways. Regional connections to Westfield and Hartford improved as Wilson-Rocky Hill Road from South Street axis.

B. Population:

None of the available sources provided specific figures for the town's native population. There was a substantial enough local native population in 1664 to require establishment of a native pallisaded village probably on Fort Hill.

The colonial settlement was estimated to have consisted of only 20-25 families in c. 1656. The community had grown to 300-400 individuals by c. 1661. Northampton's first settlers were former Springfield, Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford, Connecticut residents. By the late 1650s, several Dorchester and Boston inhabitants had settled in Northampton. In addition, several of the town's period residents were Irish natives.

C. Settlement Patterns:

Native settlement patterns probably underwent some change with the initiation of colonial settlement in the 1650s. The area most readily affected by colonial settlement would have been the eastern-most uplands and Connecticut River floodplain since this locale was the site of most of Northampton's period colonial homes and agricultural land. However, some native settlement appears to have continued in this area, including the previously-mentioned Fort Hill pallisaded village.

The first colonial settlement took place in Northampton in c. 1654, a year after the area's purchase by William Pynchon, Elizur Holyoke and Samuel Chapin from the Nonotucks. Period settlement was nucleated with the vast majority of homes being established in the vicinity of the present village of Northampton. Initial settlement

occurred along King, Market, Pleasant and Hawley Streets. After c.1659, the settlement expanded west and east of this area along Main, Elm and Bridge Streets. Civic and educational facilities were also situated within the settlement node. Northampton's first meetinghouse (c.1655) was built at the junction of King and Main Streets. This structure was converted to use as a schoolhouse in c.1663. The town's second meetinghouse was built (completed c.1663) on Main Street, slightly west of the first building. The town's first burial ground was laid out on "Meetinghouse Hill" in the general vicinity of the c.1655 and 1661 meetinghouses. The present Bridge Street cemetery (vicinity of Parsons and Bridge Streets junction) was established as Northampton's burial ground in c.1661. By 1661, Northampton was alternating with Springfield as the site of Hampshire County Court's bi-annual meetings.

D. Economic Base:

The area's native population pursued traditional subsistence rounds with some alterations. Most of Northampton's prime agricultural land (Connecticut River floodplain) was established as the focal point of colonial farming shortly after initial settlement. Some native horticulture may have been undertaken in the intervals of western Northampton. Native hunting occurred throughout Northampton. Trade occurred between local natives and colonial settlers.

The primary focus of the colonial community was agriculture, with emphasis on livestock and wheat production. The first settlers were granted individual lots of meadow land with 15 acres going to each household head and three acres to each son. By the early 1660s, most, if not all, of the Connecticut River floodplain had been divided into individual lots, many of which still are demarcated by local roads. Lumbering took place throughout the town's woodlands. Trade between the area's colonial and native populations was in the hands of one or more individuals including Lieutenant David Wilton who was active in the second half of the 17th century. Local goods such as native furs, port and grain were sold to John Pyncheon of Springfield for a variety of manufactured products (Trumbull 1898:109). By the early 1670s, several industrial operations had been established in Northampton. All but one were situated in close proximity to the primary settlement node. A brickyard first operating in c.1658 was located a short distance south of the junction of King and Park Streets. The town's first mill (grist) was built in c.1659 on the north bank of the Mill River slightly southwest of South Street's junction with the New Haven and Hartford Railroad. A second mill was erected in c.1666 on the west bank of the Mill River adjacent to the Smith College athletic field. The town's third period mill was built on the north bank of the Mill River at the foot of Round Hill in c.1670. The north bank of the Mill River southeast of the junction of Nonotuck and Pine Streets was the probable site of a sawmill established in the 1670s.

E. Architecture:

Institutional: Two meetinghouses were built in the Plantation period. The first, built ca.1655 immediately after Nonotuck's settlement,

had dimensions of 26' x 18' x 9'; later in the century, the meeting-house served as a school. The town's second meetinghouse was constructed in 1661. No dimensions are given for the structure, but it was square in plan with a hip roof. Presumably, it was larger than the tiny first meetinghouse.

F. Observations:

By the end of the Plantation period, Northampton had developed into one of the leading settlements within the Connecticut River Valley study unit, as reflected in its diversified economy and selection as county court seat. The town's location on the Connecticut River provided it with direct contact with major Connecticut River Valley commercial centers including Springfield, Hartford and New Haven. Although development has probably destroyed most archaeological evidence of Northampton's original colonial center, portions may still survive due to the settlement's degree of nucleation. Future research should attempt to determine the location of the native pallisaded village.

VI. COLONIAL PERIOD (1675-1775)

A. Transportation Routes:

Continued improvement of local highway system from Northampton Center after King Philip's War with Bridge Street ferry to Hadley (1685) and cartbridge over Mill River at Hockanum Road (1700). Subsequent channeling of Mill River around Manhan Meadows (1710-20) reoriented Springfield highway through Pyncheon Meadows (Old Springfield Road). Division of West Farms created north-south highway axis along Kennedy-Sylvester-Glendale-West Farms Roads by mid 18th century with east-west connectors along Park Hill, Westhampton, Ryan and Chesterfield Roads. Similar expansion of common division lands included North Farms Road and improvement of Elm Street axis along Mill River as Locust-North Main Streets to Broughtons Meadow (Florence).

B. Population:

There were no figures for a local native population. It is possible a small number of natives remained in the area after King Philip's War.

Figures for the colonial settlement are limited. By 1765, Northampton consisted of 188 houses, 203 families and 1285 individuals, 11 of whom were black. The last figure had increased to 1730 individuals in 1776.

C. Settlement:

There were no references to post-1675 native encampments in Northampton. The colonial settlement of Northampton suffered moderate damage during King Philip's War. Attacking native forces burnt several homes inside and outside the pallisade protecting the settlement core. A new pallisade was constructed around Northampton's meetinghouse in c.1677 and the town center in the late 1680s, when fears of additional native attacks resurfaced. As late as c.1745, 14 "forted" houses

existed in Northampton. Not surprisingly, post-King Philip's War settlement expansion outside of the present city of Northampton was sluggish. Not until the early 18th century is there evidence of some settlement in the less desirable uplands north and west of the city. Some of this and later settlement spilled over into the present communities of Easthampton, Southampton, Westhampton and Williamsburg. Northampton's third meetinghouse was constructed in c.1735.

