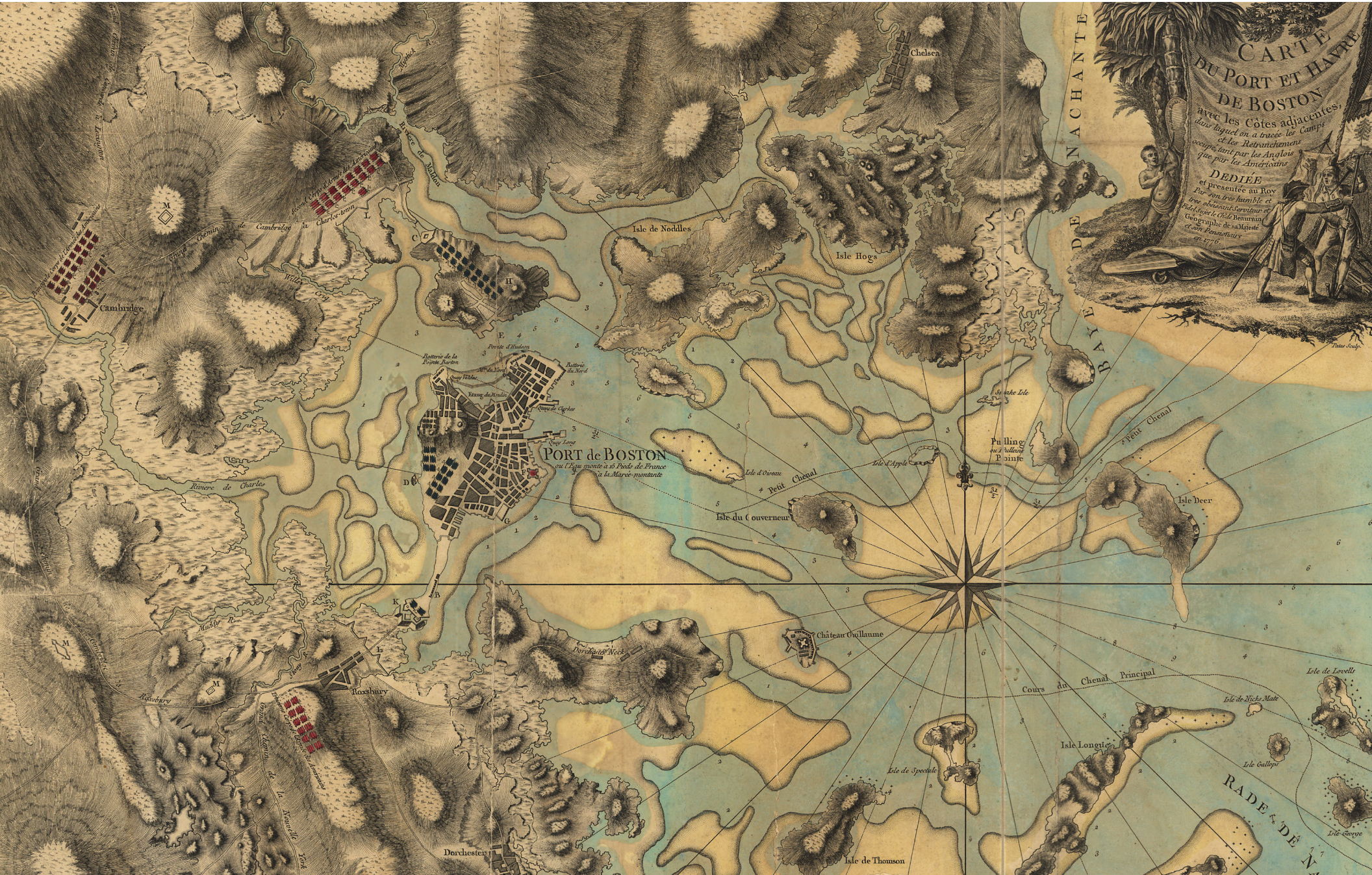
MARSHLAND TO BROWNFIELD

BRICKBOTTOM BEFORE 1900



URBANIZATION

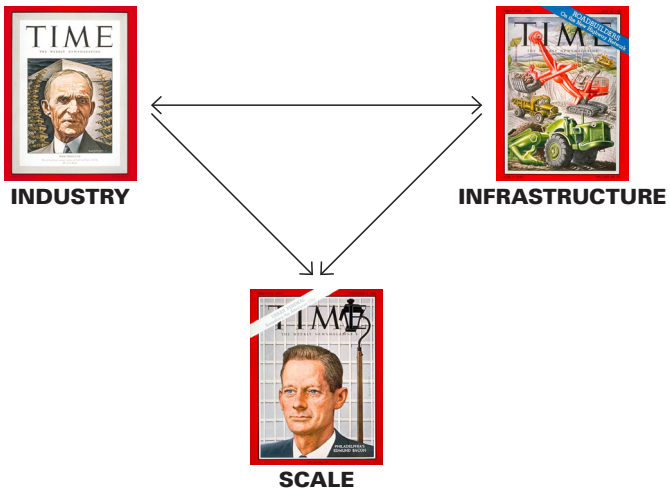
INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

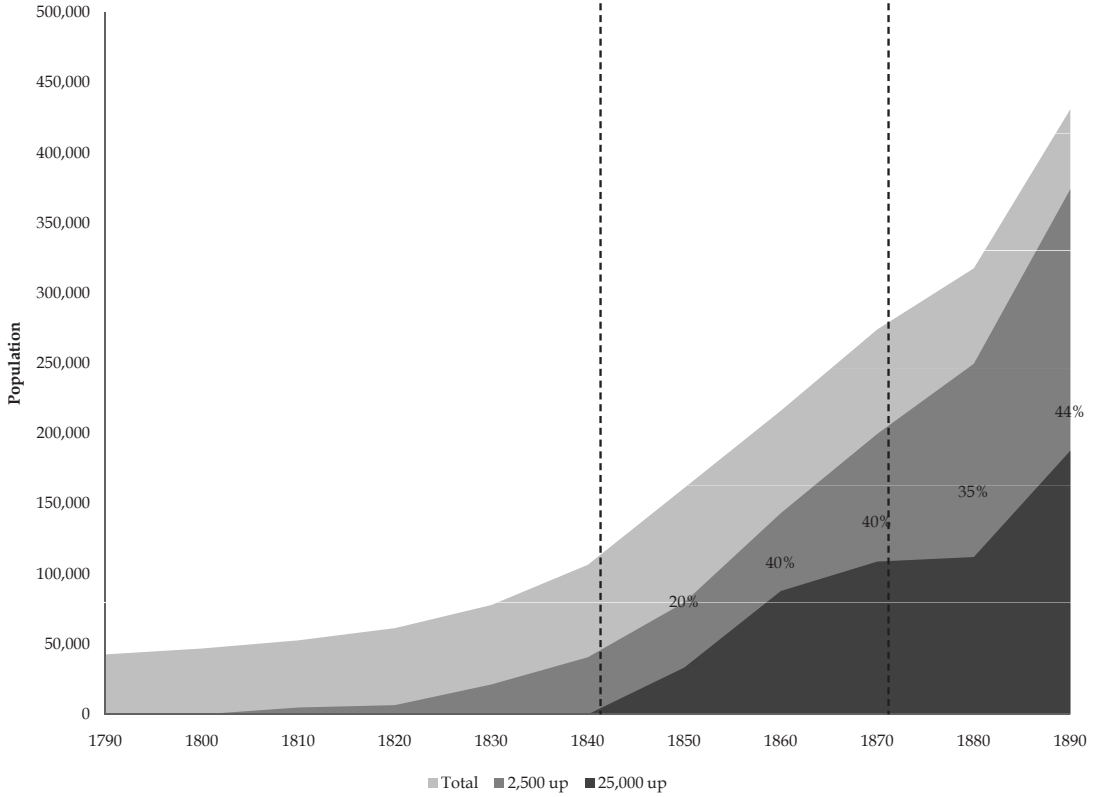
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM





PRE 1842: RURAL

ENGLISH SETTLERS

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

1628 CHARLESTOWN

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

1871 CITY CHARTER

BRICKBOTTOM

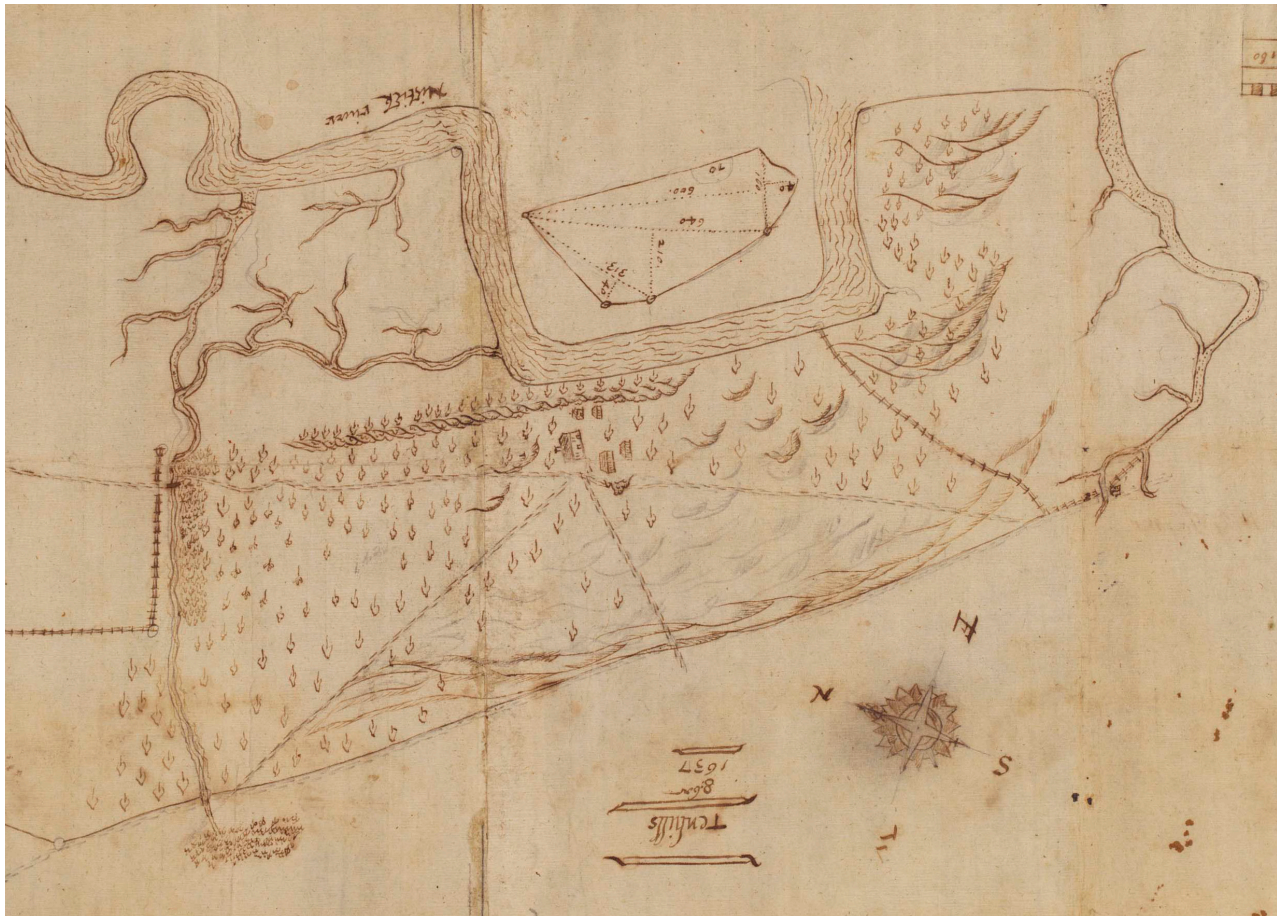
1628 Grant of land to the Massachusetts Bay Company, including Somerville as part of Charlestown

1631 John Winthrop establishes Ten Hill Farm

Charlestown settled by Puritans, with what is now Somerville as "Cow Commons"

English names: Charles River, Charlestown, Middlesex

Middlesex county remains 95.6% English & Welsh up through the Revolutionary War (1790 Census)



1637 Ten Hills Farm

PRE 1842: RURAL MARSHLAND

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

1780 Boston Bay

PRE 1842: RURAL

NAMES: NATURAL FEATURES

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

"City of Hills"

Prospect Hill/Sandpit Sq (Union Sq)
Cobble Hill/Poplar Grove (McLean Inner Belt)

Others: Winter Hill, Spring Hill, Quarry Hill, Walnut Hill, Strawberry Hill, Ploughed Hill

1776 Boston & Its Environs

PRE 1842: RURAL

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

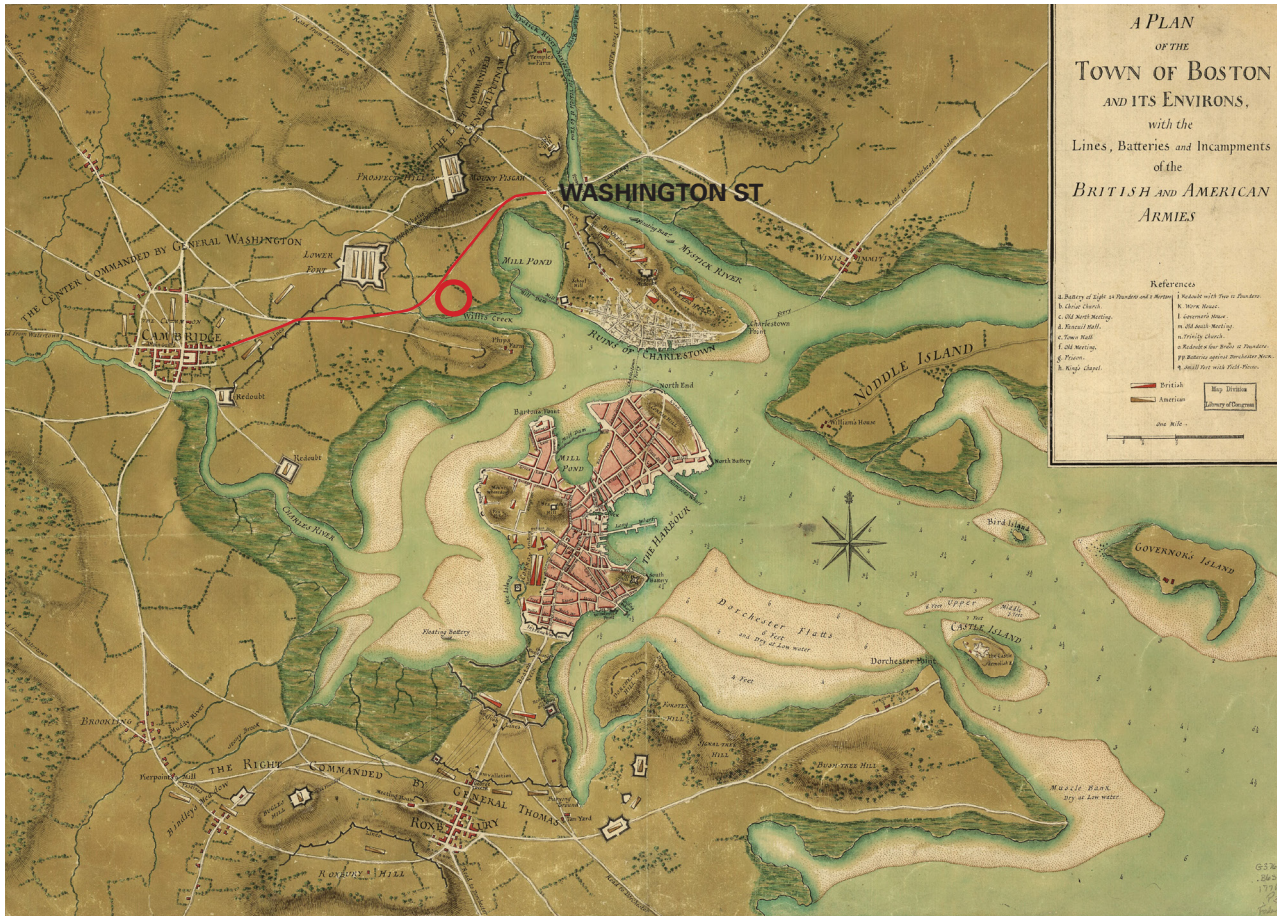
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

