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### The Story of Here: A Graphic Guide to Holy Cross and College Hill

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The Story of Here:  
A Graphic Guide to Holy Cross and College Hill



**Please Note:**

This book has been produced on Nipmuc land, site of the village "Pakachoag," an Algonquian word that means "at river's bend."

Some of the composite "then and now" images contained within this *Guide* are drawn from historical sources. Others are products of the authors' imaginations but are based on historical research. Sources (documents and images) are listed at the end.

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## About this Guide

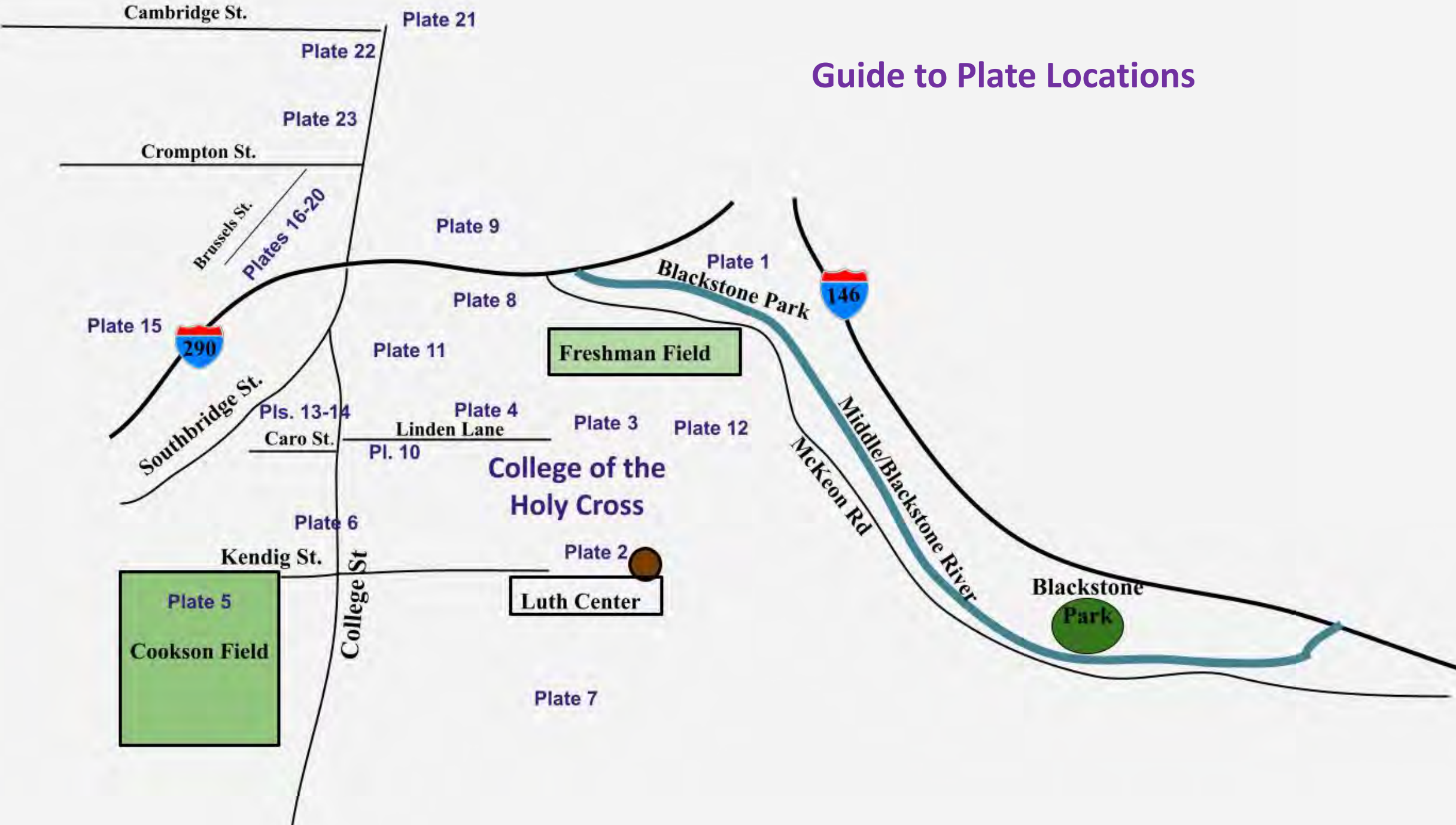
So much has happened on College Hill, and yet it's hard to keep all that history in mind. You can read names and facts, but often that information doesn't stick. *The Story of Here* takes a different approach.

The following pages tell stories, all drawn from historical research, about the different communities who have lived here and the ways they have changed this hill. Our goal is to create an experience of "double vision"—to see the past when looking at the present. Our fanciful "then and now" images offer a time-travel tour of Holy Cross and College Hill.

We believe it is important to know the story of where we live. After all, we are part of that story by living here now. We hope this guide will inspire our readers to explore and care for this ever-changing hill.



# Guide to Plate Locations



## Pakachoag

### Plate 1

Long before Europeans arrived, Nipmuc people had established their village of Pakachoag here above "Kattatuck" ("The Great River"), which we call today the "Blackstone/Middle River." The Nipmuc utilized the river very differently than we do. They hunted, fished, and traveled it in canoes; in contrast, the present day map shows the river is not a focal point for our campus at all. It is important to know how much impact the river had on the first settlers here on the hill compared to now. The bridge shown here is a lovely walking path today in nearby Blackstone Gateway Park, located just across McKeon Road from our softball field. Perhaps the park can make the river a focus for Holy Cross again.



