

# MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report

## RUTLAND

Report Date: 1984

Associated Regional Report: Central Massachusetts

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

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

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

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

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



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## MHC RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY REPORT

DATE: 1984

Community: Rutland

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### I. TOPOGRAPHY

Rutland holds the distinction of being the geographically central town of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as being the highest town center in Massachusetts between the Berkshires and the Atlantic; the common at Rutland Center lies 1,200 feet above sea level. Located centrally in Worcester County as well, the town forms part of the spine and western slope of the central highlands plateau. Elevations on several of the hills and drumlins exceed 1,200 feet, but for the most part, the elevations of the hills range from 900 to 1,100 feet above sea level.

The plateau is cut in the western third of the town by a loop of the Ware River through North Rutland and New Boston before turning northwest toward Barre Falls, and by its tributary streams. The largest of these is Long Meadow Brook, which flows north from Long Pond near West Rutland. Elevations in these valleys range from 750 to 850 feet above sea level.

Rutland's soils consist of stony to fine sandy loams of the Brookfield, Charlton, and Paxton series. Large areas of the agriculturally important Paxton and Charlton loams occur in the central and eastern portions of the town, while Brookfield loams occur more in the southern and western portions of the town. All these yield excellent hay and grain crops.

### II. POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

Established as town of Rutland from 12-mile-square "Naquag" Indian Purchase (1686) in 1714. Part established as Rutland District (later Barre) in 1753. Part included in district of Princeton, 1759. Part established as district of Oakham, 1762. Part included in new town of Paxton, 1765. Part established as district of Hubbardston, 1767. Parts annexed to Paxton, 1772, 1851.

### III. HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Residential hill town on historic corridor to northwest central highlands, with native site potential at several local ponds, including Demond and Muschopague Ponds. First permanent European settlement by ca. 1719, subject to repeated native harassment, with last local fatalities in 1724. Dispersed 18th century agricultural settlement, with meetinghouse site established in 1720. Site of small Revolutionary War prison barracks. Small-scale 19th century industrial development occurs with main foci at West Rutland basket factories (later woolen mills) and Rutland Center shoe industry. Small-scale late 19th century hill town health resort development leads to establishment of major

institutional centers for treatment of tuberculosis, including the first state-operated sanatorium in the country (1898), a Veterans Administration Hospital (1923), and a state prison farm (1903-34) with hospital facilities. The 20th century conversion of western tracts to a state park/watershed management area removes much of the settlement fabric, including the West Rutland industrial center and prison camp facilities. Development of tuberculosis vaccines leads to abandonment and conversion of hospital complexes. The Veterans Administration structures remain intact as part of Rutland Heights State Hospital. Despite moderate postwar suburban development, some functional agricultural landscapes remain, many with intact 18th and 19th century vernacular farmsteads.

#### IV. CONTACT PERIOD (1500-1620)

##### A. Transportation Routes

Upland tributary area on corridor between Quaboag and Nashaway foci. Trail from southwest Sevenmile River/Browning Pond conjectured on Pleasantdale Road past Demond Pond to junction with west trail conjectured along Whitehall Road-Barrack Hill Road. Northwest branch on Pine Plain Road to Coldbrook Springs. East trail conjectured along Main Street-Naquod Street with alternate loop around Muschopague Pond on Wachusett Street-Muschopague Road. Northeast branch to Wachusett area conjectured on Glenwood Road-Ridge Road-Calamint Road. Upland north branch to East Branch Ware River conjectured on Cambell Street-Davis Street to East Branch corridor trail (Longmeadow Road-Intervale Road).

##### B. Settlement Pattern

As in most northern Worcester County towns, reported sites are few and undescribed as to cultural period. As an upland area, sites can be expected to be small and represent short duration, and may be expected near the shores of the town's ponds, Turkey Hill, Demond, Long, Moulton, Muschopague, and Edson, as well as near the Branch Ware River. Density in this and neighboring areas should be lower than southerly river valleys.

##### C. Subsistence Pattern

This hilly upland area should yield small sites representing primarily hunting and fishing activities of family and task groups from larger base camps to the east at Lancaster, Sterling, and Princeton, to the south at the Brookfields and Worcester, or to the west in the Swift River Valley.

#### V. PLANTATION PERIOD (1620-1675)

##### A. Transportation Routes

Contact period trails continue in use.