1775 Somerville site of several skirmishes near the time of the Battle of Lexington

Road to Newtowne (Cambridge) **later renamed Washington St**



1776 Boston & Its Environs

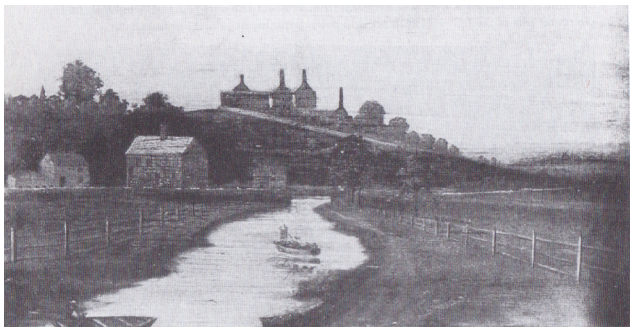
PRE 1842: RURAL

Middlesex Canal

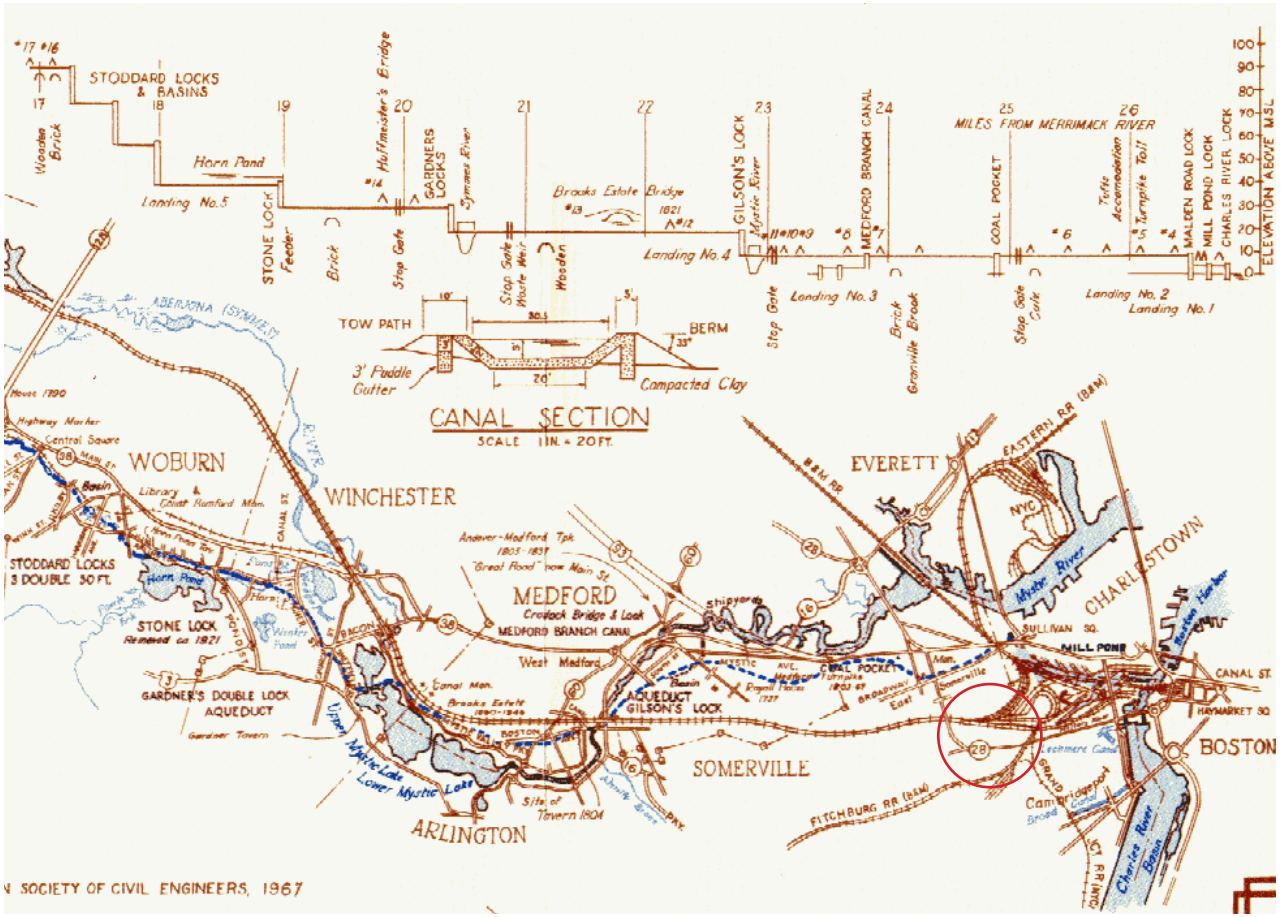
INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776 | MIDDLESEX CANAL 1803 | INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842 | CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM



1803 Middlesex Canal connecting the Merrimack River to Boston, used for transporting bricks



1803 Middlesex Canal

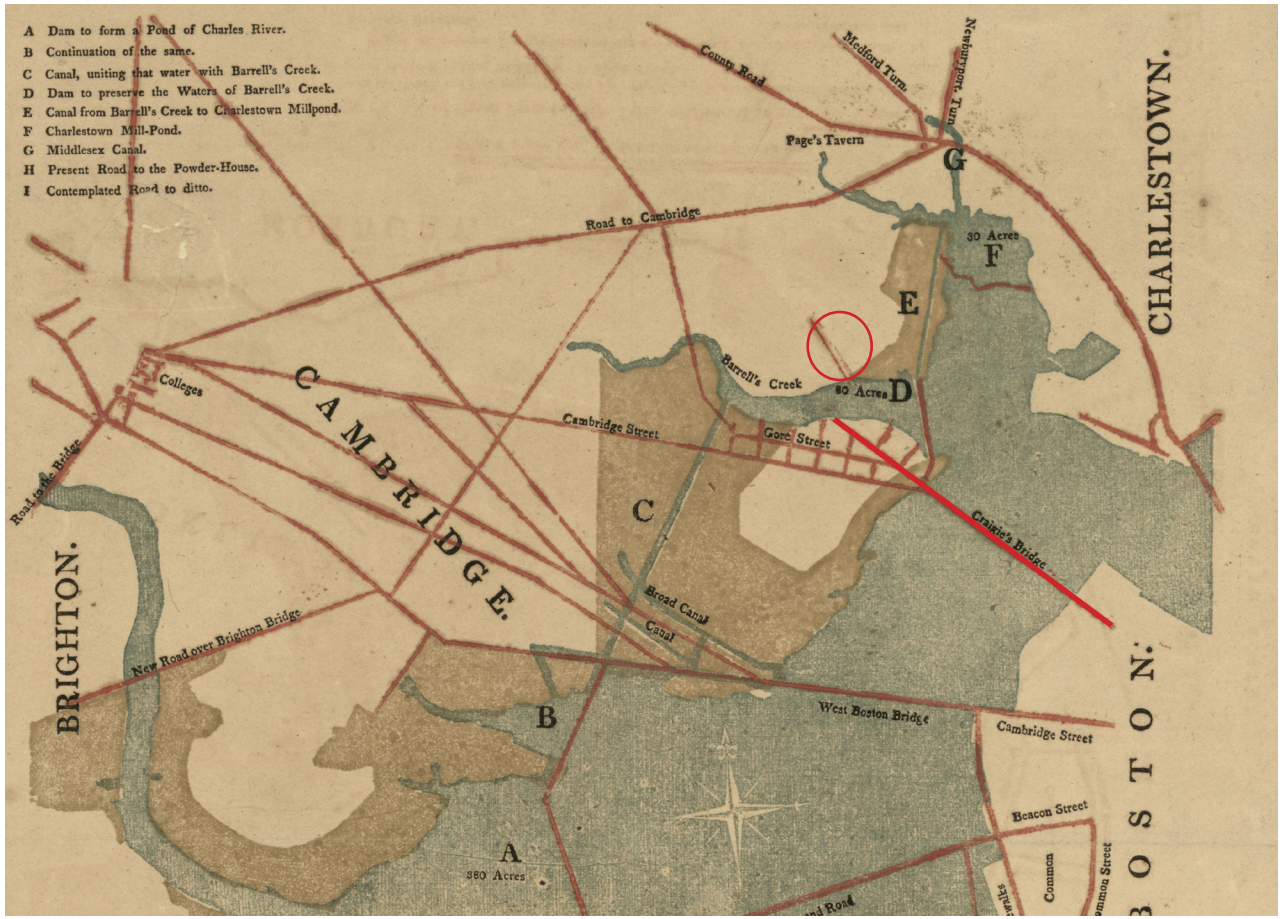
PRE 1842: RURAL ROADS

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
MIDDLESEX CANAL 1803
CRAIGIE BRIDGE 1807
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

1807 Craigie Bridge linking Somerville to Boston, used for transporting agricultural products from Lexington and Arlington, especially milk



1814 Boston Metropolitan Region

PRE 1842: RURAL

NAMES: AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

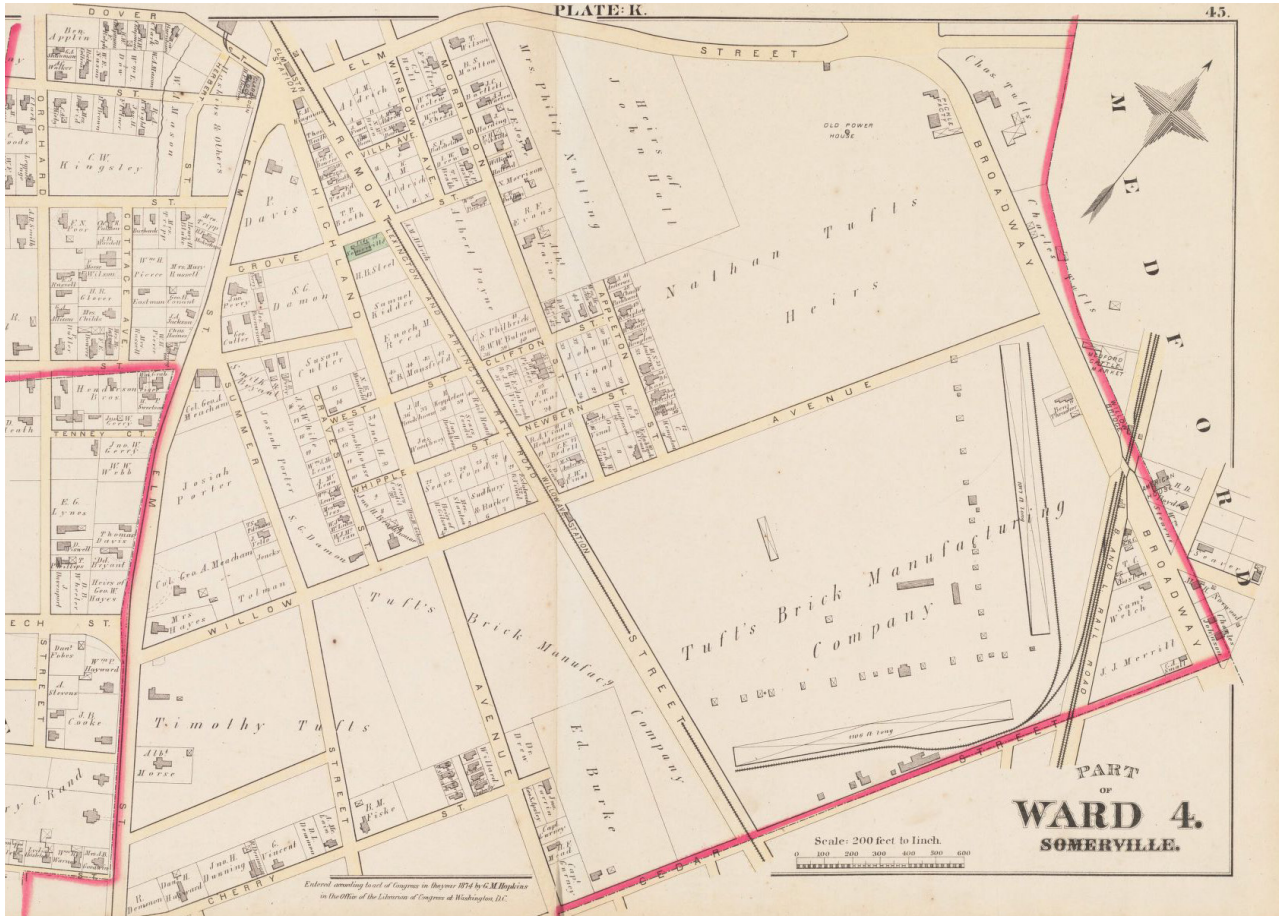
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
MIDDLESEX CANAL 1803
CRAIGIE BRIDGE 1807
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Milk Street (Somerville Ave)**: used by farmers to bring milk to Boston**

Brickbottom: brickyards from the clay deposits in the marshlands of the Boston Basin

