

# Wakefield Preservation Plan

## Town of Wakefield, Massachusetts

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### 1. Context of Historic Preservation in Wakefield

#### 1.1 Summary History of Wakefield

##### Formation of the Wakefield Landscape

The historical settlement pattern that has resulted in what is now known as the Town of Wakefield was the result of glacial action that began approximately 100,000 years ago during the beginning of the last ice age. As the glaciers advanced south during the beginning of the age, they acted as giant bulldozers, scraping up the existing soil and incorporating it into the glacial ice block. When the weather pattern began to warm, the glaciers began to recede and melt. This glacial retreat resulted in new patterns of soil deposits, both directly on bedrock and through melt waters in glacial lakes.

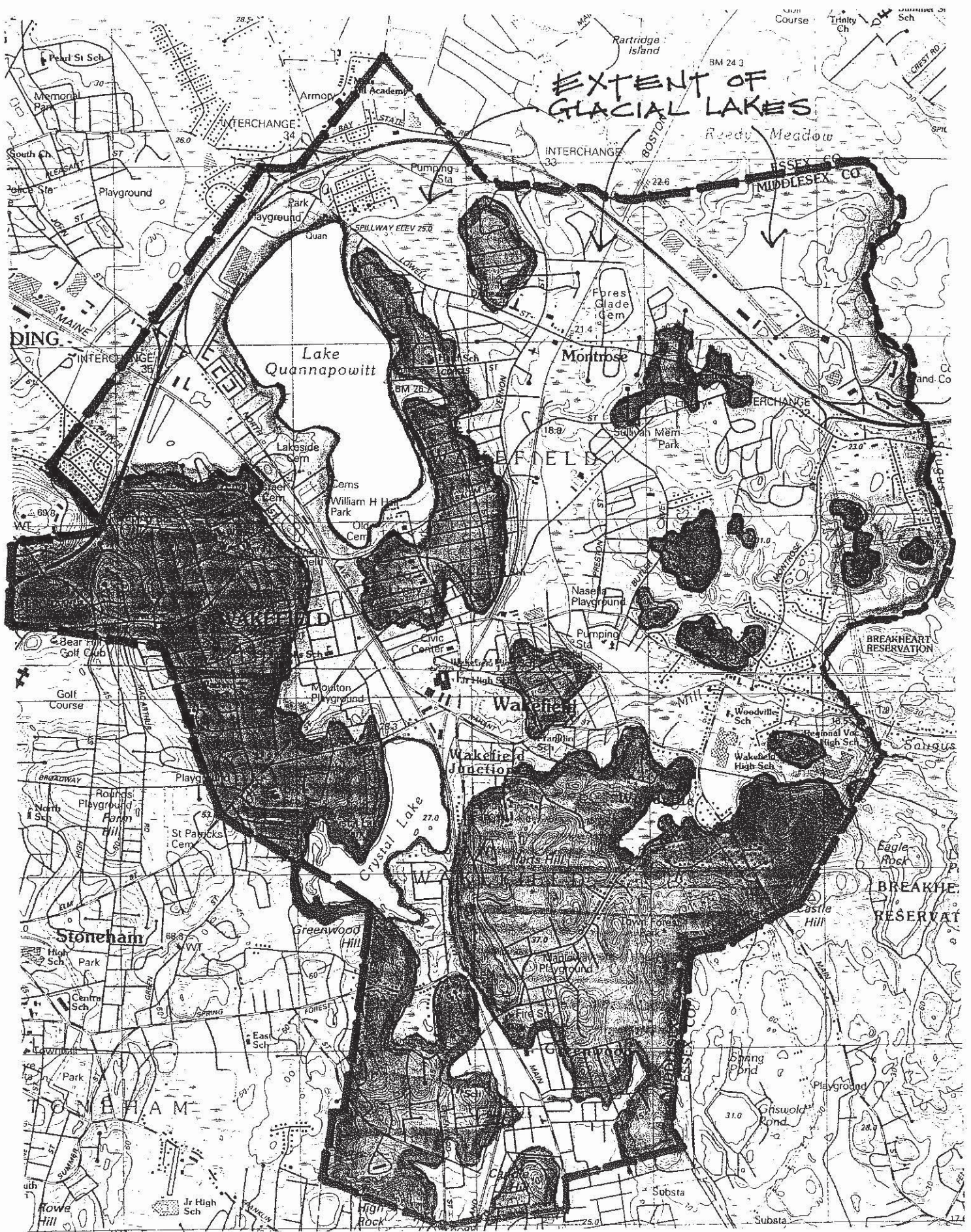
The melting of the slowing glaciers resulted in enormous glacial lakes. At the bottom of these lakes were deposited sand and gravel washed out of the glaciers. The extent of glacial lakes in the Wakefield area are shown in Map 1. Occasionally, ice blocks would break off of the larger glacier into the lakes. As lake bottom gravel deposits built around these ice blocks, and as the ice block melted, water-filled "kettle-hole" depressions would form. Lake Quannapowitt and Crystal Lake in Wakefield are both kettle holes. See Appendix A for a graphic description of how kettle holes were formed.

The soils that formed at the bottom of the glacial lake were either what is now known as Merrimac Soils, fine sandy soils of moderate fertility, or wetlands, whether open marsh, meadow or wooded.

##### Habitation by Native Tribes

As the glaciers receded and tundra vegetation began to emerge in what was to become New England, nomadic tribes of hunter-gatherers began to migrate into the region. Artifacts found in Wakefield indicate that quarrying of the Lynn Felsite in the area for hunting points occurred at least as early as 8,000 years ago. From archaeological findings in Ipswich and other locations, it is believed that native tribes inhabited the area as early as 11,500 years ago. The shallow glacial lake that covered the area was an excellent spawning ground for salmon, shad and other species.

About 3,000 years ago, evidence suggests that the native tribes evolved into a less-nomadic and more settled life style. Many projectile points and stone implements



## Map 1: Extent of Glacial Lakes in Wakefield

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have been recovered from this era in Wakefield, particularly those found by Dr. Ernest E. Tyzzer. Dr. Tyzzer was a Wakefield resident and an amateur archaeologist who systematically collected in the 1930's and 1940's.

Approximately 1,000 years ago, agricultural practices were introduced into the southern New England area by tribes to the west. In what is now Wakefield, archaeological evidence suggests that the local tribes practiced agriculture with simple stone implements attached to wooden handles. Their cultivated fields were restricted to the low lying fertile Merrimac soils that were formed at the bottom of glacial lakes, what we know as the kame terraces at the western and southern edges of Lake Quannapowitt and on the eastern shore of Crystal Lake. These soils were not only fertile but easily worked with stone tools, and they had the added advantage of being located next to large water bodies, valuable for fishing.

The native Pawtucket tribes (historians have called the local tribe the Saugus) practiced both extensive and intensive forms of land husbandry. On their agricultural fields, they grew corn, beans and squash. During fall harvest time, they stored the excess foodstuffs in dry hillsides for use later in the year.

The extensive form of husbandry involved the burning of the woodlands to encourage browsing growth for deer and other game, to provide for easy travel, and to encourage lush grass growth for grazing animals and for berry production. The local tribes also burned the meadow along the Saugus River, including the Reedy Meadow, to encourage lush meadow grass growth as a means of providing a more productive habitat for waterfowl, which they hunted.

In 1617-1618, a disease carried by European traders swept through the Southern New England tribes, decimating the coastal native populations from Maine to Rhode Island. What the Puritan settlers found when they arrived in Massachusetts was not so much a virgin land but one that had become widowed.

### **European Settlement**

Beginning with the arrival of John Winthrop in Salem Harbor aboard the flagship Arbella in 1630, 20,000 Puritan settlers arrived in Massachusetts Bay from 1630 to 1641 to escape the persecution of the Puritans by Charles I and Archbishop Laud. As Winthrop described in his "Model of Christian Charity," the homily that he wrote on the Arbella as it lay at anchor in Salem harbor, these new Puritan settlements were to be "as a City on a Hill," an example to the world of how true Christian ideals could be practiced on this earth.

The utopian model Christian communities that the Puritans created required above all a minister to provide the spiritual guidance and oversight that such communities required. This necessitated a close village development pattern which allowed such oversight. The Puritans had no interest in dispersed settlement and were determined that any new settlement would be able to support a minister before it would be incorporated and legitimized by the General Court.

Initial settlements occurred along the Massachusetts coast, where two landscape environments existed that were considered essential: (1) open fields for cultivation of crops and for the grazing of cattle during the growing season; and (2) salt marsh for the harvesting of salt hay for winter fodder for cattle. Except for the small plots given with house lots, most of the land was held in common.

As the coastal settlements quickly became populated with new immigrants, inland settlement sites in proximity to freshwater meadows began to be sought. The only inland sites with extensive fresh water meadows or marshes were the flat, low-lying environments of former glacial lake beds. These existed at Concord (Glacial Lake Concord); Sudbury (Glacial Lake Sudbury); Medford on the Mystic River; Dedham and Medfield on the Charles River; Lancaster on the Nashua River; and Saugus and Redding on the Saugus River.

In order to ensure that new settlement locations were accessible from Boston and included the right mix of environmental characteristics to support the 30-40 families that were deemed necessary to support a minister, the General Court sent out what might be called "environmental scouting parties" to assess the adequacy of the environment and report back to the magistrates.

It is known that in 1638, the interior west of Lynn, now known as Lynnfield, was surveyed by a Mr. Hawthorne of Salem and Lieutenant Davenport of Lynn, who were "to view and inform how the land beyond the lyth whether it may be fit for another plantation of no."