D. Economic Base:

Northampton's economy was hard-hit by King Philip's War in the form of property losses and war tax payments. However, by the mid 1680s and 1690s there was evidence of renewed economic development. Agriculture remained at the forefront of the colonial economy. Northampton along with neighboring Hatfield was the focal point of livestock production in the study unit. Fattened cattle, pork and beef were sent east by land and water (via the Connecticut River and Atlantic) to eastern communities such as Boston and Cambridge well into the 18th century. The 1680s and 1690s witnessed increasing popularity of sheep production in study unit towns such as Northampton. Turpentine was collected on Northampton's commons and sent to Boston via Hartford. Local industry grew with the establishment of a new brickyard on South Street in 1684, a malt house at the same date and a fulling mill on the Mill River probably opposite the Smith College Athletic Field prior to 1713.

E. Architecture:

Residential: Approximately a dozen and a half Colonial period houses are still standing in Northampton. Almost all of these are central chimney plan structures, although a few central hall (double chimney) plan houses are also known. The earliest of the town's Colonial houses is dated 1684 (Solomon Stoddard House, "The Manse") with other houses dated as early as 1700 (Hunt House, Griffin House), 1704 (Ferry House) and 1713 (Clapp House). Of these houses, only the Ferry House retains a physical resemblance to the early 18th century; the Ferry House is three bays wide with a central chimney and hewn second story and end gable overhangs. The Stoddard House has been altered several times, most thoroughly c.1750. The remaining period houses in the town date primarily from the 1750s and '60s; most are located on Elm and South Streets. With very few known exceptions, the Colonial structures surviving are two-to three-story houses. The majority incorporate five bay facades with center entrances. Most striking is the prevalence of gambrel roofs, which predominate on the most substantial houses in the town. Dormers were commonly used on conjunction with the gambrel roof. End gable and second story overhangs are often found on the gable roofed houses of the period. The pattern of survival clearly reflects a bias towards the largest and most elaborate houses of the period. Only three cottages of the period have survived. All are center chimney structures, one features a gambrel roof. Of special note is the survival of a half house on Market Street, said to date ca.1700. Undoubtedly, half houses and cottages were once far more prevalent than at present.

Institutional: In 1735, the third meetinghouse of the First Parish was constructed. Probably much larger than its square predecessor, it had dimensions of 70' x 46'. The structure had a square projecting steeple tower at one end. In 1769, proches were added at the south and west ends. Although established as a shire town for Hampshire County in 1662, Northampton apparently did not have a courthouse before the early 19th century.

F. Observations:

During this period, Northampton solidified its position as the political and economic center of the middle portion of the study unit (present Hampshire County) as one of the leading communities in the entire Connecticut River Valley study unit. Much of the settlement's economic and political growth appears to be due to the efforts of two of the town's leading citizens in the 18th century, John Stoddard and Joseph Hawley.

Efforts should be made to establish the position of city archaeologist to monitor future development in Northampton. This position is particularly important since Northampton is undergoing considerable growth.

VII. FEDERAL PERIOD (1775-1830)

A. Transportation Routes:

Continued improvement of regional connections across Connecticut River with Hadley Bridge (1809) from Bridge Street (Route 9). Local improvements of the period included Hatfield Street and Burts Pit Road as secondary connectors around town center. Construction of New Haven and Northampton Canal (1825) located north-south route through Northampton along axis of Central-West Streets with bridge over Mill River and outlet above Elwell Island (Hampshire Heights). Full completion of canal to Westfield not made until Early Industrial period (Donovan, Northampton Book, 1954, pp.85-88).

B. Population:

Northampton's population grew by 121.9% between 1790 and 1830, twice the county average, making it the second fastest growing town in the County after Ware. In 1790, as the county seat for old Hampshire County, it was the second largest town in the Valley, after West Springfield. (Throughout the historic periods, as the county seat, it has always been the most populous of the organized municipalities of Hampshire County.) Nearly 40% of the town's growth in this period occurred in the 1820s, while another 40% occurred in the two decades 1790-1810. By 1830 Northampton's population stood at 3613.

C. Settlement Pattern:

Civic focus remained at Court Square with commercial activity along Main Street axis to Bridge Street. Affluent residential district

centered along Hawley Street with relocation by early 19th century west along Elm Street to Round Hill. Secondary residential areas developed along South Street axis to Conz Street from Mill River bridge and along North (Bates) Street from Bridge Street axis. Significant expansion of industrial activity along upper Mill River with establishment of Shephard silk factory at Leeds (1810) and paper mills at Bay State site (1817) and along Federal Street at Broughtons Brook with adjacent housing. Agriculture continued as primary activity along Connecticut River meadows to Easthampton and Hatfield with secondary upland grazing at West Farms and North Farms.

D. Economic Base:

Despite a large tannery and duck factory established in Northampton Center in the 1790s, most of Northampton's Federal period manufacturing was located in Leeds, where, by the first decades of the 19th century, an important textile industry had developed, spurred by the Embargo and the War of 1812.

The post-Revolutionary depression of the 1780s struck Northampton farmers no less than other towns in the Valley, and the scenes of Shay's Rebellion played out before the Northampton courthouse were mirrored in other towns. But the rebellion was as much a stimulus to a conservative revival as it was a prelude to a period of unprecedented prosperity for the Valley and for Northampton in particular. The founding of the Hampshire Gazette in the midst of the rebellion with backing by conservative landowners and merchants was a reaction to the mob action. The period 1793-1807 was one of unprecedented agricultural prosperity: West Indian trade boomed while England and France were at war, and agricultural products were transported in larger amounts than ever before. But even before this time, Northampton in particular and other valley towns were attracting settlers from the lower Connecticut River. The Gazette's new editor, William Butler, moved to Northampton from Hartford, shortly after starting a paper mill to supply his publication. Levi Shepard, another Hartford merchant, moved to Northampton in the same decade, erecting a sail duck factory, spurred by a state bounty and the region's flax production. William Edwards returned to Northampton from New Jersey with radical improvements in tanning methods.