1714 Oliver Tufts House & Tufts Brickyards



PRE 1842: RURAL AGRARIAN VILLAGE

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

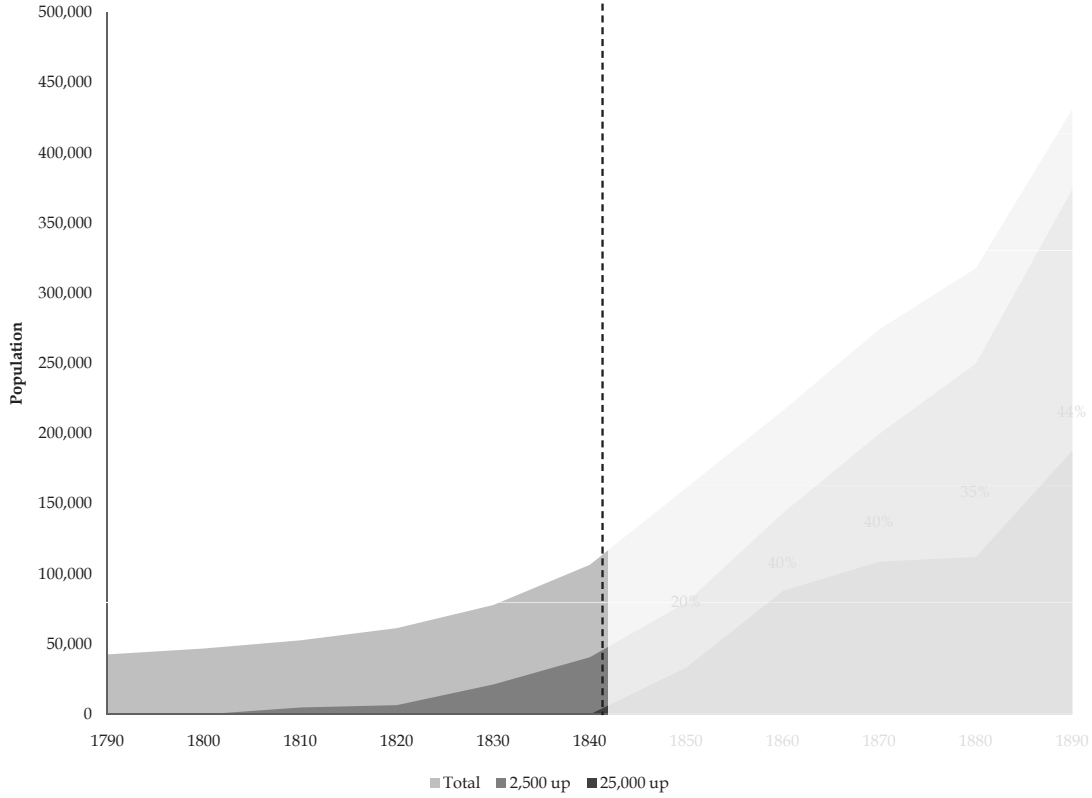
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Middlesex an agrarian community until the 1830s

Town (2,500 up)

1830: 27%
1840: 38%
90% INCREASE



PRE 1842: RURAL IMMIGRATION

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

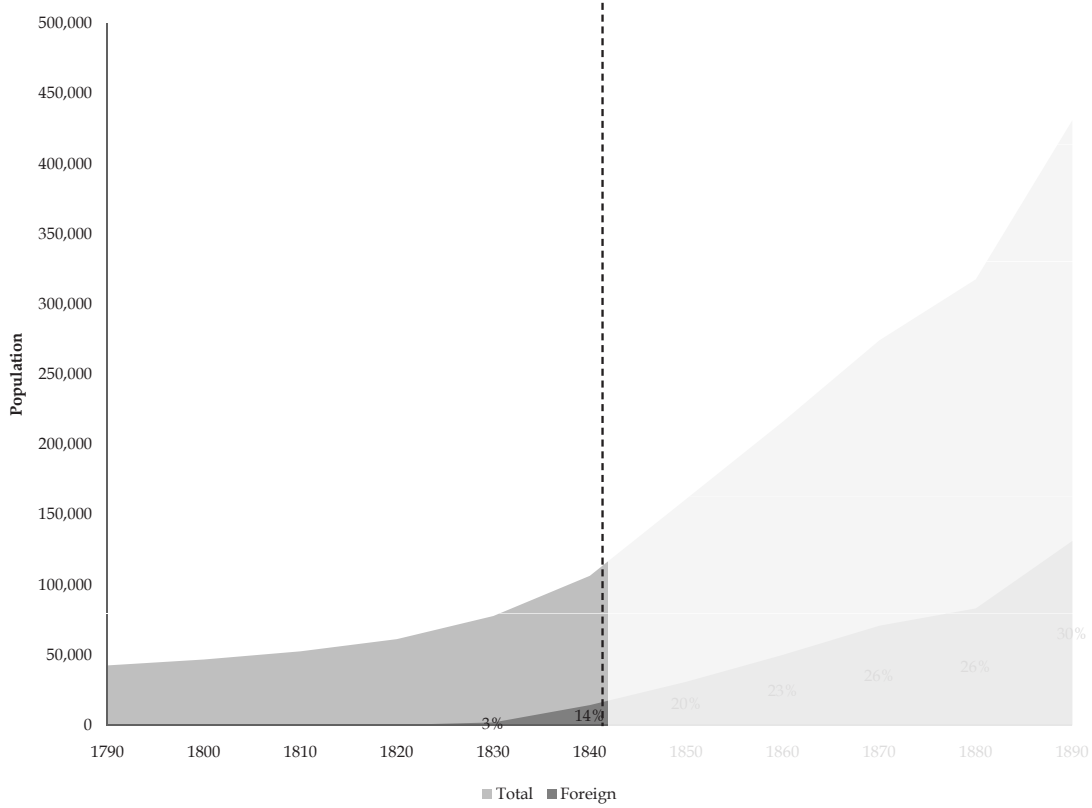
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Increased urbanization draws immigrant populations in the 1830s

Foreign Born

1830: 3%
1840: 14%
576% INCREASE



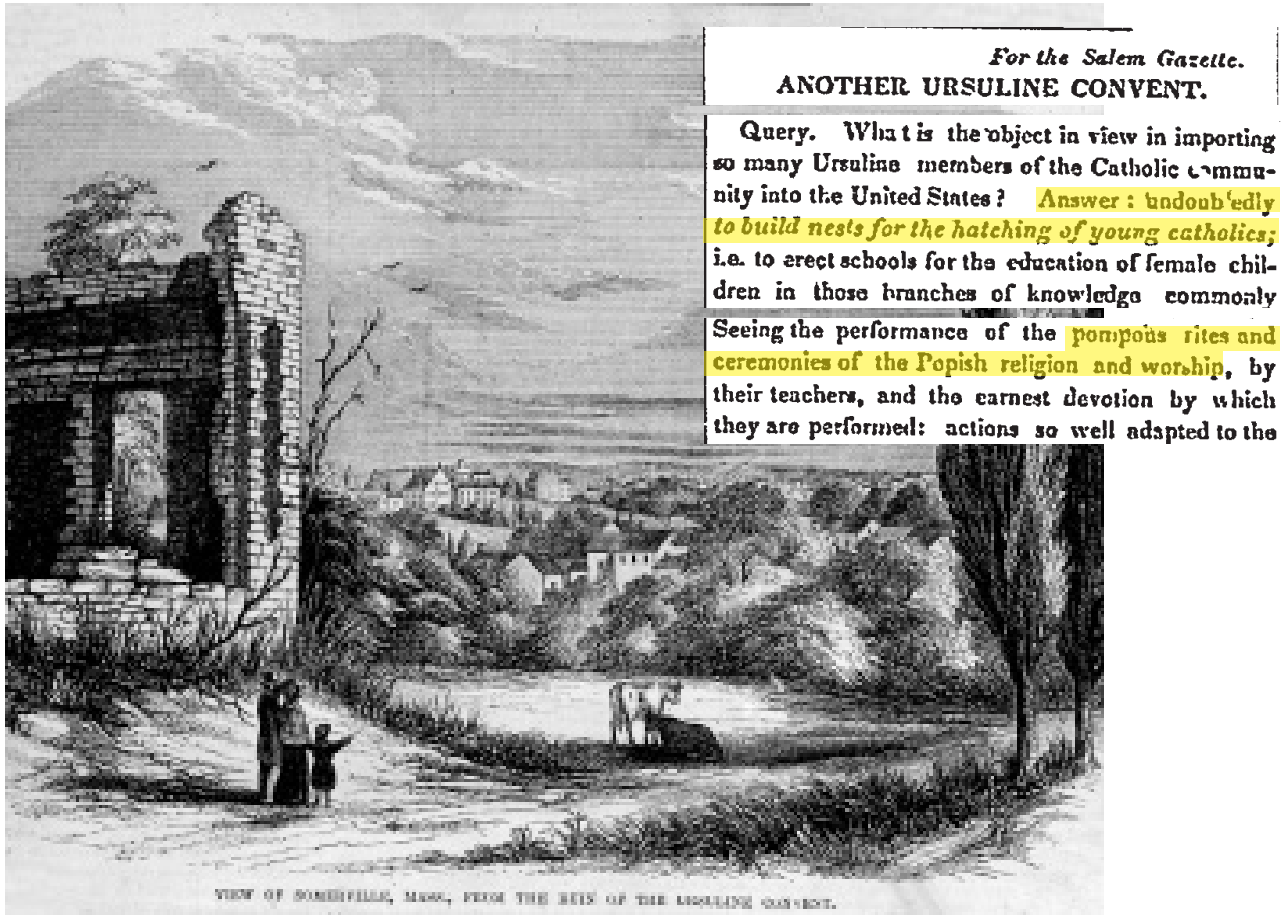
PRE 1842: RURAL

ANTI-CATHOLIC SENTIMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
CONVENT BURNED 1834
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM



For the Salem Gazette.

ANOTHER URSULINE CONVENT.

Query. What is the object in view in importing so many Ursuline members of the Catholic community into the United States? Answer: undoubtedly *to build nests for the hatching of young catholics;* i.e. to erect schools for the education of female children in those branches of knowledge commonly

Seeing the performance of the pompous rites and ceremonies of the Popish religion and worship, by their teachers, and the earnest devotion by which they are performed: actions so well adapted to the

VIEW OF SOMERVILLE, MASS. FROM THE RUIN OF THE URSULINE CONVENT.

1830s -1840s anti-immigration Nativist movement

1834 Ursuline convent at Benedict Hill (Assembly Square) **stormed by a mob and burned due to rumors of forced conversion of Protestant girls**

Nativist Flag & Ruins of the Ursuline Convent

1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

INCORPORATION

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

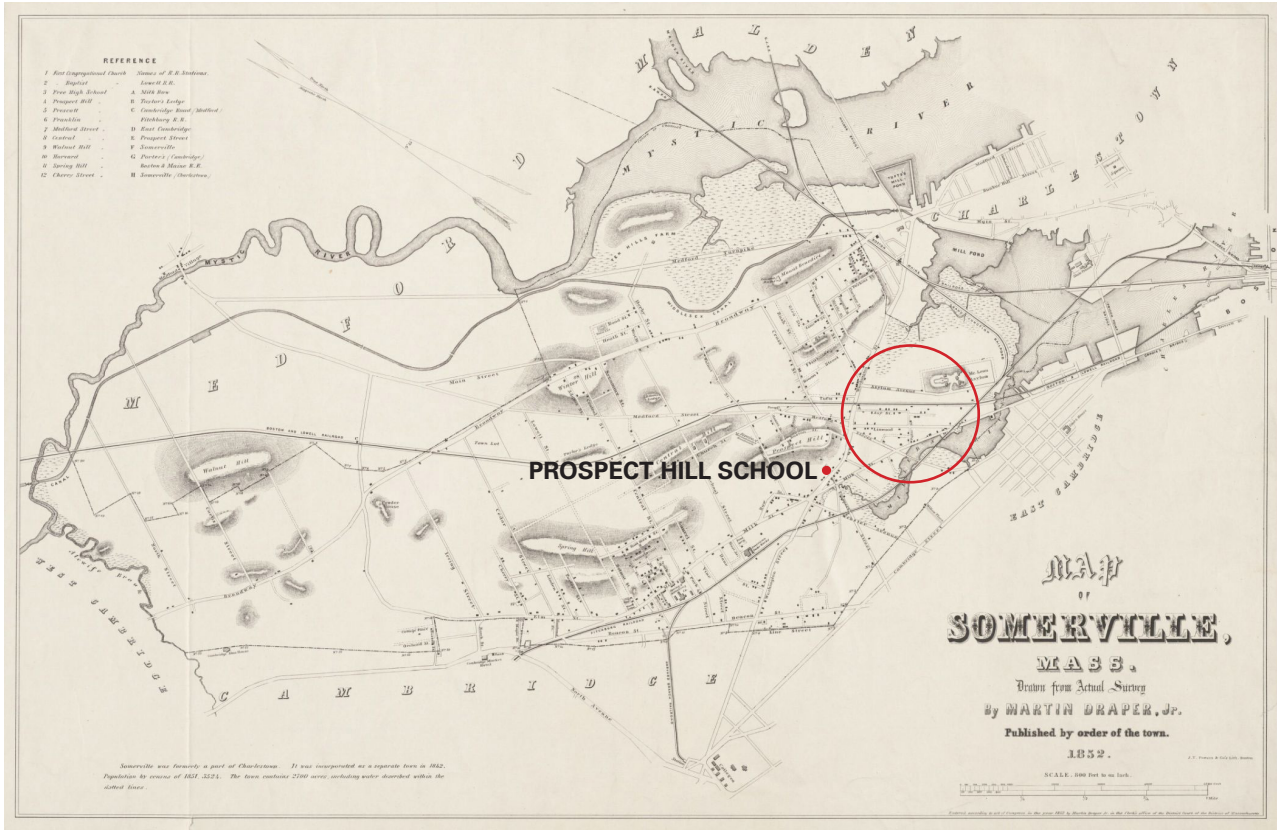
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Due to increasing population, Somerville is incorporated in 1842 as an independent town separate from Charlestown

