

# Historic and Cultural Resources

## 1. Introduction

*The history of a town is the story of the lives of its inhabitants, the rearing of the structure upon the foundations laid by its first settlers.* A History of Hatfield Massachusetts, 1910

*Hatfield, especially the historic town center, retains remarkable historic character.* MA Historical Commission Reconnaissance Survey, 1982.

*Historic Preservation planning for cultural resources can ensure that preservation values are considered a priority in community development decisions.* Hatfield Master Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 2001

*The historic Town Center is within the 500-year flood zone and contains critical Town facilities.* Hatfield Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2023.

This chapter will highlight Hatfield’s historic and cultural assets, discuss why these resources are vital for community strength, examine potential ways they can be supported to benefit the town and residents, and consider ways to plan for resiliency to ensure continued use and provide long-term protection for future generations.

An examination of how local historic preservation and cultural planning fits into the broader framework of federal and state objectives serves as a backdrop for an overview of Hatfield’s historic and cultural development, particularly for this town which remains rich with built resources and historic streetscapes and landscapes dating back to the origins of local growth and provides a variety of cultural experiences enjoyed by residents and visitors. The high value placed by residents on Hatfield’s historic and natural setting is a common theme in past planning efforts. This chapter will build upon that work to continue to explore ways to protect the longevity of these resources in a manner that best suits the community.

### Themes

Related to Hatfield’s historic and cultural resources, some of the major themes that emerged from community engagement in the spring and summer of 2023 are as follows:

- The importance of preserving Hatfield’s small-town atmosphere, unique historical character, and distinct identity.
- A desire for more diverse, interactive community engagement and events, recreational outlets, public spaces, and opportunities for neighbors to get to know each other.
- A need for enhanced community and social connections through improved communications. Social media, the Town website, and a central online calendar were the top three identified desired locations for a “recreation hub” with information about events, programs, or planning processes in Hatfield.

- A “more user-friendly Hatfield website” to provide relevant and accessible information specific to the Town and residents.
- Proactively addressing and planning for the impacts of climate change, protecting the environment, and preparing for climate-related challenges. Partnering with other riverfront communities to work on a regional approach was also highlighted.
- Preserving the character of Hatfield was identified as a high priority goal for the Town to focus on in the next 10-20 years by about 70% of survey respondents.
- Preserving historic areas, sites, and buildings was identified as a top priority by 30% of respondents.
- Providing improved recreational and cultural opportunities was identified by more than 20% of respondents.

The status and integrity of existing documentation of local historic resources and cultural offerings will be reviewed, and a consideration of past planning conclusions will help to define goals, objectives, and strategies for ensuring resilience of Hatfield’s community character. As an emerging field of study, for the purpose of this plan, the review of cultural resources will include visual, literary, and performing arts as well as festivals and sites which provide tangible and intangible experiences. Project research and community outreach will clarify current challenges and opportunities and relevant case studies will provide information in support of goals and strategies related to the resiliency and protection of historic and cultural resources.

In alignment with the Hatfield 2040 vision, this work strives to examine ways to protect the resiliency of Hatfield’s historic and cultural resources, to prepare for next steps to achieve this goal, and to prosper with ensuring compatible and resilient rehabilitation and new development while also providing continued cultural offerings.



Figure 1: Plan of Hatfield, 1801

## 2. Existing Conditions

### The Federal Foundation for Historic Preservation

Past planning work in Hatfield, as well as in other communities throughout the Commonwealth and country, has identified local historic and cultural resources to be integral aspects of community planning. On a federal level, formal groundwork was laid for this in 1966, when the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was passed, primarily to acknowledge the importance of protecting our nation's heritage from unmitigated development. Some key elements from the Act were that it:

- Set federal policy for preserving our nation's heritage
- Established a federal-state and federal-tribal partnership
- Established the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs
- Mandated the selection of qualified State Historic Preservation Officers
- Established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Charged Federal Agencies with responsible stewardship
- Established the role of Certified Local Governments within the States

The NHPA required each state to have a state historic preservation office. In Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) was formed even before the NHPA through enabling legislation passed in 1963 that established the MHC and encouraged cities and towns to create their own, local historical commission.<sup>1</sup> M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 8D relates to the establishment, powers, and duties of local historical commissions “for the preservation, protection and development of the historical or archeological assets of such city or town.”<sup>2</sup> Locally, the Hatfield Historical Commission is a five-member board charged to inventory, preserve, protect, and develop the historical and archeological assets of the town.<sup>3</sup>

### Cultural Planning

There is often a symbiotic relationship between a community's historic and cultural resources. The Mass Cultural Council (MCC) is the state agency involved with the promotion and encouragement of community art and culture to include supporting spaces and places where public cultural programming happens. The MCC strives to “promote excellence, inclusion, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences, fosters a rich cultural life for all Massachusetts residents, and contributes to the vitality of our communities and economy.” As stated on the MCC website, “Culture elevates. In all its forms, culture is essential to the health and vitality of the Commonwealth...Culture lifts the human spirit and makes Massachusetts a better place to live, work, and prosper.”<sup>4</sup> Hatfield's Cultural Council works in tandem with the MCC to provide funding for local cultural events.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleII/Chapter9/Section26>

<sup>2</sup> <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter40/Section8D>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.townofhatfield.org/historical-commission>

<sup>4</sup> Mass Cultural Council, <https://massculturalcouncil.org/>

## Hatfield's Historic Overview

(with excerpts from the 1982 [MHC Recon Survey](#), 2009 [DCR Recon Report](#), [Hatfield 350](#), and the 1910 [A History of Hatfield](#))

### Land Description

Hatfield is situated within the Connecticut River Valley, with the eastern section including a floodplain and glacial lake bottom with small, rugged uploads in the western portion. The Connecticut River, with a watershed that spans Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and the Canadian province of Quebec, defines Hatfield's eastern boundary and separates the town from Hadley. Includes the freshwater Great Pond and a portion of the Mountain Street Reservoir to the northwest.

The complete history of Hatfield cannot be fully addressed in a short chapter, but some major themes relevant to past, present, and future planning are as follows:

### Indigenous People

The Capawonk and Nonotuck or Norwottuck tribes, who were sometimes allied with the Nipmucks to the east or the Pocumtucks to the north, are noted to have been the original land occupants around what would become Hatfield and continued to fish, farm, and hunt in the area after Colonial settlers laid out their properties. A 1910 history of Hatfield states describes these indigenous people.

*The Indians of the vicinity were of various small tribes or clans, known by the general name of River Indians. The Agawams were at Springfield, the Warranokes at Westfield, the Nonutucks or Norwottucks just about Northampton, the Pocumtucks at Deerfield, and the Squakheags at Northfield ...Farther to the east were the warlike Nipmucks, or Nipments, near Brookfield, or, as it was then known, Quabaug.”<sup>5</sup>*

Many members of these tribes died after exposure to and lack of immunity from European illnesses such as smallpox introduced to the area by the Colonists.

### Colonial Settlement

Today's Hatfield was part of the original 1653 Nontuck grant for Northampton including the southwestern section to Capawonk meadows (Mill River). The Connecticut River meadowland was granted as part of Hadley Plantation in 1659 and described as Hadley West Side by 1660, “secured in three purchases” with the first on July 10, 1660, signed by the sachem Umpanchala and approved by his brother Etowonq, who “reserved for their use the “Chickons of planting Field”...and liberty to hunt and fish, to set wigwams on the common, and to cut trees for use.”<sup>6</sup> The second purchase, the meadow called Capawonk, was deeded by Northampton settlers in

---

<sup>5</sup> Daniel White Wells and Reuben Field Wells. A History of Hatfield, Massachusetts, 1660-1910. Springfield: F.C.H. Gibbons, 1910. Archive.org <https://archive.org/details/ahistoryhatfel00wellgoog/page/n8/mode/2up?view=theater>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

1663, and the third was a tract of land deeded from the heirs of Quonquont and signed by his widow Sarah Quanquan, his son Pocunohouse, his daughter Majessit, and Mattatabange and Momecuse for fifty fathoms of wampum.”<sup>7</sup> Hatfield was laid out as a linear street village in eight and four acre homelots that extended east and west along what is now the southern end of Main Street. as part of Hadley in 1661. Hampshire County was organized in 1662. Hatfield’s residents traveled across the river to Hadley for church and town meetings from 1661 to 1668 until they built their own Meetinghouse by 1668 and laid out a burial ground in 1669. Early graves were not marked and by 1910, the grave marker for Captain John Allis (1642-1691) was noted to be the oldest in Hill Cemetery Elm Street (1669, HTF.802). The highway between Hatfield and Northampton was probably laid out in 1665 and a bridge across the Manhan River was constructed in 1668. Hatfield became a separate Parish and town in 1670 with western and northern portions later defined as the towns of Williamsburg and Whately, resulting in a loss of population for Hatfield. The first school was established in Hatfield in 1679.

