

SOME ASPECTS OF RURAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO

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I. INTRODUCTION

More and more, both professional and volunteer workers in the field of economic and social organization are seeking assistance to help them to solve some of the difficulties which they encounter. These difficulties are numerous and of great variety, but to a large extent they center about the subject of the nature of groups and their interrelationships. Many practical workers in this field are now convinced that some objective study of the nature of the social organization with which they are dealing is a prerequisite to successful work. Such objective study is the function of research.

The following report presents a partial analysis of the rural social organization of Fairfield County, Ohio. The county was selected by a joint committee of resident and Extension staff members as one suitable for such a study. The field work was carried on during 1931-1932⁽¹⁾ and the report is made as of that date. The field work was done entirely by one investigator so that the same methods and points of view were maintained throughout.

General Characteristics of Fairfield County

Fairfield County is located in the southeastern portion of Ohio, not far from Columbus. It comprises an area of 495 square miles. The county seat, and only city, is Lancaster with a population in 1930 of 18,716 persons. This city has grown rapidly during recent decades as it is both a manufacturing and distributing center.

In 1930 the rural population of the county totaled 25,294 persons of which more than half (14,696 persons) was rural-farm population. The density of the rural population was 51 persons per square mile. The rural population reached its maximum size in the year 1880 and has been declining slightly since that time. Of the 12 major rural village centers, 7 have been increasing in size since 1900. In 1930 the rural-nonfarm population consisted of 10,598 persons of whom more than half (6285 persons) lived in incorporated villages. The county is more than average rural for the state, and the rural population is almost entirely native-born white in composition.

The birth, death and natural increase rates for the rural population are low. Between 1915 and 1930 the rural population of the county remained practically stationary although the natural increase of the population amounted to more than three thousand persons. During the 15-year period the loss to the rural population through migration was 3811.⁽²⁾

(1) The study was undertaken by Mr. R. C. Smith. Because of his leaving the staff it was impossible for him to complete the analysis and prepare the manuscript.

(2) Lively, C. E. and Folse, C. L., The Trend of Births, Deaths, Natural Increase and Migration. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Mimeo-graph Bull. No. 87, 1936.

Agriculturally, Fairfield County is somewhat varied. The greater portion is covered by the Volusia silt loam which generally requires artificial drainage, and gradually becomes deficient in lime. It is capable of excellent production when efficiently managed. A portion of the southeastern part of the county is hilly and has become badly eroded. The chief sources of agricultural income in 1930-31 were hogs, dairy products, cattle and poultry in the order named.

In 1930, the number of farms in the county was 2985. This represented a decrease of 452 since 1920. The average size of farm was 97.0 acres and was tending to increase. The average value of land and buildings per farm was \$8531, or 88 dollars per acre. The percentage of farm tenancy was about average for the state.

II. THE GENERAL PATTERN OF COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The general pattern of the social organization of Fairfield County is not unique. Lancaster, the county seat, located near the geographic center of the area dominates the trading interests of the county. The entire county also falls under the influence of Columbus, a metropolitan center only 30 miles from Lancaster. Outside of the city of Lancaster the entire remaining population of the county is rural. The neighboring cities of New Lexington to the east and Circleville to the west exert only minor influence in the county.

Distribution of Population. In addition to the city of Lancaster, there were at the time of the survey 37 named places with an assignable population. See Table 1. These ranged from the twin cities of Basil-Baltimore with a total population of 1436 down to Marcey with a population of 9 persons. Twelve of these centers possessed a population of more than 250 persons and were distinctly in the village class. These villages tended to form a circle about the city of Lancaster within a radius of six to twelve miles.

In 1930 these 37 population centers included 27 per cent of the total rural population and 64 per cent of the rural-nonfarm population. The 25 smallest centers included no place with a population of more than 150 persons. The smallest 17 of these centers had fewer than 50 persons each. (3)

Trade Centers and Trade Basins. If a trade center be defined as a place with one or more business establishments, there was in addition to the city of Lancaster a total of 34 trade centers located in the county in 1930. This list of trade centers was identical with the above list of population centers, except that three of the smallest population centers possessed no business establishments. The high correlation between the number of business establishments and the population of these centers may be readily noted from Table 1. See also Maps I and II.

In 1930 there was a total of 469 active business establishments in these centers. Of these, 86 per cent was located in the 12 largest centers and 14 per cent in the 25 smallest centers. The 12 largest centers averaged 12.7 business establishments per center, while the 25 smallest centers averaged 2.6 establishments per center. It appears, therefore, that these 12 largest centers tended to dominate the rural trade of the county in so far as it was not supplied directly from either Lancaster or Columbus.

(3) This places them in the "open country" class according to the recent definition of "village" used by certain Federal agencies, notably the F.E.R.A.

Another indication that the 25 smallest trade centers were of only minor importance was the types of trading service available therein. Table 2 shows that in these 25 smallest centers there were no banks, no drug stores, no hardware or farm implement stores and no newspapers or lumber yards. There was but one grain elevator, two grocery stores and two automobile repair and supply stations. On the other hand, with the exception of the newspaper, these stores and service agencies were well distributed throughout the 12 largest centers. In the small centers the most characteristic type of business establishment was the general store. Seven of the larger centers were located sufficiently close to the county line to draw some support from the population of adjoining counties. In addition, two villages located without the county, Canal Winchester and Tarlton, extended their influence into the county. The additional 25 small population centers were scattered about over the county apparently with little regard for the influence of the larger centers. See Map II.

Some measure of the relative influence of the various rural trade centers may be obtained from Table 1. See also Map III. A considerable portion of the area at the center of the county was included only within the trade basin of the city of Lancaster. Outside of this territory nearly all of the area of the county was included within the trade basin of one or more of the rural trade centers of the county. The fact that an estimated 515 square miles of territory was included in these trade basins while the total area of the county amounts to only 495 square miles gives some indication of the amount of overlapping of these trade basins. In fact the area included in the trade basins of the 25 smallest trade centers was also included wholly or in part in the trade basins of the 12 largest rural trade centers. The extent to which these 12 centers dominated the rural trade of the county may be seen from the following facts. They contained 86 per cent of the business establishments located in rural trade centers, 70 per cent of the total area of the county was included in their service areas, and 68 per cent of the open country population lived within the limits of their service areas.

It is true that this analysis in no way proves what proportion of the trading interests of the rural population of the county was being satisfied by the business establishments located in these 12 trade centers. It is a known fact that much of the trading was done in Lancaster and Columbus. However, the analysis does tend to demonstrate that in so far as trading was done in the rural centers of the county, it was done chiefly at these 12 largest centers.

A careful analysis of the relationships of the above factors bearing upon the comparative size and influence of these trade centers, revealed some additional points of interest. The population of the trade centers and the number of business establishments located therein were highly correlated.⁽⁴⁾ The relationship between the number of business establishments and the number of square miles included in the service area was equally high. The relation between the population of the center and the number of square miles included in the service area was slightly lower, but not significantly so. If the farm population were somewhat evenly distributed throughout the county (and it apparently was so), the number of farm people living within the limits of any trade basin, or service area, was proportional to the size of that service area, and, therefore, proportional to the size of the trade center. This means that the larger the trade center the larger the service area and the larger the number of

(4) This relationship (which expressed as a coefficient of correlation was 0.90; $E_r = 0.03$) has been found to be similarly close in data for Minnesota. See Lively, C. E., Growth and Decline of Farm Trade Centers in Minnesota, 1905-1930. Minn. Agri. Expt. Station, Bull. 287, p. 8.

farm population tributary to it, or served by it. These relationships are very significant, for they make it possible to study with some precision the various forms of rural group organization in relation to the size of the trade center.

Social Groups. The rural social groups that were included in this survey numbered 815. In this number was included schools and associated groups such as parent-teacher associations, athletic teams, bands and orchestras; churches and associated groups, such as Sunday Schools, Young Peoples' societies and Ladies' Aid; fraternal orders; all clubs; farmers' extension groups; protective associations; chambers of commerce and automobile clubs; granges and farm bureaux. Great care was exercised by the field investigator to make the list complete both for population centers and for the open country. These groups may be subdivided according to their meeting places. Thus, of the total 815 groups, 583 were located in, or had their meeting place, in the rural population centers. The remaining 232 groups met within the open country, i.e. outside of the population centers. Of these, 138 met within the boundaries of the trade basins tributary to the 12 largest trade centers, while the remaining 94 groups met in the open country without the boundaries of these trade basins. See Table 3; also Map V. No attempt is made in this study to include social groups meeting in the city of Lancaster.

With respect to the social groups meeting at the population center, it may be readily seen, Table 1, that the correlation between the number of such groups and the size of the center is very high.⁽⁵⁾ The relationship was closer when the number of business establishments was used than when population was used as a measure of size. Consequently, in all subsequent analysis dealing with the relation of the farmer and his group affiliations to the rural trade centers, the number of business establishments is used as a measure of size of trade centers.

It is noteworthy that only 14 per cent of the social groups meeting in the rural population centers was to be found in the 25 smallest centers, i.e. those centers with a population of 150 or less. A large proportion of these was located in those small centers which lay within the boundaries of the service areas of the 12 major rural trade centers. Such groups are not necessarily tributary to the larger centers within whose service areas they lie, and hence, must be treated independently.

When we consider those social groups meeting outside the rural population centers, however, the situation was different. Of these groups meeting within the boundaries of the 12 major service areas, some were also located within the service areas of those small centers which themselves were situated within the boundaries of the service areas of the 12 largest rural centers. In order to avoid duplication all such groups are regarded as meeting within the larger service area, only. Eighty per cent of these groups consisted of one-room schools, churches and affiliated church groups.