## B. Settlement Pattern

Continuation of patterns established during the Contact period, with little interaction with colonials compared to areas to the south and east.

## C. Subsistence Pattern

Continuation of patterns established during the Contact period.

# VI. COLONIAL PERIOD (1675-1775)

## A. Transportation Routes

Native trails are improved as roads. After 1720 meetinghouse location, roads tend to center from outlying farms and districts. North-south County Road laid through center in 1767 (East County Road-Davis Street-Pomagusett Road-Maple Avenue).

## B. Population

Settlers to the Rutland grant come from old eastern towns, including Boston, Lexington, Concord, Sudbury, Marlborough, Framingham, and Lancaster, as well as Brookfield to the southwest. Of particular interest was the group of recently arrived Scots-Irish who eventually clustered in the west wing, or Oakham. Church formation came somewhat later than normal, thirteen years after land division and five after incorporation, due to the withdrawal of this Presbyterian portion of the town's population; they numbered 40% of the population. By 1720, 50 families had settled in the town. Few figures are available before the period's end, when the total equalled 1,090 in 1765, but dropped to 1,006 ten years later. The town experienced an outbreak of throat distemper in 1749, lost 60 children to dysentery in 1756, and eight more to smallpox three years later.

## C. Settlement Pattern

This area, called Naquag, was purchased from Native Americans resident in the praying town of Natick in 1686. The total grant measured twelve square miles and included all or part of the neighboring towns on all sides but the southeast. Settlement by colonials was delayed by continuing frontier hostilities and the grant was confirmed in 1713. In 1714, half the area was opened and divided for settlement, focusing the lots in an oblong near the town center for purposes of defense. The meetinghouse was located on a hill south of the center, which was swampy, on ten acres set aside for public uses, including a burying ground, training field, and a school. The pound was located further east on Main Street. The initial distribution consisted of 62 lots of 30 acres, clustered in small groups with a defensive structure for each group. A second division in 1720 added five acres of meadow to each, followed by seven further divisions ending in 1757 and totalling 305 acres. Incorporation took place in 1722, and as the land distribution diminished came the division of the outlying areas of the original grant as Rutland District (Barre) in 1749, MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Rutland

Princeton town (East Wing), and West Wing Precinct (Oakham) in 1759, Paxton town in 1765, and Hubbardston town in 1767. One set of proprietors controlled the initial six-mile section, another the remaining area of the grant.

#### D. Economic Base

Like most area towns, Rutland was an agricultural town with emphasis on grazing. In 1719, a gristmill was established on Mill Brook east of Charneck Road, with a sawmill below. The town voted an almshouse in 1773. It was classified as an Egalitarian Farm Town in 1771 in Pruitt's classification, indicating little propertylessness as well as little commercialization.

#### E. Architecture

Residential: Center chimney one- and two-story houses and double chimney, two-story plans appear to have been the common house form. Survivals seem to be limited. Two survivals recorded from second quarter of the 18th century. Of note is the National Historic Landmark General Rufus Putnam House west of the center, a two-story, five-bay, double chimney, hipped roof dwelling. The south door has a full entablature with a four-pane transom while the west entrance has a pedimented doorway. Building dates from ca. 1760-65.

Institutional: First meetinghouse erected ca. 1720, measured 30x41.5 feet. Second meetinghouse was built in 1759 and measured 50x64 feet.

Two schools were built in 1734, one in the center and the other in the vicinity of Demond Pond.

Commercial: In 1762 the Joseph Willard parsonage (1723) received and addition of three bays on the west end, enlarging the five-bay, center chimney dwelling for conversion to a tavern which operated until 1880 on the site of the present Community Building.

### VII. FEDERAL PERIOD (1775-1830)

#### A. Transportation Routes

Colonial highways continue in use, with the improvement of the main east-west route through the center (Naquod Street-Main Street-Barrack Hill Road-Whitehall Road) as part of Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike in 1801.

#### B. Population

Growth during the period was gradual, from 1,006 in 1776 to 1,276 in 1830. The largest expansion took place between 1790 and 1800 when the total grew from 1,072 to 1,202.

The town was one of the earliest in the county to establish a subscription library, prior to 1796.