The introduction of the Embargo caused a great reduction in the prices of farm produce; the stagnation in trade turned much merchant capital into new industrial ventures. Edwards' tannery was one example which for a short time made Northampton an important center of the industry: Edwards, in 1794, had been the first to ship Hampshire County leather to Boston. With others he established auxiliary tanneries in Chester (Hannay, p. 27, says Goshen, but this seems in error), and Cummington. In 1809 all three were incorporated as the Hampshire Leather Mfg. with Boston merchants as chief shareholders. In the years 1809 and 1810 Edwards sent to market leather valued at \$175,397 (Hannay, 28), a large sum for the period, even split

between three different towns. Edwards left for New York State in 1817, but some tanning continued throughout the period.

But it was in Leeds, perhaps under the influence of numerous clothiers mills in Williamsburg, where most of Northampton's Federal period manufacturing took place. As in Williamsburg, both cotton and woolen mills were established. Job Cotton began a small cotton mill in 1808, and Sidney Webster, a woolen mill (site of Cook's later mill) in 1813; but it was the Shepherd factory in 1809 (incorporated the following year as the Northampton Cotton & Woolen Mfg. Co.) that dominated Leeds, and, indeed Northampton manufacturing by 1832, when its broadcloth and satinet production (valued at \$175,906) accounted for 61% of the town's product value. Shepherd's factory was founded by three sons and a nephew of Levi Shepard with the merchant capital amassed by the patriarch. Shepherd's factory, the first fully-developed factory on the Mill River, from the start was one of the largest and most important woolen mills in New England, responsible for numerous technical improvements: Shepherd patented a power loom in 1816 and began constructing looms in 1822, about the time of their manufacture in nearby Haydenville. The Shepherd mill reputedly produced the first broadcloth in the U.S. (by power loom?), and made numerous experiments in the quality of local wool. From 1818 onward, Shepherd wool won many premiums, and about 1822 Shepherd was the first to import Saxony sheep into the United States.

Despite the size of the firm (or perhaps because of it), after 1825 the company sustained great losses, and after a series of reorganizations, was sold to the Northampton Woolen Mfg. Co. Joseph Lyman commenting on the concern in 1832 wrote that the present company was doing

a fair business; but taking the concern from its foundation, in 1809, to this period, the business might be considered calamitous, but for the number of people to whom it has given employment and livelihood.

By 1832, reorganized as the Northampton Woolen and Satinet Mfg., the mill employed 120 men and women and the village, then "Shepherd's Hollow," included boarding houses, family dwellings, and a store. Almost all the broadcloth and satinet of the mill were sold in Boston.

The other major producer of broadcloth -- and the second largest factory in terms of product value -- was J. S. Kingsley's 1829 woolen mill in Loudville, the earliest of a series of small Manhan River mills which seem to have operated relatively independent of the Mill River settlement and economy.

E. Architecture:

Residential: At least three dozen Federal period houses survive in Northampton; perhaps as many as two dozen more were recorded in the

local inventory but were not noted individually. The majority of the houses surviving are center hall plan structures with double interior chimneys. However, use of the traditional center chimney plan remained common into the early 19th century. Twin rearwall chimney plans were used but were not common. Frame construction predominated but brick was used to a much greater extent than in the Colonial period. Many houses feature pyramidal hip or hip roofs. Of special note in the period was the emergence of several talented builder/architects in Northampton. Foremost of the local builders were Thomas Pratt and Isaac Damon; both Pratt's and Damon's own houses have survived along with a number of structures known or attributed to them. The Pratt House (1812) contains an octagonal room in the Adamesque style. While most of the Federal houses surviving are relatively simple, three houses, one standing and the others demolished, premonitor Northampton's mid 19th century architectural glory. The three are the Judge Dewey House (1827, Ithiel Town), the Bowers House (1827, Ithiel Town; demolished) and the Red Castle (1814; demolished). The Bowers and Dewey Houses, both by prominent New Haven architect, Ithiel Town, were very early local examples of the Greek Revival style. Both featured temple front facades. The Red Castle was a three-story brick house with a two-story portico leading to the entrance on the second floor; the two-story porch and second floor entrance are thought to reflect the Charleston, South Carolina influence of Dr. Frink, the original owner and a Charleston native. As was true for the Colonial period, very few workers' houses or cottages have survived. The only area where cottages of Federal appearance were observed was north of Leeds along Audubon Road; cottages there employed the center chimney plan. Also of note for the period was the construction of a round house on Conz Road. The Seth Strong House (1829) is a stucco over brick, conical roofed structure with interior "endwall" chimneys and a round plan.

Institutional: The most outstanding institutional building of the period was the fourth meetinghouse of the First Church, which burned in 1876. The structure, a two-and-a-half story building with an elaborate three-story porch and three-stage belfry, was designed by Asher Benjamin in 1810 and built by Isaac Damon. While at least nine shools were noted on the 1830 map, building dates are not known for any of them and only one is thought to survive. That is the West Farms School at West Farms and Westhampton Road. The school is a one-story brick structure with a side entrance. Although dated 1856 in the town's inventory, the school may date as early as the Federal period and certainly stands on or near the site of a Federal school. Other institutional construction included the construction of the first Town Hall (1823, Isaac Damon) and the building of a County Courthouse, also by Damon. The Courthouse was a templefront Greek Revival building which stood adjacent to the First Parish church on Main Street. Also founded in the period were the Round Hill School (1824), a Law School (1821) and Baptist (1824), Unitarian (1825) and Episcopal (1826) churches, all of which built churches in the period.