With respect to those groups meeting in the open country outside the boundaries of the service areas of the 12 major centers, it may be said that they also, consisted mostly (80 per cent) of one-room schools, churches and affiliated church groups. Eighty-seven per cent of these groups was located in the area immediately tributary to the city of Lancaster, but outside the boundaries of the service areas of the 12 largest rural trade centers. See Table 6.

(5) The correlation between the number of social groups and the number of business establishments was 0.97; $E_r = 0.012$. The correlation between the number of social groups and the population of the center was 0.88; $E_r = 0.05$.

It is clear, therefore, that, in the case of Fairfield County, not only was the largest number (71 per cent) of rural social groups located in the rural trade centers, but 86 per cent of these was located in the 12 major rural trade centers. Furthermore, if the county be considered from the standpoint of the 12 major rural trade centers and their service areas, 85 per cent of all rural social groups was located either within these centers or within their service areas. Only 15 per cent of the rural social groups was located outside the influence of these 12 major centers, and of these more than one in five was located in small trade centers. See Table 3.

Furthermore, with respect to the size of the major rural trade center and the number of social groups associated with it, i.e. meeting either at the center or within the service area, it may be said that their relationship was close. That is to say, the total number of social groups varied directly with the size of the trade center measured in terms of number of business establishments.⁽⁶⁾ This means that so far as these rural centers are concerned the number of social groups at the center and within its service area was directly proportional to the size of the center.

III. SOCIAL GROUPS, THEIR NATURE AND MEMBERSHIP

A. Type and Distribution

Turning now to an analysis of the nature of the rural social groups of Fairfield County, it is of interest, first, to describe the various types of group found in the county and to show their geographic distribution. This may be done by analyzing them according to their relation to the trade centers as well as in terms of their functions.

Groups Meeting in the Population Centers. As has been stated previously, 71 per cent of the rural social groups of the county was located in or had their place of meeting in the rural population centers. Also, the number of groups per center was directly proportional to the size of the center when size was measured in terms of number of business establishments. It has also been pointed out that 85 per cent of all social groups was located either at the 12 major trade centers or within their service areas while only 15 per cent was located without these centers or their service areas. Let us now consider the various types of groups and their distribution.

Of the 19 schools located in the population centers, 12 were located in the 12 major trade centers. See Map VI. All were of the consolidated type. These schools had associated with them a total of 37 groups, such as parent-teacher associations, musical and dramatic clubs, agricultural clubs and literary clubs. On the other hand, the 25 minor population centers possessed but seven schools, only two of which were consolidated. Thus, 18 of the minor centers were without a school at the center. Only two additional social groups were attached to those seven schools. They were both parent-teacher associations.

(6) The coefficient of correlation was 0.91; $E_p = 0.05$. The relationship obtained when the total number of business establishments, located both at the major centers and at minor centers within the major service area, was used, was not significantly different. It is recognized that the number of cases is too small for dependable correlation analysis. Nevertheless they represent all of the cases for the area of the survey. Such results must be verified from other areas.

With respect to churches, 40 of the 53 churches located in population centers were to be found in the 12 major trade centers. See Map VII. With these churches, were associated a total of 234 social groups, the number of such groups increasing with the size of the trade center. Thus, 75 per cent of the churches located in population centers and 85 per cent of the subsidiary church groups were to be found in these 12 major trade centers.

Of the 52 fraternal orders meeting in the population centers, all but two met in the 12 major trade centers. These two were located at New Salem, the largest of the minor centers. The number of fraternal orders per center tended to increase with the size of the center.

Of the 28 farmers' organization groups meeting in the population centers, 24 were located in the 12 major trade centers. The number of such groups per center tended to increase with the size of the center. This group included granges, farm bureaus, protective associations and farmers' institutes.

The number of agricultural extension groups meeting at the population centers was 51. This number was composed of home demonstration groups, and 4-H clubs. Of these, 45 met in the 12 major trade centers and 6 in the minor centers. Within the 12 major trade centers, the number of these groups showed no disposition to increase as the size of the trade center increased.

The miscellaneous groups meeting in the population centers consisted of musical organizations, athletic clubs, card clubs, women's clubs, W.C.T.U., Boy Scouts, community clubs, auto clubs, chambers of commerce, etc. Of the 66 such groups, 60 were located in the 12 major trade centers and six in the minor centers. There was a definite tendency for these groups to increase in number as the size of the center increased.

Groups Meeting in the Open Country Within the Twelve Major Service Areas.

According to Table 5, there was at the time of the survey a total of 138 social groups meeting in the open country within the boundaries of the 12 major service areas. This number does not include those groups meeting in minor population centers located within the 12 major service areas. The number of groups per service area, was directly related to the size of the center to which the groups were tributary. The number of groups was less closely related to the size of the service area.

Of the 138 groups, 72 per cent consisted of churches and affiliated church groups. Schools and school groups composed 11 per cent, extension groups 10 per cent and miscellaneous groups 7 per cent of the total. All service areas but one contained churches. As a result of consolidation of schools at the trade centers, however, open country schools were limited to five of the 12 service areas. Extension groups were found in seven of the areas and miscellaneous clubs in five of the areas.

Groups Meeting in the Open Country Outside the Twelve Major Service Areas.

A total of 94 social groups were meeting in open country places outside the boundaries of the twelve major rural service areas of the county at the time of the survey. See Table 6. As has been stated previously these groups consisted largely of one-room schools and country churches located in the open country area immediately tributary to the city of Lancaster.

Of the total 94 groups, 64 per cent consisted of churches and affiliated church groups, and 25 per cent consisted of schools and affiliated school groups. The remainder consisted of Extension groups such as 4-H clubs and home demonstration groups.

Hence, it may be said that not only did a smaller number of rural social groups occur in the more strictly rural portions of the county, but the nature of the groups tended to be different also. In the more strictly open country areas, the one-room school, the country church and their affiliated groups composed a larger proportion of all social groups than was the case in either the major or the minor population centers.

The fact that the open country had fewer social groups than the trade centers and also the fact that the number of groups meeting at the population center decreased as the size of the center decreased, suggests the conclusion that the ratio of groups to population was lower in the open country than in the population centers. As for the population centers, computation showed that although the minor centers were much less stable than the larger ones, they were nearly as well supplied with groups per unit of population as the larger centers. The 12 major centers had 7.4 groups per 100 persons while the 25 minor centers had 6.1 groups per 100 persons. With respect to the open country, however, the service areas of the 12 major trade centers (including minor centers located therein) possessed only 1.7 groups per 100 persons. As will be pointed out later, however, much of this population held membership in one or more of the groups meeting in the population centers. For that reason the ratios cannot be considered a true measure of the availability of groups to the open country population of these major service areas.

With respect to the open country outside the boundaries of the 12 major service areas the number of social groups per 100 persons was 2.4. For the 12 major trade communities (including both trade center and open country service area), the corresponding ratio was 3.3 groups per 100 persons. Thus, in Fairfield County, it is clear that the open country outside the service areas of the 12 major rural trade centers was less well supplied with social groups, as far as number was concerned, than the 12 well-defined community areas. Also, as will be seen later, the groups in these non-community areas of the open country were smaller and were almost exclusively groups of the church and school. See Charts I and II.

B. Size of Group

When measured in terms of number of members enrolled, the size of the 815 rural social groups of Fairfield County varied greatly according to type and meeting place. The total group membership amounted to 41,991 persons. Of these, 29,879 persons were members of groups meeting in the 12 major trade centers, 3609 persons were members of groups meeting in minor trade centers, and 8503 persons were members of open country groups. From these figures, given in Table 8, and the number of groups, Table 3, it may be calculated that 62 per cent of the groups met in the major trade centers and that 71 per cent of all group members belonged to those groups. By contrast, 28.5 per cent of the groups met in the open country but only 20.3 per cent of the group membership belonged to these groups. The minor centers were intermediate with 9.9 per cent of the groups and 8.6 per cent of the memberships.

In like manner, it may be showed that the 12 major trade centers claimed 45 per cent of the churches and 62 per cent of the church membership; the minor trade centers claimed 14 per cent of the churches and 11 per cent of the membership; and the open country claimed 41 per cent of the churches and 27 per cent of the membership. Of the social groups affiliated with the churches, the 59 per cent located in the major trade centers enrolled 63 per cent of the membership. Minor trade centers had 10 per cent of both groups and membership, while in the open country was found 31 per cent of the groups and 27 per cent of the memberships.

With regard to schools, the 27 per cent located in the major trade centers enrolled 80 per cent of the pupils. The schools located in the minor trade centers enrolled 8 per cent, and those of the open country enrolled 12 per cent of the pupils. Of the groups affiliated with the schools, 71 per cent was located in the major trade centers, 4 per cent in the minor trade centers, and 25 per cent in the open country. The memberships in these groups were distributed in the same proportions as the groups.

Of the Extension groups, the 59 per cent meeting in the major trade centers enrolled 67 per cent of the members. The 8 per cent meeting in the minor centers enrolled only 4 per cent of the members while the 33 per cent meeting in the open country enrolled 29 per cent of the members.

Farmers' organizations met only in the trade centers. Of these 86 per cent of the groups met in the major centers and enrolled 90 per cent of all members.

The fraternal orders were also limited to the population centers. Of these, the major centers claimed 96 per cent of the groups and 97 per cent of the memberships.

Of all other groups, 80 per cent met in the major centers and enrolled 79 per cent of the members. Only 12 per cent met in the open country; these accounted for 11 per cent of all members.

The above figures make it clear that the social groups meeting in the trade centers were larger, on the average, than those meeting in the open country. For all population centers, the average size of social group meeting there was 57.4 persons. In the 12 major centers the average was 59.5 persons, while in the minor centers it fell to 44.6 persons. This difference between size of group in major and minor centers held for all types of group for which there was enough cases to permit comparison, except affiliated church groups. For these, there was no significant difference. Hence, it may be said that as the size of the population center increased, the number of social groups meeting therein increased. Furthermore, the number of members not only increased but tended to increase at a more rapid rate so that the average size of group in the major centers was larger than that of the minor centers.

