

MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report

PEABODY

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: 1985

Community: Peabody

1. TOPOGRAPHY

The Town of Peabody is located in the southern portion of Essex County, Massachusetts. Peabody is bounded on the north by Middleton and Danvers, on the west by Lynnfield and from south to east by Lynn and Salem respectively. Physiographically, the town lies within the New England Seaboard Lowland, a relatively smooth coastal strip of land with some hills usually below the 400 and 500-foot contours. Land surfaces in Peabody are hilly though several flat areas also exist, the largest of which is commonly known as the plain of South Peabody. At least 12 hills exist within the bounds of Peabody which rise above 200 feet. Several other hills rise to over 100 feet. Most of the larger hills are located in South Peabody westerly of Spring and Brown's ponds. Orne's Hill is the highest hill in the town, rising to 265 feet above sea level. Major bedrock deposits in the Peabody area are composed of igneous Quincy granite found throughout the central portion of the town. Salem gabbro-diorite (diorite and gabbro-diorite) is also found along the northern and eastern town borders.

Soils in the Peabody area are represented by a complex distribution of at least seven associations. The largest homogeneous association in the town is found along the northwestern border with Lynnfield and along the Salem/Peabody town line. The former distribution is represented by the Paxton-Montauk-Urban land association. These soils are found in deep, nearly level to steep deposits. They are generally excessively drained loamy and sandy soils formed in outwash deposits and areas where natural soil have been altered or obscured by urban development (Fuller and Francis 1984). The latter distribution is represented by the Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop association. These soils are found in moderately deep or shallow, gently sloping to steep deposits. They are well-drained loamy soils formed in glacial till and contain exposed bedrock. Most soils in the vicinity of Peabody Center are represented by the Urban-land-Udorthents association. These soils include deposits which have been altered or obscured by urban development or where soils have been excavated or deposited. The area around Peabody Center also contains soils belonging to the Canton-Woodbridge-Freetown association. These soils range from well-drained loamy soils formed in glacial till to poorly drained mucky soils formed in organic deposits. The area between Route 1 and Route 128 contains soils of both the Canton-Woodbridge-Freetown association (see above) and the Merrimac-Hinckley-Urban land association. Soils represented by the latter group are found in deep,

nearly level to steep deposits. They include excessively drained loamy and sandy soils formed in outwash deposits and areas where natural soils have been altered by urban development. Southeast of Route 128 a mixed distribution of four soil associations are present including the Merrimac-Hinckley-Urban land association, the Canton-Woodbridge-Freetown association, the Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop association and the Annisquam-Scituate association. The first three associations have been previously discussed. The latter association is found in deep, gently sloping to moderately steep deposits. This association includes well or moderately drained loamy soils formed in compact glacial till. Northwesterly of Route 1 a mixture of four soil associations is also present including the Merrimac-Hinckley-Urban land association, the Canton-Woodbridge-Freetown association, the Urban-land-Udorthents association and the Freetown-Fluvaquents association. Each of these soil groups has been discussed except the Freetown-Fluvaquents association. These soils occur in deep and nearly level deposits. They are poorly drained mucky and loamy soils formed in organic deposits and recent alluvium.

Major drainage in Peabody is characterized by numerous ponds, streams, rivers and swamps throughout the town. Major ponds and lakes include Suntaug Lake, Spring Pond, Brown's Pond, Bartholomew Pond, Craig Pond, Crystal Lake, Dishfull Pond, Cedar Pond, Little Elders Pond, and Sidney's Pond. A large mill pond, now filled, was located in the area of Peabody Square. Riverine drainage in the north portion of town is characterized by the Ipswich River which forms the boundary between Peabody and Middleton. In the southern and eastern portion of town numerous important rivers and streams are present. In 1626 the North River was navigable to small boats at high tide as far as Peabody Square. The Waters River serves as the northeastern boundary between Danvers and Peabody. It was called the Soewamapenessett River by Native Americans and the Cow House River by colonial settlers as early as 1632. Other important brooks all draining easterly towards Peabody Center include Tapley Brook, Goldthwait Brook and Proctor Brook.

