

MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report

WEST NEWBURY

Report Date: 1985

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: October 1985

Community: West Newbury

I. HISTORIC OVERVIEW

West Newbury is a rural industrial town of undulating terrain on the southern shore of the Merrimack River. It contains no confirmed native sites but areas of likely activity at mouths of Artichoke and Indian Rivers at the Merrimack. The first permanent European settlement did not take place until 1686 when a large scale division of "Upper Commons" lands was made to Newbury Residents. The meetinghouse site was established at junction of Artichoke and Merrimack Rivers by 1689. Subsequent settlement concentrations in the northern part of town (Main Street vicinity) led to new meetinghouse site to the west (1709). The western half of town became a separate parish with meetinghouse (1729). Dispersed agricultural settlement was pervasive through the 18th century with the Second Parish meetinghouse developing as a small residential/commercial focus.

Although post-Revolutionary West Newbury was primarily an agricultural town, its comb production was increasing in scale throughout the Federal Period. After the economic downturn of the 1830s, the town experienced a manufacturing boom (particularly in production of combs and shoes). West Newbury village continued to attract residential development to town center, with small shoe shops attracted to nascent industrial fringe.

By the Civil War, West Newbury center had become a prospering manufacturing village and the town's agricultural economy, increasingly dependent upon dairying. By the early 20th century, however, West Newbury's industries had all but ceased and the town, was almost wholly a farming community. By World War II, the impending construction of Interstate 95 began to attract residential building to the town's rural periphery (especially in the immediate vicinity of the river). While 19th century manufacturing village remains largely intact, twentieth century West Newbury has evolved into residential outlier and dairy supplier for the nearby Haverhill-Lawrence Metropolitan Area. Commercial and condominium development at this time remains limited.

II. POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

Originally a part of the 17th century Plantation of Newbury, West Newbury comprised the majority of the town's 2nd parish. In 1819, the area was incorporated as Parsons, only to be renamed West Newbury the following year. The town's territorial extent has essentially remained unchanged since its incorporation.

III. TOPOGRAPHY

The town of West Newbury is located in the northeastern portion of Essex County, Massachusetts. Physiographically the town lies within the New England Seaboard lowland, a somewhat smooth coastal strip of land with hills usually below the 400 and 500 foot contours. In West Newbury, land surfaces generally slope southerly and easterly from upland in the western and northwestern areas of town. Land surfaces average under 100 feet throughout much of the town although several hills in the 200 to 250 foot range are present.

West Newbury's bedrock deposits are composed of sedimentary rocks of the Merrimack quartzite group throughout most of the town. These deposits contain actinolitic quartzite, dark phyllite and shale. In southern areas of town other sedimentary deposits of the Marlboro formation and igneous quartz diorites are also present. Surficial geological deposits in the town derive from Late Pleistocene glaciation. An undulating terrain dotted with kames drumlins and kettles clearly indicate surface features of glacial outwash origin. Indications of sea level rise are also present in the Merrimack River.

West Newbury's soil association also show the effects of Late Pleistocene glaciation. Soils of the Canton-Charlton-Sutton association form the dominant soil types in the town, predominantly in northwestern and central area. These deposits are deep and occur in nearly level to steep areas. They are loamy, well and moderately well drained and formed in friable glacial till. Soils of the Hinckley-Windsor-Merrimack association are present along the Merrimack River. These soils also occur in deep deposits and nearly level to steep areas. They are sandy and loamy, excessively drained and formed in outwash deposits. Soils of the Scantic-Maybid-Boxton association are present in some areas in the central portion of town and in limited areas along the Merrimack River. These soils occur in deep deposits in nearly level to moderately sloping areas. They are very poorly to moderately well drained loamy soils formed in lacustrine or marine sediments. Soils of the Charlton-Rock outcrop-Medisaprist Association are present in the southeastern area of town and around Upper Artichoke reservoir. Deposits in this association occur in deep, nearly level to steep areas. They include rock outcrops as well as loamy and mucky soils. They range from well drained to very poorly drained and are formed in glacial till and organic deposits.

Major drainage in West Newbury is through the Merrimack River which drains west to east along the town's northern border. Additional drainage also occurs through the Artichoke River, Indian River, and Weaver Brook, all draining northerly into the Merrimack River. Few ponds exist in the town. They include Little Crane Pond, Mill Pond and Lower and Upper Artichoke Reservoirs. Fresh water swamps are common throughout much of the town.

The original forest growth in West Newbury and Essex County in general consisted of a mixed growth of white pine, oak, chestnut, poplar, maple, birch and some other hardwoods and conifers. However, second growth patterns characterize most of the town today, including oak and chestnut in uplands to scrub oak and pitch pine in areas of droughty and sandy soils.