In the open country, the average size of social group was but 36.7 persons. This average tended to be a fairly stable one. That is, there was no significant difference in size between open country groups meeting within service areas and those meeting without service areas. Neither was there any disposition for open country groups to increase in size as the rural trade center to which they were tributary increased in size.

C. Open Country Membership in Rural Social Groups⁽⁷⁾

It is of interest to note the extent to which persons living in the open country⁽⁸⁾ were enrolled as members of the rural social groups of Fairfield County. This topic may be considered under two heads: (1) the membership of open country

(7) School attendance and groups affiliated with the churches are omitted from this analysis. The school is not a voluntary membership organization. The membership in affiliated church groups closely paralleled that of church membership.

(8) "Open country" as here used is practically synonymous with farm population since the rural-nonfarm population not living at the rural population centers is believed to have been chiefly suburban to the city of Lancaster.

persons in social groups meeting at the rural population centers, and (2) the membership of open country persons in groups meeting in the open country. Both of these may be considered from the standpoint of the numerical importance of open country members in the total membership and also from the standpoint of the relation of the total open country membership to the potential open country membership.

Persons living outside the population centers contributed heavily to the membership of social groups meeting in those centers. On the average, 52 per cent of all members of these groups lived in the open country. There was no significant correlation between the size of the center and the proportion of the group membership living in the open country, and, hence, it cannot be said that the percentage of open country membership in these groups declined as the size of the center increased. It is notable, however, that in the minor centers the open country membership fluctuated more violently than in the major centers, and on the average constituted a higher percentage of the total membership than was the case in the major centers. This conclusion held for all types of group except church membership. In the case of churches, there was a noticeable tendency for the percentage of open country members to decline as the size of the population center increased.

With respect to the proportion of the potential membership belonging to the social groups meeting in the population centers, it may be said that the size of the population center was not a factor in the case of fraternal orders, farmers' organizations and Extension groups. That is to say, that the ratio of open country memberships to the total number of open country persons living in the service area of the center did not vary with the size of the center. In the case of church membership and groups affiliated with the schools, however, there was such a tendency, though slight, in the major centers. That is, the largest of the major centers apparently enrolled a smaller proportion of their tributary population in their school and church groups than the smallest of these centers.

On the whole, the larger centers enrolled a larger membership in proportion to the available open country population than did the minor centers.

Turning now from the population centers to the major service areas, it is of interest to determine the relation of the open country membership in the social groups meeting outside the major trade centers⁽⁹⁾ to the total open country population (i.e. potential membership) of the service areas. Table 11 shows that the ratio of such membership to the total open country population was less than half (31.8) that of the ratio of the open country membership of groups meeting in the major trade centers to the total open country population of the service areas. It may also be noted that the percentage of the open country population belonging to these open country groups did not vary with the size of the trade center.

Combining the membership of open country persons in social groups meeting in the major trade centers with the membership of open country persons in groups meeting in the major service areas outside the trade centers, it at once becomes evident that in some cases the number of open country memberships in some of the service areas exceeded the total number of open country persons living in the service area. This may be accounted for in part by some persons belonging to several groups, and also in part by some of the groups drawing memberships from beyond the limits of the service area as determined by this survey. Thus, in the case of Lithopolis, a center with a relatively small service area but with a number of active groups, the aggregate number of open country memberships exceeded the estimated total number of open country people by 73 per cent. The lowest

(9) Including groups meeting in those minor centers located within major service areas.

ratio occurred in the case of Millersport where the aggregate memberships equalled 67 per cent of the open country population. These high ratios indicate relatively high open country participation in group activities (as measured by membership) in as much as the average ratio for the entire 12 major service areas was 107.5. This means that the aggregate membership of open country people in the groups studied was equal to the total open country population tributary to those centers.

It was noted also that the ratio of aggregate open country memberships in the 12 major service areas to the total open country population was not related to the size of trade center. This was true not only of total memberships but of membership in each class of group studied. In other words, as far as these major centers were concerned, the size of the center held no relation to the ratio of open country memberships in social groups to the total open country population tributary to the center.

Outside the 12 major service areas, the social groups aggregated open country memberships equal to 41.4 per cent of the open country population. Undoubtedly an additional number of memberships were obtained from these people by the groups meeting in the 12 trade centers and service areas. Possibly a few were enrolled as members of groups in the city of Lancaster. The number of these was not determined. Even so, the ratio of memberships to population was substantially higher than similar ratios for the major service areas. These people lived in the open country not tributary to any important rural center. Their organizational life was more nearly limited, therefore, to their own open country organizations. In the major service areas, the open country population obtained approximately two-thirds of their organizational experience in groups meeting in the centers to which they were tributary.

SUMMARY

More than half of the rural population of Fairfield County dwells on farms and about one-fourth live in incorporated villages. The open country population is served by the city of Lancaster and by the business establishments and service agencies of 37 rural centers. Of these centers, the 12 largest dominate the county. The population of these centers ranges from about 300 to nearly 1500 and they are arranged in the general form of a circle about the city of Lancaster. It is estimated that these 12 centers contained 86 per cent of the rural business establishments located in the county, and that the 70 per cent of the total area of the county which was included in their service areas contained 68 per cent of the entire open country population of the county.

The inventory of rural social groups totaled 815, of which 53 were churches, 275 were groups affiliated with the churches, 19 were schools, 39 were groups affiliated with the schools, 52 were fraternal orders, 51 were agricultural extension groups, 28 consisted of farmers' organizations and 66 were of a miscellaneous nature.

When these groups were classified according to place of meeting, it was found that 61 per cent met in the 12 major rural trade centers, 10 per cent in the 25 minor centers and 29 per cent in the open country outside any center. The number of social groups meeting in the center increased directly as the size of the center measured in terms of population or number of business establishments.

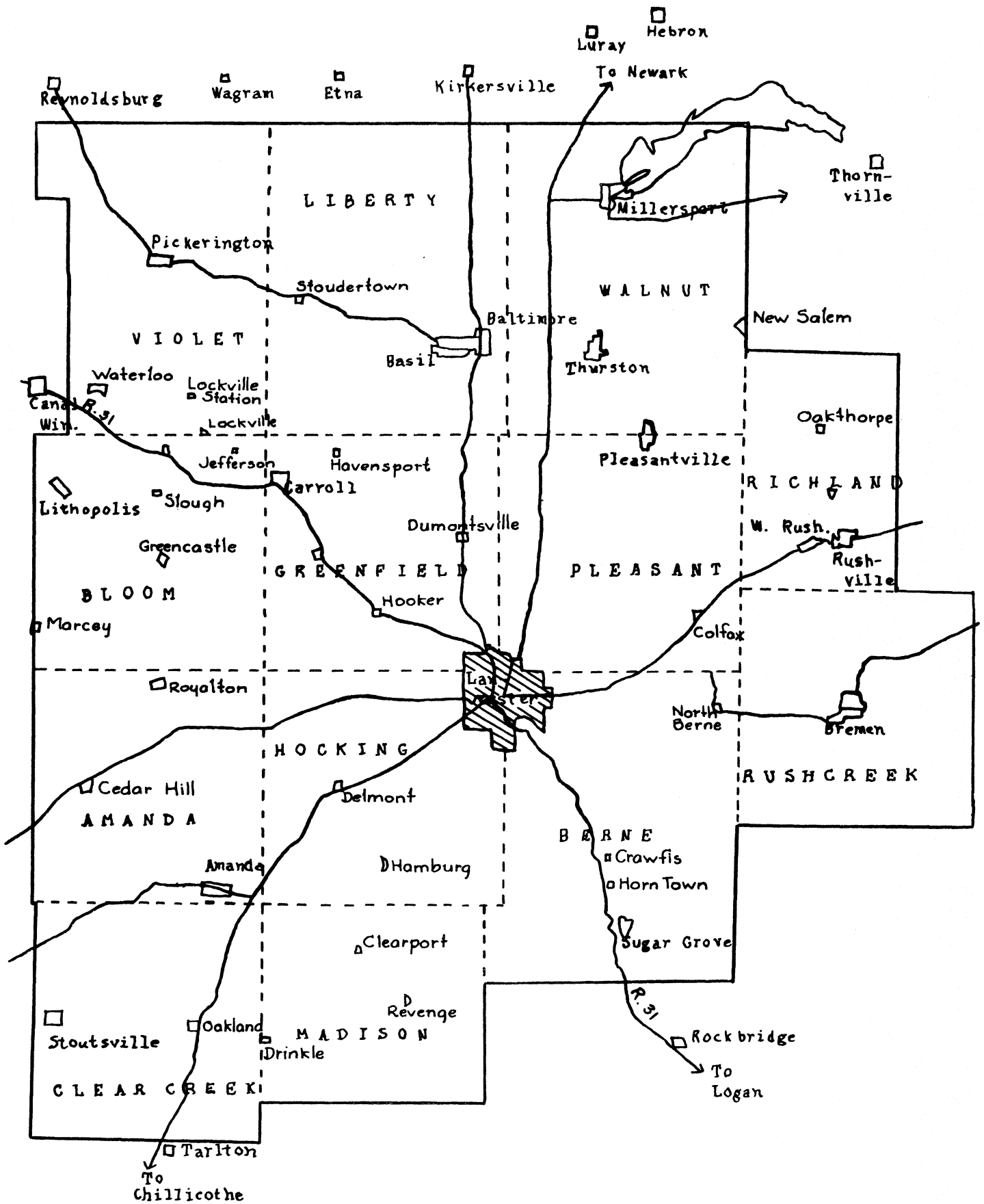
The service areas of the 12 major rural centers included 60 per cent of the groups meeting outside rural population centers; and, hence, 77 per cent of all rural groups in the county met either at the 12 major rural trade centers or within the limits of their service areas. The open country area outside these major service areas consisted chiefly of territory immediately tributary to the city of Lancaster. The social groups of this area consisted chiefly of one-room school and church.