At European contact, most of the Peabody area was forested with little undergrowth except in swamps. Some meadow areas were present in both uplands and lowlands suggesting possible clearing by Native Americans. The original forest growth in Peabody and in Essex County in general included a mixture of mostly oak and pine as well as chestnut, poplar, maple, birch and some other hardwoods and conifers. Second growth patterns characterize most of the town today represented by second growth oak and chestnut in uplands to scrub oak and pitch pine in excessively drained and sandy area. Some marsh vegetation is also present.

II. POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

III. HISTORIC OVERVIEW

IV. CONTACT PERIOD (1500-1620)

A. Transportation Routes

Native American transportation routes in the Peabody area likely emphasized water travel along the Ipswich River, Waters River, North River or the town's many other streams and wetlands. Conjectured trails were also probably present along the Ipswich River and in the vicinity of Lynnfield, Forest, Lowell and Andover streets, all of which roughly parallel major drainages inland to the northwest. A coastal trail may have existed in the vicinity of Main Street southeasterly towards Salem.

B. Population

Peabody was inhabited by members of the Pawtucket group (often called Penacook) who inhabited the coast from the north side of Massachusetts Bay in the Saugus/Salem area to York Village, Maine. Locally, this group is commonly referred to as the Naumkeags who may have been a subtribe of the Massachusetts but seemed to be under the leadership of the Penacooks. Most seventeenth-century colonists considered the Pawtucket and Massachusetts Indians closely related but separate entities. Both Swanton (1952) and Speck (1928) include Pawtucket Indians in the Peabody area among the Massachusetts. Gookin (1792) lists ca. 3,000 men belonging to the Pawtucket group prior to the 1617-19 epidemics, while Mooney (1928:4) lists 3,000 men belonging to the Penacook group (probably Pawtucket), as many as 12,000 natives, probably exaggerated. During the same period, both Gookin and Mooney list ca. 3,000 men belonging to the Massachusetts which probably included some Pawtuckets. The Native American population in the Peabody area may have numbered in the vicinity of 200 individuals during much of this period. Following the epidemics, fewer than 50 individuals if any remained in the Peabody area.

C. Settlement Pattern

Some Woodland but no Contact period sites are known for the Peabody area. However, environmental variables, later 17th-century documentary sources and site densities in surrounding areas indicate sites of this period should be present. For example, areas along the Ipswich River, Waters River, North River, and the confluence of Tapley, Goldthwait and Proctor brooks in the area of the old mill pond in Peabody Center may have afforded good site locations. Inland

areas, particularly along the margins of major wetlands, may have also been favored site locations. Known Contact period sites are present to the north in Ipswich and to the south in Salem and Marblehead. In addition to habitation and village-type sites, special purpose sites such as fishing sides, shell middens and burials were also probably present. These sites may have been located on the coast or along the periphery of interior wetlands such as ponds, swamps and streams. Most if not all Native Americans likely abandoned the Peabody area by the end of the period.

D. Subsistence Pattern

Native Americans in the Peabody area subsisted on a variety of seasonally determined activities, including hunting, fishing, the collecting of wild plants, shellfish 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 seasonally available in the tidal Danvers River and Beverly Harbor areas. Upland game birds and ducks were also hunted in freshwater wetlands and tidal areas. Larger rivers such as the Ipswich and Waters Rivers as well as numerous tributary brooks leading to the North River may have contained seasonal runs of smelt, alewives, shad, salmon, sea-run trout and possibly sturgeon. A variety of marine species of fish may have also been available in the tidal North River. Several species of terrestrial as well as fresh water plants in the Peabody area provided a valuable food resource. Gathering also focused on shellfish in the tidal reaches of North River and the nearby Danvers River/Beverly Harbor area which presently contain mixed shellfish beds that may have been available during the Contact period.

V. PLANTATION PERIOD

A. Transportation Routes

Indian trails likely continued in use throughout most of the Plantation period. Water travel remained the fastest and at times most convenient mode of transportation between settled areas in the Peabody area and more easterly settlements in Salem, Danvers, Beverly, etc.. Most families had canoes which were regularly inspected by the town (Salem). Wealthy settlers had shallops. Governor Endicott regularly traveled throughout the area by shallop.

