

ECONOMY

Although economic activity in a rural town is necessarily limited, the outlook for Dryden is promising and the factors determining its future growth and development are closely tied to the economy of the region. The nature and extent of economic activities ultimately determine the amount of land needed for various uses and therefore directly influence the physical pattern of the town.

The brief historical account of the area presented earlier in this report stated that Dryden's early prosperity in the sawmill industry diminished and largely disappeared along with the pine stands that originally sustained it. After the hills were cleared of timber the way was open for the development of agriculture and agriculturally oriented industries.

The Depression of 1873 did not seriously affect the economy of Dryden but, between 1885 and 1900, the industries in the town reached a critical stage. Another depression in 1893 resulted in the decline of several industrial plants in the town, including a woolen mill and the tannery, due to competition from larger industrial centers. The grist mill also closed during this period but a milk-processing plant was opened as a result of a shift in agricultural interest to dairying.

The period from 1920 to 1926 was marked by the absence of industrial growth with the exception of the milk plant and a stone quarry.³ As railroads spread and markets expanded the Dryden industries were unable to compete with

³ Kensler, Gladys M., "A Sociological Analysis of the Village of Dryden with an Historical Interpretation," Cornell University, 1926.

the larger towns and cities of the region. Local industries continued to do a good business for a decade after the railroad was completed but the growing network of rail systems coupled with the development of the telephone and other communications systems enlarged the town's area of competition. The industries remained for a few years after local markets were no longer large enough to support them but could not continue long without strong local markets. An industrial decline was inevitable.

In the past, Dryden was characteristic of a rural farm-oriented town. This orientation has been diminishing, however, with a new direction toward a rural non-farm mode of living. Many residents of the town prefer to live in Dryden even though they work in other areas of Tompkins County, primarily the City of Ithaca, indicating that Dryden is increasingly an exporter of labor to, and an importer of goods and services from, the Ithaca urban area. The following table illustrates commuting patterns from Dryden to work centers in Tompkins and other counties:

Table 13: Commutation Patterns for Dryden Residents

From Dryden To	Binghamton	Balance of Broome Co.	Syracuse	Tompkins Co.	Cayuga Co.	Cortland Co.	Chemung Co.	Elsewhere	Not Reported	Total
Number	4	20	16	2312	5	117	4	23	160	2661

Source: U. S. Census, 1960. Unpublished Data, New York State Department of Commerce, Albany, New York.

Income and Employment

Two major indicators of economic activity are sources and levels of income and employment. Table 14 shows the percentage of families in Dryden which fall into various income categories. Table 14 also includes income data for rural New York State, rural Tompkins County and the towns of Ithaca, Groton, Lansing and Ulysses so that a broad comparison of Dryden's income characteristics can be made.

In the lower income categories (\$0 - \$3,999) Dryden has a higher percentage of families than Ulysses, the town of Ithaca or rural Tompkins County but a lower percentage than rural New York State and the towns of Groton and Lansing. In the income categories over \$9,000 Dryden has a higher percentage of families than the town of Groton, a somewhat lower percentage than rural Tompkins County or the towns of Lansing and Ulysses and considerably lower than the town of Ithaca, which includes the Village of Cayuga Heights.

More recent income figures indicate a decreasing percentage of families in the lower income groups and a rapid increase of families earning over \$9,000 per year. (Source: Citizens Questionnaire, Appendix A). This trend is indicative of the increasing number of university-connected high wage earners moving into Dryden (see Population Report) and can also be attributed to some extent to a large number of working wives. In Dryden, 74.9 percent of the female labor force is composed of married women while in Tompkins County as a whole this figure drops to 69.6 percent. Table 15 illustrates apparent changes in income of families living in Dryden as indicated in the Questionnaire. While the results of the Questionnaire are not conclusive, they are consistent with trends in the Ithaca urban area.

A further indicator of Dryden's place in the regional economy can be found by examining employment data. Table 16 and Figure 6 show that in 1960, 10.9 percent of the employed labor force in Dryden worked in agriculture and 15.2 percent worked in manufacturing. The importance of

