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Cover Photographs: Left: Archaeologists excavating at the Durant-Kenrick Homestead; Right: the Eliot Memorial
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Introduction

This public report summarizes the results of a City-wide archaeological reconnaissance survey of Newton. The objective of the survey was to produce a comprehensive inventory of known archaeological resources in Newton and to identify areas of high archaeological sensitivity in the City in order to provide a guide for planning, permitting and preservation. The full version of this report is on file with the City. The archaeological survey was conducted by Archaeological Services, a consulting organization at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Funding was provided by the City of Newton. The research was conducted with the generous assistance of the Newton Historical Society.

The project included: 1) background research into Native American occupations that occurred before A.D. 1620, and historical uses of City lands after A.D. 1620; 2) ranking of City lands into zones possessing low and high likelihood to contain archaeological resources, based on topography, water sources, soils, and previously recorded sites; 3) a walkover inspection of selected archaeological sites and areas of high sensitivity; 4) interviews with local informants and City personnel; and 5) integration of this information into thematic narratives of the City’s past and development of an archaeological site protection plan for sensitive resource areas.

The study found that Newton contains some areas of high potential for the discovery of unrecorded Native American sites and many areas rich in historical archaeological sites. While most of the City has been subject to disturbance associated with urban development, the potential to produce additional significant information remains. When the survey began, 13 Native American sites and 16 historic sites were on record for Newton at the Massachusetts Historical Commission. During the course of the project, nine additional Native American sites and 56 historic sites were added to the state inventory. The archaeological sites in Newton, both Native American and Historic, represent a vital part of the City’s heritage and could contribute important information to the fields of archaeology and history.
Preservation Protocols

Residential development in Newton is dense, and small housing developments, single family homes, roadwork, and similar construction projects often affect archaeological sites. In instances where such projects do not fall under existing federal or state regulations that include an assessment of threat to potentially significant sites, it is recommended that the City adopt an ordinance and establish a system of review designed to require archaeological surveys of sensitive areas in an effort to protect archaeological sites. This process is spelled out more fully in the complete report.

Archaeological Resource Management Studies

As of 2007, 15 archaeological surveys had been conducted that relate to Newton, and have resulted in archaeological reports. Copies of these reports are on file at the Massachusetts Historical Commission in Boston. The previous surveys have provided varied information about archaeological resources in Newton, with some adding nothing new to the literature, and some reports providing extensive detailed information. However, in general, the findings of the previous surveys contributed some good information to the Native American and historical research contexts that were developed for the present survey.

Of these 15 surveys, only nine included actual excavations, while the remaining six included background research and/or reconnaissance surveys. Of these nine surveys, five recovered new information and artifacts related to Native American sites. This includes artifacts from Marcy Farm (19-MD-182), two projects at the Jackson Homestead, and the identification and investigation of the Boston College Law School sites 1 and 2 (19-MD-771, 19-MD-772). In addition, all of the nine projects that included excavation also recovered artifacts from the historic period. This includes nineteenth and twentieth century materials from the area of Marcy Farm; eighteenth and nineteenth century material from the Jackson Homestead; artifacts dating from as early as the seventeenth century at the Boston College Newton campus; nineteenth and twentieth century materials from Houghton Garden; nineteenth century artifacts associated with the Thwing/Haynes/Slade residences; and some material found at the Boston College Law School 2 Native American site.

Collections Research and Local Informant Interviews

As part of the public presentation for this survey, members of the public were invited to bring in any artifacts they had found for identification. Where possible, the source locations of these artifacts were recorded, and were added to the list of Native American sites.

Identification and Documentation of Sites through Background Research

The background research resulted in lists of Native American and historical archaeological sites that have been recorded previously in Newton. It also resulted in the identification of artifacts and artifact collections obtained from locations in Newton where no sites had previously been documented. These locations were added to the list of known archaeological sites. The series of historical maps dating to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries revealed numerous resources (meeting houses, residences, mills, etc.) whose locations were plotted on a modern topographic map. These locations were designated as archaeological sites, and many of them were visited during the field reconnaissance. The recording of these sites will increase the likelihood of protection in the future, and will enable future researchers to investigate more fully the documentary records concerning the historical owners and occupants of the sites.
Archaeology is the study of the material remains left behind by people in the past. These remains may be artifacts manufactured by people, the remnants of structures (usually referred to as "features") or, more likely, a combination.

Archaeologists use artifacts and features to tell a story about the past, ideally about specific events related to the behavior of individuals. Not all of these events are necessarily groundbreaking. Most archaeologists are more concerned with the mundane, day-to-day lives of people, especially those who have not left behind a written record. This is the main difference between archaeology and history.

Archaeologists must use the evidence they find during their careful excavations to piece together stories about the past, while historians most often search through written documents.

Because archaeological information must be excavated and removed to be analyzed, it is critical that archaeologists carefully record everything they do. Excavating a site destroys the original context, or relationship, between artifacts and features. If an archaeologist does not carefully document the finds, that context may be lost, and the information about human activity at the site is lost with it. That is why British archaeologist Ian Hodder says, "context is everything." Because of this, archaeology is a slow, painstaking process. Small trowels are usually used to excavate the soil, tape measures are used to constantly measure one's position, line-levels are used to ensure that depths from a known elevation are always correct so that an artifact's location in space in three dimensions is documented. Drawings and photographs of each excavation level are usually made as well. In fact, excavation itself is far less time consuming than all of the necessary record keeping. But those records are critical to the archaeologist's ability to reconstruct the site and analyze artifacts later in the lab. The careful procedures used by archaeologists also differentiate them from artifact looters who are simply after pretty objects. Archaeologists use objects to understand the past, but what they treasure most is the information they uncover.

Archaeological sites are found a number of different ways. Many sites are discovered by accident, by people walking along a trail, or during construction. Hopefully in these circumstances, a responsible person will let the Massachusetts Historical Commission know exactly where their discovery was.
made so that the area can be protected in the future. Some sites are found through scholarly research, often using old documents and maps to reconstruct the location of an important site. In the case of Newton, for example, this might be the location of the Sachem Waban's wigwam, where John Eliot first preached to the Natives of this region. Most often, archaeological sites are located because of local, state or federal laws developed to protect archaeological sites, including those that may not yet be documented. The field of "Cultural Resource Management" (or contract archaeology) has existed since the 1960s to ensure that areas that might contain important archaeological sites are carefully examined before construction occurs that might otherwise destroy an unknown site.

To actually locate unknown sites, archaeologists first do background research to learn more about documented sites in the area. They usually look at old maps and town histories that may include information about historic period features (like homesteads or old mills) that may no longer be visible on the surface. Sometimes modern equipment like ground penetrating radar is used to locate areas of soil disturbance that may indicate the presence of old cellars that may warrant investigation, or even burials that should not be disturbed.

In fact, as part of this evaluation, ground penetrating radar was used to locate possible unmarked graves associated with Newton's East Parish Burying Ground. Most often, archaeologists just have to dig to find sites. They usually excavate small square holes carefully placed in a grid pattern so that the location can be accurately recorded. The soil is carefully dug up and passed through a shaking screen to help separate artifacts from the soil. When artifacts are found, they are placed into carefully labeled bags that record their location, depth and the soil type. Often, hundreds of such test pits may be excavated in order to be sure that no significant site is located in an area of proposed construction.

When a site is found, a determination must be made regarding its historical significance. Not every site qualifies, but, if after some additional testing the archaeologists decide that a site is important and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) agrees, then a decision must be made to alter construction plans to preserve the site or to excavate it so that construction can continue.

Ceramics like these excavated at the Jackson homestead are used by archaeologists to date episodes of activity associated with construction, remodeling or landscape use.
Native Lifeways

Paleoindian Colonizers

The lands along the Charles River, now home to Newton, were occupied by Native American groups at least intermittently over the past 13,000 years. The best documented ancient site in the area is the Neponset Paleoindian site located eight miles south of Newton center along the Neponset River. This site has been professionally excavated on a number of occasions and has produced evidence of occupation by multiple households during the Middle Paleoindian period, about 11,500 years ago. The site is comprised of a number of concentrations of stone tools and tool-making debris. The most common raw material used was a volcanic stone called rhyolite. Interestingly, though rhyolite is plentiful in the Boston area, much of the stone found at the site was likely quarried from a source near Berlin, New Hampshire.

People during the Paleoindian period lived in an environment altering rapidly as the ice-age came to an end. While the region was probably forested, winter conditions were very extreme, and the vegetation consisted primarily of spruce, jackpine, and poplar. Animals like caribou were common, and hunters might have sometimes come across giant beaver, stag moose, the giant short-faced bear, and even mastodon. These animals have been extinct in the region since the end of the ice age.

Data from sites like Neponset indicate that people stayed on the move during this time. Most camps are small and indicate use by one to three family groups for a period of just a few weeks. Very few people lived in New England during this initial phase of human colonization to the region, so groups were spread thinly across the landscape. The archaeological sites they have left behind are, therefore, very uncommon and precious to researchers. Resources at the time were probably unevenly spread across space and between seasons, so survival hinged on being in the right place at the right time. Limited competition with neighboring groups allowed these mobile hunters to take advantage of rich harvests of caribou and probably fish and waterfowl at certain points in the year. In general, life was probably quite challenging, but these initial Colonists succeeded, becoming the ancestors of many of the later Native groups that occupied New England.
Archaic and Woodland Period Foragers

As the ice age came to a close, some Native groups shifted their range north where they could continue their traditional caribou hunting way of life. Others stayed in the region, and instead adapted to the new resources offered by warmer forests. New England archaeologists refer to the post-glacial period as the Archaic. This period of time is subdivided into Early, Middle and Late stages. The Early Archaic was a time of significant climatic and environmental changes after the ice age. The period, dating between about 10,000 to 8,000 years ago is marked by a transition from predominantly cold-tolerant coniferous forests to much more modern conditions at its close. Sites from this period are rare in New England, but express a variety of cultural traditions.

A source of confusion regarding the ages of New England's Native American timeline can be caused by the recent practice of calibrating radiocarbon dates. Calibration converts a measured radiocarbon date to one closer to a true calendrical age. The reason radiocarbon years differ from true years has to do with fluctuation in past levels of atmospheric radiocarbon. The difference between radiocarbon and calibrated ages increases over time.

Differences in age (in years before the present) are summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radiocarbon Age</th>
<th>Calendrical Age</th>
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<td>1000</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Archaic period “full grooved” stone axe was found by Jesse Fewkes in the 1800s. While Fewkes associated the ax with the seventeenth-century Sachem named Waban, the artifact is likely more than 4,000 years old. It is now part of the collections of the Jackson Homestead Museum.
Other interesting tool types that cannot be as easily dated include a perforator, a “pounding stone” probably used for plant food preparation, three stone axes used for felling trees, an adze and a gouge for heavy woodworking or canoe manufacture, four plummets (stone sinkers), and a grooved stone, both used as fish line or net weights.

Though only a small sample of Native activity along the Charles River in this area, the finds at least suggest that this was a favored location during the Late and Terminal Archaic periods, but became less commonly used over time. Perhaps as sea level rose, the nearby falls became less effective fishing locations and activity shifted to the Upper and Lower falls further upstream. Unfortunately, historical mill construction and gravel mining at these important industrial locations has likely destroyed most evidence of Native fishing activities there.

During the early phase, people manufactured leaf-shaped (lanceolate) projectile points and continued to manufacture stone tools similar to those of the preceding Paleoindian period. By about 9,000 years ago a novel technology developed focused on the use of quartz and the manufacture of ground stone tools. Though uncommon, sites of the “Gulf of Maine Archaic Tradition” occur in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. At large sites, such as the Sandy Hill site in southeastern Connecticut, it is apparent that these people had an economic focus on wetland resources, including cattail, water lily and arrowhead (wapato). Spear points are very uncommon, and hunting may have been limited to small game such as beaver, muskrat and turtles.

About 8,500 years ago, new hunting tools appear in southern New England. These are bifurcate (split) base spear points and their presence is likely linked to an increase in the importance of deer hunting as the region’s forests supported a greater number of deciduous trees such as oak. The appearance of these spear points likely indicates the arrival of “Piedmont Tradition” peoples already adapted to hunting forest game in the warmer Southeast. These bifurcate manufacturing people left numerous spear tips across the region, but very few locations include artifacts indicating long-term encampment. They soon located, or learned of, excellent sources of rhyolite in the Boston area, which they preferred for the manufacture of their tools. The archaeological data indicate the presence of a very mobile population, settling in to a new region over a number of centuries.

The Lemon Brook site (19-MD-537) was located on the south side of the Charles River, in the area of Maple Street. The site has been known to archaeologists since the latter half of the nineteenth century. It was documented initially by Jesse Fewkes (1826-1911), father of the well-known nineteenth century archeologist, Jesse Walter Fewkes (1850-1930), who conducted archaeological excavations and surveys for the Smithsonian in the American Southwest, including Mesa Verde, Casa Grande and Montezuma’s Castle. Jesse Fewkes held a deep interest in local history, especially that of Native American population in possession of the Newton area.

The Jesse Fewkes collection, now in Newton Historical Society at the Jackson Homestead, contains a large number of artifacts, many of which are attributed to the Lemon Brook site. These artifacts are presumed to have been collected by Fewkes along the Charles River and Lemon Brook in his own neighborhood near Maple and Williams Streets. While Fewkes attributed the artifacts to the Massachusetts Tribal Sachem Waban and his praying Indians, none of them date to the seventeenth century. Most are, in fact, much older and span many phases of Native history in the region over an 8,000 year time period.