IV. CONTACT PERIOD (1500-1620)

A. Transportation Routes

Native American transportation routes in the West Newbury area emphasized water travel along the town's rivers and creeks. A major route likely existed on the Merrimack River with secondary routes on the Artichoke River and Beaver Brook. Conjectured trails were also possibly present along the rivers and brooks listed above. An interior land route may have been present in the vicinity of Middle Street.

B. Population

West Newbury was probably inhabited by members of the Pawtucket Indians and related groups which extended from the Saugus/Salem area north to the York area of Maine. Locally this group included the Penacook Indians in the vicinity of the lower Merrimack drainage and the Agawam Indians farther south in the Ipswich-Rowley area. Gookin (1792) lists ca. 3,000 men as belonging to the Pawtucket group prior to the 1617-1619 epidemics. During the same period, Mooney (1928:4) lists 2,000 men belonging to the Penacook group. These figures could represent as many as 12,000 natives in the region, probably exaggerated. Following the epidemics, fewer than 50 to 100 natives likely remained in the West Newbury area by 1620.

C. Settlement Pattern

Few sites dating to the Contact Period have been identified in eastern Massachusetts. However, regional ethnohistoric sources and known site locations indicate coastal/estuary zones and major drainages as preferred areas. Few Woodland Period sites and no Contact Period sites are known for the West Newbury area. The mouth of the Indian and Artichoke Rivers at the Merrimack River may have been good site locations for habitation and village type sites, special purpose sites (fishing sites, shell middens and burials) may also have been present, along the Merrimack River or along the periphery of interior wetlands such as ponds, swamps and streams.

D. Subsistence Pattern

Native Americans in the West Newbury area subsisted on a variety of seasonally determined activities, including hunting, fishing, the collecting of wild plants and shell fish and horticulture. Hunting was a major activity focusing on larger mammals such as deer and smaller fur bearers. Sea mammals such as seals may also have been available along the Merrimack River. Upland game birds

and ducks were also hunted; the Merrimack River and other fresh water wetlands would have been particularly important for water fowl hunting. Interior ponds, streams and rivers afforded a variety of freshwater fish. Larger rivers such as the Merrimack and possibly Artichoke Rivers also contained seasonal runs of smelt, alewives, shad, salmon, sea-run trout and sturgeon. Several species of terrestrial as well as freshwater plants in the West Newbury area provided a valuable food resource. Natives in this area may also have focused on shellfishing at the mouth of the Merrimack River in nearby Newburyport. Domesticated plants such as corn, beans, pumpkins, squash and tobacco were important. The location of native fields is currently unknown, however, they were likely located along the Merrimack River or near wetland areas.

V. PLANTATION PERIOD (1620-1675)

A. Transportation Routes

Indian trails likely continued in use in the West Newbury area throughout most of the Plantation Period. Many trails may have been upgraded to horse or cart paths before settlement linking Newbury with the Andover/Bradford area. Some water travel may also have been present along the Merrimack, Indian and Artichoke Rivers. Most land transportation in the West Newbury area was not laid out until the Colonial Period when the Upper Commons were divided. Earlier routes may have been present in the Main Street, Middle Street and South Street areas. These roads were not greatly improved from natural conditions and were used mainly to move livestock and to reach mills.

B. Population

Few Europeans resided in the West Newbury area during this period. Some colonists may have resided in the southern area of town or in the east in the Turkey Hill/Artichoke River vicinity as several large Newbury grants were given in these areas. The permanent European population was probably less than 50 persons plus several seasonal herdsman.

C. Settlement Pattern

Little evidence exists that West Newbury was settled during this period. The area included nearly all of what was known as the Newbury Upper Commons or Upper Woods, extending west and south from the Artichoke River to the Bradford town line. This area was used for livestock grazing with animals being allowed to run free throughout the area. As late as 1665, the remoteness of this area necessitated that pens be built for cattle and horse for seasonal herdsman.

After the settlement of New Town, Newbury, all individual lands east of the Artichoke River were divided in 1645. This land division was followed by several large grants in the southern portion of West Newbury and Turkey Hill area by 1655. It is

likely that some settlement of eastern or southern West Newbury was made at this time or shortly thereafter. However, the actual locations of settlements is not known. Most Plantation Period settlements remained east of the Artichoke River beyond the boundary of West Newbury as it exists today. Only a mill site may have been present on the Artichoke River by 1640.

D. Economic Base

As Colonial settlers established themselves in the West Newbury area, the hunting and gathering of wild foods were important to their subsistence. However, the combined use of agriculture and husbandry quickly became the most important aspects in the economic lives of West Newbury's early settlers. Shortly after Old Town Newbury was settled several large farms were granted in what is now the West Newbury area. Although few farms were present in the area, a number of diversified farm products were quickly adopted. These farms grew grains such as Indian corn, wheat, barley, oats as well as rye when possible. Fruit and vegetables were grown but grains were the most important produce. Hemp and flax were also probably grown for vegetable fibers though not as a major crop. West Newbury farms may have also owned rights to salt marsh hay in Newbury or Newburyport. Husbandry was an important activity on farms in this area. Cattle and sheep raising were important in the town at an early date. Pig raising was also important as well as cows for dairying activities. Honey bees were also probably present. Little evidence exists indicating mills were present in West Newbury during the Plantation Period. Other than a water powered grist mill which may have been present on the Artichoke River by 1640.

