

URBAN NYS III Settlement Evolution

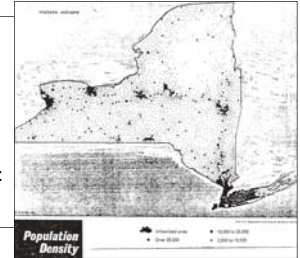
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Urban NYS

The present-day pattern of population distribution is a result of many factors including:

- elements of the physical environment
- human interaction with it
- economic variables.



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Urban Landscape

Once a site is selected based on the needs of the urban function:

1. a hierarchy of place **develops**
2. settlement then **evolves** over time
3. the hierarchy of trade centers **changes**


Why? Because they are foci of economic activity and the economic activity itself evolves over time and in many cases follows a sequence of development.

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Part IV – 1945 to Present

Decline, Adjustment and New Beginnings

Automobiles, trucks replace the railroads; highways are built. **Suburbanization occurs** as people move away from the cities. **Manufacturing begins to suffer from obsolescence.** **Urban renewal in the 1960s and 70s** seeks to halt the trend. **Environmental and quality of life issues are recognized.** **Fiscal crisis of the mid-1970s** is the low point for NYS. **Population steadily declines until the 1990s.**

From the mid-1980s on population centers begin to reinvent themselves; changing land uses; a **tourist-based** service industry grows. 

Dichotomy exists between the largest cities and the smaller towns and especially between NYC and the rest of NYS.

The population make-up of the state changes both in age structure and in national origin.

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Cycle of Urban Landscape Development

- 1. Creation** - initial reason; other functions appear and change over time
- 2. Growth** - a "pull factor" draws people and businesses; need for service providers fuels growth
- 3. Stagnation** - growth slows; area passed over with changes in function or by advances in technology
- 4. Demise** - jobs disappear, population leaves, urban functions cease to exist, need for service is less
- 5. Resurgence** - rehabilitation of run-down areas; gentrification; new functions appear and "pull" people in

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Urban Hierarchy: Growth

There are three criteria for urban growth.

- 1. Central Place** or focal point or node - focus of human activity; provider/distributor of goods and services.
- 2. Hierarchy of Use** - based on the number and complexity of urban functions present.
- 3. Sphere of Influence or size of the service area** - surrounds the central place; is **both serviced** by the central place and is **tributary** to the central place.

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Trade Centers

Central Place

Hierarchy of Use

Sphere of Influence

Numerous lower order places **but only one NYC**

Small Town NYS

The cycle of urban landscape development is evident in small towns.

It can be documented by an historical sequence of events influenced by its original site and situation and initial function.

They are especially influenced by transportation routes and the location of commercial areas.

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Small Town NYS

Variables include:

- terrain
- transportation pattern
- time of initial settlement
- orientation of its business district

Examples include:

- river landings
- crossroads
- railroad depots
- available room for expansion
- relationship to surrounding area.

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Small Town NYS

- **Hudson Valley communities**
 - Settled early, river oriented, sloped, compact, narrow streets
- **Central and Western communities**
 - Settled later, grew along overland routes, level land, room for expansion, grid street pattern
- **Northern communities**
 - Settled last, valley oriented in rugged terrain, elongated street layout along main road, far from major transportation routes, limited options

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Generalized Example of Settlement Morphology

1. Original site: **Crossroads**
2. Railroad station built south of crossroads: **town grows to south**
3. Strip mall development west of crossroads: **town grows westward**
4. Town expands into empty area: **town fills southwest quadrant between strip mall and railroad station**

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Coxsackie: Morphology of a riverside settlement

1. Original site: **River Landing**
2. Major road is half-mile inland because of slope: **town fills gap between river and road.**
3. Railroad parallels road and locates a depot further inland: **town moves inland and ignores riverside roots.**
4. NYS Thruway on-off ramp built further inland: **commercial establishments focus on travelers.**
5. **Resurgence: town rediscovers its riverside roots**

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Examples of Settlement Morphology

Expansion and orientation influenced by automobile use.

Boonville, NY: Oneida Co.; crossroads

Warsaw, NY: Wyoming Co.; crossroads + railroad

RECAP: Cycle of Urban Landscape Development

1. **Creation** - initial reason
2. **Growth** - "pull factor" draws people and business
3. **Stagnation** - growth slows; area passed over
4. **Demise** - jobs disappear, population leaves ("push" factor)
5. **Resurgence** - rehabilitation; rebirth

EXTRA CREDIT for FINAL EXAM Urban Site Development

For up to 5 extra credit points on the final exam, select one urban place from any one of your assigned counties and describe its historical geography and landscape development.

- What was its original site location?
- What influenced people to settle there?
- What made it grow at that location?
- Is that location still beneficial to it?

- Include a map showing the location of the original part of the town and bibliographic references.

Manufacturing

- Manufacturing sparked the urbanization of NYS.
- It relied on local resources, water supply, good transportation, large markets and financing.
- It concentrated workers.
- Unfortunately, it has "**Locational Inertia**":
>>>Once there, it stays there<<<.

Historic Manufacturing Regions

Alta Thompson, "Geography of NYS"

Manufacturing Regions

Industry that thrived in NYS grew because of the presence of

- Raw materials
- Varied transportation network
- Power supply
- Labor supply
- Investment money
- Markets

- Manufacturing regions developed in certain areas of NYS because of an industry's locational needs:
 - **Comparative advantage:** areas best suited
 - **Agglomeration:** clustering of industry for mutual benefit
- Isolated industrial cities grew in areas with unique resources.

Manufacturing Sites

The **quality of location** changes with time

- Markets change
- People's needs and wants change
- Production methods change
- New and cheaper sources of material appear
- New and cheaper sources of labor appear
- Local sources of material run out
- Markets disappear

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Hudson-Mohawk Confluence

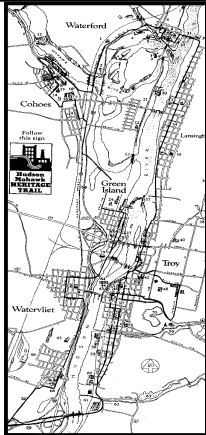
- This area was a concentrator of transportation routes, economic activities, people, politics, and money.
- The mouth of the Mohawk River had excellent industrial location due to existing site and situation factors.
- **RiverSpark Heritage Area** focuses on and highlights the location aspects of this area.

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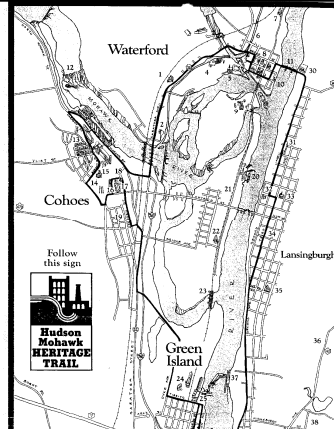
RiverSpark

- Located where the Mohawk River meets the Hudson River.
- Water-focused
- Consists of sites in Cohoes, Waterford, Green Island, Troy and Watervliet.

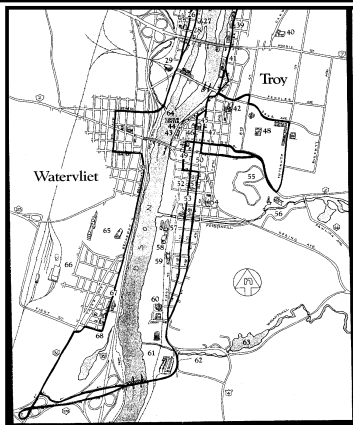
<http://www.riverspark.org/riverspark.html>



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