Although the precise origin of the artifacts is unknown, they provide an uncommon and valuable glimpse at Native activity along the Charles. Because of the degree of urban development in the area, few intact Native sites remain. The area lies just above the Charles estuary and close to the first set of falls on the river. This would have been an important fishing location in the spring and fall when schools of anadromous fish made their way up the river to spawn. Among these, Atlantic salmon, shad, alewives, and eels were the most important. It is likely that fishing attracted large groups of people to this general area for thousands of years.

The collection itself cannot provide detailed information about site use because it was never excavated. Nevertheless, the 93 artifacts from the site express a variety of activities, such as hunting or spearing fish, stone tool-making, heavy woodworking, delicate wood or bone crafting, net and line fishing, and possible plant food processing.

The oldest definitive artifacts are “Neville” spear point variants that date between about 8,000 and 7,000 years ago during the Middle Archaic period. Late Archaic points from between about 5,000 and 3,500 years ago are more common, numbering ten. Artifacts from the Terminal Archaic period (3,500 to 2,800 years ago) also number ten. It should be noted that a large Terminal Archaic cremation cemetery was discovered across the Charles in nearby Watertown.

Early Woodland peoples made pottery, though none was found at the site; however, eight spear points can be attributed to the period between about 3,000 and 2,000 years ago. Middle Woodland points are represented by just three examples dating between about 2,000 and 800 years ago, while only a single Late Woodland artifact dating between 800 and about 400 years ago is represented in the collection.

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The region’s Native population increased during the Middle, Late and Terminal Archaic periods, between 8,000 and 2,800 years ago. Sites become particularly common after about 5,000 years ago, suggesting the presence of well-established local populations. The observed return to the use of quartz at this time suggests to some archaeologists that a well populated landscape meant limited access to some more preferred, but distant, stone quarries. Small quartz cobbles were available in most gravelly bottomed streams across New England, and these became the focus of raw material procurement and tool manufacture. It is possible that this was a period of increased conflict between groups, though little direct evidence for this exists. Two Middle Archaic sites (8,000-6,000 radiocarbon years ago) and four Late Archaic sites (6,000-3,600 years ago) have been documented in the City. Unfortunately, these sites are known primarily through surface collected artifacts rather than professional archaeological excavation, so little is known regarding specific aspects of the Native use of the Newton area at this time. Newton’s location along the Charles River and in particular the presence of falls strongly suggest that the area played a central role in the traditional fishing economy throughout history. It should be assumed that Native sites were common adjacent to the falls, though many have likely been subsequently destroyed or damaged by the construction of historic period mills.

About 3,600 years ago the archaeological record changes rather abruptly. This final phase of the Archaic, referred to as the Terminal Archaic period, is marked by the presence of elaborate cremation cemeteries that include material traded over great distances. Seasonally occupied camps also include new spear point forms, often manufactured from material quarried from outside the region. Archaeologists have long argued about the significance of this change,
many suggesting the arrival of a new population. The increased evidence of trade between neighboring groups, through formalized (even ritualized) exchange systems, supports developing relationships between people. Whatever the case may be, these Terminal Archaic peoples likely represent socially and politically sophisticated foragers of a type poorly documented in the present. Four sites dating between 3,600 and 2,800 years ago are known from Newton.

Archaeologists associate the beginning of the Woodland period with the first use of pottery 2,800 years ago. Interestingly, with the exception of a number of large coastal sites, Early and Middle Woodland finds (2,800 to 1,000 years ago) are not very common in New England. Some have speculated that this may reflect a period of population decline, perhaps associated with environmental changes or even the introduction of a new disease such as tuberculosis. In fact, the rarity of sites may reflect settlement changes that resulted in fewer, but longer-term camps. A likely increase in the use of floodplain and shoreline habitats may also make such sites difficult to discover because these areas are now deeply covered by river sediments or coastal marshes. It is likely that the use of local wild plant foods such as goosefoot (chenopodium or quinoa) and hickory nuts, as well as the gathering of shellfish, intensified between 2,800 and 1,000 years ago. The use of pottery supports the idea that increasingly sophisticated cooking methods were necessary in order to wrest greater nutrition from the local environment. Three Middle Woodland period sites have been documented in Newton.

Hickory nuts and chenopodium (goosefoot) were important traditional wild food sources, though the seeds chenopodium produced were very small.

Late Woodland Farmers

Maize farming developed relatively late in southern New England, only after about 1,100 years ago. Evidence of maize, in the form of burnt kernels, remains extremely uncommon until the arrival of Europeans. While maize, squash and eventually beans were added to the diet, they do not appear to represent staples for most New England peoples until the 1500s. Instead, a traditional way of life focused on hunting, fishing and wild-plant food gathering remained central to the economy. It is likely that maize horticulture was first practiced by families who sought a way to provide increased security to the sometimes unpredictable harvest of wild foods. Over time, maize became increasingly important, and by 1300 AD there is good evidence that villages were established in some coastal and river bottom areas. Only two Late Woodland sites have been reported in Newton.

Native Contact with the Europeans

The area of Newton was traditionally occupied by the Massachuset. Little information was recorded about the Massachuset before their traditional lifeways were significantly altered by the impacts of European epidemic diseases. The beginning of the Contact Period is generally set at ca. AD 1600, when the first intensive European occupations began in several locations along the eastern North American coast, although there were certainly some interactions before the seventeenth century, as Italian, Portuguese, Basque and French fisherman and explorers navigated the coastal waters off of New England at the end of the fifteenth century.

Native American population figures for the Middlesex County region are unavailable for the period before 1620. Between 1616 and 1618, an epidemic struck Native potions along the New England coast with devastating effect. These epidemics preceded European explorers into the interior, wiping out large segments of the population, especially those grouped closer together in village settlements. Such losses radically changed Native lifeways and identity. Many communities likely lost certain cultural traditions, and many groups relocated and formed new alliances in order to survive.
Evidence for intensive Contact Period occupation is known from other parts of southern New England, but no sites clearly dated to this period have been discovered in Newton. The presence of a Native community in Newton during the early seventeenth century at Nonantum Hill strongly suggests a Massachuset presence in the area during this important transitional period, however.

The location of Waban’s Wigwam where Eliot preached to the Native community at Nonantum was memorialized with the construction of this monument in the 1870s, now located on Eliot Memorial Drive. The location of the monument may not be far from the actual site, and thus represents a very important archaeological resource for Newton.
Newton is made up of thirteen distinct villages. While united under a City charter, each village has a distinct place in the City’s past and present. During its first period of settlement, the community was characterized by scattered farmsteads with small-scale industrial activity along the Charles River. The river and a far-reaching Native trail system provided the means to connect this dispersed population.

Seventeenth-Century Settlement

In 1632, after the founding of Charlestown, Boston, Dorchester, Watertown, and Roxbury, the establishment of a fortified town as a place of refuge in case of an Indian attack became a priority. Each town was to build a “new town” at common expense. A palisade 1 ½ miles long was constructed that contained upwards of 100 acres of land; this town was named Newtown. While Newtown was originally expected to be the capital of the Colony, this expectation was never met. In 1636, Reverend Thomas Hooker led about a hundred Newtown residents overland to form a new settlement at Hartford along the Connecticut River. This was in large part a result of religious and political differences between Newtown’s residents and the leadership of the Massachusetts Bay colony.

Soon afterwards, Boston became the capital, in large part because of its favorable trading ports. With the establishment of Harvard College in 1636, Newtown was renamed Cambridge.

As the settlement of Cambridge became established there was a need for more meadowland. In 1633, Cambridge obtained large grants of land on the south side of the Charles River (in present-day Newton and Brighton) that was known as Nonantum, the Algonkian term for “the place of rejoicing.”

The area along the river was soon occupied by a small number of farms varying in size from 100 to 1,000 acres. Between 1632 and 1641, the General Court granted land within this area including 30 acres to Mr. Philips, 1,000 acres to John Haynes, 500 acres to Thomas Dudley, 500 acres to Simon Bradstreet and 450 acres to Mr. Mayhew. These parcels, developed as farms, were not owner occupied. Considered the area’s first permanent settler, John Jackson purchased a dwelling house with 18 acres of land along the Charles River in 1639.

Unlike other New England towns, the area to the south of the Charles River was not settled by groups of people from similar backgrounds, rather settlers were from various areas in England as well as other Massachusetts towns.

Newton’s Founding Families

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<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Family</th>
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<td>Edward Jackson, London</td>
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<td>1650</td>
<td>James Prentice, England</td>
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<td>1650</td>
<td>Thomas Prentice, 2nd, England</td>
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Historic Era Native Americans

At the time of Cambridge’s expansion, a Native American group of Massachuset were living in a cluster of wigwams on Nonantum Hill in the north-east section of the settlement. The native settlement proved advantageous to the early settlers who were able to utilize existing Native American trails in the settlement process. These trails were typically 12 to 18 inches wide and, if frequently trodden, a foot deep. A major north-south trail, present-day Centre Street to Crystal Lake, a
major east-west trail, present-day Washington Street to Weston, and a number of secondary trails allowed settlers to explore and settle interior areas.

The relationship between the two groups appears to have been friendly, for in 1647 the settlers contracted with their leader, Waban, to take care of 60 head of cattle for which Waban was to be paid eight pounds. The site of Waban’s “wigwam” is indicated south of Nonantum Hill in an eighteenth century reconstructed map of Newton. At this time the natives also had a fish weir constructed along the upper falls of the Charles River where they caught alewives and shad.

In the 1640s, the first of Rev. John Eliot’s “Praying Indian” villages, Nonantum, was located by Waban’s residence. The goal of these praying Indian villages was the acculturation of local Native American groups by Christian missionaries. Eliot attracted neighboring Native groups to Nonantum as he helped them obtain tools for farming and building, and even imported fruit trees from England for their farms. Not only were the Native men engaged in husbandry and newly acquired trades, but the Native women were taught to spin and make items, such as brooms and baskets for the market. The Natives surrounded their growing community with ditches and stone walls. Evidence of that time period, a stone wall constructed around the native settlement, was recalled a hundred years later by Newton historian Dr. Jonathan Homer. Known as the “Indian fence,” Homer described helping to tear down the wall on his father’s farm. The Nonantum community along with other Praying Indian groups moved to South Natick in 1650/1651.

The Eliot family has a rich history in Newton. The missionary Rev. John Eliot, mentioned above, also translated the Bible (left) for use in the "Praying Indian" villages. His son, Rev John Eliot, Jr. served as Newton's first pastor. The Rev. John Eliot, Jr. Parsonage was located on Centre Street just north of Mill Street. It stood near the Edmands estate and dated to 1664. The probable site was located as a result of a reconnaissance survey of Boston College in 1994. The entire campus underwent an intensive survey by Timelines, Inc. in 1995 but no artifacts associated with the parsonage were identified.
Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, religious activities in Newton were centered on the Puritan First Church. The first meeting house was constructed in 1660 on an acre of land on Centre Street in the East Parish Burying Ground, which was given by John Jackson. The first minister of record was Rev. John Eliot Jr., son of Rev. John Eliot, minister to the Praying Indians. While Eliot, Jr. was not ordained until 1664, he began preaching about 1658 two years after his graduation from Harvard. As the church records were lost in a fire in 1770, little information remains on the early days of the church. Following Eliot, Jr.’s death in 1668, the town went six years without a minister until Nehemiah Hobart was selected in 1674. When Hobart arrived, the first meeting house was enlarged, and in 1681, the town voted to “make a rate for repairing the glass” around the structure and “to pay John Fuller, Sen. what he had laid out for the raising of the new end of the Meeting-house. In 1696, the town voted to build a new meeting house near the old one, and in 1697, John Brewer of Sudbury was employed to construct the structure. This work was completed in the early part of 1698. The new meeting house was located across the street from the first one, near the house of Lt. John Spring.
Seventeenth-Century Civic Development

In 1654, the section of Cambridge vacated by the Massachuset of Nonantum was named Cambridge Village. Even though the settlers had their economic base in Cambridge Village, they still depended on Cambridge for their social institutions such as church, government and schools. As early as 1656, village residents sent petitions to both Cambridge and the General Court to cease paying taxes to Cambridge in order that they may begin the process of having a place of worship close to their village center. In 1660, a meetinghouse was erected on land given by John Jackson. This became the site of the first burying ground, and in 1661, the General Court freed those who lived more than four miles from the Cambridge meeting house from paying taxes to that church.

As Cambridge Village worked toward its independence, other prominent settlers moved to the area. These included Thomas Wiswall (ca.1654), John Kendrick (1658), Isaac Williams (1661), John Spring (1664), Gregory Cook (1666), and James Trowbridge (1675). As the century progressed, the meeting house was unable to accommodate the town’s growing population. A second meeting house, replacing the first, was erected across the street in 1696/1698 on land given by Lt. Spring.

In 1647, the General Court ruled that every town with more than 50 households should provide a school where boys could learn to read, write, and understand the laws. Newton voted to build its first schoolhouse in 1699, which was constructed on an acre of land given to the town by Abraham Jackson adjacent to the meetinghouse and burying ground. This was followed by the construction of a schoolhouse in Oak Hill in 1701.