Prospect Hill School site of meetings regarding town independence



1852 Somerville

1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

URBANIZATION

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

1780

1852

1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

ENGINEERED LAND

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

1780

1852

1842-71: TOWN

IDENTITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

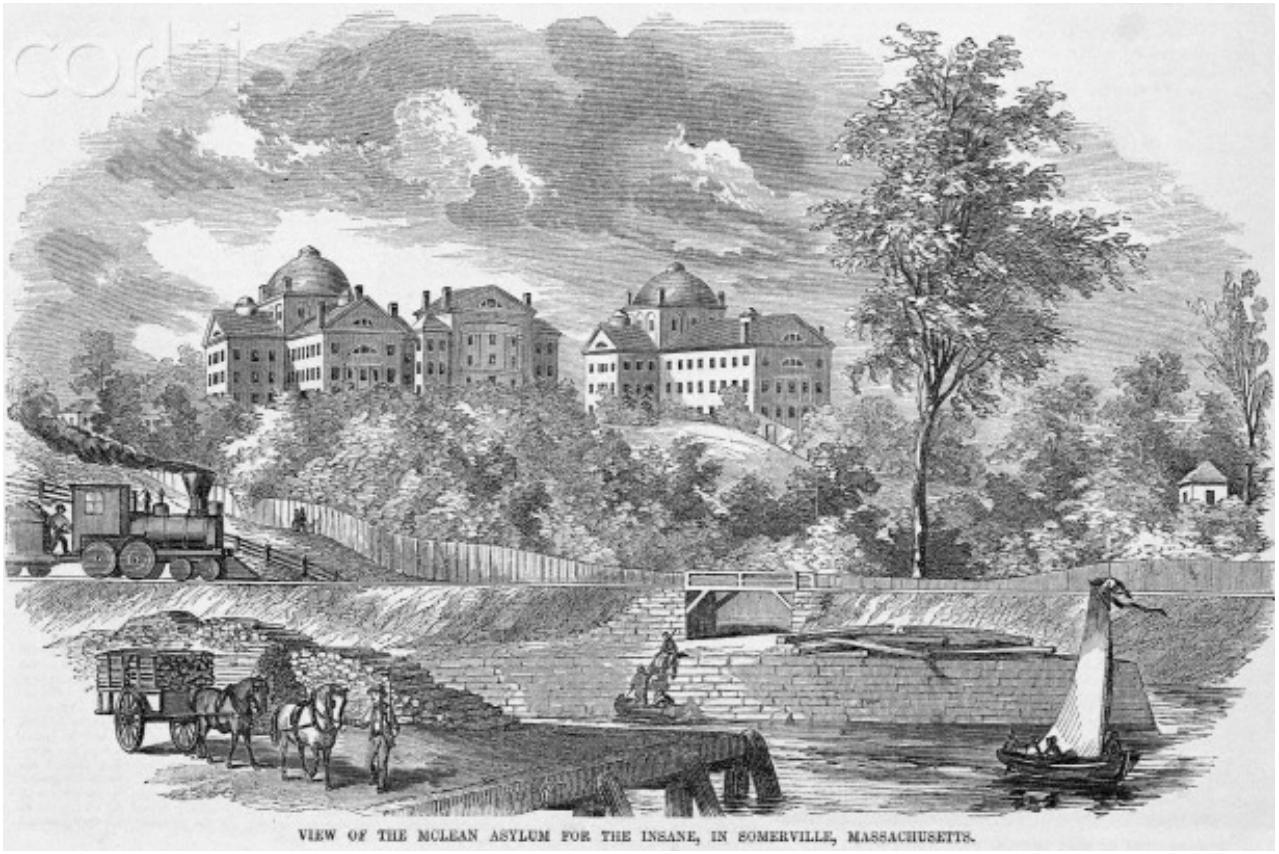
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Streetcar Suburb vs Industrial Center



VIEW OF THE MCLEAN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, IN SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

1853 McLean Asylum

1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

RAIL

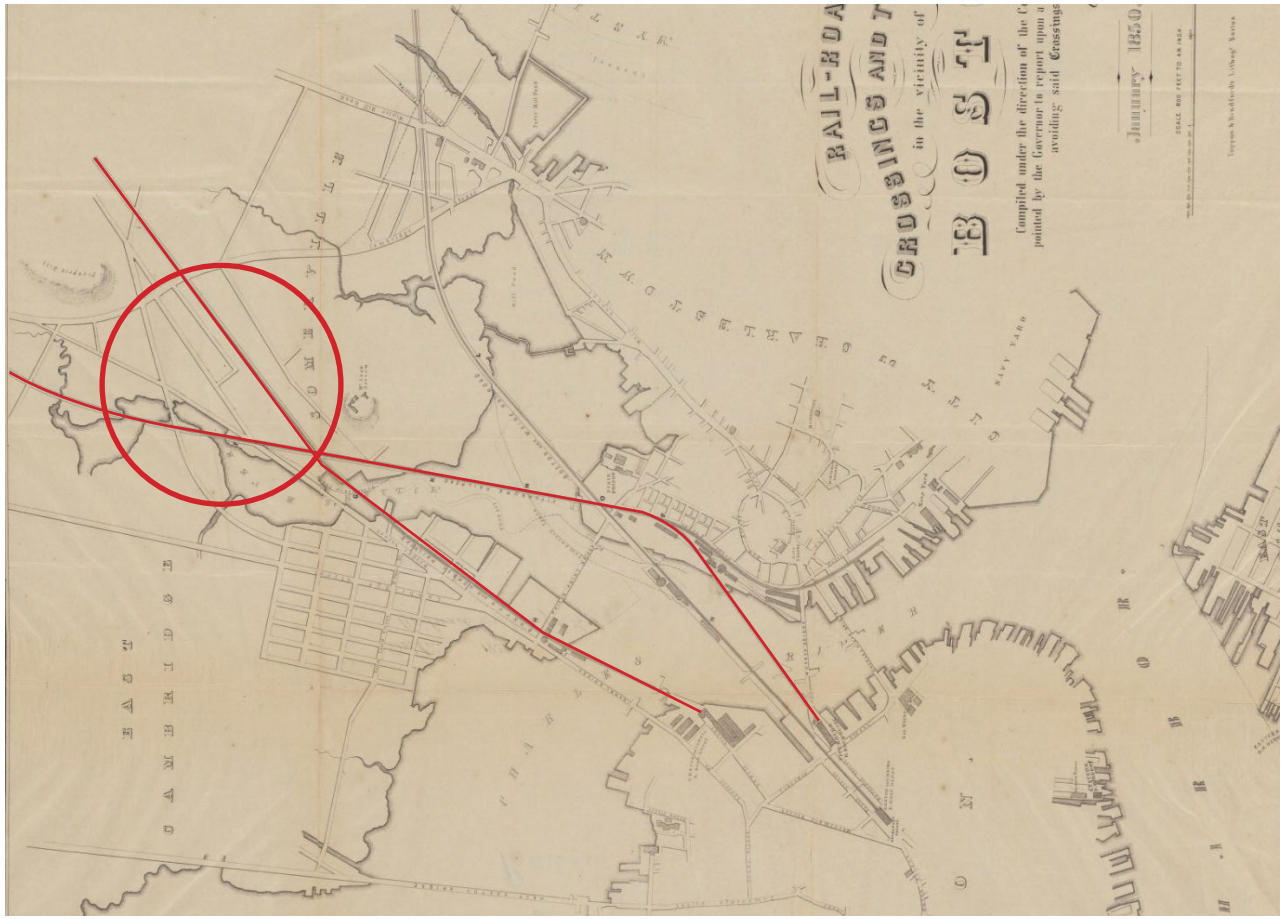
1776 WAR OF INDEPENDENCE
1835 BOSTON LOWELL
1841 FITCHBURG
1842 INDEPENDENT TOWN
1871 CITY CHARTER

BRICKBOTTOM

1835 Boston Lowell Rail

1841 Fitchburg Rail

Supplant the Middlesex Canal as primary transportation of goods to Boston



1850 Boston Railroad

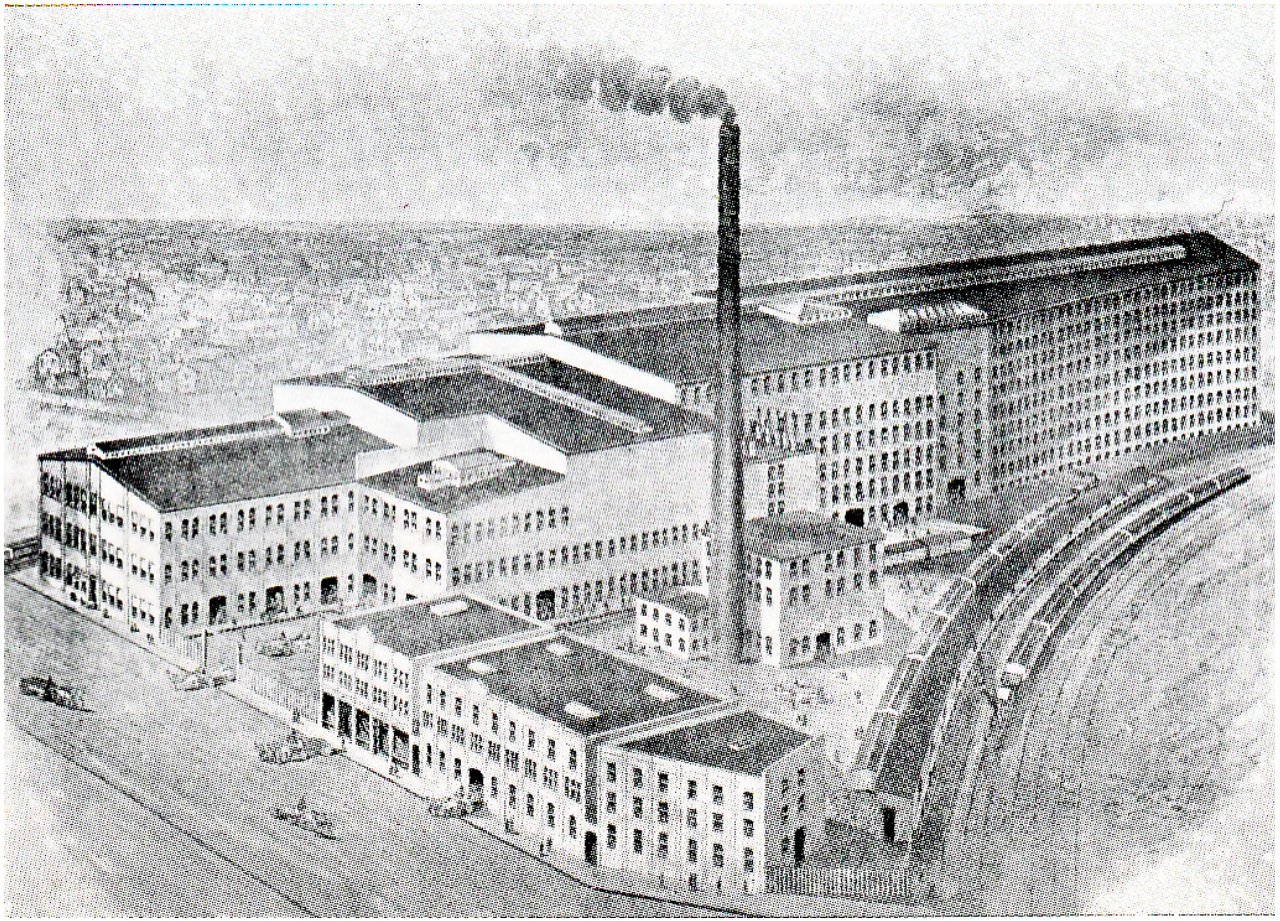
1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

INDUSTRY

1776 WAR OF INDEPENDENCE
1835 BOSTON LOWELL
1841 FITCHBURG
1842 INDEPENDENT TOWN
1871 CITY CHARTER

BRICKBOTTOM



Industry develops along rail lines:

1854 Union Glass Works
1855 Charles North Meatpacking
1855 John P Squire Pork Packing

Union Glass Works & North Packing Plant

1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

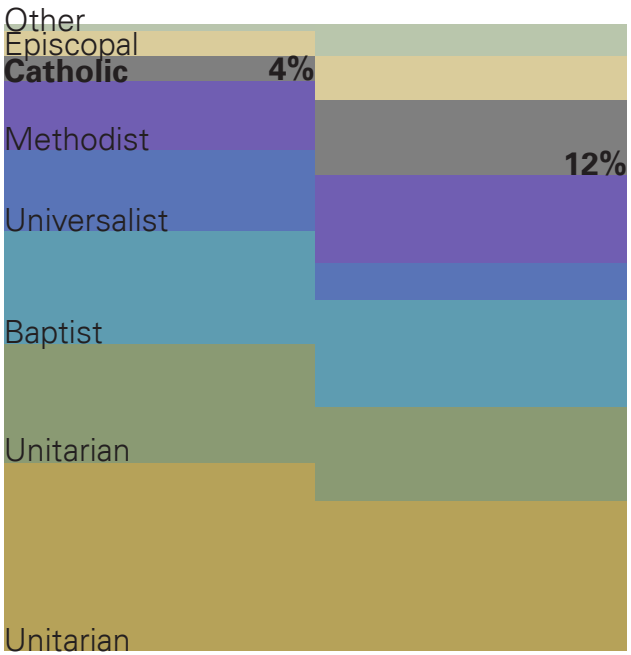
IMMIGRATION + RELIGION

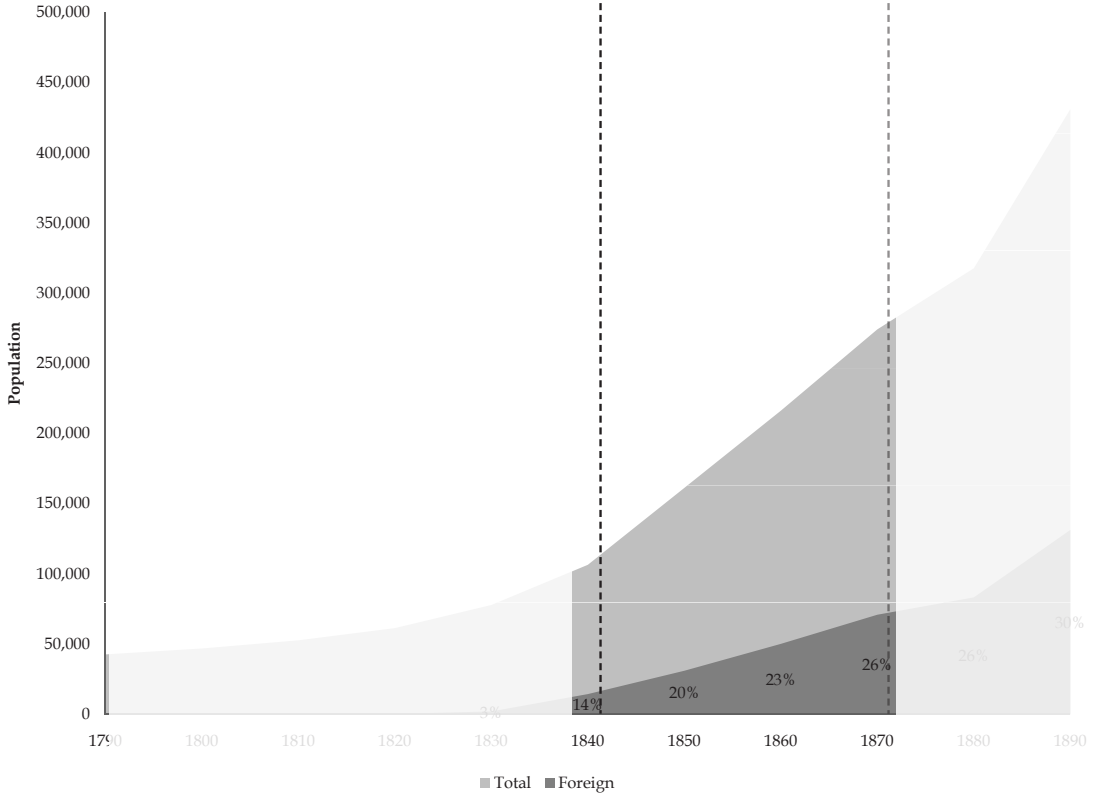
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Industry attracts immigrant workers. There is a corresponding increase in Catholics.