TABLE 14: Family Income in Dryden and Comparable Areas, 1959

	Dryden # Fam.	Dryden as a %	N.Y. Rural as a %	Rural Tomp. Co.* as a %	Ithaca (T)** as a %	Groton as a %	Lansing as a %	Ulysses as a %
No. of Families	1,847	1,847	602,335	8,645	1,637	1,150	987	1,073
Under \$1,000	67	3.6	4.2	3.7	2.7	3.5	5.2	2.6
\$1,000-\$1,999	83	4.5	5.7	3.9	3.5	3.8	2.7	3.2
\$2,000-\$2,999	119	6.4	7.6	6.9	4.3	8.1	6.6	6.0
\$3,000-\$3,999	161	8.7	9.7	7.9	5.2	8.3	9.6	6.6
\$4,000-\$4,999	218	11.8	12.4	13.0	11.7	18.5	11.9	12.2
\$5,000-\$5,999	252	13.6	13.6	13.7	12.2	13.0	11.1	16.8
\$6,000-\$6,999	228	12.3	11.5	12.5	7.5	13.0	15.6	14.8
\$7,000-\$7,999	220	11.9	9.2	10.9	10.9	7.9	9.7	10.0
\$8,000-\$8,999	146	7.9	6.9	7.5	8.8	7.1	6.2	7.4
\$9,000-\$9,999	90	4.9	5.0	5.6	7.6	5.1	6.1	6.3
\$10,000-\$14,999	215	11.7	10.2	11.9	19.5	9.6	13.7	8.9
\$15,000-\$24,999	44	2.4	3.0	3.0	5.1	1.6	.8	5.2
\$25,000 & over	4	.2	1.0	.4	1.0	.3	.8	0
Median Income		\$6,103	\$5,772	\$6,071	\$7,269	\$5,604	\$6,185	\$6,179

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* Tompkins County less the City of Ithaca and Village of Cayuga Heights.
 ** Includes the Village of Cayuga Heights.

Source: U. S. Census, Special Table PH-3, 1960.

TABLE 15: Family Income by Percentage as Reported in the Citizen Questionnaire and the 1960 Census

Family Income	Percentage of Families	
	Questionnaire Responses	1960 Census
Under \$1,000	2.5	3.7
\$1,000-\$3,999	11.4	19.7
\$4,000-\$5,999	13.3	25.4
\$6,000-\$8,999	24.9	32.0
\$9,000-\$15,000	28.8	16.6
Over \$15,000	12.5	2.6
Undefined	6.6	---
	100.0	100.0

Sources: Citizen Questionnaire, April 1966. (See Appendix)
U. S. Census Special Table PH-3, 1960.

NOTE: The large discrepancy between the Questionnaire responses and Census data may not be representative and may reflect a sampling error in the Questionnaire.

TABLE 16: Employed Persons, 14 Years Old and Over, By Broad Industry Groups, 1960