In 1672, John and Edward Jackson asked the General Court to allow Cambridge Village to be completely independent from Cambridge, but this bid was unsuccessful. In 1678, the General Court was petitioned again for independence, but with a majority of freeman signing. With the total number of freeman having risen from 23 in 1639 to 65 in that year, the General Court approved the bid, and Cambridge Village was organized as a separate township in 1679. It became an independent town in 1688. Though it was named New Cambridge, this proved to be confusing, and in 1691, was renamed Newtown. The name was later shortened to Newton.
Seventeenth-Century Industrial Activity

Because of the proximity of the Charles River and its tributaries, mills were a very important element of early historic period industry in Newton. Small water powered industrial works developed along dammed streams and rivers to process the natural and agricultural resources of the region. Small-scale industry developed hand-in-hand with the clearing and farming of the land. The early histories of many Massachusetts towns are closely tied to mills built to support the economy. Grist mills ground farmers’ grain into flour and meal. Construction materials such as boards, shingles, and beams were manufactured in the saw mills. The first grist mill was established in 1664 along Smelt Brook on the property of Lt. John Spring, who lived along Dedham Road (present-day Centre Street). In order to construct the mill, Spring had to build a dam across Smelt Brook and flood a low-lying area of swamp and bog at the confluence of two streams, thus creating Bullough’s Pond. Spring then opened a lane (present-day Mill Street) to provide access to the mill. At that time this section of the town was still forested, with numerous bears, deer and wolves reported. It was been said that “bears were shot from the door-yards of the farms.” The earliest saw mill was constructed in 1683 by Erosmond Drew on Palmer Brook by the present-day Brookline town line.

The saw mill is said to have supplied lumber for the entire area. A second saw mill, constructed in 1688 by John Clark, was the first industrial venture along the Charles River. It was located by the upper falls where the river fell 23 feet. Clark is said to have purchased the eel weir above the falls from the local Native American population along with the right to construct mills. Following Clark’s death in 1695, his two sons, John and William, inherited the mill site.

Many mill owners contributed to the economy in other ways. Drew, for example, also produced huckleberry wine for public consumption for which his house became known as Huckleberry Tavern.

The Spring/Trowbridge Grist Mill site is located off of Mill Street by the north end of Bullough’s Pond in Newton Centre. The first grist mill was established in 1644 along Smelt Brook by Lt. John Spring who lived across Dedham Road (present-day Centre Street) from the first Meeting House. Spring opened a road to the mill (present-day Mill Street) from then Dedham Road to provide access to the mill. One quarter of the dam and grist mill passed to William Trowbridge who married Lt. Spring’s daughter and eventually to their son and grandson. The grist mill remained in operation into the nineteenth century.

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Archaeological Evidence of European Settlement

Native American and European American early settlement period sites may be expected to include artifacts reflecting contact between the two cultures and the entry of European items into the Native American economy. For example, the former location of Eliot’s Praying Indian Village will likely contain both Euro-American and Native American artifacts as well as evidence of both traditional native wigwams (wetus) and possibly earth-fast framed structures made in the European fashion. This site is one of the City of Newton's most significant and assessment of its condition is highly recommended.

Types of artifacts and features are likely to vary considerably between sites during this dynamic period of settlement. Evidence of simple earth-fast construction for residences, garrisons, and meeting houses may yet survive in protected areas of the City. During the early settlement period, the homestead often represented the first built and central structure of the farmstead. Houses were typically built along the roadways, often as close as twenty five feet from the edge of the road. Seventeenth century sites are likely to contain low densities of European manufactured artifacts made of metal, ceramics, and glass. This can make them difficult to locate. Subsistence remains, such as wild and domestic animal bone may also be present, and be informative about past food habits. Archaeological sites of first settlement locations are also expected to include artifacts and features reflecting common Early settlement era activities, such as logging, agriculture, trade, travel, and road building. The presence of human burials outside of documented burial grounds is also possible. The design and many elements of grist and saw mills were similar; structures and day-to-day activities radiated around the mill and mill yard. Grist and sawmills were power-driven by nearly identical technology and components including the dam, headrace, penstock, wheel pit, and tailrace. While the earliest mill sites utilized natural waterfalls to obtain the necessary elevation drop for power, later ones were powered by dams which often reflect significant works of vernacular engineering.

The remains of old mills and bridgework have survived in many places throughout the city and should be preserved whenever possible.
The dams’ primary function was to impound water and regulate the volume and height of the water in the reservoir or millpond. Early dams were primarily built of earth, rock or timber fill. This limited the size of most dams and made them susceptible to failure. A survey of mill sites in Middlefield, Massachusetts indicated the average height of traditional mill dams was about 8 to 10 feet and rarely exceeded 15 feet. The dam wings varied in length extending in some cases between 150 to 225 feet. Cribbing, comprised of logs, packed earth, and fieldstone, may remain as evidence also.

The millpond was one of the most important features of the mill. Water from the millpond was directed through the headrace to the penstock, which regulated the flow of the wheel. Subsequently the water passed through the tailrace back into the stream. In particular, the millpond of a sawmill was also used to store significant amounts of wooden board feet to preserve the logs from cracking, staining, as well as to prevent bark beetle and other boring insects. The water also washed dirt and soil off the logs, reducing wear on the saw blades.

In contrast to short-term sawmills temporarily established in the forested uplands, permanent mills were typically rectangular in plan. While there are differences in size, some documented ranges of mill buildings are 30 to 50 feet in width and 30 to 90 feet in length. The buildings were generally comprised of wood, fieldstone, split stone, and/or bricks. Water powered mill foundations bordered streams, ponds, or other water sources. Today, sections of walls may be partially submerged.

Grist mills, like the 1636 John Jenney Mill in Plymouth shown above, would have been common aspects of the seventeenth and eighteenth century landscape in Newton.
Early Community Life

Prior to the Revolutionary War, Newton experienced economic and social development, along with a steady population growth. From 1765 to 1800, immigration was negligible. The Provincial Census of 1765 showed that a majority of towns in Massachusetts had a population of less than 1,000 with only 15 towns as large as 2,500. Newton, with a population of 1,308, was already a good sized community.

The colonies faced a period of economic depression in the early 1760s. Two bad droughts, in 1761 and 1762 along with unemployment, affected Boston and the surrounding areas. Recovery from the French and Indian Wars, new taxes from England such as the Sugar Act and the Currency Act of 1764 and the Stamp Act of 1765 created more hardships but also a growing political awareness among the colonists. Town meeting records reveal that Newton faced economic plight from the 1760s until the 1790s. The rate to defray town expenses, which had been 80 pounds in 1760, rose to 100 pounds in 1767 and then fluctuated from 260 to 300 pounds in the 1770s, reaching an inflationary high of 100,000 pounds in 1781. Not only did people have trouble paying their taxes, but the town also had trouble collecting them.

The period following the Revolution was one of financial and social depression in Newton. A letter from Alexander Shepard to a town meeting in 1784 stated:

...The General Court are become sensible that the burthen that yet remains on the people, by taxes already granted, is too heavy, and seem inclined to ease them, or at least not to burthen them any more at present ... The families of many must unavoidable become a Town charge, if their burthens be much increased.

As the 1780s progressed, the town economy began to recover. During the last decade of the eighteenth century the mood in Newton was mixed. Although recuperation from the war was occurring, families remained scattered on farms, people showed little concern for civic unity, and neighbors were at times at odds (Rowe 1930). Fortunately, the industrial complexes along the Charles River area enabled the town to find prosperity again.

Eighteenth-Century Religious Activities and Structures

Religious activities continued along a trajectory to that of the seventeenth century, but as the population of the colony grew, more meeting houses and ministers were needed to accommodate the increase in worshippers. In particular, Nehemiah Hobart remained a popular minister throughout his life. Following his death in 1712, those who lived in the more remote southern and eastern areas petitioned the General Court for either a separate precinct or a more centrally located meeting house. In 1714, John Cotton was chosen as the town’s next minister, and, in the same year, a committee was appointed to find a convenient and central place for a new meeting house. The committee decided, in 1715, on a location in a field belonging to Nathaniel Parker. The General Court decreed that the meeting house be erected within five years during which time the existing meeting house remain at its location. By 1716, the town had laid out a road two-rods wide that began at Mill Lane near the head of the mill pond to the proposed location, and, in 1721, the town’s third meeting house was constructed at the corner of Centre and Homer streets.
The second meeting house was removed to Waltham in 1721.

Jackson’s discussion of the construction of the third meeting house is of some interest. In it he states that the first meeting house was still standing in 1717 when Abraham Johnson conveyed several parcels of land to his son John. According to Jackson, one of the parcels, a 20-acre tract, “excepting four acres to Isaac Beach, and the land on which the Meeting-house now standeth, so long as the Town shall see cause to improve it for the use they do now.” This seems an odd statement for Jackson to make as the land by the first meeting house was then used as a burying ground. While the old meeting house may have remained standing and was used by the town for other purposes, it is possible that his statement actually refers to the location of the second meeting house. This structure was to remain in place until 1720/1721 according to the above decree by the General Court.

In 1721, the town’s Third Meeting House was constructed north of intersection of Centre and Homer streets in Newton Centre. In 1847, a new church was constructed on the site, and, in 1907, the present Greek Evangelical Church was built on the same location. Despite these potential disturbances, the site should be evaluated.
Cotton remained the minister of the First Church (third meeting house) until his death in 1757. During his ministry, the Great Awakening occurred and some members of the parish joined the Baptist Church in Boston. The year that Cotton died, Jonas Meriam became the new minister. Two years following Meriam’s death in 1780, Jonathan Homer was ordained the minister of the East Parish, and in 1805, a new (fourth) meeting house was constructed at the corner of present-day Centre and Homer streets.

The town was divided into two parishes in 1764 – the East (the original parish) and the West (including present-day West Newton and Auburndale). West Newton was granted permission to erect a second meeting house (no longer standing) near the corner of Washington and Cherry Streets on land conveyed to the church by Phineas Bond. The second parish (Congregational Church) was established in 1778 with the appointment of its first minister, Rev. William Greenough. Following incorporation of the parish, a dividing line was drawn, and 26 people were dismissed from the first church to become members of the West Parish church.

Greenough’s ministry ended with his death in 1831, at which time 102 members had been admitted to the church. The West Parish Burying Ground was formally established in 1781, a short distance north of the meeting house, but the first recorded interments occurred in 1777-78.

During the same period that the West Parish was being formed, the Baptist Society gained membership in the town. In 1781, the society voted to build a meeting house on land given by Noah Wiswall that adjoined his pond (Wiswall, then Baptist Pond, present-day Crystal Lake). The meeting house was completed in 1795. The society was incorporated in 1821, and a second meeting house was constructed in 1836 at the present location of the First Baptist Church. Archaeological assessment of these many early meeting house locations is recommended.

**Eighteenth-Century Industry**

Mill production remained a crucial component of the eighteenth century. Grist and saw mills remained vital to the area’s growth and, as the population grew, production sites for construction and machinery materials, like nails, as well as more leisure items, like snuff, began to appear. The waterways were also sites of food production. Weirs for eel and other fish became essential.

By 1708, the Clark brothers had added a grist mill and another saw mill to the saw mill property on the upper falls of the Charles River they had inherited from their father in 1695. By 1717, the mill property at the upper falls contained a saw mill, dam, eel weir, grist mill and fulling mill that was jointly owned by the Clark brothers, Nathaniel Parker and Nathaniel Longley. Noah Parker, Nathaniel’s son, became the sole owner of the property in 1720 (see sidebar text). His son Thomas sold the complex to Boston tobacconist Simon Elliot in 1778. Aside from continuing with the grist mill, Elliot erected four snuff mills on the site. By the time that the venture was sold to Thomas Perkins in1814 it also contained a screw factory, wire mill and annealing shop. In 1823, the buildings were taken down by Perkins who replaced them with a large cotton mill called the Elliot Manufacturing Company. In 1841, Otis Pettee purchased all the property of the Manufacturing Company, including the cotton factory, and dwelling houses. Pettee constructed shops for making machinery for cotton mills which continued business in the upper falls until his death in 1853. The National Register eligibility of this complex site should be assessed.
In the seventeenth century, a competent blacksmith could take iron ore and produce small quantities of iron in his forge, although the limitations of the hearth size and problems of handling and hammering hot metal in a single bloomery resulted in a small output that was for the most part used locally. Increased smithing productivity occurred along the Lower Falls of the Charles with the erection of an iron works, forge, and trip hammer by John Hubbard and Caleb Church in 1704. Hubbard’s purchase in the area of the lower falls along the Charles River was bounded “west by the old path that leads to the wading place, formerly the Natick Path” (a ford along the Native trail). Following Hubbard’s death, his son conveyed a blacksmith shop as well as the property that included half the iron works, two fire hearths, a hammer wheel, dam, head wares, water-courses, running and going gear, and utensils of the iron works to Jonathan Willard. Following Willard’s death in 1772, a number of mills and businesses were constructed including saw mills, grist mills, snuff mills, clothing mills, leather mills, calico printing, and machine shops.

A water-power raceway and associated factory sites are located on the south side of Route 9 in Newton Upper Falls. The raceway provided water to a number of factories that are now gone including Jonathan’s Bixby’s rolling mill (1782), Newton Iron Works (1799), a cotton mill (1813-1850 when it was destroyed by fire), nail factory (1853), and then a number of other mills that were destroyed by fire in 1873 and never rebuilt. The Newton Rubber Company was built by Quinebequin Road in 1888 followed by several other rubber and tire companies until 1907 when the last company was destroyed by fire, ending industrial activity in the area. Evidence of the site's complex and dramatic history or reconstruction may yet exist below the ground.

Newton Upper Falls today.
(Image source: http://newtonupperfalls617locksmith.com/auto-car-locksmith-newton-upper-falls-massachusetts-ma/)
Eighteenth-Century Settlement Patterns

By the beginning of the eighteenth century both farmsteads and small-scale industrial ventures were united by one centrally-located meeting house that functioned as the town’s social and civic core. Though these were scattered over a large area, the foundation had been laid for three village areas: Newton Corner, the location of early farms associated with Cambridge’s expansion on the south side of the Charles River; Newton Centre, the location of the First and Second meeting houses; and Newton Upper Falls, the location of Clark’s saw mill. Roadways became critical for the communities to keep in contact and to sustain the growing population.