# Middle River





## Pakachoag

### Plate 2

The Reverend John Eliot (1604-1690) was a Puritan minister and missionary to the Indians. He came to the substantial village of Pakachoag in 1674, hoping to start a Christian community, or "Praying Village," there. Eliot frequently preached to the Nipmuc on what became known as "Eliot's Rock." According to local Nipmuc legend, that rock existed where the Luth Athletic Center now stands. "Eliot's Rock" can no longer be found but is imagined here to mark the significant site and contrast it to the area today.



John Eliot preaching to the Nipmuc at “Eliot’s Rock”



## Pakachoag

### Plate 3

Far from being “uncivilized,” as past historians sometimes claimed, the early Nipmuc were very much a civilized people. They contributed significantly to the diverse culture and rich history of College Hill that still exists. Imagining Nipmuc Indians and college students crisscrossing the terrain as we go about our day suggests similarities between us. Many Nipmuc, including Holy Cross Professor Thomas Doughton, still live in the area.





## Pakachoag

### Plate 4

Almost all students today take for granted the ease of getting food. The Nipmuc at Pakachoag instead had to grow corn on their farms and hunt deer and fish in this neighborhood in order to eat. By comparing that hard work to the ease of placing whatever food they want on a tray, this page should make students step back and appreciate the food from Kimball far more.



c. 1600s-2020





## Pakachoag

### Plate 5

The impact language has on everyone is essential. It enables communication between people, allowing them to create a bond. The two languages featured here have at different times dominated College Hill, and these words in both Nipmuc and English help relate our two cultures. Knowing that "Nipnet" means "the Freshwater People" helps us understand the importance of the river to the Nipmuc. Remembering that "College Hill" is also called "Pakachoag" continues the history of contact represented here.



2019



Dog

Anúm



Moon

Nanepasushat



Bear

Mosq



Bird

Psuk



Sun

Nappawus



Woman

Squaws



Fresh Water People

Nipnet



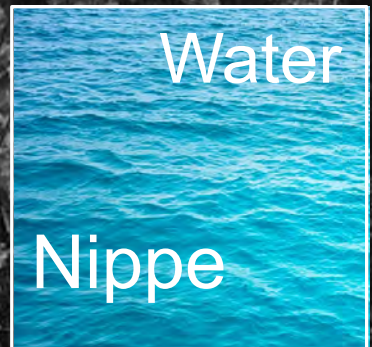
Fish

Naumaûs



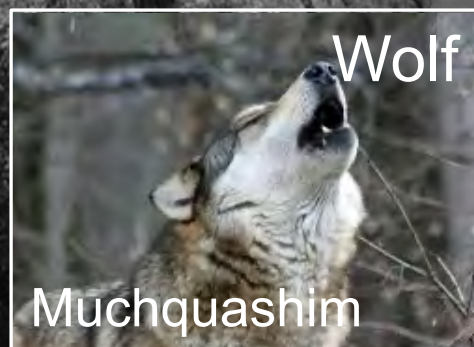
Deer

Attuck



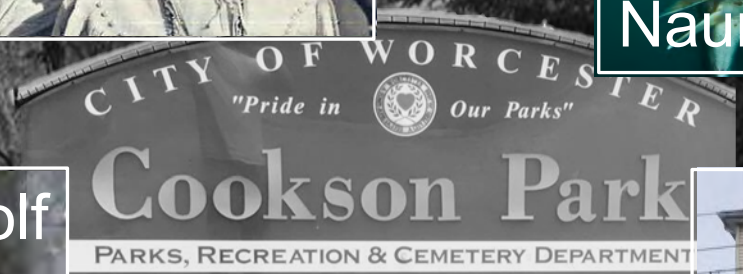
Water

Nippe



Wolf

Muchquashim



Cookson Park



Man

Skeetomp



House

Wetu

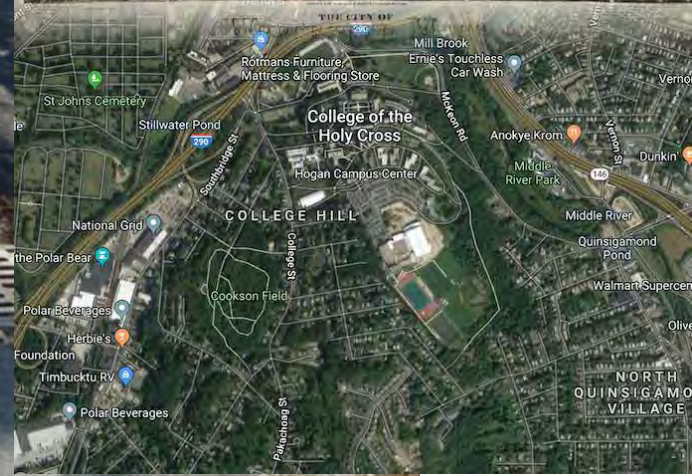
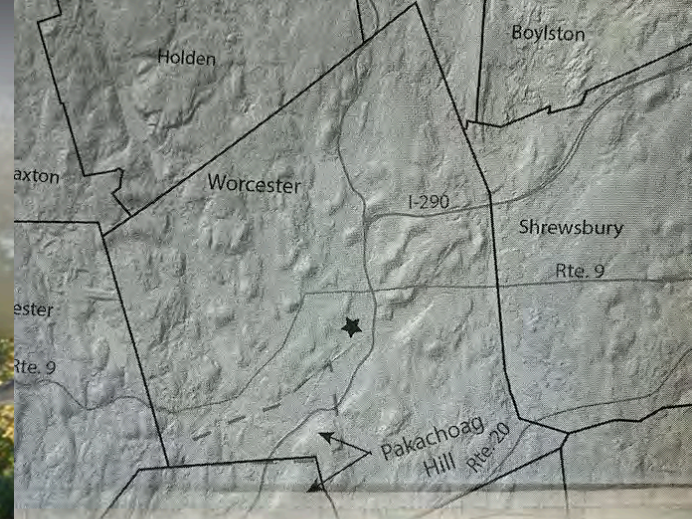