VI. COLONIAL PERIOD (1675-1775)

A. Transportation Routes

Few native trails likely remained by the Colonial Period as most had been upgraded to horse paths, cartways or overgrown by this time. The Main Street/Middle Street and South Street routes developed as the major transportation routes through the town linking the West Boxford area with Newbury, Newburyport and Andover/Bradford. After West Newbury lands had been divided secondary roads also developed. These roads include Pleasant Street, Coffin Lane, Hanover Street, Ash Street Holman Street, Crane Neck Street, Bachelor Street and Indian Street. Water travel was also important with at least one ferry extending across the Merrimack River west of the Indian River.

B. Population

By 1686, 16 persons of the Newbury West District (West Newbury area) requested that a meetinghouse be built, representing 80 or more persons living in West Newbury. In 1693 the town of Newbury voted to choose a minister for the West End in response to which 25 West End residents entered a vote of protest, representing as many as 125 residents. During the latter part of the 17th century and early 18th century, West Newbury's population grew

significantly. By 1729, 187 homes were present in the town representing as many as 935 individuals. Population in the West Newbury area may have doubled from 1729 to as many as 1500 individuals in 1775.

C. Settlement Pattern

Attempts to divide the Upper Commons of West Newbury area were slowed by dissatisfaction amongst the inhabitants who were not freeholders and would not benefit from the distribution. Residents of Newbury made the first move in 1679. In 1683-84 another vote was made to divide 6,000 acres, 1000 acres to non-freeholders and soldiers, and 5,000 acres to freeholders. An actual division was not made until 1686. At that time it was decided to divide 6,000 acres, equal shares of 3,000 acres to freeholders with another 3,000 acres to inhabitants and freeholders who paid rates (taxes) for the last two years. A total of 111 lots were laid out. Most settlement of the West Newbury area occurred after this division although settlement may have occurred by 1679.

In 1685 residents of the West End or old Upper Commons and land east of the Artichoke River requested permission to establish a separate place of public worship. Permission was granted and in 1689 a meetinghouse was built near the east side of the Artichoke River at its confluence with the Merrimack River, indicating the focus of settlement. In 1694-95 the Newbury Second Parish was created including all land from about 1/2 to 1 mile east of the Artichoke River west to the Merrimack River and Bradford line south to a line running along South Street in the area of Little Crane Pond; the area including all of present West Newbury.

Once the Upper Commons were divided and Second Parish established settlement grew quickly in the West Newbury area. Most early settlement was concentrated along the Main Street area, roughly parallel to the Merrimack River. Most dwellings were located on the north side of the street where lots probably extended to the river. Otherwise, settlement during this period was dispersed throughout much of the town along a network of streets running perpendicular to Main Street and Middle Street, paralleling Main Street in the central portion of town. Settlement was gradually shifting to the west. The meetinghouse was moved (1709) to a more central parish location on Main Street, near Pipe Stove Hill east of the Indian River. In 1729 a petition was made to the General Court to divide the Newbury Second Parish into two parishes. In 1731 the division was granted dividing the two parishes roughly along Holman Street northwest to the Merrimack River. This division created the Newbury Fourth Parish in roughly what would become the western half of West Newbury. A parish meetinghouse was established west of Meetinghouse Hill and north of Meetinghouse Street. In 1760-61 the Fifth Parish of Newbury was created which included Second Parish lands east of the Artichoke River, now part of Newburyport.

D. Economic Base

Agriculture and husbandry continued to characterize the economic base of West Newbury during the Colonial Period. Industry and manufacturers developed during this period but never exceeded that of agriculture and husbandry in economic importance.

Corn cultivation continued to grow in importance throughout this period, possibly associated with pig raising activities. Cows, cattle and sheep were still the most important animals. Several of West Newbury's sheep flocks were large by local standards.

Fishing and shipbuilding were probably pursued in West Newbury although neither were of great importance. The Artichoke and Indian Rivers permitted anchorage or harbors for smaller class vessels. Both rivers also had seasonal runs of anadromous fish which were exported by local residents. A fishery may have existed in the Merrimack River. Weavers, tanners, shoemakers, molsters, carpenters, and persons of many other trades were amongst West Newbury's settlers. Textile production was also probably pursued for local use.

By 1679-80 at least one waterpowered grist mill was known to exist on the west side of the Artichoke River, probably in West Newbury. In 1706 a saw mill and temporary dam were built at the mouth of the Indian River. In 1770 a comb business was established by Enock Noyes, a farmer who also made buttons. Shoes manufacture may have also existed during this period.