Considering the number of rural social groups in relation to the rural population, the trade centers were best supplied. Considering the population of the trade centers and that of their tributary service areas together, it is evident that they were better supplied with groups than the open country population outside these service areas. Furthermore, the groups meeting in the centers and in the major service areas were not only more numerous but also of a larger average size than the groups meeting elsewhere.

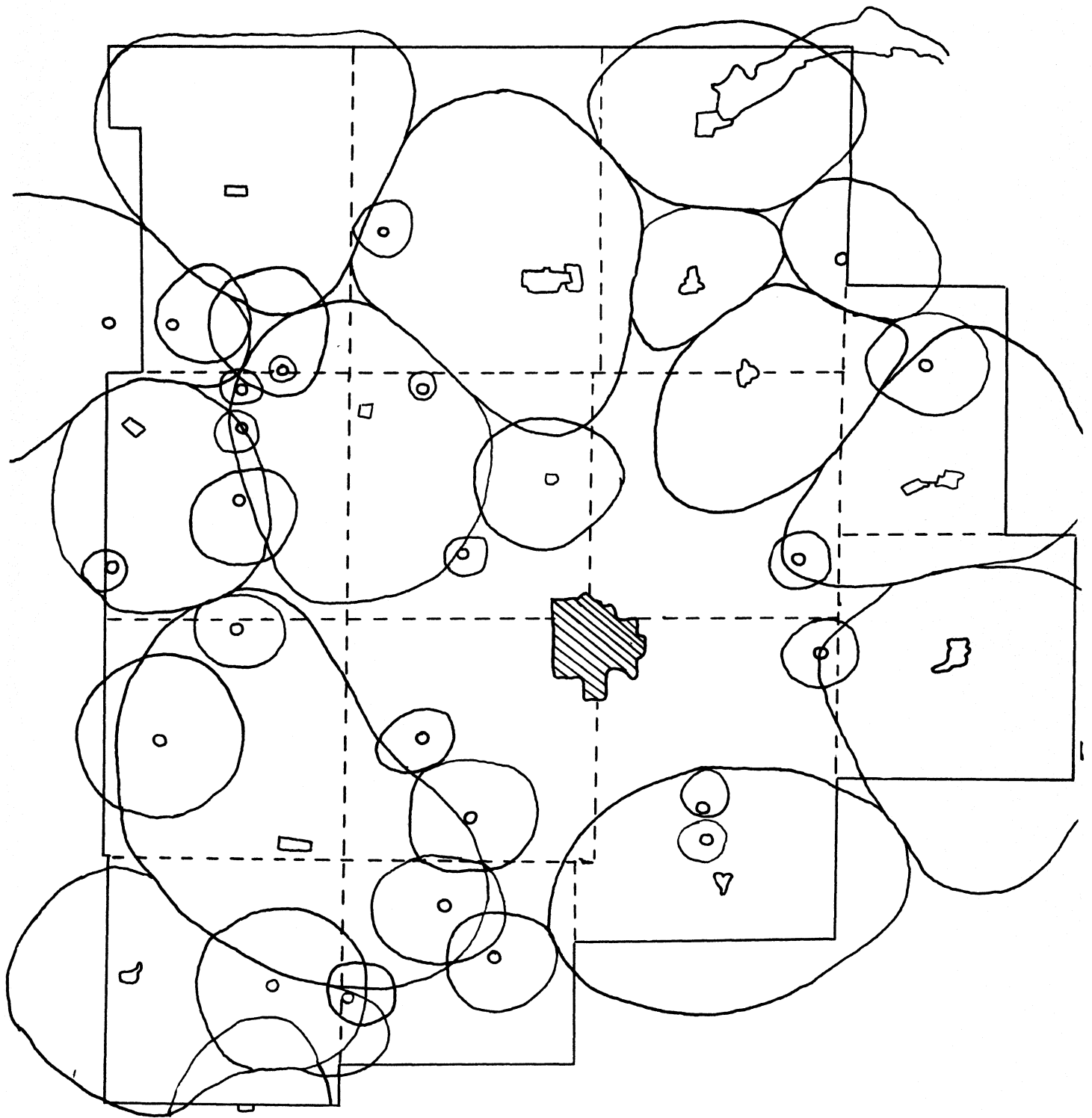
The total number of memberships in the rural social groups of the county averaged 166 for every 100 persons in the rural population. The membership of the open country population in groups meeting in the trade centers averaged 52 per cent of the total and showed no tendency to decline as the size of the center increased.⁽¹⁰⁾

Of the open country memberships in rural social groups, 60 per cent consisted of memberships in groups meeting in the 12 major trade centers, 25 per cent consisted of memberships in groups meeting in the service areas of these centers and 15 per cent were memberships in groups meeting elsewhere. The ratio of open country memberships to the open country population was markedly higher in the service areas than elsewhere. It appears, therefore, that in Fairfield County the 12 major rural trade centers with their tributary service areas are more highly organized than the remaining rural portions of the county. It also appears that the population living in the immediate vicinity of Lancaster, or elsewhere outside these service areas, is handicapped in the matter of organizations and service agencies. It may be inferred, also, that the probability of obtaining maximum response of the open country population to group activity is greatest when that group activity is centered in the 12 major rural trade centers.

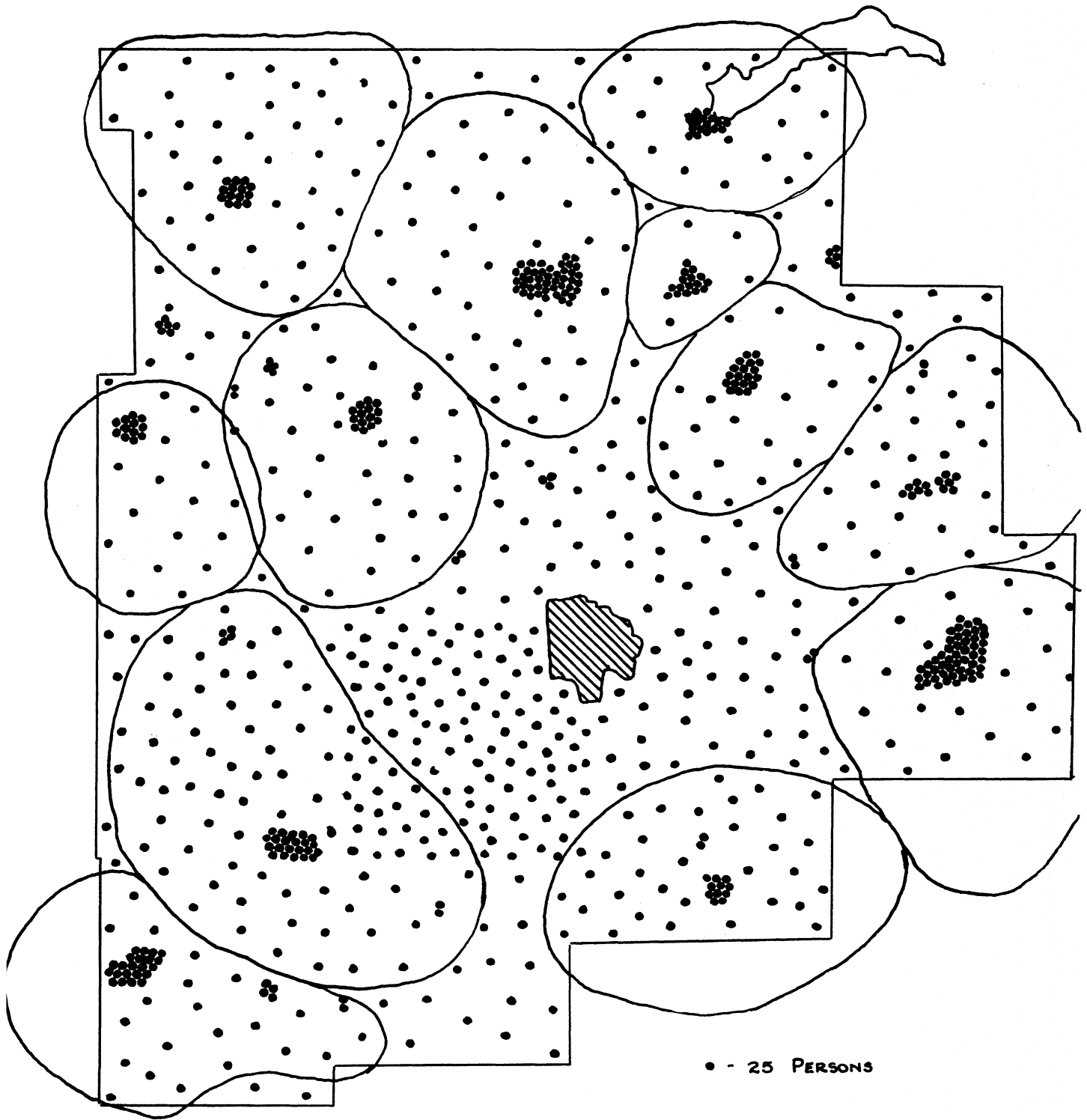
(10) The explanation of this is probably that the largest of these rural centers is still sufficiently small so that the relation of the farm population to it is not affected.