In 1639, a group of 29 inhabitants of Lynn left that community and settled along abandoned Indian planting fields on the southern shore of Lake Quannapowitt. When this community became settled and acquired themselves a minister (Master Harry Green from Watertown) and built a log meetinghouse for religious services in 1644, the Boston magistrates in that year approved their request to be incorporated as a separate town of four miles squared, known as the Town of Redding, the 12th congregation of the Commonwealth. The name of Redding was chosen presumably for a town in England where an important battle was won by the Puritans in 1644 during the English Civil War.

Depending on the amount of shares held in the Massachusetts Bay Company, the first Redding proprietors were granted between 30 and 200 acres of land. In 1647, the meadowlands were allocated in undivided allotments, with 10 to 20 acres provided to each family in a formula that allocated two acres per family member and one acre per beast.

Settlements occurred along the base of the two hills overlooking Lake Quannapowitt, Shingle Hill to the east and Cowdry's Hill to the west. Both of these hills consisted of glacial till Gloucester soils that proved to be ideal for agriculture. When the early seed grains of the Puritans failed, the European settlers adopted many of the agricultural practices of the native tribes, including the planting of corn, squash and beans and the burning of Reedy Meadow every year to preserve its production of meadow grass for winter fodder.

### **The Period of Subsistence Agriculture**

For the next two hundred years, the predominant economic base of Redding consisted of subsistence agriculture, practiced on independent farms so praised by Thomas Jefferson. Virtually all of a family's needs were met through its own resourcefulness. Farm families grew their own food; raised their own livestock for meat, milk, butter, cheese and eggs; made their own clothing on foot-powered spinning wheels and looms from wool provided by their own sheep; grew apples for their hard cider; made their homes, barns and tools from lumber provided by their own wood lots; obtained fuel from those same wood lots; and generally provided for themselves.

Surplus agricultural products---and off-season cottage industries such as making shoes---provided cash for those items that could not be provided by themselves, such as iron parts of tools, grinding of corn and grains, sawing of lumber and finishing of their home-made woolen cloth (which was brought to a fulling mill for processing) and rum.

The specialized plantation economies of the West Indian islands and the southern American colonies could not supply themselves with sufficient food and other basic items. As a result, New England became the “breadbasket” of the plantation economies, and its farmers provided these monocultures with essentials such as salted beef, salted pork, flour, biscuits, butter, cheese, peas, rooted vegetables, lumber and barrel staves, as well as horses and other livestock.

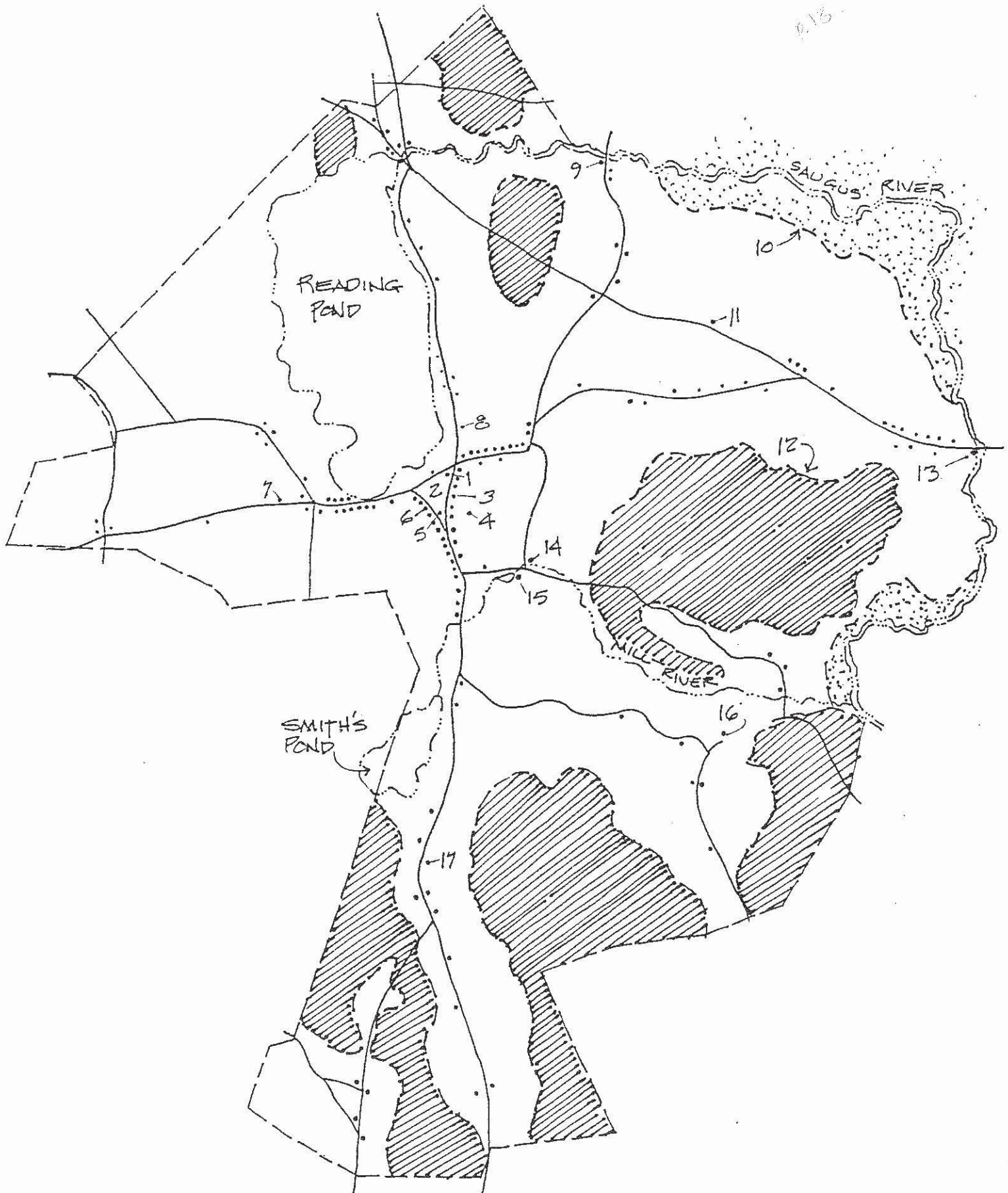
Cattle raising conducted for the production of salted beef produced byproducts such as hides. The surplus of hides in turn encouraged the cottage industry of shoe making. As early as 1677, a land grant was made to Jonathan Eaton on the condition that he continue in town as a shoemaker. This early shoe making cottage industry was typically conducted in small show shops that were often attached to the main homestead. The only one of these early shoe shops that is known to have survived in Wakefield is at 113 Salem Street, now converted to a residence.

Early industries in Wakefield, during the first 200 years of the town, were all related to agriculture and were the same as in all New England towns: a saw mill made lumber from a farmer’s logs; a grist mill ground the farmer’s grains and corn; a fulling mill processed hand woven cloth into a finer, more durable and workable fabric; and a blacksmith shop was the iron works that provided the iron parts for tools, plows, harnesses and household implements, in addition to horseshoes. Map 2 on the next page identifies the locations of early industries in Wakefield.

In 1667, there were 59 houses in Redding, and the lumber for these dwellings came principally from John Poole’s sawmill, established in 1650 on the Saugus River where Vernon Street crosses the river. In 1667, a land grant was made to Abraham Bryant to establish a blacksmith shop in town.

In 1812, political differences resulted in the separation of the South Parish from the Town of Redding and the incorporation of the new Town of South Redding.

By 1830, the landscape of Wakefield had changed from being principally forest to open farmland, except for the upper elevations where thin soil over bedrock and steep slopes resulted in the land remaining in wood lots (see Map 2). Settlements were principally along the Merrimac soils formed at the bottom of glacial lakes adjoining the common, and along Main, Church, Prospect, Elm, Salem and Lowell Streets.



## Map 2: Wakefield in 1830

Wakefield Preservation Plan / Town of Wakefield, Massachusetts / Alfred J. Lima, Consulting Planner

## Index to the Map Titled "Wakefield in 1830"

- 1 Town House (1834).
- 2 Common
- 3 Benjamin Wiley residence at 376 Main Street, with shoe shop in rear (1822).
- 4 South Reading Academy, a seminary for Baptist ministers.
- 5 Center School
- 6 Tavern at SW corner of Main and Albion Streets opens in 1840. Stage coach stops here twice weekly. In 1817, stagecoach service began serving Wakefield.
- 7 West Ward School on Prospect Street.
- 8 Thomas Emerson shoe shop opens in 1805 on the lot of his residence.
- 9 Saw mill where the Saugus River crosses under Vernon Street. This was the site of the second grist mill in town in the 1600's.
- 10 Reedy Meadow and the fresh water meadow along the Saugus River.
- 11 School house.
- 12 Upland area unfit for agriculture and left in woodland.
- 13 Hawkes Flannel Factory on the Saugus River at Salem Street.
- 14 Grist mill on the Mill River started by John Poole in 1650.
- 15 Sawmill and tin ware manufactory on the Mill River.
- 16 Alms house and town farm on Nahant Road.
- 17 School on Main Street serving the southern part of town.

The town had 5 English and West India Goods Shops, 12 shoe makers shops, and three blacksmith shops. Yet for all of the changes that had occurred since the founding of the town, it still remained a small farming community of 1,311 persons.

The landscape was one of Georgian and Federal farmhouses and the barns and outbuildings that composed their homesteads. The earliest remaining of these structures in Wakefield is the oldest part of Colonel James Hartshorne House at 41 Church Street, whose oldest part dates to 1681. Another remnant of the First Period is believed to be the ell to the rear of 391 Vernon Street (ca. 1750), which is attached to one of the finest gambrel-roofed Georgian homes in Wakefield, the Captain William Green house.

