

Nineteenth century American poet William Cullen Bryant, lived in North Brookfield when he prepared for college with his uncle, the minister in town for 64 years. Bates Observatory was given to the town in the 1890's and on a clear day, townspeople say, you can see all the way to Boston. George M. Cohan, actor, producer and playwright, was a frequent visitor to town when he came to stay with his grandparents. In the summer of 1934 the town honored both Cohan and Connie Mack, another former resident. The stage of the present Town House was the site of a performance of "Ah, Wilderness," with the original New York cast directed by Cohan. The Philadelphia Athletics played an exhibition baseball game in town against the Quabaug Rubber company team, with Quabaug being the victors as townspeople are quick to note.



C. Population Characteristics

Population growth means, among other things, loss of open space to development and increased demand for recreational facilities (as well as other town services). After the severe drop in population from 1900-1920 due to the loss of the shoe industry, North Brookfield has experienced a slow to moderate rate of steady growth.

With a total landmass of 21.99 square miles, North Brookfield has a population density of approximately 222 people per square mile. The table below presents North Brookfield's growth in population over the years, as well as the Town's projected population for the years 2010 and 2020.

**Table OSR-1
North Brookfield Population Growth**

<u>Year</u>	<u># of People</u>	<u>Numerical Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1930	3,013	----	-----
1940	3,304	291	9.7%
1950	3,444	140	4.2%
1960	3,616	172	5.0%
1970	3,967	351	9.7%
1980	4,150	183	4.6%
1990	4,708	558	13.4%
2000	4,683	-25	-0.1%
*2006	4,663	-20	-0.1%
**2010	4,800	117	2.5%
**2020	4,800	0	0.0%

Sources: US Census Bureau; * = 2006 estimate comes from the Town Clerk's most recent annual census. ** = 2010 and 2020 forecasts provided by the CMRPC Transportation Department.