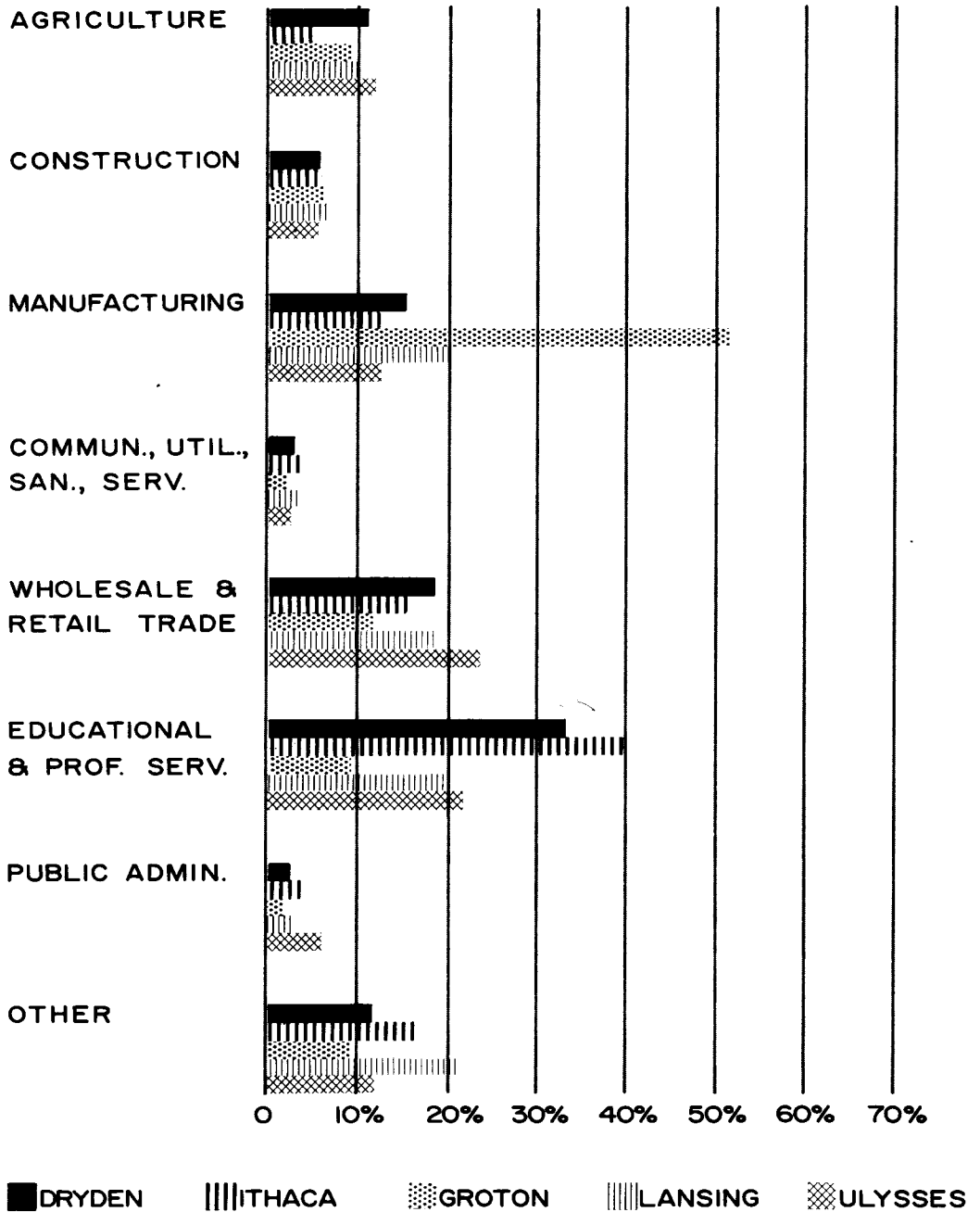
	DRYDEN		ITHACA*		ULYSSES		LANSING		GROTON	
	No.	as a %	No.	as a %	No.	as a %	No.	as a %	No.	as a %
Total Employed	2,755	100.0	2,535	100.0	1,613	100.0	1,594	100.0	1,614	100.0
Agriculture	299	10.9	116	4.6	193	12.0	156	9.8	146	9.0
Manufacturing	420	15.2	314	12.4	283	17.5	317	19.9	828	51.3
Educational & Prof. Services	909	33.0	1,007	39.7	349	21.6	308	19.3	151	9.4
Mining	47	1.7	0	0	8	.5	83	5.2	24	1.5
Construction	154	5.6	126	5.0	88	5.5	95	6.0	96	5.9
Railroad & Railway Express Services	11	.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Transportation	36	1.3	16	.6	28	1.7	40	2.5	4	.2
Commun., Util., San. Services	81	2.9	80	3.2	38	2.4	50	3.1	32	2.0
Wholesale Trade	51	1.9	70	2.8	42	2.6	8	.5	16	1.0
Eating/Drinking Places	47	1.7	23	.9	40	2.5	30	1.8	31	2.0
Other Retail Trade	249	9.0	217	8.6	168	10.4	112	7.0	75	4.6
Business & Repair Ser.	95	3.4	55	2.2	79	4.9	111	7.0	24	1.5
Private Households	29	1.1	59	2.3	48	3.0	51	3.2	38	2.4
Other Personal Services	71	2.6	29	1.1	44	2.7	36	2.3	41	2.5
Hospitals	8	.3	117	4.6	48	3.0	8	.5	11	.7
Public Administration	68	2.5	93	3.6	96	5.9	43	2.7	29	1.8
Other (incl. not reported)	180	6.5	213	8.4	61	3.8	146	9.2	68	4.2

* Includes the Village of Cayuga Heights.

Source: U. S. Census Special Table PH-4, 1960.

FIGURE 6

DRYDEN: COMPARISON OF MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS OF EMPLOYED PERSONS FOR THE TOWNS OF DRYDEN, ITHACA, GROTON, LANSING, AND ULYSSES 1960



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1960, SPECIAL TABLE PH-4

Cornell University as an employer of Dryden residents is evident by the high percentage (33 percent) of persons engaged in the provision of educational and professional services. In comparison with other towns in the northern portion of Tompkins County, Dryden and Ithaca have a relatively high percentage of workers in educational and professional services. This is further supported by the results of the Questionnaire in which 60 percent of the respondents listed Ithaca as their place of employment, half of which specified Cornell as their employer.

Respondents to the Questionnaire also indicated a preference for other job opportunities available in Ithaca as shown by the following table:

TABLE 17: Place of Employment of Sampled Dryden Residents

	Cornell	Morse Chain	NCR	Agway	Ithaca Col.	Ithaca Gun	Ithaca Tex.	Overhead Door	Smith-Corona	Therm-Elec.	NYS E&G	Wickwire	School Dist.	Ret. Stores	Govt. Agcy.	Other	Total
No. of Responses	204	18	18	8	5	5	1	1	20	7	17	3	42	15	18	138	520

Source: Citizens Questionnaire.

