



Hatfield Reconnaissance Report

Connecticut River Valley Reconnaissance Survey

Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program



June, 2009

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

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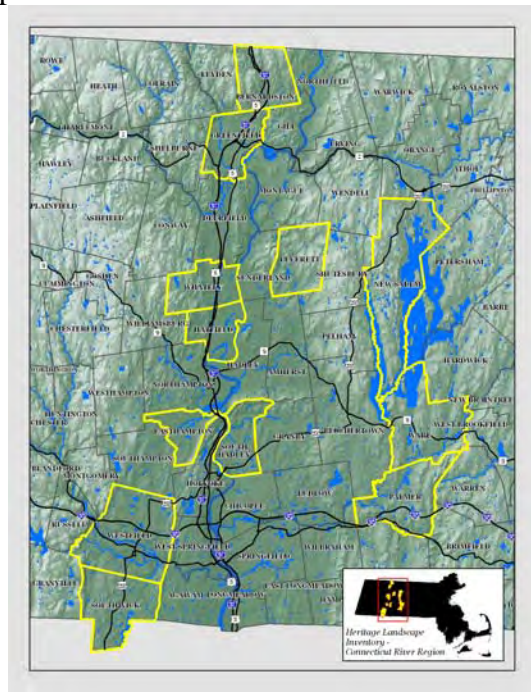
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INTRODUCTION

Heritage landscapes are special places created by human interaction with the natural environment that help define the character of a community and reflect its past. They are dynamic and evolving, reflect the history of a community and provide a sense of place. They show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns and often have scenic qualities. This wealth of landscapes is central to each community's character, yet heritage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing. For this reason it is important to take the first step toward their preservation by identifying those landscapes that are particularly valued by the community – a favorite local farm, a distinctive neighborhood or mill village, a unique natural feature or an important river corridor.

To this end, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and its regional partners, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), have collaborated to bring the Heritage Landscape Inventory program to twelve communities in the Connecticut River valley region of Massachusetts. The goals of the program are to help communities identify a wide range of landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected, and to provide communities with strategies for preserving heritage landscapes.



Connecticut River Valley Heritage Landscape Inventory Project Area

The communities within the Connecticut River valley region of Massachusetts are diverse in their settlement patterns and economic histories. What they hold in common is a foundation built on agriculture that was carried out in communities traversed by a series of major waterways and tributaries, from the Connecticut River to the Deerfield, Sawmill, Green, Millers, Quaboag, Swift, Mill and Ware Rivers. This region contains significant cultural and historic resources and uncommon natural beauty. For some of the communities, industry developed alongside agriculture, so that today the heritage landscapes reflect both agrarian and industrial pasts while providing recreational and educational opportunities. From scenic town commons and natural areas, to civic buildings and burial grounds, the heritage landscapes within the region collectively tell the story of their varied and often complex history.

Methodology

The methodology for the Heritage Landscape Inventory program was developed in a pilot project conducted in southeast Massachusetts. It is outlined in the DCR publication *Reading the Land*, which has provided guidance for the program since its inception. In summary, each community organized a heritage landscape identification meeting during which residents and town officials identified and prioritized the natural and cultural landscapes within town that embody the community's unique character. This meeting was followed by a fieldwork session led by the project team, including the local project coordinator and staff of FRCOG or PVPC, accompanied by interested community members. During the fieldwork session the Priority Heritage Landscapes were assessed and opportunities for preservation were explored and discussed. The final product for each community is an individualized Heritage Landscape Reconnaissance Report. This report outlines the community's landscape history, describes the priority heritage landscapes along with associated opportunities, issues, and recommendations, and concludes with implementation strategies.

PART I: HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY



The Bardwell Homestead, 44 Main Street, built ca. 1750.

LOCAL HISTORY

The town of Hatfield occupies a wide floodplain on the west bank of the Connecticut River in Hampshire County. It shares a southern boundary with the Town of Northampton, and its western uplands meet Williamsburg's boundaries. On the north is the town of Whately, and on the east the Connecticut River separates Hatfield from Hadley.

In 1653 when a committee of Englishmen first came to Hatfield to lay out two plantations, the Native Americans occupying the area were the closely related Capawonks and Nonotucks who were sometimes allied with the Nipmucks to the east or the Pocumtucks to the north. The two Native American groups continued to fish, farm and hunt in the area after the settlers bought land and laid out Hadley in 1659, which included what was to become Hatfield. Hatfield was laid out as a linear street village by the Proprietors of Hadley Plantation in 1661 in eight and four acre homelots that extended east and west along what is now the southern end of Main Street. Common land for mowing and tilling was in the meadow called the Great Ponsett, woodland lots were divided for timber and hunting north of the settlement and additional common land was laid out west of the Mill River. All the common land allocated to settlers was left unfenced, a practice which is still in effect today, even though the land was divided up into privately owned plots in the 18th century.



South Meadow land in multiple ownership marked only by fieldstones, 2009.

The Hatfield settlers traveled to Hadley across the Connecticut River from 1661 to 1668 for church services and town meetings. Then in 1668 they built a meetinghouse on their side of the river and in 1669 their own burial ground.



First Burying Ground of 1669 with 18th century table markers.

In 1670 Hatfield became a separate parish and town.. On the rich soil along the river, settlers grew corn, winter and summer wheat, and peas, raised cattle, and traded their farm products with Boston and Springfield. During King Philip's War in 1675 attacks took place on the meadows and within the palisaded settlement in 1676 and 1677 but by the end of the war Native Americans had largely been pushed from the region.

By 1750 Hatfield's farmers were prospering. A third meetinghouse was constructed in the center of Main Street, which was common land. Houses that date prior to 1776 in the Center include: the C. Dickinson House, 69 Main Street, 1770; the Moses C. Porter House, 49 Main Street, ca. 1770; the F. D. Billings House, 31 Main Street, 1760; the

David Billings House 15 Main Street of 1772; the Morton House, 1 South Street, ca. 1762. From these farms and others, the town's farmers sold livestock, produce, wool and flax as well as their other crops; there were cider, grist, saw and linseed oil mills, a tannery and blacksmith shop. At the eve of the Revolutionary War many residents were firm Tories influenced by Col. Israel Williams, but under the ministry of Rev. Joseph Lyman the majority of the residents supported the Revolution. Following the Revolution, Hatfield's farmers concentrated on cattle fattening (sending cattle to the hilltowns during the summers and bringing them back to feed heavily during the winter), raising pigs and sheep. The town's farmers added broomcorn to their crops in 1815 and developed a trade in brooms that lasted into the 1860s and attracted many French Canadians to town as field hands and broom makers. Irish immigrants came in the 1840s as railroad workers and became farm workers when the railroad was completed. Germans arrived at about the same time to work on farms.

In 1829 at the separation of church and state, Hatfield built a new town hall next to its meetinghouse. The meetinghouse was removed in 1849 and a new Greek Revival style Congregational Church was built that year on the site of the earlier meetinghouse and still stands at 41 Main Street. The Congregational Church is still in place, but the Town Hall has been removed.



1849 Church and 1829 Town Hall.

In 1856 two of Hatfield's farmers, James Morton and William H. Dickinson, started tobacco cultivation, which spurred the other farmers to follow suit and by 1865 Hatfield was the largest grower of tobacco in the valley. Tobacco dominated Hatfield's economy well into the 20th century but a shift was made in the later part of the century to growing cigar wrappers rather than the binder and filler tobacco of earlier years.

Hatfield was strongly Abolitionist during the Civil War, volunteering service, sheltering runaway slaves, and sending teachers in the war's aftermath to work with freed slaves in the southern states. Education was held in high regard in the town and during the same period, Sophia Smith, a Hatfield resident, decided to use part of her inherited fortune to establish Smith College in Northampton, and Smith Academy in Hatfield.



Sophia Smith Birthplace, 22 Main Street, ca. 1820.

Farming continued after the Civil War with few changes. As tobacco and onion farms took over land previously used for corn and livestock, additional labor was needed. Polish immigrants began to fill that need in the 1890s. Slovaks and Lithuanians followed in large numbers, and by 1915 Hatfield had the highest immigrant population in Hampshire County. Within a generation the East European immigrant bought or built their own homes, and their descendants remain a substantial portion of the town today.

A Village Improvement Society in 1885 began planting trees on the town's main streets. The electric railway was put in in 1899 to connect to Amherst, Hadley, and Northampton. The first short section of dike was built alongside the river in 1902 to control some of the spring flooding in Hatfield Center. In 1894 Dickinson Memorial Hall at 39 Main Street was built in the Renaissance Revival style to hold town offices and a library, and now houses the town library and historical museum. Center School in Jacobean Revival style was built at 59 Main Street in 1914. Across the street from the school a new Colonial Revival style town hall was built in 1930.