E. Architecture

Residential: The earliest surviving houses in the town are of the central chimney type; the majority are of the common 2 & 1/2 story, five-bay, symmetrical side gable type but two examples are know with a salt box profile, and two or four bays in width. A smaller number were constructed of 1 & 1/2 stories in height including several with gambrel roofs. Later in the period, houses were constructed in the Georgian plan, using double interior chimneys. Some have been expanded by the addition of beverly jogs, and one by a rear lean-to. A small number of 1 & 1/2 story examples were built, including two examples with exceptional bay numbers.

Institutional: A meetinghouse was built in the area in 1685 just prior to its designation as Second Parish Newbury; the house was repaired in 1696, moved in 1711, and its turret removed in 1742. The second house, constructed in 1759 measured 44' by 40' with 24' studs of two stories. Just prior to the formation of the Forth Parish in 1729 a second meetinghouse was constructed, measuring 50 x 38 feet with 20 foot studs.

Industrial: A carriage-making shop/residence, ca. 1680, still stands at 801 Main Street; two-story wood frame building with a gabled roof, the chaise entrance has been altered and is now a door.

VII. FEDERAL PERIOD (1775-1830)

A. Transportation Routes

The Merrimack River and Main Street, having become during the Colonial Period the town's principal east/west corridors, provided the frame for West Newbury's developing transportation network. River road, Main and Meetinghouse streets ran parallel to the Merrimack, and Middle Street emerged as yet a fourth river-oriented axis during the period. North/south routes, striking out perpendicularly from the Merrimack, intersected these roads haphazardly, making travel in this direction difficult. Particularly between Middle and South Streets (the town's innermost river streets) these north/south roads are of Federal Period origin. In 1795, a bridge was built at the "Rocks Village" between Haverhill and West Newbury, the same location as the old ferry at "Holt's Rocks". Never an important route across the Merrimack, the bridge's condition deteriorated until it was destroyed by ice in 1818; not until 1828 was it rebuilt.

B. Population

In 1820, the town contained 1279 individuals which increased to 1586 individuals in 1830, a gain of 24%.

The Second Parish Newbury became nominally Presbyterian from 1798 to 1807 when the minister resigned after a stormy pastorate. Quakers had a meetinghouse from 1828.

C. Settlement Pattern

As during the Colonial years, settlement followed the Main Street (Rt. 113) corridor. Clustering occurred most intensively in the vicinity of the town's three civic landmarks: the First Parish meetinghouse in the northeast, at Hanover and Main; the town common (training ground) on central Main; and the Second Parish Church, at Church and Main in the southwest. By 1819, the town's population was sufficient to merit incorporation as an independent town. By period's end, southern Main Street (encompassing both the Second Parish Church and the training ground, and extending as far south as Forest Street) had emerged as the town's primary corridor of civic and residential activity (now West Newbury Village). Maple Street, running inland from this corridor, had begun to attract intensive residential construction. Stewart, Middle and Indian Hill Streets became the primary connector to Byfield and similarly attracted (at a smaller scale) residential builders during the period. Beyond the Main Street axis and the less intensive construction inland, the town remained a primarily agricultural community and its settlement, dispersed on individual farmsteads.

Mill activity continued at a small scale on the Indian River while small scale manufacturing efforts (particularly combs and shoes) tended to cluster on Main Street at the perimeter of the village center. Agricultural activities concentrated east and south of Main Street (especially near Crane Neck Hill), with Long Hill, adjacent the Merrimack, also proving to be prime cultivable land.

D. Economic Base

Though primarily an agricultural town, West Newbury began to develop an industrial base after the Revolution. Still in 1820, four out of five people worked in agriculture and industrial product value was only around \$40,000. Several small shoe shops dotted the landscape. Coopers shops used wood for making barrels from Pipe Stave Hill. There were also carriage-makers beginning early in the 19th century. The largest shop was run by Enock Bailey who employed twenty men in his shop near the town training field. Enoch Noyes founded the comb industry in West Newbury. He began manufacturing combs more rapidly after 1777, with the assistance of an unnamed Hessian comb-maker, whose tools and technical know-how greatly improved Noyes' operation. By 1830 there were at least 25 comb-making shops in town. Their combs were taken to Boston for sale and horns for new combs brought back.

E. Architecture

Residential: A greater variety of house forms survives from this period. Nearly all are two stories in height, five bays in width with pairs of chimneys, but differ in the number and configuration of the rooms. Double interior chimney, Georgian types remained popular for large houses, about 10 are inventoried. Even more numerous are the smaller houses employing pairs of rear wall chimneys; although a small number may be only a single pile in depth, it is far more common for the addition of rear ells of one or two stories to form an L-plan. Houses with chimneys on the lateral walls are rarer, include both L and double-pile plans. Most of these houses were constructed with gable roofs, but isolated examples are known of hip and gambrel roofs, while L-plans often join their roofs in the form of a "half-hip". Possibly dating to this period is a 2 1/2 story, five-bay, center entry house of brick, stuccoed and coursed to resemble ashlar. The Hotel Albion was a large three story L plan, hip roofed house with end wall chimneys.