Other important employment categories for Dryden residents are retail trade (10.7 percent) and construction (5.6 percent), a pattern which is consistent with other towns in the northern part of the county. The towns of Ulysses and Lansing have slightly higher percentages of persons employed in manufacturing than does Dryden while the town of Groton has over 50 percent of its employed labor force engaged in manufacturing activities. In contrast, Groton has a much lower percentage of employment in educational and professional services than Dryden, Ulysses,

or Lansing (see Figure 6).

Another grouping of the Dryden labor force is shown in Figure 7. Three occupation groups - Professional and Technical Workers, Craftsmen and Foremen, and Operatives - account for 56 percent of all male employment in Dryden. Clerical and Kindred Workers is the most popular occupation group for women with 314 holding jobs of this type. A substantial number of women are also employed as professional or technical workers and as operatives which may help to explain rising family incomes in the town and also indicates the strong position of Cornell University as an employer of female labor.

To facilitate the analysis of questionnaire returns Dryden was divided into sub-areas shown on the accompanying map. Responses to the Questionnaire showed that 51.2 percent of those who said they work in Ithaca live in sub-areas 5, 6, 7 and the village of Dryden. Sub-areas 6 and 7 and the village of Dryden accounted for 51.2 percent of all respondents who said they worked outside Dryden and Ithaca but in other places in Tompkins County. Of those who said they were employed in the village of Dryden 34.6 percent live in the village and another 30 percent live in sub-areas 2, 5 and 7. Thirty-nine percent of the persons reporting employment in Cortland live in the village of Dryden and an additional 22.2 percent live in sub-areas 7 and 11.

Table 18 shows the employment status in 1960 in Dryden and rural Tompkins County. Dryden has a larger percentage of unemployed than rural Tompkins County but 113 unemployed out of a total labor force of 2872 is not indicative of an economic problem of any magnitude. The general nature of the region's employment picture indicates that it is the unskilled and farm laborers who make up the unemployed. The low employment figure for rural Tompkins County implies that jobs are available for most of those who are able to work. In any case there is no large pool of surplus labor in the town of Dryden.