Hatfield's 1930 New Town Hall.

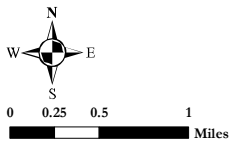
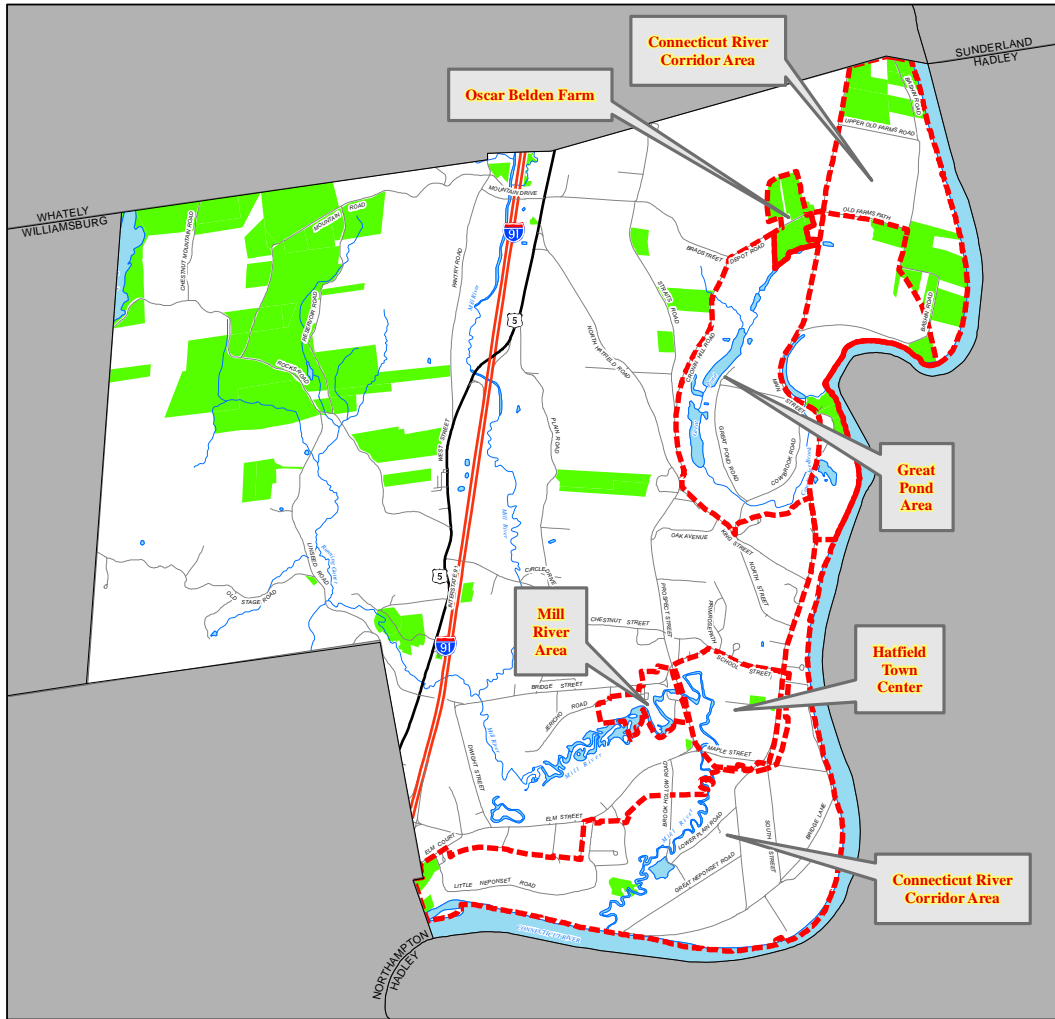
During World War I tobacco and onion growing peaked in Hatfield. In the 1920s as onion production declined and the large tobacco corporations took over much of the industry, potato-growing expanded as did vegetable cultivation. A 1936 flood buried fields in silt that had to be hand-dug off the land and in 1938 a hurricane leveled many tobacco barns and once again flooded the landscape with silt. After the floods Works Progress Administration workers from Hatfield built the dike bordering the river to protect the town from spring flooding.



Dike along Connecticut River, 2009.

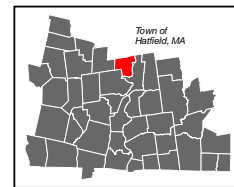
Shade tobacco introduced in the early 1940s-1950s occupied up to 3,000 acres in town.

Today, tobacco shares land with potatoes, pumpkins, squash, asparagus, strawberries and other market garden crops. In 2006 agriculture took up 3,500 of Hatfield's 10,750 acres. Only undeveloped land at 5,000 acres was larger. The town is residential as well as agricultural and according to 2006 census calculations, 60% of its population works in services and only 1.1% in agriculture. Most people work outside Hatfield (84.7%), although a few new industries in town have increased local employment manufacturing windows, wood products, pipe and chemicals and distributing food, mostly along the transportation corridor of Rte. 5 and I-91.



Town of Hatfield

*Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



- Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Map Sources:
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
 Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
 and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:
 The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
 Department of Conservation Resources

PRIORITY HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Hatfield's Local Identification Meeting for the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program was held on February 12, 2009. During the meeting thirty-six heritage landscapes were identified. Among them the landscapes with the highest priority were selected and they are as follows: **Hatfield's Burial Grounds**, the **Town Center**, the **Mill River area**, the **Belden Dairy Farm**, the **Connecticut River corridor** and **Great Pond**.

Hatfield's Burial Grounds



Hill Cemetery Sign, 2009.

Hatfield's six cemeteries were individually identified as being priority landscapes in the public meeting, but were later joined as a single type of priority landscape in the town. Five of the six cemeteries are still active and contain both early and contemporary markers. Only the first burying ground is closed to additional burials.

Hatfield's first burying ground, also known as The Hill Cemetery, is at the corner of Elm and Prospect Streets on the west side of the Mill River. It was laid out in 1669, a year before the town was separated from Hadley Plantation. The earliest markers were made of wood, so have not survived. The collection of head and foot stones, just under 100 in number, range in date from the 1690s to a memorial monument from 1933. An empty mound area at the south east side of the cemetery is where 25-30 Native Americans were buried who were killed in the attack on Hatfield during King Philip's War in 1676. The majority of the stones date from the 17th and 18th centuries and are oriented towards the west. The ornament includes death heads and soul effigies, urns and weeping willows. The character of the lettering is typical of the 17th through the mid-19th centuries and the quality of the stonecutting is very high. There is some stone deterioration and lichen growth, but the burial ground is, and has been, well-tended by the Cemetery Commission; all the stones are upright.



Ca. 1930 postcard of one of Hatfield's cemeteries and its stones.

The second burial ground is behind the Congregational Church on Main Street and was created after the fourth meeting house was erected in 1829 on part of the meetinghouse lot. It is largely comprised of mid-to-late 19th century monuments, and represents the more spacious, park-like cemetery of the later 19th century. Rectangular stone tables with urn and willow carvings are numerous, with occasional obelisks and later markers mixed in. There is stone deterioration from water penetration, acid rain, and lichen growth but again the cemetery is well-maintained.

The third cemetery is the Bradstreet Cemetery. It is at the corner of Depot Road and North Main Street. Its date of establishment is not known but it would likely have been after 1794 when there were only four houses in this area. Main Street was extended north around Great Pond to Bradstreet by that year and Bradstreet began its permanent development. One of the earliest graves in the cemetery is that of Joseph Guild who served in the Revolutionary war and saw both General Burgoyne and Lord Cornwallis surrender at Saratoga and Yorktown. As town land the cemetery property also was the site of a schoolhouse that stood near the road until it was demolished in the 1930s.



Bradstreet Cemetery, 2009.

The fourth cemetery is the West Hatfield Cemetery, which is located on Bridge Street. It was established in the 1850s and stones going back to 1818 were moved from earlier cemeteries and set in it to be near their West Hatfield families. The cemetery is less than

an acre in size and is set closely to the road, surrounded by a series of concrete posts. The majority of the stones in the cemetery date to the late 19th and 20th centuries and are very modest in form, carving style, and size. This cemetery was used largely by families with Polish ancestry.

The fifth cemetery is the North Hatfield Cemetery established in 1849. It is about an acre in size and is located directly on West Street. It contains about fifty large stones and fifty small markers and footstones. The 19th century stones are primarily marble with more recent twentieth century stones of granite. The predominant form is a modest tablet, and there are also ten obelisks from the 1860s-1890s being present. The earliest death represented in the cemetery is that of Nathaniel Frary who died in 1832 before the cemetery was created and one of the more recent stones dates 1963. While the more recent granite stones are in good condition, there is stone loss on the marble stones from acid rain and lichen.