## College Hill

### Plate 6

The landscape around Holy Cross has changed tremendously throughout the years. The Nipmuc used this land in a very efficient way, with their community at the top of the hill, farming in the middle, and their fishing place "Kattatuck" (today's "Blackstone River"), at the bottom. During the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, what had become farmland and pasture was subdivided into blocks of houses and the College of the Holy Cross. Many English-American residents, such as those shown here at left (c. 1910), worked at nearby Whittall Mill. What once felt like a separate village, still closely related to the land, has today become a part of Worcester and the surrounding community. But house yards and gardens and wild Cookson Park continue to connect us to the land.







## College Hill

### Plate 7

Like College Hill, Holy Cross campus today is much more densely developed than in the past. The map view of campus in 1896 shows how much open space there once was. The aerial view from 1925 shows our central campus buildings, but Dinand Library has yet to be built, Kimball is still a baseball field, and the College farm exists where the new Art Center is being built today. Former students clearly enjoyed an abundance of open land. A modern map imposed to the left reminds us of our present-day campus, filled with so many buildings and more still to come.



# 1896



# 1925

H O L Y C R O S S C O L L E G E

149.74 Ac.

2019  
FITTON AVENUE  
LINDEN LANE

SCHOOL

CITY VIEW ST.

KENDIS ST.

W. ST.



## College Hill

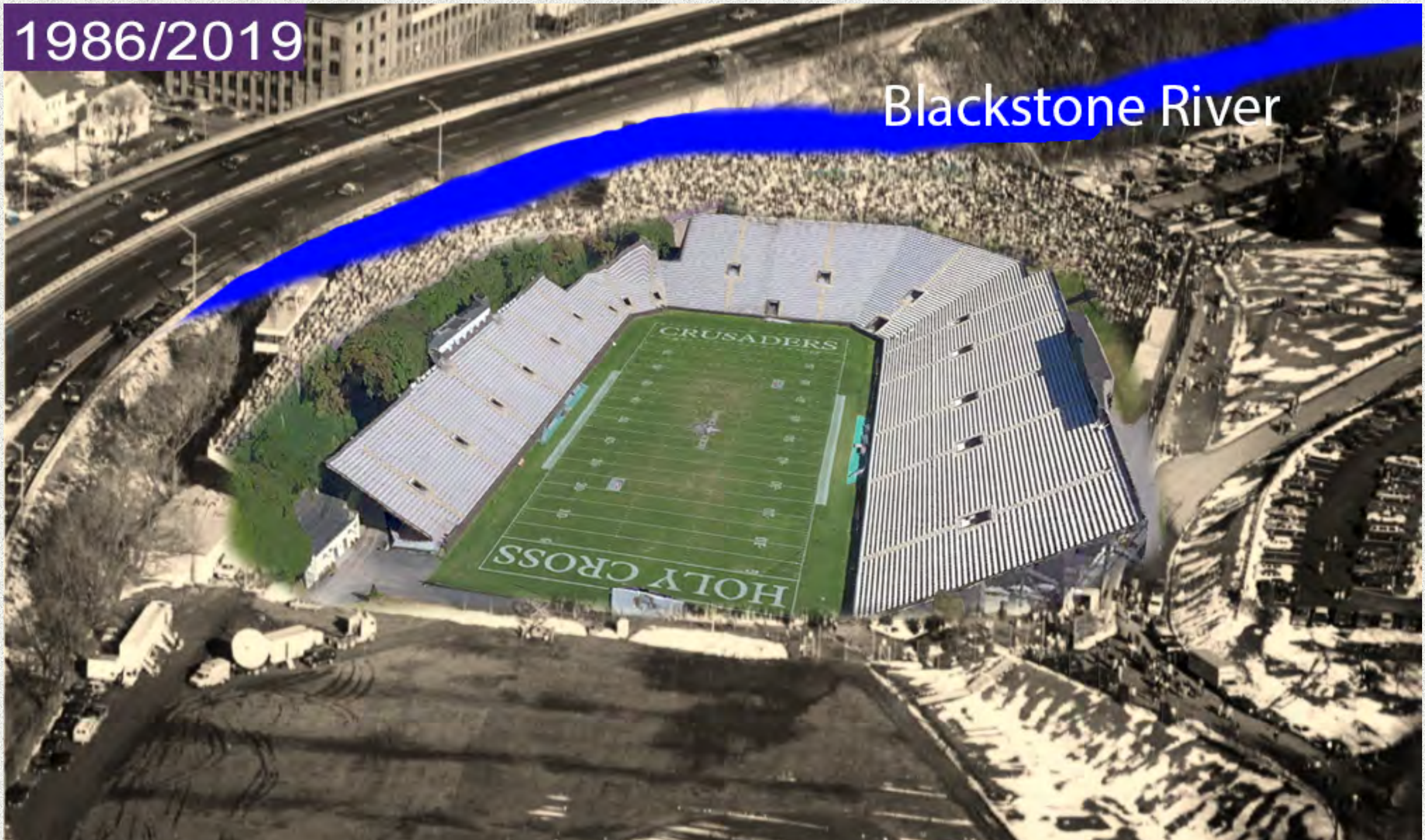
### Plate 8

Interstate-290 wraps right around Fitton Football Stadium and the Blackstone River. Holy Cross and Worcester would be significantly changed if I-290 weren't there. The highway cut the city in half and separated Fitton Field from the South Worcester neighborhood that used to border it. In addition, the Blackstone was partly buried under I-290 so that Holy Cross students often don't even know it's there.