European transportation in the Peabody area actually began before settlement as Indian trails were upgraded to horsepaths and later cartways. Numerous unnamed ways were the first European routes laid out in the early 1630s as farmsteads were established. Many of these early ways were probably located in the eastern portion of town where

tidal access was available to the Peabody Square area. The "old road", probably laid out in the 1630s, was the first major regional route linking Peabody with Danvers and Beverly to the north and east and Salem to the southeast. The old road provided a link to the Bay Road in northern and eastern portion of Essex County. This route basically ran from Boston Street (old Boston Road) in Salem along Main Street to Peabody Square then along Central Street, North Central Street (Ye Common or highway in 1664) and Sylvan Street to Danvers. The road followed a circuitous route around the mill pond by Poule's Hollow until Stone Bridge was built in 1647. Main Street from the Salem line to Peabody Square was officially laid out that year. Main Street was known as the Common Land Highway during this period. A second link with northern settlements was provided by the Old Ipswich Road, originally an Indian trail extending from Lynn Street in South Peabody along County, Summit, Lowell, Prospect and Sylvan streets to Danvers and Ipswich. This road was officially laid out in 1643 under order of the General Court as part of the Boston to Ipswich Road. Other main roads laid out in Peabody during this period include most of Lowell Street (1645), Forest and Winma streets (Common Highway 1672), Lynnfield Street (1635), Tremont Street (1661) and Birch Street (Boston Path, 1665). Garden Street, Felton Street, Tremont Street and Pope's Lane (now Goodale Street) were also probably in existence by this time.

B. Population

It is uncertain exactly when colonists first settled the Peabody area. A few settlers were present by 1633. As Salem Commons were divided beginning in the mid-1630s, Peabody's population grew slowly. By 1675 no more than 100 to 150 individuals may have resided within the town limits. Most inhabitants in Peabody during this Period were ethnically English including Scots. Nearly all Peabody residents were Puritan Congregationalists and members of the First Church of Salem. By the mid-17th century several Quakers came to Peabody where they were sheltered by local families. By 1658 Quakers were "discovered" in Peabody. Subsequent trials led to imprisonment, banishment, torture and even execution of several Quakers and those who hid them.

C. Settlement Pattern

In 1626 Peabody was a largely wooded, uninhabited area. By 1628 Endicott and a large group of English settlers landed in Salem, joining with the Old Planters who had previously left Cape Ann and settled in Salem in 1626. Endicott immediately began preparing the lands around Salem for further English settlement. In 1628 over 7,000 palisades (trees) were cut in these areas. This clearing probably represented the first colonial development of Peabody. It is unknown

exactly who settled Peabody first. However, several members of the Brown family may have settled in South Peabody around Brown's Pond by 1629. These individuals may have been Peabody's first settlers. Early grants were given by the General Court and Court of Assistants for services rendered to the colony. Later, the town of Salem administered most grants. By 1635 Captain William Trask, one of the five "Old Planters" of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, received such a grant of 50 acres at the head of the North River near Peabody Square. Trask was also given two grants in the South Peabody area including a 100-acre farm near Spring Pond. However, it was the grant that was near what is now Peabody Square that was the most important. Trask and his descendants built dwelling houses and at least four mills in this area by ca. 1660. In addition, Salem granted several houselots in the same area. These grants represented the start of the village of Brooksby, now Peabody. While most areas of Peabody were settled by 1675, farmsteads were widely dispersed throughout the town.

During the Plantation period Peabody was part of the original territory of old Salem. Peabody residents paid civil and religious taxes to the Salem First Parish. Attempts were made to separate from the Salem Church, all of which failed.

Prior to 1636 land grants in Peabody and other settlements were granted by the General Court and Court of Assistants. It was during this period that several large grants were given in this area. Between 1634 and 1636 John Humphrey was granted 1500 acres, one of the largest parcels in the area. This grant was in Peabody (500 acres) and Lynnfield (1000 acres) around Suntaug Lake, earlier known as Humphries Pond. The original grant for this area provided that inhabitants in the area could build a storehouse on an island in the lake which was deemed safe from Indian attack. The Humphrey grant was the largest in the area with most other large grants in the range of 200 to 300 acres. In 1636 the town of Salem was given the right to grant lands which greatly accelerated the rate or frequency of lands granted. Smaller grants of 5, 10, and 50 to 100 acres were now more common. For example, between the Ipswich River and Russell Street several grants were given, the largest of which was 70 acres with several others smaller. Larger grants were still present though they were now usually the result of an individual purchasing several smaller grants or grants given as the result of services rendered to the town or colony, sometimes through military service. Thus, several grants of 300 to 500 acres were present in the 1630s and 1640s particularly in West Peabody which was known for its extensive farms. Although extremely small and large parcels were owned, most farms were probably in the vicinity of 100 to 200 acres.