Commercial: Northampton's Federal prosperity, in part a reflection of the completion of the Northampton-New Haven Canal (), is evident in the founding of several banks (Northampton Bank, 1815; Hampshire Bank, 1813) and hotels. Only fragments remain of the buildings of the period. Foremost are the Granite Stores (1826) on Main Street, three-story granite blocks designed by Isaac Damon; ground floors and cornices of these buildings have been reworked several times.

VIII. EARLY INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1830-1870)

A. Transportation Routes:

Significant improvement of regional connections to Northampton with completion of New Haven and Northampton Canal (1835) and opening of Connecticut River Railroad (1846) on north-south corridor across Ox Bow and meadowland from Holyoke to Hatfield. Canal route subsequently abandoned (1847) with remnant segments surviving below Rocky Hill and Elwett Island entrance. Canal route replaced by Westfield and Northampton Railroad from Easthampton (1856) with location along South Street axis to Mill River (now abandoned). Opening of Hawley Street depot stimulated local omnibus service along Main-Elm Street axis to Florence mill village (apparently by 1850s) with replacement by horse street railway line after Civil War (1866) along Main-Elm-Locust-Pine Streets to Nonotuck Silk mills. Mill River corridor paralleled by steam railroad branch from Northampton depot to Williamsburg through Florence and Leeds (1868) with surviving stone arch bridges (now abandoned route). Local street system gradually expanded during period with development of Pomeroy Terrace (1847) along river bluff from Hawley Street and Riverside Drive to Bay State village mills. Parallel development of local street grid around Florence with axis along Maple and Locust Streets.

B. Population:

Between 1830 and 1870 Northampton grew by 181.2% -- the second highest growth rate in the county after Easthampton, and well above the 46.7% county average. Virtually all of this growth occurred after 1840 with the greatest boom period being 1855-1870. By far the greatest period of growth took place in the post-Civil War years, 1865-70, when the town grew by over 28%, one of the highest growth rates of any town in the Valley in those years (excluding Holyoke's 90% rate).

In 1855 Northampton's immigrant population was 23.7% of the total -- third highest in the county after Ware and South Hadley, and more than 10 points above the county average. Of this number, 66% were Irish (14 points below the county average), while 14.7% were from Germany and Holland. The large proportion of Dutch and Germans, so far unexplained, represented over half of all those counted in Hampshire County in 1855.

C. Settlement Pattern:

Civic center remained focused at Court Square with formation of commercial business district along Main Street axis from railroad depot (1846) to Elm Street. Affluent residential district expanded from original Hawley Street axis to Pomeroy Terrace (1847) over Connecticut meadows with significant development of prime suburban neighborhood west from Main Street along Elm Street axis to Round Hill with horse car service (1866). Secondary residential areas infilled around business district along Prospect and King Streets at base of Round Hill with outlying development on South Street axis. Formation of institutional fringe belt around central district with location of county jail on Market Street (1851), state mental hospital on Rocky Hill (1858) and Clark School for the Deaf on Round Hill (1870). In addition, fringe activities located along railroad axis from Hockanum Road to King Street defining eastern edge of business district. Important expansion of industrial activity along upper Mill River with establishment of Northampton Silk Co. at Florence (1836), including formation of mill village from Nonatuck Street to Locust-No. Main Street axis (Route 9), and continued development of manufacturing at Leeds and at Bay State village on Riverside Drive with adjacent company housing (c.1855). Agriculture maintained as primary activity along Connecticut River meadows to Easthampton with introduction of commercial tobacco (c.1840), while dairy farming continued on upland districts of West and North Farms.

D. Economic Base:

In 1855 there were 74 plants on the Mill River in Northampton and Williamsburg. According to the Northampton Book (p.79), this represented 25% of all plants in the three-county Connecticut Valley, employing 10% of the labor and representing 10% of the product value. Between 1832 and 1875, the value of goods produced in Northampton grew by more than 1350%. The silk industry, begun as a craze in the 1830s, was extended by one of the major reform movements of the period, and revived as a major industry as the new industry of Florence in the 1850s. In the 1850s and '60s, the arrival of the railroads to Northampton Center brought several important machine shops, gas works, a basket factory from Huntington, and a maker of pocketbooks. By 1865 the sewing silk and sewing machine factories of Florence led the town in the value of manufactured products, though major mills for the manufacture of cotton cloth, paper, buttons, and agricultural implements featured prominently in the town's industrial economy.

As late as 1845, the old Leeds concern of Thomas Shepherd, now the Northampton Woolen Mfg. Co., was still the major employer in town. That year it employed 240 persons, and, with a production of 71,786 yards of broadcloth, was the largest producing broadcloth mill in the Connecticut Valley; its production represented nearly 70% of the county's broadcloth production. The 1840s also saw the establishment of an important cotton mill at Florence, the Bensonville (later Greenville) Mfg. Co., whose named incorporators included Samuel Williston (buttons at Williamsburg and Easthampton) and Joel Hayden (button machinery at Haydenville). (Hayden, the same year, built a cotton mill at Haydenville, some 4-5 miles up river.)

But it was the silk industry which had the greatest impact on Northampton. Samuel Whitmarsh came to Northampton in 1829. In 1836, with backers from Middletown, Connecticut (location of Connecticut's silk industry) and 22 New York investors, Whitmarsh organized the Northampton Silk Co. By 1837 the value of silk produced was nearly three-quarters of the entire state production. The company was called "the most extensive and well-regulated silk company in the Union" (quoted in Hannay). Prompted by the success of Whitmarsh and others, thousands rushed into the business of growing mulberry trees, the morus multicaulus. Small plants were sold for fabulous prices, and the trees became worth much more than the silk. When the bubble burst in 1839, Northampton Silk collapsed with it. The silk industry was kept alive through the 1840s by the Northampton Association of Education and Industry, an important Fourierist community in Florence, whose backers appear to have selected Florence because of the availability of the defunct silk industry. Joseph Conant, hired by Whitmarsh from Mansfield, Connecticut, directed the silk department of the new association. But by 1846 Conant and other silk men had withdrawn to form their own company, the Conant Mfg. Co.; the community had dissolved; and Samuel Hill had assumed the debts and direction of the community's silk mills. Hill, with Samuel L. Hinckley created out of the association's ruins the future Nonotuck Silk Co., later incorporated under that name in 1866. In the 1850s, in the meantime, with the invention of "machine twist" (a silk twist adopted for use in the newly invented sewing machine), makers of silk thread prospered. By 1855 silk thread was already the leading product manufactured in town (by product value). In 1861 Hill and Hinckley founded the Florence Sewing Machine Co. to build machines to sew the twist that Nonotuck was producing. By 1865, the machine company's product was valued at \$325,000, the highest value of any manufactured product in town; second highest product value (\$303,000) was in sewing silk. In the decade which followed, Nonotuck Silk enjoyed a phenomenal expansion: by 1875 its output had tripled to \$1.1 million.

