

The Post Road

In the 18th century there were three post roads that ran from the New York City area to Boston:

The Lower Post Road hugged the Connecticut shore line and then took a northerly route through Providence Rhode Island and then on to Boston. It was a popular choice and there were many affluent towns with plenty of inns and taverns along the way. However, there were many rivers and streams to cross that slowed progress with tolls to pay for bridges or a ferryman. This road generally followed is what we now call US. Route 1

The Upper Post Road ran up through New Haven then North to Hartford and Springfield, MA. From Springfield the road went east on what is now known as Rte. 20 or the Mass. Pike. This route was longer but the produce and other agricultural along the Connecticut River Valley were bountiful and cost effective.

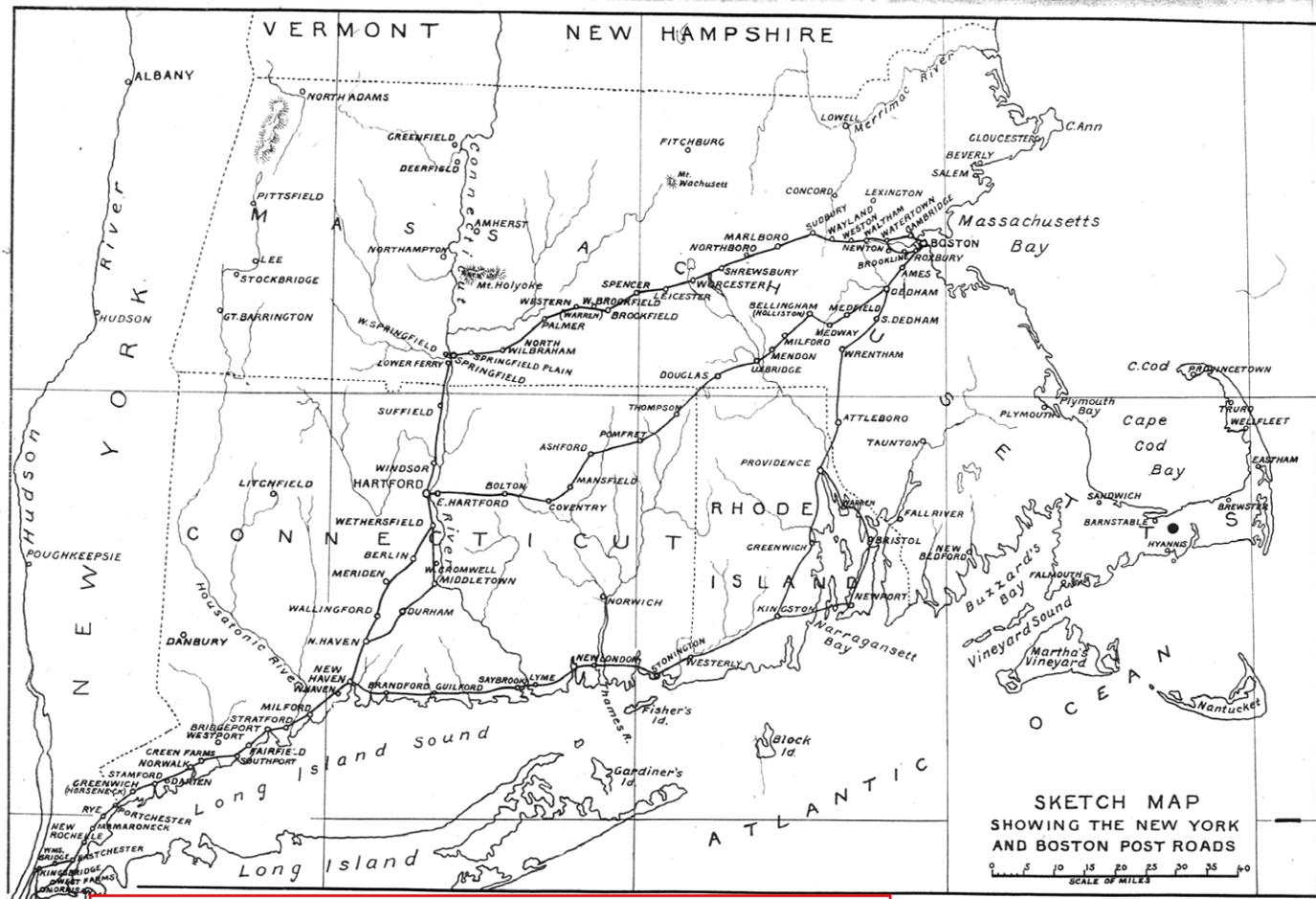
The Middle Post Road started in Hartford and passed through Pomfret on basically what is now called Rte. 44. There were numerous variations over the years of that route for political or logistical considerations.

In general, the Middle Post Road (US 44) ran east up to what is now the Phoenixville section Eastford and then took a left (North) onto what is now known as route CT-198, then several miles down the Post Road turned right (East) on what is now called CT-244. CT-244 is also known as the Boston Turnpike (Eastford), Brayman Hollow Rd, Deerfield Rd/Rt-97 (Pomfret).

At the junction of CT-244/97 & CT 169 the route turned left (north) onto Allyn Rd. Freedley Rd. and to West Thompson then up to Uxbridge, MA.

Where the Old Post Road took a northeasterly track at Phoenixville towards Boston, a separate turnpike took an easterly course towards Providence. This is basically CT-101 and US-44 of today. The Abington four corners has been an established junction for CT-97 and Providence Turnpike (US RT-44) for over 150 years.

The Post Road or he the Kings Highway coupled with other roads form New London, Norwich and Providence, RI, created a vibrant community of Pomfret Ct.



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