The Catholic cemetery, Holy Trinity Cemetery, is the sixth cemetery in the town. It is located in the southwest corner of town on Elm Court, south of Elm Street. It is a little more than an acre in size and contains mostly 20th century stones.

Opportunities:

- Hatfield has well-ordered cemeteries that date back to 1669 and within those cemeteries some of the Connecticut River valley's earliest and finest examples of the stone-carving art.
- The cemeteries present a history of cemetery layout and design that originated in the Colonial Period and continues to the present in Massachusetts.
- The Town of Hatfield has cared well for its cemeteries over time so that stones have not lain for long periods on the ground and have been repaired when broken. The Town allocates a reasonable sum of money annually to its Cemetery Commission for upkeep and on occasion hires prison help to do the work.
- The cemeteries contain information on many generations of Hatfield residents of interest to the families, historians, and to genealogists.
- Signage has been added to the cemeteries to identify their names as well as rules for behavior for visitors.
- All but two of the cemeteries (Elm Court and West Hatfield) are listed within a National Register Historic District.



18th Century burial stone in Old Burying Ground, 2009.

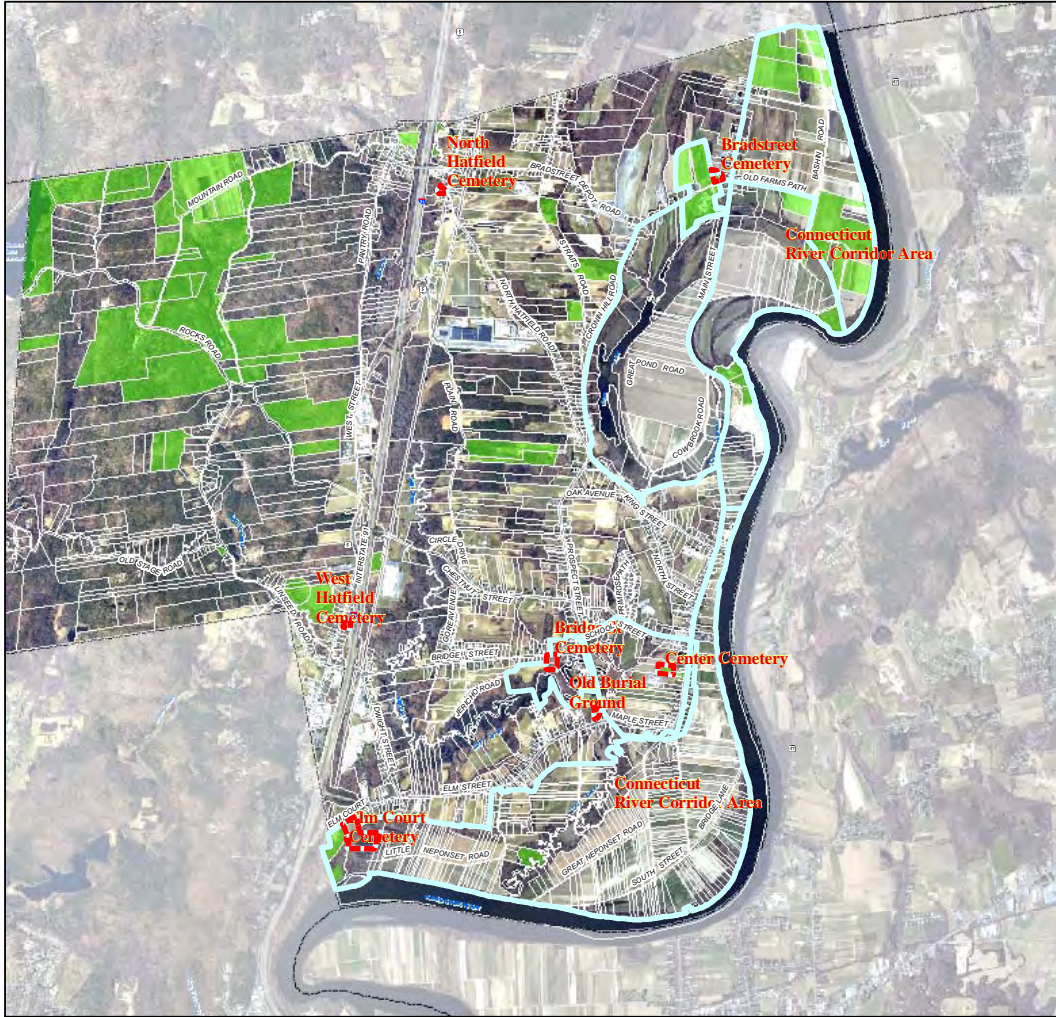
Issues:

- Within the cemeteries there are stones that have accumulated lichen or have begun de-lamination that needs to be addressed with professional advice. Loss from acid rain is also present and needs to be addressed.
- Many of the stones are becoming brittle.

Recommendations:

1. The Town should continue to care for the cemetery grounds and stones as it has in the past, but in addition, Cemetery Commission members should become familiar with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) publication: Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries. It is available through DCR and guides the care and preservation of the cemetery as an entire landscape, rather than simply a collection of markers.
2. A cemetery preservation plan for addressing the overall preservation of these historic landscapes, which would also address more specific concerns regarding the stones including de-lamination, loss from acid rain, and vegetative growths on the stones, is recommended. The plan would include specifications and budget, such as developed by the Town of Amherst by stone conservators.
3. The Town should consider funding its stone conservation work and the development of a preservation plan for its cemeteries through the Community Preservation Act and/or the Massachusetts Historical Commission's funding source: the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund.
4. Documentation through photography and written record of the stone inscriptions in each cemetery would be valuable to preserve that information for the future. This documentation is often part of a cemetery preservation plan.
5. In the shorter term, the stones in the Old Burying Ground should be monitored for damage from acid rain in our changing climate, especially the table stones, though they appear to have managed better than some later stones.

- The Town has an opportunity both to teach local history and stone conservation techniques to its school children at the cemetery. Older students could be trained to help with stone cleaning, which could be both a biology and a history lesson.

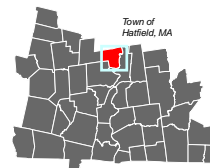


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- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Hatfield Cemeteries
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*Town of Hatfield, Massachusetts,
 Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
 Connecticut River Valley*



Map Sources:
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
 Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
 and
 the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:
 The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
 Department of Conservation Resources

Hatfield Center and “The Square”



Hatfield Center is unofficially bounded by a two-mile walking route on sidewalks and roadsides known among residents as “The Square”. The Square consists of School Street (and for some, Chestnut Street) on the north, Prospect Street on the west, Maple Street on the south and Main Street on the east. This square of streets passes through and around the civic and historic residential center of Hatfield. A popular route for the town’s walkers, The Square has come to be a landscape feature within the larger heritage landscape of Hatfield Center.

Hatfield Center was laid out by the Hadley Proprietors in 1661. They followed English town planning patterns dividing off long, narrow homelots on each side of a broad, commonly-owned street. They often included land for a meetinghouse, a burial ground, and a militia training ground among the homelots. Surrounding the residential center was the land allotted for tilling, pasture, and woodlots. Springfield, Hadley, Sunderland, Northfield and Hatfield are among the Connecticut River valley towns whose Proprietors followed this pattern. Hatfield has retained its linear street plan to this day with house lots extending on the east to the Connecticut River and to the west an equal distance; its homes are set back from the street, which originally occupied much of its breadth as common land.

Many of the Center’s homes date from the mid-to late 18th century and represent the architectural skill of regional and local craftsmen. The John Dickinson/Morgan House, for instance, at 1 South Street has a ca. 1762 door surround of twined grape vines of rare beauty. The Simeon Wait/F. D. Billings House at 31 Main Street of 1760 has a high style, Georgian Connecticut River valley door surround.

As Hatfield’s farmers prospered so did their architecture and during the Federal period after the Revolutionary War fine Federal style homes were added along Maple and Main Streets. Two Billings Houses face each other at 15 and 18 Main Street with hipped roofs, fanlights in gables and within door surrounds. The J. W. Warner House, 17 Maple Street, ca. 1790 was the first brick Federal house in the Center and has the favored hipped roof and leaded fanlight at its entry.