The 1850s were also a period of expansion for new machine shops, at Northampton Center, Bay State and Florence. At Bay State, a former hemp factory attracted a group of Waterbury investors who formed the Bay State Tool Co.; in 1855 with a product worth \$100,000, they were the single largest employer in town (150 men). But after the Panic of 1857 the company was reorganized. (One of the new partners, William Clement, had been foreman of Lamson & Goodnow in Shelburne Falls.) An important part of Bay State Hardware's production was the "planter's hoe," sold to the cotton areas of the South, a market which disappeared in the 1860s. In 1866 three of the partners formed a rival firm, Clement, Hawkes Mfg. Co., apparently planning two separate plants (the hoe factory eventually built at the foot of Green Street; and a table cutlery factory). But the new company was undercapitalized, and only after several reorganizations did two companies eventually emerge: Northampton Cutlery (1871, the former Bay State Hardware), and Clement Cutlery (1882, the former International Screw).

E. Architecture:

Residential: The Early Industrial is the first period for which clearly delineated neighborhoods of workers' through elite housing have survived. It is also the period of Northampton's most outstanding architectural expression, which is most prominently reflected in the work of William Fenno Pratt (). Neighborhoods of large, Pratt designed villas developed at Round Hill, Pomeroy Terrace and in the South/Lyman Streets area. The Italianate and Gothic Revival styles are represented most commonly but Greek Revival houses and Downingesque Swiss chalets are also known. Most prevalent are Italianate villas, the majority of which retain the traditional center entrance and end or interior chimneys within a square plan, generally three bays wide by three bays long. Low hip roofs with belvederes predominate. Details commonly employed by Pratt and evident on Northampton's Italianate houses include one or two story porches with tripartite round-arched openings, flush boardings, quoins and side verandas. Asymmetrical plans with towers were less commonly used in Northampton. For the city's many Gothic Revival houses and cottages, asymmetrical L-plans or symmetrical T-plans were the rule. Northampton is highly unusual for the number of Gothic Revival structures it retains; most of these preserve original board and batten siding, carved or sawn bargeboards, and lancet windows or dormers. The predominance of the Italianate style for elite residences is evident in middle and working class housing as well. In the 1860s and '70s, large numbers of two-story asymmetrical Italianate houses were built with cross gabled side ells perpendicular to sidehall plan main blocks; examples are located in Florence, which underwent rapid and extensive development in the period, and on Prospect, South and Bridge Streets. Workers' housing generally consisted of sidehall one and two story Greek Revival and Italianate cottages. Only a few rowhouses were built, the double cottage or house being the most common multiple family house form of the period. Extant workers' housing is concentrated at Florence and Leeds with other clusters west of Bridge Street and east of Route 5 near the Levee.

Institutional: Northampton retains a number of institutional buildings of the Early Industrial period, including several important Pratt designed structures. Foremost of these is probably the Town Hall of 1849, a highly unusual stucco Gothic Revival structure and one of Pratt's first independent commissions. A square plan structure with battlemented turrets at the corners and flanking the center entrance, Pratt's Town Hall is similar in appearance and contemporaneous with James Dakin's Louisiana State Capitol (1849) in Baton Rouge. The building also resembled, in plan, the Gothic Seminary (1835) at Round Hill, an ornate pinnacled structure demolished ca.1915. Other significant surviving institutional buildings include the Smith Charities building (1865, William Pratt), a brownstone Renaissance Revival building, the House of Correction (1851, Gridley J. F. Bryant), a four-and-a-half story brick Victorian Italianate building and the first Northampton State Hospital building

(1856), Jonathan Preston), a brick Greek Revival/Italianate building whose original plan consisted of a long facade with perpendicular end wings. Other smaller institutional buildings include the Florence Congregational Church (1861, William Pratt) with Moorish/Romanesque details, the Greek Revival/Italianate West Farms Chapel (1835; remodelled 1868), the Hospital Hill School (1860) and buildings at the Clarke School for the Deaf (established 1867) including Gawith Hall (ca.1870, Ware and VanBrunt) and Rogers Hall (ca.1850). Established in the period were Boys (1835) and Girls (1836) High Schools, a Fire Department (1854), Water Works (1868-71), Gas Company (1853), Library (1869) and Catholic church (Saint Mary's, 1834; first church, 1844).

Commercial: By the end of the Early Industrial period, Main Street was lined with three and four story brick commercial blocks of substantial Victorian Italianate and Romanesque Revival design. Most of the surviving buildings date from the late 1840s and from the 1860s. Among these are the Kirkland Blocks (1848), three story brick Italianate buildings, the Rust Block (1867, William Pratt), the Pierce Block (1869, William Pratt), the O'Brien Block (1868) and the Astman Block (1868). The buildings of the 1860s, almost all of which incorporated flat roofs and heavy, complex corbelled cornices, set the pattern for the buildings of the 1870s, which comprise the majority of the Main Street buildings. Of special note is the survival of one cast-iron fronted building, the Northampton National Bank (1866, William Pratt).