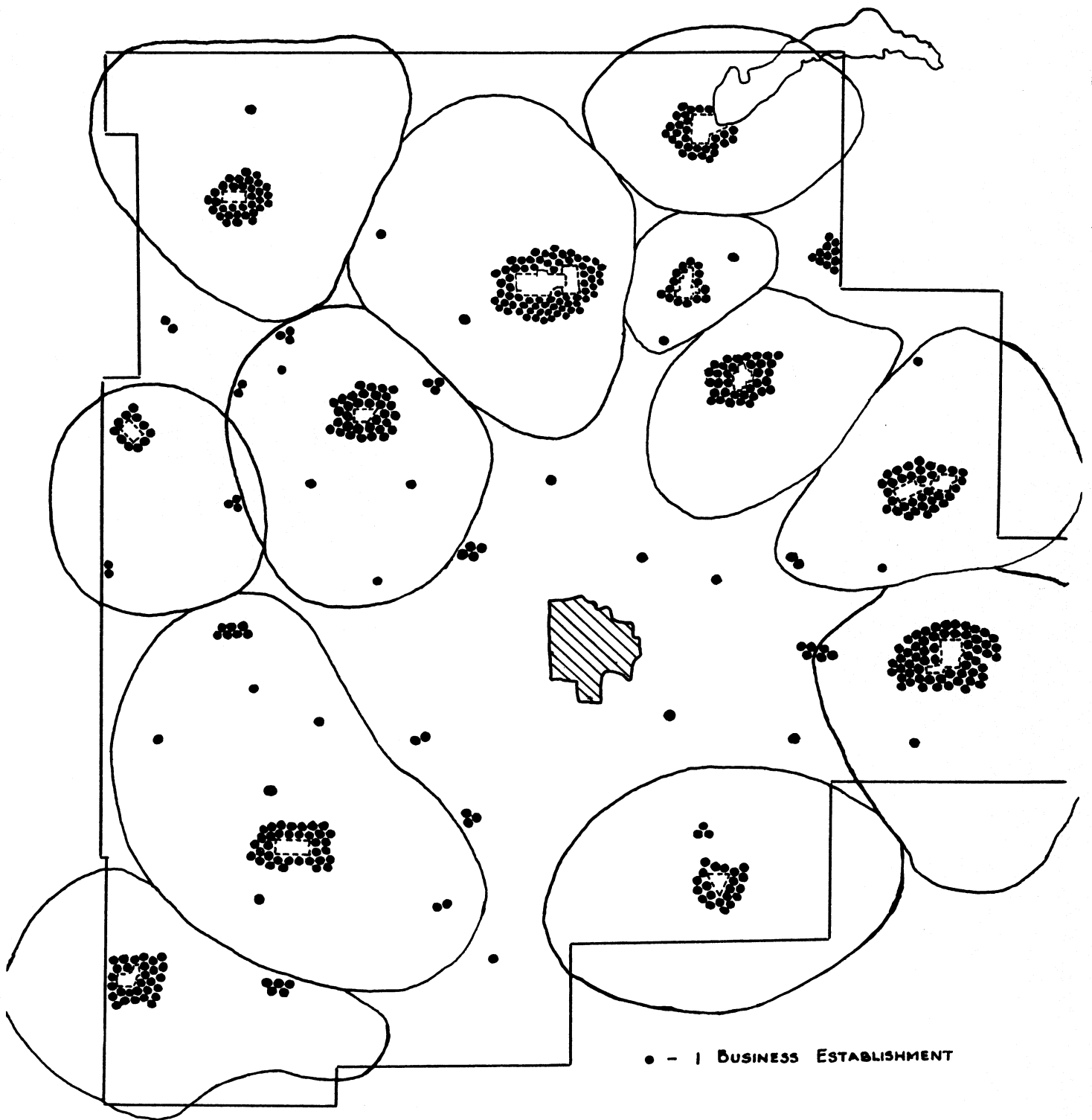
MAP I. BASE MAP OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHOWING POPULATION CENTERS, TOWNSHIP LINES AND PRINCIPAL ROADS.



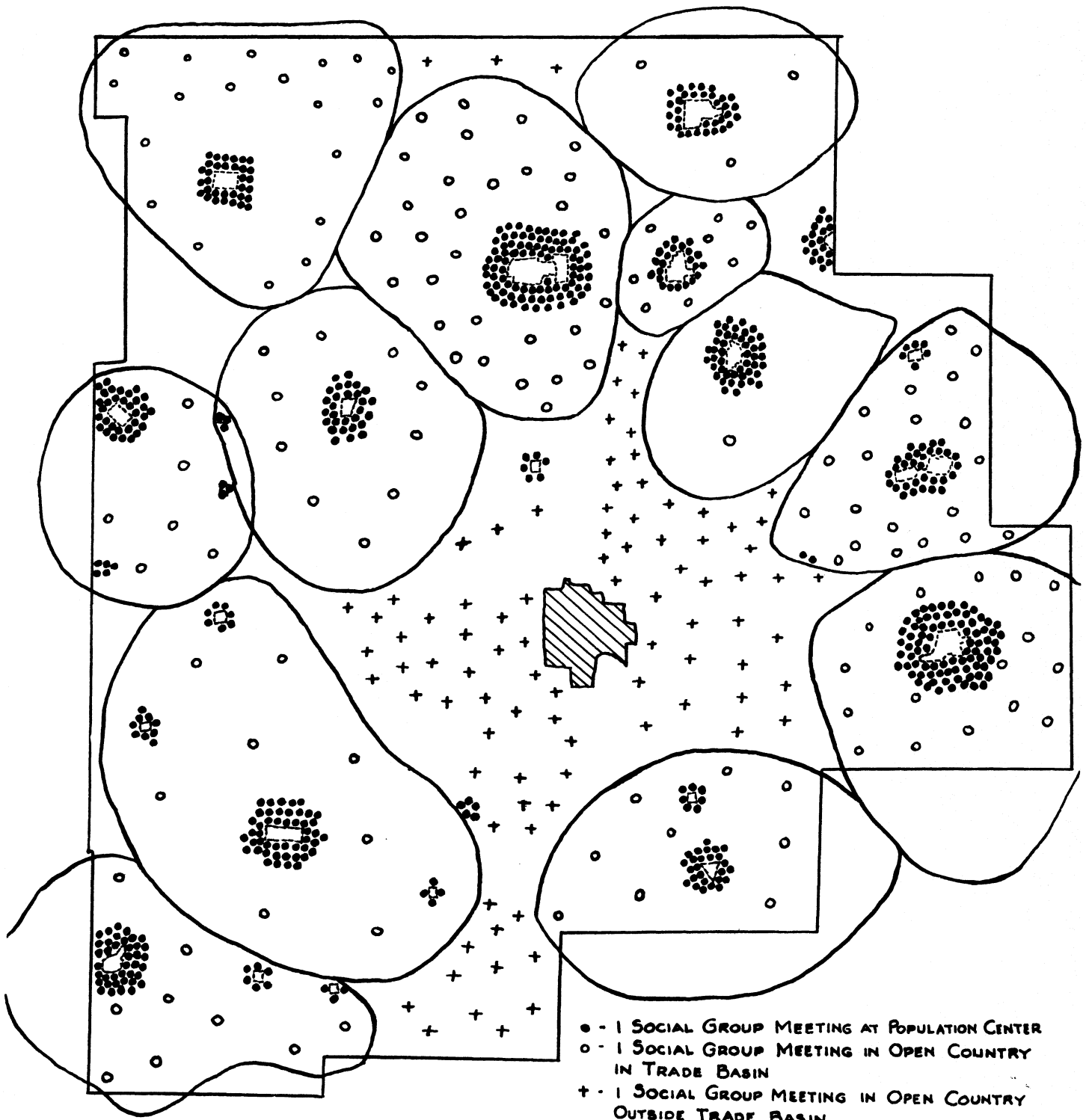
MAP II. THE RURAL TRADE CENTERS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY AND THEIR APPROXIMATE SERVICE AREAS.



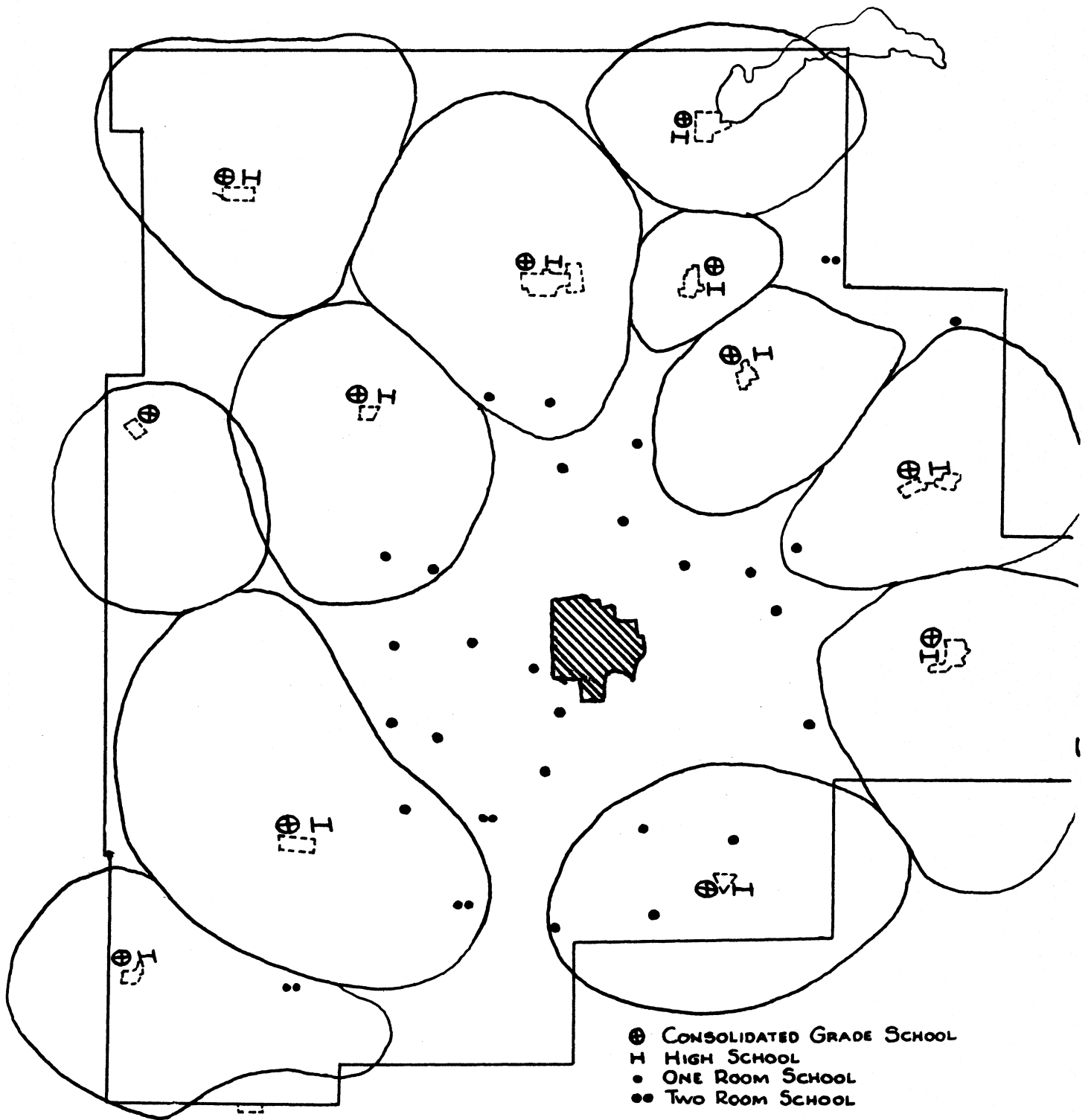
MAP III. DISTRIBUTION OF THE RURAL POPULATION OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY
 IN RELATION TO THE MAJOR RURAL TRADE CENTERS AND
 SERVICE AREAS.



