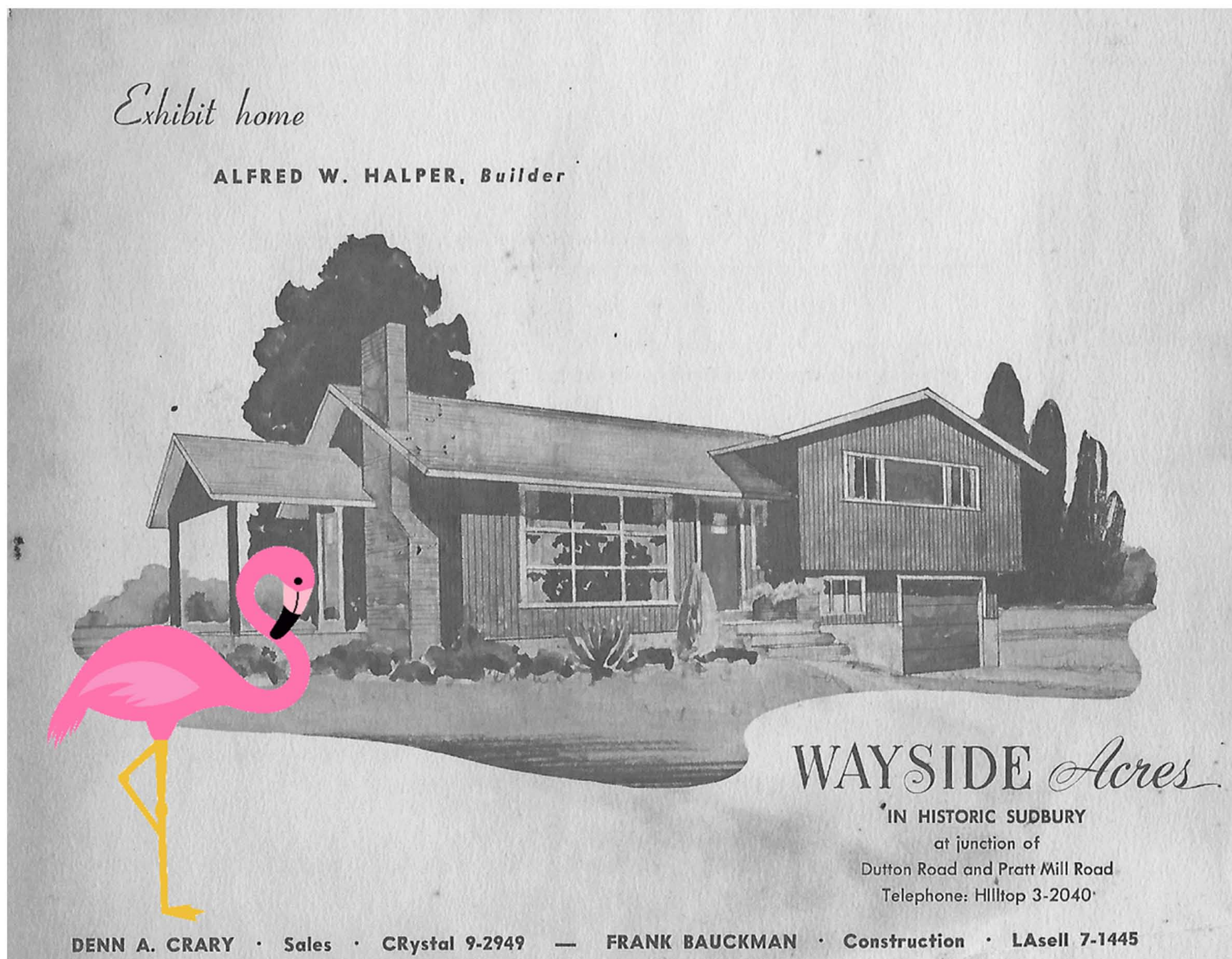


1960-1970

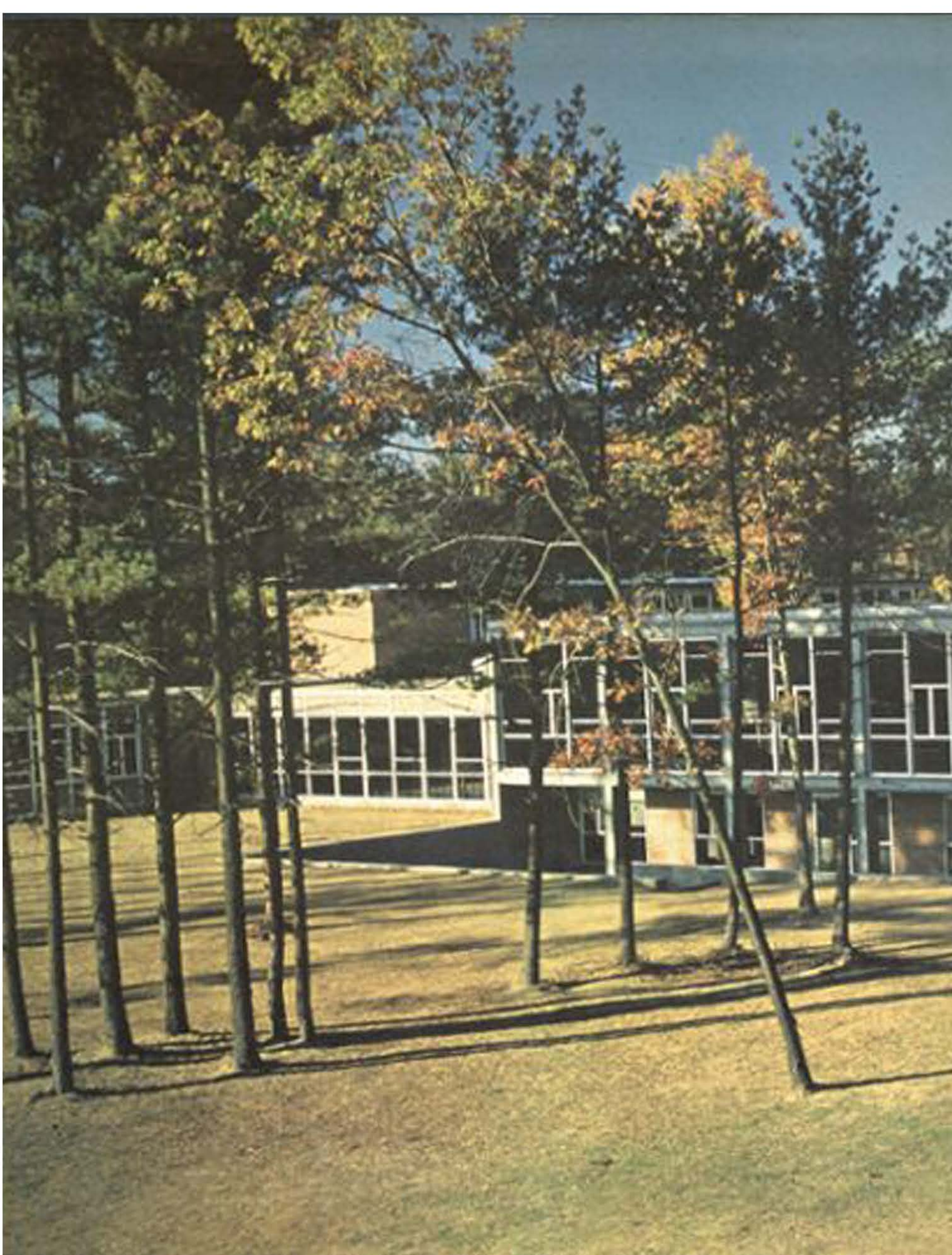


Wayside Acres Was One of Many Housing Developments

In the 1940's, Sudbury was a typical small New England town with a large farming community, but with the blossoming high tech industries emerging around Boston and Route 128 in the 1950's, Sudbury began transitioning to a fast growing suburb.

The population growth was staggering during this era. In 1945, the population of Sudbury was 2,050. In 1960, it had almost tripled to 7,447! It reached 11,869 in 1967 and 13,506 by 1970. No areas of town life were unaffected by this growth.

In 1951, Sudbury's planning board issued 44 building permits, which was typical for a year. However, in 1955 over 250 building permits were issued with no sign of slowing. Also that year, Sudbury was listed as one of the fastest growing towns in the state (with a population under ten thousand). Housing developments and "neighborhoods" quickly popped up including the much-publicized Wayside Acres.



Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Opened in 1954

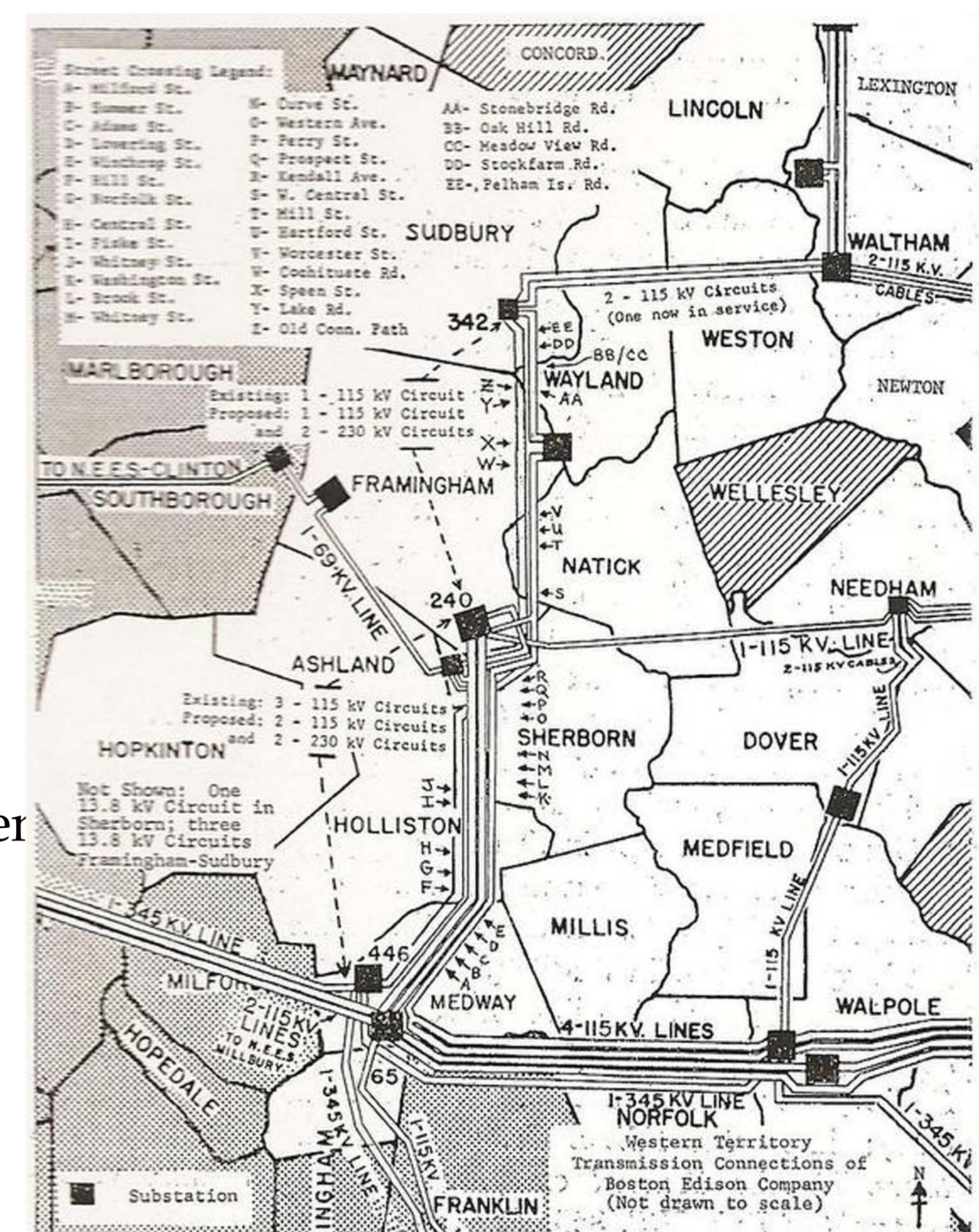
New houses meant new people - the police department, fire department and school systems quickly became too small to handle the expanding community. In 1940, the number of children in grades 1-12 was 355. By 1967, that number had grown to 3,928. New schools quickly had to be constructed. In 1954, the new Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School opened. Three new elementary schools (Nixon, Haynes and Loring) as well as the new Ephraim Curtis Middle School were constructed swiftly.

During the late 1950's the planning board pushed for expanding the town's tax base by zoning large parcels of desirable land for industry. This would help lessen the burden on the residents who were quickly seeing their taxes almost double annually. In October 1958, Raytheon opened a test lab on 50 acres of land on Route 20 that had once been the Hood Farm. In August 1960, Sperry-Rand broke ground on a new research facility on 150 acres of land on Route 117 near the Concord border. Shortly thereafter, Star Market and First National Bank opened in Sudbury as the town actively pursued "appropriate companies" to help enter the community to help shoulder the increasing tax burden.



The Raytheon Lab Opened in 1958

One vision of Sudbury that no one wanted was the installation of crisscrossing Boston Edison high-tension electrical wires through the Sudbury River Valley. Beginning in 1960, Boston Edison proposed running an overhead power line from South Sudbury into Concord, passing through the protected areas of the Great Meadows Natural Wildlife Refuge. It was met with stalwart resistance from Sudbury's residents and the Board of Selectmen refused to allow the lines to cross the town's public ways. After many years of legal battles, the Massachusetts Supreme Court voted in favor of Sudbury's rights ending a fiercely fought ten-year battle that could have forever changed the town.



The Proposed Boston Edison Power Line