Industrial: A number of important industrial buildings of the period have survived, some by Springfield architect, Eugene C. Gardner. These include the Florence Sewing Machinery Company (1860), the Northampton Paper Company (1866), and the Nonotuck Silk Mill (1866). Of these, the Northampton Paper Company is the most elaborate, with a mansard roof, quoins and round arched windows. Florence Sewing Machine and Nonotuck Silk are both more utilitarian with simple Romanesque Revival detailing and two to four story masonry construction. Other significant survivals include the Northampton Cutlery Company (1840), an outstanding two to three story brick Romanesque Revival complex on Riverside Drive in Florence, the Bay State Engine House (c.1840), the Northampton Lumber Company (c.1850) and the Gas Works gasometer (1856).

IX. LATE INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1870-1915)

A. Transportation Routes:

Continued expansion of regional railroad connections with opening of Central Massachusetts route across Connecticut River to Hadley and Amherst (1887), including survival of original truss bridge, and New York, New Haven, and Hartford route to Greenfield (1890) paralleling original Connecticut River line (now abandoned). Local transit service underwent significant expansion with electrification

of horsecar system (1893). Suburban trolley routes included lines on Prospect, Bates, South and Pleasant Streets, with interurban routes to Hadley from Bridge Street, Hatfield through Laural Park along Route 5, Holyoke along Mt. Tom Road (Route 5), Easthampton across Pyncheon Meadows (roadbed intact), and to Leeds and Williamsburg from Florence along River Road (by 1904).

B. Population:

In the Late Industrial period, Northampton's population rose by 113.1%, retiring it to third place among the most rapidly growing towns, after Easthampton and Ware, but still twice the county average. But for one anomalous period, 1905-10 when the population registered a decline (an enumerator's error?), Northampton grew by over 250 new residents a year for the period after 1885. Between 1885 and 1900, the rate averaged 383 a year; and in 1910-15, the rate was the highest yet: 444 persons per year.

Northampton's immigrant population, consistently between 24 and 25 percent of her total population, represented a decline, as compared to the county total, which by 1915 was a point above Northampton's. Though throughout the period, the Irish dominated the lists, by 1915 the French Canadians and Poles (the latter number had doubled in the previous decade) were close behind.

C. Settlement Pattern:

Civic focus maintained around Court Square with secondary center developed at western axis of Main and Elm Streets with location of library and music hall. Business district remained along Main Street axis with increased density of commercial blocks extending along cross axis of Pleasant and King Streets from railroad depot. Prime residential district focused around Smith College campus (1875) along Elm Street axis to Round Hill, with original status district on Pomeroy Terrace limited by fringe activities along railroad corridor. Secondary suburban areas developed along South, Bates and Bridge Street trolley lines with outlying districts extended from Round Hill along Prospect Street route. Continued expansion of Mill River industrial centers after 1874 Flood at Leeds with formation of local business district at Florence along Locust Street axis and at Bay State village on Riverside Drive. In similar pattern, continued development of Connecticut River railroad corridor north to Hatfield with location of Laural Park camp ground (c.1880) and Hebrew cemeteries on King Street axis (Route 5) and parallel extension of fringe activity from South Street along Easthampton Road (Route 10). Tobacco farming maintained as primary agricultural activity along Connecticut River meadowland to the Oxbow with limited dairying at West and North Farms.

D. Economic Base:

After the war, Northampton began to attract larger firms and greater amounts of outside capital for industrial expansion. Bay State,

with capital from other regions, grew as a cutlery center, with three new firms emerging: Northampton Cutlery (1871); Clement Cutlery (1882); and E. E. Wood Cutlery (1889) (Wood was a former superintendent of Northampton Cutlery.). Horace Lamb moved his wire mill from North Hadley to Northampton in 1873; Belding Brothers, a large Connecticut silk firm, established a large silk mill in 1876, followed by Kingsbury Box, their own box maker, in 1881. Nonotuck Silk continued its phenomenal success, acquiring plants in Leeds and Haydenville. By 1875 the two silk firms together had a product valued at \$1.1 million, making it much the largest industry in town. As a result of the prominence of the silk mills, whose products were little affected by the financial panic, Northampton weathered the Panic of 1873 relatively well, though the Florence Sewing Machine Co. was reorganized, adding oil stoves to her product line. In 1890 the company was taken over by the Central Oil Gas Stove Co., a large trust organized that year.

Other Florence companies came into being, largely guided by a close-knit group of directors, with control over many of the major Northampton firms. The Florence Mfg. Co. -- later the Pro-phy-lac-tic Brush Co. -- made its fortune on "Florence composition," a hard, black, rubber-like substance that the company originally used for daguerreotype frames, and only later on tooth and other brushes. Nonotuck Silk continued its expansion and prominence. At one time it was said to provide 50% of Northampton's total employment. In the last quarter of the 19th century, then one of the largest silk mills in the United States, it adopted the name "Corticelli," an Italian word for high-quality silk, for some of its chief products, though the company didn't change its name to Corticelli until 1922.

Expansion continued in the 1890s -- Norwood Engineering in Florence, a maker of industrial water filters; and the McCallum Hosiery Co., a pioneer U.S. hosiery maker, who moved to Northampton from Holyoke. E. E. Wood Cutlery, as noted, took over the old paper mill near Bay State in 1889.

Despite its industrial prominence, the town was also a major agricultural producer. In 1880 the town was the second highest milk producer in the county (after South Hadley), and ranked third in tobacco and potatoes. In the 1905 enumeration, it led the county in dressed poultry, and was fourth in milk. Lumber rafting had ended on the Connecticut River after the railroad was built. For about 20 years the railroads could supply the region with such spruce frames as were needed. But the growth of cities and towns had been such that after 1870 the railroads could no longer handle the demand. In addition, the cost of driving down logs to mills at Northampton (and Holyoke, as far south on the river as was practical) was considerably less than the railroad rates. At the Oxbow, the Connecticut River Lumber Company had a major collection point by the 1870s; twenty years later there was twenty-five times the amount of spruce timber on the river than there had been in 1866 (Picturesque Hampshire, p.91).

