



Chesterfield

Incorporated: 1762

Hampshire County

The Town of Chesterfield is a rural recreational hill town between Northampton and Pittsfield. The town was laid out in 1739 and sites were granted to King Philip's and King William's war veterans in 1740, but initial settlement of the town did not take place until around 1755. The town center was established after the Revolution with well preserved Federal Period houses along Main Road and landmarks of civic buildings in a later Greek Revival style. In its early days, the town supported a largely agricultural economy, with wool from Merino sheep as a major product. However, there were sawmills and tanneries in operation as well as cloth dressing mills, and in the early 19th century these superseded farming and brought in a small immigrant population that was mostly Irish. Progress wiped out most of the industry in Chesterfield and by the turn of the century a re-emerging agricultural economy developed alongside the growing trade from summer residents.

(Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)

Population: 1201 (2000 census)

Total Area: 31.29 square miles +/-

Government: Open Town Meeting; Selectmen

Tax Rate: \$13.46 (2008)

School Superintendent: 527-7680

Colleges and Universities: none

Public Schools: Hampshire Regional School District

Private Schools: none

Shopping: local convenience stores; 25-30 minutes to Northampton

Libraries: Chesterfield Public Library 296-4735

Recreational Facilities: Chesterfield Gorge; Fourth of July Parade

Utilities:

Cable not available

Gas: No natural gas available

Electric: Western Mass Electric Co. 800-286-2000

Telephone: Verizon 800-870-9999

Child Care Providers: 413-582-4218

For More Information:

Child Care Focus

Town hall: 296-4771

56 Vernon Street

www.magnet.state.ma.us

Northampton, MA 01060

www.jonesgrouponline.com

--provides a list of licensed childcare facilities