Once broom corn and tobacco profits began to raise farming incomes, homes in the Center were added to and re-styled as well as built new. They maintained the high standards set in the Georgian and Federal periods. Greek Revival houses such as the

Samuel H. Dickinson House, 54 Main Street, 1792 (ell) and 1837 is one of the finest examples with its Greek temple façade. By the 1850s the Italianate style was the preferred style for Hatfield's well-to-do and the John A. Billings House at 21 Main Street of 1856 looks like a proper Italian villa. Sophia Smith added to the Center when she built an exotic French Second Empire style home at 26 Main Street in 1867, a style that aimed to make clear its owner's familiarity with European architecture. Barns and other agricultural outbuildings were constructed in the Center in fairly large numbers during this period in the town's agricultural history and remain today.

The main streets of the Center that make up The Square received attention from the mid-19th century by the Village Improvement Society, which encouraged people to take down the fences that made the main streets appear disorderly and clean up their yards. They then began the elm tree planting that distinguished the Center and beyond for the shading canopy that developed. Replacement of dead and dying trees continues to this day as town funds permit.



Street trees in historic Center, 2009.

These many high style houses would have made the Center an architectural treasure on their own, but subsequent styles such as the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival appeared as well to add to the full range of American architectural history. Three civic buildings remaining today represent the importance Hatfield citizens placed on their town's architecture: Memorial Hall of 1894, Center School of 1914 and Town Hall of 1930: Renaissance Revival, Jacobean Revival, and Colonial Revival all contributing to the heritage landscape of the Center's tree-shaded, main streets.

When Smith Academy was taken down next to Town Hall in 1982, a municipal park was established in its location commemorating the Academy and providing a public park in the Center.

Opportunities:

- Hatfield's Center has retained its original linear street village layout including the full breadth of Main Street, which represents the town's first common land.
- The Center within The Square has retained its original 17th century residential and civic uses without multiple commercial intrusions.

- The Center contains a wide range of historical architectural styles and the buildings are in good condition. The Center retains carriage barns, tobacco barns, livestock barns and other outbuildings that contribute significantly to its character, and many continue to function for agricultural purposes. In the Center is a tobacco barn converted to a museum of Hatfield's agricultural history.



Corn Crib in Center viewed across First Burying Ground, 2009.

- The Center is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Hatfield adopted the Community Preservation Act, which provides a potential source of funding for local preservation projects.

Issues:

- There are no protections in place to prevent demolition of key buildings in the Center.
- There are some areas within The Square where street trees have been lost and not replaced.
- New residential development at the edges of the Center are occupying former agricultural land, and the pressure for additional development will eventually extend into the Center, which will destroy the linear street village pattern.
- With a few recent bad weather years farmers are facing economic losses, which pose a threat to farm viability for many of the Center's residents.

Recommendations:

1. The Town should consider adopting a Demolition Delay bylaw based on age, which would enable it for a specified period of time to come up with alternatives to demolition of historic buildings.
2. The Town might adopt a Scenic Roads bylaw and designate appropriate roads, including those of the Center, within the community as scenic. This will ensure that

when cutting or removal of trees on the scenic roads is being done, there will be a review process.

3. For better protection, the Town should consider adopting a Transportation Corridor Protection Bylaw for selected streets such as Elm, Maple, Main and North Main Streets. This bylaw would preserve natural and man-made resources such as road alignment, the width of the pavement, street trees, sidewalks, and curbing. It could prohibit certain uses and provide rules on setbacks, commercial parking and landscaping or provide a “no-disturb” buffer along the town-owned streets.

4. The Town should consider making the Center a Local Historic District in order to review alterations and construction that are visible from the public way and might alter the historic features of the buildings in question.

5. If a milder form of review is desired, the Town might consider designating the Center as an Architectural Preservation District. Construction and alterations are reviewed by a board, but the findings are advisory rather than regulatory. The review board for the District could work with owners to identify historic materials and preferable means of altering as a way of maintaining the historical buildings of the Center.

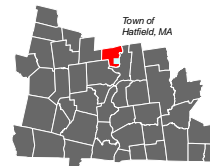
6. The Town should consider re-establishing the street trees around The Square where they have been lost and not replaced.



- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Hatfield Town Center
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*Town of Hatfield, Massachusetts,
 Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
 Connecticut River Valley*



Map Sources:
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 Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
 and
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Funding:
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Mill River District



Shattuck Gun and Machine Shop converted to Old Mill Inn, 2009.

The Mill River District is a National Register-listed historic district known as the Mill-Prospect Street Historic District. It is located on the western edge of the Connecticut River floodplain and is bisected by Prospect, Bridge and School Streets. Prior to arrival of the European settlers, the falls were called Capawonk. The falls were a fording site and an important fishing site for the Capawonk Native Americans. Colonial settlers came to this area of Hatfield for the falls, which ran the Thomas Meekins grist and sawmills beginning in 1661. The mills were garrisoned in 1675 to protect this important function from attack by Native Americans. The mills survived, but Thomas Meekins was killed during King Philip's War.

Between 1775 and 1830 Prospect Street crossed the Mill River at the same Native American fording place and homes slowly began to be built. Meekins's mill is thought to have added production of linseed oil and wool processing to its grist and lumber operations at the falls.

In 1830 Massachusetts began mapping the state and two surveyors Col. James Stevens and Simeon Borden started the project out by establishing a baseline in the Connecticut River valley, chosen for its flat land. Borden laid out the baseline from Hatfield to South Deerfield in 1831 and his Hatfield base point is located in the yard at 30 Bridge Road. It is a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark and part of this heritage landscape.

About 1850 the Meekins mills were torn down and the new owner built a grist and sawmill on the south side of the river, and a sawmill on the north side. Blacksmith and carpenters shops followed. Ca. 1870 the Fitch brothers of Hatfield and their business partner Jonathan Porter converted the north sawmill to a pistol factory, the Crescent Pistol Company. Meanwhile, broom making occupied the residents of this area of Hatfield along with their farming.

A dam was first built at the falls around 1875. It is on red rock that runs through this section of the valley and gives the dam an unusually strong foundation. The dam structure has been upgraded since 1875 with reinforced concrete.



Mill River dam, 2009. Photograph C. Kellogg.

The Fitch brothers left the pistol manufacturing business but it continued with Porter at its head. That building burned in 1881 and the present building at 87 School Street became the Shattuck Gun and Machine Shop in 1881.



Shattuck Gun and Machine Shop, dam and Prospect Street Bridge, ca. 1900.

On the south side of the river Jonathan Porter built the Porter-McLeod Machine Shop at 10 Prospect Court in 1886 and secured the area as a manufacturing center. In 1915 a new turbine house was constructed. Workers in the two mills lived on nearby streets in workers's housing, had at least one social club; and Ryan's general store was built to furnish them.

In 1891 the Prospect Street Bridge was built as an iron Warren pony truss bridge between the Shattuck Gun shop and the Porter-McLeod shop. The Shattuck Company continued manufacturing pistols, revolvers and shotguns but by 1909 had turned to spark plug manufacture as its main endeavor.

During the 1920s and 30s tobacco shops were built in the district and the farmers grew and packed tobacco. In 1921 the Shattuck Gun shop building was converted to a water-powered gristmill that operated until 1965. It became home to a regional newspaper in 1965 and several years ago became an inn. The Porter-McLeod Company lasted into the

1950s polishing knife blades and running lathes into the 1970s. The Porter-McCloud building was torn down ca. 1990, and replaced by self-storage units.



Mill River Dam and Falls, postcard ca. 1890.

Opportunities:

- The Shattuck Gun and Machine Shop building has been rehabilitated for reuse as an inn and restaurant bringing new and welcome commercial activity to the area. The building is an architectural enhancement to the district.
- Though its current condition has not been appraised by professionals in recent years, the red rock dam foundation has been an asset to its the long-term stability. Additionally, it has been observed by residents concerned with the dam that silting behind it is extensive, which averts the water from the dam, and reduces pressure on it. The water falling over the dam is oxygenated in the process, which improves the water quality downstream.
- The dam provides a scenic view and the sounds of the Mill River for people to enjoy.
- Farmland stretches out along Bridge Street maintaining an open space and agricultural character to the area.
- Mill workers's housing and late 19th and early 20th century vernacular buildings, such as the Polish Club, represent much of the history of the district.

Issues:

- There is pressure from fish restoration groups and the Commonwealth to remove dams, and it is possible that this dam would be slated for removal to allow upstream anadromous fish migration. If the dam were to be removed, it would be highly damaging to the wetlands created by this dam, which extend up to Route 91 and are the habitat of ospreys, ducks, mussels, endangered amphibians, and other wetland-dependent animals.
- The dam is privately owned and a mandated engineering study on the safety of the dam at owner expense could prove to be detrimental to the owner, which would, in turn, prove damaging to the economy of the Mill-Prospect Street Historic district residents.