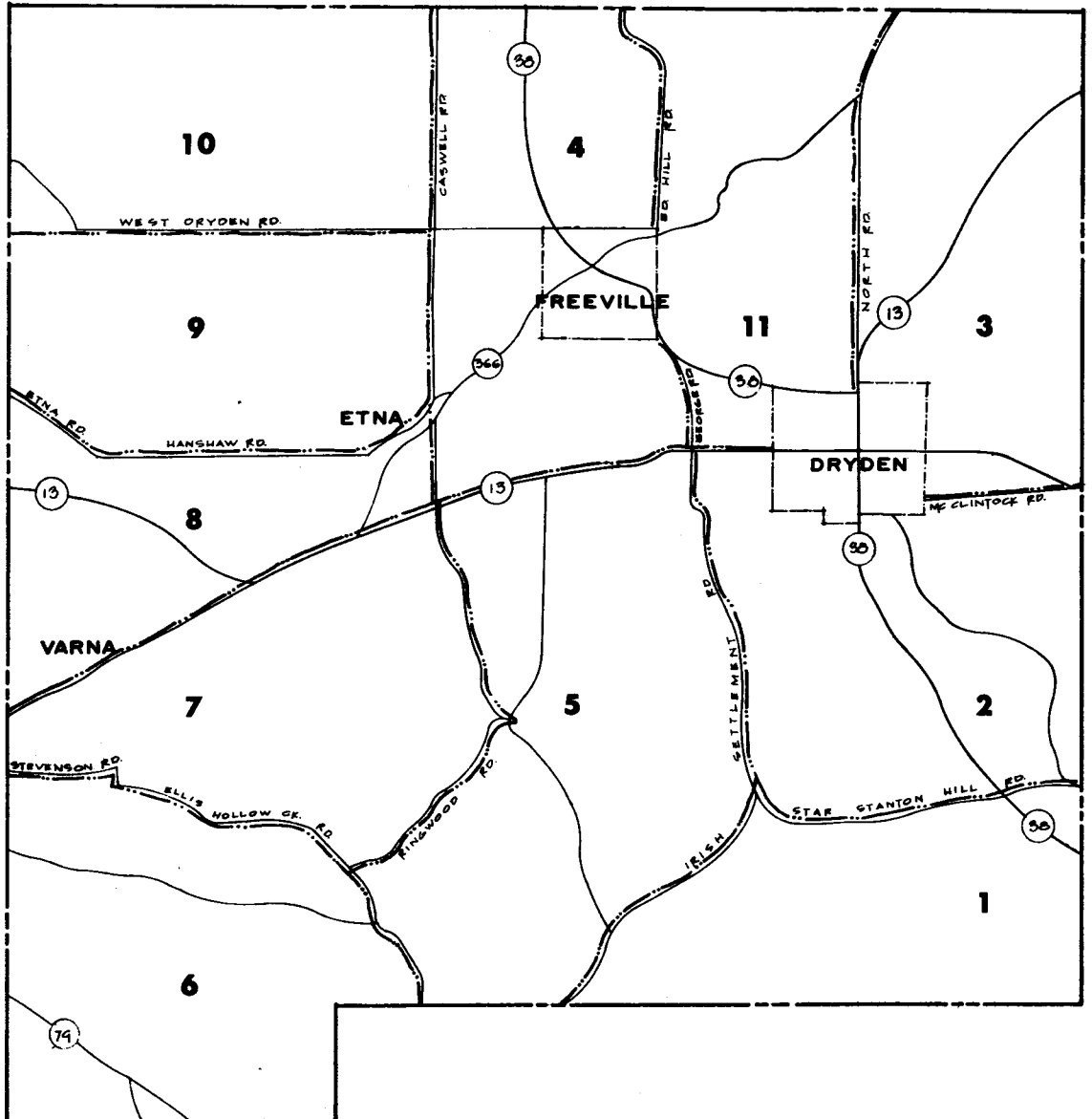
FIGURE 7

DRYDEN: MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS OF EMPLOYED PERSONS: 1960

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. LABORERS EX. FARM & MINE | 7. FARMERS & FARM MGRS. |
| 2. PROF. TECH. KINDRED WORKERS | 8. MGRS., OFFICIALS & PROPRIETORS |
| 3. CLERICAL & KINDRED | 9. SERVICE WORKERS |
| 4. OPERATIVES | 10. SALES |
| 5. CRAFTSMEN | 11. FARM LABORERS & FOREMEN |
| 6. OCC. NOT REPORTED | |



DRYDEN: SUB AREAS ESTABLISHED FOR ANALYSIS OF CITIZEN QUESTIONNAIRE , 1966



SOURCE: EGNER & NIEDERKORN ASSOCIATES INC.
CITIZEN QUESTIONNAIRE, SPRING, 1966

TABLE 18: Employment Status of Persons 14 Years Old and Over for Dryden and Rural Tompkins County, 1960

	DRYDEN			RURAL TOMPKINS CO.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total 14 years & over	2,533	2,463	4,996	11,757	11,672	23,429
In labor force	1,924	948	2,872	9,095	4,391	13,486
% in labor force	76.0%	38.5%	57.4%	77.4%	37.6%	57.6%
Not in labor force*	609	1,515	2,124	2,662	7,281	9,943
Civilian labor force	1,920	948	2,868	9,067	4,391	13,458
Employed	1,848	907**	2,755	8,750	4,254***	13,004
% civ. labor force	96.3%	95.7%	96.1%	96.5%	96.9%	96.6%
Unemployed	72	41	113	317	137	454
% of civ. labor force	3.8%	4.3%	3.9%	3.5%	3.1%	3.4%

* The category "not in labor force" consists of all persons 14 years old and over not classified as members of the labor force. It includes inmates of institutions, retired persons, housewives, students, persons unable to work because of disabilities, and others who may have worked without pay less than 15 hours during the specific week on a family farm or in a family business.

** 74.9% married.

*** 69.6% married.

Sources: U. S. Census of Population, 1960.

New York State College of Agriculture: "The People of Tompkins County," Bulletin No. 62-50.

Agriculture

The extent and intensity of farming in Dryden varies widely from one area of the town to another. In general, viable agricultural activities are concentrated in the eastern portion of the town. The present pattern of agriculture has evolved from past patterns that were quite different.

The period from 1860 to 1900 represented an era of high-level farming in Dryden. As stated earlier, livestock and produce were major crops and dairying was the main form of agriculture. Horses were the main source of power, few fertilizers or soil conditioners were used and the varieties of crops and breeds of livestock had much lower production potentials than today.