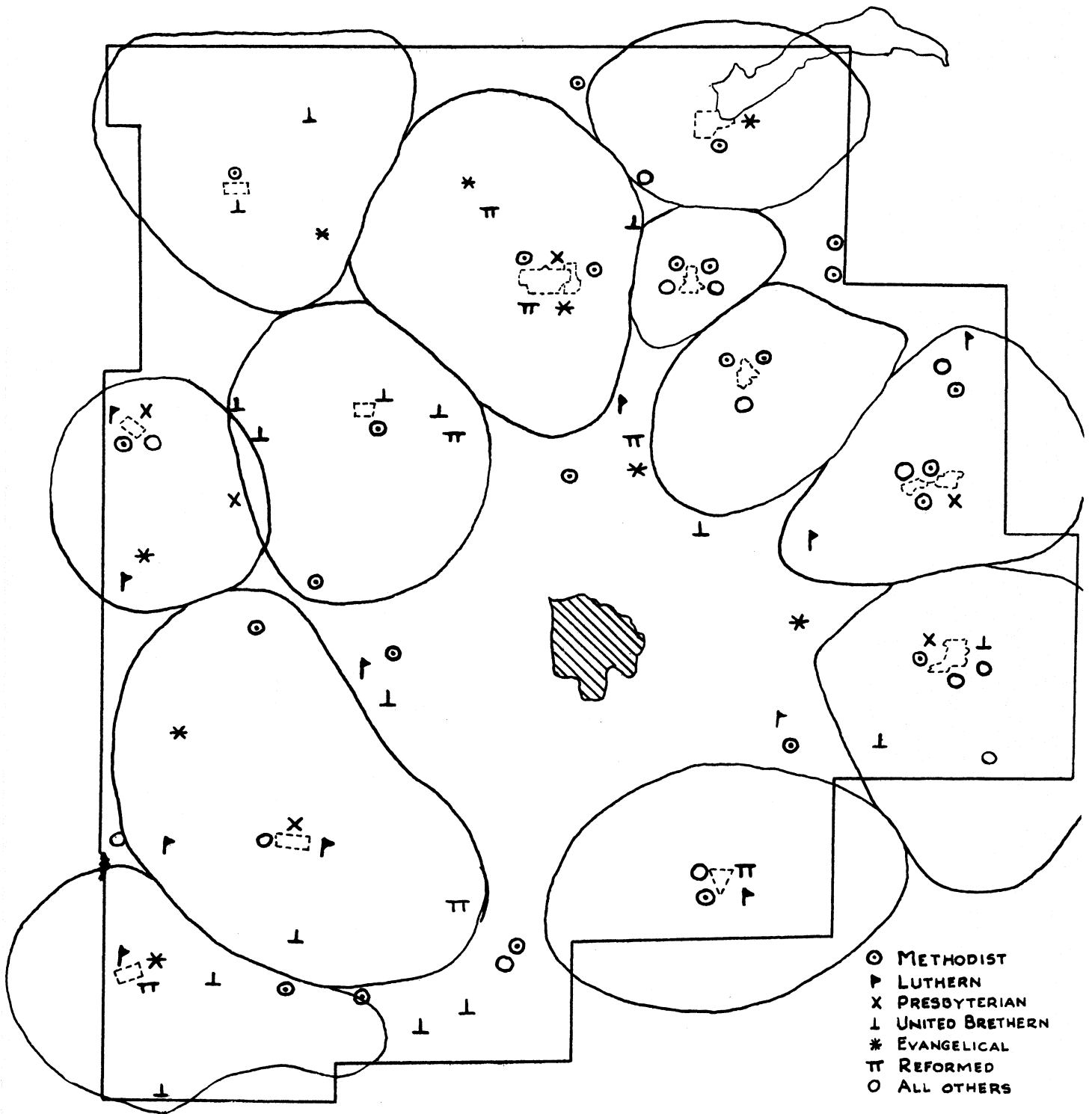
MAP IV. DISTRIBUTION OF THE RURAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY IN RELATION TO THE MAJOR RURAL TRADE CENTERS AND SERVICE AREAS.



MAP V. THE MEETING PLACES OF THE ACTIVE RURAL SOCIAL GROUPS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY IN RELATION TO THE MAJOR RURAL TRADE CENTERS AND SERVICE AREAS.



MAP VI. THE RURAL SCHOOLS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY IN RELATION TO THE MAJOR RURAL TRADE CENTERS AND SERVICE AREAS.



MAP VII. THE RURAL CHURCHES OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY IN RELATION TO THE MAJOR RURAL TRADE CENTERS AND SERVICE AREAS.

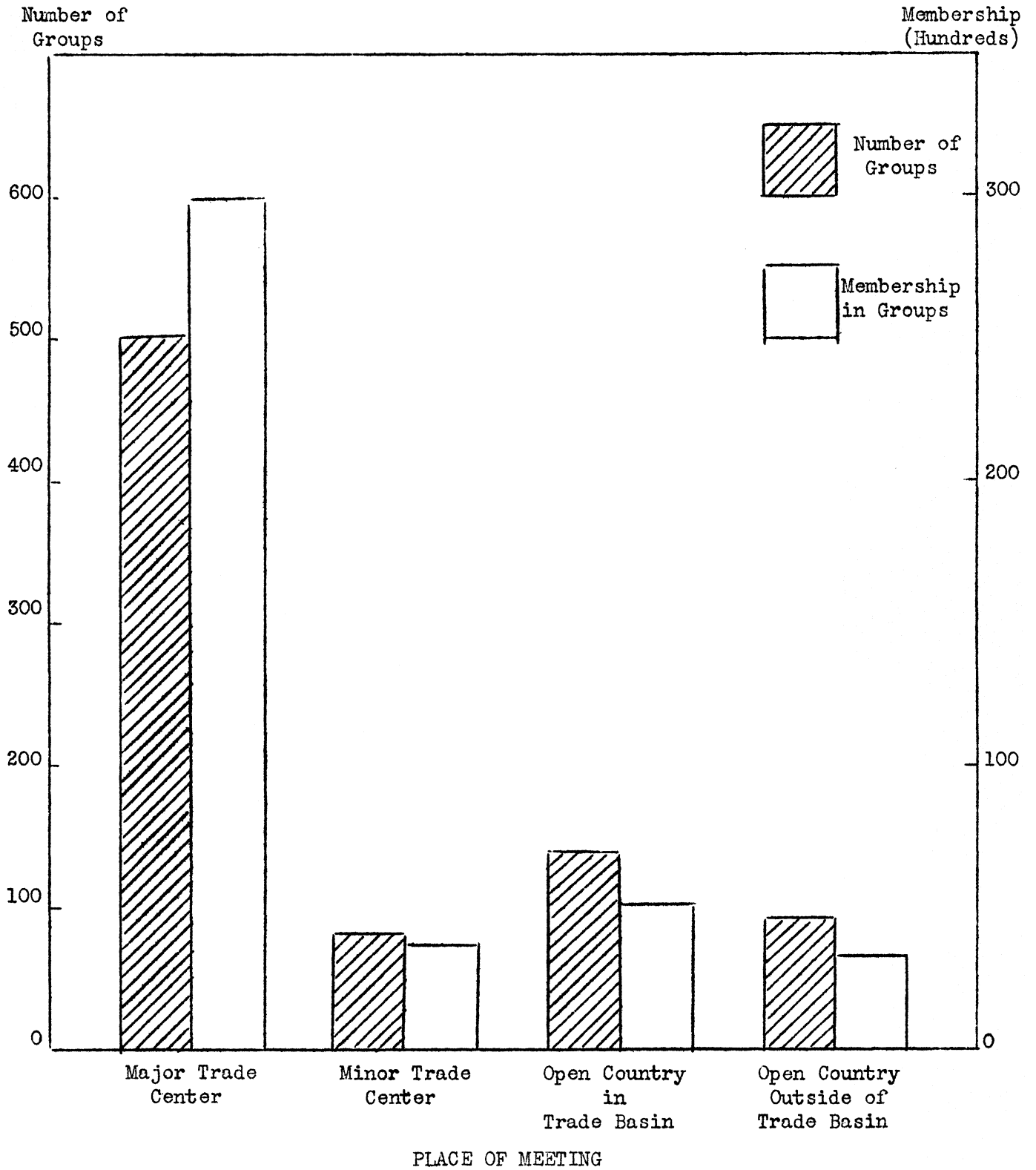


Chart I.- Distribution of Rural Social Groups and Group Membership by Place of Meeting