1986/2019

Blackstone River





## College Hill

### Plate 9

Many beloved local buildings, such as the Purple Diner, were destroyed in order to put up I-290. The Purple Diner was located on Southbridge Street right across from the baseball field and in front of Whittall Mills. It created traditions for locals and Holy Cross students (who perhaps liked its name). The destruction of the Diner meant the loss of a rich history of stories and culture, and a place where "town and gown" could come together. Imagine if the Purple Diner were still there today!



1958



1908

## College Hill

### Plate 10

The importance of Linden Lane is paramount: it marks the formal entrance of Holy Cross and links it to the neighborhood. The left view shows present-day Linden Lane juxtaposed with an old dinner carriage, which served as a "moving meal" for the late-shift mill workers. These carriages traveled up and down College Street, much as we might welcome food trucks on campus today. The black and white photograph shows Linden Lane circa 1900 without the guard house and with just one lane rather than the two-lane entrance of today. The entrance gates were also added later. This first one was designed in 1914 to "impart as much stateliness as possible," its architects explained. Students today perhaps still note the grandeur the gates add as one enters and leaves Linden Lane.

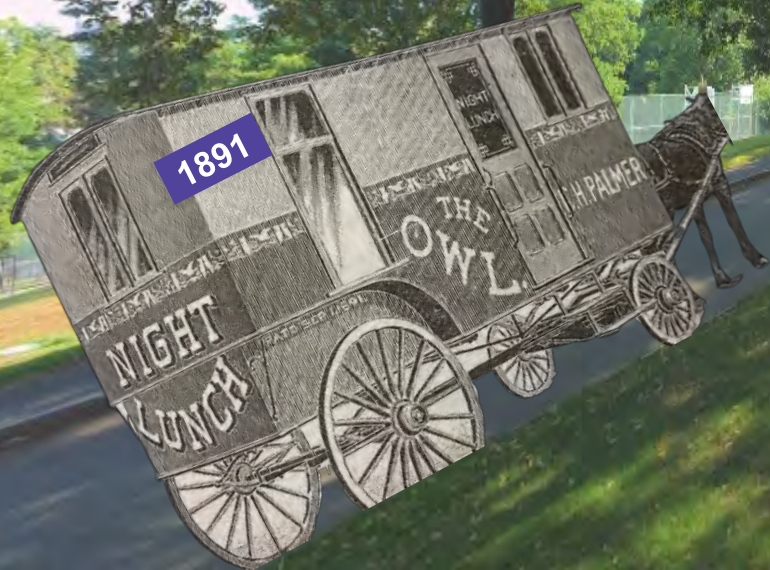


2019

~1900



1891





## College Hill

### Plate 11

The Hanover Insurance Park at Fitton Field is shown with Whittall Mill (c. 1965), home today of Rotmans Furniture Store. The mill's landmark clock tower still stands. Before the construction of I-290 in 1970, the view from the baseball field was staggeringly different and Holy Cross was more connected to the community; the mill's presence must have been clearly felt. Also remembered here is Holy Cross baseball legend Owen ("Ownie") Carrol, considered to be the best college pitcher of all time. He posted a record of 50 wins and 2 losses while at Holy Cross from 1922-1925.



2019



1965

TIONAL CHAMPIONS

BASEBALL

TOMMANS

FOR SALE

## College Hill

### Plate 12

Throughout the years the Holy Cross campus has built many new dorms. These images show the oldest, most historic dorms including Alumni, Carlin, Beaven, and Healey Halls. They show glimpses of how students lived and that one dorm included a language lab in the basement. An image of a Native American wetu from this region lets us imagine the kind of dwelling the Nipmuc may have used on this same ground, and can give a new perspective on how we view our own dorm rooms today.





c. 1500s? - 1700s



## College Hill

### Plate 13

Between 2007 and 2015, Holy Cross tore down many houses on Caro Street. This may have been due to their condition, their reputation for loud parties, and more on-campus senior housing being available in the new Williams and Figge dorms. Mr. Paul Hogan, who grew up in this neighborhood, shared his old memories of the block: "The first house on Caro Street is where I met my wife. Friends of ours lived on the bottom floor. And it's gone now." Until 2007 there were eleven houses on Caro Street; only three remain today.



2015

2007



©2019 Google

Camp St



## College Hill

### Plate 14

College Hill has changed from large open fields to developed land and eventually the de-developed Caro Street neighborhood. The Howard Johnson's motel pictured here used to stand at Southbridge and College Streets, but was razed in 1978. Holy Cross at times housed students there. The College now owns the land, which continues to stand empty. The speculation here of a Holy Cross dorm on the site is based on the College's continued impact on the neighborhood in search of ever more space for student housing.