Other surviving Georgian farmhouses in Wakefield include the hipped roof Reuben Green house at 43 Spring Street (1790); 114 Main Street (before 1750); and the William Cowdry House at 71 Prospect Street (ca.1764). Early one and one-half story Georgian residences with gambrel roofs in Wakefield include 48 Meriam Street (ca, 1735) and 7 Pitman Avenue (ca. 1740). Other 2 1/2-story Georgian residences in the town include the Joseph Gould house at 19 Salem Street (1765 and 1795); the house at 339 Salem Street (1732 or 1752; expanded in 1790); 58 Oak Street (before 1765); and 15 Nahant Street.

Surviving Georgian and Federal structures in Wakefield, dating from 1681 to 1830, are listed in Appendix M.

The earliest recorded school building in Wakefield was the Central School that once stood on the Common. In 1828-29, the Baptists built the South Reading Academy for the education of Baptist ministers, which reflected the growth of evangelical Protestantism in the 1820's and 1830's in the country. The Academy was located where the Lincoln School now stands on Crescent Street. In the 1840's, in response to the new movement to improve public common schools that was initiated by Horace Mann, four new schools were built in the four wards of the town. One of these, the West Ward School (1847), still stands at 39 Prospect Street. As secondary education became to be seen as a public responsibility in towns in the Commonwealth, Wakefield responded by purchasing one of the buildings of the South Reading Academy in 1847 for the town's first high school. That building was subsequently moved and still stands at 7 Foster Street.

### **The Era of the Industrial Revolution**

The arrival of the railroad in Wakefield in 1844, 200 years after the incorporation of the town, signaled a new historical era for Wakefield, bringing with it the Industrial Revolution. Within ten years of the railroad's arrival, manufacturing activity was transformed from a cottage industry conducted in farm shoe shops by family members to one where new corporations created manufacturing enterprises that hired new immigrants to work in mechanized factories.

This new manufacturing activity occurred along the flat land at the junction of Wakefield's three rail lines on the B and M Railroad, a coming together of transportation routes that lent itself to an ideal location for factories. The town's locational advantage attracted new entrepreneurs, including Cyrus Wakefield, for whom the town was named on June 30, 1868 in recognition of his positive impact on the town, including his donation of the new Town Hall in 1871.



By 1855, manufacturing enterprises such as the Heywood Brothers and Wakefield Company Rattan Factory on Water Street and the B&M Foundry were formed, both by Cyrus Wakefield. By 1863, the Rattan Factory employed approximately 200 persons and in 1873 up to 1000 employees, surpassing the shoe industry in employment.

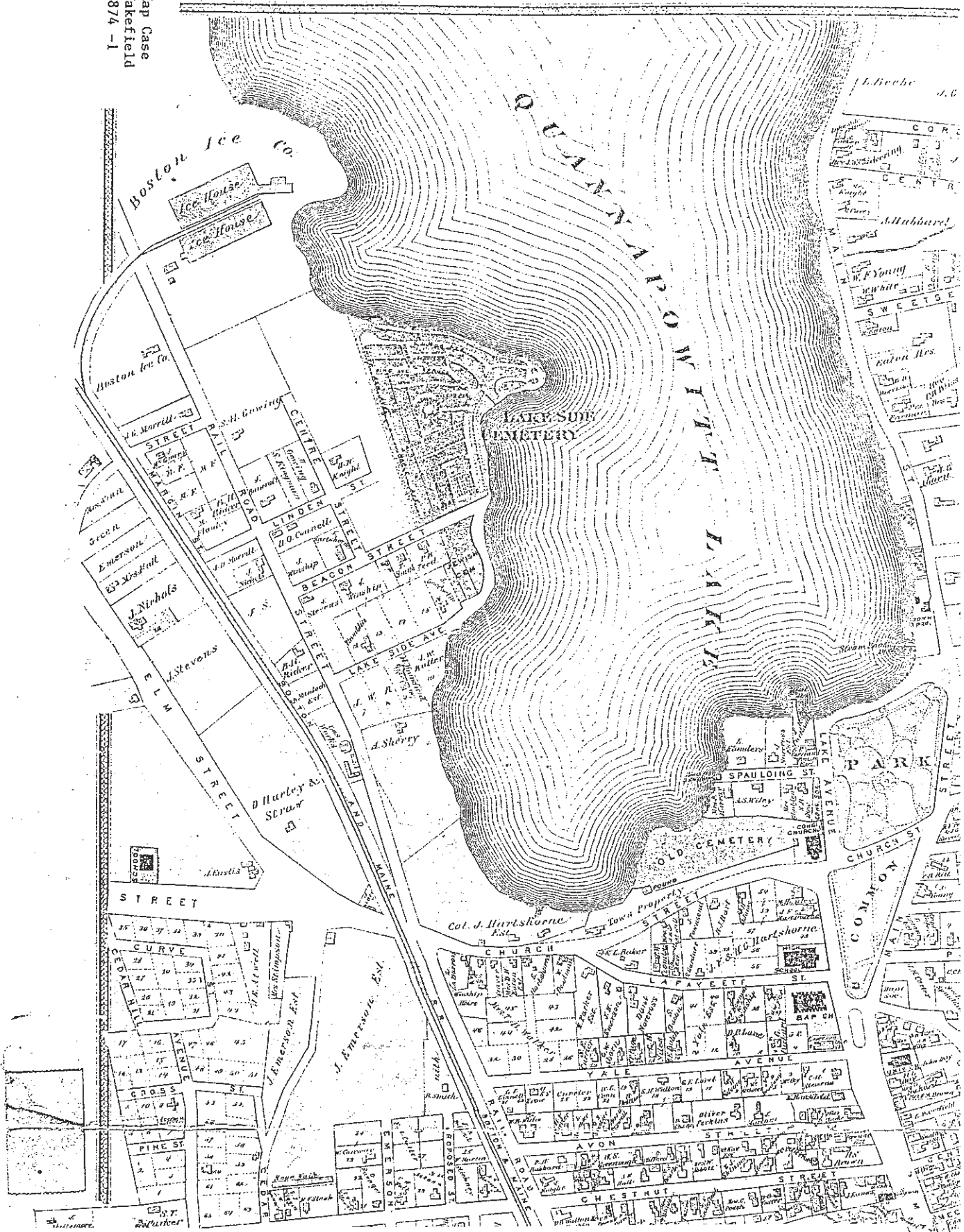
Within a year of the coming of the railroad, a local ice production industry was born, with new ice houses built along the shores of Reading Pond (now Lake Quannapowitt) and Smith's Pond (now Crystal Lake). The close proximity of the ponds to the railroad made them ideal locations for ice harvesting. A railroad spur actually led to the siding of the ice house on Reading Pond (see Map 3). For the first time, the railroads made possible the practical transport of ice to Boston wharves, where ice was transported to places as far away as India, and to cities in the Boston region.

The explosion of growth that occurred with the development of factories in the town resulted in the need for new housing for workers and the growth of new neighborhoods. These new neighborhoods included the East End, located to the east of the manufacturing center within walking distance of work places, and in the West End near the manufacturing enterprises of the B&M Foundry and the Harvard Knitting Mills, relocated to Wakefield in 1889. By 1875, these workers neighborhoods began to fill in what had been farmland (see maps in Appendix I). By 1896, the expansion of the Harvard Knitting Mills by the Winship, Boit Company made these mills the largest employer in town.

This new enterprise brought with it new wealth to invest in private dwellings and civic buildings. The town's rich inventory of Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire and Queen Anne styles attest to the wealth and style that the Industrial Revolution brought to Wakefield. The most prominent civic buildings that represent this era include the Italianate First Baptist Church (1872), the Unitarian Universalist Society (built as a Greek Revival in 1836 and later modified to Italianate in 1859).

In most communities, it is difficult to put a name on historic architecture; however, in Wakefield an unusual combination of an architectural patron in Cyrus Wakefield and a very talented local architect in John Stevens resulted in remarkable Second Empire architecture of exceptional quality that would be prized in any community. Wakefield and Stevens collaborated as patron and architect in the Cyrus Wakefield residence (1863); in the Taylor Building (1870); in the new Town Hall (1871) and in the High School (1872).

Map Case  
Wakefield  
1874-1



**Map 3: Boston Ice Co. Ice House Location  
on Lake Quannapowitt, with RR Spur.**

## **The Era of Suburban Development**

The third major social influence on the Town of Wakefield that affected its development pattern was suburban development. With the coming of the railroads, access from Boston was now convenient and the possibility of daily commuting from the city to Wakefield opened up the town to a new development influence. New residential development began to occur around the Greenwood Railroad Station and the Wakefield Station.

This suburban development began to spread beyond walking distance of the stations when horse drawn street cars were introduced and was accelerated when electric street cars came into use in Wakefield in 1892, with the inauguration of the Wakefield and Stoneham Street Railway Company. Early streetcar lines extended along Main, Albion and Water Streets. Electric streetcar service was subsequently extended to Melrose (1893); to Reading (1894); Saugus; Peabody and Salem (1898); and to Wakefield Park (1902).

Suburban development brought with it the development of the Wakefield Park and Greenwood sections of town. Wakefield Park in particular has a striking preponderance of Shingle Style and Colonial Revival architecture that was characteristic of the later decades of the 19th century. Wakefield Park is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

The influence of the automobile brought with it gradual expansion of newer suburban growth that has blurred the distinction between historic neighborhoods. One of the challenges of historic preservation in Wakefield today is to define the distinctiveness between historic areas in a manner that defines and identifies them and that assists in preserving them for future generations.

### **1.2 Historic Neighborhoods in Wakefield**

The Preservation Plan has identified seven neighborhoods in Wakefield, each with its own historical development patterns that is reflected in the built environment. These neighborhoods are:

- Wakefield Center
- West Side
- East Side
- Lakeside
- Montrose
- Woodville
- Greenwood

The location of these neighborhoods is shown on Map 4. A thorough discussion of neighborhood development patterns and current historic preservation issues is included in Chapter 6.