Most of the early common lands of Salem were located within the present limits of Peabody. At first common lands were characterized by the open field system though by ca. 1640 commons were probably fenced and divided into smaller parcels for use by assigned individuals. Most commons were referred to as plains, pastures, fields, etc. such as Stones Plain, a 53-acre parcel in the heart of Peabody.

D. Economic Base

As Europeans first settled in the Peabody area, hunting and gathering of wild food resources was important to their subsistence base. However, the combined use of agriculture and husbandry were clearly the most important aspects in the economic lives of Peabody's first settlers. Immediately after Endicott arrived in Salem in 1628 colonial settlers began clearing lands for settlement and agricultural production. Within a year, 7,000 palisades (trees) were cut in the Salem/Danvers/Peabody area, much of it in preparation for the planting of Indian corn. The first crops were probably planted in Peabody sometime between 1630-35 though the area may have been used for grazing. Cereals were the most important crops grown including corn, oats, rye, barley and wheat. Corn and rye were the principal breadstuffs. Potatoes were likely grown although they were probably rare and considered a delicacy. Turnips were also grown, possibly as early as 1635-1640. Fruits such as pears and apples were imported from England and cultivated at an early date. Shortly after settlement, the production of vegetable tubers from hemp and flax were probably important products on Peabody farms. Salt marsh hay was also probably available in limited quantities in the tidal North River. English hay may have been cultivated by the mid-17th century. Husbandry was also an important activity in Peabody. Cattle, horses, sheep and swine were the most important animals on farms. Livestock was present in the old planters' settlement in Salem by 1626. Several more animals arrived with Endicott in 1628. Much of the Peabody area was considered Salem common lands during this early period and was probably used for grazing. Oxen and fowl were also present.

Maritime-related trades were probably present in Peabody shortly after settlement though they never reached the economic importance of agriculture. Small boats could navigate the North River to the area of Peabody Square in the 17th century. A small boat fishery, shipbuilding and coastwise trade was probably present by a few individuals.

Peabody's first mill, a grist mill, was built in 1634 by Captain William Trask near the old mill pond at Peabody Square. The pond is

now filled but originally existed in the vicinity of where Walks Street crosses the railroad tracks today. Some researchers say this is the oldest mill in America. By 1640 Trask built a second mill about 1/2 mile downstream from the first near present Grove Street. This mill may have been a tidal mill. In ca. 1656 a samp mortar mill replaced the original Trask grist mill on the pond near Peabody Square. In 1662 a new corn mill was erected on the same foundation. By 1672 the first sawmill also existed in West Peabody on the Norris-Phelps-Pope grant. Tanners and curriers were also established by ca. 1640. Joseph Boyce and John Burton, both Quakers, were the first tanners in Peabody. Boyce operated his business on Main Street near the Salem line. Burton's tannery was erected in 1661 north of Andover Street near the railroad bridge.

E. Architecture

VI. COLONIAL PERIOD (1675-1775)

A. Transportation Routes

Native trails had likely been upgraded to horsepaths or cartways by this time. The Old Ipswich Road continued to link the South Peabody area with Danvers and Ipswich westerly of Peabody Center. Main Street in the center of town continued to provide links between Danvers, Lynn, Salem and Boston via the old road and Old Boston Road. At different times Main Street was known as the Highway to North Fields (1692), Ye Town Common Road to Stores Plain (1736), and Ye Road to Salem Village (1750). Margin Street laid out in 1758 provided an additional route to Danvers via North Street in Salem. Plantation period routes to West Peabody also continued in use including Lynnfield Road, Forest and Winona streets and Lowell Street. West Street (now Johnson Street) was laid out in 1690 crossing Winona Street west of Suntaug Lake. Cross Street was laid out by 1733 as the lane leading to the Ipswich Road. Foster Street was laid out in 1713 and Russell Street in 1740. Andover Street was also laid out during this period.