E. Architecture:

Residential: Suburban residential development expanded at Florence and Northampton with secondary developments at Leeds and Laurel Park. Elite neighborhoods remained concentrated around Round Hill, Pomeroy Terrace, South Street and Paradise Pond. These include a number of Second Empire and Stick Style buildings of the 1880s as well as a fair number of stucco Craftsman houses of the early 20th century. In general, the Queen Anne style was somewhat more commonly employed than the Colonial Revival. Asymmetrical and symmetrical plans were used in almost equal numbers. The number of architects practicing in the city increased from the Early Industrial period. William F. Pratt and son practiced into the 1880s. Other architects active included Robert F. Putnam, and his son Karl S., C. H. Jones, F. S. Neuman of Springfield, Curtis G. Page and the firm of Putnam and Bayley. Outstanding houses include the R. Holmes House (1908), a stucco house with details seemingly derived from contemporary Viennese design, the Tudor Revival Cordes House, the Moorish Revival Kefe House, the Second Empire W. T. Clement House and the George McCallum House (1912-13, G. B. McCallum), a very large hip roofed Craftsman style house with formal terraced landscaping. More modest housing generally consisted of sidehall or center hall Stick Style, Queen Anne or Colonial Revival buildings, most with hip roofs, turrets, offset front gables and polygonal bays. Such housing was built in some numbers along Elm, Prospect, South and Bridge Streets. Modest single family housing, primarily sidehall late Italianate and Queen Anne cottages, was built at Leeds, at Florence along Riverside, Nonotuck and Locust Streets and in Northampton on Williams and North Streets. Very few three deckers were built, the most common multiple family house forms being the rowhouse, double house and two family house. Double houses and two families in utilitarian Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Craftsman designs were built adjacent in the North and Williams Streets area in Northampton but were most common in Florence. A few apartment blocks were built at the end of the period. Most are large masonry blocks, four or five stories tall, with Craftsman details. They include the McCormick Apartments (1915) and the Earle Apartments (1911-13). Laurel Park, a Methodist summer campground, developed after 1875 with approximately 75 Stick Style and Queen Anne cottages built.

Institutional: Great institutional expansion occurred in the period with the growth of Smith College and the Northampton State Hospital. In addition, many municipal buildings especially schools, were built in the period along with almost all of the city's churches. Among the most outstanding municipal buildings are the Richardsonian Romanesque Hampshire County Courthouse (1884-86, Henry F. Kilburn, New York) and Forbes Library (1894, William C. Brocklesby), the yellow brick Renaissance Revival D. A. Sullivan School (1894-96, Gardner, Pyne and Gardner) and Memorial Hall (1872, James McLaughlin, Cincinnati), a brick and sandstone Renaissance Revival building. Schools include the Williams Street (1913, Karl Putnam), South Street

(1888-90), Slough Hill (1877) and Mount Tom (ca.1910) schools, all of brick construction. Important churches of the period include the First Congregational (1877-78, Peabody and Stearns, Boston), a Victorian Gothic brownstone building with an offset square belfry, Saint John's Episcopal Church (1893, R. W. Gibson, New York), a granite Richardsonian Romanesque building with Gothic Revival details, Saint Mary of the Assumption (1881, Patrick W. Ford), the neoclassical Unitarian Church (1904), Saint John Cantius (1912, John W. Donahue), a Tuscan Romanesque building and the Roman Classical First Church of Christ Scientist (1908) by Chicago architect, Solon Beeman. In Florence, the Victorian Gothic Church of the Annunciation (1879-80, Patrick W. Ford) was built along with a Panel Brick Temperance Hall (1884, William Pratt) and a Library (1890, C. H. Jones). Also surviving in Northampton are a Fire Station (1872) and a Grance (1871, William Pratt) with Gothic Revival details.

Smith College: The earliest period buildings standing at Smith are brick Victorian Gothic dormitories and classrooms built in the late 1870s by the Boston firm of Peabody and Stearns. The next major building campaign occurred in the 1890s when several Queen Anne dormitories (Lawrence and Morris Houses) 1891-92; Tyler House, 1897-98) by Hartford architect, William C. Brocklesby were built. The bulk of the remaining college buildings were built after the turn of the century. Most of these are well detailed Colonial or Georgian Revival or neoclassical structures in brick and stone. Examples include Seelye Hall (1898), a rusticated Georgian Revival building by the New York firm of York and Sawyer, Talbot House (1909, Richardson and Driver), Baldwin (1908) and Northrop (1911) Houses (Charles A. Rich) and Neilson Library (1910, Lord and Hewett).

Commercial: A number of commercial buildings were built in the early 1870s after a fire in 1870 destroyed a large portion of the Main Street. Almost all of these are three and four story brick Romanesque Revival buildings with heavy corbelled cornices. Among these are the Todd Block (1871, J. M. Miner), the Draper Hotel (1871, J. M. Miner) and the Fleming Block (1871). After a hiatus in the 1880s, commercial construction recommenced in the 1890s. Renaissance Revival and Beaux Arts buildings in yellow brick and light sandstones were built. These include the Hammond Block (1896, B. H. Seabury), the Masonic Building (1898, R. F. Putnam), the Dewey (1912) and O'Donnell's (1911) blocks. A few three and four story brick Romanesque Revival commercial blocks were also built in Florence in the period. Of particular note is the survival of the 1872 Orcutt Hussey and Company storefront, a painted false front uncovered in the 1970s.

Industrial: Industrial construction continued to be concentrated at Florence and Leeds. Industrial complexes built in the period include the Nonotuck Silk Mill (1880, E. C. Gardner), a well-preserved three story brick structure, the Northampton Silk Company (ca.1910), with a sawtooth monitor roof, and the McCallum Hosiery Mill (1899, Aron Matthews), a two-story pier and spandrel brick building with a low gable roof.

X. EARLY MODERN PERIOD (1915-1940)

A. Transportation Routes:

Local transit service continued as electric trolley routes until motor bus replacement (1934). Significant improvement of regional connections with auto highway routes to Northampton including primary north-south axis as Route 5 from Springfield to Greenfield, and primary east-west corridor as Route 9 from Amherst to Pittsfield with monumental Calvin Coolidge Bridge across Connecticut River (1939). Secondary highway connections of the period included north-south Route 10 to Easthampton along South Street axis and east-west Route 66 to Westhampton, including original concrete bridges at Loudenville (1927). Establishment of local flying field in Northampton meadows (by 1934) at Old Ferry Road with some original hangers intact (La Fleur Airport).