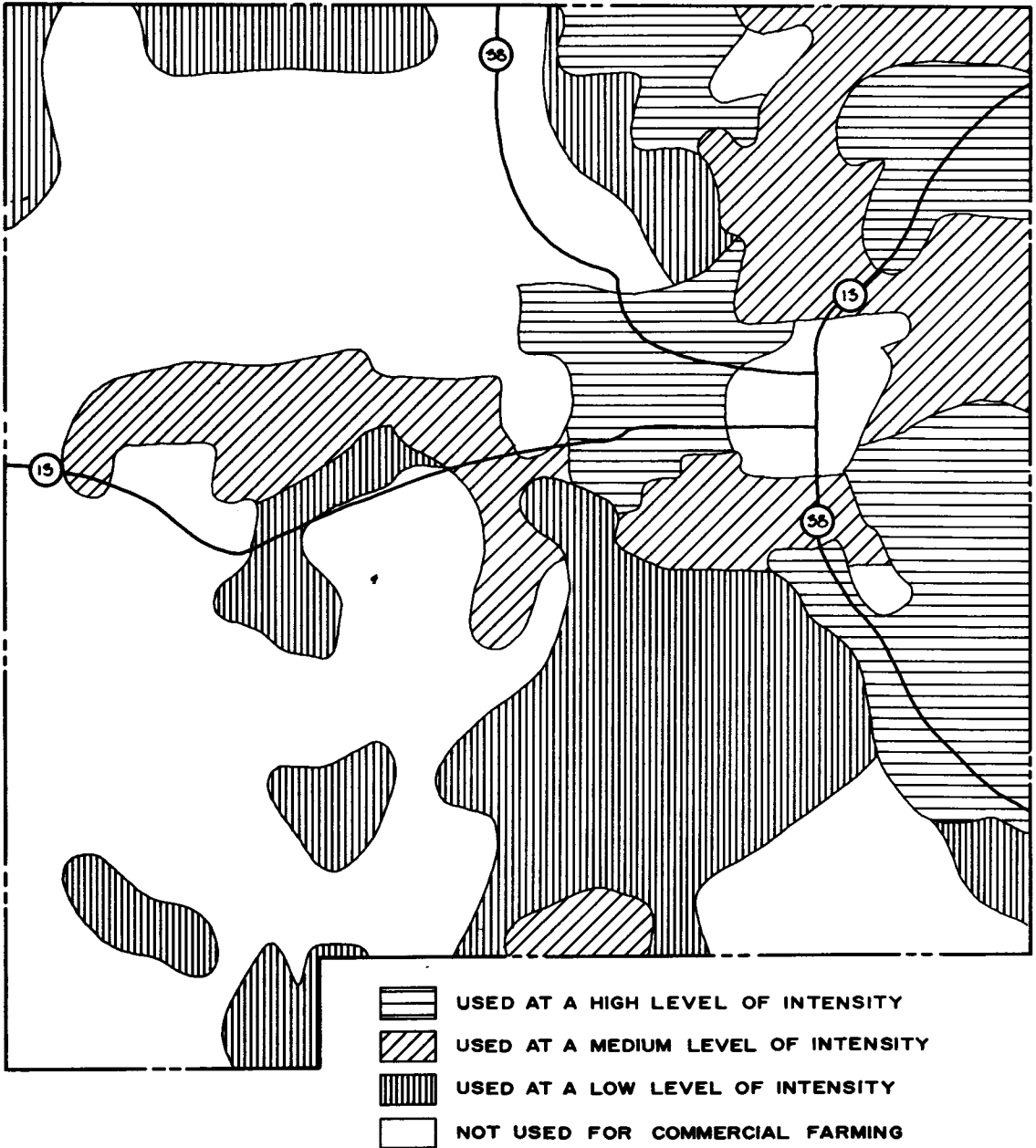
The significance of differences in the capacity of land to produce has been greatly magnified since 1900. With the introduction of sophisticated techniques and machinery, farmers expected more from their land. If the land was unable to produce competitively, it was often abandoned for agricultural purposes. In essence, this is what has happened to much of the once-used farm land in the town of Dryden.

Since the turn of the century, Dryden has undergone a small scale agricultural revolution and has become a specialized dairy farming area in the Appalachian Upland Dairy Region. In January 1968, the Tompkins County Agricultural Extension Division reported that 46 commercial dairy farms and 3 commercial poultry farms were operating in the town. Most of the farms that have survived past economic pressures are located on the better soils of the valleys and lower hills. Other lands are now used mainly as pasture or have been abandoned as farm land. Crops raised are almost exclusively oriented toward the feeding of livestock.

The following agricultural maps show generalized farming areas in Dryden according to intensity of use. Isolated individual farms are not identified. Comparison of the two maps shows how farming activity has changed from 1959 to 1968. Boundaries between the various intensities