2015

1971



2050



Google

©2016 Google



## Whittall Mill

### Plate 15

In the 1880s Matthew J. Whittall opened his large Whittall Rug Mill on Southbridge Street. At the foot of College Hill was Stillwater Pond (lower left corner of image), which became seriously polluted since it worked as a sewer for the mill to dispose of chemicals and dyes. Stillwater Pond bred mosquitoes with disease, while smoke from mill's chimneys polluted the air. Diseases further spread in the community due to the overcrowded working and living conditions. Stillwater Pond was eventually covered over by a parking lot, still there today. Whittall Mill closed in the 1950s and was replaced by the Worcester Knitting Factory, which operated until the 1970s. The environment around Holy Cross has improved significantly due to our neighborhood's growing environmental awareness. However, I-290 introduced a new source of noise, chemical, and exhaust pollution to our community when it opened in 1970.



1870-1910



2019



1861-1870



1902





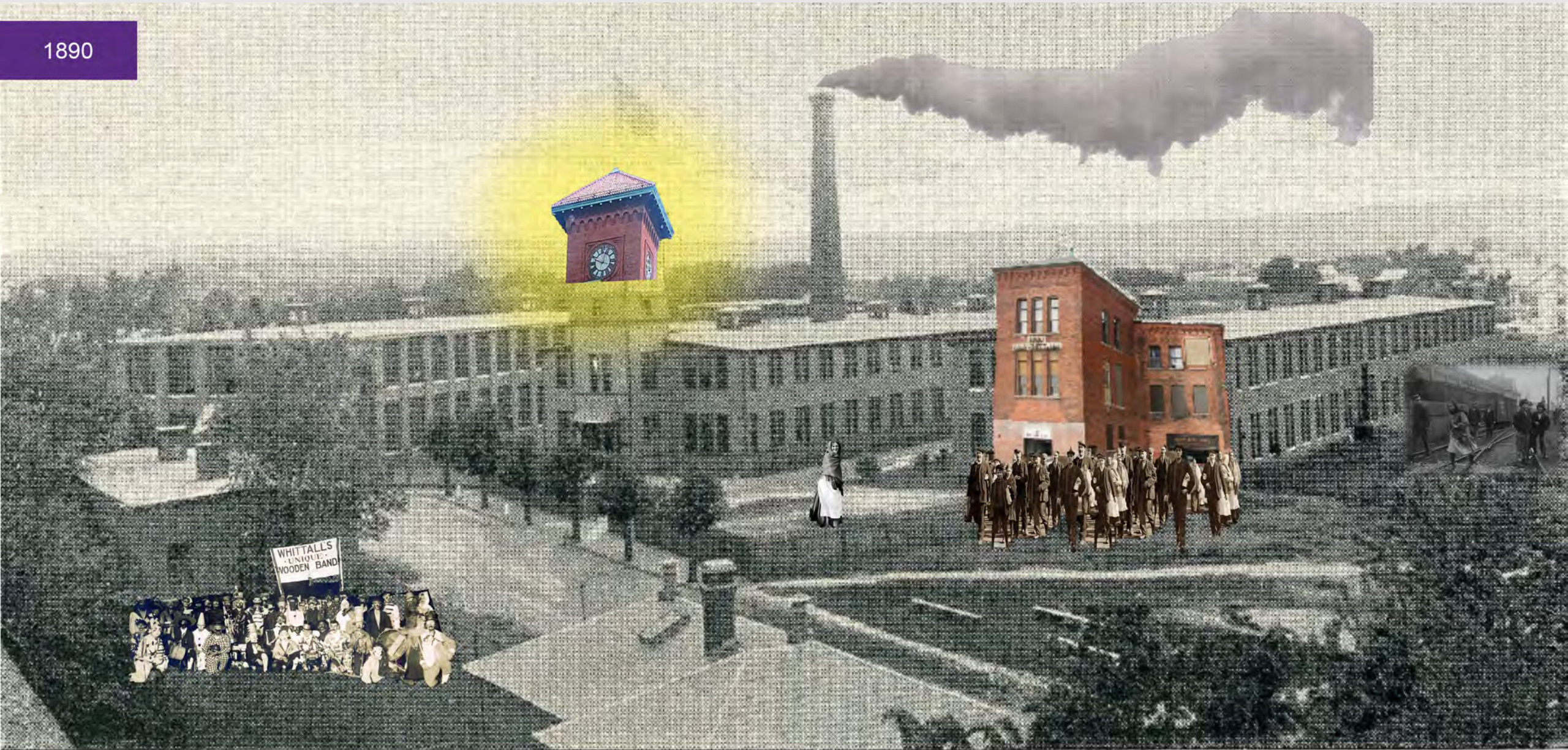
## Whittall Mill

### Plate 16

The South Worcester community and its lifestyle revolved around Whittall Mill. The clocktower dictated the daily lives of workers from the start of the workday to the end. The mill was the focal point of the neighborhood: each day, the workers traveled to and from work at the same time. The mill also sponsored the Whittall Band, where mill workers played in their free time. Partly through Matthew J. Whittall's influence, as well as the mill's routines, the South Worcester immigrants became a tight-knit community.