Institutional: The Fourth Parish Newbury, later Second Parish West Newbury, built a new meetinghouse in 1815-16, apparently of church plan with a tall entry tower at its gable end, but later altered.

Industrial: Most comb and shoe making shops were established along Main Street. The majority of shoe and comb makers worked in ten-footers, or small shops behind their homes, some actually had shops in their place of residents. A one-story frame shop with a chimney, used for both shoe and comb making, still stands at 504 Main Street. A comb factory was built ca. 1820, a two-story frame building with a gabled roof and two chimneys, a center entrance and irregular windows, now stands at 39 Main Street, currently covered with wood and asbestos shingles. A second comb factory was built ca. 1820, a gable-front barn with two bays of windows at 248 Main St. In addition, there were several carriage and coopers shops early in the century, the largest allowed twenty men to work simultaneously.

Transportation: The Rocks/Merrimack Bridge at Rocks Village (1795), supported by five piers and two abutments, was at the time the longest of all bridges spanning the river. An 1828 image shows it to have been a covered bridge, the upper portion wooden in construction and bearing a shallow gable roof.

VIII. EARLY INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1830-1870)

A. Transportation Routes

West Newbury never experienced the enormous change to its transportation system that the railroad delivered to other Essex towns. Bypassed on the east and south by the Newburyport Railroad (linking Newburyport to Haverhill via Georgetown) the town's transportation network remained localized, the Merrimack (and on a secondary level, Main Street) continuing as West Newbury's sole regional connectors. The period's only other change was the opening of the "Rocks"/Merrimack Bridge as a public highway in 1868.

B. Population

The population of West Newbury showed overall growth through the period, expanding by a total of 26.4% from 1586 in 1830 to 2006 in 1870. Early in the period, as well as at the end, the pattern was generally of loss, beginning a pattern of decline that continued into the 20th century. The proportion of foreign-born in this small town was quite high, equalling 20.6% in 1855. The largest group was the Irish (279), followed by the English (110), and small numbers of Germans, Scots, and Canadians. The proportion fell to 14.6% ten years later.

Methodists met here c. 1832 but located later in Newbury. Baptists met but disbanded before the century's end. Roman Catholics travelled to Merrimack for services. A Mutual Fire Insurance Co. was formed in 1849. A Farmers Club was formed in 1856 and held fairs on the Training Field for 50 years.

C. Settlement Pattern

In 1842, the erection of the town hall at a central location near the training ground ended the alternation of town meetings between the two parish meetinghouses (on North and South Main). It appears to represent an effort to consolidate civic activities within the town, but no further institutional building was attracted to the area. Instead, settlement activity continued to intensify along southern Main Street at West Newbury Village. The Second Parish meetinghouse was remodelled (1856), a Baptist church erected, and several stores opened in the village center.

Residential construction, although limited, was most dense on the side streets near the village center, but began to push northward from the Main Street corridor toward the Rocks/Merrimack Bridge, along Church, Prospect and Bridge Streets. Scattered building occurred along the town's interior rural roads. By the period's end, the town's multiple shoe shops had begun to suggest a

manufacturing fringe belt around the village center (south of Crane Neck Hill on Main Street, at the junction of Georgetown Road and Crane Neck Hill, just south of Main Street, and at Coffin and Main streets). Near the First Parish meetinghouse (rebuilt in 1840), scattered shoe shops could also be found.

D. Economic Base

West Newbury farmers engaged in a mixed grain and husbandry economy. While acres devoted to haying and pasturage declined during the period (as did the number of livestock) considerable attention was still paid to dairying, fattening animals for slaughter, and raising sheep for wool. Dairy farmers turned increasingly to milk and butter production and away from cheese. From 1845 to 1865 the value of milk grew 30% while cheese production fell 79% to 4750 lbs. The grain harvest held steady. From 1855 to 1865, though, the grain acreage declined by 22%. Potatoes became an important crop after 1845. By 1865 the potato acreage was second only to that devoted to corn. In that year there were 128 farms totaling 6680 acres. Approximately 50% of the farm land was under cultivation (4/5's of which was haying and orcharding land.) Grazing land accounted for better than 75% of the unimproved acreage. This land was worked by 191 people in 1865, a drop of 27% from 1840.