DRYDEN: EXTENT AND INTENSITY OF FARMING - 1959

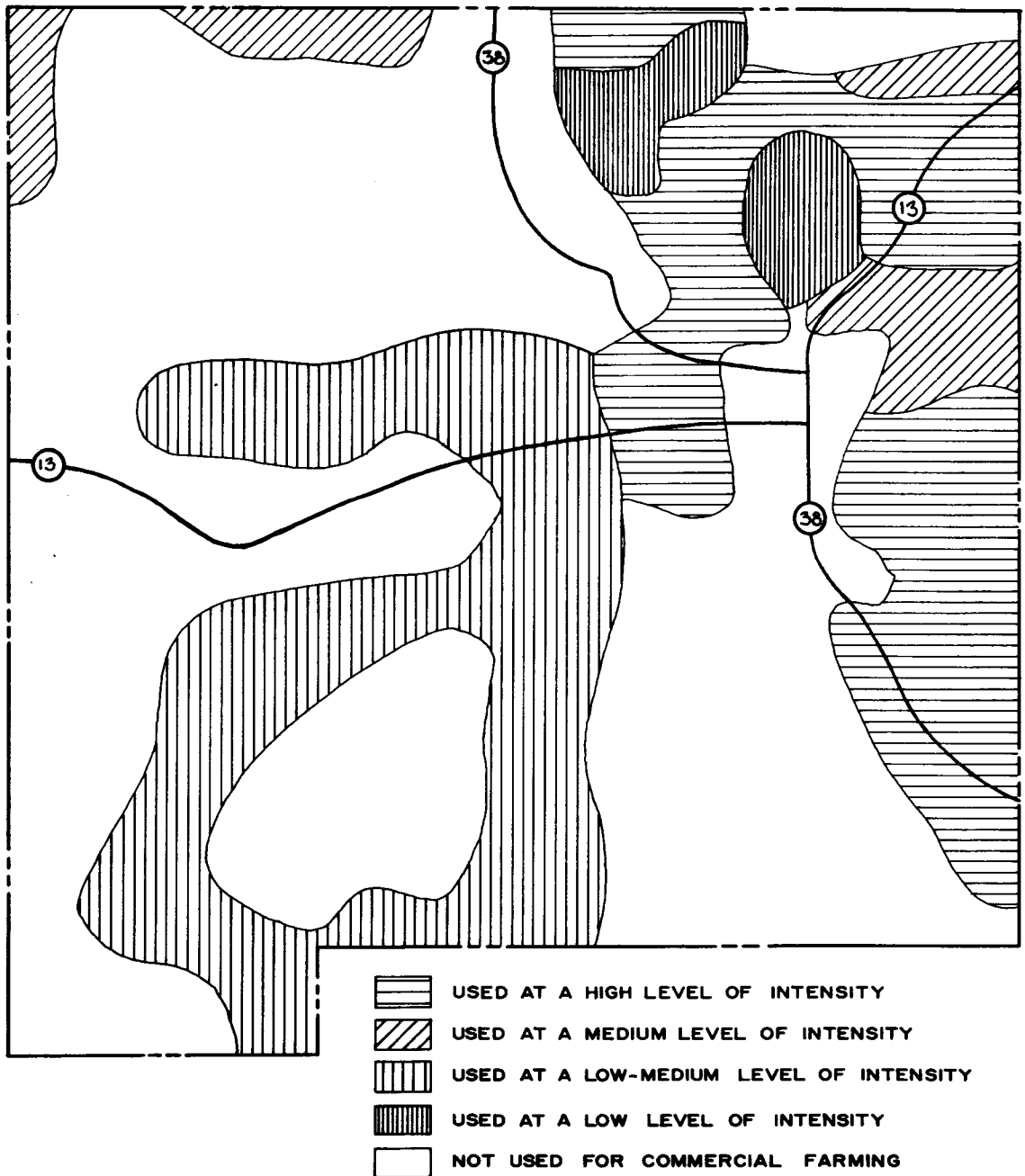
(GENERALIZED - INDIVIDUAL FARMS NOT SHOWN)



SOURCE : ECONOMIC LAND CLASSIFICATION - N.Y. STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, N.Y.

DRYDEN: EXTENT AND INTENSITY OF FARMING - 1964

(GENERALIZED - INDIVIDUAL FARMS NOT SHOWN)



SOURCE: ECONOMIC LAND CLASSIFICATION, N.Y. STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, N.Y.

of use correspond generally to the topographic and soil characteristics of the town. In general, more intensive activity is to be found in those areas where soil types are responsive to modern farming methods.

Acid soils with strong clay layers are found in the southern part of the town. There are a few narrow valleys in the southern hills that contain relatively productive soils but these are often cut up by streams and swamps. The area in the northwestern part of the town is dominated by soils characterized by low-lime content and poor drainage. Despite the favorable topography only a limited amount of farming is carried on in this area. The best farm land in the town is found northeast of the villages of Freeville and Dryden and most of the full-time farms are located there. The land resource in this area is highly responsive and will support relatively heavy capital investment.

When compared to farm activity throughout the county, Dryden appears to be assuming an increasingly important role. In 1950 the number of farms in Dryden represented 16.6 percent of the county total and, by 1964, this had increased to 19.6 percent. Within the town itself the number of farms decreased from 266 in 1950 to 150 in 1964 (see Table 19). In terms of over-all farm investment, however, a slight increase can be seen with the total value of land and buildings in 1954 estimated at \$3,603,150 compared with an estimated \$3,833,550 value in 1964.⁴ During

⁴Census of Agriculture, 1964 and 1959.