### C. Settlement Pattern

Dispersed agricultural settlement continues, with some linear concentration on Main Street, mostly east of the meetinghouse. Revolutionary War prison barracks established west of meetinghouse on Barrack Hill Road in 1777.

### D. Economic Base

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Rutland was primarily an agricultural community, its soil well adapted to grass, potatoes, and orcharding. Livestock-raising was an important activity, with much beef, pork, and mutton sent to market annually. Butter and cheese were the principal products of the dairy. Three grist mills and four sawmills operated in the late 18th century, and lumber, charcoal, and pot and pearl ash were important forest products. A moderate portion of the town, 60.6%, was unimproved or woodlot, while an additional 7.2% was classified as unimprovable. A small amount of land was under tillage, 2.6%, while 10% was in mowing and meadow, and a high percentage, 19.3, was in pasturage.

Three small villages, in addition to the center, grew around the early waterpowered mills by 1830. At North Rutland, on the East Branch of the Ware River, a grist and sawmill, and shingle and clapboard mill were located; at New Boston, a clothier's shop and fulling mill, grist and sawmill, triphammer, circular saws, and lathes for the chairmaking business were in operation; and at West Rutland were located a grist mill, saw and shingle mills, and lathes for chairmaking. The town experienced its greatest population of the 19th century during the 1820s and 1830s.

### E. Architecture

Residential: Old photographs and survivals indicate the center and double chimney form, both single and double story, was the popular house type. In addition, several two-story, single-pile, rearwall chimney houses were observed.

Institutional: The 1759 meetinghouse burned and was replaced in 1830. Nine school districts were established during the period, five survive as residences, and were constructed in the traditional one-story, gable end entry form.

Barracks were erected in 1777 just west of the center for confining prisoners of General Burgoyne's army. The two building, measuring 140x40 feet and 120x40 feet were demolished or destroyed by fire by the third quarter of the 19th century.

Commercial: The Prospect House appears in ca. 1904 photographs as a two-story, six-bay, double chimney structure with a hipped roof. A large frame ell on the rear may or may not have been original.

## VIII. EARLY INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1830-1870)

### A. Transportation Routes

The early 19th century roads remain in use, with the addition of the north-south East County Road through North Rutland, and a second County Road from Paxton through West Rutland to Coldbrook Springs and Barre. Although a Central Massachusetts Railroad route is proposed, no rail service is established through town.

### B. Population

From a high total of 1,276 in 1830 the population of Rutland fell during this period to 1,024 in 1870. Small numbers of Irish immigrants came to the town, accounting for the majority of the foreign-born, equalling 5.4% in 1855 and 7% ten years later. Although agriculture remained the overwhelming occupation some townsmen engaged in manufacture though their numbers totalled well under 100.

The Congregational Church suffered some expected divisions during the 1830s, but continued to exist without any reported splits or major disagreements. The Methodists established a class here in 1840, and built a meetinghouse in the center on Main Street in 1844, but disbanded by 1860. During the end of this period the town's Catholics began meeting together, in the south of town on present Route 122 at Irish Lane, and was joined to Spencer's parish or Holy Cross College. The town established another library in 1866, and had a Lyceum during the period.

### C. Settlement Pattern

Marginal agricultural lands are abandoned, while some small-scale industrial development occurs at available waterpower sites, and at the growing linear commercial/meetinghouse center. Rural hamlets develop at North Rutland and New Boston on the East Branch Ware River corridor, and at White Hall on Longmeadow Brook. A secondary village develops around the basket manufacturing focus at West Rutland. Additions are made to Rutland Center, including replacements for Congregational churches burned in 1830 and 1849. A Methodist church is built in 1844, on the south side of Main Street opposite the Congregational church. Shoe shops are built along the Main Street corridor. A new rural cemetery is established to the east in 1842. The central, commercial focus remains the Main Street area between the Congregational church and Maple Avenue.

### D. Economic Base

Rutland remained an agricultural community through the period with little manufacturing beyond the small shop or home manufacturing stage. A satinette mill was erected about 1830 at West Rutland, then called Deathville after one of the mill owners, Morgan and Death. The small mill, which operated until the late 1840s or early 1850s, employed eleven men and women in 1845 and produced 50,000 yards of cloth worth \$20,000. The small village also

contained a gristmill,, board and shingle mill, temperance store, and several mechanics of various trades.