The manufacturing sector of West Newbury's economy was subject to considerable fluctuation during the period. In 1832, 305 men and women produced goods worth nearly \$150,000. Five years later only 175 people were engaged in manufacturing goods worth \$71,750. Comb manufacturers were especially hard hit by the depression of the late 1830s, with a 60% drop in employment and the number of comb-making shops declined from at least 25 in 1830 to only 14 in 1837. The number employed making boots and shoes fell from 91 to 84, and the number of pairs and the value of goods produced fell by approximately 40%. The manufacture of carriages also suffered, and many carriage makers moved their operations to Amesbury.

Following this brief economic downturn West Newbury's manufacturing sector grew tremendously. In 1840 farmers outnumbered those doing manufacturing work by a ratio of almost 3 to 2 (261 to 186). In 1855 the number of people with manufacturing jobs had grown to at least 610 (an increase of 225%) and probably outnumbered agricultural workers by better than 2 to 1. Both the shoe and comb industries boomed. Shoe production increased by 450% to 275,000 pairs, with more than three times the number of workers compared to 1832. The comb industry figures also surpassed 1832 levels, though the increases were much less dramatic. Comb and shoe makers accounted for 95% of all people employed in manufacturing in 1855, and 96% of the total product value. Both industries suffered a loss of jobs and value of goods during the Civil War. The number of jobs in shoe production fell by 31% as the industry turned from the slave market to production for the north's soldiers. The comb industry experienced an even greater reorganization. New technology meant that 48% fewer workers than in 1832 were able to produce 720% more combs. The

number of shops fell from 15 in 1855 to 3 in 1865. Despite the incredible boom in comb production, the value of combs produced in 1865 was less than in 1832. The number of manufacturing workers fell 41% from 1855-1865 but still twice as many people employed in manufacturing (357) as in agriculture (191).

E. Architecture

Residential: Two traditional floor plans remained popular during the period. One and a half story houses regained popularity during the early years of the period, constructed of five bays with extended studd height, and double-pile depth. For large houses the double interior chimney, 2 & 1/2 story, five bay type remained popular. An exceptional Greek Revival example is the brick, end-wall chimney Newall Farm. During the mid-century years of expansion houses were ornamented by bay windows, elaborate cornices, labels and door hoods of the Italianate style. An isolated example is 5 bays in width with its entry into the left-most bay. The town's only double houses were constructed during the earlier years in forms related to these large houses: 2 & 1/2 stories, double pile, pair of entries in the center of their 6 bays, known from interior and exterior wall chimney examples. The new form introduced during the period was the gable front form, usually 2 & 1/2 stories in height with three bay width and side entry; one example was constructed of stone.

Institutional: The First Parish built its third meetinghouse in 1841; it was gable front in form with square tower, belfry and spire, a facade ornamented by cornice boards and pilasters, recessed entries, and all square headed openings. The town constructed a hall in 1842, a gable front of two stories with entry into the center of its three bays; it was enlarged and remodelled in 1880. The Second Parish remodelled with Gothic details, including buttresses, lancet windows, and pinnacles in 1856. A schoolhouse of 1867 survives, 1 & 1/2 stories in height with a side entry. The high school, undated, was a 2 & 1/2 story, gable front frame structure with paired entries, cornice boards and pilasters. A Baptist church was constructed during the period, of unknown appearance.

Industrial: Shoe and comb shops and factories continued to dot the landscape. Economic difficulties and technological changes resulted in a decline in the number of comb shops and an increase in their size. The Noyes Comb Factory, was built ca. 1840, a 1 & 1/2 story, wood frame structure with gabled roof was built at 322 Main Street; it currently houses a real estate office. In 1850 the Noyes' built a larger shop; 2 & 1/2 stories, wood frame, next door at 320 Main Street. A fire in the 1940s destroyed the two upper floors, but the remaining one story frame building (now with a flat roof) still stands.

IX. LATE INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1870-1915)

A. Transportation Routes

By 1884, contemporaneous maps reveal the deterioration of many of the roads in southernmost, interior West Newbury. Middle Street, originally the river-oriented throughway across central West

Newbury, had now fallen into disrepair, portions used only as connectors between the segmented north/south routes leading toward Byfield Center. Other roads succumbing to neglect and disuse: Pikes Bridge Road, southern Crane Neck Road and the northern extents of both Bailey's Lane and Hanover Street.

Route 113 continued as the town's primary east/west automobile thoroughfare while north/south travel remained both circuitous and localized in nature. In 1883, 1892 and 1894, the Rocks/Merrimack Bridge was repaired and strengthened. By period's end it had become a draw bridge of modern design.

B. Population

The total population of West Newbury declined steadily, from a high of 2012 in 1875, to 1405 in 1905. Despite an increase to 1529 from 1905 to 1915, the total population fell by 23.7% over the course of the Late Industrial Period. The percentage of foreign-born also dropped, though not as steadily as the total population. Between 1875 and 1895 the foreign-born fluctuated around 17%, but between 1895 and 1915 the percentage fell from 16.3% to 11.7%. The Irish were the largest ethnic group in 1885, 61% of total foreign-born. Beside the 204 Irish, there were 70 English and 23 Canadian immigrants. As the period advanced, the percentage of Irish-born fell (to 52% in 1895 and 23.5% in 1915), while the number and percentage of Canadians increased (from 6.9% or 23 people in 1885 to 35.8% of 64 people in 1915).