Foreign Born: 1850: 20%, 1870: 26%
128% INCREASE





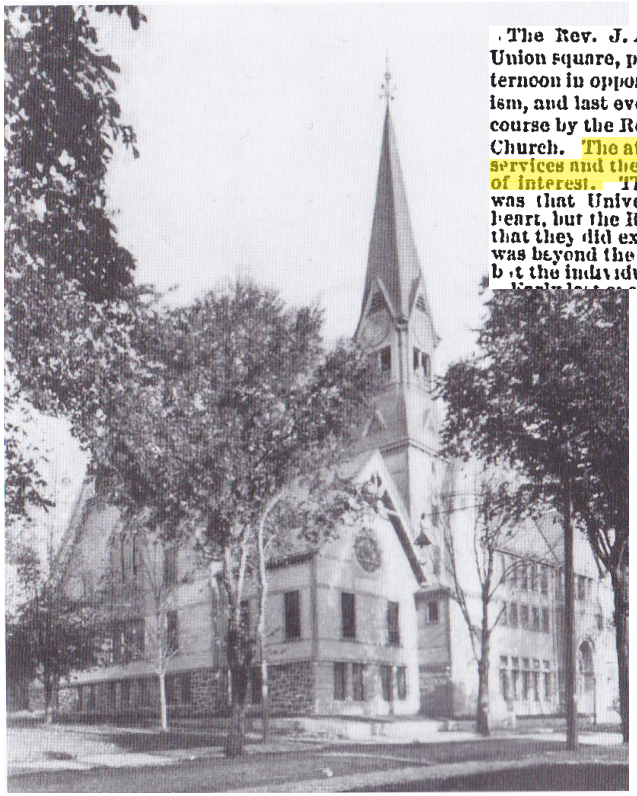
1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

UNION SQUARE: RELIGIONS CENTER

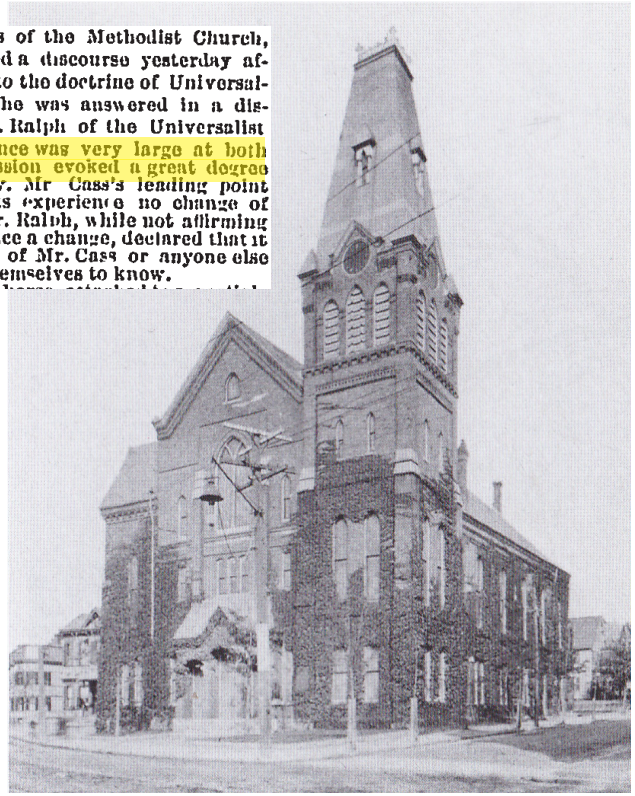
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
CONVENT BURNED 1834
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

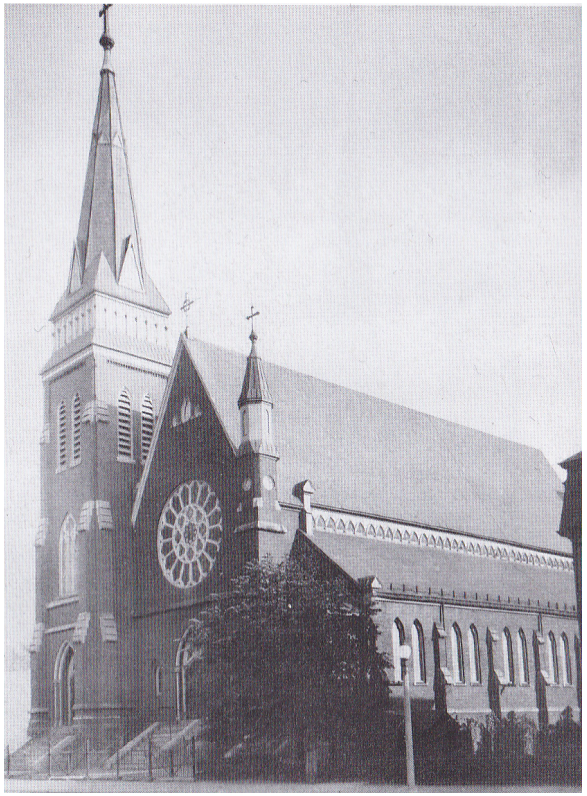


The Rev. J. A. Cass of the Methodist Church, Union square, preached a discourse yesterday afternoon in opposition to the doctrine of Universalism, and last evening he was answered in a discourse by the Rev. Mr. Ralph of the Universalist Church. The attendance was very large at both services and the discussion evoked a great degree of interest. The Rev. Mr Cass's leading point was that Universalists experience no change of heart, but the Rev. Mr. Ralph, while not affirming that they did experience a change, declared that it was beyond the power of Mr. Cass or anyone else b t the individuals themselves to know.

1854 First Universalist Church



1855 First Methodist Episcopal Church



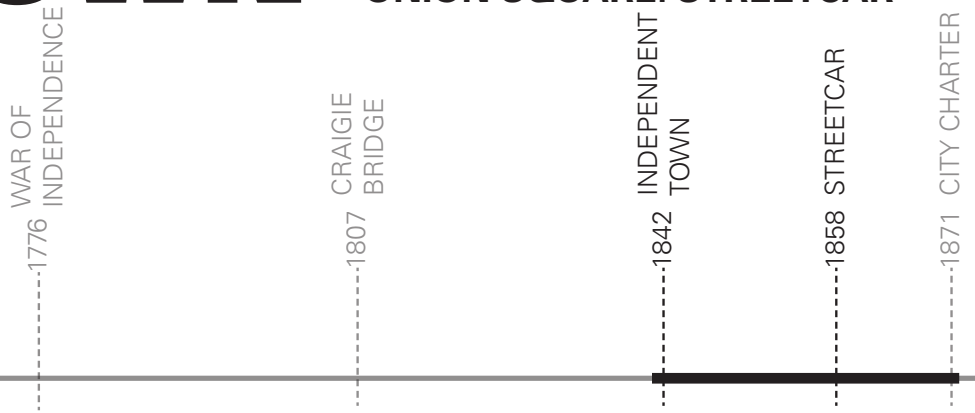
1869 St. Joseph's Catholic Church

1842-71: TOWN

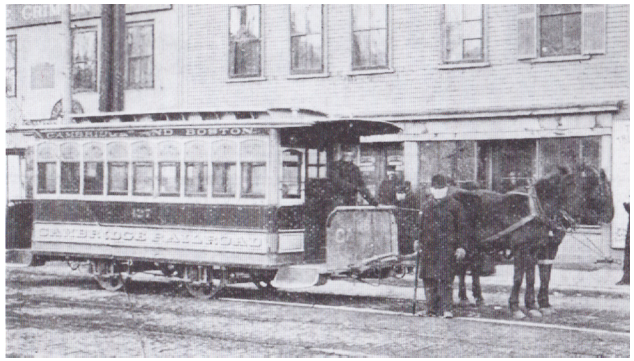
INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

BRICKBOTTOM

UNION SQUARE: STREETCAR



Streetcars connect Somerville to Boston through Union Square along Milk Row (Somerville Ave)**, opening up Somerville to residential development**



Milk Row

1858 Horse Car

1864 Street Rail

1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

SPECULATION + RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

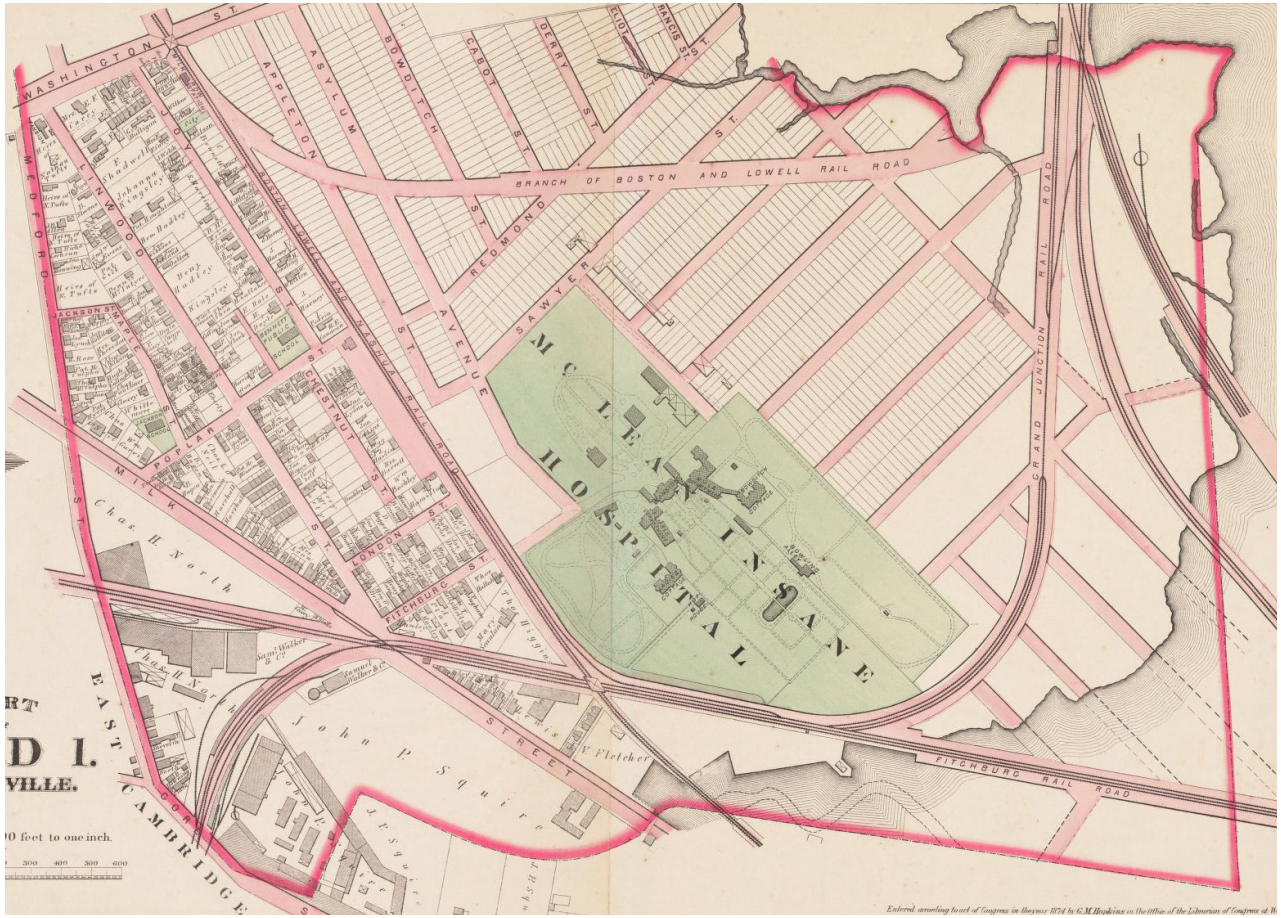
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
STREETCAR 1858
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Rapid population growth creates a demand for residences. Speculation turns land into financial instrument. Many new lots and streets are platted.

Streets are named after prominent local businessmen:
Joy: Benjamin Joy, son in law of Joseph Barrell, whose mansion on Cobble Hill would become McLean
London: WJ London, owner of a carriage express

Or trees growing in the neighborhood:
Linwood, Poplar, Maple, Chestnut



1874 Hopkins Atlas

1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
STREETCAR 1858
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Although a major producer of brick, most buildings were built of wood.

Worker housing built cheaply and densely creating tenements.

In comparison, mansions were built in various fashionable styles including Federal, Greek revival, and Gothic revival.

BRICK BOTTOM HEARD FROM.

On Somerville Avenue, in the Brick Bottom District, Somerville, stands a tenement house with a misfit door, and within the house a tenant is swearing vengeance against his landlord. William Fay is the tenant's name, and when he locks up his premises at night and sees the door fast by six inches or more of meeting the jamb, leaving an opening which will allow the free passage of dogs and cats if not of larger marauders, his wrath increases. He declares that he will seek satisfaction in the courts, and this morning will appear before Judge Story and make complaint against John Higgens, the owner of the house, for alleged forcible entry, he carrying off the forced door at the time.

Brickbottom Worker Housing

Federal Style Barrell Mansion (McLean Asylum)

1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

CIVIC BUILDINGS

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

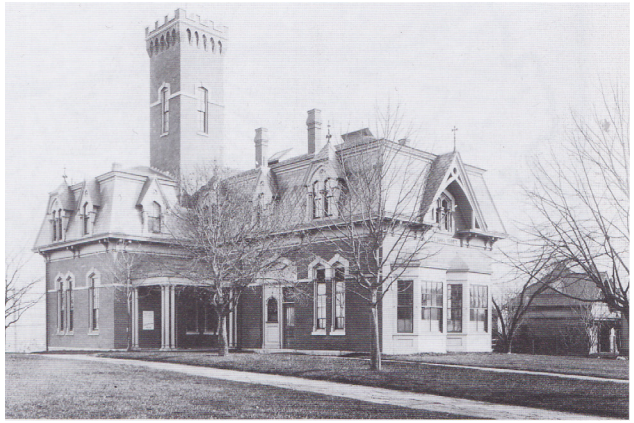
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Greek Revival: 1850s Old Oasis General Store, Union Square