1890





## Whittall Mill

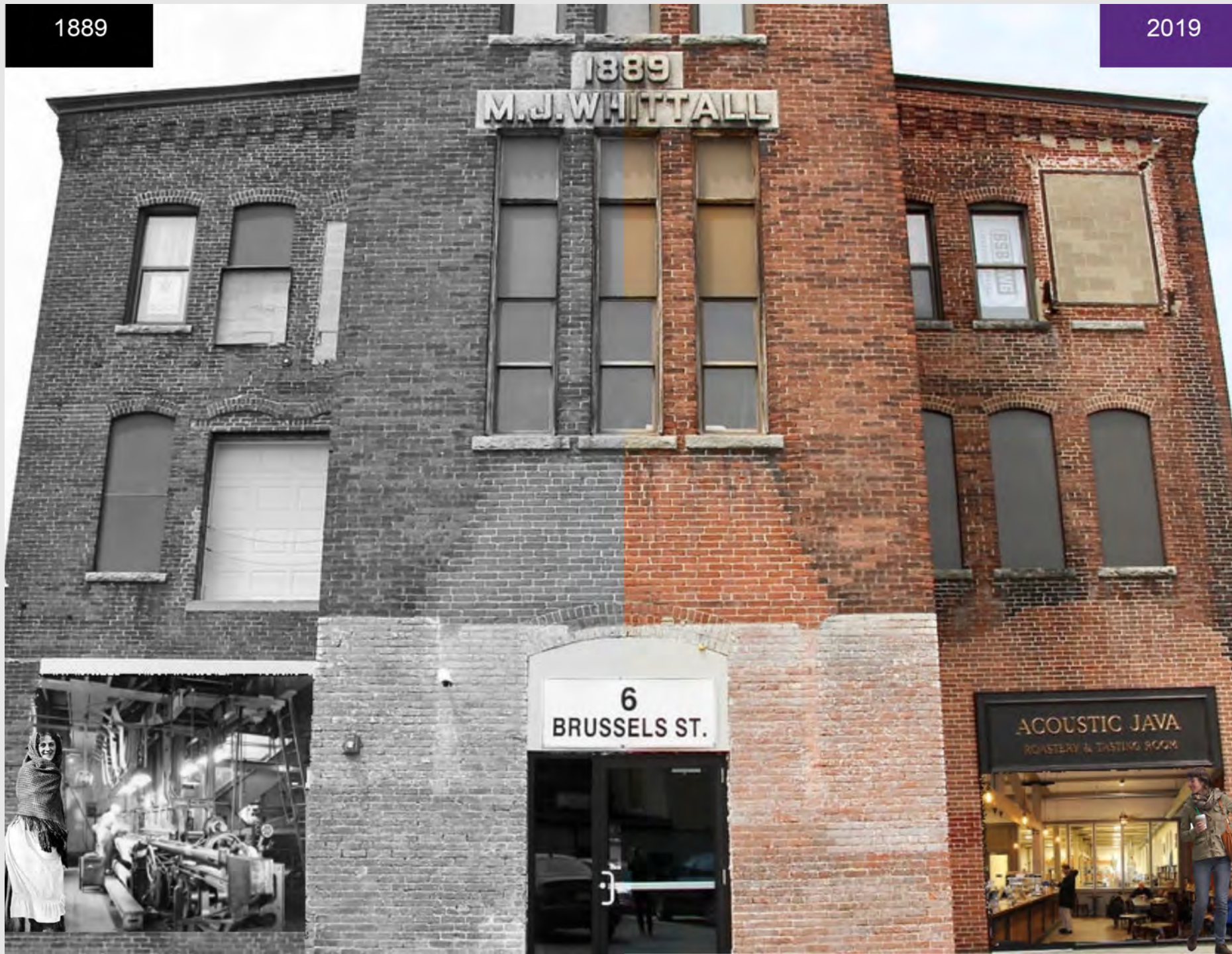
### Plate 17

The Whittall Mill complex is being revitalized into a community center once more. In the past, the mill demanded the tedious physical labor of manufacturing; today, the Acoustic Java Café nurtures more intellectual labor. This shift in community from mill laborers to baristas and coffee-drinkers has altered the way people congregate in the space. The mill once brought people together to make clothing and carpets; today it brings people together to read, chat, and share ideas. In both past and present, this has been an environment for creative invention.



1889

2019



1889  
M.J. WHITTALL

6  
BRUSSELS ST.

ACOUSTIC JAVA  
ROASTERY & TASTING ROOM





## Whittall Mill

### Plate 18

Whittall Mill has changed significantly since its time of prosperity. At the time of the First World War, Whittall was the largest employer in South Worcester, with 1500 workers operating 350 mills in 500,000 square feet of factory space. This booming industry surely would have been felt, and smelled, on Holy Cross campus. The two main smokestacks and a large "Home of Whittall Rugs" sign that once served as important landmarks in our neighborhood no longer exist. The exterior of the mill has been mostly redesigned in order to suit the different companies that have been there after the mill was sold in 1950. For example, Rotmans Furniture store now occupies part of the old mill complex.



1913/2019





## Whittall Mill

### Plate 19

Attention to detail was important to the designers who created Whittall Mill. If you look at the brick wall of the mill closely, you will be able to see the design of a Whittall rug still visible in the brickwork. This incredible feature of the mill is easy to overlook, and unfortunately not many people know about it. The amount of consideration and thought that went into the building shows us that Whittall really cared about his mill and took great pride in making his company as good as possible.







## Whittall Mill

### Plate 20

Whittall's factory inspired loyalty in its workers; they even took pay cuts in time of need for the company so that it could continue to run. In 1921, however, the workers went on strike against Whittall for higher wages. Set in front of the Whittall Factory, the picture of the band memorializes the tight-knit community aspect of the mill. In contrast, the later image of workers on strike suggests the fractures that may have opened in this once close community.



# HOME OF WHITTALL RUGS

THE FIGHT IS ON  
JOIN THE KNOW  
AND STAY WITH  
US.

WHITTALL'S  
UNIQUE  
WOODEN BAND

1921

1907





## Whittall Mill

### Plate 21

Matthew J. Whittall's mansion once stood on the corner of Southbridge and Cambridge Streets. The image shows both continuity and change. Holy Cross is still visible from this spot although the area is now a mall called College Square, and includes a Wendy's and car insurance agency. Whittall's gorgeous mansion that played a major role in South Worcester's history was torn down with the creation of I-290 in 1970. Matthew. J. Whittall was the equivalent of a lord to the people of South Worcester, yet the workers sitting on his wall show the close relationship they had with their boss, who once a year invited them all to picnic on his lawn. The close proximity of his home and factory highlights the central role Whittall played in the lives of his workers and their community.