It is worth noting that the first roads were often constructed by cutting rough and uneven swaths through the forests. In order to connect a new farm to its neighbors and other crucial areas, a road typically followed a straight line providing the shortest distance even though it might follow steep terrain. If not used constantly, secondary growth of bushes and shoots inevitably obscured the travel way. The growth of outlying settlements precipitated change: footpaths became paths for pack horses and then into crude roads to accommodate wagons. As roads were often constructed with the center lower than the edges, streams of water gathered within, making them nearly impassable during the winter and spring. Travel was so bad at times that coaches, passing through flooded areas, were only able to move about 2 ½ miles per hour. However, after Newton was established, the old roads were improved and new ones were constructed to facilitate travel to key places like the meeting house and the grist mill. Even though travel remained difficult if not impossible, Newton’s close proximity to Boston, Cambridge and Watertown allowed residents to not only engage in trade in those towns, but kept them aware of worldly affairs as well.

Reconstructed map of Newton showing property owners, 1700-1750 (Jackson).
Newton, during the eighteenth century, was a prosperous agricultural community with supporting small-scale industrial activity. Although immigration was limited, the town’s population grew steadily. With the death of the first generation settlers, large farms were divided amongst the sons and daughters creating a community of smaller farms that were intensely cultivated. Some early settlers increased their wealth by selling parts of their large estates, resulting in a number of smaller farms throughout the town. Examples of these are the four large farms owned by William Robinson, Thomas Greenwood, Benjamin Childs and Jonathan Williams in Auburndale in the eighteenth century that had been divided into seven properties, each over 200 acres, by 1800.

Around 1711, the town maintained a training field by the common along Dedham Road (present-day Newton Centre). While no records have been identified, it is believed that approximately two-thirds of the land was given by Jonathan Hyde and one-third by Elder Wiswall. In 1799, a powder house was built on the easterly side of the field. A second training field was established in present-day Newtonville in 1735 on the property of Capt. Joseph Fuller. After the Revolutionary War the field reverted back to the Fuller family.

The Town Pound and Training Field site is located near Cypress Street (formerly Pound Lane) in Newton Centre. The Town Pound was located on land used as a common that was given to the town in the 1720s by the Hyde and Wiswall families. While part of the common was used as a militia training field, with a powder house and two noon houses (which were used by parishioners who had a long way to travel for Sunday service), the Town Pound was located at the other end of the common.
School Districts and Villages

The organization and planning of Newton was an important feature during the eighteenth century. Surveying of the town and the establishment of school districts across the area marked a vital time in the development of the town.

Newton was fortunate to have been surveyed as early as 1714, though many of the depictions are unclear. This map was updated in 1772 (Shepard) and provided more accurate information than even the 1794 series plans. A comparison of maps from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries depict a town that still maintained a scattered settlement pattern in areas of agriculture development in the northern and southern sections of the town. In the eastern section, by the location of the market gardens, a more intricate street network emerged, likely due to the larger number of smaller properties. The fledgling villages of the late seventeenth century, Newton Corner, Newton Upper Falls, and Newton Centre grew by varying degrees and village development was evident in West Newton and Newton Lower Falls throughout the eighteenth century.

In 1723, the town was divided into three school districts (south, north and easterly, and the west); in 1764 four districts were created (Centre, North-west, Oak Hill, and South-west [Newton Highlands]); and in 1766, there were five school districts and five school houses. In 1742, the original school and the west schoolhouse were moved.

Prior to 1760, Judge Abraham Fuller conducted private instruction in his house on the west part of town. To encourage the continuation of private instruction, Fuller left 300 pounds in his will for the construction of an academy. Charles Pelham opened a second private school in the home of Rev. John Cotton around 1765. Schools, however, were not opened to girls until 1789.

Eighteenth-Century Burial Traditions

Cemeteries are significant features of the historic environment. Newton’s historic burying grounds and cemeteries include the East Parish Burying Ground (1660), the West Parish Burying Ground (1782), the South Burying Ground (1802), Saint Mary’s Cemetery (1813), and the Newton Cemetery (formerly Grove Hill Cemetery, 1855).

The East Parish Burying Ground, located by Newton's First Meeting House, was developed in 1660 on an acre of land at the corner of Centre and Cotton streets and was given by John Jackson. According to Jackson, the burying ground was first expanded in 1701 when Jackson’s son, Abraham, donated an acre of land for the establishment of a school house, the expansion of the burying ground, and use for a training field. The two-acre parcel was then laid out and staked. At that time, it appeared that the lower portion of the second acre, adjacent to present-day Centre Street, was unsuitable for graves because it was, at times, covered with water. As a result, the boundaries of the burying ground were staked out according to the 1-½ acres representing its visual boundaries. Accordingly ½ acre and 20 rods of the Original two-acre gift were lost. The burying ground was fenced for the first time in 1771, and cattle were pastured there until 1800. The burial ground was expanded again in 1802 and 1834. A monument was erected in 1852 near the center of the original acre to commemorate the first meeting house and the earliest settlers. At that time, a printed pamphlet was placed at the monument’s foundation illustrating its first settlement in 1630, the ordination of its first minister in 1664, and its organization as an independent town in 1679.

As the only burial ground in the town until 1781, it contained the stones of the early settlers, ministers, teachers, selectmen and other town officials, military leaders, soldiers as well as those of every occupation who made a contribution to the development of the town.

Following the formation of the West Parish in modern West Newton, Nathan Fuller gave the parish one and one-half acres of land for a new burying ground in 1781. Known as the West Parish Burying Ground, it was located approximately 60 rods (approximately 1000 feet) north of the former location of the West Parish meeting house at the corner of River and Cherry streets.
Undocumented historic period burials, including small family plots may be located within seventeenth, eighteenth, and possibly early nineteenth-century farmsteads. Graves associated with the poor and/or slaves may be found unmarked in existing cemeteries, and those of the poor may be found in association with almshouses.

**Eighteenth-Century Archaeological Evidence**

Archaeological evidence representative of the eighteenth century reflects continued settlement and development of the areas surrounding Newton. In particular, evidence of farmsteads, new meeting houses, and other buildings indicative of the growth of early towns such as blacksmith shops, tanneries, and mills are potentially visible. The footprints left over time can be seen in the ground, and are interpreted as periods of change reflecting family and economic growth over generations. The farm served as the primary social and economic unit of life. Although the specific patterning of eighteenth-century farmsteads has not been discerned, a review of historic maps identifies settlement clusters occupied by people with the same surname. A review of historic maps provides evidence of kinship-based neighborhoods.

Typically, the family’s first house and central structure of the farmstead was a crude log cabin, with livestock housed in a single shed or barn. Early houses or cabins were built along the roadways, often as close as 25 feet from the edge of the road. These cabins were placed directly on the ground as in earth-fast structures, or on footings.

*Plan of the East Parish Burying Ground in 1831 (Jackson).*
Eighteenth and nineteenth-century houses frequently had foundations and cellar holes. A cellar hole would extend 4 to 6 feet (1.2 to 1.8 meters) below ground surface. Stone foundations provide evidence of the plan and dimensions of the house. Foundations and walls were comprised of fieldstones, split stones, cut stones and/or later brick. Builder’s trenches may be found along the exterior faces of the foundations. One-room deep houses are recognized by their narrow width, measuring 15 to 20 feet (4.5 to 6 meters); two room deep houses are significantly wider, extending 25 to 35 feet (7.6 to 10.6 meters) (Sanford et al. 1994:6). For example, the Eliphalet Walker house (circa 1770-1790) measured 18 by 35 feet. These early houses were easily modified and expanded to meet the demands of growing production.

Over time, as families grew, and farmstead and domestic activities became more diversified, more structures were added to the landscape. Before 1800, typical historic barns were small, measuring 15 by 20 feet, while additions such as ells, stables, or back buildings might range between 16-20 feet by 20-50 feet. The agricultural practices and activities undertaken on the farmstead helped determine the size, design, function, location, patterning, complexity, technological developments, and number of structures and elements of the agricultural property. These agricultural outbuildings were typically built on footings, not foundations, so their archaeological correlates may be harder to discern at ground surface.

Archaeologists from the UMass Boston Fiske Center examined the grounds of the Durant-Kenrick House during a field school in the summer of 2011.
Nineteenth-Century Agricultural Pursuits

As the century progressed, new forms of agricultural venture produced a general change in the economy of the eastern part of the town. In 1790, John Kenrick purchased a 75-acre farm that dated to 1732, when the Durant Family first occupied the property. This farm also incorporated land that had once been a part of Eliot’s Praying Indian village, Nonantum. Following his purchase, Kenrick established a nursery on the southwestern slope of Nonantum Hill. While the nursery began as a small private operation, it became a commercial venture in 1794, and was considered the “first nursery of much importance in New England, known particularly for peach trees raised from stone” in 1831. After John died in 1833, his son, William, took over the nursery business. This small nursery began what was to be a part of a much larger nineteenth movement well documented in Newton.
The "Garden City"

During the first quarter of the nineteenth century, developing taste for pastoral landscapes as well diversifying plants for ornamental and cash crops were components of “scientific naturalism” and “scientific agriculture.” Broadly promoted, these ideas underlay the founding of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in Boston in 1829.

Change was also occurring in the farming area known as East Newton. This section of Newton, which remained sparsely settled into the nineteenth century, was known for its fine apple orchards, cattle grazing pastures, meadows, swamps, and peat bogs. Historians Sweetser and Lee note that the area was “occupied by the market-gardens of Kingsbury, Hammond, Woodward, and the Stones” until 1850. Throughout the nineteenth century, nurseries and greenhouses became an increasingly important business with market gardens located in areas closest to Boston.

Interest in the pursuits of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society culminated in 1854 with the formation of the Newton Horticultural Society, which was particularly interested in methods of cultivation for a variety of seeds and fruits. Prominent leaders of the society were George K. Ward and John Ward, Jr.. The Society had two exhibitions yearly. At the end of June they exhibited ripe, early vegetables, and flowers. Anyone in Newton could exhibit and compete for prizes. During the end of September, the largest exhibit hall in the City was filled to overflowing as people exhibited the products of their farms and gardens. Prizes were awarded and the exhibit closed with a members’ festival considered to be “an occasion of much social enjoyment” according to Sampson, Davenport & Co. in 1875. During the winter months lectures and discussions were given in members’ houses throughout the City.
Archaeological Signatures of Nineteenth-Century Farming

Farm complexes usually included a well (extending in some cases 20 to 30 feet deep) or spring house, other outbuildings, yards, paths and roads, a dump, kitchen garden, agricultural fields, orchard, pond, fields, pasture and woodlots bounded by fencing, hedgerows or stone walls. While evidence of some of these elements may be obvious, others such as animal yards may be represented by hard packed earth and relatively artifact free soil horizons. Over time, technological, economic and social changes made certain types of buildings unnecessary or obsolete, consequently they were destroyed or frequently moved and/or readapted “in a practical no-nonsense spirit.

The Durant-Kenrick House site is located at 286 Waverly Avenue in Newton Corner. In 1732, the Durant Family purchased a 91-acre parcel for a farm that remained in the family until 1782. While the original purchase included a house and barn, the present house is said to have been built afterwards, between 1732 and 1740. At the time of the death of Edward Durant III, the last member of the family to have owned the property, the estate contained about 60 acres of land with a house and two barns including structures, related outbuildings, and landscape features.

An archaeologist from UMass Boston documents a brick-lined cellar structure discovered at the Durant-Kenrick house during the 2011 field school. Associated artifacts indicate the cellar dates to the mid-nineteenth century and may have been used to store dairy products.
of farm improvement and modernization” according to historian Thomas Hubka.

Farmstead sites are likely to contain hidden foundation features reflecting construction and use of houses, sheds, barns, outbuildings, privies, dumps, gardens, plantings, animal yards and paths, and artifacts reflecting diverse activities and occupation sequences. Associated landscape elements may also include gardens, agricultural fields, stone walls, stone dumps, tree lines, hedgerows, orchards and groves. Specific types of outbuildings are defined by Thomas Hubka and divided into six categories: animal shelters, produce storage, vehicle storage, home industry, domestic structures and miscellaneous stores, mills, and cabins. The number and variety of these outbuildings and features relates to the financial viability of the proprietor and period of development of the farmstead.

The remains of water management systems may also be present, such as drainage trenches, culverts, levees, artesian wells, wells, water plants, pumping stations, and water mains. The remnants of the agricultural communities of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are still visible, and evidence of Newton’s agricultural heritage is preserved either in the few remaining standing structures, or as archaeological features.

The Jackson Homestead site is located at 527 Washington Street at the intersection of Jackson and Washington Streets in Newton Corner. Evidence exists of both Native American and Contact Period settlers. Boston University identified evidence of Native American activity in 1988. In 1998, Archaeologists Zeising and Clements identified evidence of a potential 1670/1690 foundation and midden deposits (kitchen waste), as well as 1809 construction methods consisting of landscaping, grading, and leveling. Further potential for archaeological features and landscaping elements dating to the earliest homestead exist, suggesting that extreme care should be taken with any subsurface modifications.