## Map 4: Wakefield Neighborhoods

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### 1.3 Historic Landscapes

In addition to structures, historic landscapes are also a part of Wakefield's heritage. However, while the most significant historic structures in the town are inventoried, historic landscapes are not. These landscapes, which are indexed on Map 5, include the following:

1. Town Common: This is the original location of the log meetinghouse built in 1644, located at the southerly boundary of the Common, near the corner of Main and Albion Streets. The first burial ground was located here near the site of where the bandstand sits today. The Common was laid out as a common in 1647. The Second Meetinghouse was located near the southern shore of Lake Quannapowitt.

Originally, the Common lands extended from the southern shoreline of Lake Quannapowitt to the the intersection of Main and Albion Streets. For almost 200 years, however, before the separation of church and state in Massachusetts in 1833, the First Parish owned the land. By 1871, the Town had purchased most of the parcels that had been sold out of the Common and, in 1873, the remaining structures on the Common, including the Old Town Hall, the Engine House and the first burial ground, were either removed or demolished.

The Common became a focus of a town beautification movement when Cornelius Sweetser bequeathed \$10,000 for improvement to the Common. The Queen Anne style bandstand was constructed on the Common in 1884-85, and in that same year the section north of the Common to the lake shore was graded and improved as a park.

2. Second Burial Ground: This burial ground, on Church Street on the southern shore of Lake Quannapowitt, dates from 1691 and replaced the first burial ground located on the Common. It remained in use until the 1850's.

3. Veteran's Field: In 1884, the Town adopted state enabling legislation that allowed towns to lay out parks and playgrounds within their borders and appointed its first Park Commissioner. Veterans Field on Lake Quannapowitt (formerly called the Church Street Playground) was subsequently dedicated as a public park. It was once the site of the Peoples Ice House.

4. Lakeside Cemetery: Established in 1845, Lakeside Cemetery was established by a private group that recognized the need for more extensive facilities than were available in the Second Burial Ground on Church Street. The curving paths and naturalistic landscaping are characteristic of cemeteries of the early Victorian era. Initially, the cemetery extended along the shore of Lake Quannapowitt but was later extended to North Avenue. Lakeside Cemetery contains Wakefield's most well-preserved and classic example of a temple front Greek Revival structure, the cemetery's mausoleum (ca. 1860) that fronts on Beacon Street.

Immediately south of Lakeside Cemetery is Temple Israel Cemetery, established in 1859 by Boston's first synagogue. This site now includes three abutting Jewish cemeteries.



## Map 5: Historic Landscapes in Wakefield

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Both cemeteries are located on a kame terrace, formed when a glacial lake deposited lake bottom sediment around an isolated ice block, which melted to form Lake Quannapowitt. Kame terraces are frequently locations for historic cemeteries (as they are today) because the terraces' sandy and gravelly soils allow easy excavation.

5. Site of the Boston Ice Company ice houses: Following of the arrival of the railroad to Wakefield in 1844, ice houses were immediately constructed along the shores of both Lake Quannapowitt and Crystal Lake. The site of the Boston Ice Company ice houses that were located just north of the Lakeside Cemetery was served directly by a railroad spur that ran off of the nearby main line.

6. Lake Quannapowitt: This lake is one of the most prominent features in the Town of Wakefield. It was formed when a glacial ice block broke away from the main glacier. Lake bottom sediment accumulated around the isolated ice block for thousands of years and when the ice block melted, left the water-filled depression (the lake) and the flat landscape of former sediment called a kame terrace. The sloping edges of the kame terraces at the water's edge are called ice contact slopes (see Appendix A for an illustration of how the lake was formed).

Because of the easily-worked soils on its shores and because of its fishing resources, Lake Quannapowitt was the focus of settlement for indigenous tribes for thousands of years and for the European settlement that followed. In addition to serving as a fishing resource, the lake has been used for ice harvesting and for recreational activity. A steam-powered excursion boat once toured the lake and, in 1885, there were 110 boats that docked on its shores. The Town currently owns 7.7 acres along the shoreline of the lake.

In 1910, Wakefield considered a proposal to purchase all of the privately-owned land along Lake Quannapowitt for park purposes; however, the proposal was defeated.

7. Lake Quannapowitt/Main Street parkway: In 1905, Town Meeting voted to take all of the land between Main Street and Lake Quannapowitt for park purposes. This parkway is used as a recreational resource daily by hundreds of residents of the town who walk or jog along the lake.

8. Forest Glade Cemetery:

9. Reedy Meadow National Natural Landmark: Reedy Meadow is 540 acres of open fresh water meadow that is habitat to a wide variety of birds, waterfowl and mammals. Approximately 53 acres of the designated Landmark are protected in Wakefield and 200 acres in Lynnfield.

As a means of maximizing the productivity of the meadows for wildfowl production, the native tribes would burn over the meadow annually. European settlers followed this annual burning practice to encourage new grass growth. Meadow grass was harvested as winter fodder for cattle for about 250 years, until the end of the 19th century.

The existence of Reedy Meadow was an essential factor in the location of the Town of Redding, since the existence of both open fields for cultivation and seasonal grazing and open meadow for winter fodder was considered essential for the new Puritan settlements.

10. Saugus River and the Mill River: The Saugus River originates at Lake Quannapowitt and flows through marshes as it proceeds into the Town of Saugus. The Mill River is a tributary of the Saugus River that begins in Crystal Lake. The low gradient and modest flow of these rivers made them useful for minor early industrial development. In 1650, John Poole built a saw mill on the Saugus River at Vernon Street and early saw and grist mills were located on the Mill River at Water Street. In addition, an early tin factory was located on the Mill River at that same location. Later, the Heywood/Wakefield Rattan Factory was located on the Mill River.

11. Breakheart Reservation: The Breakheart Reservation consists of over 600 acres in Saugus and Wakefield, with 27 acres in Wakefield and over 600 acres in Saugus. The Reservation is owned and managed by the Metropolitan District Commission for recreational and wildlife management purposes.

The area that became the Breakheart Reservation was probably used as a wintering ground by native tribes. Edward Murray, president of the Friends of Breakheart Reservation, says that in Colonial times, the reservation was known as "The 600 Acres" and was divided into numerous wood lots for the harvesting of lumber and firewood by the residents of South Reading and Saugus. The land would have been unproductive for active agricultural use.

Mr. Murray notes that the land was purchased in the late 1800's by Benjamin Johnson and his associates for use as a hunting and fishing reserve. In the early 1900's, Mr. Johnson and others sold the land to the Breakheart Hill Trust, apparently with the intention of transferring ownership to the Commonwealth for public use.

During the Great Depression, Breakheart was the site of the Civilian Conservation Corps, when a road system was built and the flume between the upper and lower ponds was constructed. Very little evidence of the camp remains, other than a few cellar holes.

During the 1980's, the Metropolitan District Commission, along with the Friends of Breakheart Reservation, dedicated their efforts to rejuvenating the Reservation and to make it more attractive to the public. The beach area was expanded, cars were banned year-round, and a handicapped access trail was constructed.

Educational programs are held regularly at the Reservation, including Maple sugaring programs each March. Special events include road races, festivals with a natural focus, and many other events. Future plans include a state of the art visitor's center and the expansion of facilities at the beach area.

12. Town Forest Park: The 45 acres of the former Town Forest has been transferred to park purposes.

13. Hart's Hill: In the late 19th century, Hart's Hill was acquired jointly by the Town and the Metropolitan Park District for \$10,000. In 1901, the Town took title to its 23 acres with the stipulation that "it be forever kept open as a public park and reservation for use of the people."

14. J.J. Round Memorial Park: This 15.74 acre park is situated on Main Street.

15. Crystal Lake: Like Lake Quannapowitt, Crystal Lake is a kettle hole, formed by the accumulation of glacial lake sediment around an isolated ice block. One of the lake's unusual



glacial-era formations is an esker, located at the southwestern end of the lake. How eskers were formed is illustrated in Appendix A. A prominent kame terrace exists on the eastern shore of the lake. Artifacts found along the lake's shoreline indicate a long settlement pattern of native tribes.

Crystal Lake's proximity to a major rail junction made it ideal for ice harvesting, which began a year after the arrival of the railroad in 1845.

16. Crystal Lake Watershed: Crystal Lake is now part of the Town water supply source and 75 acres of its shoreline are now protected in public ownership. Some of the protected land is in Stoneham.

17. Bear Hill Golf Club: Approximately 8.8 acres of this turn-of-the-century golf course is in Wakefield.

18. Greenwood Groves: Several groves existed in the Greenwood neighborhood. These privately-owned parks were visited by urban residents who took the train to "the country" to enjoy picnics in the bucolic settings. All of these groves are now developed in residential or other uses.