### Colonial Conflicts

This 1910 narrative speculates that there were less than 200 Norwottucks left in the Hatfield area at the outbreak of King Philip’s War (1675-1676). Philip, son of Massasoit, Chief of the Wampanoags is the namesake of this conflict, which originated in eastern communities and quickly spread west with tensions rising between the Norwottucks and Western Colonists. In late August of 1675, a bank of Pocumtucks, Norwottucks, and roving members of other tribes left their gathering and were pursued by Colonial detachments from Hadley and Northampton, engaging in conflict below Sugar Loaf mountain with Colonial and Native American casualties. Other conflicts took place on the area’s meadows and within the palisaded settlement and in May of 1676, a force including 12 volunteers from Hatfield, set out to the Native camp at the falls between Gill and Montague for an attack which ultimately resulted in loss of life on both sides. Another attack occurred in Hatfield on May 30<sup>th</sup> with 12 houses and barns outside of the palisades destroyed by fire. Midday on September 19, 1677, Hatfield was attacked, 12 residents were killed, 17 were captured and taken, and houses and barns were burned. During the three years of warfare, “the losses suffered by Hatfield were greater in proportion to the population than those of any other town in the valley except...Deerfield and Northfield.”<sup>8</sup> By the end of the conflict, the remaining local indigenous population had left or been pushed from Hatfield and the greater region and fear from future attacks led to a 1695 act prohibiting trading with Native Americans in Hampshire County and a 1697 General Court Order that any Natives found within 20 miles of the west side of the Connecticut River should be considered enemies and treated as such.<sup>9</sup> Over time, much of their history has been distorted and erased.

Colonial conflicts, including the French and Indian War (1754-1763), continued but the collaboration of the increasing number of neighboring settlements contributed to the strength

---

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 119.

of the whole region. The middle portion of the eighteenth century is remembered for being a period of “great prosperity” with an increase of wealth and influence for Hatfield residents.<sup>10</sup>

### American Revolution

The loss of political liberties and trade restrictions contributed to increased discontent by American Colonists with British rule with key responses to include the 1773 Boston Tea Party. It is noted that 125 Hatfield men engaged in the Revolutionary War including Hatfield’s Joseph



Guild (1760-1846), Bradstreet Cemetery, who was at the battles of Saratoga and Stillwater, Monmouth, wintered at Valley Forge in General Washington’s Army, served under General Greene in his southern campaign, and saw Lord Cornwallis give up his sword at Yorktown.<sup>11</sup> Reputed to be a leading town in the cattle industry, Hatfield supplied large quantities of beef to the troops and General George Washington

stationed a Commissary officer in the town during the duration of the conflict. The Hubbard Inn 4 Elm Street (1750, HTF.232), established circa 1760, was a “famous hostelry” during this time.<sup>12</sup> After the War, as the new nation was working through this “Critical Period of American History,” the Shays’s Rebellion (1786-1787) uprising, named after Pelham farmer Daniel Shays, involved a series of attacks on courthouses and other government properties in Massachusetts by farmers and war veteran farmers who were minimally compensated and struggled to make post-war ends meet. A related convention to discuss the grievances of Massachusetts residents was held in Hatfield in August of 1786 with the representation of 50 towns declared as a constitutional body.

---

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, 166.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, 191

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, 195

### Agriculture and Industry

Hatfield was an early center for agriculture with its rich soil supporting the growth of corn, winter and summer wheat, peas, and tobacco and the raising of cattle and sheep. The waterfall on the Mill River powered grist and sawmills and the Running Gutter Brook powered a linseed oil mill, which was the first one in Massachusetts.<sup>13</sup> Over time, Hatfield also had a fulling mill, a corn mill, and a blacksmith shop and goods were later traded with



Figure 3: Onion planters near Hatfield, 1936

markets in Springfield and Boston and a thriving lumber-industry. By the mid-1700s, the town's farmers were prospering. An early 1800s broom corn industry lasted into the 1860s and mid-1800s tobacco cultivation led Hatfield to become the largest tobacco grower in the region. A bridge from Hatfield across the Connecticut River was opened in 1807, increasing opportunities for travel and trade. This bridge was later removed, and a new bridge constructed in 1808 between Hadley and Northampton "proved profitable."<sup>14</sup> By the mid to late 1800s through the early 1900s, crops for onions, asparagus, and potatoes were in high demand. The newly developed method of growing shade tobacco, became another profitable 20<sup>th</sup> century crop.

### Slavery and Abolition

Dating back to 1697, there is record of Hatfield Colonists who kept slaves, including Lieut. and Mrs. David Billings, prior to this practice being abolished in Massachusetts in 1781.<sup>15</sup><sup>16</sup> During the Civil War (1861-1865), Hatfield residents volunteered service, sheltered runaway slaves, and sent teachers south after the War to support education of freed slaves in Southern states. Charles Morris Billings was known to have pronounced anti-slavery views and his house at 29 Main Street (1831, HTF.146) is remembered for use as an Underground Railway station to harbor fugitive slaves.<sup>17</sup> There is undoubtedly much information that could be uncovered about the history of Hatfield's Black residents, like work underway in Amherst by the African Heritage Reparation Assembly. A 1982 Massachusetts Reconnaissance Report for Hatfield noted the archaeological potential for subsurface remains of a freed slave village on Northampton Road, likely in the vicinity of West Hatfield, as local histories mention cabins there in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 169

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, 217

<sup>15</sup> Daniel White Wells and Reuben Field Wells, *A History of Hatfield, 1660-1910*, Springfield: F.C.H. Gibbons, 1910. 129

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, 196-197

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, 228-229

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/CT-Valley/htf.pdf>

### Population and Immigration

The construction of the first railroad through Hatfield in 1846 attracted immigrants to settle in Hatfield, with many working in the local agricultural industry. Irish and German residents immigrated to the area beginning circa 1845, primarily due to the potato famine in Ireland and the 1848 revolution in Germany. French-Canadians settled in Hatfield beginning around 1850, with many providing expertise and support in the broom corn industry. Over the second half of the nineteenth through early twentieth centuries, the high production of tobacco and commercial demand for onions, asparagus, and potatoes required more labor and attracted immigrants from Eastern Europe, with Hatfield described as becoming “exceedingly cosmopolitan for a quiet farming community.”<sup>19</sup> Beginning around 1900, a steady “influx of people from southern Europe” led to the description of the “old town” becoming “exceedingly cosmopolitan for a quiet farming community.” New residents included Polish people from Austria and Russia, Bohemians, Slovaks, and Lithuanians.<sup>20</sup>

### Some Notable Residents

Rebecca Dickinson (1738-1815) was a Hatfield gownmaker best known for her journal which describes her life as a self-sufficient artisan and single woman during a time of “extremely influential historical events. She was also the daughter of Canada Waite, born to Martha Waite while in captivity by Native Americans.

The Smith family of Hatfield were descendants of Lieutenant Samuel Smith, one of the first settlers of Hadley. Sophia Smith (1796-1870) 22 Main Street (1820, HTF.151) believed in the possibilities of higher education for women and used her inherited fortune to establish Smith College (opened 1875) in Northampton and Smith Academy (1872) in Hatfield. Smith’s Will illustrates her belief in the importance of supporting equal educational opportunities for women.

*“the establishment and maintenance of an Institution for the higher education of young women, with the design to furnish for my own sex means and facilities for education equal to those which are afforded now in our Colleges to young men.”<sup>21</sup>*

Hatfield resident Jonathan Dickinson (1688-1747), a leader in the Great Awakening religious revival of the 1730s-1740s, was co-founder and first president in 1747 of the College of New Jersey, today known as Princeton University.

---

<sup>19</sup> Daniel White Wells and Reuben Field Wells, *A History of Hatfield, 1660-1910*, Springfield: F.C.H. Gibbons, 1910. 129

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, 235

<sup>21</sup> Sophia Smith, *Smith College* (site), <https://www.smith.edu/discover-smith/history-traditions/sophia-smith>



## Environmental Challenges and Planning

More than 120 years ago, Hatfield residents understood the challenges that came along with proximity to the “great river.” Prior to Colonial settlement, it was imaged that the Connecticut River “was probably much the same in appearance then as now, with its banks fringed with trees and bushes, its sand bars and stretches of sandy beach, its every shifting channel and its destructive tendencies in time of flood.”<sup>22</sup>

*The homesteads where some of the early settlers lived and died, the lands which they cultivated, and the highways which they traveled, have been carried away, and more serious consequences have been threatened.*<sup>23</sup>

A dike was built in Hatfield in 1904 for protection from flooding, which also impacted the availability of previously abundant Salmon and Shad that came up the stream to spawn. In March of 1936, two weeks of snow melt and heavy rain caused “the worst floods in regional history” which major devastation to farmland.<sup>24</sup>

(Figure 4) The combined effects of a frontal system and “the Great New England Hurricane of 1938,” produced rainfall of 10 to 17 inches across most of the Connecticut River Valley, resulting in some of the worst flooding ever recorded.<sup>25</sup> Severe rainstorms and related flooding in July of 2023 caused an estimated \$15 million in damages to Western Massachusetts Farmers,



Figure 4: Barn Damage from the 1936 Flood

mostly on land along the Connecticut River.<sup>26</sup> Today, Hatfield’s Connecticut River dike system protects much of the town from flooding. It is unknown whether this structure was designed to handle climate change-related larger storm events.<sup>27</sup> Planning for present and future resiliency continues to be an issue at the top of Hatfield’s priority list.