B. Population

In 1675 100 to 150 individuals may have resided in Peabody. In 1710 51 males, possibly 255 total individuals and family members, signed a petition to the selectmen of Salem requesting that the Peabody area be set off as a new precinct. By 1713 34 adult men and women representing as many as 170 individuals and family members, are listed as residents of the Middle District of Salem. This number probably underestimates the town's total population. In 1752 at the incorporation of the District of Danvers the population of both

Danvers and Peabody is listed as 1400 persons. Approximately 1/2 of that figure or 700 individuals probably resided in Peabody. Peabody was listed with Danvers in the census of 1765 and 1776. The population for each town during those years was around 1100 persons. Peabody's population was probably 4 to 5% of the Essex County total in each of those census reports. Most Peabody residents were Puritan Congregationalists and belonged to the First Church of Salem until 1713. In 1705 a first attempt was made to establish separate religious services in Peabody by forming the "Church of Christ" in the Salem Middle Precinct. This attempt failed. In 1713 the South Congregational Church of Salem was created from the Salem First Church. Although Middle Precinct residents were released from paying ministerial taxes they still paid municipal taxes. The Second Congregational Church of Danvers was created in Peabody in 1752. Quakers resided and held meetings in Peabody throughout the Colonial period without the persecution they suffered during the mid-17th century. In 1692 during the Salem witchcraft delusion several Peabody residents were banished, tortured or killed.

C. Settlement Pattern

Land patterns which developed in Peabody during the Plantation period continued throughout most of the Colonial period. The common field system was still in place comprising several small fields, plains and pastures. Several large farms were still present, particularly in West Peabody, although the general trend was now for smaller farms. Many of the larger farms granted or purchased during the Plantation period were being broken up through inheritance and sale. Some larger farms were, however, kept intact and in their original families. Dispersed farmsteads continued to characterize most settlement with some concentration in the Brooksby area at the South Meetinghouse.

In 1710, Peabody on the Village of Brooksby became the Middle Precinct of Salem. The first meetinghouse was erected in Peabody Square in 1711. After several unsuccessful attempts to remove from Salem, the Middle Precinct together with Salem Village (Danvers) were joined forming the District of Danvers. A district differed from a town in that it could not send representatives to the General Court. While Peabody and Danvers were united as one town, they often acted separately. Joint meetings were held with officials elected one year in Peabody, the next in Danvers (including Peabody in 1757). While Peabody and Danvers were united, the area of Endicott's Plain served as the center for both towns (Wells 1972:52).

D. Economic Base

While most aspects of agriculture and husbandry continued to characterize Peabody's economic base throughout the Colonial period, industry was also growing. In 1685 Jeremiah Meacham established a fulling mill by Goldthwait Brook on the westerly side of Summit Street in South Peabody. A fulling mill was also established in 1692 at the site of the early Trask Grist mill on the pond at Peabody Square. In ca. 1681 Joseph Pope built a saw mill on the southerly side of Crystal Lake in West Peabody on a brook leading from the pond to the Ipswich River. A third saw mill was built in South Peabody in ca. 1690 on a brook leading from Cedar Pond. Several tanneries were established during this period, the more noteworthy of which were established by the Quaker Joseph Southwick in 1739 and by Joseph Poor in 1770 near what is now Central Street. Beginning in ca. 1751 and lasting for about 50 years a wool industry developed focusing on the preparation of wool for manufacturing. By 1731 Peabody's pottery industry developed using clays from the Waters River area. Jonathan Kettle established the first pottery in 1731 in the area around 31 Andover Street. In 1736 Joseph Osborn established one of the leading pottery shops in the area at 88 Central Street. The shop had a kiln and pug mill turned by a horse between the workshop and house. This industry peaked immediately following the Revolutionary War. In 1775 34 potters were listed in the local military companies that marched to Lexington. Henry Buxton developed a buckle industry around the time of the Revolution. John Southwick owned and operated the first store in Peabody on Main Street in 1735. At least two Colonial period taverns were operated; the Bell Tavern built in 1757 on the corner of Washington and Main streets, and the Southwick Tavern was built in the early 1700s near the corner of Lowell and Endicott Streets.