Greek Revival: 1852 City Hall



Gothic Revival: 1872 City Hall Annex

1842-71: TOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

URBANIZATION

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

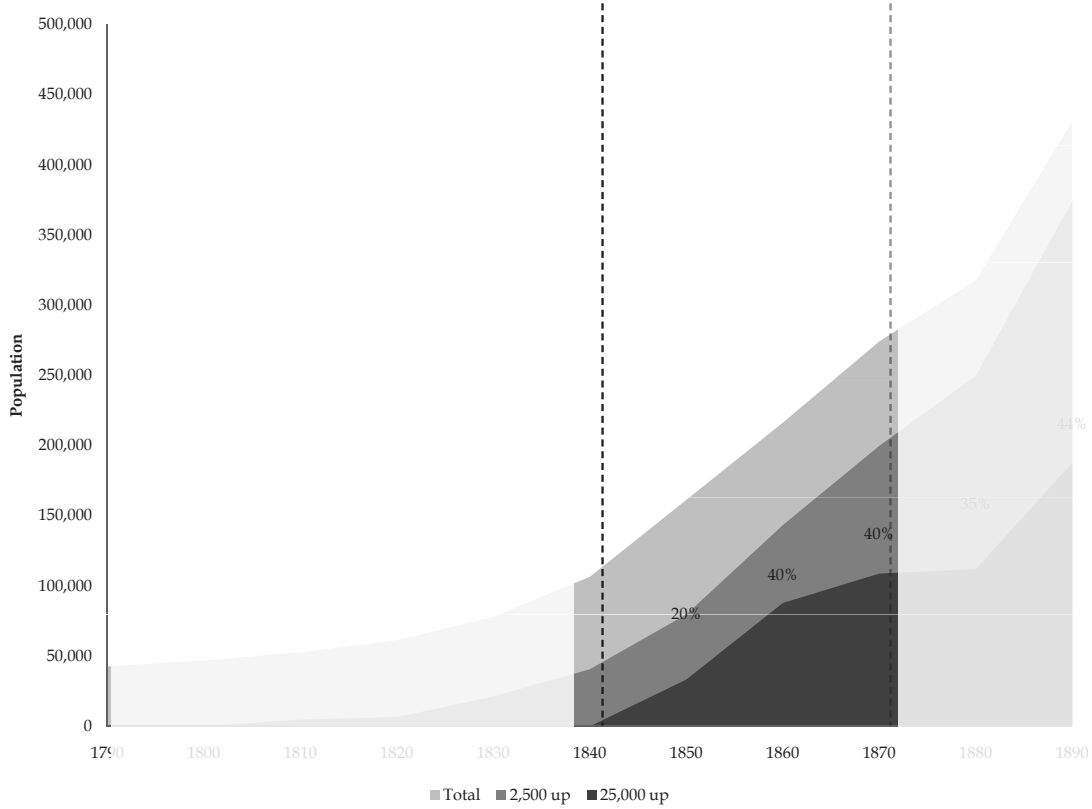
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Population density increases overall urbanization turns towns into cities

City (25,000 up)
1850: 20%
1870: 40%
226% INCREASE



POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

DENSE CITY

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

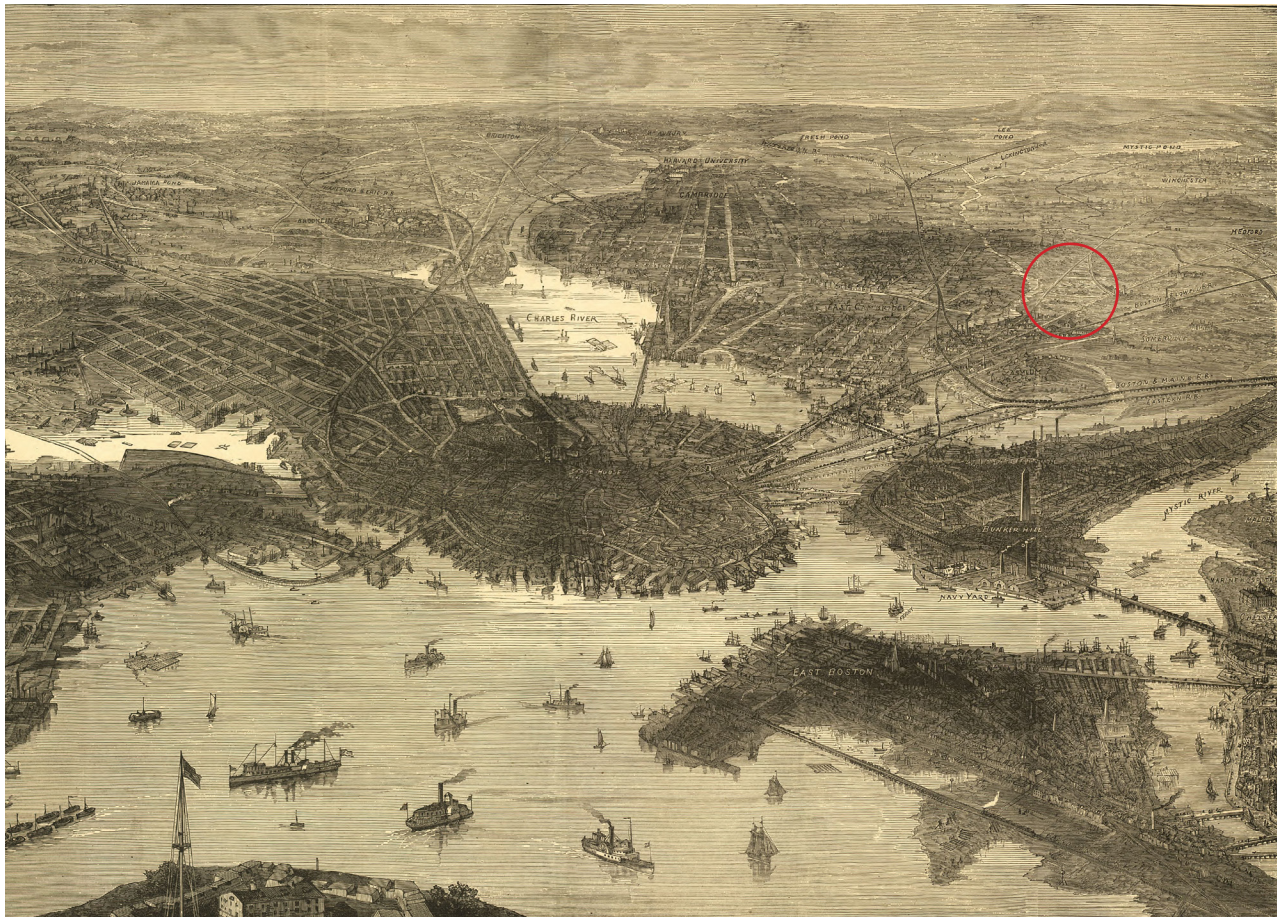
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

1871 CITY CHARTER

BRICKBOTTOM

Given the population and industrial growth, the town governmental structure is no longer adequate

Somerville is given a city charter in 1871



POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

DENSE CITY

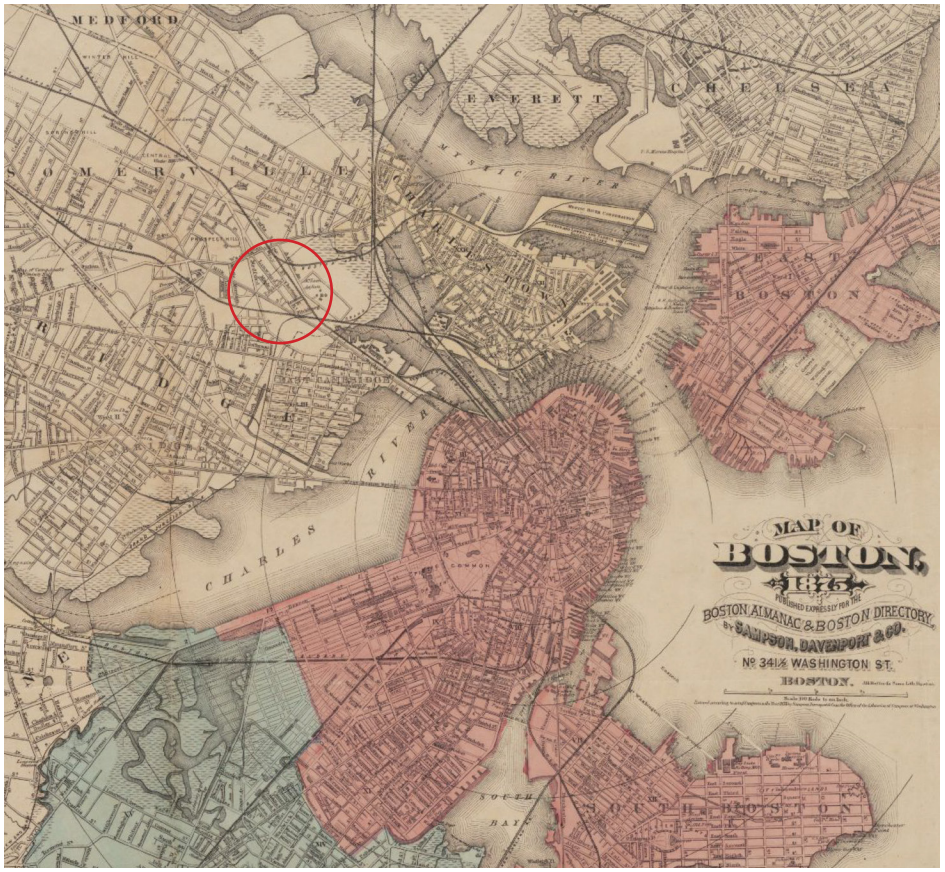
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

1871 CITY CHARTER

BRICKBOTTOM

1852



1875

POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

DENSE CITY

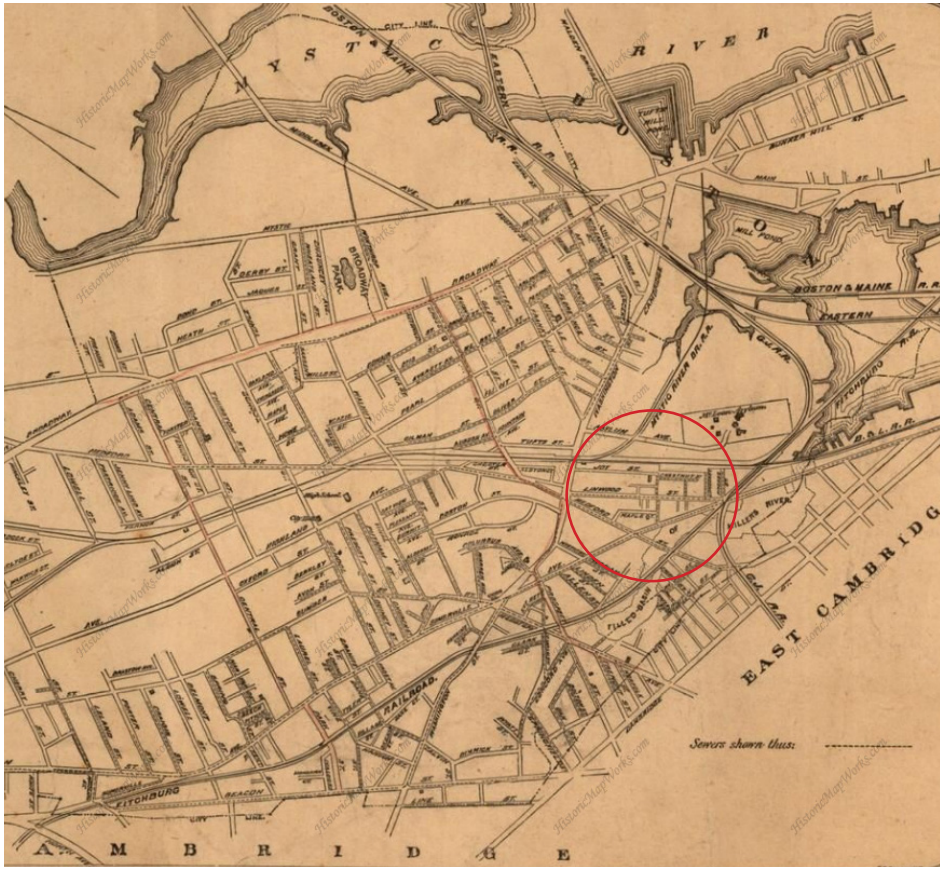
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

1871 CITY CHARTER

BRICKBOTTOM

1852



1879

POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

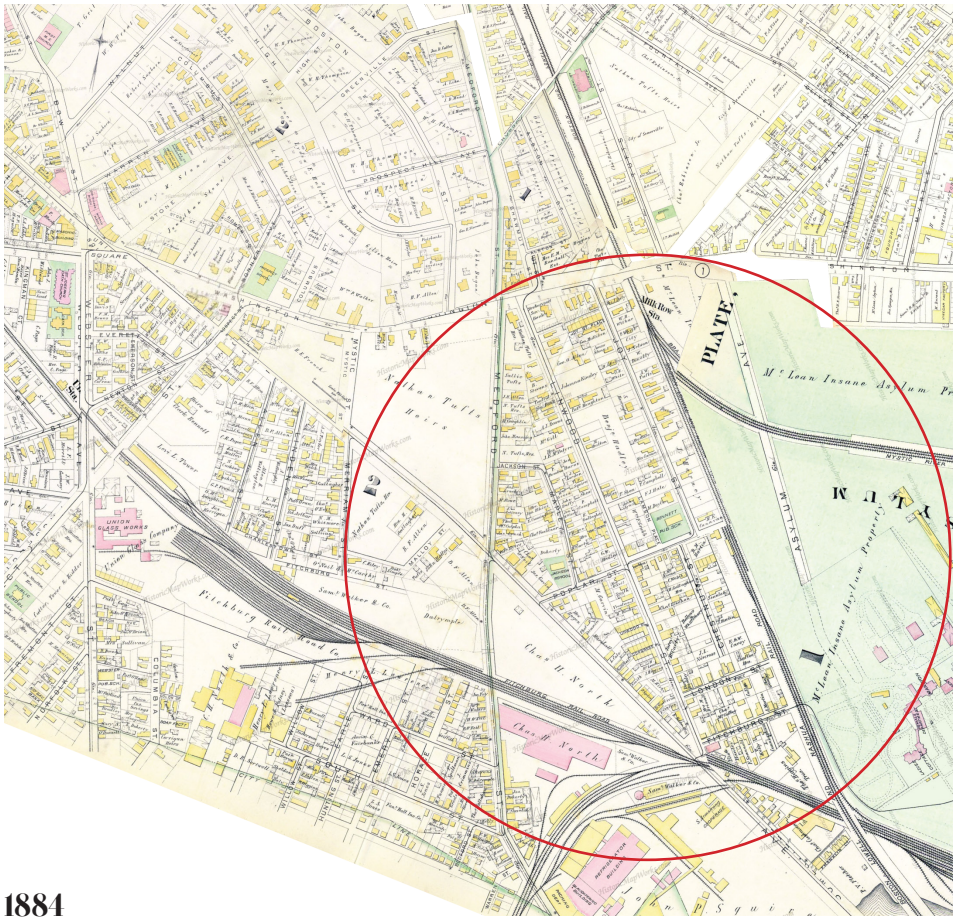
BRICKBOTTOM

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

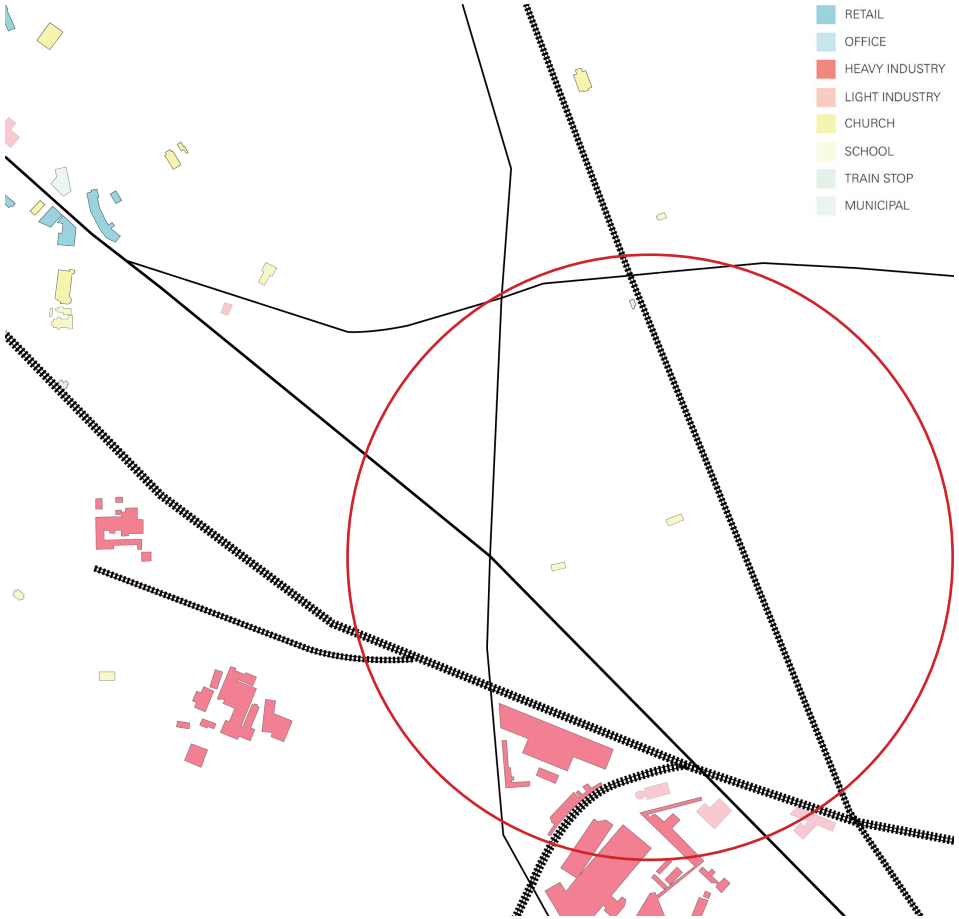
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

1871 CITY CHARTER

BRICKBOTTOM



1884



POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

BRICKBOTTOM

UNION SQUARE: LOCAL CENTER

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
STREETCAR 1858
CITY CHARTER 1871

Union square is the local center of retail, community, and transportation because road connection to Boston

GEO. H. COWDIN,
APOTHECARY,
No. 25 Union Sq.,
SOMERVILLE, MASS.