<sup>22</sup> Daniel White Wells and Reuben Field Wells. *A History of Hatfield, 1660-1910*, (Springfield: F.C.H. Gibbons, 1910), 129. *Archive.org*, <https://archive.org/details/ahistoryhatfiel00wellgoog/page/n10/mode/2up?view>

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Guy McLain, “The Flood of 1936,” <https://springfieldmuseums.org/blog/flood-of-1936/>

<sup>25</sup> “The Great New England Hurricane of 1938,” National Weather Service, <https://www.weather.gov/box/1938hurricane>

<sup>26</sup> Alden Bourne, “Western Massachusetts farmers say dam operators could have limited damage from July floods,”

<https://www.wgbh.org/news/local/2023-10-18/western-massachusetts-farmers-say-dam-operators-could-have-limited-damage-from-july-floods>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/hatfield-report/download>

### Early Preservation and Improvement Efforts

The importance of historical documentation, preservation, and community story telling was formalized with the 1870 establishment of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) in the neighboring community of Deerfield.<sup>28</sup> The PVMA was the first historical society in Western Massachusetts and organized a field day in Hatfield upon the 212<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1677 Native and Colonial conflict.<sup>29</sup> This organization is still active in Deerfield.<sup>30</sup> A Village, or Rural Improvement Society was established in 1885 with the following goals:

*...to cultivate public spirit, quicken the social and intellectual life of the people, promote good fellowship, and secure public health by better hygienic conditions in our houses and surroundings, improve our streets, roads, and public grounds, sidewalks, and in general to build up and beautify the whole town, and thus enhance the value of its real estate and render Hatfield a still more inviting place of residence.<sup>31</sup>*

Twenty-five years after its establishment, it was remarked that under the direction of the Society, “much improvement in the appearance of the streets and grounds have been made...Fences have been removed and the lawns receive better care, trees have been set out, the cemeteries are kept in good order, and in every way the residents are encouraged to beautify their places. Today, the Hatfield Historical Society manages the town’s historical collections, including oral histories,

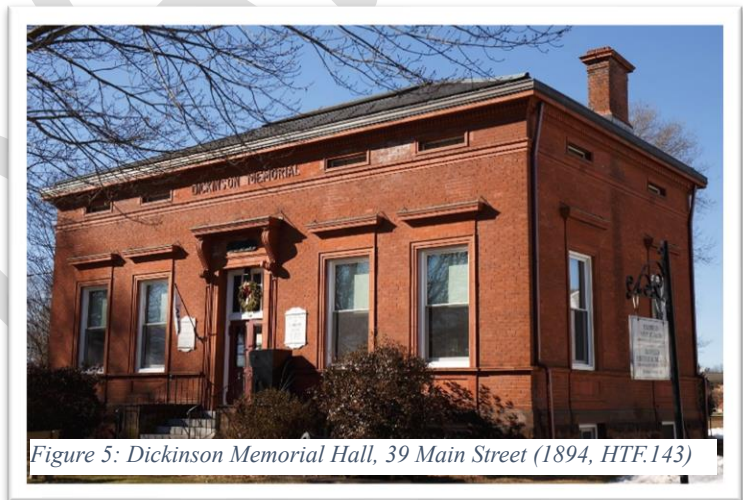


Figure 5: Dickinson Memorial Hall, 39 Main Street (1894, HTF.143)

with a museum on the second floor of Dickinson Memorial Hall. (Figure 5) The town library is on the first floor.<sup>32</sup> The Hatfield Historical Museum holds an extensive collection of archives and material culture from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that help to tell the story of Hatfield.<sup>33</sup> The Hatfield Farm Museum, located in a tobacco shed, has a collection of farm tools primarily from the 19<sup>th</sup>

<sup>28</sup> <https://deerfield-ma.org/about/>

<sup>29</sup> Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, “212<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Indian Attack on Hatfield, and Field Day of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association,” *loc.gov*, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/gdcmassbookdig.212thanniversary00bart/?sp=5&st=image&r=0.416.0.05.1.758.0.893.0>

<sup>30</sup> <https://deerfield-ma.org/about/>

<sup>31</sup> Daniel White Wells and Reuben Field Wells. *A History of Hatfield, Massachusetts, 1660-1910*. Springfield: F.C.H. Gibbons, 1910. *Archive.org* <https://archive.org/details/ahistoryhatfiel00wellgoog/page/n8/mode/2up?view=theater>

<sup>32</sup> <https://hatfieldhistory.weebly.com/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://chc.library.umass.edu/blog/hatfield-historical-society/>

and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as well as other items related to the Town's history. Hatfield continues to honor and memorialize its history, most recently with a community-wide multi-event 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration held in 2021.

## **Identifying and Supporting Historic and Cultural Resources**

### Federal and State Framework for Documentation and Preservation

The United States Department of the Interior (DOI) is responsible for the protection and management of the country's natural resources and cultural heritage.<sup>34</sup> The Secretary of the Interior (SOI) considers types of historic resources to be prehistoric and historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects.<sup>35</sup> As a bureau of the DOI, the National Park Service (NPS) "cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage."<sup>36</sup> The NPS defines the nation's historic and cultural resources as the physical and spiritual reminders of the decisive times, people, and places in American history and culture.<sup>37</sup> The NPS considers a general fifty-year cut-off or older to initially determine the potential for historic significance of a historic resource. Other factors such as context, social history, and integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, are also important in determining the level of a resource's significance.<sup>38</sup>

### National Register of Historic Places

The NPS National Register of Historic Places (NR) is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the NHPA, the NR is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.<sup>39</sup> Listing is an honorary designation and does not place restrictions on property owners when using private funds to do work related to a listed property.<sup>40</sup> NR listed properties are automatically included in the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places (SR). In addition to recognizing the historic and cultural significance of a property or district, NR and SR listing provides limited protection from adverse impacts by federal or state involved projects. Listing also provides opportunities for benefiting from preservation and rehabilitation incentives like historic rehabilitation tax credits, and grant programs which are only available to NR properties.

### Massachusetts Historical Commission

The MHC is the State Historic Preservation Office, as mandated by the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and supported by enabling legislation in Massachusetts General Law.<sup>41</sup> The

---

<sup>34</sup> "About Interior," <https://www.doi.gov/about>

<sup>35</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, "Historic Preservation," <https://www.doi.gov/pam/asset-management/historic-preservation>

<sup>36</sup> "National Park Service," <https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>

<sup>37</sup> National Preservation Institute, "What are 'Cultural Resources'?" <https://www.npi.org/what-are-cultural-resources>

<sup>38</sup> "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," *National Register Bulletin*, 1995, nps.gov, [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15\\_web508.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>

<sup>40</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission, "There's a Difference!" <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/difference.pdf>

<sup>41</sup> MHC enabling legislation: M.G.L. Ch. 9 ss.26-27C

MHC has specific forms that are used to document historic resources. The MHC has also developed a map using GIS data which shows properties that have been identified in the [Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System](#), also known as MACRIS. GIS data is displayed through the [MACRIS Map](#), providing a visual for documentation throughout the Commonwealth. The MHC also oversees the State Register of Historic Places, established in 1982 as a comprehensive listing of the buildings, structures, objects, and sites that have received local, state, or national designations based on their historical or archaeological significance. NR and SR listing is often an eligibility requirement for historic preservation grants.

#### Hatfield Historical Commission

The [Hatfield Historical Commission](#) (HHC) is a five-member board that is responsible for ensuring that local historic preservation concerns will be considered in community planning. The HHC presence on the Town web site lists Commission members, contact information, past agendas, a 2015 hearing video, and links to Hatfield Historical Museum and Hatfield Historical Society collections and resources. The HHC does not currently oversee any local historic districts but it is authorized with advising the Hatfield Building Inspector with respect to demolition permit applications for significant buildings which the HHC determines to be preferably preserved.<sup>42 43</sup> Significant buildings are defined as any building within the Town which is in whole or in part one hundred years or more old and which has been determined by the Commission or its designee to be significant based on any of the following criteria:

- The Building is listed on, or is within an area listed on, the National Register of Historic Places; or
- The Building is importantly associate with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or the Commonwealth; or
- The Building is historically or architecturally important (in terms of period, style, method of building construction, or association with a recognized architect or builder) either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings.

No demolition permit for a building which is in whole or in part 100 years or more old shall be issued without following the provisions of the bylaw. If the HHC determines that a building is preferably preserved, no building permit for new construction or alterations on the premises shall be issued for 12 months from the date of the determination unless agreed to by the HHC.

### **Cultural Planning in Massachusetts**

There are varying definitions related to the question of what makes up a community’s “cultural resources.” The establishment of the Mass Cultural Council (MCC) has provided a statewide

---

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.townofhatfield.org/historical-commission>

<sup>43</sup> [https://www.townofhatfield.org/sites/g/files/vyhliif3246/f/uploads/town\\_bylaws\\_may\\_14\\_2019\\_approved.pdf](https://www.townofhatfield.org/sites/g/files/vyhliif3246/f/uploads/town_bylaws_may_14_2019_approved.pdf)

framework for cultural planning in communities. The MCC asserts that “In all its forms, culture is essential to the health and vitality of the Commonwealth.”<sup>44</sup>

Local and Regional Cultural Councils are addressed in **M.G.L. Chapter 10, Section 58:**

*Any city or town may establish a local cultural council and any consortium of cities and towns, with the approval of the council, may establish a regional cultural council. Local cultural councils shall consist of at least five and not more than twenty-two members to be appointed by the mayor of a city, the city manager in a city having a Plan D or E form of government, the board of selectmen of a town or the executive officer in a town having a town council form of government.*<sup>45</sup>

### Hatfield Cultural Council

The [Hatfield Cultural Council](#) (HCC), currently made up of five members, supports programs that promote excellence in the arts, humanities, and the interpretive sciences by administering small grants from funds awarded by the MCC. The HCC members are appointed by the Select Board, to allocate grants funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Funding is based on the town census.<sup>46</sup> A 2020 HCC Community Survey identified as priorities projects celebrating local history and cultural diversity; revitalization projects within the community; and community-wide gatherings such as concerts and sing-alongs. In 2022, the HCC funded local cultural programs which were Smith Academy Park, the Hatfield Senior Center, the Hatfield Public Library, and First Church Hatfield.