The Newton History Museum at the Jackson Homestead has detailed information about the site, much of it available online. The museum houses diverse collections of local significance, including the Jesse Fewkes collection of Native American artifacts. The Jackson Homestead archaeology collection lists 1,084 artifacts. Among these artifacts is a Late Archaic quartz projectile point known as a Squibnocket Triangle dating to about 4,000 years ago. The Homestead, also a stop on the Underground Railroad, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Plan of the William Jackson farm in 1840.
In the early nineteenth century, stage coaches from the west ran through Newton Corner while others ran from Upper Falls to Boston through Newton Centre providing a connection to Boston for those doing business at the Falls. The stage left the Upper Falls daily at nine and left Boston daily at three for the return trip. Following the opening of the railroad, a stage coach connected the Upper Falls with the railroad station at West Newton while another stage coach connected Newton Centre with the stations at Newton Corner.

Nineteenth-Century Overland Transportation

The development of transportation networks underlay substantial changes in settlement patterns in Newton into the twentieth century. Ease of transport and proximity to Boston were important factors in the growth of the town’s village system.

Roadways

Some changes and improvements to travel and roadways can be attributed to the advent of the turnpike system around 1794, but were limited at best. As towns developed so too did the roadway system with the construction of county roads and town ways. While the county roads ran from farmstead to farmstead, public town ways were laid out for the benefit of the community. Continuing improvements in road construction and repair techniques allowed for increasing travel and transportation of goods, but there continued to be struggles.

An 1806 letter written by Mary Wilder recounts her trip from Flint’s Pond in Lincoln to the area of Walden Pond in Concord. She noted that the paths were overgrown with shrubs that ran “through an intricate woods, which extends over part of Lincoln and Concord.” Her party was lost in the woods for over two hours even though they were only three miles from her house in Concord Center. Unlike their eighteenth-century counterparts, roads constructed in the later part of the nineteenth century were capable of supporting a growing commerce. Nevertheless, in an essay read at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society near the end of the nineteenth century entitled “The Improvement and Ornamentation of Suburban and Country Roads” Newton resident Daniel Denison Slade discussed in great detail construction and maintenance procedures that should be taken due to the “miserably poor and ill-constructed roads” of the area. Throughout the mid-nineteenth century, the road network, or lack thereof, reduced cohesion in civic affairs as each village center provided its residents with essential needs.

Nineteenth-century roads often provided less than ideal travel conditions.
The Massachusetts Senate and the House of Representatives passed an act in June 1831 that established the Boston & Worcester Rail Road Corporation as a private stock company. While initially constructed to be a locally oriented rail line, it was envisioned as the trunk of a great rail network radiating from Worcester to New York and the West. The corporation’s directors had complete freedom in selecting the route and the location of the stations. Engineer John Fessendon, who surveyed the line, and agent William Jackson, who was responsible for procuring the land, determined the route and location of the stations. Construction for the line began in 1832, and the first scheduled passenger train traveled from Boston to Newton on April 17, 1834. Railroad stations were located at Angier’s Corner (Newton Corner), Hull’s Crossing (Newtonville) and Squash End (West Newton) (Rowe 1930). With its emphasis on passenger rather than freight service, the Boston & Worcester was so successful as the first railroad to cater to local needs that over 26,000 persons either boarded or left trains at the Newton Corner station by 1866.

In 1862, the Boston & Worcester and the Western Railroad, which had completed a line to Albany in 1842, merged to form the Boston & Albany Railroad. From 1881 to 1894, the Boston & Albany embarked on

near the end of the nineteenth century, street railways began to provide another means of improved transportation over horse-drawn carriages. These trolleys are also associated with the first wave of commuters who could now travel quickly to their job locations and recreational resorts. The first street railway in Newton, the Waltham and Newton Street Railway Company, opened in 1866. This form of transportation was so popular that nearly every year brought a new request for a franchise to run from one village to another (Rowe 1930). With the new trolleys, commuting to Boston became more practical and commonplace leading to population growth in Newton.
A program of improvements to the line’s physical facilities with the construction of 32 new passenger stations. Architect H. H. Richardson designed nine of the stations, and 23 were designed by his successors Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge. In conjunction with this program of railroad improvement and beautification, the Boston & Albany hired Frederick Law Olmsted to design landscape settings for many of the new stations establishing what became known as the Boston & Albany program of “railroad gardening.” Newton, like many other cities, benefited from this program.

The next rail line to pass through the town was the Charles River Railroad, which was established in 1852. Traveling from Brookline to Needham, the railroad passed thought the south side of the town making the stages from the Upper Falls to Boston unnecessary. While the line first focused on transporting gravel from Needham for use in filling in the Back Bay, it changed its focus to passenger service in the 1870s. In 1886, the Circuit Railroad was constructed connecting the Charles River Railroad from Newton Highlands with the main line of the Boston & Albany.

The arrival of the railroads and street railways or trolleys within Newton proved to be a catalyst for village development in a number of areas. The Boston & Worcester Railroad, running through the northern part of town, firmly established the villages of Newton Corner, Newtonville, West Newton, and Auburndale. While the south side of the town did not benefit from the Boston & Worcester Railroad, the establishment of the Circuit Railroad stimulated growth in the area, leading to the development of the villages of Chestnut Hill, Newton Highlands, and Waban. As a result of the rail activity, suburban development increased as did the development of recreational areas such as Newton Golf Course and Norumbega Park.

Archaeological Evidence Related to Transportation

Archaeological remains of sites associated with historic overland transportation corridors, including early roads, trails, bridges, rail stations and railroad lines (with their worker’s camps, signals and switches) are expected to include activity areas marked by artifacts and features along the margins of the travel corridors. Rail yards and switching stations, in particular, have great potential significance to inform archaeologists about nineteenth-century engineering developments. Sites may also be residential and transportation related. This includes homes that were built along roadways or depots along the railroad. Sites may include a diverse array of artifacts, reflecting the activities of the people who resided along the roads or traveled on them. Stone walls, posts, gates, monarch trees, and relict domestic plantings may also represent significant landscape features associated with historic transportation routes.

Nineteenth-Century Economy and Industry

Newton’s location along the Charles assisted in the expansion of its economy and industry, namely the development of mills. The presence of sufficient waterpower encouraged development of one or multiple mills along a water source. Some mill complexes evolved from suppliers of a few commodities into larger production centers. Subsidiary industries such as blacksmith shops, carpentry shops, cooper shops, tanneries, textile mills, and iron manufacturing companies formed around this economy and stimulated the establishment of other community elements such as post offices, civic buildings, taverns, and stores. In effect, the mill became the nucleus around which the village and settlement cluster developed. In many locations, two to three generations worked in turn at the family industry, and owners sometimes provided workers with housing with rent usually deducted from the employee’s pay.

As opposed to the grist and saw mills of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a typical large nineteenth-century mill was a complex of two or three story buildings where different aspects of the process took place and different machinery was located. The lower level of the mill usually contained the power plant and the turbine-housing pit.
Industrial sites were typically positioned where there was access to raw materials, transportation routes for movement of goods, and/or water sources for power. Newton’s tremendous industrial development during the nineteenth century resulted from the water power potential of the Charles River.

Success of mill production in the late eighteenth century continued into the nineteenth. With the War of 1812, and the Embargo Acts prohibiting the importation of foreign goods, the development of the American industries like the textile industry expanded. Money, once invested in shipbuilding and foreign trade, was used to establish local cotton and textile mills as well as other industries and associated businesses.

In 1823, a large cotton mill called the Elliot Manufacturing Company was established on property previously used for a screw factory, wire mill, and annealing shop. This large complex continued to grow. Under the direction of Superintendent Pettee, one of the inventors and manufacturers of cotton machinery in America, a foundry was constructed on the site for making machinery for cotton mills.
In 1841, Pettee purchased all the property of the Elliot Manufacturing Company including the cotton factory and workers’ housing. The company built most of their cotton machinery on site as well as that of other early cotton mills, such as the Boston Manufacturing Company of Waltham, and the Jackson Mills in Nashua, NH. Not only did Pettee employ hundreds of workers, but he was also instrumental in getting the railroad constructed from Brookline to the Upper Falls. When Pettee died in 1853, his business along the upper falls included a cotton factory containing 9,000 spindles, a machine shop employing 300 workers, and a steam furnace for iron casting employing about 15 workers. Cotton manufacturing continued on the site until 1884. Then, from 1886 to 1962, silk manufacturing took place. In 1962, the buildings were acquired for a variety of commercial ventures, some of which still exist. The area became known as Echo Bridge Park.

In 1783, Jonathan Bixby constructed another dam and a rolling mill on several acres of land below the falls. Bixby produced scythes from bog iron dug in nearby lowlands. Bixby sold the property to Rufus and Davis Ellis, who constructed a new rolling mill on the site in 1799, under the name of the Newton Iron Works. In 1809, they constructed a new factory on the property that produced cut nails and steel products. In 1813, a cotton mill was constructed, and in 1823, a new company was formed under the name of the Newton Factories. In 1850, after the cotton mill was destroyed by fire, a nail factory was built in its place in 1853. By the 1850s, it was estimated that mills along the upper dam produced as much as 1,500 tons of bar iron and 500 tons of cut nails.

The tremendous growth in this area can be appreciated when comparing population demographics showing six families living in the area prior to 1800 and about 1,300 living in the area by 1850. A number of other businesses, including a paper mill, grist mill, and planing and molding mill conducted business until 1873 when the complex was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. In 1888, a building was constructed near Quinebequin Road that was used by the Newton Rubber Company, the International Tire Company, the Leather Tire Goods Company and the Acme Broom-Works before it too was destroyed by fire in 1907. Aside from an associated raceway no structures from these businesses exist.

### Industries along the Charles River and Silver Lake

Important businesses were operating by Silver Lake from the mid-nineteenth century. A stocking and hosiery mill known as the Dalby Mills Company was constructed by Englishman Thomas Dalby in 1852. Following the Civil War, Dalby’s company failed, and the property was bought by the Nonantum Worsted Company in 1867. The company produced worsted yarn and proved to be the largest business in the area. The company was so busy that it relied on hundreds of workers to run its steam-powered spinning machines. In 1896, the company went bankrupt and the property was taken over by the Saxony Worsted textile firm in 1912. The company closed its doors by 1930. In 1866, the Silver Lake Company manufactured solid braided cord and steam packing for three years before failing.

After the Revolutionary War, David Bemis constructed a bridge to Watertown (present-day Bridge Street), and in 1778, Bemis and Enos Sumner built the original dam along the Charles River by the bridge. A paper mill was constructed by the dam in 1779 under the ownership of Bemis, and businessmen from Boston and Hartford.
After becoming owner of two-thirds of the business in 1781/82 he ran it with his son, Luke. After Bemis’s death in 1790, Luke jointly owned the business with his brother Isaac, until Isaac’s death in 1794. Luke continued making paper until 1821 when he sold the business to his brother Seth. During his ownership, Luke obtained most of his machinery and workers from Europe. After he lost the mill in a fire, the Legislature of Massachusetts made a special grant allowing him to rebuild his business. In 1847, the mill was sold to William Freeman, who in turn sold the property to the Aetna Mills, a woolen company that operated the mill property into the twentieth century (David Bemis also owned property on the Watertown side of the river that was run by his son, Seth, after his death and eventually brought together by Freeman and sold to Aetna Mills).

Industrial Effects on Settlement Patterns

Industrial development in Newton was concentrated in three village areas: Newton Upper Falls, Newton Lower Falls, and Nonantum (formerly North Village, then renamed after the Nonantum Worsted Company). By the mid-nineteenth century the villages of Newton Upper and Lower Falls were firmly established. Nonantum/North Village does not appear as a village on either the 1853 (Shields) or 1856 (Walling) map suggesting that it was a small village area more reminiscent of a mill with associated worker housing.
The Bemis Mill water power system is located by Bridge Street in Nonantum. In 1778, David Bemis and Enos Summer built a dam and paper mill along the Charles River at Bridge Street in present-day Nonantum. Following Bemis’ death in 1790, the paper mill was first run by his son Luke and then purchased by his other son, Seth in 1821. Previously Seth had been experimenting with a number of innovations in his father’s mill on the Watertown side of the river. After purchasing the paper mill he constructed the rolling stone dam – the first of its kind in America. The dam, presently under the control of DCR, was breached in the 1940s and remains in that condition allowing a passage way for anadromous fish.

Archaeological Evidence of Industry

Archaeological mill sites may contain foundation features reflecting sequences of construction, use, expansion, repair, rebuilding after a fire; associated work yards, log yards, sawdust piles, sheds, outbuildings; dumps; and related industrial water management features including canals, tail races, penstocks, dams or wheel pits. Associated landscape elements may also include stone walls, roadways, bridges, and nearby structures such as residences for mill owners and employees. Artifacts may include architectural debris, industrial elements and machinery (e.g., grinding wheels or rollers, turbines, governors, clutches, flywheels, shafts, hoppers, grain elevators, hullers, blowers, gears, drive and pulley belts), tools, and refuse. Mills can provide significant data pertaining to the structural features of site, evolution of the technology of their operation, types of equipment and issues of procurement, products and distribution, scale of operation, seasonality of work, proprietors and workers, and social and economic changes.

With changes in technology in the nineteenth century, and depletion of the local timber, many local industrial works expanded or adapted their activities to other industries, such as textile mills, iron works, boot and shoe making. Railroad links to Boston and New Hampshire further invested Newton with successful manufacturing industries. Factories, warehouses, railroad stations, and service buildings were built along the Boston and
New Hampshire lines. The increased number of factories in the nineteenth century required a larger labor pool. In response, the population of Newton increased, as did the number of foreign-born residents, including skilled workers. With the loss of the mills, the population declined, although the village continued as a small residential community.

Today, surviving industrial buildings, ruins, foundations and subsurface archaeological deposits remain as evidence of industrial ventures that made important contributions to the physical development, economic wealth and social infrastructure of Newton.