- The Prospect Street Bridge has been closed so long it is in deteriorated condition.
- One portion of the commercial building constructed in the district in the early 19th century burned down and there has been no reconstruction to date.



Hatfield Field Trip, 2009. Photograph C. Kellogg.

Recommendations:

1. The Town could use Community Preservation Act funds to evaluate the dam for safety by a qualified engineer, and, further, the funds could be used to rehabilitate the dam, if necessary.
2. The Town should adopt an Archaeological Resource Protection bylaw to encompass the Prospect Street-Mill Historic District, which would require review by the Historical Commission or a Town archaeology committee of proposed development in the district that could have an impact on the area.
3. If demolition of this dam becomes a formal proposal, both the Hatfield Historical Commission and the Hatfield Conservation Commission should request participation in the Section 106 review and environmental review process. Not only is the dam a contributing resource of the National Register Historic District, the area around the falls has been noted to have archaeological potential for Native American activities and Colonial settlement industries. Should demolition occur, consideration should be given to installing a low-head hydro power generator to provide electric power for the neighborhood and town.
4. The Town should consider applying again for a FHWA transportation enhancement grant to restore the bridge and restore the connection between the two sides of the river at this point. The improved connection could have a positive effect on the inn, and provide a nice bicycle route for residents and visitors.
5. The Town might explore the feasibility of constructing access to the river below the falls. If water flow is not canoe or kayak worthy year around, a small picnic

area and seasonal launch might be a welcome addition to those who would like better access to the river.

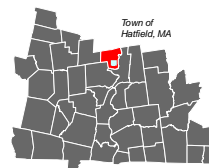
6. The Town should consider adopting an Architectural Preservation District to coincide with the Prospect-Mill River National Register Historic District boundaries. This zoning district would review and approve additions, major alterations, demolitions and new construction to make sure that the additions and new construction respect the scale, massing, setback, the streetscape and materials of the existing buildings.



Mill River Area

PVPC_127.2

*Town of Hatfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Map Sources:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

The Belden Farm



Calf Quarters, 2009.



Milk Collection from Dairy Barn, 2009. Photograph C. Kellogg.

The Belden Farm, the last remaining dairy farm in town, is located on Depot Road in North Hatfield. The farm has been on this site and in the same family since 1661 when it was sold by the Hatfield Proprietors to the Belden family from land that was taken up by the Proprietors as part of a King's grant. Darryl and Lucinda Williams, the current owners are the twelfth generation; their children, who are part of the farm's operation today, are the 13th generation. The Belden farm has been part of the mainstream of Hatfield's agricultural practices since 1661 with 17th century family-based agriculture, the 18th century's development of agricultural trade on the Connecticut River, into the 19th century when the first cash crop broom corn was introduced and along with it the manufacture of brooms. In the early 20th century George and Oscar Belden along with the rest of Hatfield's farmers shifted from raising broom corn to market garden crops and livestock. Progressive farmers, the Beldens introduced onions to their crops, and in 1909 built Hatfield's first concrete onion storage barn. By 1929 they had more than 200 acres in potatoes and onions and kept the largest flock of sheep in the eastern United States. The next generation Luther and Clifford Belden shared the farm adding horses and cattle, tobacco, cucumbers, and potatoes. Prior to Clifford's death in the early 1940s Luther and Clifford Belden amicably divided the farm in two; the second farm, now owned by Richard Belden, is west of the Williams's on Depot Road. During the Depression and through the 1940s, the Beldens raised and sold lambs that they delivered to New York from Christmas to Easter. During World War II there were 500 sheep on the farm as the wool market was strong. The sheep were driven to land the family owned in Colrain during the summers.

Dairy farming began two generations ago in 1964 by Luther and Evelyn Belden, the grandparents of the current owners Darryl and Lucinda Williams. The farm has 175-180 acres and an additional 125 acres are rented as crop land in the North Meadows and on Straits Road for a total of about 240-250 acres in crops. The balance is not in crops. The Williams grow corn on about 140 acres, alfalfa on 65 acres, grass and hay on the balance. There are about 200 dairy cattle on the farm, with between 96 and 105 milking at any one time. The Williams's herd is made up of grade dairy Holsteins that annually produce about 2.3 million pounds of milk, which is sold on the wholesale market. The cows are

also sold for meat, which accounts for 5- 10% of their income. The farm is run on family labor, with a few high school students hired to help out with milking. A large 19th century high drive barn that had a connected slaughterhouse was recently partially demolished. The slaughterhouse portion of it remains and has been resided. There is also a 1964 ground level stable barn with a gambrel roof for the dairy herd, and an 1865 Italianate style farmhouse.



Outbuildings for the dairy operations, 2009.

Opportunities:

- In the Belden Farm, Hatfield has a heritage landscape of local, regional and state historical significance.
- Notwithstanding its historical significance, this is a model family farm in today's agricultural world. Lucinda and Darryl Williams are dedicated to their work and are fully engaged in Hatfield town government and in the Connecticut River valley's agricultural community. They are involved in state and regional agricultural issues as well.
- The farmland itself is among the most fertile soils on the Connecticut River.
- All the land owned by the Belden Farm in 1987-88 was placed in the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program, giving the farm permanent protection from development.
- The Williams own and lease land with varying soil types from clay to sandy, so that no matter what the rain level is during any given season, they have land that will produce crops for their herd.
- The farm is zoned agricultural rather than residential-agricultural, which is a favorable status for preserving its operations.

- While many dairy farmers in the region have not survived, the Belden-Williams family is experienced in farming and continues to adapt operations to meet the demands of contemporary farming.
- If the thirteenth generation decides to continue farming, the farm is adaptable to a different focus, which could support its on-going viability.



Lucinda and Darryl Williams, 2009. Photograph C. Kellogg.

Issues:

- Farming today is not very profitable and what profits there are remain in the farm rather than in cash. Farmers must choose it because they love the work, not because it will support them well.
- There is no guarantee that this farm will remain in the family for the next generation.
- While the land is protected under the APR program, the buildings on it are not protected by the APR.

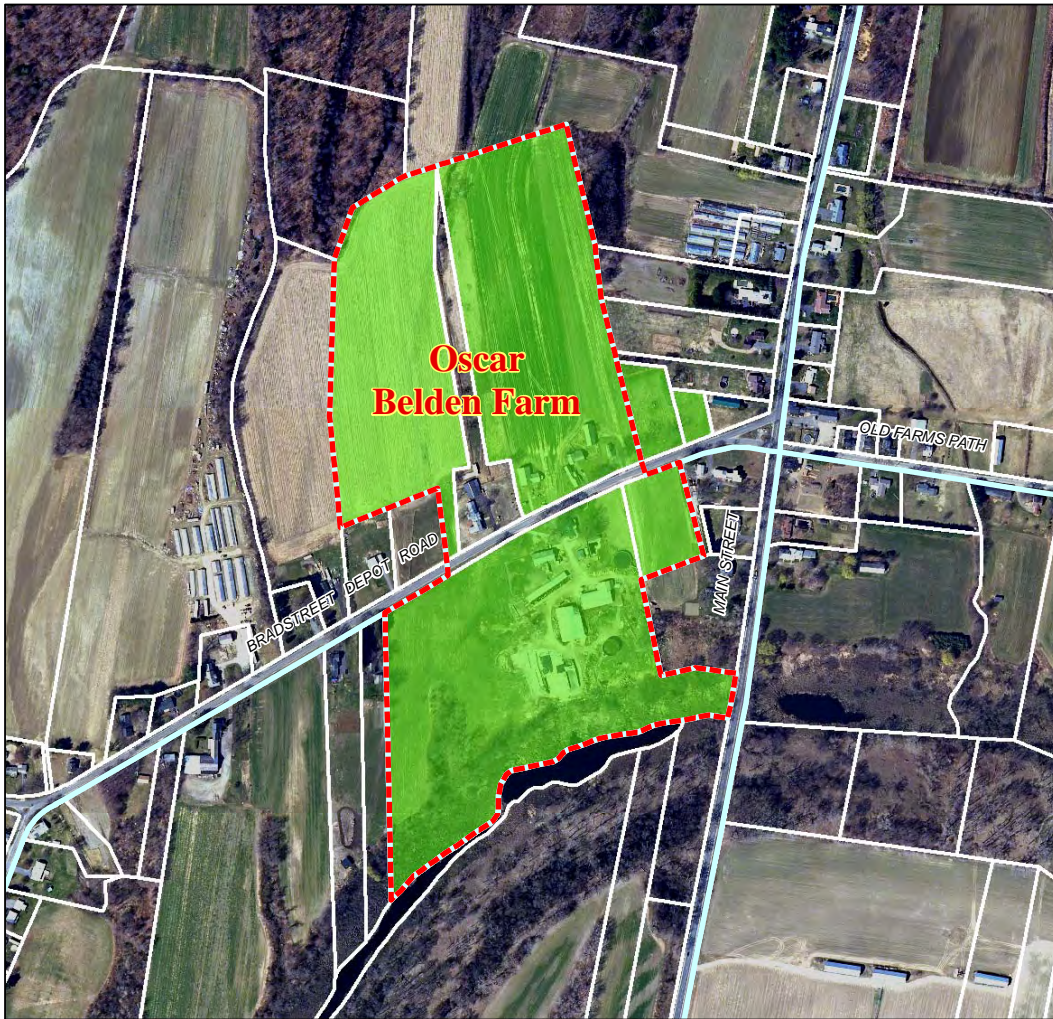
Recommendations:

1. Placing sensible preservation restrictions on the buildings might be considered as it could result in a tax deduction for the Williams without compromising their use of the buildings. Historic New England could help devise and hold the restrictions.
2. As an income-producing building, the main barn - if the property were listed on the National Register - would be eligible for a 20% Investment Tax Credit, if and when it needed rehabilitation.
3. The Town might consider adopting an Agricultural Preservation Bylaw that would support farming economics for farmers like the Williams and others by allowing accessory uses that supplement farming income such as restaurants, educational centers, bed and breakfast businesses.

4. As a way to support the active agriculture practiced here and elsewhere in the community, Community preservation Committee and the Agricultural Advisory Board in Hatfield should consider a means to direct Community Preservation Act funds to this and other historic farms in the community for building restoration, if and when a need arises.



Fieldwork Team at Belden Farm, 2009. Photograph C. Kellogg.



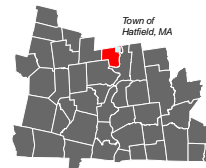
Oscar Belden Farm

PVPC_127_4

*Town of Hatfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Map Sources:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and
the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

Great Pond



View to east across Great Pond and its wetlands, 2009.

Great Pond is located in North Hatfield as an arc-shaped string of ponds, and wetlands less than one-half of a mile west of the Connecticut River. Fifteen thousand years ago this whole section of western Massachusetts was under a glacier that retreated and left behind a lake, Lake Hitchcock. With changes in the earth over a three thousand year period, the lake drained and left behind a very fertile river bottom and the Connecticut River. About 800 years ago Great Pond was an oxbow of the Connecticut River, separated when the river forcibly cut across the oxbow centuries ago. Since that time the ponds gradually shrank in size and filled in to become wetlands. The land east of the pond was occupied by Native Americans who raised summer crops, and then was taken over by the Hatfield settlers and farmed until the present. The river has continued to change its course moving back and forth across the floodplains. The ponds and wetlands today are wildlife habitats and offer scenic views from several roads in Hatfield. They are privately owned.

Opportunities:

- Great Pond and its associated ponds and wetlands are features of the region's post-glacial era and are of interest to geographers and others as artifacts of the development of the Connecticut River valley.
- Great Pond is a scenic landscape appreciated by townspeople and visitors.
- Great Pond's component smaller ponds and wetlands are important contributors to the ecological health of Hatfield.
- Some of the acreage on the east side of the Pond that is part of the wetlands is under Chapter 61A protection.
- Formerly polluted by raw sewage and fertilizer run-off, the ponds have been cleaned up and good land management practices in the area serve to keep it clean.

Issues:

- The Great Pond and much of the wetland on the south and west side of the pond is privately owned and unprotected in any manner.
- Lots have been sold and built upon on the south west side of the pond.

Recommendations:

1. The Town might adopt a Scenic Vista Protection Bylaw that would encompass the Pond and wetlands. This bylaw would apply design criteria to any tree removal, new construction around the Pond of buildings, or roads, or the addition of lighting that would compromise the community's views of the Great Pond.
2. Hatfield should utilize Community Preservation Act funds to acquire land or conservation restrictions on land that might in the future come out of Chapter 61A protection.
3. The town should ensure that the history of the ponds is well-understood by residents, and to that end the Conservation Commission might consider leading field trips of the pond and its wetlands with the cooperation of the landowners. Another opportunity for public education would be erection of an interpretive sign at the municipal garage lot on the south end of the pond. As people come here to leave their wood scraps and other items, there is an opportunity to build a raised viewing deck for a good bird's-eye-view of the landscape.
4. The Conservation Commission should continue to monitor Great Pond and, if conditions change, be prepared to enact a local, more stringent Wetlands Protection Bylaw that would protect this important resource from infringement.



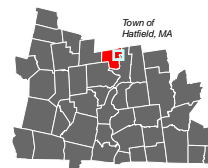
Great Pond Area

PVPC_127_3

*Town of Hatfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Map Sources:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and
the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

The Connecticut River Corridor



The Connecticut River at the Ferry Crossing to Hadley, ca. 1850 view.

The Connecticut River Corridor forms the eastern and southern borders of Hatfield and includes the Hatfield half of the river itself, the long stretches of man-made dike, and all the meadow farmland lying between Elm Street, Maple Street, Main Street and the river. As a valuable natural resource, the river shaped the development of Hatfield from its earliest time of occupation and continues to shape development today. This corridor was defined first by Native American occupation. Their trails following the river became the principal roadways of Hatfield; they farmed and lived on the river's flood plain. The corridor was further defined after 1661 by the layout of the Hatfield portion of Hadley Plantation into homelots that stretched between these streets and the river. It is in the corridor meadows that the first Native American attack on Hatfield occurring during King Philip's War took place and where palisades were constructed to protect the settlement. The corridor's fertility – up to 25 feet of topsoil on the meadows – insured its importance through Hatfield's many phases of agriculture, and it was some of these narrow fields that were slivered off and sold to Hatfield's late 19th century immigrants, giving the laboring families a means of establishing their own farms. Spring floods annually covered the corridor but the hurricane of 1936 and the floods of 1938 were particularly devastating. The silt left on the fields in 1938 when the water receded was many feet deep and had to be removed by hand shoveling.



Early Spring flood stage at intersection of Maple and Main Streets, undated.

The silt was used by residents to fill hollows and by the Army Corps of Engineers to build the thirteen foot-high dike that runs parallel to the river along much of its course through Hatfield alongside Main Street to where the Mill River empties into the Connecticut River south of town. In the South Meadows the dike runs through the fields and those on the river side flood every spring and may be under water for days until the water recedes. The annual flooding maintains the fertility of the fields. As a precaution, the Army Corps built stepped markers into certain areas of the dike to make it easier to judge the rising water height in the Spring.

The Connecticut River corridor is productive today growing market garden vegetables, and tobacco through what would appear to outsiders to be a Byzantine system of field cultivation marked only by the occasional stone. As one farmer explained it, if anyone drifts beyond his own field boundaries, the farmer next to him is sure to let the drift be known.



View of dike running north in South Meadows, 2009.

Opportunities:

- The Connecticut River Corridor comprises some of the most fertile land in western Massachusetts. Its owners have a well-orchestrated system for its efficient use as cultivated fields.
- The dikes have prevented flooding at the scale of 1938, although there was some flooding beyond the area protected by the dike as recently as 1984.
- The river is a source of water for irrigation of crops.
- The river and the dikes are a recreational destination for walkers, fishermen, birders, joggers, and boaters.
- The river corridor and Great Pond serve as habitats for migratory and resident birds.

- The river is a scenic resource of great beauty enjoyed by residents and visitors.
- The river corridor has great historical significance to the community.
- The corridor has archaeological potential.
- Insurance is not available for land so near the river, so it can't be insured and developed.