From this perspective there are an abundance of cultural sites and programmatic offerings in Hatfield including many which relate to and utilize historic buildings, sites, and landscapes and highlight the town’s heritage and culture.

### **Existing Conditions of Historic and Cultural Resources**

It is evident through exploring the current state inventory of Hatfield’s historic resources that there has been a strong past effort to research, document, and achieve NR listings for many of the town’s historic resources, found within the MACRIS database by the identifier “HTF” followed by an inventory letter or number. There are currently 734 “HTF” inventory points in the MHC’s MACRIS database and visible on MACRIS Maps. This can be compared with Hadley (1,229), Northampton (1,717), Williamsburg (75), Whately (291), Leverett (369), Amherst (1,447) and South Hadley (219).

Within MACRIS, Hatfield currently has 13 inventoried Areas, 693 Buildings, 2 Objects, and 20 Structures. A marked difference between Hatfield and many other communities in Massachusetts is that out of the town’s 734 total inventory items, 651 are related to one of the eight districts listed on the NR. For a comparison, Hatfield, with a total area of 16.8 square

---

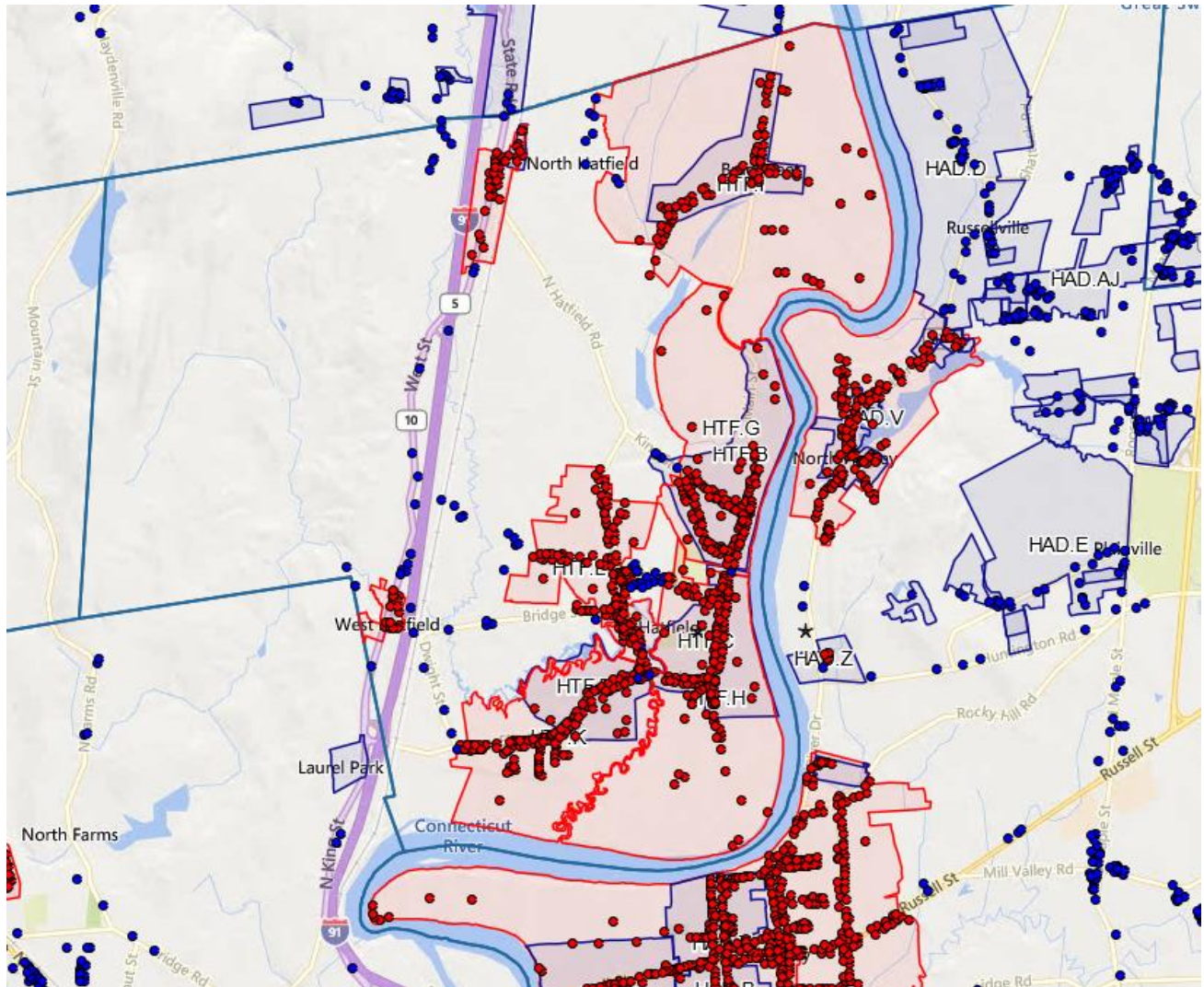
<sup>44</sup> <https://massculturalcouncil.org/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleII/Chapter10/Section58>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.townofhatfield.org/cultural-council>

miles, has eight NR Districts with a 2020 population of 3,352 and Northampton, at 35.8 square miles, has eight NR Districts with a population of 29,311.

**Figure 6: MHC MACRIS Maps showing historic documentation in Hatfield**



● = Inventoried ● = National Register

Local work to document and achieve listing in the NR spans from the early 1980s with the Old Mill Street Historic District through the early 2000s with the West Hatfield Historic Districts and periods of significance spanning the 1650s through the 1950s.

## National Register Districts in Hatfield as of 2023

HISTORIC NAME & MACRIS ID	PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	YEAR DESIGNATED
Old Mill Street Historic District (HTF.F)	1881-1891	1982
Upper Main Street Historic District (HTF.G)	1705-1944	1994
Hatfield Center Historic District (HTF.H)	1669-1944	1994
Bradstreet Historic District (HTF.I)	1682-1946	1997
North Hatfield Historic District (HTF.J)	1820-1946	1997
Elm Street Historic District (HTF.K)	1740-1950	2000
Mill-Prospect Street Historic District (HTF.L)	1659-1952	2002
West Hatfield Historic District (HTF.M)	1830-1955	2005

**Hatfield has eight NR Districts**

Table 1: Source: <https://mhc-macris.net/>

### Burial Ground and Archaeological Resources

Older burial grounds are often considered to have historical and archaeological significance. There have been six burial grounds documented in Hatfield with no current listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

### Hatfield Burial Grounds in MACRIS

Historic Name and MACRIS ID	Period of Significance
First Burying Ground (HTF.800)	circa 1669
Hill Cemetery (HTF.802)	1669
North Hatfield Cemetery (HTF.801)	circa 1844
West Street Cemetery (HTF.803)	1845
Main Street Cemetery (HTF.804)	circa 1846
Bradstreet Cemetery	circa 1849
Bridge Street Cemetery (HTF.805)	circa 1900

Holy Trinity Cemetery (Polish National Cemetery)

Six documented burial grounds  
None are listed in the National Register

Table 2: Source: <https://mhc-macris.net/>

Documented archaeological sites are not shown on MACRIS and information is only available through a permitting process. Past reports have noted the likelihood of remaining archaeological resources in Hatfield due to the known presence of Native Americans, community development beginning in the seventeenth century, and areas of undeveloped land, and recommendations have been made for greater protections of these resources.<sup>47</sup> The 1982 MHC Reconnaissance Report speculated that there was probably extensive Native American settlement in what would become Hatfield, with the fertile lowlands likely attractive due to agricultural potential.