Per Cent

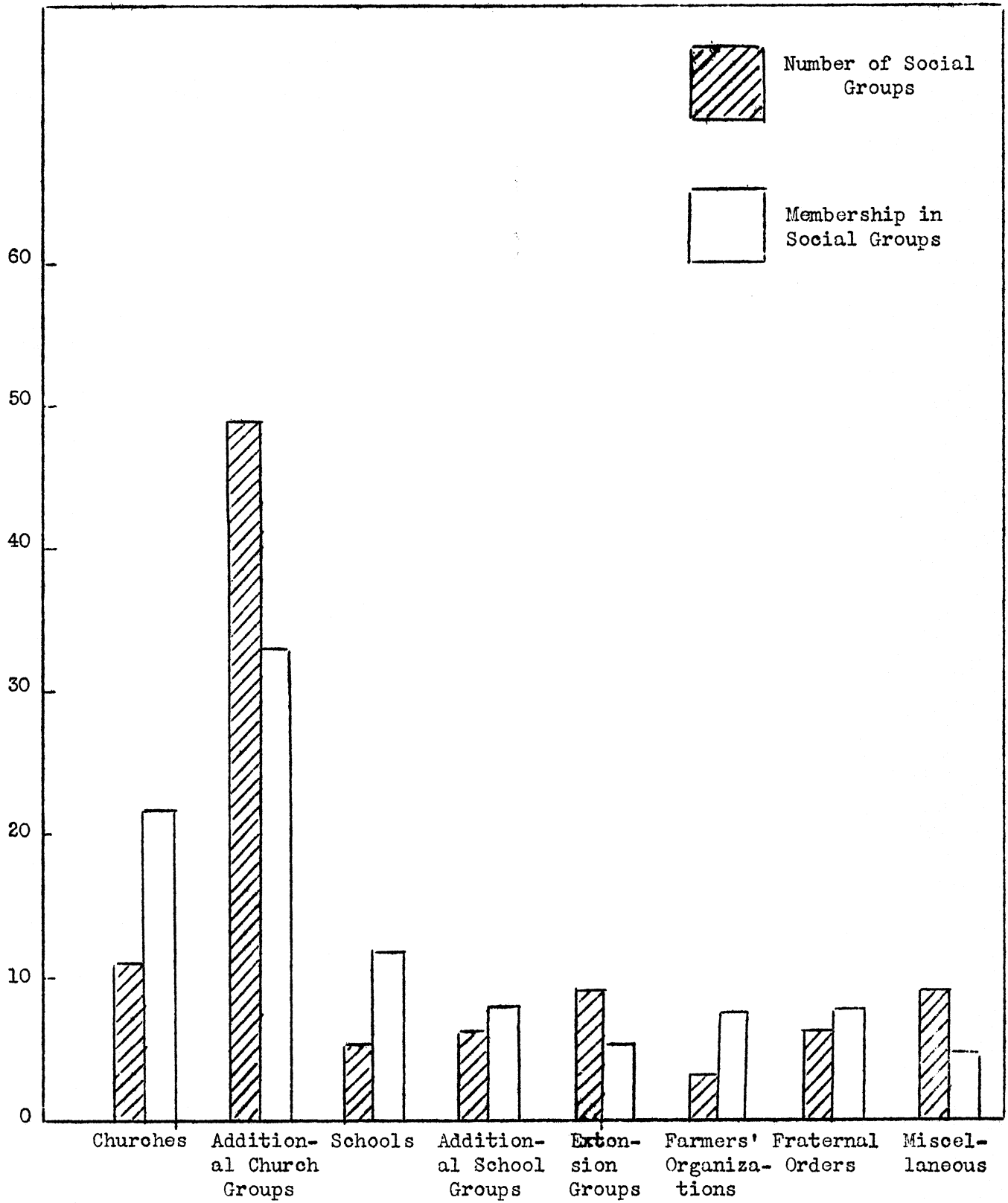


Chart II.- Distribution of Rural Social Groups and Group Membership, by Type of Group

Table 1.- Rural Population Centers of Fairfield County Classified by Size; Also the Number of Business Establishments, Area of Trade Basin, Estimated Open Country Population Living in the Trade Basin and Number of Active Social Groups Meeting at the Center

Trade Center	Popula- tion of Center	Number of Active Business Estab- lishments	Square Miles in Trade Basin	Open Country Population in Trade Basin	Total Number of Active Social Groups
Basil-Baltimore	1436	71	41	1271	87
Bremen	1232	58	45	1308	80
Amanda	557	35	61	1775	47
Pleasantville	495	35	23	690	46
Stoutsville	475	29	35	878	39
Thurston	430	15	11	291	23
Millersport	393	29	22	583	30
Sugar Grove	388	21	41	1025	26
Pickerington	366	33	40	1120	33
Carroll	351	33	37	1147	29
Rush.-W. Rushville	339	34	33	775	31
Lithopolis	298	11	23	697	31
Waterloo	150	2	4	110	-
New Salem	125	10	10	265	17
Royalton	115	7	3	95	7
Oakland	105	5	14	351	5
Lockville	100	1	1	27	-
Dumontsville	70	1	9	288	6
North Berne	57	6	2	65	-
Havensport	52	3	2	65	-
Drinkle	48	0	0	0	3
Horn Town	45	3	1	25	-
Jefferson	45	2	1	30	-
Hooker	45	4	2	65	-
Clearport	40	2	7	138	4
Colfax	40	2	1	44	2
Oakthorpe	40	1	5	117	6
Lockville Station	40	3	7	192	-
Greencastle	35	3	5	151	3
Hamburg	35	3	7	230	5
Crawfis	30	0	0	0	7
Slough	30	0	0	0	3
Revenge	25	1	5	98	-
Cedar Hill	20	1	13	416	8
Stoudertown	17	1	1	31	-
Delmont	12	2	2	66	-
Marcey	9	2	1	30	5
Total	8090	469	515	14459	583

Table 3.- Number of Active Rural Social Groups Meeting in Fairfield County*
Classified by Place of Meeting and by Size of Trade Center

Trade Center	Number of Business Estab- lishments	Total Number of Social Groups	Place of Meeting				
			In Major Rural Trade Centers	In Minor Trade Center		In Open Country	
				In Major Service Area	Not In Major Service Area	In Major Service Area	Not In Major Service Area
Total	469	815	502	53	28	138	94
Twelve Major Rural Trade Centers:							
Total	404	693	502	53	-	138	-
Basil-Baltimore	71	116	87	-	-	29	-
Bremen	58	96	80	-	-	16	-
Amanda	35	74	47	19	-	8	-
Pleasantville	35	47	46	-	-	1	-
Rush.-W. Rushville	34	59	31	8	-	20	-
Pickerington	33	50	33	-	-	17	-
Carroll	33	42	29	3	-	10	-
Stoutsville	29	56	39	8	-	9	-
Millersport	29	33	30	-	-	3	-
Sugar Grove	21	43	26	7	-	10	-
Thurston	15	32	23	-	-	9	-
Lithopolis	11	45	31	8	-	6	-
All Other	65	122	-	-	28	-	94

*Excluding the city of Lancaster.

Table 4.- Rural Social Groups Meeting in Rural Population Centers Classified by Type of Group and by Size of Population Center

Population Center	Number of Business Establishments	Type of Social Group								
		Total Number of Social Groups	Church	Addi- tional Church Groups	School	Addi- tional School Groups	Ex- ten- sion Groups	Farm- ers Or- gan- iza- tions	Fra- ter- nal Or- ders	Mis- cel- la- ne- ous
Total	469	583	53	275	19	39	51	28	52	66
Twelve Major Rural Centers - Total	404	502	40	234	12	37	45	24	50	60
Basil-Baltimore	71	87	5	46	1	5	5	4	10	11
Bremen	58	80	5	41	1	4	4	4	6	15
Amanda	35	47	3	24	1	2	3	3	6	5
Pleasantville	35	46	2	16	1	5	4	2	8	8
Rush.-W.Rushville	34	31	4	14	1	1	4	2	3	2
Pickerington	33	33	2	12	1	2	5	3	2	6
Carroll	33	29	2	13	1	2	4	2	3	2
Stoutsville	29	39	3	18	1	4	4	2	3	4
Millersport	29	30	2	10	1	6	4	-	5	2
Sugar Grove	21	26	4	12	1	4	3	-	-	2
Thurston	15	23	4	13	1	1	2	-	2	-
Lithopolis	11	31	4	15	1	1	3	2	2	3
Twenty-five Minor Centers - Total	65	81	13	41	7	2	6	4	2	6
New Salem	10	17	2	10	1	-	1	1	2	-
Royalton	7	7	1	4	-	-	1	-	-	1
North Berne	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oakland	5	5	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Hooker	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Havensport	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horn Town	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lockville Station	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greencastle	3	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hamburg	3	5	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
Waterloo	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clearport	2	4	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Colfax	2	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Delmont	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marcey	2	5	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lockville	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumontsville	1	6	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Oakthorpe	1	6	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revenge	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Hill	1	8	1	4	-	-	-	1	-	2
Stoudertown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drinkle	0	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crawfis	0	7	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	2
Slough	0	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5.- Rural Social Groups Meeting in the Open Country Within the Service Areas of the Twelve Major Rural Trade Centers, Classified by Type of Group and by Service Area in Which Meeting Place Was Located