Abandoned iron related industries can be important archaeological sites. Extensive archaeological excavations at the Saugus Iron Works, undertaken by Roland Wells Robbins between 1848 and 1953 exposed a variety of cultural features reflecting the site’s iron working activities, including engineering, factory design, and methodology, technology, and operations.

Evidence included stone foundations of the blast furnace, stone lining fragments of the furnaces, remnants of wood frames that supported wood and leather bellows, Mill machinery parts, crucibles, weights, Tools such as hammers, rollers, slitters, discarded iron bars, castings representing the variety of products, slag, and charcoal representing the fuel source. Evidence preserved in the ground may reveal the nature of iron working sites. Their complex patterning reflects site function and denotes sites, and can provide information on the critical role of iron making in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and its legacy in the early history of Newton.

Remnants of the Spring/Trowbridge gristmill along Smelt Brook, active through the nineteenth century.
Nineteenth-Century Religious Societies

The table below summarizes the numerous religious societies that developed in Newton throughout the nineteenth century.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Religious Society</th>
<th>Church Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Protestant Episcopal</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Church, Newton Lower Falls (1814)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Unitarian Society</td>
<td>Meeting house, Newton Upper Falls (1827/1828)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828</td>
<td>First Methodist Society</td>
<td>Began to use Unitarian Meeting house in Newton Upper Falls in 1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841/2</td>
<td>Universalist Society</td>
<td>Meeting house, Newton Upper Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>Ecclesiastical Council</td>
<td>Eliot Church, Newton Corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>Unitarian Society</td>
<td>Village Hall and Davis Tavern until church constructed on Washington Street in West Newton (1902)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Unitarian Society</td>
<td>Worshipping at Union Hall, Newton Corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Baptist Myrtle</td>
<td>Baptist Church, West Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>First major Catholic Church, Newton Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St. Jean’s Church site is located at 243 Watertown Street on the north side Watertown Street to the east of Pearl Street intersection in Nonantum. Constructed in the end of the nineteenth century by French-Canadian residents of Nonantum, it was the first and only Roman Catholic church that was organized as a French-speaking National Parish in Newton. The Church was razed in the twenty-first century.

Nineteenth-Century Burial Grounds

The South or Evergreen Burying Place was established in 1802 along Dedham Street near Sherbourne Road. This is considered the town’s first non-sectarian burying place. The original 3/4th-acre parcel was purchased from Capt. David Richardson by proprietors of this section of the town, part of which was marked into 29 family lots. The burying place was sold to the town in 1833, and in the same year an additional 3/4th-acre was given to the town by Amasa Winchester.

After St. Mary’s Parish was incorporated in 1813, Samuel Brown gave two acres of land for a church and cemetery. Located in Lower Falls, the Lower Falls Cemetery is the resting place of the early members of the church and their families.

The Newton Cemetery, originally called Grove Hill Cemetery, is located on Walnut Street to the south of Commonwealth Avenue. The Newton Cemetery Corporation was organized in 1855. It designed and developed the grounds in accord with the rural cemetery movement. While the cemetery originally encompassed 30 acres, it now contains over 100 acres, and is still in use.

Archaeological Evidence of Undocumented Burials

Unrecorded burial sites may be identified through archaeological investigation. Cemeteries represent subsurface deposits in the form of graves, and may be accompanied by constructed elements in the form of markers, stone boundary walls, or other elements. Unrecorded burial sites represent a powerful secular burial tradition. Cemeteries can provide important information on culture, history, family kinship, religion, and trends in the treatment of the deceased. In addition, grave inscriptions contain valuable anthropological data on genealogy, marriage, health and disease, and systems of belief. According to early custom,
The Newton Corner Baptist site was located on the northwestern corner of the intersection of Washington and Hovey Streets. A church was constructed in this location “when, in 1862 or 1863, the workmen were excavating for the foundation, the remains of five Indians and several ancient copper coins were found, about two feet below the surface, which indicated that the spot might have been used ancienly for an Indian burying ground.” Smith further provides the following description:

The ground where the remains were found, for about six feet in length and one foot in width and depth...The jaw-bone referred to was a curiosity in itself, containing a full number of teeth and double all round, the front as well as the back ones. I took it to two or three dentists, who never saw the like, and pronounced it wonderful...The coins were given away to the boys...one, I think, was of the date of 1720 or 1729, - the period of George I of England... There were also one or two arrow heads, which I was unable to get hold of, notwithstanding much inquiry among the men and boys.

The present First Baptist Church in Newton Centre (built in 1888 - see photo) is at a different location.

![The 1888 First Baptist Church in Newton Centre. The author of My Country, 'Tis of Thee, Samuel Francis Smith, was minister of the church from 1842 to 1854.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:First_Baptist_Church_in_Newton_2008-11-01.jpg)

burials were established on private property, associated with the families who homesteaded the property, and occupied the nearby residences. Later, neighborhood, town, and churchyard cemeteries were established. Historian Thomas C. Hubka affirms, “A cemetery is perhaps a more fitting symbol for true neighborhood cohesion than a school district, because burial in neighborhood plots usually indicated a degree of cooperation or shared principles on the part of the neighbors who chose to be buried together.”

Occasionally, graves are discovered outside cemetery walls, which may reflect distinctions in economic class, race, social status, or church membership. For example, often slaves and paupers were not buried in the hallowed cemetery grounds, and were buried outside of the town or family burial grounds, or alternatively they were buried elsewhere. Also, Native American graves
and cemeteries sometimes are encountered during construction (see sidebar on prior page). Such sites are extremely sensitive and significant locations. In compliance with state laws, the accidental discovery of any human remains must be reported immediately to the authorities.

Data contained on gravestones and remains in subsurface contexts within the cemeteries in Newton have the potential to contribute to an understanding of local families who once lived here, and the historic burial practices of the era. Several of these cemeteries are also significant as preserved historic elements in the area due to the loss of historic period farms and structures, and late twentieth century construction. Moreover, these cemeteries are significant as they retain integrity of location and design, materials and workmanship. Historic and archaeological research has the potential to provide evidence of funerary objects and unmarked graves through evidence on the ground surface, and recovered in an archaeological context. Of particular concern is the potential occurrence of any unmarked graves positioned outside the formal boundary walls of the known cemeteries. With the possibility of changes in the cemetery borders through time, there is potential to encounter unmarked burials outside cemetery walls that may reflect distinctions in economic class, race, social status, church membership, or other practices (e.g., slaves, paupers, convicts, disease victims, animals). As such, areas within 25 feet of these cemeteries are considered sensitive.

*East Parish Burying Ground is a historic cemetery located in the village of Newton Centre. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

*(Images courtesy of Brian Lever)*
African-American Heritage in Newton

The first law in Massachusetts with regard to the “Liberty of Servants” dating to 1648 stated that:

“There shall never be any bond slaverie, villinage, or Captivitie amongst us, unless it be, lawful Captives, taken in just warres, and such stranger as willingly selle themselves, or are sold to us.”

The above law partly reflected the state of indentured servants who were typically young unskilled laborers who came to America under contract to work. They were usually farm laborers or house servants, for an employer, for a fixed period of time in exchange for their ocean transportation, food, clothing, lodging and other necessities. Many indentured servants were abused, and like slaves, they could be sold by their employer. Trade with the West Indies appears to have led to the beginnings of enslaved captive blacks in Massachusetts in the seventeenth century. According to a seventeenth-century letter of inquiry regarding slavery no “more than three ships in a year, belonging to Boston, were ever employed in the African trade.”

The first slaveholder in Newton is believed to have been Edward Jackson, whose 1681 will and inventory listed two manservants who were valued at 10 pounds.

Between 1710 and 1786, thirty-four slaves, who are believed to have been from, or descendants of African slaves who came to Massachusetts through the West Indies, were listed in the wills and inventories of Newton residents. It is likely that there were other captive Africans in Newton at that time period. While most people on the Newton list owned either one or two slaves, Deacon William Trowbridge owned four. The fact that a minister or deacon of the church had captives was not unusual at that time.

By the last quarter of the eighteenth century, anti-slavery sentiment was running high. Several unsuccessful attempts were brought before the House of Representatives “to prevent the unnatural and unwarrantable custom of enslaving mankind, and the importation of slaves into this Province.” Several of these attempts were actually made by enslaved African-Americans. With the passage of the 1780 Massachusetts Constitution, whose first article in the Bill of Rights stated “All men are born free and equal,” slavery was essentially abolished.

While most African-American slaves took advantage of this situation to ask for and receive their freedom, others including the aged and infirm, decided to remain with the families where they had lived for all or most of their lives. This latter situation likely occurred in Newton as one slave was listed in the will and/or inventory of Madam Gibbs in 1783, Josiah Hall in 1786, and Judge Abraham Fuller in 1794. The last slave in Newton is believed to have been General Hull’s servant, Tillo, who was buried near General Hull in the East Parish Burying Ground. In the nineteenth century, William Jackson’s homestead became a stop on the Underground Railroad, providing runaway slaves a safe haven on their trip from the south to Canada.

Archival research and field investigations confirming captive and free individuals of African descent in Newton serve to debunk the widespread myth that there were no slaves in the North. Archaeology can also
fill in gaps in the limited historic record and provide indicators on how enslaved and free people of African descent managed their ethnicity and cultural traditions in the face of adversity.

In Newton, the African-American neighborhood surrounding the Myrtle Baptist Church was recently recognized as an Historic District, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Collaboration with the Myrtle Baptist community could help to develop questions about the history and daily lifeways of this community that can only be answered through archaeological investigations of the church grounds and the house lots of the neighborhood residences. The results of such work would provide an important supplement to existing historical documents and local oral tradition.

*The Myrtle Baptist Church Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places. The neighborhood developed around the Myrtle Baptist Church on Curve Street after it was constructed by African American community members in 1875.*

(Image source: http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/seeking-freedom/01_myrtle-baptist.html)

The General William Hull Residence/Nonantum House site is located east of intersection of Washington and Galen Streets in Newton Corner. This house was a residence, but also served the community as a school, hotel, and tavern. It was the residence of General William Hull (1781-1805); taken over by Susannah Rawson for one of the first female seminaries in the United States (1805 – 1837); enlarged by John Richardson around 1837; opened as the Nonantum House hotel; and served as a tavern from 1850 to 1865. It was razed in the 1930s.
Nineteenth-Century Population Growth

As seen in the table below, Newton’s population grew steadily though the mid-nineteenth century and then grew rapidly following the arrival of the railroads. Fledgling villages, such as Newton Corner, Newtonville, West Newton, and Auburndale benefited from the construction of a train depot. The commuter rail system to Boston made Newton attractive as a residential area, and led to an increase in real estate activities and population growth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<td>1800</td>
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<td>1810</td>
<td>1,709</td>
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<td>1,850</td>
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<td>12,835</td>
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<td>1875</td>
<td>16,105</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Members of the Lee family who had inherited much of the original Thomas Hammond homestead in east Newton recognized the economic potential of selling off portions of the property. In the 1850s, the Lees laid out new roads, built new homes, and advertised the sale of plots in the area they called “Chestnut Hill.” Even though these advertising attempts did not bring large numbers of new residents to the town, several important families moved into the area. The arrival of the Charles River Railroad with passenger service to the southern end of Hammond Street, and the opening of Beacon Street mid-century, followed by the opening of Commonwealth Avenue by the end of the century encouraged residential development in the south part of the town. The landscape changed in various ways. Larger farms became further subdivided with the development of residential communities, such as those developed under the guidance of William Jackson (North Auburn Dale Land Company and Waban Park). Wealthy estates were constructed in the area of Chestnut Hill (including those of Amos Lawrence and Leverett Saltonstall), Newton Center (including those of Gardner Colby and George Schrafft) and later along Commonwealth Avenue between Chestnut Hill and Newton Center, and from West Newton Hill to Auburndale. Chestnut Hill
resident Daniel Denison Slade dealt with issues pertaining to increasingly smaller lot sizes in a number of articles including “The Principles of Landscape Gardening, as Applied to Small Suburban Estates.” His 1895 book “The Evolution of Horticulture in New England” refers to Newton as the “Garden City.” By the end of the century, Newton had become one of the earliest American suburbs.

**Nineteenth-Century Civic Institutions**

**Schools**

In 1808, the town was divided into seven school wards (east, west, north, south, south-west, Centre and the Falls). By 1840, Newton had 11 public schools. In 1851, the first high school division was established and the grammar school building in Newton Centre was shared between the two divisions. This was soon followed by high school classes in West Newton, Upper Falls, and Newton Corner. When Newton’s population surpassed 8,000, state law mandated a dedicated facility for high school instruction. In 1859, the town voted “to erect an edifice for the accommodation of a Pure High School.” The high school, constructed in Newton, opened in September of 1859.

Three private schools were opened in 1825, including Marshall S. Rice’s school, the Newton Female Academy, and the Theology Institute for the Baptists of New England. Since the Baptist Educational Society located its theological institute in Newton, the City identified itself as a community with high educational standards and excellent educational institutions. From 1848 to 1853, the State Normal School, located in the basement of the Town Hall, began its operation through the efforts of Newton resident Horace Mann who at the time was the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education. The school proved to be a catalyst for growth in West Newton as many families and prominent individuals moved to the area including Nathaniel T. Allen (educator), William Parker (superintendent of the Boston and Worcester Railroad), E. S. Cheeseborough and W. S. Whitewell (engineers).
Passenger rail service to the town led to the development of a number of educational institutions. Around 1851, the Auburndale Female Seminary opened in order to provide “the best facility for ornamental and athletic culture.” The women studied Shakespeare, natural sciences, art and music, bookkeeping, and the construction of bonnets. In 1852, the school was named after founder Edward Lasell (now Lasell College). In 1854, the West Newton English and Classical School, best known as the Allen School, was opened at Nathaniel Allen’s house in West Newton. The school attracted students from the area as well as abroad due to its experimental curriculum augmenting classroom work with field trips and learning by experience. One of the first kindergartens in the United States was also established here in 1863.