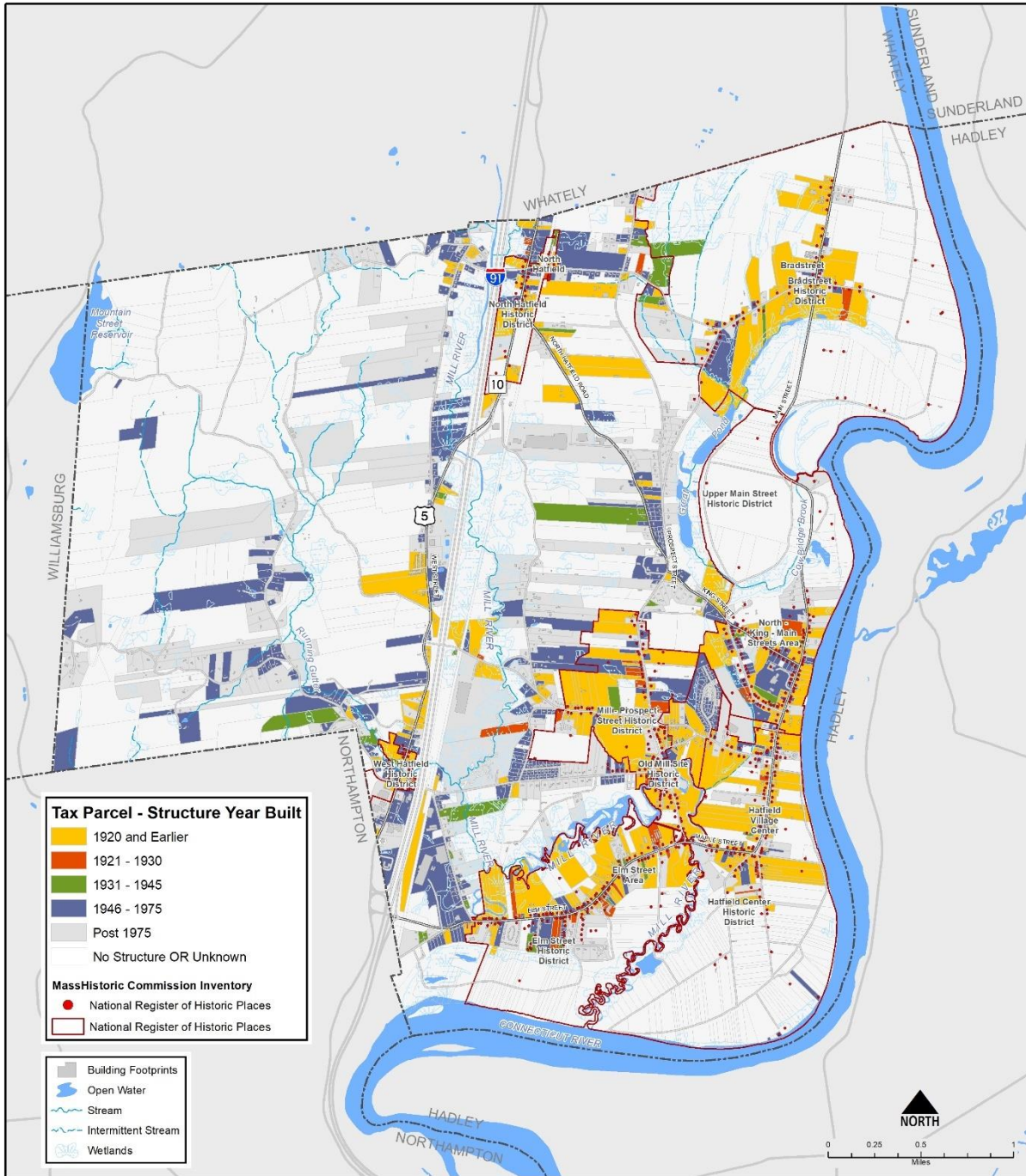


*Figure 7: School Street view to the east*

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/CT-Valley/htf.pdf>



**Figure 8: Building Construction Dates**



**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DATES**  
2024 Comprehensive Plan

**HATFIELD, MA**

DATA SOURCES:  
MASSGIS, Private Utility Planning Commission  
This map is based on the best available data  
and information is subject to change without notice.  
pvpc  
October 10/11/25

## Existing Conditions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Despite minimal protection measures in place to control exterior alterations, Hatfield has a large number of historic resources which retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, particularly at the town center. This is in part due to the large number of historic buildings which dominate the town's landscape.



As of 2021, approximately 39% (581) of Hatfield's 1,568 total housing units were constructed prior to 1939. (Figure 7) Out of the total housing units, 925 were built prior to 1970 and 447 were non-owner occupied. This is a marked increase from 349 non-owner-occupied units in 201. Hatfield's historic center is within the 500-year flood zone and contains critical Town facilities including the Town Hall and Senior Center, the town's historical records and archives, the police and fire stations, the Capawonk Housing for the Elderly, and irreplaceable historic residential buildings.<sup>48</sup>

## Current Protections

Aside from the Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings 12-month demolition delay bylaw, which was attributed with saving the town's historic Center School in 2015<sup>49</sup>, Hatfield does not have any local regulations which would provide a process for reviewing proposed exterior alterations to designated buildings such as inclusion within a local historic district. Owners of NR-listed buildings within the town are not limited in how they handle their property exteriors unless there is state or federal involvement in a project (such as federal licenses, permits, or funding).<sup>50</sup> While multiple past planning efforts have recommended the creation of local historic districts or architectural conservation districts to restrict exterior alterations to historic resources, there has not been a local appetite for a regulatory approach. Despite this current absence of architectural protections, a high percentage of Hatfield's streetscapes and built resources maintain integrity of location, design, settings, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/hatfield-report/download>

<sup>49</sup> <https://centerschoolcondominiums.com/>

<sup>50</sup> [There's a Difference! Massachusetts Historical Commission Brochure](#)

## Hatfield's Cultural Resources

There is not currently a MACRIS-type database to document and identify cultural resources, but this chapter will aim to compile data of Hatfield's cultural assets to highlight cultural resources and partnerships and support the potential pursuit of a local cultural district.

Recreational sites and facilities in Hatfield provide locations for community and cultural gatherings.	
<b>RECREATIONAL SITES and FACILITIES</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>
Smith Academy Park & Gazebo	<a href="https://www.townofhatfield.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif3246/f/uploads/saparkpresentation.pdf">https://www.townofhatfield.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif3246/f/uploads/saparkpresentation.pdf</a>
Black Birch Vineyard	<a href="https://www.blackbirchvineyard.com/">https://www.blackbirchvineyard.com/</a>
Good Stock Farm	<a href="https://goodstockfarm.com/">https://goodstockfarm.com/</a>
Prospect Meadow	
Old Mill Inn & Cafe	
Hatfield Public Library & Museum	<a href="https://www.townofhatfield.org/hatfield-public-library">https://www.townofhatfield.org/hatfield-public-library</a>
Hatfield Memorial Town Hall	<a href="https://www.townofhatfield.org/">https://www.townofhatfield.org/</a>
Albert E. Labbee Senior Center	Hatfield Town Hall, 59 Main Street
First Congregational Church	<a href="https://www.hatfieldchurch.org/">https://www.hatfieldchurch.org/</a>
Hatfield Historical Museum	39 Main Street
Hatfield Farm Museum	7 Billings Way
Hatfield Lions Club Pavilion	15 Billings Way
Pioneer Valley Indoor Karting	<a href="https://www.pioneervalleykarting.com/">https://www.pioneervalleykarting.com/</a>

Organizations in Hatfield facilitate and sponsor programming, education, outreach, and advocacy to provide residents and guests with ways to experience the town's unique local history and culture. These types of Community Partners can be very effective in working together to provide cultural events.	
<b>CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>
Hatfield Historical Commission	<a href="https://www.townofhatfield.org/historical-commission">https://www.townofhatfield.org/historical-commission</a>
Hatfield Cultural Council	<a href="https://www.townofhatfield.org/cultural-council">https://www.townofhatfield.org/cultural-council</a>
Hatfield Historical Society	<a href="https://hatfieldhistory.weebly.com/">https://hatfieldhistory.weebly.com/</a>
Hatfield Community Television	<a href="https://www.townofhatfield.org/hctv-hatfield-community-television">https://www.townofhatfield.org/hctv-hatfield-community-television</a>
Recreation Committee	<a href="https://www.townofhatfield.org/recreation-committee">https://www.townofhatfield.org/recreation-committee</a>
Hatfield Celebration Committee	<a href="https://www.townofhatfield.org/celebration-committee">https://www.townofhatfield.org/celebration-committee</a>
Hatfield Council on Aging	<a href="https://www.townofhatfield.org/council-aging">https://www.townofhatfield.org/council-aging</a>
Smith Academy PTA	

There are a variety of local events specific to Hatfield. These events instill local pride, encourage community engagement, and provide the potential to attract visitors from the region.	
<b>CULTURAL EVENTS</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>
Hatfield Bonfire Music Festival	
Luminarium	Annual December event
Hatfield Summer Concert Series	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/">https://www.facebook.com/</a>
Hatfield Memorial Day Parade and Exercises	

*Hatfield's Open Space and Recreation Plan (2014) includes the goal of preserving Community Character and Protecting Farmland Scenic Resources and Unique Environments.*

Hatfield Lions Club Dan Berry Memorial Road Race “Potato Race”	Early November 5 mile road race – participants receive a free bag of potatoes – ends at Lions Pavilion with food and a baked potato bar. Running for more than 20 years.
Smith Academy Homecoming Parade	<a href="https://www.hatfieldps.net/">https://www.hatfieldps.net/</a>
Spooktacular	Hatfield Elementary School PTA
Summer Blastoff	
Cars & Karts	Pioneer Valley Indoor Karting West Hatfield

**Past Plans: Key Findings and Recommended Actions**

The April 2023 Background Paper and group meeting for this chapter highlighted some key findings and recommended actions from past Hatfield plans related to the town’s historic and cultural resources.

*MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report, 1982*

Encouraged continued inventory work, including identifying areas of archeological potential.

*Hatfield Master Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 2001*

Recommended prioritizing farmland preservation; Expanding the review responsibilities of the Hatfield historical commission; Considering a historic overlay zoning district; Developing non-regulatory design guidelines. Community values included rural character and open space with preservation of town character a top goal.

*DCR Hatfield Reconnaissance Report, 2009*

Encouraged the development of a cemetery preservation plan; the adoption of bylaws (demolition delay bylaw, scenic roads bylaw, scenic vista protection bylaw, transportation corridor protection bylaw, archaeological resource protection bylaw, agricultural preservation bylaw); and the designation of the town center and Mill River Districts as local historic districts or architectural preservation districts to support the preservation of exterior architectural features.

*Town Center Revitalization Study, 2010*

Promoted the adoption of regulations that encourage preservation of the town’s historic features.