B. Population:

Northampton's population rose by only 14.5%, though this was still ten points above the county average; as a result, the city was the fifth fastest growing town in the county. By 1940 the number of residents reached 24,794, though the only 5-year period to show substantial growth was 1920-25, when the town grew by nearly 10%. Poles remained one of Northampton's largest immigrant groups. By 1940, four-fifths of Northampton's farms were said to be owned by residents of Polish descent.

C. Settlement Pattern:

Civic and commercial center maintained along Main Street axis with expansion of activity along King and Pleasant Streets to highway strip development on Route 5 north to Hatfield and Route 10 south to Easthampton. Affluent residential neighborhood maintained along Elm Street axis (Route 9) from Smith College expanding west to Childs Park and on Round Hill. Secondary suburban districts likewise expanded along South Street axis and along Prospect Street to Hatfield Road with gradual overlap of residential development from Florence along Locust Street axis (Route 9). Formation of peripheral institutional belt along Mill River axis with location of Veterans Hospital, Look Memorial Park and County Sanitorium around Florence Center. Industrial activity maintained along Mill River at Leeds, Florence and Bay State village with secondary corridor along Connecticut River railroad axis from central business district. Agriculture continued as primary activity along Connecticut meadowlands to Easthampton and Hadley with dairying on favorable uplands at West and North Farms.

D. Economic Base:

World War I gave a tremendous boost not only to silk production (the 1920 value was 250% of its 1914 value), but to Pro-phy-lac-tic Brush, the cutlery plants, Norwood Engineering, and numerous other

plants. As in many industrial cities of its size, however, the sharp reduction in demand at the end of the war caused severe "industrial readjustments." The silk companies went through several mergers, and in the end, 1931-32, both closed. The loss of markets for both baskets and industrial filters for Holyoke paper mills also closed the Williams Basket Co. and Norwood Engineering.

Pro-phy-lac-tic Brush, with 1000 employees, was the town's largest employer in 1930. The period was brought to an end by the flood control measures of the Corps of Engineers: the Mill River Diversion together with the construction of two dikes and a pumping station in 1940.

E. Architecture:

Residential: Northampton continued to experience residential growth through the 1920s. The majority of the houses built were modest to substantial single family structures; very few workers' or multiple family houses were built. Areas of new construction included the western end of South Street, the Childs Park section of Prospect Street and Bridge Road in Florence. Substantial brick and frame Colonial, Dutch Colonial, and Tudor Revival single family houses were built along Prospect and South Street. More modest one and two story frame houses with Colonial or Tudor Revival detailing were built in Florence and outlying neighborhoods of Northampton. Of special note is the construction of a number of bungalows, some of concrete block construction. Many of Northampton's bungalows exhibit unusual features such as very narrow, deep shed dormers, stucco with banded stickwork and deep overhanging eaves. A large number of bungalows are located on Crescent, Swan and Graves Streets. Some employ formed concrete block construction. Individually notable houses include the Norotney House (1925, Charles Norotney), a two story stucco bungalow with banded windows, the Crook House (1928), the Lee House (1923, Karl Putnam), a brick Colonial Revival house styled after 17th-century brick houses of Virginia, and 27 Belmont Avenue (c.1930), a stucco Mission Revival house with a tile roof and second story loggia.

Institutional: Significant institutional construction continued at Smith College through the 1920s. Among the largest complexes at the College is The Quadrangle (1922-36, Ames, Putnam and Dodge, Boston), a group of ten dormitories in a variety of Georgian Revival designs. Other buildings of the period include the Colonial Revival President's House (1919-20, John W. Ames), Scott Gymnasium (1923-24, Ames and Dodge), Sage Hall (1924, Delano and Aldrich) and Alumnae House (1938, F. J. Woodbridge - Evans, Moore and Woodbridge). With the exception of Smith, the number of municipal and other private institutional buildings built in the period was much smaller. Among the period buildings constructed were several churches including St. Valentine Polish National Church (1932, H. J. Tossier), a retardataire brick Gothic Revival structure and Sacred Heart church (1916, John W. Donahue) as well as the Northampton High School (1939-40, J. Williams Beal and Son), a three-story brick and concrete Moderne structure.

Commercial: Comparatively little commercial construction took place in Northampton: King Street began to acquire the commercial character it now has, with a few automobile-related commercial structures, such as concrete block garages and the Bluebonnet Diner, built there by the end of the period. Earlier commercial buildings, especially those of the mid 19th century, were refaced or remodelled at the ground floor and roofline. A few notable buildings were erected including the Hotel Northampton (1927, H. L. Stevens Company, New York), The First National Bank (1928, J. Williams Beal and Son) and the Northampton Institution for Savings (1916, Thomas M. James). Of these, the First National Bank (now Pioneer) is the most unusual, with low relief carving in Art Deco designs. Also notable are three Worcester diners, the Miss Florence, Miss Northampton and Bluebonnet.

Industrial: The most outstanding industrial structure of the period is The Calvin Coolidge Bridge (1939, Desmond and Lord with Maurice Reidy), with eagle-trimmed concrete Art Deco pylons.

XI. SURVEY OBSERVATIONS

General: Northampton's survey is exceedingly well documented. Almost every building of outstanding character, either historical or architectural, is included along with representative examples of all major building types and styles present in the city. Historical significance is particularly sensitively treated. The only flaws with the inventory are minor: often, bracket dates from directories and atlases are used when more specific dates based on stylistic evidence might be conjectured. Similarly, architectural information is not always included or extrapolated from neighborhood context and known dated examples. Of particular significance in the town are the quality of its Italianate and Gothic Revival residences and the early and inventive use of the bungalow form and of concrete blocks as a building material.

Industrial: Virtually all of Northampton's industrial buildings have been identified. There remains considerable opportunity for National Register districts especially at Bay State, Leeds, and Florence.

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