Chairs and cabinetware, woodenware, and carriages were made in the several shops operating during his period, but production remained very small. Large quantities of lumber and firewood were cut annually during the 1840s and 1850s; in 1845, 1.6 million feet of boards were cut.

Boot- and shoemaking was the leading industry in Rutland during the late 1830s and 1840s, but declined sharply thereafter. At the industry's peak during the 1840s, a large shoe shop in the center employed up to 67 men and 25 women in the manufacture of more than 27,000 pairs of boots annually. A small tannery in the town provided much of the leather required. Shoemaking was revived during the 1860s, and by 1870, five small shops were in operation in the town.

Another type of home manufacturing carried out was palm-leaf hat-making. During the 1830s and 1840s, up to 200 women and girls worked in their homes splitting and braiding straw and palm leaves into hats. In 1845, 28,500 hats were made. Basket-making was established in the 1860s at West Rutland, where ten or twelve men were employed and steam power was utilized to power some of the machinery employed.

Rutland's agricultural practices changed little during the first half of the 19th century. As late as the 1850s, oxen outnumbered horses on the town's 198 farms. Dairying and livestock-raising were the principal activities, and most of the town's farmland was devoted to hay and pasture. Grain cultivation declined sharply after the 1850s; the acreage devoted to its cultivation fell by nearly 50% between 1855 and 1865. Butter and cheese production combined exceeded 50,000 lbs. annually until the 1860s when Rutland's farmers began to market whole milk.

#### E. Architecture

**Residential:** Building activity apparently declined steadily throughout the period. Center chimney "capes" and two-story, double chimney, double-pile plans were observed. Some may be earlier or they could represent continuing pattern of traditional domestic plan. Limited number of gable end, side-passage plans.

**Institutional:** Ca. 1849-50, the 1830 meetinghouse burned. The new building, erected in 1850, measured 72x50 feet and was a one-story gable end structure with an entry recessed behind a pair of Ionic columns. The tower and spire rose to a height of 120 feet. The Methodist Church on the south side of Main Street is a gable end building with an entry recessed behind Doric columns, a square tower, and a spire.

The first separate town hall was built in 1833 and was a two-story, four-bay gable end structure with corner pilasters. The building was located on the common west of the present Unitarian church. Later in the century it functioned as a

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school. In the early 20th century (?), it was converted to use as a Post Office and moved to Maple Street where it now stands in use as apartments.

## IX. LATE INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1870-1915)

### A. Transportation Routes

East-west service on the Central Massachusetts Railroad begins in 1887, with depot north of Rutland Center.

### B. Population

The town's population total continued to diminish slowly during the first 25 years of the period, from 1,024 in 1870 to 978 in 1895. Thereafter, however, the town experienced its period of greatest growth, reaching 1,334 in 1900 and to 1,895 by 1915. Throughout the period the proportion of foreign-born within the town tripled from 10% in 1875 to 29% in 1915. This group was diverse, composed of several ethnic groups including the Irish, Canadians, Italians, Swedes, Lithuanians, and English. Agricultural employment remained important while manufacturing expanded, but still occupied less than half of the males employed. A Grange was established in 1875.

In 1874 the Seventh-Day Adventists established a church in North Rutland. St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church shifted its location to the center in 1881 and its alliance to Holden in 1882.

The town's first high school class graduated in 1894 and outlying school district remained in place until 1904.

### C. Settlement Pattern

As a result of the attractiveness of the town's air quality and rural environment, it became a minor recreational and health resort in the 1880s, and in the late 1890s and early 20th century the location of a major state tuberculosis sanitarium, and a state prison camp and hospital.

Hilltown resort growth focused at Rutland Center, where the Muschopague House (1883) located just east of the Congregational church and the Prospect house is also built. Some new residential development took place, especially on the south side of Main Street between Henderson and Fairview Avenues. In 1881, the Catholic church bought the old Methodist church. A new town hall was built in 1899. Outside the center, an Adventist chapel (1874) was built at North Rutland, and the Lakeville Woolen Company took over mill privileges at West Rutland.

The major period development, however, is the location of two state institutions in the town. In 1898, the Massachusetts Hospital for Consumptive and Tubercular patients, the first state tuberculosis sanitarium in the country, was opened on Rice Hill east of the center. In 1904, Rutland State Prison Camp is located on 900 acres in the west part of town, and 1907 the Department of MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Rutland

Corrections added this facility [a hospital] for tubercular prisoners. As a result of the state hospital location, a number of small, private sanatoria also began operations.