*Master Plan Land Use Update, 2012*

Promoted compatible infill construction and the adoption of design standards to guide and control the appearance of new development.

*Town of Hatfield Housing Production Plan, 2015*

Noted that more than 64% of Hatfield homes were built before 1969 with older homes typically located in the three village centers. Recommended the adoption of Residential Design Guidelines with the Hatfield Historical Commission and Planning Board as the responsible entities.

*MVP Planning Grant Report, Hatfield, 2021*

A large portion of the east side of Hatfield is in either a 100-year (1% risk of flooding annually) or 500-year (.2% chance of flooding annual) floodplain, as are areas adjacent to the Mill River and Running Gutter. The Town Hall, Police Department Headquarters, Fire Department Headquarters, Elementary School, and Library are all in a 500-year floodplain.<sup>51</sup>

An interactive map related to planning for Hatfield Climate Resilience Features and Actions notes that the historic downtown, while in a vulnerable location with flooding risks, represents a

“really distinct, unique period of American history” and that Northfield, Hatfield, Deerfield, and Whately are the most representative of this period.<sup>52</sup>

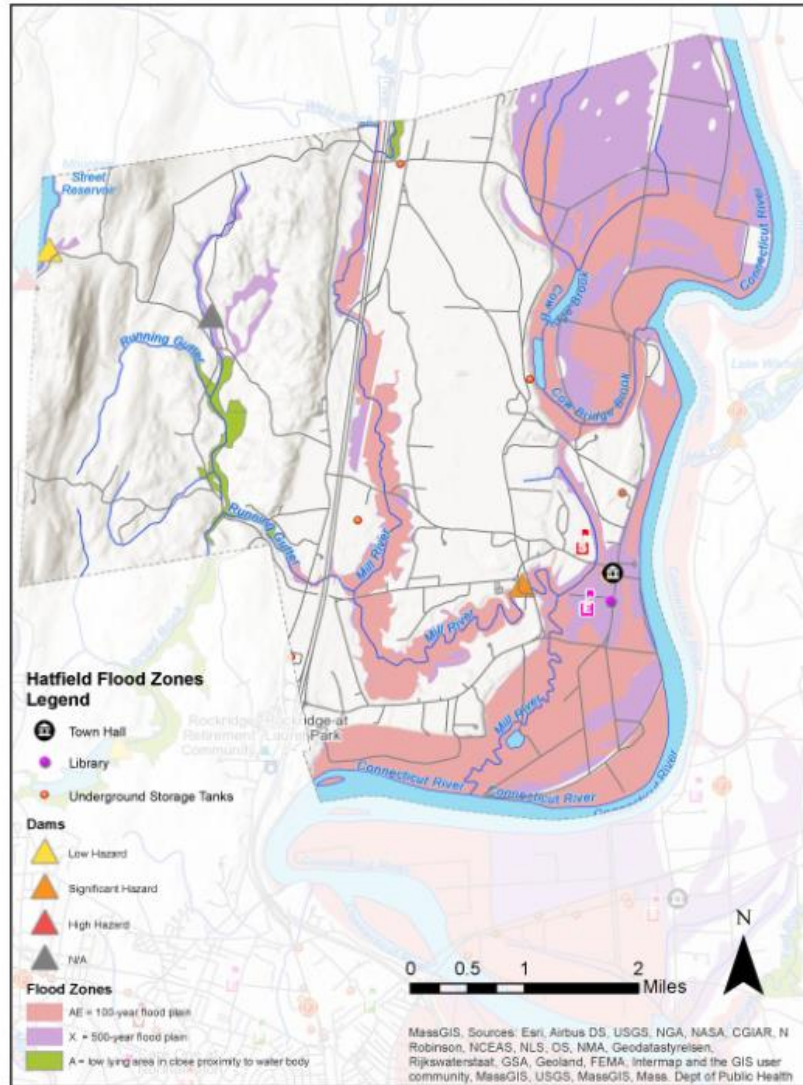


Figure 10 Hatfield Flood Zones - CRB Workshop Summary of Findings

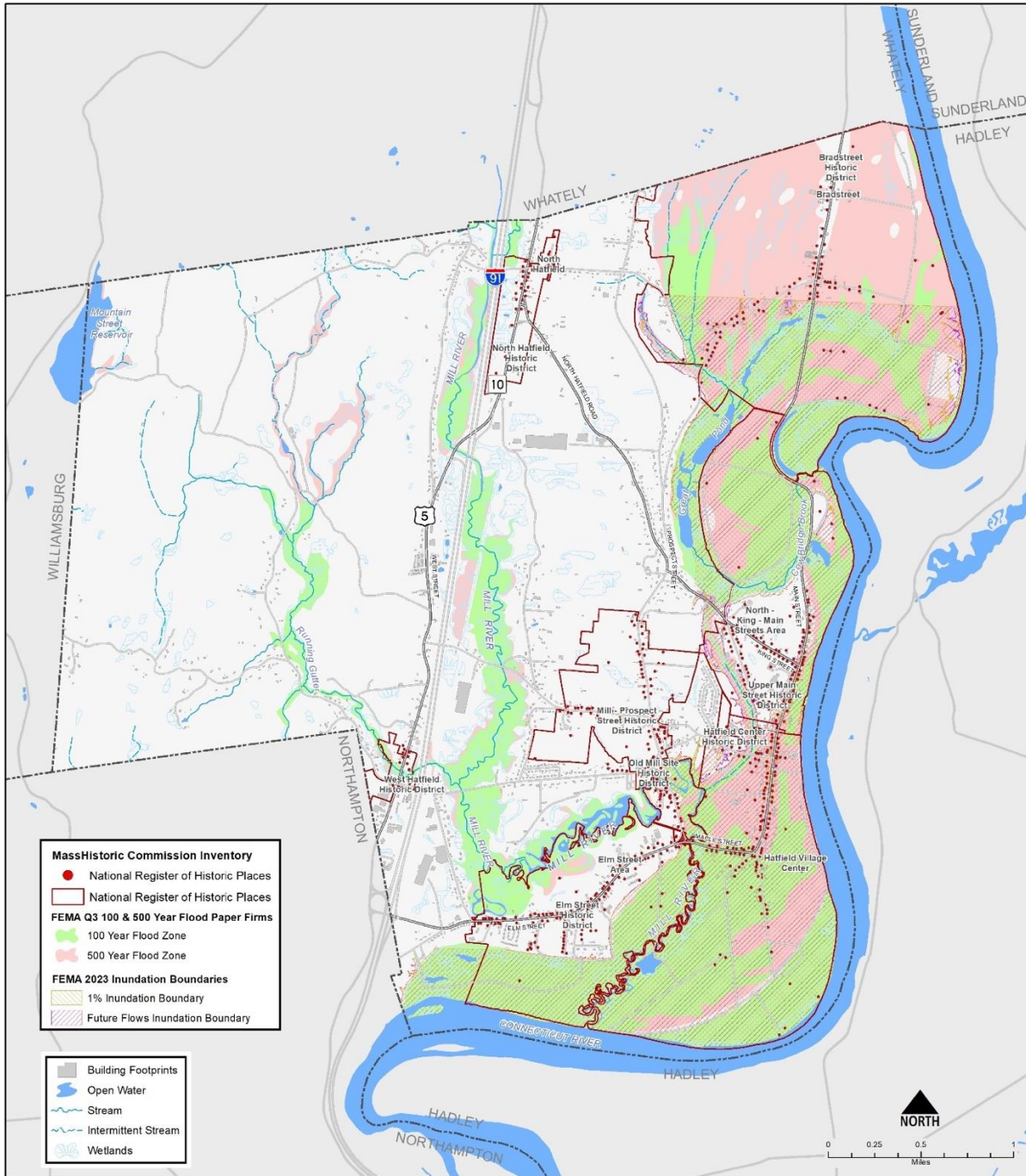
Hatfield CRB Workshop Summary of Findings

16

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/hatfield-report/download>

<sup>52</sup> <https://dodsonflinker.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/minimalist/index.html?appid=442f6604871d43ca9fc6e2ac8803eab8>

**Figure 11: Flood Zone overlay with MACRIS Inventory Points and NR Listings**



**HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
2024 Comprehensive Plan**

**HATFIELD, MA**

DATA SOURCES:  
MassGIS, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.  
This map is based on the best available data.  
All errors and omissions are subject to field verification.

**pvpc**

Drawing - 12/18/22

### 3. Challenges and Opportunities

#### Planning

Hatfield does not have a historic preservation plan

*Challenge* – lack of long term coordinated planning for protection of the abundance of existing built, archaeological, and cultural resources and landscapes

*Opportunity* – preservation planning, inventory and National Register assessment, design guidelines, architectural conservation district, archival collections assessments and grants<sup>53</sup>

#### Silos

Hatfield would benefit from increasing coordinated cultural planning

*Challenge* – Various groups are working separately on cultural initiatives.

*Opportunity* – Coordinating planning and development of a [Community Calendar](#) and pursuing cultural district listing would strengthen cultural offerings and potentially identify additional funding sources.

#### Protection

Hatfield does not have protections or guidelines for preservation and design

*Challenge* – other than demolition delay, currently no protections or guidelines in place for appropriate preservation, rehabilitation, and new compatible construction. An increasing percentage of residential properties are non-owner occupied.

*Opportunity* – strengthen demolition delay, pursue the development of community-wide design guidelines, establish design review committee.