Boston College

In 1907, the Reverend Thomas Ignatius Gasson, then president of Boston College located in Boston’s South End, suggested to the Jesuit Provincial that the college purchase “a magnificent site on Commonwealth Avenue” in Newton’s Chestnut Hill, known locally as the Amos Lawrence Farm. The college’s main structures were constructed between 1913 and 1924, and expansion continued in the area through 1949. In 1973, Boston College acquired the Newton School of the Sacred Heart (the former estates of George Shrafft, Henry Harriman and Gardner Colby) for their law school campus.

Post Offices

The first post office was opened in Newton Lower Falls in 1816 in John Pigeon’s country store. The post office was serviced by three stages a week to Boston. Following the arrival of the railroad, post offices were established in Newton Corner and Newton Centre. Located in the village store, the post office provided the locals with a spot to visit daily and interact with their neighbors.

Libraries

The City’s first library dates to 1798 with the inception of the West Newton Social Library. The proprietors paid an initial fee of $3.00 to use the library, and then 25 cents a year to borrow a book a month. The library’s collection of 165 books focused on history, travel, and theology as well as some poetry. In the 1820s, the Adelphian Library was established in Seth Davis’s school. When Davis sold the school, the books that had not been transferred to the vestry of the First Church in Newton Centre were moved to the West Parish Meeting House in West Newton. A library was established in 1816 at the West Newton Athenaeum, whose mission was to promote “liberal culture and social improvements, as well as a Library Association.”

In 1865, a free library was proposed for the town by Dr. David K. Hitchcock, money was raised by subscription, and the library was constructed in Newton Corner and opened in 1870. Branch libraries were then opened in West Newton in 1894, in Auburndale and Newton Centre in 1900, and in Newton Upper Falls in 1901. Eventually a library opened in each village. The present library on Homer Street replaced the 1870 library, and all branch locations were closed in the twenty-first century.
Other Civic Institutions

Civic structures, which were built in response to increased population and community development, include the town hall and other municipal and public buildings. Following considerable controversy between the East and West Parishes, the town hall was moved from Newton Centre to the location of the former West Parish Meetinghouse in West Newton in 1848. The population of the town had grown rapidly, and at the 1873 annual town meeting it was decided to petition the Legislature for a City charter. Following a town vote, Newton became a City in January 5, 1874. Ward lines were drawn, elections were held for municipal offices and by an almost unanimous vote James F. C. Hyde was elected mayor. In 1932, the geographic center of the City was determined, and City Hall was moved to its present location on Commonwealth Avenue.

As early as 1711, contributions were collected for the care of the poor. While a vote was taken in 1732 to build a work house for the poor, the facility was not constructed until 1764 in present-day Auburndale. After several years the structure was sold and a new location, consisting of 40 acres in present-day Waban, was purchased. By the end of the nineteenth century the poor house had been moved to Winchester Street.

The Waban Poor House site is located at Waban Playground in Waban. Circa 1840 the town purchased property from the Collins family in order to construct a new poor farm as the one in Auburndale was getting too small. The new poor farm – also known as an almshouse, encompassed the entire area of present-day Waban playground as well as some of the surrounding area north of Beacon Street. The complex contained several structures including barns, administrative offices, housing and a school (the Roger Wolcott School). By the end of the century the poor farm was moved to Nahantton Park. With the exception of the school, the buildings were taken down in 1902 and the foundation of the former poor house lies beneath Waban playground.

City Utilities and Services

A notable change in the City’s topography occurred during the 1860s when the Chestnut Hill Reservoir was constructed to improve the water supply of the City of Boston. The Chestnut Hill Reservoir and Pumping Station are elements in a larger complex of structures that include the Cochituate Aqueduct, the Low Service Pumping Station, the Sudbury Aqueduct Terminal Chamber and a number of gate houses, service structures, roadways and walkways.

The reservoir was constructed from 1865 to 1870 to supplement the water supply of the Cochituate Aqueduct (1845-1848, Boston’s first water-supply aqueduct). Using a natural basin, the Chestnut Hill Reservoir was constructed in two parts separated by an earthen and stone dam. The western or Lawrence Basin was located in Newton and named after Amos Lawrence, the owner of the land on which the basin sat. Boston College purchased the basin in 1949, and it was filled in the 1950s in order to develop a new sports stadium, which replaced the athletic field that had been located near McElroy Hall. The other basin, Bradless Basin, located in Boston, remains untouched. The buried, and otherwise hidden remains of the aqueduct system are an important aspect of the City’s engineering history and their location should be considered before additional sections are destroyed by development. The City’s public documents identified sewerage removal as a major problem in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In 1885, Newton was one of only two communities in the Commonwealth that did not have a board of health. As the disposal of waste flowage was particularly acute in thickly settled areas, it was recommended by the mayor that the City purchase and control equipment, including odorless excavators, for the prompt removal of the contents of vaults and cesspools at a minimum cost to the citizens. It was felt that this would lead to more frequent removals,
and thus would contribute to the health of all citizens. In the financial report for that year, the City had paid $10.00 to the Newton Odorless Excavating Company for cleaning its own vaults. In 1886, the mayor noted that the Metropolitan Drainage Commission was developing a plan for the drainage of the valleys of the Charles, Mystic, Neponset, and Blackstone rivers and that the results of those studies would be of value in determining the best method for sewage disposal in Newton. The Metropolitan Sewerage Bill was adopted by the Legislature in 1890 following which the City began the installation of the public sewerage system. More populated areas, such as West Newton, were done first and less densely populated areas, such as Chestnut Hill, did not have sewers installed until 1900. Though not a glamorous aspect of the City's past, the nineteenth century City and private cesspools are potential repositories of archaeological data. Not only can they provide data about nineteenth century engineering methods, but in some cases medically relevant evidence of the various pathogens that afflicted the City's citizens may be preserved as well.

Taverns, Inns, Hotels, and Other Recreational Sites

Taverns provided respite for both travelers and townsfolk who could “enlarge their mental horizons” enjoying a drink with those passing through the town. The more well known taverns within the town included: Angier’s at what became known as Angier’s Corner (now Newton Corner), White’s at West Newton, Thorton’s and Bacon’s by the Worcester Turnpike (now Newton Highlands), the Manufacturers Hotel at Upper Falls, Hoog’s and Wale’s Inn at Lower Falls. In 1831, Seth Davis constructed the Railroad Hotel in West Newton in an area that served as a transfer point from the first railroad to stages that went further west. The Peacock Inn, later known as the Nonantum House, opened around 1837 in Newton Corner, and was popular with people from Boston.

As Newton’s population increased from the mid- to late nineteenth century, recreation became an important aspect of life. Newton began to outgrow its rural character as “...several patrician families from Boston moved into the neighborhood and developed a delightful and refined social life.” By the end of the century, the links of the Newton Golf Course were laid out on Gardner Colby’s estate with a club house erected on the northern portion of the property.

Transportation improvements also led to new recreational ventures. Adam Claflin, president of the Commonwealth Avenue Street Railway Trolley, wanted to build an amusement park at the end of his line, and
in 1897, Norembega Park was opened. More than 12,000 people attended the park on opening day. Built near the Riverside Recreational Grounds in Weston, the area attracted tens of thousands of people on a weekly basis with more than 5,000 canoes berthed on the Charles River between Newton Lower Falls and Waltham. Eight boat houses and a canoe factory were built along the Charles. As the boundary between Weston and Newton was the middle of the river, a police detachment was formed that could make arrests anywhere on the river. The police took over McVicar’s Boathouse (now the DCR boathouse) and installed jail cells and a small office. The population of the recreational facility peaked in the 1920s. Norumbega Park passed through several owners in the 1900s, and closed in 1963. In 1966, the Marriot Hotel bought the property.

**Nineteenth-Century Settlement Patterns**

By the end of the nineteenth century, Newton Corner, Newtonville, West Newton and Auburndale, all located along the Boston & Albany Rail line, continued to expand outwards from the village center. While Newton Upper Falls appears much as it did in 1856, Newton Lower Falls had expanded towards the river, and the industrial area by Silver Lake emerged as North Village. Population statistics from 1875 indicate that Upper Falls was more densely settled than Lower Falls. Also of note is the growth of Newton Highlands, the third most populated village, bridging the distance between Newton Upper Falls and Newton Centre. Newton Corner, the most populated village is the City’s commercial center while West Newton, the second most populated village, is the City’s civic center.

Also of note on the 1875 map is the planned development of Chestnut Hill and the fledgling village of Thompsonville.

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**Population of the Villages in 1875**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newton Corner</td>
<td>4,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Newton</td>
<td>3,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton Highlands</td>
<td>3,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newtonville</td>
<td>2,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton Centre</td>
<td>2,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Falls</td>
<td>1,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburndale</td>
<td>1,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Falls</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Poposed River Park Subdivision - developing the modern settlement pattern, 1890 (Anonymous)._
Close up of Ward 6, showing the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, the residential development of Chestnut Hill, and the Village of Thompsonville (Beers Atlas 1875).
Archaeological Signatures of Nineteenth-Century Life

Archaeological evidence for neighborhood transitions over time could be encountered within Newton. Historic and archaeological investigations can yield information on the former inhabitants’ social, cultural, and economic status, as well as descriptive data on individuals, such as sex, age, stature, health, diet, and pathologies. Archaeological evidence for changing social structure often includes changes in material culture. These include the disposal of household goods as they are replaced by the new residents, changes in architectural details (e.g., additions to floor plans, demolition of unused outbuildings), and neighborhood reconfiguration of single-family residences to tenements or boarding houses with the introduction of immigrant populations.

Current historical and archaeological research is focused on people of everyday life or what archaeologist James Deetz referred to as “all of America’s common folk” in addition to prominent men and women. Research indicates that past inhabitants of Newton were gentlemen, farmers, ironworkers, millers, mill workers, educators, tavern and inn keepers, craftsmen, merchants and traders, laborers, and immigrants. This wide range of people produced a large variation of artifacts, which can be used to construct indices of social status and wealth. Choices made concerning the property, home, and individual items such as furnishings, dress, and diet “ensure and reinforce” one’s social and political standing. Consumer goods reflected trade and market trends to which particular individuals had access. In effect, such goods represented the “essential accoutrements” of one’s rank and prosperity. Household goods from cutlery, ceramics, containers and bottles and personal items such as kaolin wig curlers, fancy metal buttons, and copper clasps may appear in the archaeological record. Artifacts representing the lifeways of residents of Newton have the potential to be encountered in a variety of settings above as well as below the ground surface.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Resident</strong></th>
<th><strong>Accomplishment</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Jackson</td>
<td>First permanent resident; donated land for first meeting house and burial ground; one of the first deacons of the church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. John Spring</td>
<td>Constructed the first grist mill; donated land for the second meetinghouse; held numerous town offices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. John Eliot, Jr.</td>
<td>First minister of the First Parish Church from 1664 to 1668.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge Abraham Fuller</td>
<td>Operated a large farm; ran a private grammar school prior to 1760; involved in local and state politics serving as representative to the Constitutional Convention, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Hastings</td>
<td>Gravestone carver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kenrick</td>
<td>Farmer; started a fund for the needy and poor; member of Anti-Slavery Society; began one of the finest nurseries in America, and son William carried on the family business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah Rawson</td>
<td>Opened the first female academy; author.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Jackson</td>
<td>Served as a representative to the National Congress and the president of the town’s first bank; influential in getting the Boston &amp; Worcester Railroad through Newton; land speculator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otis Pettee</td>
<td>Manufactured cotton mill machinery; instrumental in getting railroad to Upper Falls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Bemis</td>
<td>Constructed bridge over Charles River; developed mill activity in Nonantum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Lee</td>
<td>Around 1850, devised a plan to divide his uncle's farm and lay out roads and house lots creating a new community called “Chestnut Hill.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Davis</td>
<td>Teacher; author; politician; operated private school and hotel in West Newton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel T. Allen</td>
<td>Ran the progressive and liberal Allen School; devoted to temperance and slavery reform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James F. C. Hyde</td>
<td>First mayor, held a variety of town offices, never lost an election, responsible for Circuit Railroad connecting two sides of the City, organized the first improvement society in the country, also owned real estate and insurance business.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By the beginning of the twentieth century, the villages which make up the City of Newton witnessed a great deal of change. An influx of immigrants, changes in transportation and manufacturing affected the City. The number of foreign born residents grew steadily from 22% of the population in 1865 to 29% of the population in 1905. Most lived and worked in the manufacturing areas of the City. The village of Waban emerged due to the upgrading of the Circuit Railroad, and the village of Nonantum witnessed an expansion of the worker neighborhood. As the century progressed, manufacturing became less prominent in the Upper and Lower Falls, while Nonantum continued to thrive. Even though most street car lines were abandoned by 1930, intensive residential development continued due to the increasing popularity of the automobile, and the improvement of local roads as auto highways.

The introduction of automobile travel led to an advance in social services throughout the City. One such effort in the early twentieth century was the attempt of the Bowen School Committee to develop community life in Thompsonville. Located on the edge of Newton Centre, the village was named after a hermit who had lived there in the previous century. While the original inhabitants were of German descent, Irish and then Italian immigrants lived there as well. By 1920, the Italian-American population was approximately 700.