#### D. Economic Base

With the exception of the textile industry, which was reestablished in West Rutland and North Rutland during the 1870s and 1880s, manufacturing in Rutland declined sharply during the period. The several small shoe shops had ceased by the 1880s as did the basket shops in West Rutland. Several sawmills, blacksmith shops, a carriage shop, and two small woodenware mills survived into the early 1900s.

A shoddy mill was set up in one of the West Rutland basket shops in the early 1870s, followed by cotton batting and bedquilt manufacturing in the next decade. The mill was burned and rebuilt twice before incorporation as the Lakeville Woolen Co., engaged in the manufacture of satinets. The mill burned again in 1895, but was rebuilt. At North Rutland, Moulton Bros. converted a sawmill for the manufacture of shoddy, and in 1898 erected a new satinet mill. Fire destroyed the mill in 1899. The economic difficulties within the textile industry during the mid 1890s kept both mills closed for extended periods before the return of prosperity toward the end of the decade.

Like neighboring Princeton, Rutland catered to summer visitors, though on a much smaller scale. In 1883 the Muschopague House, a hotel, was erected in the center and operated until 1929.

Agriculture remained the dominant activity for the town's residents and its products increased steadily through the period. Dairying dominated, with milk and butter the major products. A creamery was built by the "Rutland Cooperative Creamery Association" in 1886 and produced large quantities of butter. The completion of the Central Massachusetts Railroad in 1887 allowed increased whole milk sales and by 1895 more than 430,000 gallons of milk were marketed annually. Hay and fodder became increasingly more valuable and more land was devoted to grasses and pasturage. Grain cultivation further declined, while the raising of poultry, fruit, and vegetables increased.

The town's economy received a boost with the establishment of the first State Sanatorium in the country in the town in 1898, and an industrial work camp for prisoners in 1903. As a result, the population increased nearly 100% by 1915 to 1,895 residents. Many townspeople were provided with employment and a local market for agricultural products and services was created.

#### E. Architecture

Residential: Building generally seems to have been limited to a few gable end structures and some popular style dwellings influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement and the Colonial Revival. The L. Q. Spaulding House in the center is a two-story

Queen Anne building with corner tower. Several shingled and Stick Style summer homes were erected late in the 19th century.

**Institutional:** A Seventh-Day Adventist chapel was built in North Rutland in 1874 and apparently demolished by the MDC in 1930. The 1844 Methodist church building was purchased by St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in 1882.

A story-and-a-half hipped roof Craftsman detailed fire station (1897) stands on the common west of the meetinghouse in 1897. This structure was apparently in use until quite recently when a new brick fire station was built east of the common.

A new town hall was constructed in 1899. The building, replaced in 1939 when the Community Building was erected east of the Unitarian church and demolished in 1965 (?), was a two-story, frame, three-bay, hipped roof Colonial Revival block with a central projecting pavillion which rose to form the base of the cupola. This functioned as town hall and school until 1939, and then solely as a school until it was "moved down Main Street" and converted to use as a Masonic Hall.

In 1896-97, a fieldstone pumping house was built to pump water from Muschopague Pond. A prison camp was built in 1903 in northwest Rutland and had been converted to a tuberculosis hospital by 1907. The State Sanatorium was established on Rice Hill east of the center between 1896-98. The two- and three-story brick Colonial Revival buildings were arranged in an arc with eight wards radiating symmetrically from a semicircular corridor and the administration building, dining facilities, etc. were centrally located in the plan. A Jewish Sanatorium also existed, occupying what was apparently a converted two-story Italianate residence located on the site of the present Naquag Elementary School.

**Commercial:** Two major hotels were erected during the 1880s in Rutland Center. The more noted appears to have been the Muschopague House (1883), later the Bartlett Hotel, built on the site of the old parsonage/tavern. The Community Building (1939) currently occupies the site. The Muschopague House was originally a four-story, seven-bay frame structure with a monitor atop the flat roof. When remodeled as the Bartlett Hotel, a projecting center pavillion was added and the monitor was "expanded" to a large, steep hip roof the width of the pavillion. The Spaulding Hotel, adjacent to the Muschopague and connected to it by a boardwalk, was evidently a similar style building.