---

<sup>53</sup> State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/archives/shrab/shrab-grants.htm>  
MA Libraries Board of Library Commissioners <https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/lsta/grant-opportunities/archives-arrangement.php>

Extreme weather could irreparably damage Hatfield’s historic and cultural resources

*Challenge* – flood risk is high for historic and cultural resources and landscapes

*Opportunity* – preparedness and resiliency planning to include accommodating natural river movement and retrofitting historic resources to sustain flooding<sup>54</sup>

## 4. Examples from other Communities

### Trend: Preservation Planning

Here are links to some recent preservation plans in Massachusetts communities:

**Case Study 1:** [Amherst Preservation Plan](#) (2005)

**Case Study 2:** [City of Beverly Historic Preservation Plan](#) (2020)

**Case Study 3:** [Lenox Communitywide Historic Preservation Plan](#) (2018)

**Case Study 4:** [Historic Preservation Plan – Town of Falmouth](#) (2014)

### Trend: Outreach and Engagement Through Municipal Websites

Sample Historical Commission sites in our region:

**Case Study 5:** [Westfield HC](#) – Responsibilities/History/Efforts/Virtual Tours

**Case Study 6:** [Sturbridge Historical Commission](#) – Overview, links, survey work, FAQs, Annual Report

**Case Study 7:** [Amherst Historical Commission](#) – Overview, plans, guide books, NR info, Awards of Merit, etc.

### Trend: Resiliency Planning

**Case Study 8:** [Flood Protection Guidelines to Preserve Cape Cod’s Historic Structures](#)

This project was a collaboration of the Cape Cod Commission and the United States Army Corps of Engineers [Silver Jackets](#) team. The final report will detail floodproofing options suitable for specific building types and locations, as well as cost estimates for the work, designed to aid the preservation of historic properties and serve as a resource for historic property owners on Cape Cod and in similar coastal communities.

Project partners include the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Woods Hole Sea Grant, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the towns of Sandwich, Falmouth, and Provincetown.

---

<sup>54</sup> [https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1464&context=masters\\_theses\\_2](https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1464&context=masters_theses_2) and Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/guidelines-on-flood-adaptation-for-rehabilitating-historic-buildings.htm>



### Case Study 9: [Strawbery Banke Museum](#)

“Retreat is not on the table – adapting to the changing climate”

- Four of the Museum’s historic structures are extremely vulnerable to sea level rise and are experiencing deterioration due to saltwater infiltration during storm surge and astronomically high tides.
- The Museum is a member of the advisory committee for the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment in Portsmouth (NH), and is working with the city of Portsmouth to seek solutions and provide educational awareness efforts including the [Water Has a Memory: Preserving Strawbery Banke and Portsmouth from Sea Level Rise](#) exhibit.
- The Museum is working with an architect & landscape architect to redesign hardscapes to absorb water and altering buildings for resiliency.
- [Already Underwater: Strawberry Banke Adapts to Climate Change to Preserve History](#) 2022

### Case Study 10: Brandywine and Christina River Flooding in Delaware

- The Brandywine Conservancy launches a flood survey to examine river flooding and how to protect surrounding communities
- The man-made South Wilmington Wetlands Park, was created to help reduce flooding in the historic neighborhood of Southbridge. The project was completed in conjunction with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the Nature Conservancy, and Brightfields, Inc., a brownfield redevelopment firm. Rain gardens, stormwater management, and green infrastructure were also included in the plan throughout the city. [Shoring up Coastlines and Communities with Green Infrastructure](#) (2022)

### Trend: Community Design Guidelines

#### Case Study 11: [Town of Wellesley Historic Preservation Design Guidelines](#) (2021)

- Developed as a resource for property owners within local historic districts and a resource and guide to the preservation and enhancement of historic character within Wellesley’s other historic residential neighborhoods.

#### Case Study 12: [Northampton Central Business Architecture Committee](#)

- The Central Business Architecture Committee oversees the Central Business Architecture Ordinance, to preserve and enhance the pedestrian-scale character, culture, economy of downtown Northampton by preserving historic and architecturally valuable buildings and features and encouraging compatible building design. A volunteer board composed of representatives from the real estate industry, the Chamber

of Commerce, the Northampton Historical Commission, the building and construction trades industry and a registered architect come together as needed for technical assistance and public hearings for permit applications for downtown renovation and construction projects requiring design review. Governed by common bylaws for Central Business Architecture, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Planning Board, and Zoning Board.

**Case Study 13: [Brown Street, Wickford Village Design Guidelines](#)**

- With the assistance of a Certified Local Government grant from the Rhode Island State historic preservation office, the Town of North Kingstown is developing a set of [design guidelines](#) for Wickford Village focused on buildings in commercial use primarily along Brown Street, with possible inclusion of properties along West Main Street and portions of Main Street and Phillips Street. The guidelines are intended to ensure that any new construction, including additions to existing buildings, is sensitive to and compatible with the surrounding National Register Historic District. The document will also provide guidance regarding the maintenance of existing historic buildings.

**Case Study 14: [Cape Cod Commission - Community Design Guidelines and Resources](#)**

- [Designing the Future to Honor the Past-Design Guidelines for Cape Cod](#) (1994-2019) is an award-winning design manual that includes comprehensive information on site planning, landscape design, lighting, and architecture. It was created in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Amherst Center for Rural Massachusetts.

**Case Study 15: [Town of Franklin Design Review Commission Design Guidelines](#) (2005)**

- These design guidelines have been prepared to assist business and property owners in protecting and enhancing the design character of commercial and industrial areas in the Town. Its guiding principles are based on a general belief that high quality of design and construction contribute to enhancing the economic vitality of business districts, and improve the overall quality of living.

**TREND: CULTURAL PLANNING RESOURCES**

**Case Study 16: [Arts and Planning Toolkit](#) - MAPC**

- Arts and Culture Planning draws from many other forms of planning, community development, and artistic practices. Below is a list of ideas and tools - complete with links to additional resources from MAPC and beyond - to accelerate your engagement with the field.
- The content is divided into three categories to help you navigate and situate knowledge based on whether the topic is generally about a concept or approach, a place-based intervention, or a people-focused engagement. However, these categories

may remain fluid as this practice demands that people, place, and ideas are woven together.

**Case Study 17: [A Cultural Plan for the City of Worcester, Massachusetts](#) – WCC (2019)**

- “A year in the making, the Cultural Plan is a foundational document for municipal cultural planning and service delivery in Worcester. The plan is primarily funded by the Barr Foundation through its [Creative Commonwealth Initiative](#), the Worcester Cultural Coalition, and is a fulfillment of the City’s cultural compact with the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which was designed to “promote a shared vision for cities and towns to recognize the power of culture and make communities better places for people to live, work and thrive...The Worcester Cultural Plan is unique in that it is embedded in the City’s Masterplan,” noted City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr. “Arts and culture are catalysts for creative economic development, embedding art into our streetscapes and design, lifting up our rich immigrant experiences and shining a spotlight on all we offer, knowing that great cities embrace arts and culture.”

**Case Study 18: [Turners Falls Cultural District](#) (Montague, MA)**

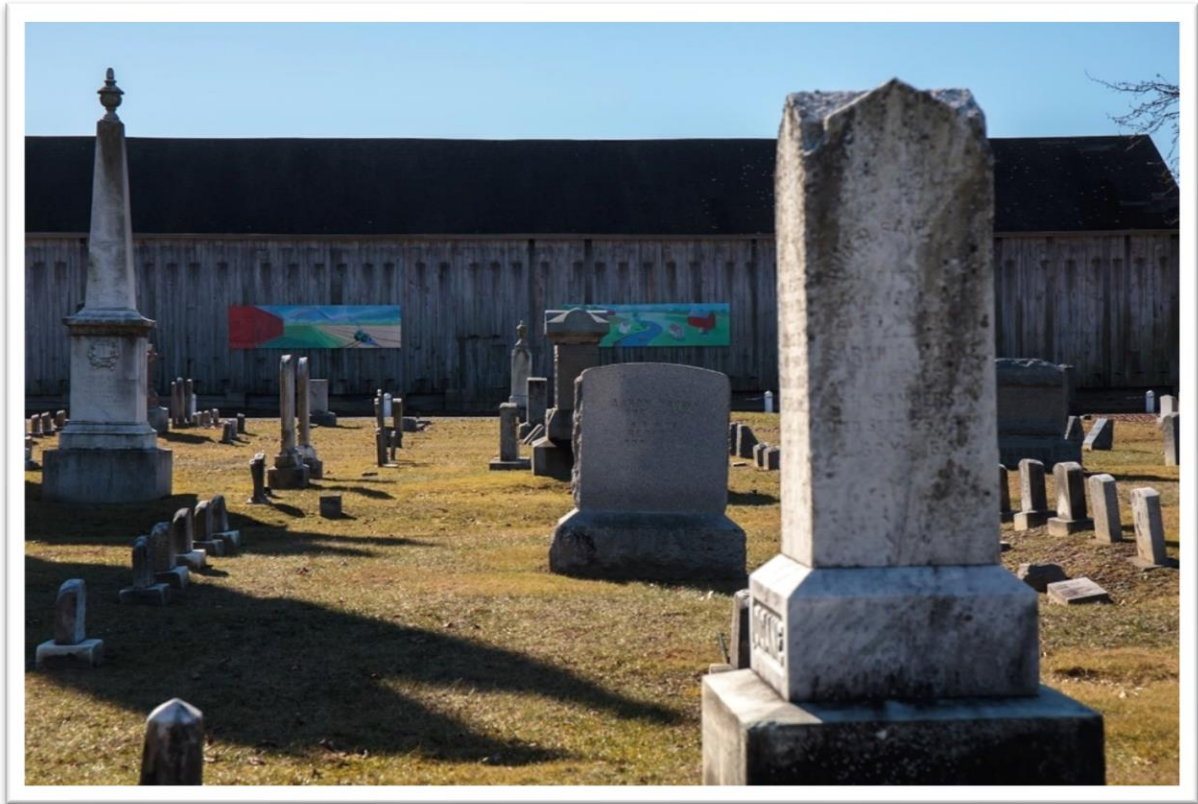
- [The Mass Cultural Council’s Cultural Districts Initiative](#) was authorized by an act of the Massachusetts state legislature in 2010, and launched in April 2011. The goals of the Cultural Districts are to attract artists and cultural enterprises, foster cultural development, encourage business and job development, establish the district as a tourist destination, preserve and reuse historic buildings, and enhance property values.
- The Turners Falls Cultural District was designated by the Mass Cultural Council in May, 2017. The boundaries of the Cultural District extend along Avenue A from the [Great Falls Discovery Center](#) to the [Carnegie Library](#), a grand Georgian building built in 1906 by Andrew Carnegie.