## 1.4 Lost Wakefield

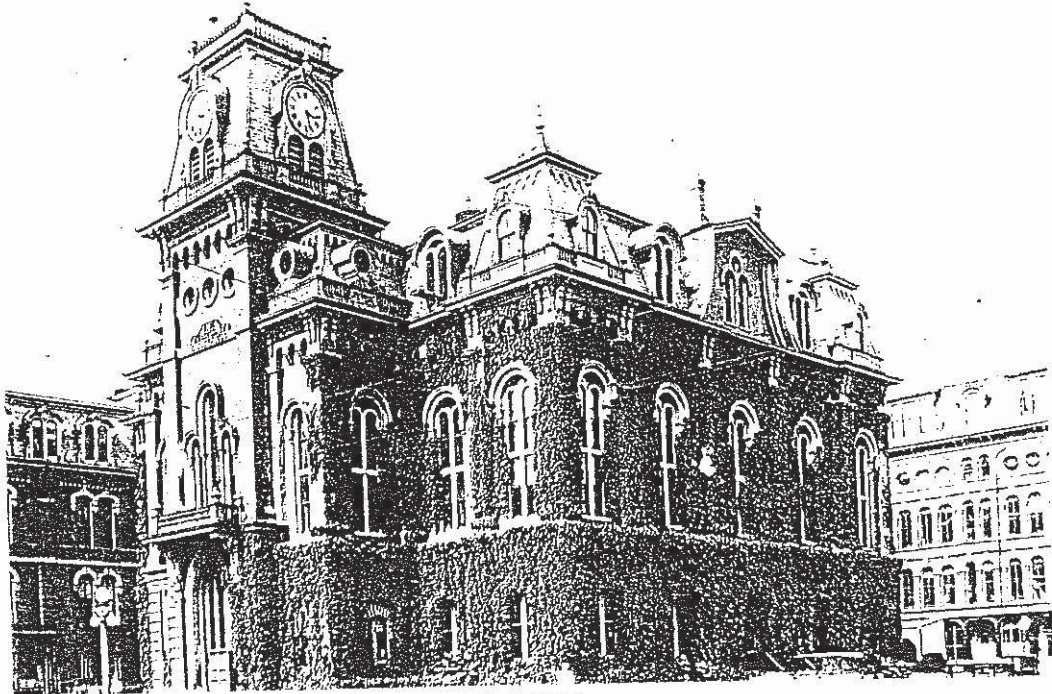
Wakefield's historic resources are a finite resource, and when they are gone, they are gone forever. As planning for the preservation of the community's historic heritage progresses, it is appropriate to reflect on how much of these resources have been lost over time. Such a review is sobering because the loss of historic properties occurs slowly---one building at a time--and it is only by looking backward that we are able to see how much has been lost.

The following is a partial listing of historic buildings that are no longer existing in Wakefield:

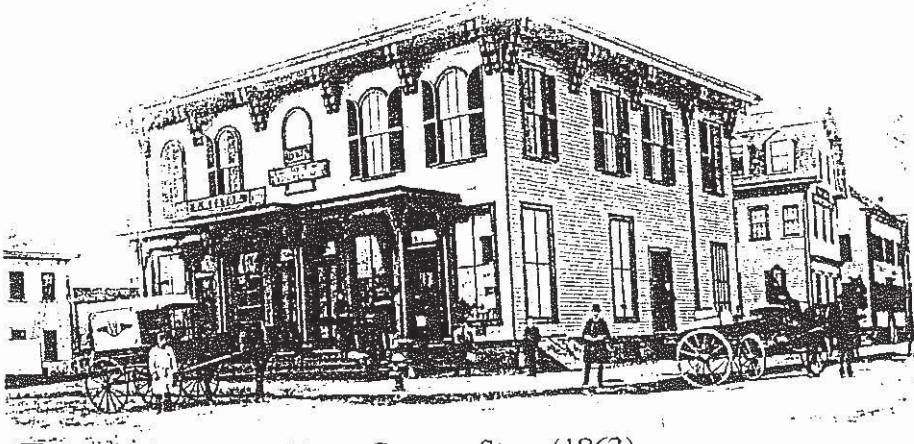
- Captain John Parker House (1670) 157 Prospect St.: destroyed by fire in 1901.
- Saw Mill on Saugus River at Vernon St. (ca. 1600's): still existed in 1897.
- Hopkins House (ca. 1722)
- Caleb Prentiss House
- First Parish House (ca. 1767)
- Burrage Yale's Inn (1825)
- Old Town House (1834): Stood where bandstand is now; moved to the corner of Salem and Main street and torn down in 1903.
- Quannapowitt House (1840) stood on north corner of Main and Albion Sts.
- J.E. Parker's Provision Store (ca 1860's) stood on east side of Main St.
- C. Wakefield No. 2 Fire House (1871) stood next to old Montrose School.
- Old Montrose School House.
- Lucius Beebe No. 1 Engine House (ca. 1889) in Wakefield Park.
- Miller Piano Factory (1872): demolished in 1950's.
- Town Hall (1870's): demolished in 1958.
- Mansion of Cyrus Wakefield (1863): demolished to make way for the high school.

- Baptist Church: destroyed by fire in 1871.
- Richardson Light Guard Armory (1894): destroyed by fire in 1911.
- L.B. Evans Shoe Factory (1894) on Water St.
- Morrill-Atwood ice houses (ca. 1901): demolished in 1960.
- Small shoe shops: as many as 112 existed in the town at one time.
- Thomas Emerson and Sons Shoe Mfgr. factory. Was at site of current YMCA.
- Yale Engine House, north side of Church St.
- The blacksmith shop, north side of Church St.
- Cutler Bros. Building, Main and Water Sts., destroyed by fire in 1911.
- Town Farm buildings.
- Atwell Building, Wakefield Memorial High School: destroyed by fire in 1971.
- Wakefield Cinema Block: destroyed by fire in 1971.
- Colonial House, at Richardson Ave. and Foster St.
- St. Joseph's Church, destroyed by fire in 1977.
- Greenwood RR depot, destroyed by fire in 1971.
- E.W. Eaton store.
- Heywood Brothers and Wakefield Rattan Factory: destroyed by fire in 1972.
- Third Congregational Meeting House, at site of present church.

# Lost Wakefield



Old Town Hall (1871).



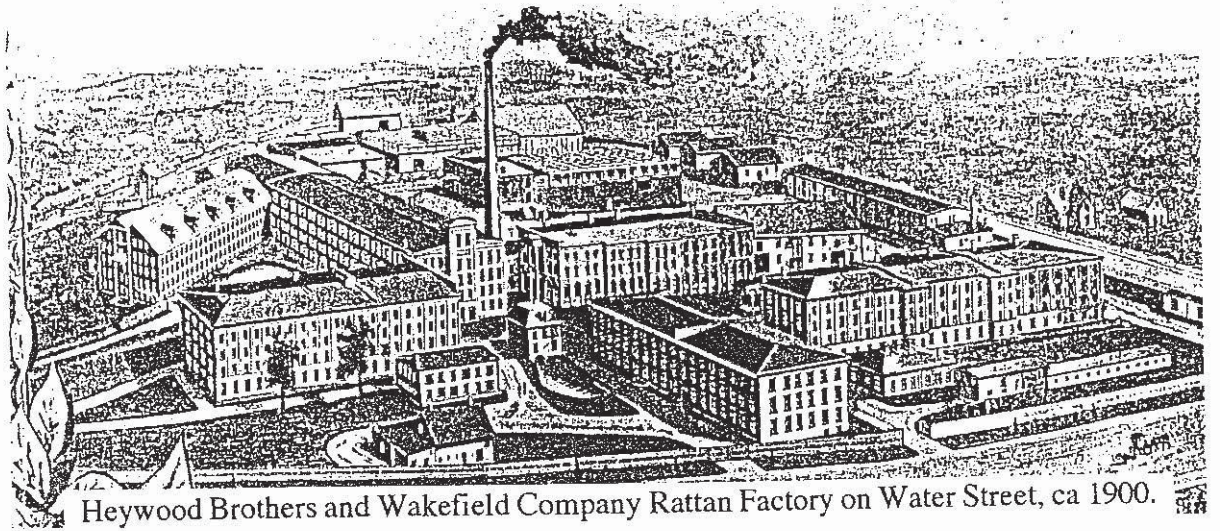
Everett Eaton Grocery Store (1863).



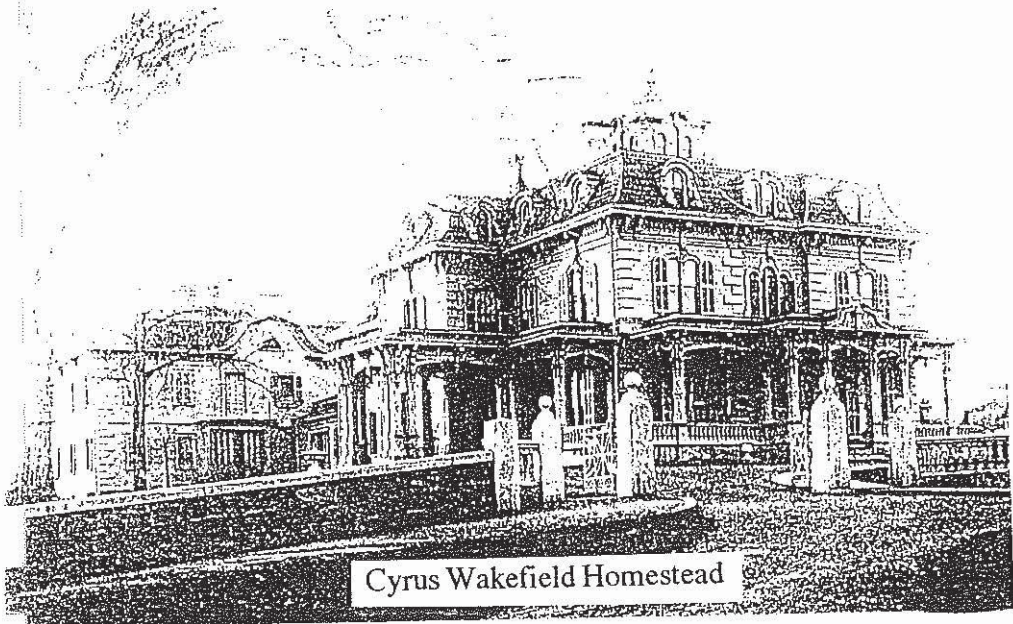
Miller Paino Factory.