Catholics began meeting at St. Ann's Church in 1878. Episcopalians held regular services at Saint John's Hall beginning in 1907. In 1913, the Emery family, builders of St. John's, endowed and built All Saints Church. A library association was formed by the Good Templars, a temperance society, in 1875. In 1886 that were joined by a "ladies library group" and a library was established on Mechanic St. Then in 1894 the town assumed responsibility and established a free public library. In 1886 there was one high school, a grammar school, seven mixed schools and one primary school, all supported by the town. Prior to 1910 there were nine district schools. In 1910 eight of the nine were transferred to the Central School with consolidation.

C. Settlement Pattern

Residential construction slowed during the period. Comb production continued, its small shops now consolidated into larger factories at the village center. Shoe production remained a fringe activity, and concentrated along Main Street and secondarily, Georgetown road, while agriculture, continued in the Long and Crane Neck Hill areas.

Main Street from Pleasant Street to the training ground continued its development as West Newbury's primary residential and commercial core. Main at Hanover Street remained a secondary focus of civic and residential activities, and the training ground, an additional focus of residential building.

The construction of St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church (1879) near the Second Parish Church, and All Saint's Episcopal (1912), near the First Parish Meetinghouse, confirmed the continuing civic importance of the two meetinghouse vicinities. The Second Parish Church burned in 1910 and was rebuilt. Also in 1910 eight of West Newbury's nine schools were consolidated into the Central School, located at Prospect and Main Streets in the village center.

D. Economic Base

Despite considerable growth in the manufacturing sector early in the period, West Newbury reverted to an agricultural town by the first decade of the 20th century. Manufacturing output (product value) grew by 42% from 1865 to 1875, when 40 establishments produced goods worth \$423,181, a figure almost as high as that achieved in 1855. Shoes and combs continued to dominate the economy. Eight shoe-making establishments generated almost \$250,000 worth of goods, more than at any previous census date. Two new comb factories brought the total to five establishments in which \$110,745 worth of combs were made. Together shoes and combs amounted to 85% of the 1875 manufacturing product value. Other industries included two paperbox factories, two carriage shops, two cider mills and a butchering establishment. By 1887 only two of the comb makers, S.C. Noyes and Co., and G.O. and T.M. Chase, remained in business. Still, with steam powered machinery they managed to produce as many combs as all the earlier businesses had combined. In 1888 only one shoe firm, that of James Durgin and Son, was still in business. None of these firms existed after 1904, nor were any combs made in West Newbury after that date. Several years later, in 1895, there were only nine manufacturing establishments of all kinds, employing only 88 people and producing goods worth \$125,000, a decrease of roughly 250%.

The number of farms increased steadily, during the period. Meanwhile the value of agricultural products increased only slightly. In 1875, 42% of all farm acres were under cultivation including haying land. By 1905, the total number of farm acres had increased by 11% to 8540 acres and 47% of the land was cultivated. Of the land not cultivated excluding woodland the vast majority was devoted to pasturage. Woodland acres increased 59% (1875-1905) to 612 acres. 1663 livestock grazed on this land in 1885. Milk cows and heifers accounted for 50% of the animals.. As might be expected, milk production skyrocketed. From 1865 to 1875, milk production increased from 25,275 gallons to 201,095 gallons, or by just under 700%. Throughout the late industrial period the milk yield grew steadily, increasing by another 66% from 1875 to 1905. From 1900-1907 a creamery made butter which was sold in Groveland. Slaughtering of livestock also increased early in the period. The 141,964 lbs. of meat dressed in 1875 represented a 44% increase from ten years earlier. Farmers also turned increasingly to raising chickens for their eggs. In 1905 chickens laid 46,889 eggs, a 138% increase from 1875. Grain production, on the other hand, declined steadily. In 1905, the yield of Indian corn and oats had declined 50% from 1865. By 1905 the value of all agricultural products was greater than that of all manufactured goods, and West Newbury was for all practical

purposes a farming community. None the less, in 1915, those employed in manufacturing (258) still outnumbered those employed in farming (201), indicating that people travelled to other towns for such work. In addition to these occupations, there were 59 people employed in commerce, 22 in clerical jobs and 35 in professional work. From 1875 to 1915, the number of agricultural jobs fell by 19% and manufacturing by 43%, while commercial employment rose by 55%

E. Architecture

Residential: Population decline meant few new houses during the period. During the early years of the period, gable fronts remained popular, often with lateral additions to form T-plans, and Queen Ann ornament. Later in the period pyramidal-roofed, four square house types were constructed, along the town's primary artery Rte. 113. The remains of Ben Perley Poor's Indian Hill Farm survive off the road of the same name.

