



CONWAY

Franklin County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Home of one of the few remaining covered bridges in Massachusetts, Conway was first settled in 1760 and incorporated in 1767. The town is a small rural community which was named in honor of General Henry Conway, who supported the repeal of the Stamp Act in Parliament.

Conway has an abundant water supply, which provided power for grist and saw mills and a number of tanneries in its early days. By the 19th century, a dam had created a reservoir supporting several woolen and broadcloth mills along the South River. Unfortunately, in 1869 the dam burst, sweeping away these largest industries in town.

Modern Conway boasts a number of maple sugar houses and is the site of the Conway State Forest and South River State Forest, retaining an unspoiled landscape loved by the residents of the town. One of the community's most famous former residents was Marshall Field, the developer of the nationally known Marshall Field Department Store in Chicago. Born and brought up in Conway, Fields donated Memorial Library to the town in honor of his parents. An active Historical Society preserves the town's past for its future citizens.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Ashfield on the west, Goshen and Williamsburg on the southwest and south, Whately on the southeast, Deerfield on the east, and Shelburne and Buckland on the north and northwest. Conway is 14 miles south of Greenfield and 102 miles northwest of Boston.

Total Area: 37.82 sq. miles

Land Area: 37.71 sq. miles

Population: 1,529

Density: 41 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Cummington Hill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....19.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Shelbourne Falls, Goshen, Williamsburg, Ashfield

Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 369-4235

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1767

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	1,122		
Democrats	417	37.2	%
Republicans	164	14.6	%
Other parties	1	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	540	48.1	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Conway town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,809	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,809	100.0
Male.....	895	49.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	17	0.9
Female.....	914	50.5	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	83	4.6	Puerto Rican.....	3	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	118	6.5	Cuban.....	2	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	160	8.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	12	0.7
15 to 19 years.....	129	7.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,792	99.1
20 to 24 years.....	60	3.3	White alone.....	1,773	98.0
25 to 34 years.....	176	9.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	347	19.2	Total population.....	1,809	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	385	21.3	In households.....	1,807	99.9
55 to 59 years.....	108	6.0	Householder.....	692	38.3
60 to 64 years.....	72	4.0	Spouse.....	425	23.5
65 to 74 years.....	89	4.9	Child.....	548	30.3
75 to 84 years.....	66	3.6	Own child under 18 years.....	429	23.7
85 years and over.....	16	0.9	Other relatives.....	60	3.3
Median age (years).....	40.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	25	1.4
18 years and over.....	1,354	74.8	Nonrelatives.....	82	4.5
Male.....	664	36.7	Unmarried partner.....	54	3.0
Female.....	690	38.1	In group quarters.....	2	0.1
21 years and over.....	1,306	72.2	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	215	11.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	2	0.1
65 years and over.....	171	9.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	80	4.4	Total households.....	692	100.0
Female.....	91	5.0	Family households (families).....	513	74.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	251	36.3
One race.....	1,804	99.7	Married-couple family.....	425	61.4
White.....	1,786	98.7	With own children under 18 years.....	192	27.7
Black or African American.....	3	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	62	9.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	41	5.9
Asian.....	9	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	179	25.9
Asian Indian.....	2	0.1	Householder living alone.....	130	18.8
Chinese.....	1	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	36	5.2
Filipino.....	1	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	267	38.6
Japanese.....	3	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	119	17.2
Korean.....	2	0.1	Average household size.....	2.61	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.01	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	749	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	692	92.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	57	7.6
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	33	4.4
Some other race.....	2	0.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	5	0.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.8	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	692	100.0
White.....	1,791	99.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	590	85.3
Black or African American.....	5	0.3	Renter-occupied housing units.....	102	14.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	6	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.73	(X)
Asian.....	11	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.93	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	5	0.3			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County, where Conway is located, are Route 2, and I-91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) lines parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 116, which runs E-W and connects up with Interstate Route 91 in the neighboring town of Deerfield.

Rail

The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service in Conway. Contact number: (508) 663-1073.

Bus

Conway is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), which provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Shelburne Council on Aging. There is no fixed route service.

Other

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 3,013'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.