

# haverhill

settled	population	gross area	parks	lakes	golf courses
1640	58,969	34.08 sq.mi.	35	8	7

Information from 2000 U.S. Census data

## history

Haverhill is one of the oldest towns in both Massachusetts and the United States. The town was settled in 1640 by twelve Puritans from nearby Ipswich and Newbury, and was named Pentucket after the local Native Americans. The land was purchased from the Pentuckets for 3 pounds and 10 shillings in 1642 (roughly the price of a cup of coffee today) and was renamed after Haverhill, England. It was incorporated as a town in 1870, and annexed Bradford in 1897, but the town's original border extended as far north as Lake Winnepesaukee, NH.

The city evolved from farmland into a major industrial center through the establishment of mills in the late 17th century, tanneries and boat yards in the early 18th century and shoe manufacturing, its leading industry for 180 years. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Haverhill became a world leader in the shoe industry and produced one-tenth of America's shoes in 1913, earning the nickname the "Queen Shoe City of the World."

Haverhill's history has been closely tied with the nation's history since colonial times. Five local women were accused of witchcraft during the **Salem Trials**. The Haverhill Petition of 1842 urged Congress to dissolve the Union on account of slavery. Haverhill was the site of the original **Macy's** store (1851), and the first Macy's Day Parade was held in Haverhill on July 4, 1854. Future Hollywood mogul **Louis B. Mayer** started his career with the Orpheum theater in Haverhill. A Haverhill merchant, Thomas Sanders, was one of **Alexander Graham Bell's** investors, and the first business call was made in Haverhill from his house.

When **George Washington** visited Haverhill on November 4, 1789, he remarked that Haverhill was "the pleasantest village he had passed through."

## today

Bob Montana's iconic **Archie** comics were modeled after his classmates at Haverhill High School. More recently, the town produced **Tom Bergeron** (host of Hollywood Squares), Metropolitan Opera singer **Cora Chase**, musician siblings Robert Cummings (**Rob Zombie**) and **Michael Cummings** (Powerman 5000), authors **Andre J. Dubus** and **Andre Dubus III**, shoe designer **Stuart Weitzman**, Major League Baseball player **Mike Welch**.

In 1995, *Money* magazine named Greater Haverhill the best area to live in the Northeast, and the town exhibited the greatest growth of any city in Merrimack Valley between 1990 and 2000. A growing population of bald eagles inhabits the city along the Merrimack River. The balance between old and new, rural and urban is central to Haverhill's charm. Contemporary residences share the Haverhill's riverfront with farmhouses that dating to the 1600s. Annual events include KidsFest in May, Fourth of July fireworks display, SeptemberFest, Santa Parade in November, and the Christmas Stroll in early December.

## location

Haverhill located on the Merrimack River in Essex County in northeastern Massachusetts. It is bordered by Methuen to the west, Groveland and Boxford to the south, West Newbury to the East, and the state of New Hampshire to the north. Haverhill is located about 31 miles north of Boston, and about 16 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean.

## housing stock

Haverhill encompasses 34.38 sq. mi. (32.04 sq. mi. land, and 2.34 sq. mi. water) zoned for a variety of land uses ranging from agricultural to the historic downtown. The town's housing stock reflects Haverhill's history — 18th century federal and Georgian houses, Victorian mansions, Craftsman bungalows, as well as the downtown 19th century brick mill buildings which are being converted to condominiums.

# haverhill

## famous residents

John Quincy Adams • John Bellairs • William Berenberg • Tom Bergeron • Cedric the Entertainer • Cora Chase • Stuart Chase • Michael Cummings (Powerman 5000) • Andre J. Dubus • Andre Dubus III • Hannah Duston • Frankie Fontaine (Jackie Gleason Show) • Moses Hazen • Ann Haseltine Judd • Judson Rowland H. Macy • Louis B. Mayer • Rep. Karen McCarthy • Bob Montana • Rep. William H. Moody • Carlos Pena • Leverett Saltonstall • Nathaniel Saltonstall • Charles Augustus Strong • Stuart Weitzman • Mike Welch • John Greenleaf Whittier • Rob Zombie

## movies & books

The city of Haverhill has been featured in award-winning works by John Bellairs, Jane Brox, David Crouse, Andre J. Dubus, Andre Dubus III, and Jack Kerouac. Haverhill was also selected as The History Channel's host city for the finish of its 16th annual Great Race in 1998.

## transportation

Haverhill is directly on Interstate 495, and is convenient to both Routes I-93 and I-95. Haverhill is convenient to three airports, including Logan International Airport within 30 miles. Haverhill and Bradford are both stops on the MBTA Commuter Rail to Boston.

## culture & amenities

Buttonwoods Museum • Bradford Burying Ground (1665) • John Greenleaf Whittier Birthplace (1688) • Lake Saltonstall (Plugged Pond) • Merrimack River • Pentucket Arts Center • Tupelo Pond • Winnekenni Castle (1875) • Winnekenni Park

## parks & recreation

Haverhill has 2.34 square miles of water, which include 8 lakes and ponds for fishing and 2 public swimming areas, 35 parks, 17 tennis courts, 10 basketball courts, 4 18-hole golf courses, 1 9-hole course, 2 18-hole mini golf courses, 3 bowling alleys, indoor ice rink, indoor roller rink, the Bradford Ski Area, and the Cedardale Athletic Club (the largest indoor/outdoor athletic club in New England).

## colleges & education

The town is served by one college (Northern Essex Community College), two high schools (Haverhill High School and Whitter Regional Vocational Technical High School), four middle schools, 16 elementary schools, and the Hill View Montessori Charter Public School. Local parochial schools include Sacred Hearts School; St. Joseph School of All Saints Parish; St. Margaret School; Solomon Schechter Day School of the Merrimack Valley. Haverhill is also convenient to several private schools, including The Pike School (Andover, MA), Brooks School (North Andover, MA), Phillips Academy (Andover, MA), Governor Dummer Academy (Byfield, MA).

## local news sources

*The Haverhill Gazette* • [Haverhilltourism.com](http://Haverhilltourism.com) • *The Lawrence Eagle-Tribune*

Copyright © 2006 The Hammersmith Group. All rights reserved. Individual trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Disclaimer: Homebuyers and investors should consider this Residential Report as only a single factor in their purchase, sale, or investment decision. All information furnished is from sources deemed reliable, but no warranty or representation is made as to the accuracy thereof and same is submitted subject to errors, omissions or change without notice. The act of creating, providing, or accepting this document does not create any agency relationship unless otherwise expressly set forth.