Service Area	Number of Business Establishments			Number of Social Groups						
	Total	At	Outside	Total	Church	Addi-	School	Addi-	Ex-	Mis-
		Trade Center	Trade Center			tional Church Groups	tional School Groups	ten-sion Groups	cel-laneous	
Total	417	404	13	138	22	78	10	5	14	9
Basil-Baltimore	72	71	1	29	2	19	2	2	2	2
Bremen	59	58	1	16	3	7	-	-	2	4
Amanda	39	35	4	8	2	3	1	-	2	-
Carroll	36	33	3	10	2	5	2	1	-	-
Pleasantville	35	35	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rush.-W.Rushville	35	34	1	20	4	12	1	1	2	-
Pickerington	34	33	1	17	3	13	-	-	1	-
Millersport	29	29	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	-
Stoutsville	29	29	-	9	2	7	-	-	-	-
Sugar Grove	21	21	-	10	-	-	4	1	4	1
Thurston	17	15	2	9	1	7	-	-	-	1
Lithopolis	11	11	-	6	1	3	-	-	1	1

Table 6.- Rural Social Groups Meeting in the Open Country Outside of the Service Areas of the Twelve Major Rural Trade Centers, Classified by Type of Group and by Township

Township	Number of Business Establishments Outside Major Service Areas	Number of Social Groups					
		Total	Church	Addition- al Church Groups	School	Addi- tional School Groups	Exten- sion Groups
Total	4	94	15	45	15	8	11
Amanda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Berne	2	13	3	5	2	2	1
Bloom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clear Creek	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenfield	-	3	-	-	1	-	2
Hocking	-	33	3	14	7	5	4
Liberty	-	3	1	2	-	-	-
Madison	-	12	4	7	-	-	1
Pleasant	2	30	4	17	5	1	3
Richland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rush Creek	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Violet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walnut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 7.- Membership in Rural Social Groups Meeting in Rural Population Centers Classified by Size of Center and by Type of Group

Population Center	Number of Business Establishments	Membership of Social Group								
		Total Membership of Social Groups	Church	Addi- tional Church Groups	Schools	Addi- tional School Groups	Ex- ten- sion Groups	Farm- ers Or- gan- iza- tions	Fra- ter- Or- ders	Mis- col- la- ne- ous
Total	469	33,488	6583	10,147	4405	2546	1677	3149	3238	1743
Twelve Major Rural Centers - Total	404	29,879	5600	8800	3984	2396	1577	2837	3141	1544
Basil-Baltimore	71	5268	898	2004	592	212	251	483	604	224
Bremen	58	5414	1047	1626	685	194	218	493	530	621
Amanda	35	2732	535	628	414	215	146	289	417	108
Pleasantville	35	2307	338	540	321	205	105	234	433	141
Rush.-W.Rushville	34	1911	367	536	221	200	155	226	180	26
Pickerington	33	1864	377	398	367	155	104	249	113	101
Carroll	33	1898	249	627	276	315	136	135	70	60
Stoutsville	29	2256	435	702	270	177	119	305	134	114
Millersport	29	1604	258	442	251	166	94	-	362	31
Sugar Grove	21	1808	607	496	269	300	64	-	-	72
Thurston	15	1140	220	351	175	210	39	-	145	-
Lithopolis	11	1677	269	450	143	47	116	453	153	46
Average Membership per Social Group		57.4	140.0	32.0	332.0	64.8	35.0	118.2	68.1	25.7
Twenty-five Minor Trade Centers										
Total	65	3609	983	1347	421	150	100	312	97	199
New Salem	10	594	165	204	54	-	14	60	97	-
Royalton	7	219	60	129	-	-	12	-	-	18
North Berne	6	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oakland	5	287	100	55	57	75	-	-	-	-
Hooker	4	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Havensport	3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horn Town	3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lockville Station	3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greencastle	3	127	50	77	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hamburg	3	170	16	25	42	75	-	-	-	12
Waterloo	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clearport	2	144	30	20	88	-	6	-	-	-
Colfax	2	64	-	-	31	-	33	-	-	-
Delmont	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marcy	2	330	140	190	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lockville	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumortsville	1	180	78	73	29	-	-	-	-	-
Oakthorpe	1	252	70	182	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revenge	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Hill	1	492	148	206	-	-	-	23	-	115
Stodertown	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drinkle	0	85	35	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crawfis	0	438	-	-	120	-	35	229	-	54
Slough	0	227	91	136	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average Membership Per Social Group		44.6	75.6	32.9	60.2	75.0	16.7	78.0	48.5	33.3

Table 8.- Membership in Rural Social Groups Classified by Size of Rural Trade Center and by Place of Meeting

Trade Center	Number of Business Establishments	Total Membership in Social Groups	Place of Meeting of Groups				
			In Major Rural Trade Center	In Minor Trade Center		In Open Country	
				In Major Service Area	Not In Major Service Area	In Major Service Area	Not In Major Service Area
Total	469	41,991	29,879	2665	944	5164	3339
Twelve Major Rural Trade Centers							
Total	404	37,708	29,879	2665	-	5164	-
Basil-Baltimore	71	6184	5268	-	-	916	-
Bremen	58	6004	5414	-	-	590	-
Amanda	35	3865	2732	855	-	278	-
Pleasantville	35	2336	2307	-	-	29	-
Rush.-W.,Rushville	34	2627	1911	316	-	907	-
Pickerington	33	2140	1864	-	-	646	-
Carroll	33	2490	1898	227	-	350	-
Stoutsville	29	2835	2256	372	-	400	-
Millersport	29	2250	1604	-	-	365	-
Sugar Grove	21	2596	1808	438	-	207	-
Thurston	15	2047	1140	-	-	276	-
Lithopolis	11	2334	1677	457	-	200	-
All Other	65	4283	-	-	944	-	3339

Table 9.- Average Membership in Rural Social Groups Classified by Size of Rural Trade Center and by Place of Meeting

Trade Center	Number of Business Establishments	Average Membership per Social Group	Place of Meeting				
			In Major Rural Trade Center	In Minor Trade Center		In Open Country	
				In Major Service Area	Not in Major Service Area	In Major Service Area	Not in Major Service Area
Total	469	51.5	59.5	50.3	33.7	37.4	35.5
Twelve Major Rural Trade Centers							
Total	404	54.4	59.5	50.3	-	37.4	-
Basil-Baltimore	71	53.3	60.5	-	-	31.6	-
Bremen	58	62.6	67.7	-	-	36.9	-
Amanda	35	52.2	58.1	45.0	-	34.8	-
Pleasantville	35	49.7	50.2	-	-	29.0	-
Rush.-W.Rushville	34	44.5	61.6	39.5	-	45.4	-
Pickerington	33	42.8	56.5	-	-	38.0	-
Carroll	33	59.3	65.4	75.7	-	35.0	-
Stoutsville	29	50.6	57.8	46.5	-	44.4	-
Millersport	29	68.2	53.5	-	-	121.7	-
Sugar Grove	21	60.4	69.5	62.6	-	20.7	-
Thurston	15	64.0	49.6	-	-	30.7	-
Lithopolis	11	51.9	54.1	57.1	-	33.3	-
All Other	65	35.1	-	-	33.7	-	35.5

Table 10.- Average Membership in Rural Social Groups Classified by Type of Group and Place of Meeting

Type of Group	Total	Place of Meeting of Groups				
		In	In Minor		In Open Country	
		Major Rural Trade Center	In Major Service Area	Not In Major Service Area	In Major Service Area	Not in Major Service Area
Total	51.5	59.5	50.3	33.7	37.4	35.5
Church	100.6	140.0	80.4	64.8	74.4	55.8
Additional Church Groups	34.9	37.6	40.2	20.1	32.5	26.6
Schools	113.5	332.0	74.0	41.7	20.2	25.8
Groups Sponsored by Schools	64.6	64.8	75.0	75.0	56.2	66.6
Extension	31.0	35.0	17.2	14.0	20.9	34.8
Farmers' Organizations	112.5	118.2	84.0	60.0	-	-
Fraternal Orders	62.3	62.8	-	48.5	-	-
Miscellaneous Social Groups	26.1	25.7	37.4	12.0	24.0	-

Table 11.- Relation of Open Country Membership in Social Groups to Open Country Population, Classified by Major Rural Service Areas

Service Area	Open Country Population in Service Area ^(a)	Open Country Membership in Groups Meeting in			Per cent Open Country Membership in Trade Center is of Open Country Population	Per cent Open Country Membership in Major Service Area is of Open Country Population	Per cent Open Country Membership Outside Major Service Areas is of Open Country Population
		Trade Center	Service Area	All Other			
The County	16204 ^(b)	8392	3523	2116	51.8	21.7	13.1
Twelve Major Rural Trade Centers							
Total	11091	8392	3523	-	75.7	31.8	-
Basil-Baltimore	1389	1146	435	-	82.5	31.3	-
Bremen	856	1099	362	-	128.4	42.3	-
Amada	1854	912	499	-	49.2	26.9	-
Pleasantville	813	667	29	-	82.0	3.6	-
Rush.-W.Rushville	683	689	508	-	100.9	74.4	-
Pickerington	1028	711	270	-	69.2	26.3	-
Carroll	1231	664	255	-	53.9	20.7	-
Stoutsville	595	665	197	-	111.8	33.1	-
Millersport	736	341	150	-	46.3	20.4	-
Sugar Grove	984	469	408	-	47.7	41.5	-
Thurston	296	250	104	-	84.5	35.1	-
Lithopolis	626	779	306	-	124.4	48.9	-
All Other	5113	-	-	2116	-	-	41.4

(a) All subdivisions estimated.

(b) Rural population less population of centers and estimated population suburban to Lancaster.