The Avenue A and Third Street business district features restaurants, breweries, parks, public art and unique shops along a wide, tree-lined street. The 330 seat [Shea Theater Arts Center](#) is the hub of entertainment. Built in 1927 and completely renovated in 2016, the Shea Theater presents regional, national and international artists as well as community theater, dance and all forms of music.

The Turners Falls Cultural District also offers [uncommon recreational opportunities](#), all situated with gorgeous views of the Connecticut River. [Unity Park](#) is designed to encourage physical fitness, relaxation and a connection with nature. With well-appointed ball fields, basketball courts and play structures, Unity Park is a place for people of all ages to recreate. [Unity Skatepark](#) is considered the best in the region. Its

comprehensive design links a variety of transitions, stairs, banks, and rails making it fun and challenging for riders of all skill levels.

Don't forget to bring your bike! The [Canalside Rail Trail](#) is the perfect place to ride, walk or just take-in views of the Industrial Era canal district. Named "Best Bike Path in New England" by Yankee Magazine, the paved, 3-mile trail is wheelchair accessible.



*Figure 12: Hatfield Farm Museum/Billings Way Tobacco Barn (HTF.490) and Main Street Cemetery (HTF.804)*

## 5. Recommended Goals and Strategies

### A. Protect Hatfield's Community Character (*existing landscapes, built resources, and collections*)

#### Objectives:

- Pursue and strengthen community-wide preservation planning
- Update inventory in MACRIS to include underrepresented populations
- Conduct a local historic district feasibility study for the town center
- Provide guidance for compatible and resilient design for new construction
- Strengthen existing Demolition Delay Bylaw
- Plan for storage and display of archival and physical collections

#### Strategies:

- Work with Tribal representatives to develop a Native American presence statement.
- Add information to the Hatfield Historical Commission page.
- Develop a Hatfield Historic Preservation Plan.
- Updated inventory documentation to meet current state and federal standards.
- Redefine priority Heritage Landscapes.
- Develop Hatfield non-regulatory Design Guidelines and Standards.
- Establish a Design Review Board.
- Create a Historic Overlay District for Village Centers.
- Pursue a Scenic Road bylaw for protection of trees and other features like stone walls.
- Pursue Archaeological Protection by-law.
- Plan for and identify funding sources for archival and physical collections storage and display for research and community access.

### B. Identify and Support Hatfield's Cultural Assets

#### Objectives:

- Work to engage residents in and promote community events
- Strengthen partnerships and offerings with local community cultural organizations
- Conduct cultural asset mapping
- Encourage portable vendors, pop-up shops, and cultural events
- Pursue cultural resiliency planning to protect Hatfield's heritage

#### Strategies:

- Identify the best location for Hatfield's Museum and Archival Materials.
- Develop a [Community Calendar](#) and establish management of this resource.
- Add information to Hatfield Cultural Council site to provide resources and facilitate understanding of purpose.

- If appropriate, pursue a Local Cultural District with the Mass Cultural Council.
- Establish more annual festivals and invest in staff to support Celebration Committee or partner with a local non-profit group to plan and coordinate volunteers.
- Initiate emergency preparedness planning for cultural resources using COSTEP best practices and framework.

### **C. Support Stewardship of Historic Resources and Landscapes**

#### Objectives:

- Conduct outreach to support engagement and build consensus of best practices to preserve Hatfield's valued community character
- Provide resources for owners of historic buildings
- Position Hatfield to gain access to local technical assistance and other programs to support the abundance of historic resources

#### Strategies:

- Strengthen the Hatfield Historical Commission page on the town website to provide resources and facilitate understanding of purpose.
- After strengthening protections and updating documentation, pursue Certified Local Government designation with the support of the National Park Service.
- Conduct historic tree (and stone wall and barn) inventory.
- Develop a community Historic Plaque Program and Preservation Award program.
- Pursue the installation of interpretive signage like a heritage trail to share the town's history.
- Promote design guidelines and best practices.

### **D. Plan for Resiliency of Historic and Cultural Resources**

#### Objectives:

- Proactively plan for resiliency particularly for resources at risk for flooding
- Identify local, state, and federal partnerships and funding sources
- Improve community access to historic resources and collections

#### Strategies:

- Partner with other riverfront communities and dam owners to coordinate planning.
- Pursue planning for resiliency in place and appropriate retrofitting of at-risk resources.
- Redesign of hardscapes, as appropriate, to absorb flood waters.
- Activate Institutional and Residential Emergency Preparedness Planning (COSTEP).
- Investigate archival grant programs for increased organization and funding.
- Identify the best location for Hatfield's Museum and Archival Materials.

### ***Additional Resources***

City of Annapolis. [Weather it Together : A Cultural Resource Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Annapolis, 2018.](#)

FEMA [Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act](#) *Only a few Eastern MA communities currently designated with initial 483 designations.*

FEMA [Floodplain Management Bulletin Historic Structures](#) (2008)

Finley, Ben. [Historic Homes May Prove to Be More Resilient Against Floods](#) U.S. News and World Report October 9, 2022.

FloodReady VT. [Flood Resilience: Strategy](#)

Good, Karen. [Preservation of Small Town Character in the Town Center of Rutland, Massachusetts](#), Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Masters Project, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2002.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. [Terra Firma: Putting Historic Landscape Preservation on Solid Ground, Taking Action: A Toolkit for Protecting Community Character](#), 2008.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. [MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report. Hatfield](#), 1982.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. [Preservation Planning Manual](#), 2015.

National Park Service. [Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings](#) 2022.

Naturally Resilient Communities. [Using Nature to Address Flooding](#) Case Studies with nature-based solutions.

NC State College of Design. [Hell or High Water. Resilient Recovery Through Design A Small Town's Struggle to Survive their Risky Position](#) , 2017.

UMass Amherst. Riversmart Communities. [Creating Resilient Communities](#) Riversmart communities. Excerpt from Nicole Gillet's Improving Small Community Flood Resilience: the Multiple Strategies of Watershed Partnerships, 2016.

Nelson, Garrett Dash. [Want to Protect the Historic Character of Massachusetts Cities and Towns? Take Away Their Power.](#) *CommonWealth Beacon*, 2023

Wells, Daniel White and Reuben Field Wells. [A History of Hatfield, 1660-1910](#). Springfield: F.C.H. Gibbons, 1910, *Archive.org*.

Worley, Ashby Nix. [St. Mary's Flood Resiliency Project](#) The Nature Conservancy, 2017.

Whole Building Design Guide. [Historic Preservation](#), 2023.

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Lyman, Jonathan Huntington. "A plan of Hatfield." Map. 1801. *Digital Commonwealth*, <https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/2z10wv37d> (accessed February 07, 2024).

Figure 2: 30 School Street. Photograph taken by Doug Hall, PVPC, February 2024.

Figure 3: Carter, Paul, photographer. *Onion planters near Hatfield, Massachusetts*. United States Hampshire County Hatfield Massachusetts, 1936. Apr. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017764080/>.

Figure 4: United States Resettlement Administration, Carter, Paul, photographer. *Barn of client after the Connecticut River had subsided, Hatfield, Massachusetts*. United States Hatfield Massachusetts, 1936. Mar. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017734350/>.

Figure 5: Dickinson Memorial Hall, 39 Main Street. Photograph taken by Doug Hall, PVPC, February 2024.

Figure 6: MHC MACRIS Maps showing historic documentation in Hatfield, <https://maps.mhc-macris.net/>

Figure 7: School Street view to the east. Photograph taken by Doug Hall, PVPC, February 2024.

Figure 8: Building Construction Dates Hatfield MA. PVPC GIS Map, 2023.

Figure 9: Elisha Hubbard House, 40 School Street. Photograph taken by Doug Hall, PVPC, February 2024.

Figure 10: Hatfield Climate Resilience Feature & Actions: [Interactive Map](#) from Town of Hatfield Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings, 2021

Figure 11: Flood Zone overlay with MACRIS Inventory Points and NR Listings. PVPC GIS Map, 2023.

Figure 12: Hatfield Farm Museum/Billings Way Tobacco Barn (HTF.490) and Main Street Cemetery (HTF.804). Photograph taken by Doug Hall, PVPC, February 2024