NOTE: Total value of land and buildings is not broken down by town in this publication. These figures were approximated by multiplying the average value of land and buildings per farm in the county by the number of farms in the town of Dryden. This technique was suggested by the State University of New York, College of Agriculture, Cornell University.

TABLE 19: Number of Farms* in Dryden and Other Towns in Tompkins County - 1950 to 1964

TOWNS	1950	1954	1959	1964	% decrease 1950 - 1964
Caroline	142	111	82	70	50.7
Danby & Newfield	322	261	165	136	57.8
Dryden	266	255	192	150	43.6
Enfield & Ulysses	283	258	215	114	59.7
Groton	245	204	169	155	36.7
Ithaca	118	105	65	40	66.1
Lansing	248	215	147	102	58.9
County Total	1,662	1,409	1,035	767	53.9
New York State	124,780	105,714	82,356	66,510	46.7

* For the 1959 and 1964 Censuses, a farm was any place of 10 acres or more under the control of one operator or partnership if estimated sales of agricultural products amounted to \$50.00 or more in the year. Also, places of less than 10 acres if estimated sales amounted to \$250 or more.

For the 1950 and 1954 Censuses, a farm was any place of 3 or more acres if annual value of agricultural products for home use or for sale amounted to \$150 or more. Also, places of less than 3 acres if the annual value of sales of agricultural products amounted to \$150 or more.

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1950, 1954, 1959 and 1964.

this same period the average size of farms increased from 136 to 176 acres indicating a trend toward consolidation of small farms into more economically viable units.

Retail Trade

Another indicator of Dryden's economic relationship to the Ithaca Urban Area is found in the pattern of retail trade activities. Retail trade accounts for 10.7 percent of all employment in Dryden and it is assumed that many of the 296 persons employed in this industry group are employed in town businesses.

Retail outlets range from small, consumer-shopping facilities forming community focal points in the two villages and in Etna and Varna to larger single-purpose operations such as lumber yards and farm machinery sales and an agricultural products transfer and sales center. Many of the retail and service facilities are oriented toward major highways in the town and there is a mixture of stores, eating and drinking places, repair shops, etc., scattered along Routes 13, 366 and 79.

The Citizen Questionnaire indicated that the residents of Dryden purchase most consumer goods with the exception of groceries in the retail centers of the Ithaca urban area and not within the town of Dryden or in Cortland. By contrast, a sample survey of Dryden business establishments disclosed that local merchants felt that Ithaca and Cortland were equally attractive to local shoppers. Many businessmen stated that the imposition of the sales tax in Tompkins County had placed Cortland in a more competitive position.⁵ Some merchants felt that farmers in the north-eastern part of the town tended to shop in Cortland while other residents shopped in the Ithaca area.

⁵The Citizen Questionnaire was completed in April of 1966 while the survey of local businesses was not undertaken until April of 1967. The sales tax was instituted in March of 1967 which suggests that local businesses may have been unusually sensitive to the tax element at the time they were interviewed.

Village businesses for the most part serve a market area of approximately 15 miles radius and the majority of businessmen interviewed stated that retail activity was at a satisfactory level. Those who did indicate a need for more retail activity stated that a good restaurant was needed and that improved merchandising practices would help to increase business locally. The bank is considered to be an important asset and an attraction to potential shoppers. The bank's position becomes increasingly important for weekend shopping as it is the only banking facility in the area which is open on Saturday.

In general, business centers in the villages of Dryden and Freeville adequately serve convenience shopping needs while some scattered stores in the town and those in Ithaca and Cortland provide a wider variety of goods and services for more extensive shopping. While shopping patterns may have changed slightly as a result of the sales tax in Tompkins County indicators suggest that most shopping is still done in the Ithaca urban area.

Industry

There are no large industries located in the town of Dryden at present. It should be noted, however, that a light industry and warehousing area is developing around the intersection of Routes 13 and 366 east of the hamlet of Varna. The development of this area has been rapid following the construction of the Route 13 arterial and the location of the New York State Electric and Gas headquarters on the southeast corner of the intersection. Since 1964, in addition to the Electric & Gas facility, the area has attracted a printing plant, indoor and outdoor storage facilities, electronic equipment sales and service, plumbing and heating supplies sales and storage, and several other warehousing facilities.

In addition to the development of light industry along Route 13, the southwest corner of the intersection facing Route 366 has been developed as a dining, dancing

and entertainment area catering to college students and young adults.

Since this area offers available vacant land, visibility and access to a major highway, it is reasonable to assume that the expansion of these types of light industrial and warehousing activities will continue. The more intensive industrial activity in the region, however, is developing in the South Cortland area adjacent to Route 281.