# Lost Wakefield

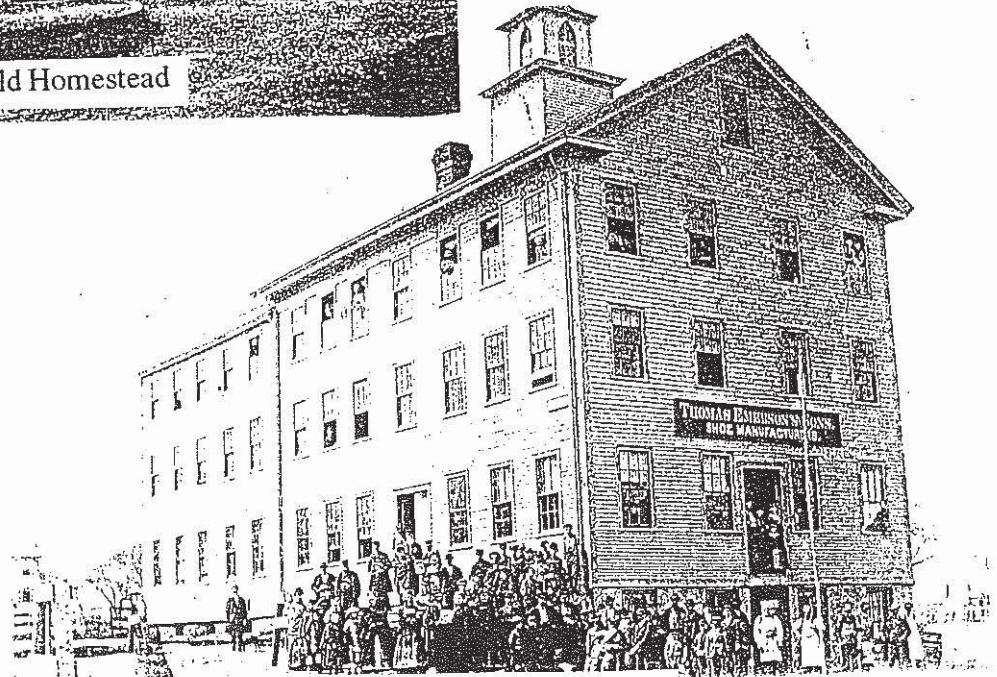
P. 32



Heywood Brothers and Wakefield Company Rattan Factory on Water Street, ca 1900.

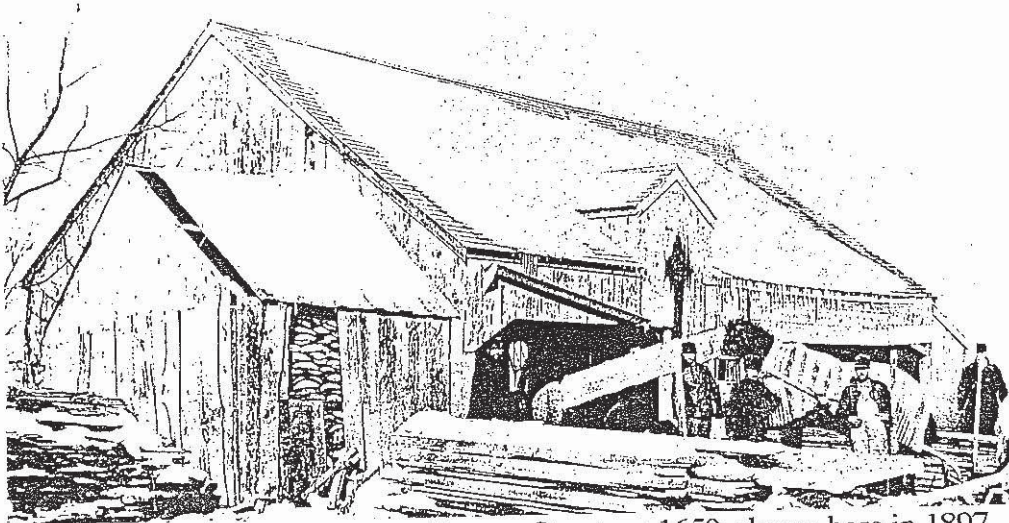


Cyrus Wakefield Homestead

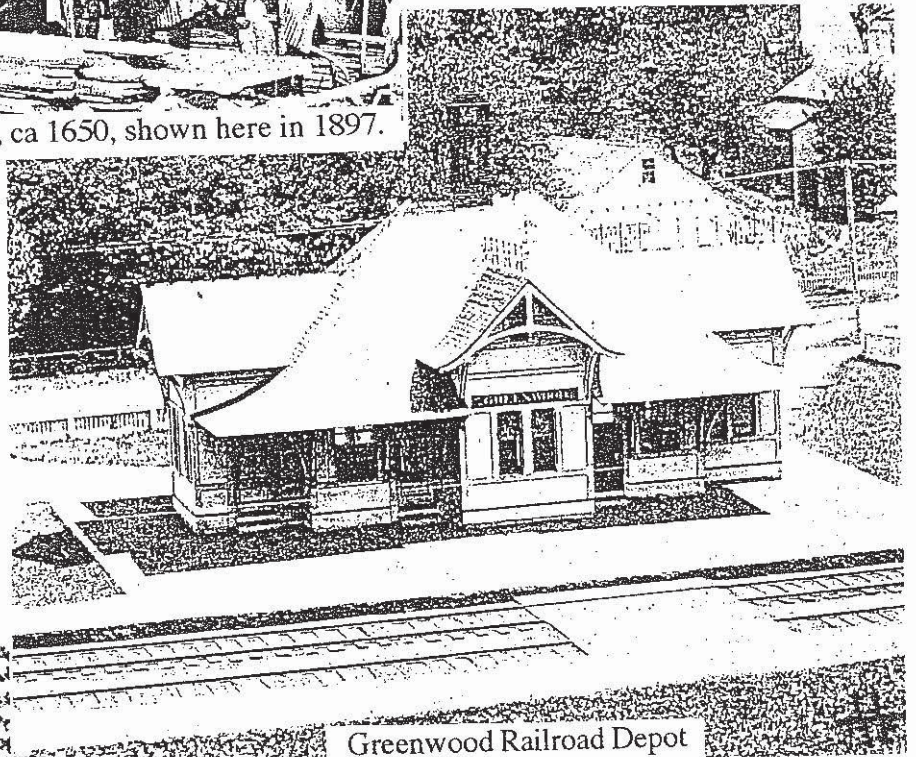


Thomas Emerson Shoe Factory

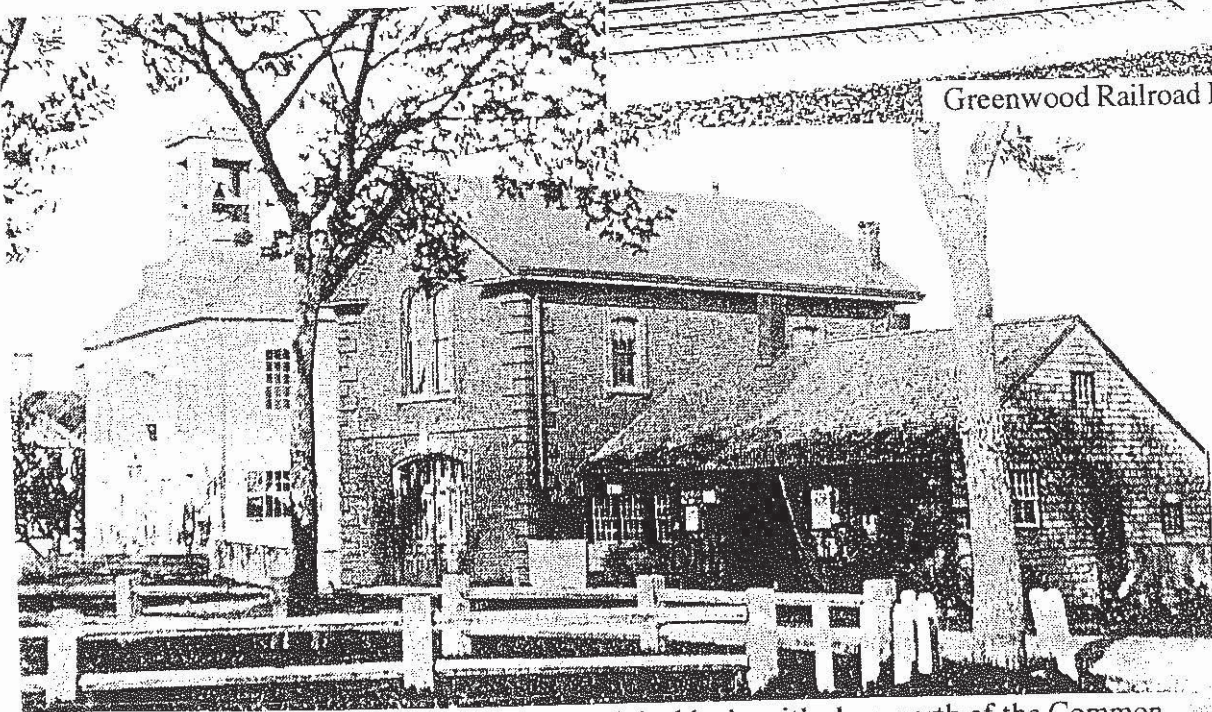
# Lost Wakefield



Saw Mill on Saugus River on Vernon Street, ca 1650, shown here in 1897.