E. Architecture

VII. FEDERAL PERIOD (1775-1830)

A. Transportation Routes

B. Population

C. Settlement Pattern

D. Economic Base

Because Peabody was not incorporated until 1855, virtually no census or other data is available on the economy. Nonetheless it is known that the leather tanning industry got its start just about the time of the American Revolution. Earthenware was made in large quantities

during the War of 1812, when restrictions of British imports opened up the domestic market to American manufacturers. At that time there were at least thirty potteries in business.

E. Architecture

VIII. EARLY INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1830-1870)

A. Transportation Routes

B. Population

C. Settlement Pattern

D. Economic Base

Because Peabody was not incorporated from Danvers until 1855, census data on the economy is not available until the very end of the period. However, it is known that there were already 27 tanneries in 1855 with 121 employees and a leather product value of \$660,000. By 1865 there were 92 manufacturing establishments with 1311 employees (79% men) and a product value of \$5.9 million. Many of these firms were associated with the leather tanning industry or shoe manufacturing. Manufacturing employed 79% of the male workforce in 1865; the other 21% working in agriculture.

E. Architecture

IX. LATE INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1870-1915)

A. Transportation Routes

B. Population

Peabody's population increased 153% from 7343 in 1875 to 18,625 in 1915, growing steadily at early census count. The real and relative number of foreign-born residents also grew considerably. In 1875 immigrants accounted for 1892 persons, or 23.5% of the total population. In 1915, 7096 immigrants accounted for 38.1% of the total, a high percentage for Essex County cities and towns. The Irish were the vast majority of immigrants early in the period, while Greeks, Russians, Poles, and Turks had large representations by 1915.

C. Settlement Pattern

D. Economic Base

The manufacturing sector of Peabody's economy burgeoned during the period as the leather tanning industry expanded. The total male workforce grew 205% from 2100 men in 1875 to 6420 in 1915. The percentage of the male workforce engaged in manufacturing grew from 64% in 1875 to 81% in 1915. During the same span agricultural employment fell from 18% to 5% of the total and commercial employment from 18% to 14%. Nonetheless, the real number of men working in agriculture fell only slightly and in commercial occupations actually increased 137% from 386 to 915 men.

After a sharp decline during the 1873 depression the manufacturing sector rebounded. In 1875 there were 58 manufacturing firms with a product valued at \$3.9 million. Thirty-five of the 58 establishments were leather tanning firms, and their product value of \$3.1 million accounted for 79% of the total manufacturing product. By 1905 there were 76 manufacturing establishments and the product value had grown 161% to \$10.2 million. Leather and shoes were the principal products throughout, while soap, candles, and other goods were made in small quantities.

E. Architecture

X. EARLY MODERN PERIOD (1915-1940)

A. Transportation Routes

B. Population

After recording a formidable 154% rate of growth in the Late Industrial decades, Peabody's increases slowed but continued steadily throughout the period. By 1950 the rate quickened, the town's population increasing almost 18% in five years. For the period, Peabody registered a 43% rate of growth.

With a high proportion of foreign-born for an Essex County town, Peabody's nativities represented 38% of its population in 1915, and still held at nearly 19% by the period's close. While the Irish (19%) dominated, the Greeks (15.4%), Poles (14%), and Russians (12%) also were important in 1915. By 1950, Russian (14%) and Canadian (16%) nativities were among Peabody's most numerous.

C. Settlement Pattern

D. Economic Base

Manufacturing continued to dominate the Peabody economy throughout this period. In 1952 there were 112 manufacturing firms with 5613 employees. Of these, 75 firms were leather and leather products factories with 4648 employees (82% of the manufacturing workforce). Chemicals and allied products accounted for most of the remaining 185. Seventy-five percent of those employed in Peabody in 1952 worked in manufacturing, 11.5% in trade, while service sector and construction jobs accounted for most of the rest.

E. Architecture

XI. SURVEY OBSERVATIONS

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