Institutional: St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church was built in 1879; gable front in form with graduated central entry tower and spire, lancet openings and buttresses. St. John's Memorial Hall was built in 1907 in anticipation of the formation of an Episcopal parish; it is a gable-roofed block of 2 & 1/2 stories with a large classical portico as well as half-timbering. In 1912 All Saints was built next door, of brick, gable front in form with a large, square, central entry tower, buttresses, and lancet windows, with contrasting surrounds. The Second Parish Congregational rebuilt in 1910, a cruciform frame structure on a fieldstone foundation, with an entry tower, adjacent secondary entries, and half-timbering. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument of 1900 is a brick, gable front structure with an octagonal corner tower and ornament of labels, lancet opening and trefoils. A small, gable-front, shingled grange survives, undated.

Transportation: In 1883, the Rocks/Merrimack Bridge was equipped with a swinging draw of modern construction. In 1892, the bridge was strengthened and in 1894, the Haverhill side was replaced with a new iron structure.

Industrial: Early in the period, ca. 1875, two new steam-powered comb factories, and two paper box factories were built. Nothing is known of their design or the material of which they were constructed.

X. EARLY MODERN PERIOD (1915-1940)

A. Transportation Routes

Existing roads continued in use and saw some improvement. The major change of the period: between 1950 and 1955, north/south movement was facilitated by the construction of Interstate 95 through the town's southernmost corner.

B. Population

After an extended period of decline, West Newbury claimed 1529 residents in 1915. Thereafter, its population varied only slightly until 1955, closing the period with a total of 1621, an increase of 6%. Its foreign-born population comprised 11.7% of the total in 1915, and was dominated by Canadians (63), Irish (42), and Poles (23). By 1940, that figure had fallen to 5.3% of the whole, a decline from 179 persons in 1915 to 81 in 1940. In the 1960 presidential election, 71% of the town's voted republican and 28% democratic.

C. Settlement Pattern

West Newbury evolved into a residential exurb and milk-producing center for the Haverhill-Lawrence Metropolitan Area. Railroads and expressways having skirted the town, its manufactories have been unable to survive, and its retail stores remain limited. In 1939 a library was built in the town center and in 1953, a Baptist Church was razed. Residential construction was attracted during the period, especially to River Road, fronting the Merrimack, and to West Newbury's interior rural roadways.

D. Economic Base

All manufacturing activity had ceased in West Newbury by 1915. The 1920 tax valuation shows livestock counts as follows: 213 horses, 574 cows, 230 other cattle, 21 sheep and 71 swine. Milk was certainly a primary agricultural product. Pasturage was an important use of land, as was orcharding. Those not working on farms or in other industrial towns worked in retail and whole sale shops. In 1954 there were 11 firms employing 20 people, and at least 13 of these were employed in small retail establishments.

E. Architecture

Residential: Small numbers of historic revival housetypes were constructed including a gambrel roofed two story house with a gambrel dormer over the entry, a dutch colonial, and small, simple cape types. All Saints Rectory of 1916 is a three bay, center entry brick structure of two stories.

Institutional: Cardinal Cushing Academy, built in 1926 as Holy Angels Orphanage and now being converted for use as an elementary school, is a large H-plan brick building of 4 stories; it is ornamental by panelled brick and roundheaded windows, and a tile roof. Next door is a classical, hip-roofed, brick residence. The G.A.R. Memorial Library of 1939 is a brick hip block of 1 & 1/2 stories and 5 bays with a Colonial Revival pedimented frontispiece.

Industrial: No known industrial buildings were constructed in this period.

XI. SURVEY OBSERVATIONS

Folder # 1 of the inventory, including numbers 1 and 25, is missing, and as many as 20 - 25% of forms have no photographs. The ca. 175 forms cover many of the town's significant structures. They were completed in the early 1970s.

Bypassed earlier by the railroads and now by both Interstates 95 and 495, West Newbury's historic integrity remains intact, and protected at present by the funneling of regional traffic around its perimeter. A residential outlier of Haverhill and Lawrence, condominium construction and tract development pose perhaps the greatest threat to the town. At present little such construction had occurred.

XII. FINDING AID

First Parish Meetinghouse	Inventory # 117
Second Parish Meetinghouse	Main and Church Streets
St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church	Inventory # 72
All Saints Episcopal Church	Inventory #125
Town Hall	Inventory #185
Soldiers and Sailors Monument,	359 Main Street
GAR Memorial Library	Inventory #186
Cardinal Cushing Academy	Main Street between Chase and Coffin Streets.
Training Ground Locale (mix of 17th-19th century building)	Main near Barley's Lane

XIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Coffin, Joshua, A Sketch of the History of Newbury, Newburyport,
and West Newbury. 1845.