Issues:

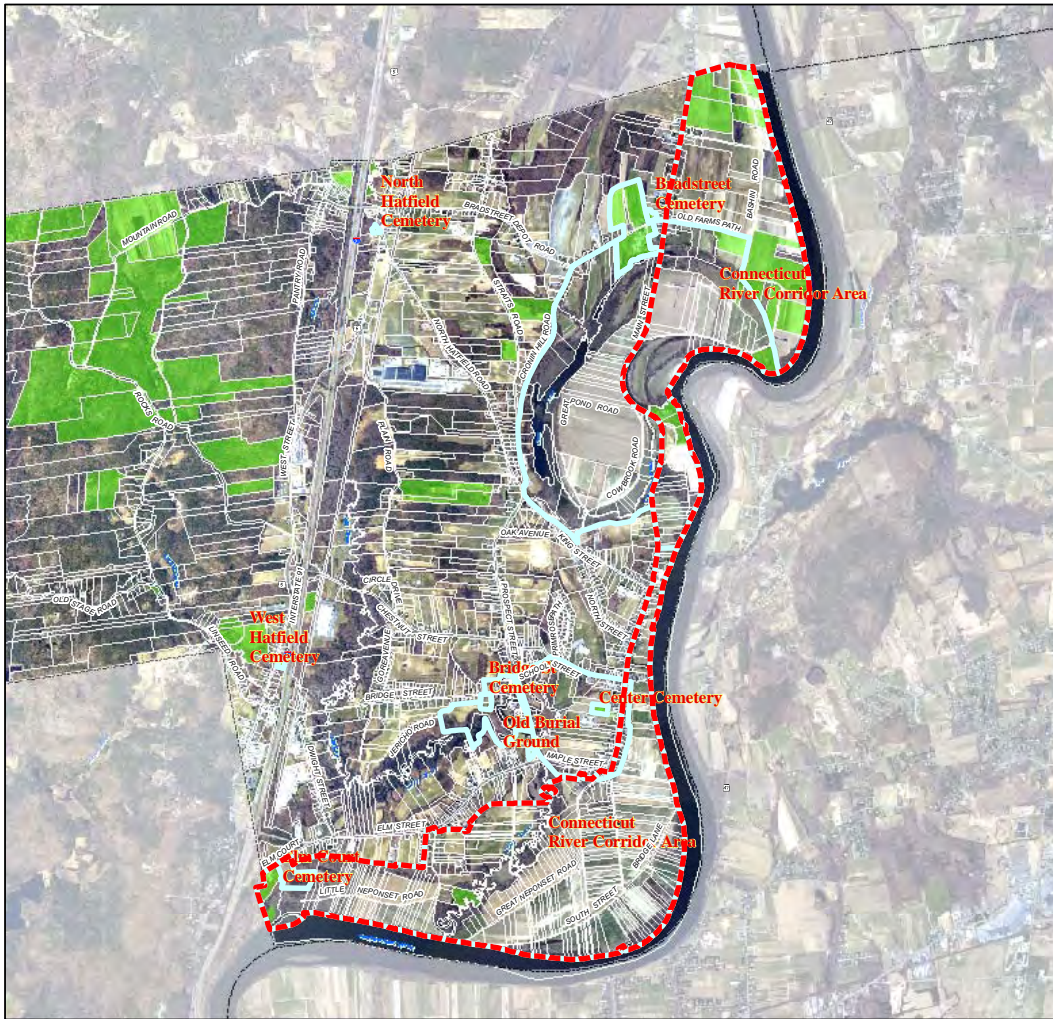
- Successive years of poor farming weather with too much rainfall have caused many farmers with investments in tobacco to lose money in recent years, and if a few good years aren't forthcoming, some may go out of business.
- The fields are divided into many strips of small acreage, and any of them below five acres in area cannot be put into the Chapter 61A program, which would normally offer farmers some financial support.
- There is a great deal of farmland in the river corridor that is in private ownership with no protection other than the absence of available insurance keeping it from being developed.
- An area pickle factory closed so the cucumber market was lost for many farmers. This loss of a market and the tobacco losses have circumscribed the variety of crops that farmers can raise in the Hatfield meadows.
- Former agricultural land at a higher elevation along Elm Street in private ownership has begun to be developed as residential subdivisions.

Recommendations:

1. The Hatfield Agricultural Advisory Board might work collectively with other Agricultural Commissions and the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture to propose an amendment the Chapter 61A regulations to allow agricultural land under five acres to become part of the program in circumstances such as those in the Hatfield Meadows where farmers are part of a large field system and/or may own a number of fields that in total account for more than five acres.
2. It is recommended that the town continue to work supportively with owners to place their land in the APR program.
3. The town should consider adopting an Agricultural Preservation Bylaw that would support farming economics by allowing accessory uses that supplement farming income such as restaurants, educational centers, bed

and breakfast businesses. The bylaw could also direct any new development to be clustered on the least favorable land to maintain contiguous fields and open space or direct it to backlot locations where it would be less visible. The town already has a Transfer of Development Rights bylaw and an Open Space Residential Development bylaw, and can make use of these tools further to protect its farms.

4. The Historical Commission might consider undertaking a professional archaeological site survey, the information on specific findings kept private, but from which a map would be created with areas of sensitivity noted so that this information can figure into town planning. It would also insure that the information is not lost from one generation to the next. The Town could use the survey as the basis for an Archaeological Resource Protection Bylaw that would require site plan review for any development that is to take place within an area of sensitivity and require data recovery if an area of sensitivity is to be constructed upon.



Connecticut River Corridor Area

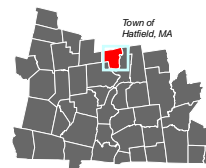
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*Town of Hatfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



0 1,000 Feet

- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Map Sources:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

PART II: PLANNING FOR HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

INVENTORY AND DOCUMENTATION

1. Massachusetts Historical Commission Records

Current Listings: There are currently 728 properties listed from Hatfield at the MHC. One of western Massachusetts's most thorough inventories, resources dating between 1740 and 1980 have been documented including thirteen areas, cemeteries, tobacco barns, houses, bridges and fields. The Hatfield Historical Commission has continued to add to its inventory with 20th century properties. Copies of all the forms are kept in the Dickinson Memorial Library at the Reference Desk. They are partially accessible through the MACRIS data base available on the MHC website.

Recommendations:

The Hatfield Historical Commission should continue to add properties to its survey, and maintain the survey as up-to-date. The new forms should be prepared in digital format and when possible the old forms should be re-done in the new digital format as well.

2. National and State Register Listing

Current Listings: There is one individual building listed on the National Register in Hatfield – the Billings Way Tobacco Barn, which was listed in 1994. There are eight historic districts listed on the Register covering most of the town. The Old Mill Site Historic District was listed in 1982; the Hatfield Center and the Upper Main Street Historic Districts were listed in 1994. Bradstreet Historic District was listed in 1997 along with the North Hatfield Historic District. In 2000 the Elm Street Historic District was listed; in 2002 Mill-Prospect Street Historic District was added to the National Register. Finally, the West Hatfield Historic District was placed on the National Register in 2005.

Recommended Listings: The Hatfield Historical Commission has done its job well vis-à-vis the National Register covering the landscapes as well as the buildings. The only recommendation in this regard is that Great Pond be added in its entirety with a boundary extension of the Bradstreet Historic District. There are no Local Historic Districts (LHD) in the Town and it is recommended that a Local Historic District be designated in the Center along Elm, Maple and Main Streets or if a smaller LHD is desired, the municipal center including only Main Street. Finally, it is recommended that Hatfield enact a Transportation Corridor Bylaw for these three main streets.

3. Heritage Landscape Inventory List from Local Identification Meeting

Each town involved in the Connecticut River Valley Landscape Inventory held a local identification meeting to solicit input from a range of community members to identify potential heritage landscapes throughout the town. The lists were prioritized by the community, with help from the consultants, to create a list of five to ten priority areas, which were described in Part I of this report. The complete list of the town's heritage

landscapes provides a sound resource list for future documentation activities and potential funding opportunities.

- Agricultural
- Civic
- Transportation
- Residential
- Archaeological
- Industrial
- Natural
- Commercial
- Burial
- Institutional
- Open Space and Recreation

TOWNWIDE PLANNING AND ZONING TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Detailed descriptions of planning tools and techniques can be found in the Department of Conservation and Recreation Terra Firma #7 – Taking Action: A Toolkit for Protecting Community Character (2009). This document includes the following sections: Municipal Roles in Landscape Preservation; Thinking in Context: Comprehensive and Open Space Planning; Engaging the Public; and Defending the Resources: Laws, Bylaws and Regulations. This document should be used in conjunction with this report as a guide to acting on the specific recommendations for Priority Heritage Landscapes included in Part I.

The following Community Planning Checklist provides an overview of planning and zoning that currently exists within the town of Hatfield, zoning changes that are currently underway, and recommendations for further changes that were included in this report and other planning documents.