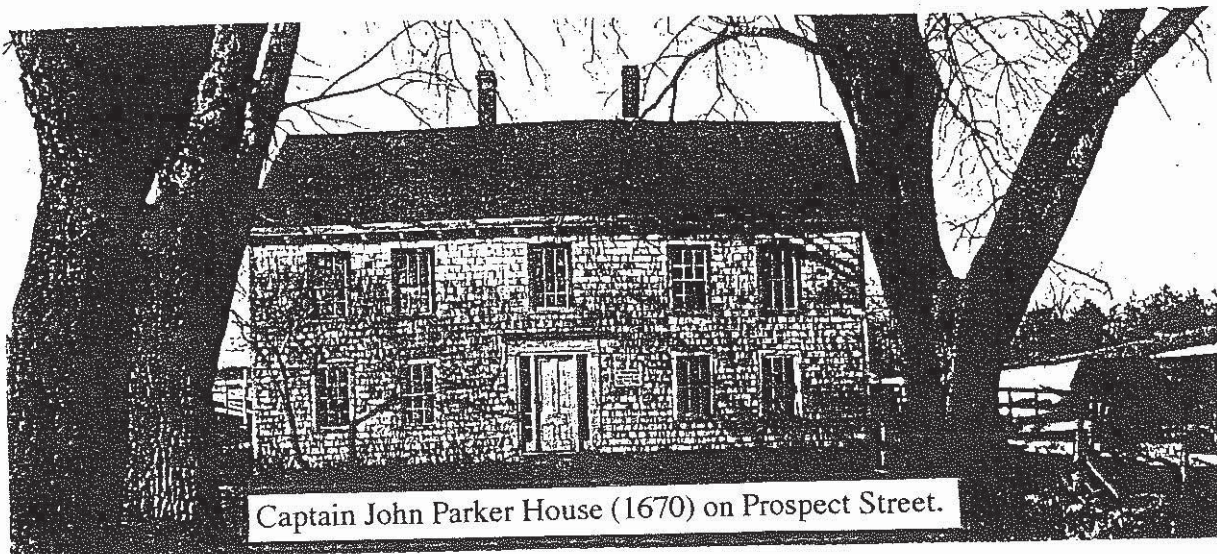
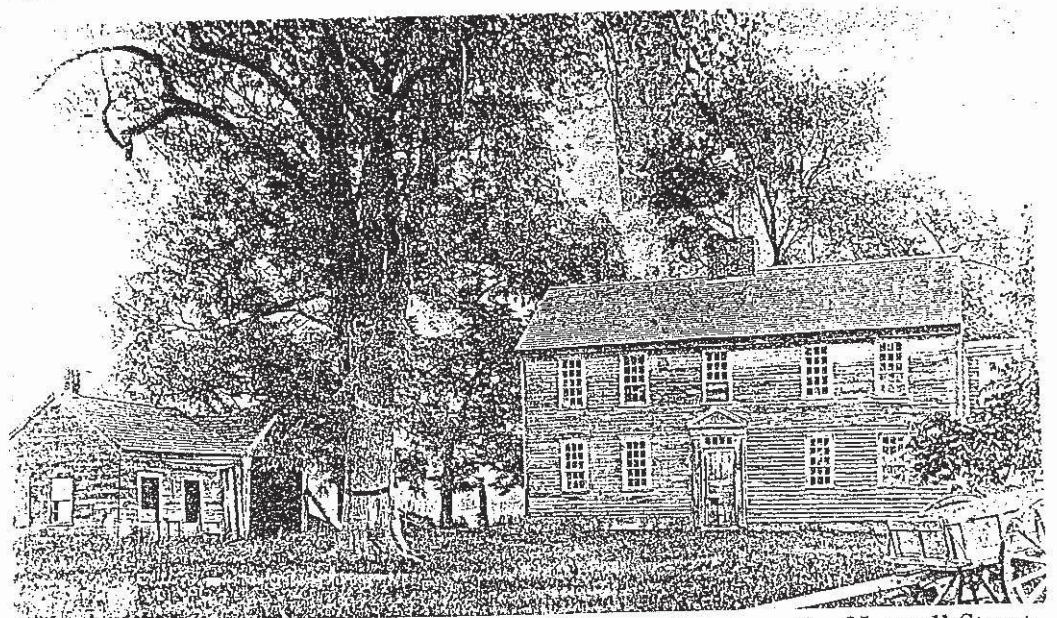
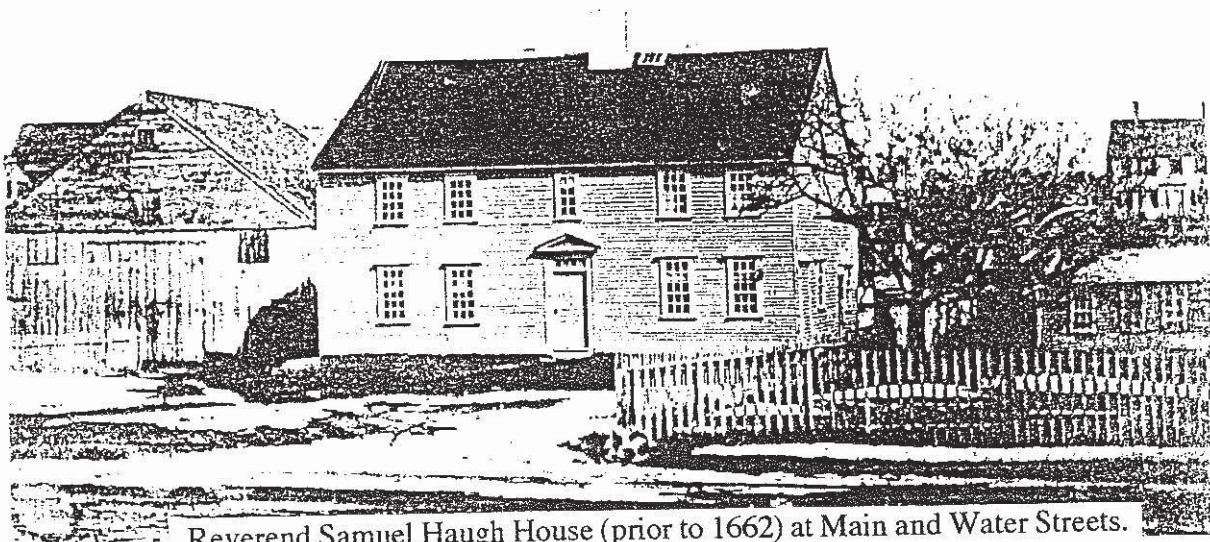


Greenwood Railroad Depot

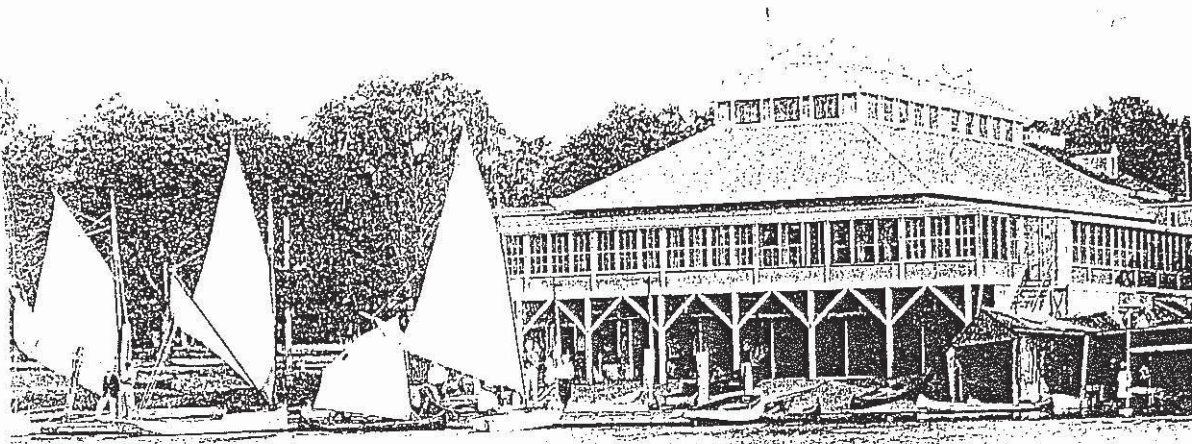


Town House (1834), Yale Engine House and the blacksmith shop north of the Common.