Dexter F. Bennett,
INSURANCE AGENT,
Room 1, Hill Building,
Union Square,
SOMERVILLE.

J. A. PORTER & CO.,
— DEALERS IN —
Hard & Soft Coal, &c.
Wood of all kinds,
Bundle Hay and Straw.
OFFICE:
Opp. Union Sq. Station, Fitchburg R. R.
SOMERVILLE.

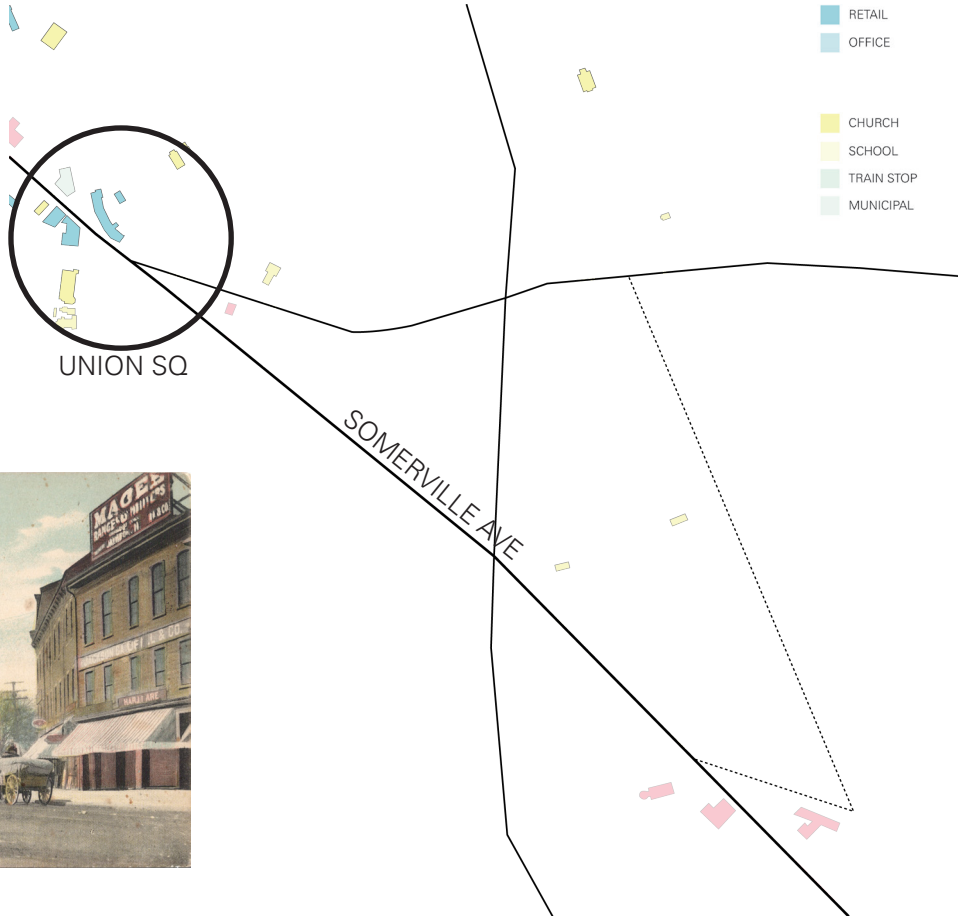
R. KEEFE,
PHOTOGRAPHER,
MASONIC BUILDING,
Union Square,
Permanent Crayon Portraits a specialty.
Old Pictures copied and enlarged, and finished in Ink, Crayon and Water Colors.
Particular attention to Photographing children.
The rooms are elegant and commodious, and easy of access.

J. H. BROOKS,
Dry & Fancy Goods,
22 Union Sq.,
Somerville, Mass.

PHILIP EBERLE,
DEALER IN
BOOTS,
Shoes and Rubbers
OF ALL KINDS.
Masonic Block, 24 Union Sq.,
SOMERVILLE.
Custom Work made to order. Repairing in the neatest manner.

1884 City Directory

1908 Postcard



POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

BRICKBOTTOM RETAILERS

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Retail in Brickbottom is comprised primarily of grocers along Linwood:

GROCERS + FOOD:
(7) Grocers
(2) Bread Stores
(1) Beer Manufacturer
(1) Milkmen

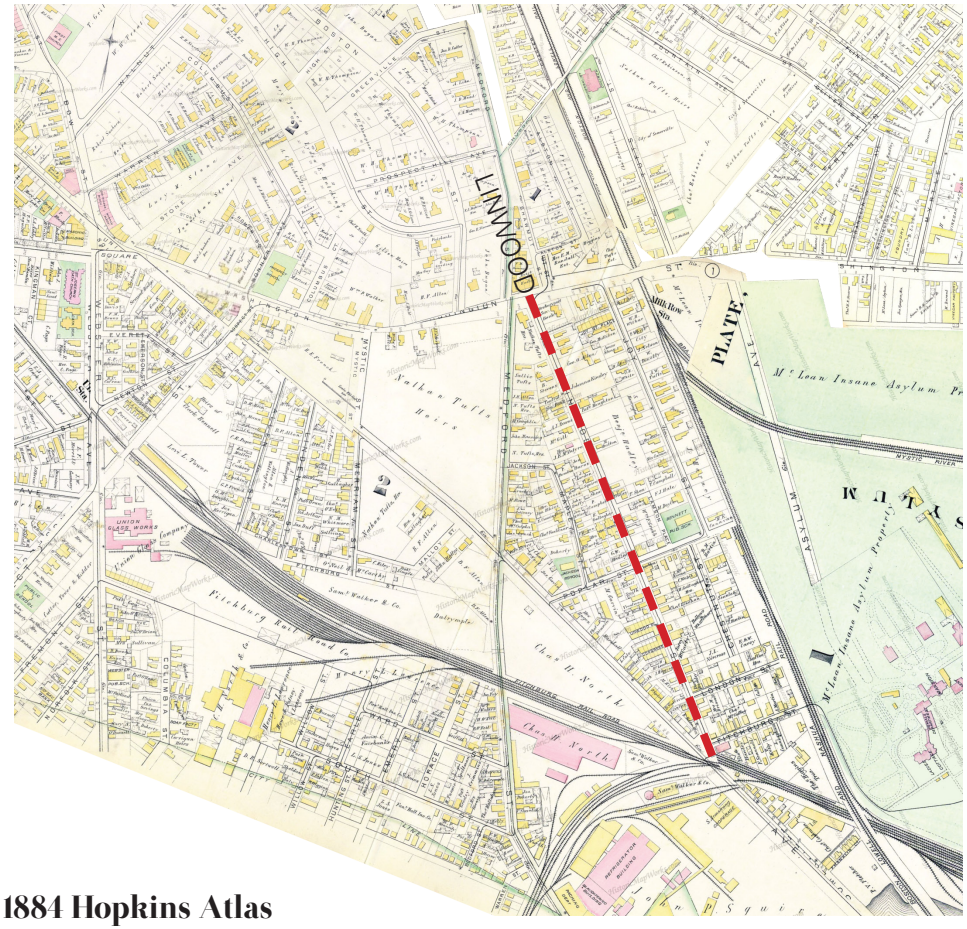
ALCOHOL
(1) Liquor dealer
(1) Beer Manufacturer

OTHER:
(1) Blacksmith
(1) Dressmaker
(1) Fancy goods

Grocers (continued).

Coker E. C. 31 Webster av.
Coliton Edward, Linwood, cor, Poplar
Connolly John S. 31 Cutter
Cotter Lawrence, Washington, cor. Line
Cotter Thomas, Hanson, n. Washington
CROTTY WM. B. 462 Somerville av. (see advt. p. 427)
Dewire M. B., Washington, cor Beacon
Freeman E. L. 38 Cross
Gallaher Julia Mrs., South, cor. Bedford
Ganley Richard, 11 Elm
Gavin James, 149 Somerville av.
Green Thomas A., Holland, cor. Moore, W. S.
Griffin & Simpson, 315 Broadway
Hanic Hugh, Poplar, n. Maple
HARRIS JAMES, 29 Washington, E. S. (see advt. p. 430)
Hennessey M. W., Medford. junction Broadway
HARRINGTON F. Q. 315 Broadway (see advt. p. 430)
Hepburn James, 224 Somerville av.
HILLS G. H. & CO. 21 Union sq. and 591 Somerville av. (see advt. p. 443)
Hodgdon E. L., Dana, cor. Otis
Holmes John, 238 Somerville av.
HORRELL JAMES, 55 Summer, (see advt. p. 432)
Houghton Patrick, Linwood, n. Washington
KING MARTIN L., Medford, cor. Cross. (see advt. p. 431)
King W. J., Broadway, cor. Walnut
KNOWLES BROS. 157 Perkins (see advt. p. 457)
Laverty J. A. 72 Webster av.
Lombard Julia Mrs., Linwood, near Dix pl.
LOVERING F. W., Franklin, cor. Flint (see advt. p. 431)
Mansfield D. E. 23 Broadway
McCaffery Charles, Fitchburg
McCarty Timothy M., Linwood, cor. Congress pl.
McLaughlin George, Linwood, cor. London
Mudgett H. M. 40 Broadway
Munroe Alex., Newton, at railroad crossing
Myers Patrick, 171 Somerville av.
Newall John, Cedar, near Clyde
NORTH CHAS. H. & CO. Medford, opp. Ward (see advt. p. 449)
PURCELL RICHARD J. 652 Somerville av. (see advt. p. 432)

1884 City Directory



1884 Hopkins Atlas

POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

INDUSTRIAL CENTER

1776 WAR OF INDEPENDENCE
1835 BOSTON LOWELL
1841 FITCHBURG
1842 INDEPENDENT TOWN
1871 CITY CHARTER

BRICKBOTTOM

Manufacturing along rail lines:

FOOD PROCESSING:
Charles North Meatpacking
Howe & Putney Bacon Works
John P Squire Pork Packing

OTHER:
Union Glass Works
Sam Walker Oil
S. Armstrong Cooperage

1884 Hopkins Atlas

POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

BRICKBOTTOM: AUXILIARY MANUFACTURING

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

Auxiliary manufacturing in Brickbottom:

(4) JUNK DEALERS
(3) CHARCOAL DEALER
(2) TEAMSTERS
(1) OIL & BARREL DEALER

1884 City Directory

Oils.

McDEVITT B. S. & CO., Linwood, cor. Poplar (see advt. p. 435)
NORTH CHAS. H. & CO., Medford, near F. R. R. stalls (27 and 29 F. H. market, store 33 and 34 North Market, B.) (see advt. p. 449)
SQUIRE J. P. & CO., Somerville av. office Gore, East Cambridge, stalls (21, 23, and 25 F. H. market and 39 North Market, B.) ((see advt. p. 449)
WALKER SAMUEL & CO., Somerville av, at G. J. R. R. (33 India, B.) (see advt. p. 448)

Charcoal Dealers.

McCarren M. J., Linwood, n. Washington
McCarty J. & Sons, Linwood, opp. Congress pl.
McCarty John, Maple, n. Poplar

Teamsters.

Crimmings T. F., Maple, near Poplar
Downey John, Medford, cor. Lowell
Manning John, Medford, near Maple
PRESCOTT. A. M., Union sq. and 28 Church (see advt. p. 433)
Prichard George W., Austin, near Mystic av.

Junk Dealers.