COMMUNITY PLANNING CHECKLIST TOWN OF HATFIELD

SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED	BUILDING BLOCK	NOTES
*	Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND)	
	Transit Oriented Development (TOD)	
✓	Mixed Use Village Districts	
	Planned Unit Development (PUD)	
✓	Adaptive Reuse and Infill Development	
	Tax Incentive Programs and Business Improvement Districts	
✓	Open Space Residential Development	
*	Accessory Apartments	
*	Inclusionary Zoning	
*	Home Based Business Bylaw	
	Brownfields Inventory	
	Brownfields Redevelopment Projects	
✓	Transfer of Development Rights	
✓	Agricultural Commissions	
✓	Right to Farm Bylaws	Adopt Agricultural Preservation Bylaw –

		Luther Belden Farm; Connecticut River Corridor
✓	River Protection Overlay District	
✓	Community Preservation Act	Mill River District; Luther Belden Farm; Great Pond
*	Scenic Upland / Vista Overlay District	Great Pond
*	Bike and Pedestrian Features	
	Traffic Calming Measures	
✓	Water Supply Protection District	
*	Low Impact Development	
✓	Stormwater and Erosion Control Bylaw	
	Stormwater Utilities	
✓	Commercial Site Plan Review	
*	Commercial Performance Standards	
*	Urban Growth Boundaries / Limits of Sewer and Water Extensions	
*	Green Building Standards	
	Municipally Owned Renewable Energy	
	Adoption of Smart Growth Zoning Districts (Ch. 40R)	
✓	Intergovernmental Compact	Valley Vision MOA
*	Planning Board Assistance Program	
*	Local Historic District / National Register of Historic Places	Hatfield Center (LHD); Luther Belden Farm (NR)
*	Architectural Preservation District / Archeological Resource Protection Bylaw	Hatfield Center; Mill River District; Connecticut River Corridor
*	Demolition Delay Bylaw	Would be especially useful in Hatfield Center and "The Square"
*	Scenic Roads Bylaw / Transportation Corridor Protection Bylaw	Hatfield Center and "The Square"

- ✓ Successfully Implemented
- Currently Adopting
- * Should Consider Adopting

Comprehensive, Open Space and Other Planning Documents

It is important that Open space Plans, Comprehensive or Master Plans, and other planning documents address heritage landscapes as vital features of the community, contributing not only to unique sense of place, but also to environmental, recreational and economic health.

Current Plans: Hatfield currently has three plans that guide its decision-making. The most recent is an Open Space and Recreation Plan, dated October, 2008. The town has a 2001 Master Plan, and a Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, of unknown date.

Recommended Plans: Comprehensive planning provides an important frame of reference for a town's land use decisions and incorporates all of a community's issues into an integrated plan. Heritage Landscapes need to be made a part of an updated master or comprehensive plan, since the town uses the plan to guide its activities related to community character, historic preservation, environmental health, economic viability and

growth. The future of the Heritage Landscapes and the values they contribute should be addressed within multiple perspectives, not solely as historical assets of the community.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Outreach, Education and Interpretation

In order to create a community of advocates, we need to raise public awareness and broaden the base of support. This includes developing opportunities to learn about and celebrate the places and history of the town, as well as to care for them.

Collaboration

Protecting community character, respecting history, and promoting smart growth are interrelated concerns that impact heritage landscapes and require collaboration across a broad spectrum of the community. This includes communication among town boards and departments, as well as public-private partnerships.

Technical Assistance

Regulations and creative solutions for heritage landscapes are constantly changing and emerging. Public and private agencies offer technical assistance with the many issues to be addressed, including DCR, MHC, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Funding Opportunities

Funding rarely comes from a single source, more often depending on collaborative underwriting by private, municipal, and regional sources. Each town also has a variety of funding sources that are locally-based and sometimes site-specific. One of the best sources of funding is the Community Preservation Act funding, which Hatfield has adopted.

CONCLUSION

The Heritage Landscape Reconnaissance Report for Hatfield has undertaken an analysis of the priority heritage landscapes identified by the community, their place in the Town's history and how the Town might approach their preservation and conservation. But many of the report's recommendations can also be applied to the landscapes forming the master list, and – as the master list is by no means exhaustive - to those heritage landscapes that are yet to be identified.

One of the most important starting points for protecting Hatfield's heritage landscapes is by helping to increase awareness of them by conducting further research on all the properties that have been identified, some of which are better understood than others. In order to protect buildings and landscapes, such as the former Hatfield Center School on Main Street, additional research should be conducted so that it can be more fully appreciated. The National Register nominations are not sufficient in and of themselves, but are a start. This research can be conducted cooperatively by the Historical Society

and the Historical Commission, whose membership overlaps. Information such as the architect of the High School and its significance should be written up for public presentation when needed to Town residents, Town government members, and to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Hatfield has a strong advocate for preservation in its Historical Commission and it has accomplished some important projects in the recent past. The Commission funded the many nominations to the National Register, and members were instrumental in saving and reusing the Billings Way Tobacco Barn as a town museum. Hatfield residents have taken private measures to maintain their historic buildings and landscapes.

To capitalize on the work in progress, it is important to use this report to alert government members, committees and commissions to the existence and value of the Town's heritage landscapes, so distribution and discussion of the report will be an important next move.

This is all part of generating community support, and community support is essential to preserving the Town's heritage, be it a tobacco barn, the fields that make up the Meadows or a civic building that contributes to the historic town center. Publicizing the report through a series of articles, presentations, and making it available to residents will be an important effort. Creating public awareness is public education and it can be approached through the schools, through the press, on-line and at special events. Above all, leading the community to recognition that it does indeed have heritage landscapes and that they make up the Town's attractive character is a goal that this report can help accomplish.

The three top recommendations of this report are (1) to create an Agricultural Preservation District Bylaw to protect developable land and support farming operations (2) create a Local Historic District to protect the linear street village of Hatfield Center (3) continue to work with farmers to place their farmland in the APR program.

RESOURCES

Reading the Land Massachusetts Heritage Landscape a Guide to Identification and Protection, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 2008.

Terra Firma #1- An Introduction to Historic Landscape Preservation Department of Conservation and Recreation Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, n.d.

Terra Firma #3- Putting Historic Landscape Preservation on Sold Ground: Identifying and Protecting Historic Roads, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, n.d.

Terra Firma #5 Putting Heritage Landscape Preservation on Solid Ground: Stones that Speak: Forgotten Features of the Landscape, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, n.d.

Terra Firma #7 - Taking Action: A Toolkit for Protecting Community Character
Department of Conservation and Recreation Executive Office of Environmental Affairs,
2009.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances,
Draft Copy March 11, 2009, typescript.

_____. MHC Reconnaissance Survey Reports, typescript,

**APPENDIX A
HATFIELD'S HERITAGE LANDSCAPES**

The following chart presents the master list of heritage landscapes drafted in the Public Identification Meeting. Please note that the landscapes with asterisks are the Priority Heritage Landscapes that were selected in that meeting.

HERITAGE LANDSCAPE	NOTES
AGRICULTURAL	
*Connecticut River Corridor	The north and south meadows on its floodplain with views of Holyoke Range, dike, and area called Indian Hollow where Native Americans once lived.
Jericho Road and Bridge Street barns	
*Luther Belden Dairy Farm	last dairy farm in town
*Long Lots, Great Pond and oxbow Straits Road/North Hatfield Road barns	
ARCHAEOLOGICAL	
Linseed mill and sawmill foundation	on Linseed Road
Native American Prehistoric archaeological zone that is artifact-rich	
Bradstreet-Depot Road school house foundations	
BURIAL	
*Hill Cemetery	No longer active; oldest cemetery in town.
*West Hatfield Cemetery	Active. On Bridge Street, Polish Cem.
*Bradstreet Cemetery	Active
*Main Cemetery	Active
*Elm Court Cemetery	Active
*North Hatfield Cemetery	Active
CIVIC	
*Town Center	Town Hall, Milkman school, Book Depository, all the houses, the main road, former trolley route, historic linear street village layout, and The Loop or Square, a recreational walking route that is 2 miles in length and spans between Town Center and the Mill River dam area; and area of stockade.
North Hatfield School	Is now a pub.
COMMERCIAL	
Tobacco sorting shops, warehouses,	barns throughout town
B&B Bar that was former Reilly's mill/firehouse	
Route 5 commercial strip	early motels, gas station, Howard Johnson's restaurant

INDUSTRIAL	
West Hatfield lead mines	
*Mill River	Porter MacLeod mill, dam, impoundment, ice houses, Borden Baseline and bridge
North Hatfield Quarry	that was at one time a brickyard
Quarry near Northampton Line	
NATURAL	
*Great Pond	
Running Gutter Reservoir	and watershed
White Rock landmark rock in West Hatfield on Horse Mountain	from which is also a viewshed
RECREATIONAL	
Red Rock at Bashin Beach	on Connecticut River an area for boat launch and swimming. Here you can see vein of red rock that runs down to School Street and keeps River in its pathway.
RESIDENTIAL	
Elm Street	
19 th and early 20 th century vernacular farmhouses	
TRANSPORTATION	
Historic New Haven Railroad Corridor	Under I-91 in part
Ferry Road and site of old ferry crossing	
*Connecticut River	Part of Connecticut River Corridor
Bridge Lane and site of former bridge crossing	Across Connecticut River to Hadley
Stage Coach Road and trail	