1935





## Whittall Mill

### Plate 22

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, which Matthew Whittall had built in 1894, still stands at 695 Southbridge Street. Many of Whittall's employees, especially in the beginning, came from Whittall's own region of England and were members of the Episcopalian Church (Church of England). This image shows a church procession with Whittall Mill workers in the pews. The mill workers not only worked and played together, they worshipped together. Here too, they are joined by Whittall himself, again showing the tight-knit community of South Worcester.







## Whittall Mill

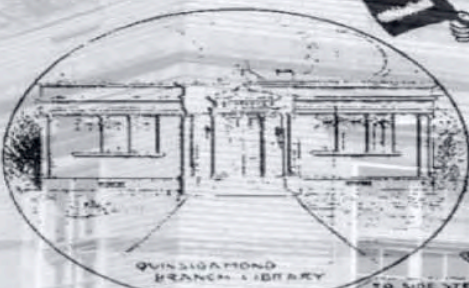
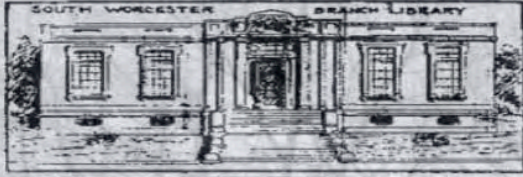
### Plate 23

In 1913, the South Worcester Branch library opened along with two other Carnegie branch libraries in Worcester. Although Andrew Carnegie funded the library, Matthew J. Whittall donated funds to buy its land. The political cartoon celebrates Carnegie but fails to credit the role Whittall played. The library greatly enhanced accessibility to free education for children in the local community. Looking back on her childhood, Holy Cross librarian Lisa Villa fondly remembers a librarian there who "opened the door to the world of books in a way I had never experienced before." Beginning in 1940, the Worcester Bookmobile continued educating the community by bringing books to more people. Following its closure in 1990, Worcester repurposed the library into condominium apartments. Today, the library serves as a testament to the generous spirit of Matthew Whittall for the tenants who call it home.



WORCESTER DAILY TELEGRAM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1913.

# CARNEGIE WILL LAY THE CORNERSTONES TODAY



TO DIE RICH IS TO DIE DISGRACED

TO LIVE POOR IS TO LIVE DISGRACED - DON'T DIE



PUBLIC LIBRARY SOUTH WORCESTER BRANCH





## Plates: Sources and Photo Credits

### Pakachoag

#### Plate 1 Middle River and Nipmuc, Kerry Flaherty

Photo/Image credits:

"Blackstone Gateway Park, Worcester, MA." BSC Group, [www.bscgroup.com/portfolio/blackstone-gateway-park](http://www.bscgroup.com/portfolio/blackstone-gateway-park).

"Fish Png - Big Fish Transparent Background, Png Download(3395x1387) - PngFind." PngFind.com, [www.pngfind.com/mpng/TxboTT\\_fish-png-big-fish-transparent-background-png-download/](http://www.pngfind.com/mpng/TxboTT_fish-png-big-fish-transparent-background-png-download/).

Doughton, Thomas L. "Pakachoag & Mount Saint James." October 2019. Powerpoint Presentation.

Map of Middle River Park, Worcester, MA [maps.google.com](https://maps.google.com).

#### Plate 2 John Eliot's Rock and Plate 3 Fenwick Hall, Cameron Magalotti

Photo Credits:

"Photos: 10 Gorgeous Photos of Holy Cross." News, [news.holycross.edu/blog/2017/03/30/photos-10-gorgeous-photos-of-holy-cross/](http://news.holycross.edu/blog/2017/03/30/photos-10-gorgeous-photos-of-holy-cross/).

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Sources:

Doughton, Thomas L. "Ten Little Indians, Nine Little Indians..." Unpublished manuscript.

#### Plate 4 Food on Pakachoag/College Hill, Brett McCarron

Photo Credits:

Deer Picture - [http://clipart-library.com/images\\_k/deer-transparent-background/deer-transparent-background-8.jpg](http://clipart-library.com/images_k/deer-transparent-background/deer-transparent-background-8.jpg)

Corn Field - <https://media.gettyimages.com/videos/corn-fields-video-id607706626?s=640x640>

Grassy Background - <http://www.wmsprayservices.com/slider-images/slider-10/>

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"Student" picture - <https://image.shutterstock.com/image-photo/depressed-young-man-blowing-his-260nw-1034467528.jpg>

Arrow - [https://cdn.clipart.email/56fe5efb9abdd3d23cb8689b7cbf80ae\\_download-indian-arrow-vector-graphic\\_335-355.jpeg](https://cdn.clipart.email/56fe5efb9abdd3d23cb8689b7cbf80ae_download-indian-arrow-vector-graphic_335-355.jpeg)



## Pakachoag

### Plate 5 Language, Jenna Giardina

Photo credits:

"Louisiana Black Bear." *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*, [www.fws.gov/southeast/wildlife/mammals/louisiana-black-bear/](http://www.fws.gov/southeast/wildlife/mammals/louisiana-black-bear/).

