

# 1920-1940



*South Sudbury looking from King Philip Road towards Concord Road and the Post Road. Population: 1200-1500*

Between the wars, Sudbury was still a small, largely agricultural town described as “large in area, never large in population with the beauty of meadow and hill.” Over a hundred farms were spread throughout town. The Post Road, Concord Road and North Road were home to three general stores. Lumber and iron-mongering mills dotted the countryside. Children went to school in horse-drawn carts or sleighs.

With few public entertainment facilities in town, recreation was largely home grown. Children played outdoors skating, sledding, riding, swimming, hunting, fishing and playing baseball. Adults did the same with the addition of numerous civic and recreational clubs. Sudbury’s rural charm became well known and in 1923, Babe Ruth bought the farm at 558 Dutton Road to get in shape by becoming a gentleman farmer during the baseball off-season.

Sudbury’s rural landscape, history and large number of colonial period houses attracted auto magnate Henry Ford. In 1923 he purchased the Wayside Inn and began restoring and furnishing it. Over the years he purchased over 1300 acres of land in town, built a gristmill, moved the Redstone schoolhouse to the property, moved the Garfield-Parmenter store to the Post Road, and added agricultural outbuildings. In 1928 he opened the Wayside Inn Boys school on his property.

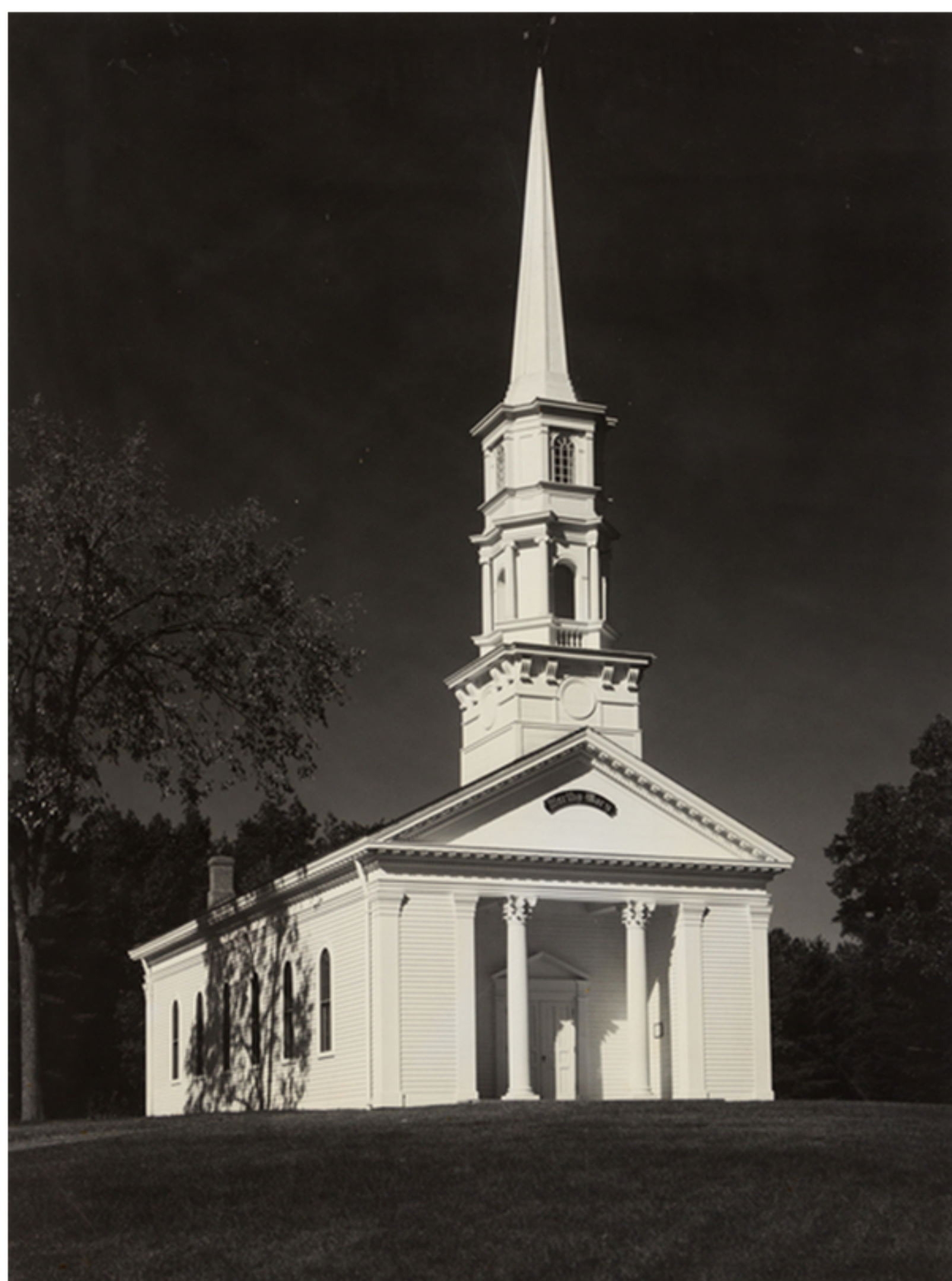


*The “Old Kitchen” dining room at the Wayside Inn shortly after restoration*

All of Sudbury was active in the Colonial Revival. Leonard Goulding moved the c1720 Goulding House from Wayland to Concord Road where he ran a renowned antique business. Famous architect Ralph Adams Cram restored the 18 century Georgian-style house at 427 Concord Road and built the medieval-style Cram Chapel next to it. The Atkinsons took over Home Plate farm and

established Sudbury Laboratories in the barn, using the proceeds to establish the Sudbury Foundation. In 1939, the entire town celebrated our tercentenary with parades, presentations, a ball, and nearly everyone in town dressing the part of the town’s past.

On September 19, 1938 the town’s most devastating natural disaster occurred when a hurricane ripped through leveling most of the trees and damaging numerous houses and barns. Over the next several years the thousands of felled trees were turned into lumber which was put to use throughout the town. The Martha-Mary Chapel at the Wayside Inn was built with lumber from the Hurricane of ‘38.



*The Martha-Mary Chapel by Ansel Adams*



*Babe Ruth and his daughter feeding the chickens at Home Plate farm*



*The Goulding house shortly after reconstruction*



*Downed tree at the Sudbury/Wayland border*