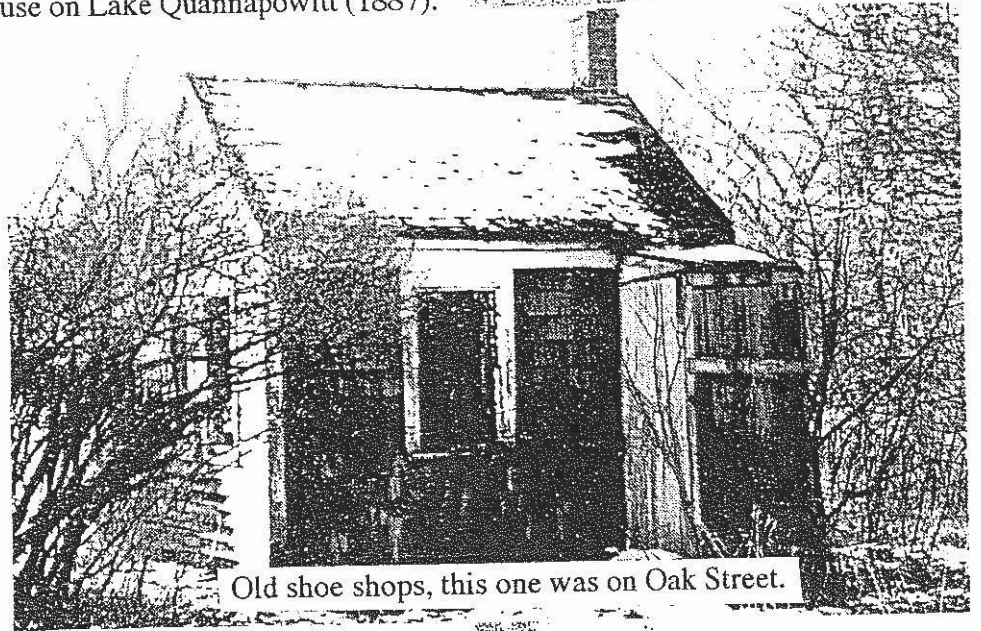
# Lost Wakefield



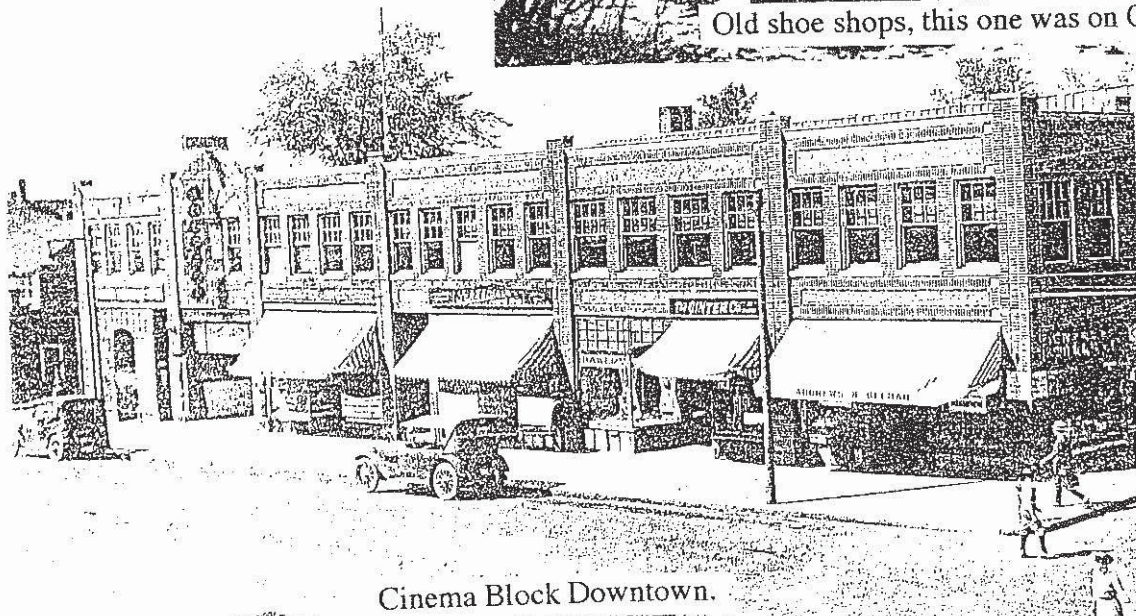
# Lost Wakefield



Wiley's Boat House on Lake Quannapowitt (1887).

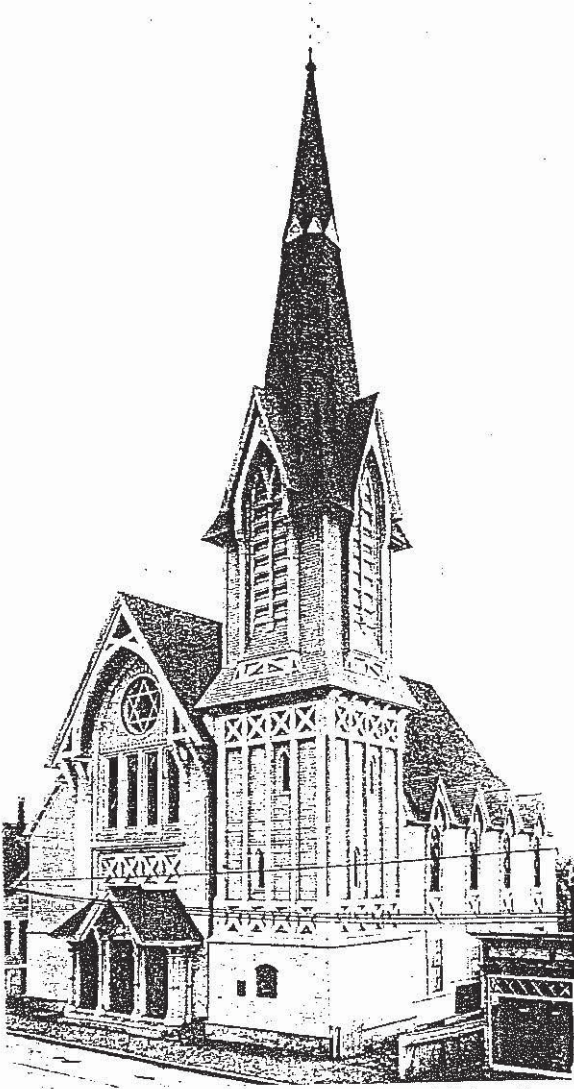


Old shoe shops, this one was on Oak Street.

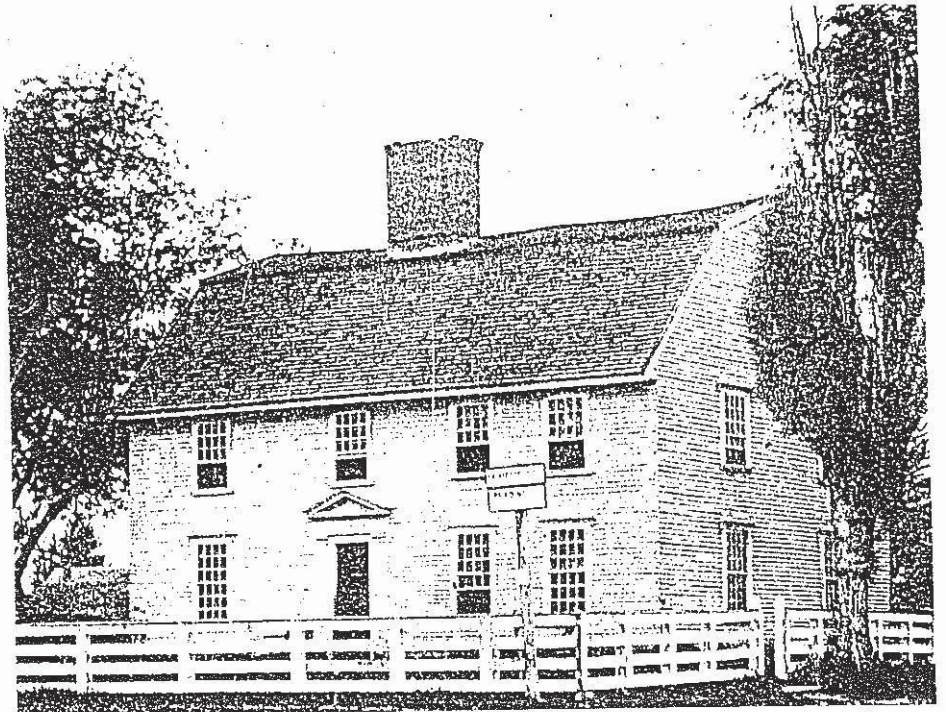


Cinema Block Downtown.

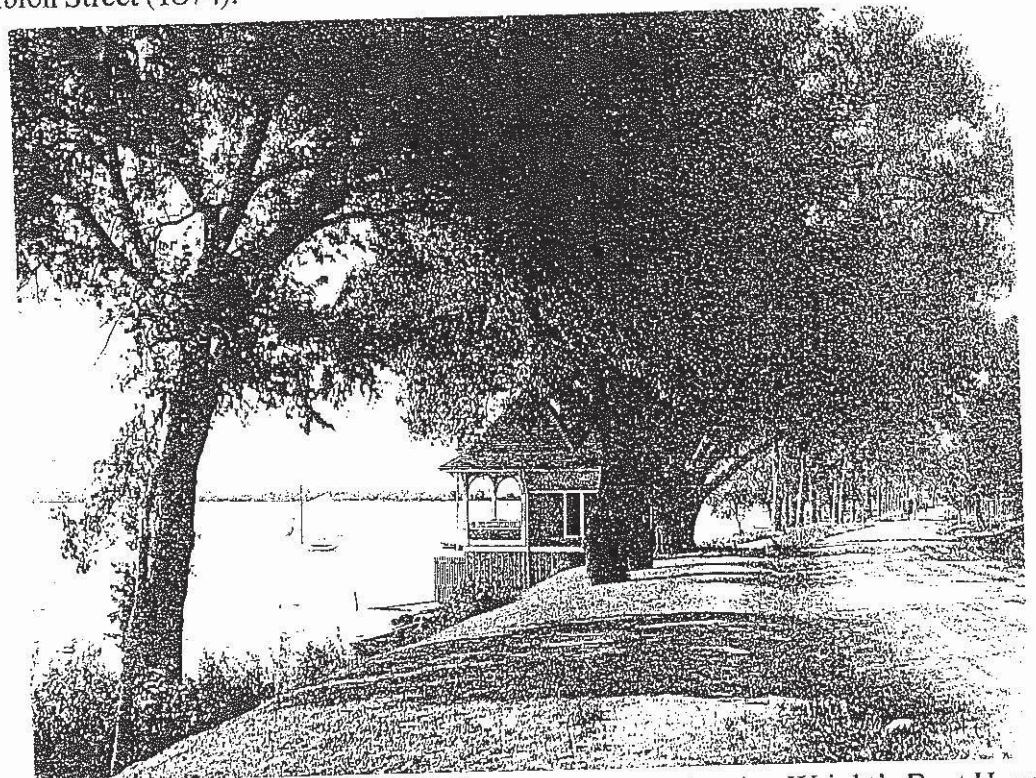
## Lost Wakefield



Methodist Episcopal Church on Albion Street (1874).



Caleb Prentiss House (ca 1740) at corner of Lafayette and Common Streets.



Stately allee of trees on Main Street along Lake Quannapowitt, showing Wright's Boat House.