Haley John, Linwood
Henick Francis P. 159 Somerville av.
Kelley J. H., Washington, opp. brickyard
Mack John, Maple
McDevitt Thomas, Linwood
Murray Peter, Maple, n. Medford

McGrath William, laborer, h. Lowell, c. Wilton
McGrath William, laborer, h. Spring, c. Somerville av.
McGrath William R. machinist, b. Patrick Pepper's, Kent
McGregor David L. leather (136 Summer, B.), h. Walnut, n. Bonair
McGregor Henry, h. 58 Cross [Laurel
McGregor Walter I. wood-carver, h. 7 Potter's block,
McGuinness Christina Miss, h. Tremont, at Camb. line
McGurr Jane, widow of John, h. Line, n. Washington
McGurr John, carpenter, h. Skehan, n. Hanson
McGurr John, printer, b. Mrs. Jane McGurr's, Line
McHugh Daniel, mason, h. 7 Hawkins av.
McHugh Edward, painter, Mystic, n. Washington, h. Fitchburg, n. Linwood
McHugh John, laborer, h. 109 Beacon, n. Washington
McHugh William, mason, h. 5 Hawkins av.
McIntosh Thomas Mrs. h. 29 Springfield [25 Cutter
McIntire Andrew F. piano mover (11 LaGrange, B.), h.
McIntire Ann, wid. of Dennis, h. Linwood, n. Washington
McIntire Calvin P. music teacher, h. 24 Mt. Vernon
McIntire James E. teamster, h. Maple, n. Poplar [ton
McIntire Levi L. clerk (50 Bromfield, B.), h. 29 Hough-
McIntire Robert, carpenter, h. 22 Franklin av.
McIntosh John, at Am. Tube Works, h. 8 Bow st. pl.
McIntosh John L. numbering and paging (58 Federal, B.), h. 20 Putnam
McIntosh Thomas, tinsmith, bds. 8 Bow st. pl. [nut
McIntire J. H. (196 Commercial, B.), h. Cedar, c. Chest-
McKay Peter, teamster, h. 2 Flint st. block, Flint
McKecknie John, baker, 41 Union sq. b. 5 Warren av.
McKee George W. potter, h. Moore, n. Mead
McKee Mary H. Mrs. h. 14 Newbury
McKeever James, teamster, h. Poplar, n. Linwood
McKenna George F. peddler, h. Lowell, n. Vernon
McKenna Hugh, laborer, h. Medford, opp. South [ris
McKenna Jas. butcher, b. Mrs. Sarah McDermott's, Har-
McKenna James, laborer, h. 7 Chestnut
McKenna James, laborer, h. 143 Somerville av.
McKenna John, junk-dealer, h. Linwood, n. Poplar
McKenna John, peddler, h. Medford, n. Somerville av.
McKenna Margaret, wid. of Patrick, h. Poplar, n. Linwood
McKenna Michael, laborer, b. 509 Somerville av.
McKenna Owen, printer, h. Medford, n. Somerville av.
McKenney Fred'k G. teamster, h. 3 Dix pl.
McKenzie Geo. Wm. marble-worker, h. 739 Somerville av.
McKenzie James R. shoemaker, 70 Perkins, b. 15 Kingston, Charlestown
McKenzie John, laborer, h. Murdock, n. Clyde
McKenzie Kenneth, currier, h. 737 Somerville av.

POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

UNION SQUARE: CHURCHES

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

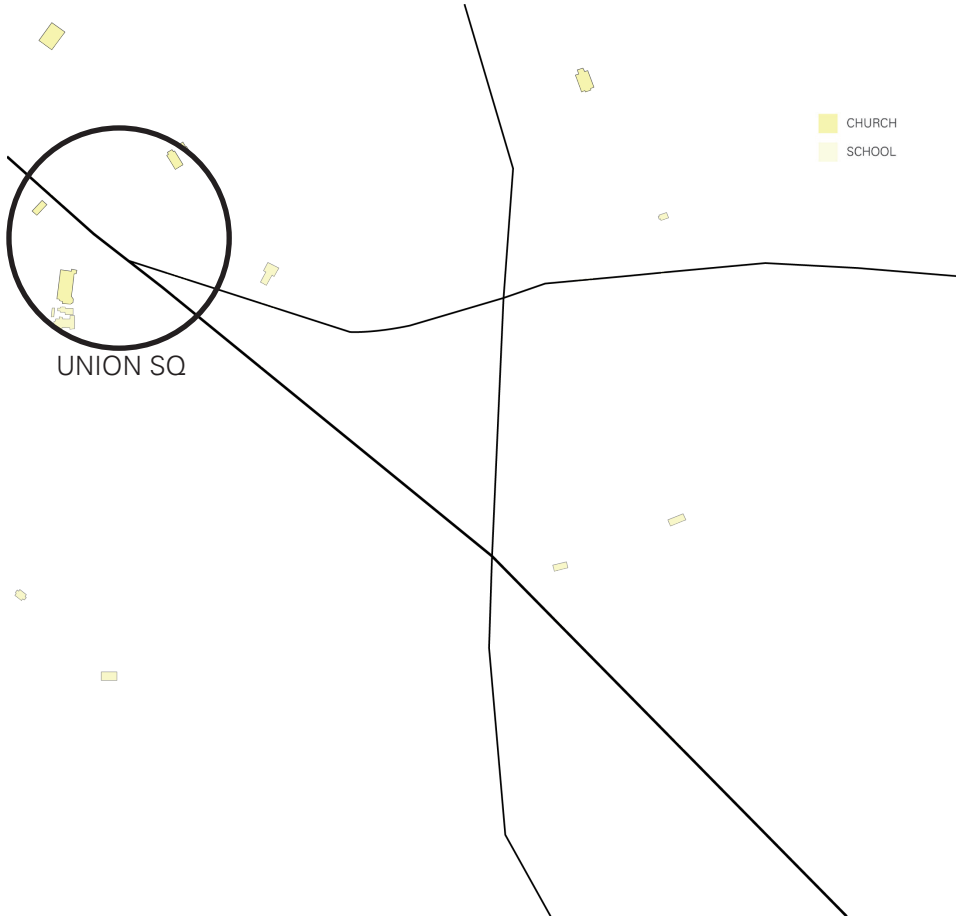
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

1871 CITY CHARTER

BRICKBOTTOM

Churches located near Union Square:

First Universalist Church
First United Methodist Episcopal
Union Square Presbyterian
Prospect Hill Congregational Church
St. Joseph's Catholic Church



1884 Hopkins Atlas

POST 1871: CITY

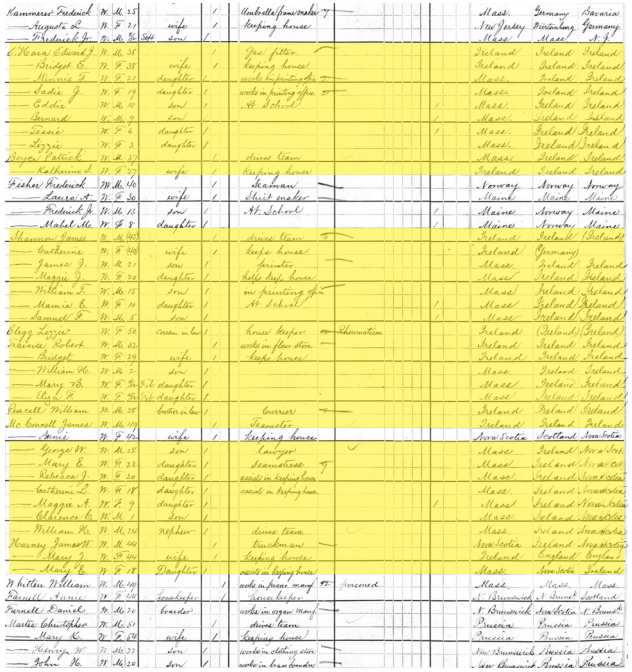
INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

BRICKBOTTOM

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

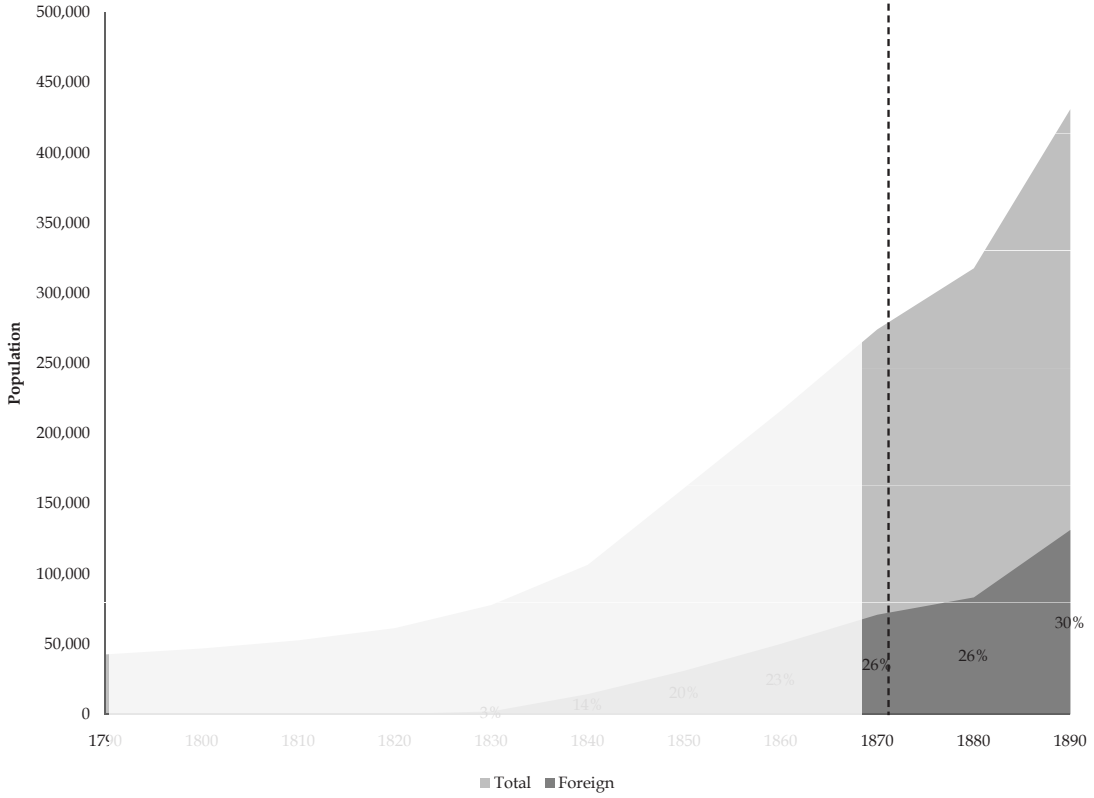


Foreign Born: 1880: 26%, 1890: 30%
58% INCREASE

As a neighborhood of factory workers, Brickbottom is mostly Irish

1880 Census

IRISH CATHOLIC POPULATION



POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

POVERTY + CRIME

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

High crime rates in Brickbottom

A "BRICKBOTTOM" ROBBERY.

Patrick J. Campbell Arrested for the Latest Hold-up in a Notorious District.

The details of a highway robbery, committed in the "Brickbottom" district of Somerville, between 8 and 9 o'clock Sunday evening, were unearthed yesterday afternoon by Patrolman Hafford and Sergt. Carter.

The victim of the assault and robbery is William Turner, 37 years old, a poor, but respectable, man, living on Fitchburg street, Somerville. About 8:30 Sunday evening, Turner called at a house on Linwood street and received two $1 bills for some work he had done for the family. He had the money in his hand as he came out.

The "Brickbottom" district is full of tough young men. Assaults and small robberies are said to take place almost nightly, and it is common to hear of the waylaying and robbing of drunken men.

1890 Boston Herald

POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF INDUSTRY

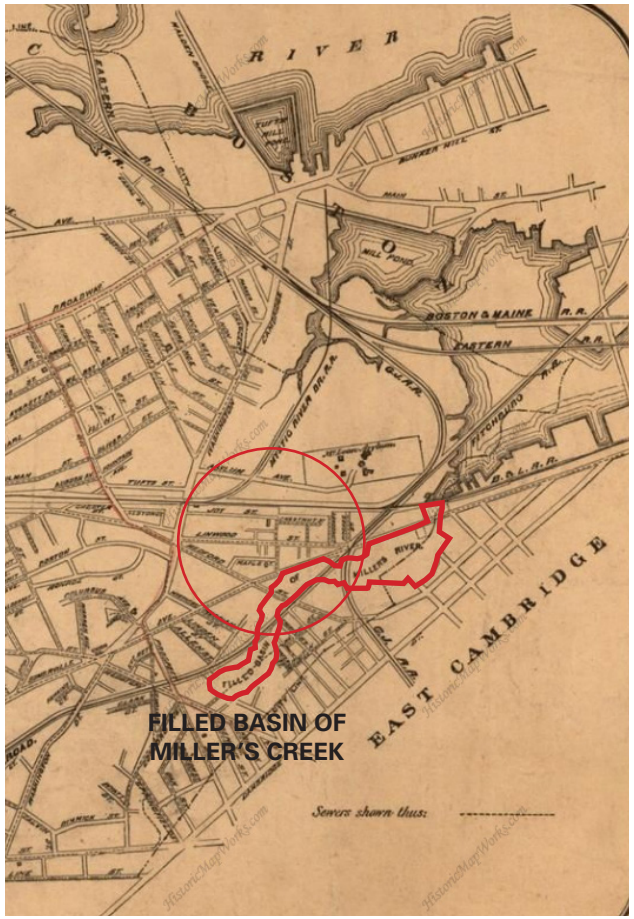
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871
LAND FILL 1874
SEWER 1876

BRICKBOTTOM

Somerville the third largest slaughtering city in the country. By the 1870s, Miller's Creek has become heavily polluted and "noxious" from the food processing plants along the river.

1874 Prospect Hill leveled to fill in the river basin, paid for by North Meat Packing and Squire Pork Packing.

1876 sewer system for proper drainage.



AGAINST SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Agitation Again in Somerville — Creep into Politics—Rally Last Night—Oppo sition to Granting Further Licenses.

The granting of a license for more slaughter houses is but the entering wedge for the building up of a mammoth industry with many attending evils. The greater the industry, the greater the nuisance.

Such establishments ought not to exist in the centre of a large population.

They are regarded by the boards of health of our cities as dangerous to the public health.

They will depreciate property and prevent the erection of many desirable residences in our city.

They will lower the moral and social standing of our city.

Somerville is rapidly growing in the right direction. Do not change the current of healthy growth.

Vote for candidates for aldermen who are known to be opposed to slaughter houses in Somerville.

1890 Boston Daily Globe

POST 1871: CITY

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

LAND FILL

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871
LAND FILL 1874

BRICKBOTTOM

1852

1875

POST 1871: CITY

IDENTITY + ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776
INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842
CITY CHARTER 1871
LAND FILL 1874

BRICKBOTTOM

The leveling of Prospect Hill spurs conflict between industry and preservationists

Wealthy members of the community want to preserve the suburban character of Somerville and advocate for natural preservation and limiting industry

Industry and factory workers are attacked as of "lower moral and social standing"

AGAINST SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

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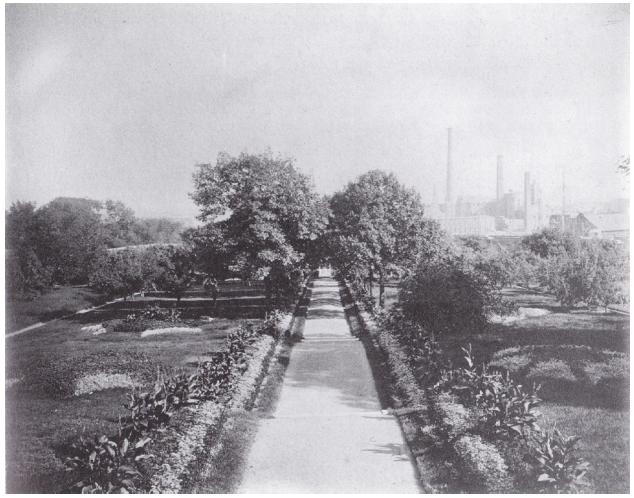

McLean Asylum grounds sold to the Boston Lowell railroad and turned into a rail yard, the mansion and trees taken down.

1885 McLean and North Packing Plant

PRE 1900

MARSHLAND TO BROWNFIELD

INFRASTRUCTURE
INDUSTRY
SCALE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1776

INDEPENDENT TOWN 1842

CITY CHARTER 1871

BRICKBOTTOM

1780

1852

1875

1903