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Turtle." *Turtleboy*, 2 Aug. 2017, [turtleboysports.com/city-officials-read-our-blog-on-disgusting-cookson-field-and-did-a-bootleg-job-cleaning-it-up-because-everyone-rides-the-turtle](http://turtleboysports.com/city-officials-read-our-blog-on-disgusting-cookson-field-and-did-a-bootleg-job-cleaning-it-up-because-everyone-rides-the-turtle).

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"Vocabulary in Native American Languages." *Narragansett Words*, [www.native-languages.org/narragansett\\_words.htm](http://www.native-languages.org/narragansett_words.htm).



## College Hill

### Plate 6 College Street Views, Mia Cronin

Photo Credits:

Jones, David K., and David M. Mickelson. *From Raccoon Plain to Pakachoag Hill: a History of South Worcester, Massachusetts, Highlighting the Growth and Dispersal of an English Enclave*. Glade Street Press, 2016.

“Plimoth Plantation.” Building a Home | Plimoth Plantation, [www.plimoth.org/learn/just-kids/homework-help/building-home](http://www.plimoth.org/learn/just-kids/homework-help/building-home).

Images of College Street courtesy of Google Maps

“The City of Worcester, Mass : 1878.” Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library – Digital Collections, [collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:x633fc708](http://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:x633fc708).

Sources:

Jones, David K., and David M. Mickelson. *From Raccoon Plain to Pakachoag Hill: a History of South Worcester, Massachusetts, Highlighting the Growth and Dispersal of an English Enclave*. Glade Street Press, 2016.

### Plate 7 Holy Cross Campus, Jesse Carson

Photo credit:

Campus aerial view, Courtesy of Dinand Library Archive, College of the Holy Cross/

Sanford Insurance Map, 1896 <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3764wm.g038971892/?sp=1&r=0.53,0.874,0.158,0.075,0>

### Plates 8 & 9, Fitton Field/Middle River and Purple Diner, Andrew Lydon

Photo Credits:

Toland, Jennifer. “Renewed Holy Cross-Boston College Football Rivalry Kicks off Saturday.” *Worcester Telegram Gazette*, 6 Sept. 2018, [www.telegram.com/news/20180905/renewed-holy-cross-boston-college-football-rivalry-kicks-off-saturday](http://www.telegram.com/news/20180905/renewed-holy-cross-boston-college-football-rivalry-kicks-off-saturday) .

Print of Purple Diner. Photo courtesy of Worcester Historical Museum.

Middle River and Football Field photo, 1908. Courtesy of Dinand Library Archives, College of the Holy Cross.



## College Hill

### Plates 10 & Plate 11 Linden Lane & Baseball Field, Tommy Thiel

Photo Credits:

Bing, Microsoft, [www.bing.com/maps](http://www.bing.com/maps).

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### Plate 12 Holy Cross Dorms, Nora Sheehan

All photos courtesy of Dinand Library Archives, College of the Holy Cross

### Plates 13 &14 Caro St., Hannah Ford

Photo Credits: 25 Caro St, Worcester, MA. Google Maps, October 2015. [www.google.ca/maps](http://www.google.ca/maps) 25 Caro St, Worcester, MA. Google Maps, August 2007. [www.google.ca/maps](http://www.google.ca/maps) Sources: Hogan, Paul. Personal interview. 3 December 2019. Jones, David K., and David M. Mickelson. *From Raccoon Plain to Pakachoag Hill: a History of South Worcester, Massachusetts, Highlighting the Growth and Dispersal of an English Enclave*. Glade Street Press, 2016. McGuire, Richard. Here. Hamish Hamilton, 2014. Slide: Caro St. - Hannah Ford Photo Citations: No Author. <http://www.highwayhost.org/Massachusetts/Worcester/CollegeSquare/college1.html> No Author <https://tailgatershandbook.com/selectorpages/Hcolleges/Holy%20Cross/hcCampus.ht> Sources: Hogan, Paul. Personal interview. 3 December 2019. Jones, David K., and David M. Mickelson. *From Raccoon Plain to Pakachoag Hill: a History of South Worcester, Massachusetts, Highlighting the Growth and Dispersal of an English Enclave*. Glade Street Press, 2016. McGuire, Richard. Here. Hamish Hamilton, 2014.



## College Hill

### Plate 15 Whittall Mill and Stillwater Pond, Peihan Wu

#### Photo Credits:

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## Whittall Mill and Village

### Plates 16 & 17 Whittall Mill Yard & Café, Sara Donohue

#### Photo Credits

Hine, Lewis Wickes. "Workers at the Brookside Cotton Mill." *Wikimedia Commons*, [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Historical\\_images\\_of\\_Knoxville,\\_Tennessee#mediaviewer/File:Brookside-cotton-mill-workers-1886-hine2.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Historical_images_of_Knoxville,_Tennessee#mediaviewer/File:Brookside-cotton-mill-workers-1886-hine2.jpg).

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## Whittall Mill and Village

### Plates 18 & 19 Whittall Factory and Brick Detail, Matthew Shea

Photo Credits:

Revolv, LLC. "'Whittall Mills' on Revolv.com." *Revolv*.

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### Plate 20 Whittall Mill Strike/Band, Will Solomon

Photo Credits:

Lawrence Strike, Strikers. 1912. Digital Public Library of America, <https://dp.la/exhibitions/breadandroses/strike/strike-begins?item=74>

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## Whittall Mill and Village

### Plate 21 Whittall Mansion and College Square, Daniel D'Ambrosio

#### Photo Credits

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### Plate 22 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Connor Sullivan

#### Photo Credits:

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## Whittall Mill and Village

### Plate 23 Carnegie Library—South Worcester, Marco Spataro

Photo Credits:

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