Following World War II, the City financed a housing project for veterans who resided in Newton before the war. Known as Oak Hill Park, 412 small houses were constructed on the property of the Highland Sand and Gravel Pit. It proved to be the largest local project of its kind. Oak Hill Park, which began 1946, was dedicated in 1950. The north section of the City witnessed considerable disturbance along the path of the former Boston & Albany Railroad in the 1960s, with the construction of the Massachusetts Turnpike. Each of the villages along the path (Newton Corner, Newtonville, West Newton and Auburndale) were changed in varying degrees. In addition, part of a glacial esker (a relict ice-age deposit) that ran from behind Woodland Road around Haskell Pond, and across Woodland Golf Course to the Newton-Wellesley Hospital, was removed.

Today, Newton is known for its many villages that appear as distinct communities within an urban setting. City officials suggest Newton’s appeal lies in its proximity to Boston with a variety of convenient highway and transportation systems, in addition to attractive and orderly neighborhoods and high property values.

A brick armory was constructed in 1911 in West Newton and was first used by the Claflin Guard, also known as Company C, Fifth Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. In 1915, military drills including infantry tactics, rifle practice, first aid, and rules of military courtesy were taught there (Rowe 1930). The building is still standing and is used by the National Guard.
Though many aspects of Newton’s history are well documented, historic and archaeological research continues to produce new information, thereby deepening our understanding and appreciation of Newton’s unique heritage. Newton contains a wide variety of archaeological sites and historical structures related to various aspects of the City’s history.

A number of important interpretive themes can be developed based on the City’s history and heritage landmarks. These include:
1) Native American Land Use and Settlement,
2) European American Early Settlement of Newton,
3) Agricultural Pursuits,
4) Economy and Industry,
5) Overland Transportation,
6) Religious and Burial Traditions,
7) Domestic Life and the Social Fabric of the Community over Time,
8) Civic Life and Public Buildings,
9) Twentieth-Century Transitions.

These themes can be used as jumping off points for specific types of City initiatives, while individual sites can serve as components for broader City programs. Native American and historic sites in Newton can be useful for purposes of educating local residents, promoting tourism, and further protecting the historic resources of the City.
Signage

A series of road and trail-side signs can be developed that highlight some of the interesting events in Newton’s past. Examples of such sites would include the location of Lt. John Spring’s grist mill, the Bemis rolling dam, the location of First Period houses, early meeting houses, mill sites, historic roadways, and train stations. Elements from the existing Walking Tours developed by the City Department of Planning and Development can be used to create signage explaining the unique place that each village holds in Newton’s development. These signs can be combined with Native American information to develop a comprehensive tour of Newton’s historic sites, perhaps similar to the Freedom Trail in Boston. The existence of such a driving and/or walking tour could be useful in promoting Newton as a tourist destination, in turn adding to the local economy.

Educational Programs

A number of different educational programs could be developed for both residents and visitors that would highlight Newton’s unique cultural heritage beginning with Native Americans, and their relationship to the Charles River. Transportation networks, which are often overlooked, have played an important role in the City’s development. A closer look at these networks can be informative, quite interesting, and a perspective not explored by many other communities. The use of Native Trails by the early settlers, the poor condition of roads that limited travel through the end of the nineteenth century, the arrival of the railroads and street cars, and finally the highways of the twentieth century all held important consequences for village development. A possible title for this thematic interpretive effort could be “Pathways to the Present: Rivers, Trails Rails and Highways.” It would be important to include actual visits to locations in Newton.

Promoting Tourism

The described initiatives could be combined to highlight the many interesting aspects of Newton’s history, in order to promote additional visits to the City from neighboring towns in Massachusetts. Aspects of this could include walking or driving tours, which might incorporate signage locations; displays in the Newton Free Library, Newton Historical Society, and local historic houses. Interest in the abolition movement, private schools, railroads, religious history, and other themes could be highlighted which may appeal to different segments of the population using the existing themes as a guide.

to connect to the landscape, and to provide a sense of how the event or place was shaped in relation to the overall theme and historic contexts developed in this report. Similarly, interpretive themes could be used to develop historic displays in the Newton Free Library, at the Newton Historical Society, or other public locations, such as the entranceway to the City Hall.

Web Site

The interpretive themes can also be used on the City’s web site to highlight different aspects of Newton’s past. Text from this complete report can serve as the basis for these presentations. The web site could link to photos, maps, buildings, and other web sites to guide the user through aspects of the history of the City, and encourage them to explore the landscape themselves, guided by the signage initiative. Changing the themes on the web site at some regular interval could pique interest and encourage return visits.
The City of Newton is fortunate to contain a wide variety of archaeological sites, which offer a unique link between today’s residents and the past inhabitants of the City. They include Native American sites, and historic period residential and industrial sites. In Newton, as in other Massachusetts cities and towns, these sites are finite, fragile, and frequently endangered resources. The great majority of the land in Newton has not been professionally surveyed; in fact only 15 professional archaeological surveys have been conducted in the City. Thus, eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for most inventoried archaeological sites in the City is unknown. Final determination of eligibility would depend upon the results of future testing and research. It can be assumed that additional, significant, unrecorded Native American and historic period archaeological sites exist in the City.

It is highly recommended that Newton establish an archaeological site protection program. The consideration of the town’s cultural heritage resources, including standing structures, historic landscapes and buried archaeological sites should be integrated into the municipal review of construction permits. The intended result is not an archaeological survey for every project that will involve ground disturbance. Rather, it is to ensure that the City (through it’s Commissions and Departments) is empowered to request surveys of areas considered archaeologically sensitive, in specific cases where state or federal regulations do not already require such

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A HERITAGE PROTECTION PLAN

Coletti-Magni Park, Silver Lake, Nonantum. An important center of Italian-American heritage and part of the City's developing archaeological record.
survey. In specific instances where archaeological concerns exist, Newton regulatory organizations should refer construction permit applications to the Newton Department of Planning and Development, and/or Newton Historical Commission for review. As appropriate, these agencies can then consult the Massachusetts Historical Commission to determine whether archaeological survey is warranted, and to discuss the extent of any survey that is necessary.

The protection of Newton’s archaeological and cultural heritage will be enhanced by the formulation of an archaeological site protection plan, and the adoption of City regulations or ordinances pertaining to the management of archaeological resources. Because an ordinance will depend on public support for its adoption and enforcement, it should reflect the historic preservation priorities of Newton’s diverse communities, past and present. These priorities should therefore include the protection and investigation of archaeological resources associated with both Native American occupations and with Newton’s historic period settlement.

Permit applications for construction projects in Newton frequently are submitted to municipal regulatory organizations or state agencies for review and approval. These permits pertain to various undertakings, including highway construction, natural gas pipelines, sewer systems, residential subdivisions, athletic fields, and additions to private homes. Based on their scope and possible effects, some undertakings are reviewed at the municipal level, while others are reviewed by the state.

Any undertaking that entails ground disturbance in an archaeologically sensitive area has the potential to disturb important Native American or historical archaeological resources, or “sites.” The public pays in part for many development projects, such as new schools, libraries, affordable housing, and municipal sewer systems. The permit applications for such construction projects are reviewed by the state. Other development actions, such as gas pipelines, cell phone and telecommunications towers, and highway projects, are subject to federal permitting or review. In these instances, state and federal regulations require that archaeological resources in proposed impact areas be considered, and that professional archaeological surveys be conducted, if necessary. Federal agencies (such as the Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Aviation Administration) and state agencies (such as the Massachusetts Highway Department) often review projects under legislation that requires compliance with cultural resource regulations.

The majority of development actions, however, are privately funded, located on private property, or designed to avoid the impacts to natural resources (such as wetlands) that can trigger federal or state review under the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 9, Sections 26-27C, or other regulations. In short, permit applications for such undertakings are reviewed only at the municipal level, by City regulatory organizations. Of course, the privately funded development actions in the latter category typically entail ground-disturbing activities that are equally likely to disturb archaeological resources. Consequently, municipalities that adopt ordinances to consider impacts to archaeological sites are better equipped to preserve and protect their cultural heritage, because archaeological surveys can be conducted in areas of concern to the community that would not otherwise be surveyed under state or federal regulations.

Education and Public Participation

The Newton Department of Planning and Development/Newton Historical Commission, and perhaps in conjunction with the Newton Historical Society, should develop a public education program aimed at developing public appreciation for the importance of Native American and historic period archaeological sites.

The focus of the program should be to raise the consciousness of archaeological issues in the City. Education is one of the most cost-effective means of providing protection for sites. Appreciation of the importance of archaeological sites begins with the very young. Today’s curriculum in elementary and secondary schools often includes archaeology and history.

It is important for the Newton Department of Planning and Development/
Newton Historical Commission to establish a relationship with curriculum development personnel in the local schools to assist in the development of programs that incorporate the local Native American and historical heritage. Possible contributions might be lectures and school presentations, the development of text or displays to be used in the schools, and prizes for student development actions concerning archaeology and the protection of archaeological sites.

Displays concerning archaeological site protection could be mounted at the Newton Free Library and City Hall. The interpretive portion of this survey should be used as a basis for themes of archaeological importance to be used in educational programs. Funding through grants is available which helps program development of this nature.

The Newton Department of Planning and Development/Newton Historical Commission should regularly sponsor public presentations concerning the archaeology of the City, and immediate vicinity, especially concerning successful preservation programs. Using the themes presented above, walking tours should be established for use by the schools and the general public.

There are many archaeology and history faculty members and graduate students who live in the area, and are associated with local universities and colleges who could be asked to speak, especially in conjunction with Archaeology Month in October of each year.

Information about Archaeology Month can be obtained from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (617-727-8470).

An artifact identification session is a popular addition to presentations, encouraging the City’s people to bring artifacts for identification. Through such events, many previously unrecorded sites can be reported to the Newton Department of Planning and Development/Newton Historical Commission and added to the site files maintained by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. With increased public appreciation and awareness of archaeological sites and the City’s history, future damage and looting may be reduced.
Conclusions and Final Recommendations

The City of Newton contains a notable diversity of archaeological resources. These include sites occupied by Native Americans more than 8,000 years ago, as well as the homes of the men and women who lived in Newton in the earliest days of historic period settlement. The sites and the artifacts they contain offer a unique and immediate link to the past residents of the City. However, these archaeological resources are fragile and finite, where they have survived obliteration by natural and manmade forces.

In the future, the preservation of Newton’s archaeological heritage will depend upon several variables:

- The importance of archaeological sites, and the centrality of the sites to the interpretation of Newton’s history, must be recognized and appreciated by the City’s residents, and passed on to future generations. Fortunately, many people in the community are interested in preserving evidence of the past, in the form of historical buildings, historic districts, and archaeological sites. The Newton Historical Commission, the Newton Historical Society, and the Newton Free Library are all actively involved in historic preservation and education.

- The City should adopt an ordinance that codifies an archaeological site protection plan, in order to require consideration of possible archaeological resources in areas of moderate to high archaeological potential where new construction is proposed. The ordinance would pertain to construction projects not already being reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, or other federal and state regulations.

  The objective would be to identify, preserve, or appropriately investigate the significant archaeological sites that still exist in the City. Under an archaeological site protection plan, City regulatory organizations responsible for review of construction permit applications would consider the possibility for significant archaeological resources to be disturbed by proposed development actions that exceed specific parameters of scope and size, specified in the ordinance.

  If a development action exceeded specific parameters and would impact an archaeologically sensitive area, the regulatory organization would refer the permit application to the Newton Historical Commission for review. The Newton Department of Planning and Development/Newton Historical Commission could then determine whether an archaeological survey was merited, and in consultation with the Massachusetts Historic Commission, would decide an appropriate scope of archaeological survey.

  In the long term, an archaeological site protection plan would help the Newton community to achieve a balance between the requirements of modern development, and the need to preserve and protect the valuable archaeological heritage of the City. The Newton Department of Planning and Development/Newton Historical Commission should continue its efforts to ensure that the maximum number of cultural resource management surveys are conducted, and such assessments will increase if an ordinance is adopted.

- Future archaeological research in Newton should not be limited only to cultural resource management surveys that are required for compliance purposes. While these investigations are important and produce valuable information, they generally are targeted at localized, arbitrary project areas (such as gas pipeline easements or small subdivisions), and thus are less likely to provide the level of insight into the past that is offered by research-oriented examinations.

  Such examinations test hypotheses by conducting extensive excavation at a specific Native American or historical site, by sampling targeted locations across a broad area, or by synthesizing existing data obtained from a geographic subregion. The latter category of hypothesis-testing archaeological survey is much less common, but can be undertaken by an archaeological field school, professors and graduate students, and other qualified researchers.
The inventory of archaeological sites in the City should be updated continuously as additional sites are recorded and researched. This information should be added to the City and state archaeological site files. Archaeological sites that have not been recorded cannot be protected. The present reconnaissance survey has recorded numerous additional Native American and historical sites in Newton, but the inventory is not exhaustive. The map indicating archaeological site potential, that has been provided by the City-wide reconnaissance survey, may be incorporated into the City’s GIS database, and should be updated as new areas of disturbance or archaeological concern are identified.

It is recommended that the City-wide archaeological reconnaissance survey report and site maps be kept in a secure location where they are easily accessible to members of the Newton Department of Planning and Development/Newton Historical Commission, and other parties that require site information for management purposes. Such documents should be housed in a secure, climate-controlled, storage space, ideally within the Planning Department itself. Because these documents contain sensitive site information that has the potential to be misused by looters, access to the documents must be controlled. The map indicating archaeological potential that was provided to the Newton Department of Planning and Development may be made available to the public.
Additional Reading

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Many of the ideas used in this report are derived from scholars and researchers who published in technical documents. Complete references are provided in the technical City-wide archaeological reconnaissance report submitted to the City by UMass Archaeological Services.