Gable end, two-story general stores existed in both North and West Rutland until ca. 1930.

An early 20th century fieldstone roadhouse or garage stands at the southeast corner of Route 122 and Pleasantdale Road.

Three railroad stations existed in Rutland; all are demolished. The West Rutland station was a frame, gabled structure with vertical board siding, brackets at the eaves, and shingled gable

ends. The Rutland station on Miles Street in the center was a similar frame, vertical board building with a hipped roof and bracketed eaves. The Muschopague station, located at the corner of Muschopague and East County Roads, was a frame, hipped roof building sheathed in weatherboards.

Industrial: The Moulton Manufacturing Company in North Rutland occupied two frame gabled structures. Rutland Worsted in West Rutland consisted of a 28-building complex. Both were taken by the MDC.

## X. EARLY MODERN PERIOD (1915-1940)

### A. Transportation Routes

Several local roads were improved as part of the emerging regional automobile highway system, particularly those serving state and federal hospital facilities. By the mid 1920s, the northwest route from Worcester, through Holden and Rutland to Barre/Athol is improved as Route 122 (Naquod Street-Main Street-County Road). The segment through Rutland Center east is seen reclassified 122A, as the more direct road through Paxton (County Road) is upgraded as Route 122. By the mid-1930s East County Road through North Rutland is improved as Route 68, and by the end of the period, Route 56 (Maple Avenue) is extended as far north as Rutland Center.

### B. Population

Although the total fluctuated during the period, the population continued to grow in Rutland from 1,895 in 1915 to 2,942 in 1930; the figure dipped to 1,743 in 1920, and to 2,181 in 1940. The proportion of foreign-born fell to half of what it had been in 1915, or 16.9%. Finns were particularly important, buying farms in the town after World War I, and forming a social focus in the park on Demond Pond. St. Patrick's became an independent parish in 1938.

### C. Settlement Pattern

Rutland continues as an important center of government health facilities with the opening of a Veterans Administration Hospital in 1923 on an 80-acre site south of Rutland Center. The State Prison Camp, however, is closed and razed in 1934, when it is taken over by the MDC as part of its watershed management of the Quabbin Reservoir system. An administration building is added to the Veterans Administration Hospital in 1934. Some residential development in Rutland Center and south along Maple Street is stimulated by the hospital. A new Congregational Church is built in the center in 1928.

### D. Economic Base

The establishment of the Sanitorium and industrial camp for prisoners in Rutland maintained a stable economic base in the town. Although the textile mills were closed in the late 1920s, when the MDC purchased the land and removed the buildings to

insure the purity of the Ware River waters, the continued growth of the Sanitorium compensated for the loss. The Rutland Worsted Co. in West Rutland was removed in the late 1920s, and the Moulton Mfg. Co. shoddy mill in North Rutland in 1931. A three-mile-long tunnel beneath Rutland was constructed from Coldbrook Springs in Oakham to carry water to West Boylston and the Wachusett Reservoir in 1927.

Agriculture remained strong through the period, with dairying, market gardening, orcharding, and poultry-raising the major activities. Many Finns from Worcester purchased farms in Rutland after World War I and contributed greatly to the agricultural economy by restoring to productivity a number of old and marginally productive farms.

#### E. Architecture

**Residential:** Bungalows and modest one-and-a-half story gable end structures were built in the first quarter of the century. Cottages along the various ponds were erected from the 1920s on. A few two-story Dutch Colonial dwellings and a Four Square plan house were observed.

**Institutional:** The meetinghouse burned in 1926 and the present Unitarian church is a traditional, gable end, frame building with spire designed by Oscar Thayer and completed in 1928. A new St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church was built east of the Unitarian church ca. 1958. The old 1844 building was demolished.

The Crane Sanatorium, built in 1921, was sold to the Veterans Administration ca. 1922. Now Rutland Heights Hospital, the complex consists of brick 1920-30 Colonial buildings with an avenue of two-story stuccoed residences leading up to the center from Maple Street.

The Finnish Dance Hall and campground at Demond Pond (Savittaja Park) was built in 1927. Approximately 30 cottages are still used.

#### XI. SURVEY OBSERVATIONS

#### XII. SOURCES